

**Minutes of the Meeting of Historical Commission members
with representatives of ICOMB**

Monday, November 1, 2004, 1:00 p.m.

On Monday, November 1, 2004, at 1 PM, members of ICOMB Harold Ens and David Wiebe met with Peter Klassen, Chair, Abe Dueck, Executive Secretary, and Abraham Friesen of the Historical Commission of the MB Churches of North America; Kevin Ens-Rempel joined the meeting in progress later.

Topic of Discussion was the writing of a global history of the MB Church. David Wiebe gave a brief overview of the history of the project. This was a new initiative under the sponsorship of ICOMB but with the Historical Commission carrying out the actual project, conceived at the 2002 meeting during the Mennonite World Conference. It is to be completed in 2010 for the 150th anniversary of the birth of the MB Church. He provided the meeting with a memorandum entitled: "Perspectives from ICOMB" which gave a brief history of ICOMB's discussion of the matter and the purpose it hoped to achieve with the finished work.

After some discussion of ICOMB's recommendations, Abe Dueck provided the meeting with a brief review of the Historical Commission's earlier attempt at writing such a history, entitled: "History of the Global Mennonite Brethren History Project" (see attachment 2). This project had not gone well and was allowed "to die a natural death" when the global Mennonite History project was initiated. This last summer at the MWC in Africa an MB global history was again discussed, this time with the goal of celebrating 150 years of MB existence. David Wiebe's (ICOMB's) current initiative was the result.

ICOMB's initiative was discussed at the last annual meeting of the Historical Commission, and Abe Dueck presented the meeting with his subsequent letter to David Wiebe of 12 May 2004 where this discussion was summarized.

After agreement had been reached in principle to move the project forward there followed a discussion of the best way to approach the project. It was decided that the best approach would be to involve ICOMB since they represent their constituencies; such matters as selecting editors and writers from the various national churches, etc. It was also decided that the project should be taken in hand by the Historical Commission, which will choose the general editor, simply because the greatest expertise in these matters lies in North America.

Some time was then spent on what the project should look like: how it should be organized; what some major themes might be. The following approaches were discussed: centered around missions, MB confessions, institutions, geographical centers, chronological developments. No decisions were reached in this regard because it was felt that the first thing that needed to be accomplished was to select an editor-in-chief and an editorial committee; this committee would have to work out the details.

In order to select an editor-in-chief and an editorial committee it was also decided to hold a meeting of the Historical Commission as soon as possible, preferably as soon as February or March (Abe Dueck will investigate time and place of meeting). Abe Dueck will also write up a