

# 2020 Canada West Mission Centre Virtual Conference

September 10-13, 2020

## Unprecedented!



*'Don't be afraid, for I am with you.  
Don't be discouraged,  
for I am your God.  
I will strengthen you and help you.  
I will hold you up with my victorious right hand.'*

Isaiah 41:10



Community of Christ

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**Reggie**

# Table of Contents

Click on the page number to go to that item of the program.

On each page click on "Return to Table of Contents" to return to this page.

Meet our Guest Minister	<a href="#">Page 3</a>
Schedule	<a href="#">Pages 4-9</a>
Welcome	<a href="#">Page 10</a>
Pre-Legislative Meeting Agenda	<a href="#">Page 11</a>
Annual Business Meeting Agenda	<a href="#">Pages 12-14</a>
Sustain Stephen Thompson	<a href="#">Page 15</a>
Appoint Dar Shepherdson	<a href="#">Page 16</a>
Report of Credentials (Delegates)	<a href="#">Page 17</a>
Delegate Selection	<a href="#">Page 18</a>
Parliamentary Guide	<a href="#">Page 19</a>
Tech Tips	<a href="#">Pages 20-21</a>
Minutes of Previous Business Meeting	<a href="#">Pages 22-25</a>
Canadian Church Corporation 2020 Budget	<a href="#">Page 26</a>
2019 Internal Audit Report	<a href="#">Pages 27-30</a>
2020 Budget Management and Proposed 2021 Budget	<a href="#">Pages 31-33</a>
CWM President Report	<a href="#">Pages 34-35</a>
Administrative Assistant Report	<a href="#">Page 36</a>
MCFO Report	<a href="#">Page 37</a>
Creating Connection Director Report	<a href="#">Pages 38-40</a>
Church Mission & YAM Report	<a href="#">Pages 41-43</a>
Camping and Retreat Report	<a href="#">Page 44</a>

Online Reunion 2020 Report	<a href="#">Page 45</a>
CWM Recorder Report	<a href="#">Page 46</a>
Peace & Justice Committee Report	<a href="#">Pages 47-48</a>
CWM Historian Report	<a href="#">Pages 49-50</a>
Samish Island Campground Report	<a href="#">Page 51</a>
Hills of Peace Campground Report	<a href="#">Page 52</a>
Edmonton Report	<a href="#">Page 53</a>
Meadow Ridge Report	<a href="#">Page 54</a>
Ribstone Report	<a href="#">Pages 55-56</a>
Saskatoon Report	<a href="#">Page 57</a>
Senlac Report	<a href="#">Page 58</a>
Victoria Report	<a href="#">Pages 59-60</a>
CWM Staff and CWM Contacts List	<a href="#">Page 61</a>
CWM Pastors Contact List	<a href="#">Page 62</a>
2020/2021 Camping and Events Calendar	<a href="#">Page 63</a>
Highlights 2019/2020	<a href="#">Pages 64-65</a>
Upcoming Events	<a href="#">Page 66</a>
Join us next year for e-Conference	<a href="#">Page 67</a>
Join us next year for CWM Conference	<a href="#">Page 67</a>

# Meet our Guest Minister

## Joey Williams



**Joey Williams** is the Mission Center President for the Western Europe Mission Center and the Eurasia Mission Center, where he has served for the last 6 ½ years.

He was a committee member for Community of Christ Sings, and has served the church in a variety of other roles including youth minister and translator in the international resources department.

Joey is passionate about justice and peace, and believes music and the arts are at the heart of how we begin to reimagine the world in which we live, and an impetus for change.

He can't WAIT to be with us to experience another unique and unprecedented encounter in Community of Christ!



# Canada West Mission Online Conference

## Schedule 2020

### Thursday, September 10 - Evening

BC=Pacific Daylight Time (PDT)

AB/SK=Mountain Daylight Time (MDT)

MB= Central Daylight Time (CDT)

6:45 p.m. BC Logon, Troubleshooting and Informal Visiting  
7:45 p.m. AB/SK  
8:45 p.m. MB

7:00 p.m. BC **Coffee and Meaningful Conversation “Hopes, Ideas and  
8:00 p.m. AB/SK Concerns for re-opening our doors”**  
9:00 p.m. MB

Facilitator:

Debra Donohue - Creating Connection Director, Canada West Mission Centre

You are warmly invited to participate in meaningful conversation, as we share our feelings around the new normal of church life.

In this safe, inclusive, casual, and accepting environment, dialogue is encouraged over debate as each person can share from their own perspectives and experiences without interruption.

While each person is sharing, the rest of the group will become 'active listeners' to really hear and try to understand what is being shared.

Our format:

- Welcome and introductions
- Explanation of how we share in Coffee and Conversation
- Ice Breaker topic: A light topic to get us warmed up
- Featured topic: Each person shares without interruption and is given time for thought. The rest of the group practice being 'active listeners'
- If time allows for it, we will engage in back and forth conversation.

# Canada West Mission Online Conference

## Schedule 2020

### Friday, September 11 - Evening

BC=Pacific Daylight Time (PDT)

AB/SK=Mountain Daylight Time (MDT)

MB= Central Daylight Time (CDT)

<b>6:45 p.m. BC</b>	Logon, Troubleshooting and Informal Visiting
<b>7:45 p.m. AB/SK</b>	
<b>8:45 p.m. MB</b>	

<b>7:00 p.m. BC</b>	<b>“Metamorphosis: A Discussion of Church Challenges and Change”</b>
<b>8:00 p.m. AB/SK</b>	
<b>9:00 p.m. MB</b>	

Facilitator: Steve Thompson - Canada West Mission Centre President

Community of Christ continues to change from its forms and structures and budgets of just a few years ago to new forms and structures reduced in size and re-structured in function and budgets of half of what they once were.

