

**GAMEO Management Board Minutes
Mennonite Church Canada Boardroom
600 Shaftesbury Blvd., Winnipeg, Manitoba
21 January 2010**

Present: Peter Rempel (MCC), Pakisa Tshimika (MWC), Abe Dueck (MBHC), Bert Friesen (MHSC, chair), Sam Steiner (managing editor), Richard Thiessen (associate managing editor, treasurer, recording secretary).

Absent: Ken Sensenig (MCC, represented by Peter Rempel), Rich Preheim (MCUSA).

1. Opening and Introductions – Bert Friesen

Bert noted that this is the 485th anniversary of the founding of Anabaptism. The early Anabaptists used words through their confessions to describe their faith. In James 3, faith and works are tied together. We want to use words to tell the story of our faith.

2. Review of Agenda – Bert Friesen

3. Review of Minutes (6 November 2008) – Richard Thiessen

Minutes were approved with little discussion.

4. Report of Managing Editor – Sam Steiner

- a. **Ownership of GAMEO Articles:** We will need to make sure that we have a statement in all of our templates that clearly states that the ownership of articles belongs with GAMEO, and that all articles are subject to editorial revision, updating, and replacement. We might want to consider developing a procedures manual that would guide editors as they deal with issues related to this topic. Copyrighted content will be dealt with in the same way.
- b. **Canadian Editorial Committee:** the committee plays a useful role in terms of providing feedback to the managing editors regarding templates and other issues, and appreciates the role it plays
- c. **US Editorial Committee:** we recognize that this committee has never gotten off the ground and should not be forced. A viable alternative appears to be to invite regional groups to form regional editorial groups.
- d. **Mennonite World Conference:** Global Anabaptist/Mennonite History Project is wondering how to continue with its mandate, and sees GAMEO as having already done much work in relation to its own mandate. We want to insure that MWC understands our interest in working with them.

It was suggested that we write a formal letter to Larry Miller and John Lapp. We want to be fairly proactive in our approach, and suggest that GAMEO be seen as continuing on an aspect of the global project by MWC.

Another group would pick up the work of dealing with archival issues in the southern churches.

- e. **Anabaptist Ethereal Library:** we should connect with ICOMB to place their confession on our site. We could put all of the various language editions on our site, of both current and older documents. What about historical documents? Should we put historical documents in their original language on our site? MWC has confessions of faith from a variety of conferences, and their office probably has the collection. Alfred Neufeld might also have them. We also need to make people in various countries aware of this resource and not just assume that they will find these documents by doing a Google search. We also need to make sure that various documents and publications are preserved electronically by the publisher or an archive so that GAMEO has access in the future.
- f. **GAMEO DVD Issues:** Sam distributed a handout outlining the current issues.

The DVD was identified as an important project to pursue, and that we should pursue option #1 with PeaceWorks.

- g. **Internationalization Project:** We have only raised \$3,800 for this project from the Showalter Foundation.

Abe Dueck will contact some groups in Paraguay regarding funding potential. Sam will follow up with the group that assisted with the publication of the Mannhardt translation.

- h. **Report from the Canadian Editorial Committee:** Bert Friesen reported that the regional groups are more active than the national group in terms of soliciting articles.
- i. **Regional committee reports were noted for information.** We need to possibly invite ourselves to be on the agenda of some regional meetings or events to encourage the organization of additional regional groups.

5. **GAMEO Structure Review**

- a. Review of Policy Document, Draft No.5: Sam highlighted some of the changes. The question was raised as to whether we should have a policy manual, which is brief, and a procedures manual that has greater detail. The policy manual would remain fairly static and the procedures manual would be revised on an ongoing basis. The monetary amount in the Partner section should be eliminated and replaced with a statement regarding an agreed upon annual fee.

Approved as a working draft, including section b.

