

Mennonite Mission Health Association  
Board Meeting  
October 21 and 22, 2006  
Portage Avenue Church  
Winnipeg, MB, Canada

Present: Dave Wiebe (Chair), Ferd Pauls (President), Doug Cressman (Treasurer), Peter Block, Bob Buhr, John Martens, Murray Nickel (also representing MBMSI), Glen Miller, Peter Kroeker, Helmut Huebert (secretary)

Regrets: Deen Gaddam, Ray Harms-Wiebe (MBMSI), Rick Hamm, Tom Klein

Meeting Chaired by Dave Wiebe

- 1) Opening prayer - Dave Wiebe
- 2) Minutes of Oct 21, 22, 2005 accepted by common consent
- 3) Business arising - will be discussed as the various items arise
- 4) Executive minutes and recommendations will be discussed as the items are mentioned
- 5) President's Report - Ferd Pauls  
Generally speaking encouraged  
Good public opinion of MMHA  
There are challenges
  - Membership expansion
  - Financial commitments
  - Full or part time executive director - perhaps when funding is provided this will come to fruitionConfident that God has a clear direction for MMHA. It is our job to find the will of God  
There has been some publicity in the Mennonite press
- 6) Financial Report - Doug Cressman  
Year-to-date 2006 report circulated  
Congo Medication Credit Project - will likely be another \$10,000 come in  
Adjusted bank balance (Note 3)  
At the end of the year will likely have a slightly positive balance  
There is some confusion regarding the Congo Education Fund  
Need to make specific arrangements for Canadian and US funds.  
There are statements for 2004 and 2005 finances
- 7) Committee Reports
  - a) Web-site, [www.mennonitemha.org](http://www.mennonitemha.org) - Glen Miller
    - Explanation of web-site
    - There is an English and a French version
    - Logo - Globe - world-wide
      - Dove - peace position
      - Initials MMHA

**Moved that we accept the currently used logo for MMHA**  
**Accepted**

- b) Finance Committee - Doug Cressman
  - Detailed auditing has not been done in the past, possibly because of insufficient documentation
  - Need to work at having a more thorough audit

**Moved that we appoint the current auditor for the coming year, and that we discuss a more thorough report for the future**

**Accepted**

Need a person in the US who is more actively involved, and keeps track of items  
Will need to appoint an auditor in the US. Will also probably need an annual statement for the US requirements

**Moved that thank Tom Klein for his services regarding finances in the US in the past**  
**Moved that we appoint Dave Wiebe as the interim finance officer in the USA**

**Accepted**

Ferd Pauls will write a letter to Tom Klein thanking him for his services  
Current Balance - \$1,340 - will be reflected in the completed budget

- c) Communications (Publicity) - Glen Miller
  - Power-Point presentation of the Medicine Credit Program. French version is also available
  - Publicized Dave Wiebe's trip to India - sent an article to various medical publications
  - Press releases throughout the year to Mennonite churches
  - Prepared a Medicine Credit Program brochure
  - A brochure for MMHA is currently under consideration
  - Expanding the mailing list - Board members should let the office know about people who might be interested
- d) Personnel - Helmut Huebert
  - India work is complicated by the Medical School project at Jadcherla
    - we are willing to recommend personnel to go to Jadcherla to teach (physicians and other personnel) to treat patients
    - doctors work under the auspices of Dr Arnold, this apparently covering them from the "insurance" point of view
    - with possible reorientation of the Jadcherla Hospital can ask for various medical specialists, but possibly at this time Obs/Gyne to encourage the

## Maternal and Child Care development

### - General Principles

**We are willing to “receipt” direct expenses of people working at either project**

**We do not receipt “loss of income”**

**We need assurance (probably by log of time spent) that the major time is spent at the project in question**

**People going for the first time need orientation in some form, direct or by letter**

**Write a report of the service experience**

Some of these principles have already been accepted at previous Board meetings

There are many needs in Congo as outlined by Murray Nickel

- various specialties and family physicians could be useful
- those going need to know that the “Congo way” is not always very efficient
- for surgeons there could be considerable work
- accreditation can be a difficult process. If you are with an attending physician specific licensing is likely not necessary
- encourage visits to be in fellowship with other Congolese physicians
- need for ancillary care in Congo - currently do not have the contacts to recommend this

### 8) MMHA Relationships

#### a) MBMSI

Murray Nickel represents MBMSI at this meeting

There is a “Letter of Understanding” with MBMSI

Ray Harms-Wiebe replaced Viktor Hamm as MBMSI partnership representative on the Executive

There is increasing enthusiasm for Congo. Murray Nickel has been designated as Project Coordinator for Congo

