

GAMEO Management Board Minutes

Mennonite Central Committee Office

Akron, PA

20 November 2010

Present: Abe Dueck (MB Historical Commission), Bert Friesen (MHSC, chair), Sam Steiner (managing editor), Richard Thiessen (associate managing editor, treasurer, recording secretary), Ken Sensenig (MCC), John Lapp (MWC).

Absent: Rich Preheim (MCUSA), Pakisa Tshimika (MWC, represented by John Lapp).

1. Welcome: Ken Sensenig welcomed us and presented the committee with several gifts from MCC. It was noted that this is the 90th anniversary of MCC and the 300th anniversary of the **Lancaster Mennonite community.**

2. Introduction: Bert Friesen read from Psalm 19.

3. Review of agenda: Bert Friesen

4. Review of minutes: Richard Thiessen. **Minutes were accepted.**

5. Reports

a. Managing Editor: Sam Steiner reported that we averaged 2,412 unique visits per day in the month of October. The list of top hits was reviewed. Sam has done some cleanup of the encyclopedia. Sam reported on new articles from regional groups as well as from individual writers. Richard Thiessen has worked on updates to country articles and denominations.

Sam reviewed some design questions and technical issues. A change in colors was discussed but no action was taken. The Plone software has been upgraded but not yet implemented for GAMEO. This would likely take place in conjunction with a major GAMEO upgrade.

We discussed producing a DVD, similar to the one that was distributed by Sam earlier this year. We will ask PeaceWorks to make a new master in January 2011, and then will produce 250 copies for distribution to conservative groups through their bishops, conference moderators, bookstores, and personal contacts.

Additional languages in GAMEO: the current quote from PeaceWorks is now closer to \$20,000. So far we have raised approximately \$8,500 towards the project. The funds from the Good Foundation are not tied to this particular project, but we are not sure if that is the case with the funds from the Showalter Foundation. There are potential sources of funding from groups in the Netherlands and Switzerland along with groups in Indonesia. There is consensus that we should continue on with this goal. Sam will circulate the original quote from PeaceWorks so that Richard can create a one-page prospectus to give to potential donors.

International Consulting Editors Group: Sam feels that further clarification is needed before we begin asking people to join this group. The idea of creating a group of consulting editors with an international focus had strong support. The managing editors would identify theological and historical articles that need to be updated and revised, based on a list of the top 100 or 200 articles that are viewed.

Sam will create of list of top articles, and will draft a brief job description for consulting editors and circulate it to the Board.

There are a number of non-theological topics that should be written, such as Mennonites and Mental Health, Mennonites and Corrections, Mennonites in Medicine. Our consulting editorial group could include inter-disciplinary people to deal with these types of issues.

We will ask people to serve a four-year term. We will begin with the list that we received from John Lapp.

Additional people to ask include:

John Friesen

Don Kraybill

Walter Sawatzky

Karl Koop

Hans-Jurgen Goertz, Germany

Alfred Neufeld, Paraguay

Gerhard Ratzlaff, Paraguay

Piet Visser, Netherlands

Alle Hoekema, Netherlands

the author of the Latin American book

Barbara N from Africa

Pakisa Tshimika

We should group these people geographically on our website, and have an internal mechanism to make sure we are maintaining balance in terms of gender, discipline, age, etc.

b. Canadian Editorial Committee: the main agenda is to create templates and style sheets. The committee will next meet in January 2011 in Saskatoon at the MHSC annual meetings.

c. Canadian and regional editorial committees: Reports were distributed for five regional groups. Sam is hoping to meet with a group in Virginia. Richard has made contact with Kevin in California and Ray in Oregon. We hope to get these groups going in 2011.

Oct. 27-29 will be when the Mennonite World Conference Global History Project group meets to wrap up the project. The meetings will be at AMBS. There will be several international writers in attendance. We should try to meet with people from MWC and other international writers at these

sessions, and hold our management board meeting prior to the wrap up. John will arrange for these people to be available so that we can meet with them. We will meet on Wednesday as a board and meet with MWC people on Thursday morning.

In the future, we could ask the Young Centre for Pietist Studies, Elizabethtown College; the Eastern Pennsylvania Historians; Mennonite and Brethren Heritage Centre, Dayton, Virginia; Muddy Creek Farm Library; Germantown Historical Trust; Belleville Historical Society; Castlemen Valley; Mennonite Historical Society, Goshen; Beachy Amish group, and perhaps some of the Mennonite publishers about future involvement with GAMEO.