Using President Steve Veazey’s article, “Metamorphosis,” from the January/February 2020 Herald, as our basis, we will review the changes already in place and strategize about changes yet to come.

# Canada West Mission Online Conference

## Schedule 2020

### Saturday, September 12 - Daytime

**BC=**Pacific Daylight Time (PDT)  
**AB/SK=**Mountain Daylight Time (MDT)  
**MB=** Central Daylight Time (CDT)

<b>8:45 a.m. BC</b> <b>9:45 a.m. AB/SK</b> <b>10:45 a.m. MB</b>	Logon, Troubleshooting and Informal Visiting
<b>9:00 a.m. BC</b> <b>10:00 a.m. AB/SK</b> <b>11:00 a.m. MB</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Opening Worship/Devotion/Spiritual Practice</li><li>• Review Schedule</li><li>• Process Explanation/Description</li></ul>
<b>9:40 a.m. BC</b> <b>10:40 a.m. AB/SK</b> <b>11:40 a.m. MB</b>	BREAK
<b>10:00 a.m. BC</b> <b>11:00 a.m. AB/SK</b> <b>12:00 a.m. MB</b>	<b>Pre-Legislative Session</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• See agenda on <a href="#">page 11</a></li></ul>
<b>11:30 a.m. BC</b> <b>12:30 p.m. AB/SK</b> <b>1:30 p.m. MB</b>	BREAK
<b>1:00 p.m. BC</b> <b>2:00 p.m. AB/SK</b> <b>3:00 p.m. MB</b>	<b>Annual Business Meeting</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• See agenda on <a href="#">page 12</a></li></ul>

### Saturday, September 12 - Evening

BC=Pacific Daylight Time (PDT)

AB/SK=Mountain Daylight Time (MDT)

MB= Central Daylight Time (CDT)

6:45 p.m. BC 7:45 p.m. AB/SK 8:45 p.m. MB	Logon, Troubleshooting and Informal Visiting
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7:00 p.m. BC 8:00 p.m. AB/SK 9:00 p.m. MB	<b>“Unprecedented!” An Evening with our guest minister Joey Williams</b>
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#### **An Unprecedented Musical Event:**

Join percussionist, vocalist, and two-time international hymnal committee member Joey Williams for an UNPRECEDENTED musical event for our mission center.

Come ready to sing, compose, play whatever instruments you have available, and enjoy a fun-filled musical experience, together!

# Canada West Mission Online Conference

## Schedule 2020

### Sunday, September 13 - Morning / Afternoon

BC=Pacific Daylight Time (PDT)

AB/SK=Mountain Daylight Time (MDT)

MB= Central Daylight Time (CDT)

8:45 a.m. BC Logon, Troubleshooting and Informal Visiting  
9:45 a.m. AB/SK  
10:45 a.m. MB

#### 9:00 a.m. BC **Canada West Mission Centre Worship Service**

10:00 a.m. AB/SK  
11:00 a.m. MB

- Theme: "Our Unprecedented Journey"
- Communion Service
- Planner: Lisa Neudorf
- Presiding: Stephen Thompson
- Guest Speaker: Joey Williams
- Members from across the Mission Centre to be involved in the service
- Technical support and webcast in association with the Toronto Centre "Beyond the Walls" Congregation

1:30 p.m. BC

2:30 p.m. AB/SK

3:30 p.m. MB

#### **Creating Connection presents Satsang: Singing into Silence**

**With Vickie and Doug MacArthur**

**Hosted by Debra Donohue - Creating Connection Director Canada West Mission Centre**

*"Everybody with a voice can sing, and everyone with a breath in their body can experience their divinity." Deva Premal*

Satsang is a sanskrit word that describes a way of coming together in community to experience the pure truth and love that is beyond religion or culture. During these lonely and isolating times, it is so important to find creative ways of coming together to do this. Even online, the simple act of joining together to sing can touch places within us that spoken words cannot.

It is not about performance or perfection. It is every voice remembering that singing is a universal language as ancient and natural as language itself. Singing together dissolves boundaries and opens our hearts to the silent truth that is beyond words.

Doug and Vickie will share simple songs and chants from various spiritual traditions you can sing in your own space, from the silence of "Om" to a joyful "Alleluia". Clap your hands with lively rhythms and the beat of a drum, and let soulful melodies guide you into the silence that connects our hearts as one united voice. Together we will create a vibration of peace to fill the world.

