

Mennonite Creation Care Network Annual Face-to-Face Meeting, June 10 – 11, 2011

Present: Greg Bowman, Luke Gascho, David Hockman-Wert, Joanne Moyer, David Neufeld, Jennifer Schrock, Jim Smith, Annalisa Harder, Patrick Maxwell

Absent: Karla Stoltzfus-Detweiler (Karla joined us electronically Saturday afternoon.)

Friday evening, June 10

1. Introductions: We met Annalisa Harder and Patrick Maxwell, current MCCN interns. Annalisa is a 2011 graduate of Goshen College in English and history. She has been hired full time for a year. Half of her time will contribute to MCCN and the other half will assist with Merry Lea tasks. She will be responsible for our E-newsletter, among other things. Patrick is doing a volunteer educational internship through Goshen College's Bible and religion department for six weeks, and will write several stories for the MCCN web site.

2. Luke asked us to imagine what the ideal church carrying out creation care would look like, at both the congregational and denominational levels. Our ideas:

Congregational Level:

- Congregations recognize their impact on watersheds.
- Good role models are available.
- Live missionally from a creation care perspective
- Library or online database of concrete things people can do: gardening manuals, practices plus theological basis
- At the congregational level it is all about practice...then reflection...then practice.
- Joyful, simple living.
- People discern with each other how to spend their carbon footprints.
- People pray with and for creation.
- People see the earth and its resources as a gift of God, not as a commodity.
- Creation care theology is expressed in worship, teaching, preaching and building design.
- Congregation donates its compost to a specific community garden as a gift. (Greg B. says that in Youngstown, OH, compost is in short supply.)
- Live in the Matthew 6:25-34 way (This is the "Consider the lilies..." passage.)
- Space to slow down collectively.
- Matthew 6:3—"When you give, don't let your left hand know what your right hand is doing." Creation care becomes so integrated that people are not aware of what they are doing.
- The congregation is working at ecojustice issues locally.
- Engage as disciples in their creation care activities and a center
- "Green" is in balance with other objectives.

- Congregations understand their ecological surroundings.
 - People practice Sabbath living in order to have time to think about and act on what really matters.
-

Denominational level:

- The denomination consciously prioritizes the needs of the whole over just the needs of our community (in terms of policy).
 - Denominational leadership is a visible, inspiring force for local congregations.
 - The denomination avoids apocalyptic thinking.
 - The denomination selects 20 generic sustainability goals; then asks every agency that either serves food or owns land to pick three of the goals and focus on them for five years. Agencies would report on goals at assemblies and be held accountable.
 - The Church as a whole will learn to respect science and knowledge as much as doctrine.
 - Creation care infiltrates all levels of the Church's acting and thinking, similar to the way peace and justice are allegedly integral to the Mennonite Church.
 - The denomination is a visible presence in national and international forums.
 - Organizational policies are adopted that are consistent with creation care.
 - MCCN is widely known and enthusiastically supported as a source of inspiration and resources.
 - A stable of best and brightest thinkers discerns best strategies and focal points for planetary housekeeping.
-

What are the challenges that keep these goals from being realized?

- Fuzzy thinking about what results would most benefit the planet and broader community.
 - Lack of personal engagement
 - Lack of knowledge
 - Materialism and the economic drivers of our lives
 - Financial constraints
 - No time or energy
 - Lack of immediate gratification
 - Lack of an enjoyable process. Often, working at these goals is laden with guilt and fear rather than joy.
 - Rationalization
 - Lack of spiritual conviction that this is a way of following Christ
-

Concluding observation: We have a responsibility to articulate these directions to the Church.

3. Resources: Luke recommended the following books.

Christ of the Celts: The Healing of Creation, by J. Philip Newell. This is a helpful description of a different stream of Christianity than the Western version we are most familiar with, and its treatment of creation themes.

Hell and High Water: Climate Change, Hope and the Human Condition, by Alastair McIntosh. The author interweaves his own loss of an infant with the search for hope in the face of disturbing climate realities.

Global Warming and the Risen Lord, by Jim Ball, recent director of the Evangelical Environmental Network. The book emphasizes how climate change will affect the poor and describes climate change to be as critical as the civil rights movement was in its day.

Dave HW recommended *The Last Chance to See, by Douglas Adams.* This is both a book and a movie featuring the rarest of endangered species.