- b. **International Editorial Advisory Committee:**
 - on p.7, we should change “Mennonite” in the International Editorial Advisory Committee to read “Anabaptist/Mennonite related.”
 - If we revise or rewrite some of the theological articles, we could keep the original article, have one new one, and possibly have several new ones representing various geographical perspectives.

- In the first sentence, we would like “academics in the fields of theology and history and related disciplines” or disciplines as they relate to the Anabaptist/Mennonite story.
- People appointed that represent a balance of geography would be made in consultation with national conferences and MWC.
- Drop the last phrase in the first paragraph. We will include people teaching in non-Anabaptist/Mennonite institutions based on our consultations with national conferences and MWC.
- Ask John Lapp to help us identify 2-3 academics from each MWC region.

Sam will work with John Lapp.

- c. **Additional Partners:** Do we want to add some of the smaller institutions as partners to add an academic component to management, or would the international editorial advisory committee look after the desire to have greater academic input into GAMEO. We will drop this discussion for now.
- d. **Regional Editorial Committees:** We want to target California, Oregon, Virginia, Alberta, and Saskatchewan by sending Sam or Richard to public events.

6. Status of Discussions with:

- a. **Conservative/Plain People** – Sam has had some discussions with a few individuals, a Hoover from Australia, someone from the Beachy Amish.
- b. **We will contact the Plett Foundation** to see if we can make inroads into the Old Colony Mennonite groups throughout North and South America and solicit new and updated articles.
- c. **Hutterite Brethren:** Bert has retained contact with the Education Committee of the Schmiedeleut groups, but nothing substantive has come from the contact in terms of articles for GAMEO. There is some work being done on updating colony entries found in the Mennonite Encyclopedia and the writing of articles on new colonies, but Bert has not seen any of their work. That will be a focus for Bert for 2010.
- d. **Non-English/Non-North American contact:** Richard reported on a meeting with Teku Kebede from the Meserete Kristos Church conference office in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Contact with Caesar regarding the Colombia article. Contact with the German lexicon people. Dutch contact regarding pictures.

Encouraged to make contact with Bienenberg, Hanspeter Jecker.

- 7. **Approval Managing Editor: Richard Thiessen re-appointed for 3 year term.** Appreciation was shown for the work of both Richard and Sam. Sam’s term expires at the end of 2011.
- 8. **Virtual Meetings:** Software allows for audio only that also allows for the sharing of documentation.

9. Content

- a. **Website upgrade priorities for 2010:** the alphabetical index is generated manually, and we are working with PeaceWorks to generate it more quickly. Citation formats will be updated as well.
- b. **A working DVD** copy is also a priority.
- c. **Are our colours tired?** Are our pictures too small?
- d. Suggestion to update articles on countries and denominations.

Richard will contact denominations and Sam will contact John, with Richard to follow up.

- e. **Mennonite History Overview on GAMEO?:** several overviews were identified – Information Centre in St. Jacobs, Ontario, the MWC website, the Global Mennonite History series introductions.
- f. **Bibliographical guide:** David G. and John T.'s work is currently on the website.
- g. **Reviewed denominations to be wrapped up** because they no longer consider themselves to be Mennonite.

10. GAMEO Promotion

- a. **Promotional DVD:** will not pursue it and will instead focus on the content DVD.
- b. **One page handout:** will not pursue it and will instead include a jacket cover with the DVD.

11. Finances

- a. **Reports were presented:** Richard
- b. **Add Mennonite financial institutions and go back to high schools for another round.** We will distribute the proposed list to the committee and they will note if we should not pursue any of them.
- c. **Budget:**
 - \$5,000: DVD clean-up and maintenance.
 - \$2,000: travel
 - \$0: computer
 - \$500: software
 - \$500: contingency
 - \$500: DVD production and distribution.**Total of \$8,500. Approved.**

12. **Minutes** will be distributed to individuals who will distribute to regional groups.

13. **Next meeting:** October or November 2010 in Akron, PA. Suggest the 3rd weekend in November.