[Click here to watch a video preview of Satsung: Singing into Silence](#)



# Canada West Mission Online Conference

## Schedule 2020

Wednesday, September 16

BC=Pacific Daylight Time (PDT)

AB/SK=Mountain Daylight Time (MDT)

MB= Central Daylight Time (CDT)

6:15 p.m. BC

7:15 p.m. AB/SK

8:15 p.m. MB

Logon, Troubleshooting and Informal Visiting

6:30 p.m. BC

7:30 p.m. AB/SK

8:30 p.m. MB

**Hills of Peace Campground Association All-Members  
Annual Meeting (Alberta and Saskatchewan members)**

- Updates on initiatives at the campground
- Presentation of Financials – 2019 Year-End
- Election of 3 Directors

*(Full Agenda will be Available as soon as possible.)*

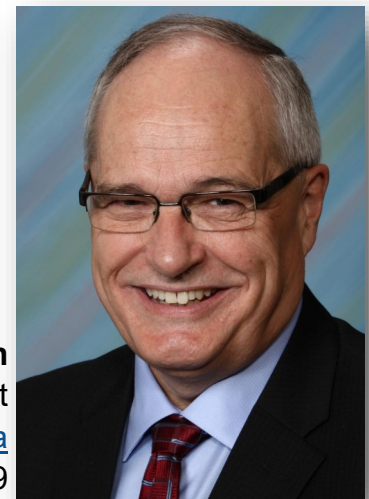
# Welcome

## Welcome to the “Unprecedented” 2020 Canada West Mission Centre Virtual Conference!

Early in the COVID-19 response processes from governments, businesses, and other agencies, it seemed that almost any activity, initiative, or restriction carried the adjective “unprecedented.” The term seemed a bit over-used and yet it was an accurate description of those events. Despite that sense of being over-used, we chose to adopt it as the theme for our conference.

“Unprecedented” describes the way we have organized our conference this year – entirely online, yet with as many as possible of the activities normally associated with our traditional in-person conferences. Our involvement of guest ministry from a distance is also “unprecedented” in context of our past conferences. Joey Williams will join us a number of times from Independence, Missouri, as will Apostle Art Smith. Bishop of Canada, Dar Shepherdson, will participate from his home in Ontario. And our “unprecedented” Sunday morning worship service will originate from... well...we’re not even sure where it is originating from! We will have technical support from Toronto while persons from across the Canada West Mission Centre will lead the various elements of the service and people will watch and participate from literally around the world!

So, welcome! Welcome to this “unprecedented” conference. Welcome to this dispersed and virtual and yet hopefully unified fellowship. Welcome to a truly physically distanced set of events. Welcome, in the name of Jesus Christ, to this event of business, of learning, of experience and experiment, and of worship and connection. Welcome to the “Unprecedented” 2020 Canada West Mission Centre Virtual Conference!



**Stephen Thompson**  
Canada West Mission Centre President  
[steve@communityofchrist.ca](mailto:steve@communityofchrist.ca)  
cell/text: 780-904-4389

# Pre-Legislative Meeting Agenda

**Saturday September 12, 2020**

**Held Via Zoom**

**11:00 a.m.**

## **Pre-Legislative Discussion of Major Agenda Items**

### **1. Review Agenda of Business Meeting**

### **2. MCP and MCFO Appointment Letters**

**A.** Note changes

**B.** Note revised processes — for Mission Centre and for Congregations

### **3. Presentation and Discussion of Budget Information**

**A.** 2020 Budget Adjustment

**B.** 2021 Proposed Budget

### **4. We Remember**

Honoring members who have died in the last year

### **5. We Celebrate**

Celebrating members who have had: Birthdays of 80 or better, wedding anniversaries of 50 or better, recent births and graduations

### **6. Review Congregational Reports**

### **7. Review Mission Centre Program Reports**

# Annual Business Meeting Agenda

Canada West Mission Centre  
Annual Business Meeting  
Held via Zoom  
Saturday, September 12, 2020  
2:00 p.m.

## 1. Call the Conference to Order

A. Opening Prayer:

## 2. Greetings to the Conference

A. Apostle Art Smith

B. Bishop of Canada Dar Shepherdson

## 3. Introduction to Voting System

A. Introduction/Training on Voting System and Processes

B. Practice Vote(s)

## 4. Conference Organization

A. Parliamentary Guide, [page 19](#) (*information only; no motion required*)

B. Motion to approve Credentials Committee Report (with amendments if necessary), [page 17](#).

*Resolved:* That the report of the Credentials Committee be accepted as circulated (or – as amended).

C. Motion to approve Conference Officers

*Resolved,*

I. That the **Mission President** preside over this Conference and be authorized to complete the Conference organization.

II. That **Lisa Neudorf** be Secretary of the Conference.

III. That **Michael Mitchell** be Parliamentarian for the Conference.

Submitted by Mission President

## 5. Motion to approve agenda of Canada West Mission Business Meeting, September 12, 2020

*Resolved,* That the Agenda for the Canada West Mission Business Meeting for September 12, 2020, be approved as circulated (or – as amended).

- 6. Motion to approve Minutes of August 31, 2019, Mission Conference, [see pages 22-25.](#)**  
*Resolved*, That the Minutes of the Canada West Mission Business Meeting of August 31, 2019, be approved as circulated (or – as amended/corrected).

