**Historical Committee**

**Dale Schrag, Chair**

After a hiatus of several years, the reconstituted Historical Committee met for the first time in late May of 2018. Its membership at that time consisted of one carry-over member from the previous committee, Roger Juhnke, plus the following: Raylene Hinz-Penner, James Juhnke, Erica Littlewolf, Dale Schrag, and John Thiesen, archivist and director of the Mennonite Library and Archives (MLA) at Bethel College as an ex officio member.

The committee was saddened by the resignation of Erica Littlewolf, who moved to her home state of Montana; pleased by the appointment of Brett Klingenberg, pastor First Mennonite Church, Beatrice, Nebraska, as her replacement.

Dale Schrag is chair of the committee; James Juhnke is secretary.

Actions taken by the committee during the year:

* Sponsoring a workshop at the 2018 WDC Assembly that focused on wide-ranging and energetic discussion regarding the need for a WDC Historical Committee and suggested agenda items for such a committee.
* Providing to each WDC congregation an *archival* *records schedule.* This document was created by John Thiesen, MLA director. It includes information on which congregational documents to retain, which to discard, with a time designation for retention or removal. The document is available in both English and Spanish.
* Beginning the process of providing updated information on Western District Conference-related entries in the Global Anabaptist-Mennonite Encyclopedia Online (GAMEO).
* Receiving regular reports on activities and issues concerning the Mennonite Library and Archives at Bethel College (the official repository of WDC records).
* Sponsoring two workshops to be held at the 2019 Assembly of WDC:
	+ Florence and Weldon Schloneger, “Crossing Flint--Personal Journey of Land and People”
	+ Dorothy Nickel Friesen and Lois Barrett, “Mennonite Women’s Voices, 1972-2006”