Saturday, June 11

- 1. Show and Tell:** Greg Bowman brought an item from his new job promoting sustainable food with Goodness Grows, North Lima, Ohio. (See Goodness Grows.net.) Greg showed us a “living bucket” containing a patio tomato, basil and lettuce. This is a strategy his organization has adapted from globalbuckets.org in order to help people to grow food even if their space, money and expertise is limited. Two food-grade plastic buckets from restaurants were nested, with the bottom bucket serving as a self-watering reservoir. Disabled people drilled the holes in the buckets, and college students designed a business plan to promote the product. The whole committee got a kick out of the buckets! We took lots of pictures.
- 2. Devotional:** Dave Neufeld shared a reflection on two sets of parables that form a paradox: the parables of the treasure and pearl in Matthew 13:44 and the tower-builder and the king in Luke 14:28 – 32. He asked us to relate the stories to each other and to creation care.
- 3. Mennonite Church Canada Assembly:** Joanne reported on this event, which will take place in Waterloo, Ont., July 4 – 8, 2011. Joanne will attend and provide a display of creation care books for children and adults. She has a friend to assist with the booth. Darren Kropf, Jane Snyder and Joanne are doing a workshop, entitled Living More with Less. They’ve taken inspiration from a Sunday school curriculum from the Story of Stuff folks. What do we know about the stuff we have? How do we reduce it? What do we do about

electronics? What ecojustice issues touch our lives? The workshop is for both youth and adults and will happen twice.

MC Canada decided to have organizations make 1-minute video ads to play during breaks, rather than offering “swag in a bag.” We did not manage to make a video, but Joanne sent MCCN info for use in the week’s newsletter. We discussed the possibility of making a video for later events. Should it be Canadian focused or for broader use? Joanne knows someone who can help.

- 4. Pittsburgh Happenings:** The MC USA convention is July 4 – 9 in Pittsburgh, PA. We will have an exhibit space similar to what we had in Columbus 09, jointly with Merry Lea. Our literature and banner is ready. Jennifer, Luke, Dave HW and Jim will attend.

A. Delegate conversation related to creation care: Luke does not know if this will happen, since resolutions are not being invited from the floor this year. However, stewardship is named as one of seven denominational priorities and is on the docket for discussion. (Creation care is a sub-point under stewardship.) Luke and Jim have submitted suggestions for specific goals. (See attached sheet, Goals for MC USA Stewardship, July 2011)

B. Workshops on Creation Care: Luke is doing three workshops. They are:
Greening the Church Experience
How Might the Church Respond to Climate Change?
What Does Sustainable Living Mean for People of Faith?

A number of other workshops touch on creation care as well. Dave HW prepared a list. (See attached.)

C. Activities at the Booth: We plan to keep the booth staffed throughout the hours the exhibit hall is open. Our main goal is increasing the number of shades of green congregations. A sub-group of Dave HW, Jennifer, Jim and Annalisa discussed interactive ideas for the booth.

Interactive ideas:

- Sustainability Scavenger Hunt, encouraging people to observe the convention center’s green strategies. Dave HW will arrive early and has some time to work on this. Jennifer will glean ideas from the web in advance.
- Rarely Asked Question quiz: Have a different question each day.
- Youth bottlecap contest: provide a prize to the youth group that collects the most bottlecaps for being caught doing something green.

Other ideas:

- Highlight when our green seminars (and others) are taking place.

- Display large map showing both where the 100 shades congregations are and where attenders came from and how they traveled. Dave HW will make this.
- Provide list of local ecosystem features or list of local green restaurants. Jennifer will check with Charity Grimes.
- Global bucket show-and-tell: Greg will bring one. It will be free to a good home at the end of the week or offered
- Prize ideas: *Earth Trek, Keepers of the Earth, Creation and the Environment: An Anabaptist Perspective, Green Bible, Simply in Season, Just Eating*, Greg's bucket. Also considered restaurant coupons. Jennifer recommends fold-up reuseable bags that fit in a purse or pocket. What can we give the winning youth group?
- Invite 100 Shades congregations to bring us green fabrics for a traveling worship banner.

5. Assessment: How are we doing with the various creation care nodes in our network: churches, schools, individuals, etc.?

A. Churches: We observed that we have made considerable progress in this area. The *Keepers of the Earth* curriculum is in use; we have a evaluation tool to help congregations review their progress; we have over 50 congregations signed up through 100 Shades of Green.