## **7. Mission Centre Organization**

- A. Mission President, [see page 15.](#)**  
*Resolved*, That **Stephen Thompson** be sustained as Mission President.  
Submitted by First Presidency
- B. Mission Financial Officer, [see page 16.](#)**  
*Resolved*, That **Darwood Shepherdson** be sustained as Mission Financial Officer.  
Submitted by First Presidency
- C. Mission Appointments,**  
*Resolved*,
- I. That **Linda Klughart** be sustained as Mission Recorder.
  - II. That **Anita Bates** be sustained as Mission Historian.
  - III. That **Sandra Rodriguez** be sustained as Privacy Officer.
- Submitted by Mission President
- D. Mission Advisory Council**  
*Resolved*: That the following persons be re-appointed to the Canada West Mission Advisory Council for the next year:
- Carl Bolger (Victoria)
  - Shannon MacAdam (Vancouver)
  - Caitlin D'Esterre (Calgary)
  - Corleen McLean (Saskatoon)
  - Denise Esch (Regina)
  - Stan Freer (Winnipeg)

- 8. Presentation of Canadian Church Corporation 2020 Budget, [see page 26](#)**  
Presented for information only to show the usage of “World Wide Mission Tithes” offerings from Canadians. No motion required.

## **9. Consideration of Mission Centre Financial Information**

- A. Consideration of Internal Audit Report for 2019, [see pages 27-30](#)**  
*Resolved*: That the Internal Audit Report for the year ending December 31, 2019, be received for information.
- B. Consideration of 2020 Budget Revision, [see pages 31-33](#)**  
*Resolved*: That the Canada West Mission Centre Budget for 2020 revision be approved as presented (or – as amended).
- C. Consideration of 2021 Proposed Budget, [see pages 31-33](#)**  
*Resolved*: That the Canada West Mission Centre Budget for 2021 be approved as presented (or – as amended).

## **10. Acknowledgement of Reports to the Conference:**

- A.** Mission Centre President – [see pages 34-35](#)
- B.** Administrative Assistant to the Mission Centre President – [see page 36](#)
- C.** Mission Centre Financial Officer – [see page 37](#)
- D.** Creating Connection Director – [see pages 38-40](#)
- E.** Church Mission and Young Adult Ministries Specialist – [see pages 41-43](#)
- F.** Camping and Retreat Specialist – [see page 44](#)
- G.** Online Reunion – [see page 45](#)
- H.** Mission Centre Recorder – [see page 46](#)
- I.** Canadian Peace and Justice Committee – [see pages 47-48](#)
- J.** Mission Centre Historian – [see pages 49-50](#)
- K.** Samish Island Campground – [see page 51](#)
- L.** Hills of Peace Campground – [see page 52](#)

## **11. Other Business**

## **12. Announcement of Location of 2021 Canada West Mission Conference**

## **13. Adjournment**

Closing Prayer:

# Letter to sustain Stephen Thompson



Community of Christ

CHRIST'S MISSION, OUR MISSION

August 27, 2020

To the Canada West Mission Center

Dear Saints:

As you gather for your mission center conference and engage in the business and mission you are called to, the Presidency is pleased to recommend for your consideration Stephen Thompson to serve as your Mission Center President. To serve in this leadership position is both a blessing and challenge as the Mission Center President seeks to support your congregations to fully live into the mission of the church. Through your support, you join with Steve to be a living expression of the church wherever you are found.

Today, the Presidency wants to express our profound appreciation for the willingness of Steve to offer this service and ministry for the benefit of the mission center and church. We now ask for your prayerful consideration to sustain Steve to serve as the appointed Mission Center President. May you hold Steve in your prayers.

In the spirit of peace,  
THE FIRST PRESIDENCY

K. Scott Murphy

cc: Art Smith, Apostle

KSM/kat

INTERNATIONAL HEADQUARTERS  
1001 W. Walnut St., Independence, MO 64050 USA

# Letter to appoint Dar Shepherdson



Community of Christ

CHRIST'S MISSION, OUR MISSION

August 27, 2020

To the Canada West Mission Center

Dear Saints:

It is with joy that the First Presidency and Presiding Bishopric offer our support and recommendation for Darwood Shepherdson to serve as your Mission Center Financial Officer. The financial officer upholds the principles of generosity and whole-life stewardship that help each of us respond to the mission of the church in meaningful and authentic ways. We are deeply grateful for those who offer their skills and ministry in this essential position as a partner with the Mission Center President.

Today, we ask for your support for Dar to serve as the appointed Mission Center Financial Officer. May you hold Dar in your prayers.

In the spirit of peace,  
THE FIRST PRESIDENCY

K. Scott Murphy

PRESIDING BISHOPRIC

Stassi D. Cramm

cc: Art Smith, Apostle

KSM/kat

INTERNATIONAL HEADQUARTERS  
1001 W. Walnut St., Independence, MO 64050 USA



# Report of the Credentials Committee (Delegates)

## **Calgary Congregation 4 of 9**

Doug Hayden  
Cindy Larsen  
Isabelle Williams  
Parker Johnson

## **Chilliwack Congregation 3 of 3**

Gwyn Beer  
Loralie Dean  
Shonnet Allen

### **Alternates**

Vern Dean  
Betty Williams

## **Edmonton Congregation 11 of 18**

Ryan Levitt  
Susan Levitt  
Marian Thompson  
Sharon Smythe  
Linda Allen  
Deborah Greibrok  
Michael Bock  
Bonnie Bock  
Cheryl Donnachie  
Margaret Levitt  
Carl Lindemann

## **Lethbridge Congregation 2 of 2**

Doug MacArthur  
Nancy Panting

## **Meadow Ridge Congregation 1 of 2**

Gary McDonald

## **Prince Albert Congregation 2 of 2**

Marlene Mitchell  
Linda Klughart

## **Regina Congregation 4 of 7**

Dan Esch  
Denise Esch  
Gregg Lester  
Colleen Sawyer

## **Ribstone Congregation 6 of 6**

Bev Cargill  
Jack Cargill  
Wayne Skinner  
Emelia Goheen  
Leila Goheen  
Darlene Skinner