Continued relationship is important for MMHA since our budget is not large enough to allow CIDA funding. Through MBMSI we can obtain these funds

We need to build a data base of physicians and other health care professional

We can bring expertise to the table which can be useful for MBMSI

#### b) MCC - at this point no direct partnership relationship

#### c) MMHH

### **Recommendation of the Executive (6.1) accepted as proposed**

#### d) AMMC

Have not been successful in having additional meetings. Largely because of travel expenses, costs are \$7,000 to \$8,000 per meeting

Murray Nickel suggests regional meetings

**Recommendations:**

**Support the concept of regional assemblies**

**Approve \$3,000 for support for AMCC as an organization of Congolese Mennonite physicians**

- e) Tshikadji - John Martens
  - Has toured Mennonite Church hospitals in the area
  - Need to raise awareness of the needs
  - Are interested in some funding, and exchange of personnel
  - These hospitals are being administered by the Congolese church
  - MMHA can help as a network of physicians
  - CMCO and the Presbyterians are the churches responsible for the referral centre at Tshikadji, and are the ones with whom we need to partner
  - They are now negotiating the possibility of a training program
  - Rod Hollinger-Janzen is the person we now need to deal with Mennonite Mission Network is the new organization involved in this work
  
- f) Mtshabezi
  - We have had contact with the Zimbabwe Brethren in Christ through Mr Shenk
  - Suggested lab equipment as a first priority
  - Executive has suggested that we provide \$5,000 as seed money to help in this project

**Recommend that we make \$5,000 available if there is a physician or anticipate a physician in the facility**

- g) Partnership Councils - nothing new to report
  
- 9) India Future
  - Attempts to create a medical college have not been successful
  - Suggested to change the focus to a Maternal and Child Care Centre, including HIV/AIDS.
  - Dr Arnold seems have a positive response to this proposal
  - Critical issue is the current heavy debt load

**Recommendations of the Executive (5.2) discussed and accepted**

Also continue to affirm previous recommendation

**That \$5,000 be set aside to help with expenses of medical personnel which requires help to go to India**

- 10) Congo Next Steps - Murray Nickel and John Martens
  - a) Medication Credit Project
  - Health Zones

Congo is divided into 457 Health Zones  
Each Zone has about 150,000 population, 200 communities, 20 Health Centres 1 referral centre  
2 possible models were discussed at some length

**Model 1 - The proposal of the Executive, to co-manage 2 zones, one where the Mennonite Conference has been active, the other where the MB Conference has been active, dealing with all aspects of medical care**

**Model 2 - That 8 zones where Mennonites have been active be provided with medications under a Phase II Medication Credit Project**

**This will be explored further by the Executive, and acted on as more information becomes available**

Fear is that some of the most needy are being turned away  
General feeling is that the Medication Credit Project needs to continue.

b) Educational Programs

Residency Training

Much of the educational program has already begun

For budget purposes this has already been included

Would like to see the post-graduate education program go through MMHA

Specific proposals for a number of individuals in Congo were out-lined

**Recommended that we designate \$20,000 from our budget for medical health care education in Congo**

**Accepted**

c) Visiting Physicians

Encouraged for various regions of Congo, especially to relate to Congolese physicians

11) Administration Report

Calling cards have been prepared, cost \$35.00 per 100

MMHA donation envelopes available

12) Executive Director

**Recommendation that we continue to function as is, but that we discuss the subject next year, basically whether we wish to make it an official paid position, either part or full time**

13) Membership

The question of membership in MMHA was discussed

**Accepted the recommendations of the Executive (7)**

**This includes that the Chair of the Communications Committee be a member of the Executive**

14) Constitution

**Recommended that the Constitution be revised to reflect the changes that have been proposed at the various meeting. The proposed revision to be sent to the Board**

**Accepted**

The specific changes proposed by the Executive will be incorporated into this revision

15) Budget 2007 - Doug Cressman

**Recommended**

**That the budget line for Medication Credit Project be removed, but may be re-inserted if negotiations with CIDA make it possible**

**That \$300 be designated for office soft ware**

Management of incidental office expenses - will be taken from general donations

16) Board Members

**Recommended that Doug Cressman be accepted as a member of the Board**

**Recommended that John Martens be accepted as a member of the Board**

**Both accepted unanimously**

17) Election of Officers - no terms of office expire in 2006

18) Next meeting

September 28, 29, 2007

Location to be decided by the Executive (Chicago and Denver were mentioned)

19) Meeting adjourned

20) US section of the Board met, and accepted the various recommendations as presented

21) Canadian section of the Board met, and accepted the various recommendations as presented

Recorded by Helmut Huebert, October 21, 2006