

To: Virginia Mennonite Conference Delegate Session

Fr: Timothy Jost, Historical Committee Chair

Re: Historical Committee Report

Date: 1/19/17

The Virginia Mennonite Conference has reached an understanding with the Eastern Mennonite University Special Collections (Menno Simons Historical Library (MSHL) and EMU Archives to develop a partnership whereby EMU Special Collections would manage user access and processing oversight for the VMC archives. The space allocation of the two collections would remain for the most part the same for the time being. The partnership would, however:

- Permit reduction of duplication between the collections, saving space;
- Provide a single point of access for researchers using both collections, providing longer hours and more space;
- Allow simultaneous access for researchers to both collections, which often overlap; and
- Facilitate digitizing materials and providing online access;

The MSHL, under the direction of VMC historical committee member Simone Horst, will be the designated access point for all archival materials and all requests for access will come through Simone. Nate Yoder will assist with projects or research as needed. Materials will be brought up to the MSHL from the archives and used under MSHL staff supervision.

This change will mean that the position of VMC archivist will be terminated at the end of the EMU Spring Semester. We are very grateful to Harold Huber for his faithful service in this position and wish him well for the future.

We also continue also to move forward with the History of the Virginia Mennonites book. Steve Nolt will begin work on the book in August of 2017. It is hoped that the book will be completed by 2020 or 2021.