**Total: 50 of 77 = 65%**

## **Saskatoon Congregation 2 of 5**

Jae Senga  
Jeanny Jakobsen

## **Senlac Congregation 2 of 2**

Becky Middleton  
Doug Middleton

## **Vancouver Congregation 7 of 10**

Chris Phelps  
Kat Goheen  
Debra Donohue  
Lanette Vawter  
Shannon McAdam  
Rod Downing  
Dan Beer

## **Victoria Congregation 4 of 7**

Carl Bolger  
Shirley Bolger  
John Canty  
Kelly Duff

## **Winnipeg Congregation 2 of 4**

Stan Freer  
Tom Cancilla

# Delegate Selection

Using Ministerial Information System (Shelby), May 8, 2020, the number of CWM delegates was calculated according to congregation book membership. The formula is one delegate per fifteen members with a minimum of two delegates in any congregation.

Pastors may submit additional names of persons to serve as delegates in the fourteen days before the business meeting. These names will be presented to the business meeting and will be accepted by a vote of the business meeting as amendments to the "Report of the Credentials Committee."

Similarly, persons whose names need to be withdrawn as delegates for any reason may be dealt with by a letter from the Pastor and substitutes may be named. These changes will also be dealt with as amendments to the "Report of the Credentials Committee."

Non-resident members may be represented in a business meeting in a similar ratio from each province. Delegates may be appointed by the Mission Centre President at least 2 weeks prior to the business meeting. Non-resident members can "volunteer" to serve as delegates with notice to the Mission Centre President no later than two weeks prior to the business meeting.

CWM Staff who are available to serve as delegates must be elected by their congregation or appointed by their pastor. Staff are not ex-officio delegates. Staff who are serving roles in the business meeting are not eligible to be delegates.

# Parliamentary Guide

- A main motion must be moved, seconded, and stated by the Chair before it can be discussed.
- If you approve the motion as it is, vote for it. If you disapprove the motion, in total, vote against it.
- If you approve the idea of the motion but want to change it, move to amend it by adding, deleting, or substituting.
- If you want competent advice to help you to make your decision, move to refer the motion to an appropriate person or committee with instructions to report back.
- If you feel that a person or committee can handle it better than the assembly, move to refer the motion with power to act.
- If the pending matter should be set aside temporarily because something more urgent has come up, move that it be laid on the table.
- If you want time to think the motion over, move that consideration be postponed to a certain time.
- If you think that further discussion is unnecessary, move to close debate.
- If you do not agree with a decision by the Chair, appeal the decision to the assembly.
- If you think that a matter introduced is not germane to the matter at hand, a question of order may be raised.
- If you think that too much time is being consumed by speakers, you can move a time limit on such speeches.
- If a motion has several parts and you wish to vote differently on these parts, move to divide the motion.

# Tech Tips

## Online Conference Planning – Technical Guidance

### Zoom (Video Conferencing Software)

- **Technical Requirements**

Please visit the [Zoom System Requirements page](#) to view full specs on recommended Internet speeds, hardware, sound, etc.

- **Training Resources**

Zoom has produced high-quality training resources to help you familiarize yourself with the platform if you are new to it. Please [click here](#) to view a full playlist of topics on YouTube that will be of interest to you as you get started.

- **Conference Etiquette**

1. Be mindful of disruptive sounds nearby as you address the conference. Find a quiet, well-lit space for you to join the conference. This will ensure delegates can clearly see and understand you.
2. Each user should only join on one device (unless using phone audio with video) to avoid a loud echo sound.
3. All users should be muted except the Chair and the individual addressing the conference. This is to ensure delegates can clearly see and understand the individual addressing the conference.
4. If a delegate wishes to address the conference, they should be instructed to indicate so by making it known in the chat box or by using the “raise hand” feature which will alert a moderator of their intention to address the conference.
5. If Internet speed is an issue, it is recommended that a user do one of two things to preserve the quality of the call:

- a) Turn off their camera (this will ensure their audio can continue without disruption)

- b) Join the video conference via Zoom and opting to dial-in for audio.

The delegate will then dial in using their telephone, enter the meeting ID number as well as their participant ID. This will marry their video feed with the audio from their phone. With the audio signal now being carried through their telephone, the user’s Internet will only need to transmit video, thus preserving the quality of their video feed.

- **Accessibility**

While Zoom does support dial-in options for those who wish to just join by audio only, this reduces overall interactivity for those doing so. As such, we recommend all delegates join via computer/smartphone/device to ensure a similar and equitable experience for all.

As opposed to an in-person conference where someone could simply raise their hand to address the conference, an e-Conference will require more time and patience to ensure people who would like to speak or share in the chat box have enough time to do so.

## **Polling**

Proven success has been found using the **PollEverywhere** platform. This is a paid service that allows meeting chairs to securely poll delegates in real time, easily make changes/amendments to motions. Also, results can be displayed immediately.

Delegates can participate in the following ways:

- ⇒Download the PollEv app (Android/iOS)
- ⇒Using any browser on any device connected to the Internet
- ⇒Via SMS (text message)

- **Training**

**PollEverywhere** has produced high quality training resources that will help you familiarize yourself with the platform.

Watch [“Getting Started with Poll Everywhere”](#) to learn the basics.

