

Canadian Mennonite Encyclopedia Online Committee
Minutes: May 24-25, 2002
Mennonite Heritage Centre, Winnipeg, Manitoba

Present: Bert Friesen, Linda Hecht, Richard Thiessen David Giesbrecht, Henry Fast, Victor Wiebe Sam Steiner, Alf Redekopp.

1. Welcome & prayer: Bert Friesen

The meeting began with dinner(pizza)
Appreciation was expressed to Alf for the arrangements.

Review of Minutes of 28-29 November, 2001

#: 2.2: No consensus has been reached about "Who are the Mennonites" section. Work will continue on this by the individuals named.

9. the editor of Le Lien is Annie Brousseau and the Chinese Herald editor is Joseph Kwan
Minutes accepted

3. Review of Agenda

- item #4.3--add comments about the template
- Sam will report on stats
- under "Other"-- report on other groups.

4. Report on Content of Web Site

70 new articles have been added in the past year. Sam feels he can still handle more if they come in clean. 100 articles a year might be good to aim for. Sam is still working at reformatting some of the older articles.

3673 hits per day
2713 page views
707 visitors per day

238560 unique visitors, 206,000 only came once.

1st-- conestoga wagon, 2d., Amish, 3d. dress, etc.

-most active day Nov. 2000.

744 average on weekdays

-most users come from outside Canada

-documents are not very popular (confessions,etc.)

-many more to be added.

-the work load has been quite heavy for the editors--Bert and Abe

-many are being rewritten. Should they be sent back?

-some biographies have information on the spouse. Should the name of spouse appear or should a

separate entry be made. What are the criteria?

-should people (like Gordon Thiessen) be entered.?

Patrick Friesen?

People who have had a considerable impact on Mennonites should be included.

Recommended that the writer be asked to write a separate article on the spouse if there is enough significant contribution.

Which people warrant inclusion?

We need to put up a grid for all provinces so that there is no duplication.

Need to ensure that we don't duplicate what is already on line from the print versions.

Articles which deal with both spouses should have one name beneath the other.

Separate entry where enough significance.

Articles which include enough significant information on both might be sent back to writer for separate articles.

Significance: in general the criterion should be influence beyond the local congregation.

It was felt that we should establish priorities and not determine for the long term whom not to include. We should not be too quick to exclude individuals if there are people who want to write biographies.

Our CMEC needs to be inclusive in terms of various ethnic groups.

4.2 Editing process

-names used for institutions—present or current? In articles the name in use at the time should be used.

-umlauts? Agreed not to use umlauts. Consistency is most important.

Abbreviations: Consistency has not yet been achieved.

-honorary titles should not be used (e.g., Rev.)

Need for more teams:

-recommended that we form more editorial teams of 2 each. Bert and Abe have asked for an additional team—Ernie Braun and Lawrence Klippenstein to help at the national level.

Each of the provinces should also create editorial teams to do more work on the articles before they come to the teams in Winnipeg. Rewrites to be dealt with at the provincial level.

Should children's names be included? Only if there are good reasons to include them.

Should we provide a second level for some significant biographies? No consensus.

The Manitoba group is asking the Research and Scholarship Committee to accept responsibility to generate names and assign writers.

The CAIN project of the CCA has a number of brief articles on congregations already on line and these might be used.

Footnotes: Parenthetical notes (in-notes) acceptable.

Bibliographical references to internet source: Richard has submitted a suggested style which was approved.

Date should be access/viewed date.

Dates for biographies don't need "on" or "2d" etc.

4.3 Institutional style sheet, etc

Richard circulated a draft which was discussed.
It was felt that it might be labeled “Elements to be considered” rather than “Guidelines.”
#3a & b—broaden it—relate to context in a broader way.
Names: some institutions might have two names in the index.

Sat, May 25, 02 (cont'd)

Congregational template cont'd
Item 1 (address, etc.) toward the bottom.
Town and province at the top.

Items 1-3 to be dropped to after #10.
Note reference under “Structure of the Entry”
Name of (senior?) Leader (date) at bottom.
It was felt that for some congregations a length of 600-700 words might be acceptable.
A table of leaders or other important people might be attached or otherwise included in the narrative.
Note elements such as outreach.
A western model article will be written by Alf and Bert. Richard and Dave will write one on Yarrow.
Should be a reference to final editorial control over content.

5. Provincial Groups

BC: Many articles have been assigned by a sub-committee. Work is proceeding well. Educational institutions are almost completed, except Sharon High and Greendale Bible School. Need to move to other institutional types and broaden the biographical types. Some collective articles on certain topics on a regional or national basis might be done where individuals were not directly connected with the Church.
Alberta: not represented.
Abe was asked to contact Peter Penner.
Sask: They have many volunteers. Biographies and congregational histories will be a priority. Walter Klaassen will be returning to Saskatoon. Victor has a sabbatical coming and will be doing some work on the CMEO.
Manitoba: Abe reported that Henry Fast and Lawrence have joined the group. This has broadened the scope to identify topics and names and assign writers.
We need to be careful to cross-check between the provinces to avoid duplication, etc.
Ont. Linda reported on a recent meeting of the Ont. group. They struggled with criteria. 28 articles were added to the list and work is proceeding.
Quebec and Atlantic Canada: We need to be sure to include this area. Peter Penner will help in this regard. Annie Brousseau could also help us. Other individuals: Lucille Marr, Sylvia G., Jean Theoret (Abe will contact).

6. Technical Matters

Sam reported that some conversion is still going on. He appreciates when people point out problems.

Space is not a problem at this point.
Re xml: It may be time for us to revisit this issue. There are also problems re standards. Sam will investigate further and report in December.

7. Fund raising

At the last meeting we decided to defer the decision about how to proceed. We were uncomfortable with the amount proposed as well as with the amount to be raised. Harry Olfert was also not prepared to do the work for us. Website management will become more and more of an issue for us. It was felt that it would be difficult for this group to take on fund-raising activities on the scale proposed by Harry. Some sponsorship might be an option. It was suggested that we view sites that have sponsorships to see how we respond. Organizations like academic institutions or Mennonite Foundation, etc., might be logical sponsors. There might be value in producing a brochure on the CMEO which could be funded by an institution. We haven't used the \$5,000 from the society in the past. We need to ask for a renewed commitment for a longer term in December. There was considerable interest in producing a quality brochure and making sure that we have a proper distribution method. A brochure can be used for fund-raising as well as to increase use of the encyclopedia. We will investigate the cost of design (Sam), and distribution (Victor).
-an electronic version of the brochure should also be made available.
We will investigate how much money is available for this from our current budget. Design of a brochure will proceed if money is available. An ad might also be considered. We are contemplating some fund raising during the next 5 years especially in relation to projects such as conversion to xml.

8. Budget/Finances

We still likely have a balance in the current budget.
We should request a current statement prior to our meetings.

9. Other

Cooperate with US? Although there is interest, the commitment is not there at this point. Dave reported on conversations with Larry Miller about our project and he seemed to be very interested. That would be a very large projected, however, and nothing is likely to develop soon.

Next meeting

Dec. 6-7? Waterloo?
Dave will check. We will meet a day prior or Thursday evening to Friday.
AD