However, the impact on congregations as a whole has been spotty. We need to find new points of entry into groups that don't necessarily sense this is important. We need to target youth and tap into their leadership skills. We need more direct communication with churches.

Strategies to move forward: What is realistic, credible and attractive?

- Each creation care liaison receives one phone call per year. The first year, the phone call focuses on gathering information for the congregational profiles. Other non-threatening questions include, "What do you know about your local ecosystem? What environmental issues plague your area or concern your members?"
- Each congregation has a complete profile on the web.
- Sermons and worship resources are available on the web
- E-newsletter is published monthly.
- Attain goal of liaison relationships in 100 churches by the end of 2012. Move on to 150 churches if possible.
- Follow up personally with people who have ordered *Simply in Season, Earth Trek, More with Less* curriculum.
- Do more with our Facebook page.
- "Friend" all the congregations that have Facebook.
- Find ways to interact with youth leaders in our church. Prepare instructions for projects such as a river clean-up.

- Keep reaching out through multiple entry points.
- Encourage active individuals that we know to develop their leadership further.
- Annalisa suggested a 100 Shades of Green banner that migrated to different churches.
- Joanne has received a request for a sermon library.

B. Individuals: We noted that the web site is probably our most important tool for reaching individuals. We also have the E-newsletter. But do we have adequate networking opportunities for our members? How can we help them interact with each other?

Strategies to move forward with individuals:

- Respond to people immediately and with a personal touch.
- Continue to develop the web site.
- Web idea: Represent nodes of activity spatially. Click on a map and find nodes of activity. Prepare a Google map with arrows showing where all the shades of green are.
- Joanne remarked that in Kenya, she saw people using environmental initiatives to *increase* income. The environmental and the economy were not at considered polar opposites. She remains defiantly hopeful that this perspective could flourish in North America as well. How can we help spread it?
- Target social entrepreneurs. Talk to colleges and ask which of their alumni are entrepreneurs, using sustainability in business.
- Offer an interactive webinar.
- Revive Ecolousa by webinar. Include 15 minutes of live chat.
- Once a year, provide Creation Council members with a membership list.
- Take a membership list to convention booths. If people are already signed up, check for complete information, correct emails, etc.
- Make a list of all the people who should be in our membership and aren't. Pursue them.
- Create membership with meaning. This means resourcing in both directions.
- Get directory going that allows people to connect with each other without us being involved. Dave HW described a listserv he participates in called MennoNeighbors. Find out how much time is required to maintain a group like this. Set up a database that would allow people to query who is in their region. Luke, Jennifer and Annalisa can see what the opportunities are with the database server we have.
- Newsletter should always refer to interaction opportunities.
- Include something personally inspiring in each E-newsletter.

C. Schools: We are aware that much is going on already for reasons independent of MCCN. Green buildings have sprouted, green policies are being put into place, curriculum is expanding into the areas of sustainability, creation care ethics and

spirituality. CMU has started a farm on campus; Goshen and EMU both have majors that incorporate sustainability; EMU recently focused an issue of *Crossroads*, their alumni newsletter, on sustainability; AMBS now has a course on creation care ethics and its new president, Sara Wenger Shenk, is interested in expanding this focus.

However, most of our connections are with undergraduate education. How can we connect to primary and secondary schools? Dave N. observed that Mennonite high schools are currently struggling with changing identities and declining Mennonite enrollment. How might creation care strengthen them?

Strategies to move forward with schools:

- Host a symposium for student leaders from Mennonite schools working on creation care. This could happen annually, borrowing from the model of the mobile peace conference, most recently at Bluffton College.
- Target CCCU, Canadian Assoc. Menno Schools with environmental streams.
- Our Canadian members reported that Conrad Grebel College has a music conference called Sound in the Land, and the next one will focus on an environmental theme. The event emphasizes live music concerts. Could Bryan Moyer Sudermann's CD be made here? Carol Ann Weaver is the contact person. Joanne will connect with Bryan about this. She also reported that he has not had time to work on the CD yet, but hopes to have made progress by our fall meeting.
- Capture what our schools are doing and feed it back into the network. Brag about what each school is doing.
- Help our schools learn about legal, regulatory ways of incorporating local food.
- Work with Mennonite Schools Council.
- Access elementary & secondary schools through parent influence.
- Talk to high school science and Bible teachers at Mennonite high schools.
- Survey high schools. What are you doing, what would you like to do, what are your barriers, how can we help?
- Find out if primary and secondary schools have the curriculum they need. See if we can offer a resource.
- Add intermediary nodes: a faculty person and student at each school.
- MWR had write-up on North Dakota farming conference: Is there a future for farming?