[Click here](#) for a full list of video resources.

# Minutes of Previous Business Meeting



Community of Christ

Canada West Mission Centre  
**Annual Business Meeting**  
Edmonton Congregation  
Saturday, August 31, 2019  
Minutes

## 1. Call the Conference to Order - 1:33 pm

- a. Opening Hymn of Praise: Hymn 288 "Let Justice Roll Like a River"
- b. Opening Prayer: Evangelist Denise Esch

## 2. Greetings to the Conference

- a. Apostle Art Smith
- b. Bishop of Canada Dar Shepherdson

## 3. Introduction to Voting System

- a. Introduction/Training on Voting System and Processes
- b. Practice Vote(s)

## 4. Conference Organization

- a. Parliamentary Guide, page 11 (*information only; no motion required*)
- b. Motion to approve Credentials Committee Report (with amendments if necessary page 10.  
*Resolved:* That the report of the Credentials Committee be accepted as circulated. No amendments.  
**Moved:** Gloria Stanton (Saskatoon). Seconded. Carried.
- c. Motion to approve Conference Officers  
*Resolved*
  1. That the Mission President preside over this Conference and be authorized to complete the Conference organization.
  2. That Lisa Neudorf be Secretary of the Conference.
  3. That Gary McDonald be Parliamentarian for the Conference.Submitted by Mission President.  
**Moved:** Nancy Panting (Lethbridge). Seconded. Carried.

## 5. Motion to approve agenda of Canada West Mission Business Meeting, August 31, 2019

*Resolved*, That the Agenda for the Canada West Mission Business Meeting for August 31, 2019, be approved as circulated.

**Moved:** Lloyd Chase (Saskatoon). Seconded. Carried.

## 6. Motion to approve Minutes of February 2, 2019, Electronic Mission Conference, pages 14 - 16.

*Resolved*, That the Minutes of the Canada West Mission Business Meeting (Electronic Conference) of February 2, 2019, be approved as circulated.

**Moved:** Karen Brett (Meadow Ridge). Seconded. Carried.

## 7. Mission Centre Organization

Chair handed over to Apostle Art Smith.

### a. Mission President, page 8.

*Resolved*, That Stephen Thompson be sustained as Mission President.  
Submitted by First Presidency

**Moved:** Carl Bolger (Victoria). Seconded. Carried.

Chair returned to Steve Thompson.

### b. Mission Financial Officer, Page 9.

*Resolved*, That Samuel Smalldon be sustained as Mission Financial Officer.  
Submitted by First Presidency

**Moved:** Marian Thompson (Edmonton). Seconded. Carried.

### c. Mission Appointments

*Resolved*,

That Linda Klughart be sustained as Mission Recorder.

That Anita Bates be sustained as Mission Historian.

That Debra Donohue be sustained as Privacy Officer.

Submitted by Mission President.

**Moved:** Barry Williams (Chilliwack). Seconded. Carried.

### d. Mission Advisory Council

*Resolved:* That the following persons be re-appointed to the Canada West Mission Advisory Council for the next year:

- Carl Bolger (Victoria)
- Shannon MacAdam (Vancouver)
- Caitlin D'Esterre (Calgary)
- Corleen McLean (Saskatoon)

- Denise Esch (Regina)
- Stan Freer (Winnipeg)

**Moved:** Karen Brett (Meadow Ridge). Seconded. Carried.

## 8. Consideration of Priesthood Calls

Prayer for our consideration of leadership and ministry by Danny Belrose.

- a. Doug Hayden to the office of High Priest.

**Moved:** Ryan Levitt (Edmonton). Seconded. The conference expressed its support. Carried.

- b. Brenda Senga to the office of High Priest/Evangelist.

**Moved:** Lloyd Chase (Saskatoon). Seconded. The conference expressed its support. Carried.

## 9. Presentation of Canadian Church Corporation 2019 Budget (p. 17)

Presented for information only to show the usage of "World Wide Mission Tithes" offerings from Canadians. No motion required.

## 10. Consideration of Mission Centre Financial Information

### a. Consideration of Internal Audit Report for 2017 (see page 18-20)

*Resolved:* That the Internal Audit Report for the year ending December 31, 2017, be received for information.

**Motion approved** without objection from the conference.

### b. Consideration of Internal Audit Report for 2018 (see page 21-24)

*Resolved:* That the Internal Audit Report for the year ending December 31, 2017, be received for information.

**Motion approved** without objection from the conference.

### c. Consideration of 2020 Budget - see insert

*Resolved:*

1. That the 2020 Budget of \$544,000 in expenses and revenues be approved; and,
2. That the 2020-21 Business Plan be approved which includes:
  - a. increasing congregational support by 50% in 2020 and more in 2021 if required; and,
  - b. increasing individual contributions by charging prices or fees for activities and events; and,
  - c. creating a youth camping subsidy budget; and,
  - d. seeking alternative funding.