6. GAMEO structure review

- a. Policy document:** there are no changes to the GAMEO Working Document.
- b. International Editorial Advisory Committee:** See International Consulting Editors Group discussion under Managing Editor's report.
- c. Institutional Base:** John Lapp will contact Larry Miller to coordinate the October 2011 meetings.
- d. Regional Editorial Committees:** new ones will be attempted in 2011 in Virginia, California, and Oregon.
- e. MWC Management Board member:** Pakisa will not be continuing as the MWC representative. Larry is looking for people with international experience to represent MWC.

7. Status of Discussions with:

- a. Conservative / Plain People:** Sam met with the Eastern Mennonite Associated Libraries and Archives last Saturday. He met in Chambersburg with the Mennonite Historical Society of Cumberland Valley. They may become more active through the Lancaster regional group. He also met with Don Kraybill and Steven Scott on Tuesday. They were asked to update articles that they had written for v. 5. Sam also met with Jonathan Martin and Amos B. Hoover from Muddy Creek Librar. He also has contacts with various conservative Mennonite groups in Ontario.
- b. Hutterite Brethren:** Bert has worked with the Schmiedeleute people. They have had a division into two groups. Bert has met once with one of the groups. No contact with the other two groups.
- c. German Lexikon:** Richard has had contact with Mark Jantzen and Hans-Jurgen Goertz. They plan to eventually publish all of their newly written content in a fifth volume. At this time, a number of biographies have been placed on their website.
- d. Paraguay Project:** Abe had contact with Gerhard Ratzlaff, and will follow up.

e. **Global Anabaptist Wiki (Goshen):** Sam has had contact with John Roth. Their recent focus has been to write stories on the Mennonite church in various countries.

f. **Concise Encyclopedia:** Don Kraybill. We will invite Don and Steven to be consulting editors.

8. Staffing Issues

a. **Managing Editor appointment for January 2012:** Abe moved that Richard be appointed. Seconded by Ken. Richard absented himself for the discussion. The motion was unanimously approved.

b. **Additional associate managing editors:** a number of individuals were suggested by the board. The managing editors were encouraged to continue thinking about this position.

9. Technical Issues

a. **Virtual meetings:** we should test this out using Skype. We could use this format to affirm the list of proposed consulting editors.

10. Content

a. Website upgrade priorities for 2011

i. **Design issues:** We will set aside \$500 for a minor redesign of colors and potentially layout of the homepage. Sam will approach PeaceWorks and ask for input from their design people.

ii. **Glossary and/or Introduction Page:** we could ask the Canadian editorial committee to look at the introduction page and a glossary page. We will add "What's New" to the navigation bar. We will drop either News or Events.

b. **Content priorities for 2011:** Identifying historical and theological articles that need to be updated or revised will be a priority for 2011. The interdisciplinary articles will not be a priority, but we will take advantage of current work that is being done. Richard will continue to focus on updating country articles and denominational articles so that all have current directory information.

c. **Anabaptist Ethereal Library:** Should we be mounting confessions from churches around the world? We should sort out the language issue first before pursuing this further.

d. **Mennonite History Overview:** the introduction and glossary has superseded this discussion.

e. **Bibliographical Guide:** We have gone with John Thiesen's bibliography for now. Sam will ask John to update the bibliography.

f. Denominations to be included: those that self-identify as Anabaptist/Mennonite will continue to be updated; those that no longer self-identify will have their articles closed off.

11. GAMEO Promotion.

a. The DVD: considered part of our promotional activities.

b. News releases for the new DVD and the new managing editor. **Sam will take the lead in this area.**

12. Finances

a. Financial reports: 2010 statements presented by Richard Thiessen.

b. Fundraising: we should add Mennonite Foundation Goshen to our list of potential donors.

c. Budget for 2011

Income: Partners - \$1,250

Sponsors - \$5,000

Total revenue: \$6,250

Hosting: \$1,000

Software: \$4,000

November 2010: \$1,500

October 2011: \$1,500

GAMEO DVD: \$1,000

Travel: \$1,500

Contingency: \$500

Total expenses of \$11,000

13. Reports to Partners: all partners receive the minutes.

14. Reports to editorial committees: editorial committees will receive the managing editor's report.

15. No elections required this year.

16. Other business:

Mennonite Church USA Historical Committee participation: Rich Preheim is the executive director, and has been invited to our meetings. He was able to attend the November 2008 meeting, but missed the January 2008 meeting, the January 2010 meeting, and the November 2010 meeting. **Sam will write a letter to encourage participation, and cc the committee chair.**

GAMEO Content Policy: draft was presented by Richard Thiessen; this will be revised and re-circulated, and then presented to the Canadian editorial committee.

- 17. Date of Next Meeting:** 26 October 2011, AMBS, Elkhart, Indiana
27 October 2011, joint meeting with MWC and guests
- 18. Adjourned** at 4:45.