D. Agencies: For our purposes, a Mennonite agency has a role in influencing the breadth of the denomination. This would include organizations such as Everence, Mennonite Education Agency, Mennonite Camping Association, Mennonite Central Committee, Mennonite Mission Network, MEDA, Mennonite World Conference and the Latino, African-American and Native American groups. More localized organizations like retirement homes should be addressed under the At Work and in the Community part of our web site.

- We affirmed the good work going on at Everence, MCC and Mennonite World Conference. Our connection to Everence and the reflection they have done on creation stewardship is a huge benefit to us. MCC has done environmental assessments of all of their offices and this is now standard reporting for them: a good model for our other agencies to consider. MCC Ontario's work on creation care is an important relationship to cultivate. Mennonite World Conference has taken a stand on care of creation and is working on a resource for their Anabaptist bookshelf for worldwide use. Luke noted that our scorecard inspired Andre Gingerich Stoner for the Peace and Justice Support Network.

Strategies to move forward with agencies:

- Need to capture MCC and Menno Mission Network activities related to greening. For example, explore and link to MCC's creation care web site. The link is now active, after a hiatus.
- Create a template along the lines of the Green Congregation Scoresheet that could fit Mennonite agencies and be used for standard reporting. Many government agencies now require sustainability reporting; why shouldn't we expect this from our church agencies? Even a narrative report is helpful.
- Bring conference leaders together to discuss creation care theology and practice. Or accomplish this by connecting with an existing event. Nurture leaders' leadership ability related to creation care.
- Focus on the missional aspect of creation care: people who have joined churches through community gardens, for example.
- Explore tighter links with MCC and its subgroups. Use MCC as a resource for MCCN. Creation care is emphasized in MCC's New Wine proposal.
- Arocha in Canada is essentially a Mennonite operation. This is another link to build on. See the June 2011 *Christianity Today* article on A Rocha.
- Do a series in our newsletter, profiling agencies.
- Call for a denomination-wide day of prayer.
- Invite an agency to think about what person to send to meet with us and then have this person meet with us.
- Make our newsletter accessible for agencies as well.
- Judy Godschalk at Everence might be a good connection.

Additional strategy: Joanne presented a proposal to develop an intermediary set of nodes. Each of the regional conferences would have an MCCN representative. Their job would be to receive meeting minutes and newsletters, and to serve as a middle ground connecting point, reporting back to MCCN about what is going on in their region. They could also take the displays and represent MCCN at events they attend. We could pull from this group when we need council members. Visually, Joanne represented her idea as a circle with the heart of the network being Merry Lea, MCCN, Everence. The next ring out was the Creation Care Council. Area reps made up the third ring. Agencies, churches, schools were on the outer ring.

The council affirmed this idea. There was discussion as to whether this set of nodes should be organized by conference, by watershed, by state/province or simply harness active people. It might be arranged differently in the U.S. and Canada.

Joanne will write up a job description/invitation for regional reps and share this with the council for input.

6. Circle exercise: Luke asked us to draw a circle and then list issues the church is dealing with around its edges. We then filled in ways these issues link to our own creation care concerns.

| ISSUES | CREATION CARE LINKS |
|--|---|
| Rural/urban/racial diversity | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Building sustainable urban gardens can bring transformation between rural and suburban groups. Transformational gardening is one example. * Everyone lives in an ecosystem. |
| Money realities Rich Christians in a hungry world | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Church has responsibility to call people to see true wealth in creation. * Direct impact lifestyles have on the planet. * My wealth results in poverty elsewhere. Pie does not keep expanding. * Need for full valuing of all resources. * Need to learn to value clean air, clean water. |
| Generational gap Aging membership | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Creation care issues affect different generations in different ways. Climate change affects 5 year olds and 90s differently. * Younger generation brings a value for greening. Will working on creation care help us bridge the gap rather than create a greater gap? * Older people have had to live more simply; provide a resource. * Teaching people how to garden across generations. |
| Culture wars: liberal/conservative split | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Need to call to recognition that the earth is a gift from God, regardless of political position. * Need to focus on theological core, rather than politics. * Can we get ahead of the politically driven issues, rather than just reacting to them? |
| Maintaining authentic peace witness; militarism | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Creation care is the new priority in peace witness. Broadens our definition of peace; helps us see how our lifestyle exacerbates violence. <p>Enviromental destruction itself is a form of</p> |
| Maintaining authentic peace witness; militarism | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Creation care is the new priority in peace witness. Broadens our definition of peace; helps us see how our lifestyle exacerbates violence. <p>Enviromental destruction itself is a form of violence.</p> |