**Moved:** Karen Brett (Meadow Ridge). Seconded. Carried.



## **11. Acknowledgement of Reports to the Conference:**

- a. Mission President - p. 25
- b. Creating Connections Director, BC - p. 26-27
- c. Camping and Retreat Specialist - p. 32
- d. Church Mission and Young Adult Specialist- p. 28-30
- e. Canadian Peace and Justice Committee - p. 31
- f. Communications - p. 27
- g. Historian - p. 33
- h. Samish Island - p. 34
- i. Hills of Peace - p. 35

## **12. Announcement of Location of 2020 Canada West Mission Conference**

Chilliwack, BC

## **13. Adjournment – 3:40 pm**

Closing Prayer: Evangelist Wayne Stanton

# Presentation of Canadian Church Corporation 2020 Budget

Community of Christ			
Worldwide Mission Budget, funded by Canada			
Operating Budget to Actual for March 31, 2020			
	CANADIAN DOLLARS		
	BUDGET	ACTUAL	% BUDGET
<b>Income/Expense Summary</b>			
Total Income	1,583,000	(6,632)	0%
WMT - Use Where Needed Most	918,000	147,719	16%
WMT - Abolish Poverty/End suffering	40,000	11,547	29%
Other Income	625,000	(165,898)	-27%
Total Expense	1,583,000	488,322	31%
<b>Expense by Functional Area</b>			
<b>Field Ministires Expense</b>			
Multination Mission Fields (including C12)	71,009	100,982	142%
USA Mission Fields (including C12)	-	-	-
World Church Leadership (without C12)	-	-	-
<b>Canadian Mission Expense</b>			
	379,861	76,295	20%
<b>Discipleship Formation Expense</b>			
	100,000	-	0%
<b>Abolish Poverty-End Suffering Expense</b>			
	40,000	600	2%
<b>Communications Expense</b>			
	647,129	160,252	25%
<b>Herald House Expense</b>			
<b>Temple Complex Expense</b>			
	121,000	30,250	25%
<b>Historic Sites Expense</b>			
<b>Support Services Expense</b>			
	-	-	-
<b>Business Services Expense</b>			
	-	75,056	
<b>Bridge of Hope Expense</b>			
	224,000	44,887	20%
Total Income	1,583,000	(6,632)	0%
Total Expense	1,583,000	488,322	31%
Net Income/(Loss)	-	(494,954)	

# 2019 Internal Audit Report



Community of Christ

## INTERNAL AUDIT REPORT

Mission Center Presidency and Conference  
**Canada West Mission Centre**  
Community of Christ

The financial records of Canada West Mission Centre for the year ended December 31, 2019 have been reviewed applying certain procedures, as described below. The purpose of which is to assist in evaluating the effectiveness of the internal control and in identifying any areas in which the accounting functions might not have captured all of the significant financial data. Additionally, these procedures are intended to meet the audit function required by the Presiding Bishopric's policies. This report is intended solely for the use of members of Canada West Mission Centre and the International Church Presiding Bishopric and it should not be distributed to anyone who is not associated through these bodies.

Among the procedures conducted were the following: 1) Verification of all cash and investment balances, 2) Review of all asset, liability and equity accounts as recorded in the general ledger, 3) Test of transactions through the year pertaining to cash receipts, disbursements and journal entries including examination of paid invoices for appropriate documentation.

In all material respects, receipts and disbursements have been recorded and administered in accordance with appropriate accounting practices and approved budgets. The accompanying statements present fairly the financial position, the results of its operations and changes in fund balances of Canada West Mission Centre for the year ended

(Original Signed)

Gary W. Dodson  
Internal Audit  
July 12, 2020

# 2019 Internal Audit Report

**CANADA WEST MISSION CENTRE**  
**Statement of Financial Position**  
**As at December 31, 2019 and 2018**

	<u>2019</u>		<u>2018</u>	
<b><u>Assets</u></b>				
Cash and Investments				
CIBC	\$ 89,095.79		\$ 152,312.67	
Wood Gundy	180,186.58		273,242.71	
CI Investments	<u>55,462.26</u>	\$ 324,744.63	<u>150,405.27</u>	\$ 575,960.65
Accounts Receivable				
General	50.00		50.00	
GST Refund	<u>15,560.47</u>	15,610.47	<u>13,560.47</u>	13,610.47
Fixed Assets				
Vehicles	22,925.02		22,925.02	
Accumulated Depreciation	<u>(20,285.03)</u>	2,639.99	<u>(15,700.03)</u>	<u>7,224.99</u>
		<u>\$ 342,995.09</u>		<u>\$ 596,796.11</u>
<b><u>Liabilities and Net Worth</u></b>				
Accounts Payable				
Samish Island	\$ 16,434.79		\$ 48,784.01	
Hills of Peace	1,992.13		9,620.75	
World Church	-		44,946.69	
Guelph	-		1,869.73	
Other	<u>-</u>	\$ 18,426.92	<u>192.20</u>	\$ 105,413.38
Net Assets				
Operating Fund	153,972.04		290,315.38	
Reserves and Activity Funds	<u>170,596.13</u>	\$ 324,568.17	<u>201,067.35</u>	\$ 491,382.73
		<u>\$ 342,995.09</u>		<u>\$ 596,796.11</u>

# 2019 Internal Audit Report

**CANADA WEST MISSION CENTRE**  
**Statement of Activities**  
**For the year ended December 31, 2019**

<b>Income</b>			
Congregational Support		\$ 106,819.45	
Contributions		56,776.77	
Earnings on Investments		<u>12,000.86</u>	\$ 175,597.08
<b>Expense</b>			
Programs			
Staff Minister's Expenses		\$ 141,571.04	
Administration			
Internet	\$ 679.95		
Insurance	3,178.33		
Office Supplies	300.00		
Bank Charges	273.00		
Contract Services	11,199.22		
Other	<u>621.60</u>	16,252.10	
Facilities			
Office Rent		<u>8,651.51</u>	<u>166,474.65</u>
Net Income			9,122.43
Operating Fund Balance January 1			290,315.38
Transfer to Mission Initiatives			(200,000.00)
Transfer Activity Balances			(5,310.46)
Prior Year Adjustments			<u>59,844.69</u>
Operating Fund Balance December 31			<u><u>\$ 153,972.04</u></u>