| | |
|--|--|
| First nations; Native Americans: justice issues related to | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Much has to do with land & poverty * Especially a Canadian issue * Western-based church needs to understand Native spirituality and worthwhile connections * Is a binational issue, as energy is exported to, say, Minnesota |
| Identity with regard to other Christians and faiths | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Repairing a bad history. Need to show a new understanding of creation, not dominating. * Acknowledge common calls to creation care. * Opportunity to embrace simplicity distinctiveness with simplicity. |
| Sexuality issues | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Ecofeminist argument that domination of creation and women come from same place. * Struggle with God's declaration of goodness. |
| Diminishing size | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Luke: Students say, if our church had talked about this and made it a point of dialog, I'd still be in the Church. * Less energy to cover all these issues. * From green perspective, small is beautiful. |
| Realities of doing missions in our world | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Creation care is one way to venture into the community: gardens, planting trees. * A Rocha model: We are who we are, doing conservation work with anyone who wants to join us. * Sierra Club has changed their view on the faith community. Has a much more positive partnership than they did 10 years ago. |
| Loss of energy, drive | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Nature is rejuvenating. Learn from nature's cycles and seasons. |
| Welcoming immigrants, undocumented | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Welcoming immigrants may be a bonus to us as we age. |
| Busyness | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Can't rush nature. * Our camps are a valuable resource, where many people go to unplug. * Correlation between immersing in nature & finding rest. |
| Consumerism, use of wealth, economic disparity | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * <i>More-with-less Cookbook</i> is emblematic. Still relevant. Connects environmental health, human welfare, food production. Alternative to consumerism. * When Church is honest about what it costs to be a consumer, changes our perspective on consumerism. * Thank Ten Thousand Villages for transforming attitudes. |
| Power and authority at what levels | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Food politics: compare to who makes decisions. Who eats what, who takes whose land? |

| | |
|--|--|
| Power and authority at what levels | * Food politics: compare to who makes decisions. Who eats what, who takes whose land? * What do natural systems teach us about healthy relationships? Creation Care Links |
| Lack of biblical knowledge & awareness | * Exciting explosion of creation exegesis and theology now available that wasn't there 20 years ago. |
| Leadership | * Lack of leaders taking initiative to take initiative to lead. Need CC aware leaders. |
| How we interact with govt. | * Do we hesitate to work on policy issues for fear of liberal/conservative dichotomies? |
| Global justice | Recognizing parts of environment that are interlinking components of all such as air, water, scarcity. Church can lead in future conflicts over water scarcity. |
| Being missional with integrity | |
| Sharing our faith in a pluralistic world | CC message has adaptation across all cultures. Creation care message is good news worth |

Summary review: What does this circle exercise say to us?

- Creation care is integrated into the message of the Gospel. It is not one more issue; it is part of all the issues. It can help transform them.
- Earth/creation is the third covenant partner in a 3-way covenant.
- Creation care is one element within the desire to become like Christ.
- Our theological vocabulary would be much richer if we understood how these terms are understood ecologically. Organic farming as a way out of addiction: slow and hard. Church is impoverished because we haven't been agrarian in our understanding of how things really work.

Question: How many other groups in the church today have had this conversation? How do we engage other people in this dialog?

7. Reviewing MCCN Goals:

A. Are these still the right goals? Are there other ways we should approach creation care? Our discussion centered on the point about confessing harm. Jennifer observed that it is difficult to get confession stories for the web site, yet Joanne encounters people with a need to confess. We recalled that the MWR recently carried a confession regarding the Conestoga Indians. Part of confession is simply making the cause and effect connections.

B. Ideas for further reflection:

- Review list of issues above and see what is missing in our goal statement; then add these connections.

- Take the table above and see what action steps we could pursue, coming out of our goals.

C. How can MCCN be most effective in achieving its goals in MC Canada and MCUSA?

- Look at organizational structure. How are we relating to church leadership and agencies?
- Look at our barriers and ask, “What’s holding us back?”
- Bring to life ecological and agrarian metaphors when preaching and teaching.
- Present creation care as a healthy lens that can help resolve problems, not another issue to get to later when we have other things resolved.
- Offer to help in others’ efforts, such as pulling off a convention. Bring in creation care concerns as a sub-issue while supporting others.
- DN: Congregational focus is still key. We cannot spend too much time at the congregational level.
- DHW: But we don’t need to ignore agencies to do that. We have made a lot of progress in the past 15 years at convention. Convention office is conscious of recycling, use of resources.
- LG: Be a voice and assist Church leadership.
- KSD: Approach *The Mennonite* or *Canadian Mennonite* about contributing a regular column? Council members could take turns contributing.
- DHW: Or we could volunteer to contribute to other columns that are already there: young adult, agency or leadership column.
- What about a featured blog? Let’s prioritize and make sure we have writers.

Saturday evening, June 11:

8. Show and Tell: Joanne showed photos from her time in Kenya, including environmentally sustainable initiatives such as a charcoal briquette workshop and ecotourism project, a tree nursery, an improved brooder stove. We learned that in Kenya, bird banding is called “ringing waders.”

9. Ecological Institute: Luke distributed a summary of Merry Lea’s new Institute for Ecological Regeneration. The institute is committed to working on the integration of land, faith and environmental education. It will increase Merry Lea’s focus on research, especially research that addresses the integration of these three elements.

10. Plans for the new posters: We will send them out to all Shades of Green churches with liaisons, and also to the MC Canada and MCUSA offices. We will offer sign-up at our MC USA booth.

11. Relationships with other creation care organizations: We listed the following connections. Is our web site also connected?

Evangelical Environmental Network (LAG)

EcoJustice part of the National Council of Churches (Luke attended a conference last September and continues to have some communication.)

Renewal: focuses on creation care in Christian colleges. Student-run. Ties in with the group, Restoring Eden.

Hoosier Interfaith Power and Light and the Regeneration Project. (LAG)

Faith in Place in Chicago (food focus and community justice in Chicago area,)

Arocha Canada

Faith and the Common Good, through Jane Snyder

Kairos is an option. They do a lot of climate change stuff.

Earth ministry in Seattle (DHW)

Interfaith Network for Earth Concerns (DHW)

Northwest Earth Institute (focuses on small group discussion resources)

Presbyterian Food and Faith with Andrew Kang Bartlett

Nonprofit Local Foods Network in OH (Greg)

12. Newsletter feedback: Jennifer asked for advice on format and frequency, now that we have an intern on board. The current stationery is clunky to manipulate and some mail programs do not show images, leaving gaps. The group favored a once-a-month format that avoids attachments and steers people to the web site.

13. Budget items:

Jim reviewed our spending over the last five years. Numbers were roughly as follows:

| | |
|------|--------|
| 2007 | 10,000 |
| 2008 | 7,000 |
| 2009 | 10,000 |
| 2010 | 4,000 |
| 2011 | 15,000 |

14. Donations: David Neufeld explained that the way to enable Canadian donations is to choose a capital project that Mennonite Church Canada can own. People could then donate the money to MC Canada. We must identify a specific project, such as Bryan's CD. Would the intern salary work, if she has a virtual presence in Canada? Could a one-minute video clip (to use at Canadian conferences) be a project that MC Canada funds? We can discuss this in November.

The donations page on the web site should indicate that Canadians are welcome to donate, but they won't get a tax receipt.

15. Council Membership: We are seeking a Canadian to replace Dave N. and we also have an empty U.S. seat. The goal is to issue invitations in July, following Pittsburgh. The need for regional balance directs us to look for a Canadian from British Columbia or Ontario and a stateside member from the southeast, the southwest and/or a large urban area.

Names were discussed. Joanne and Dave N. will carry the Canadian suggestions to Dave Bergen, MC Canada's director of formation.

16. Next Meeting Dates:

Virtual: November 19, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Face to face: March 16 - 17, 2012

Minutes submitted by: Jennifer Schrock