# 2019 Internal Audit Report

**CANADA WEST MISSION CENTRE**  
**Reserves**  
**For the year ended December 31, 2019**

	Balance Jan. 1, 2019	Received	Expended	Balance Dec. 31, 2019
Mission Initiatives	\$ (25,829.89)	\$ 200,000.00	\$ 175,611.58	\$ (1,441.47)
Youth Ministries	60,926.07	2,000.00	35,884.18	27,041.89
Evangelism Ministry	71,188.86	-	-	71,188.86
Missional Ministries	40,724.92	2,000.00	22,975.46	19,749.46
Saskatchewan Area Fund	54,057.39	-	-	54,057.39
<b>Total Reserves</b>	<b>\$ 201,067.35</b>	<b>\$ 204,000.00</b>	<b>\$ 234,471.22</b>	<b>\$ 170,596.13</b>

**CANADA WEST MISSION CENTRE**  
**Activities**  
**For the year ended December 31, 2019**

Mission Conference	\$ -	\$ 5,301.50	\$ 4,667.60	\$ 633.90
Winter Retreat	-	600.00	1,750.44	(1,150.44)
Young Adult Ministry	-	882.50	319.11	563.39
Men's Ministries	-	2,738.50	2,474.96	263.54
Women's Ministries	-	1,520.00	960.67	559.33
Adult Reunion - HOP	-	3,423.28	3,457.26	(33.98)
Family Camp - HOP	-	38,387.26	38,469.96	(82.70)
Family Camp - Samish	-	35,446.67	39,675.92	(4,229.25)
Spiritual Camp - Samish	-	4,256.64	8,322.21	(4,065.57)
Other - Samish	-	6,395.41	4,164.09	2,231.32
Transfer from Operating Unrestricted	-	5,310.46	-	5,310.46
	-	104,262.22	104,262.22	-
Spectacular	-	5,950.00	16,038.73	(10,088.73)
Junior/Jr High Camp - HOP	-	2,925.25	12,750.04	(9,824.79)
Senior High Camp - HOP	-	1,990.00	16,275.59	(14,285.59)
Junior - Samish	-	2,320.03	4,005.10	(1,685.07)
Transfer from Youth Ministries	-	35,884.18	-	35,884.18
	-	49,069.46	49,069.46	-
<b>Total Activities</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 153,331.68</b>	<b>\$ 153,331.68</b>	<b>\$ -</b>

# 2020 Budget Management and Proposed 2021 Budget

## We share a Mission and a Purpose

Consistent with the proposed Mission 2020 budget and our 2020-21 Business Plan we continue to work collaboratively and collectively to provide opportunities to gather, share and grow.

In 2020 we set an optimistic budget of \$544,000 which included an additional \$50,000 to come from Congregational Support and an additional transfer from reserves of \$150,000. Based on our 2020 budget forecast a reduction was required so there was a mid-year adjustment of \$220,000 to ensure we balanced at the end of this year. This reduced our 2020 budget to \$324,000.

The mid-year adjustments made to balance 2020 included a decrease of \$100,000 in Mission operations and a decrease of \$120,000 in Programs, Activities and Events. The decrease for operations was a change in Mission Centre President funding from paid to volunteer. The decrease in funding for Programs, Activities and Events was a decrease for in-person programming resulting from COVID-19 restrictions. After making these amendments to our 2020 budget we seek stability by setting a 2021 budget which will serve as a base for future sustainability.

In order to provide a full year of support we propose a 2021 budget of \$365,000 as follows:

- Mission operations \$50,000 (\$173,000 in 2020 and \$192,000 in 2019)
- Mission initiatives \$74,000 (\$80,000 in 2020 and \$78,000 in 2019)
- Canadian strategies project \$24,000 (\$24,000 in 2020 and \$23,000 in 2019)
- Revitalization \$16,000 (\$66,000 in 2020 and \$65,000 in 2019)
- Programs/activities/events \$170,000 (\$170,000 in 2020 \$165,000 in 2019)
- Subsidies for youth camping \$31,000 (\$31,000 in 2020 and \$40,000 in 2019)
- Total 2021 budget of \$365,000 (\$544,000 in 2020 and \$523,000 in 2019)

Further, we propose underwriting this sustainable budget with the following funding for a total of \$365,000:

- Support for operations \$164,000 (\$224,000 in 2020 and \$340,000 in 2019)  
\$100,000 from congregational support (\$150,000 in 2020 and \$100,000 in 2019)  
\$54,000 from general contributions from Individuals (\$64,000 in 2020 and \$220,000 in 2019)  
\$10,000 from investment returns (\$10,000 in 2020 and \$20,000 in 2019)

- registration fees for programs/activities/events \$170,000 (\$201,000 in 2020 and \$141,000 in 2019), and
- a reserve transfer of \$31,000 (\$119,000 in 2020 and \$42,000 in 2019)
- Total 2021 budget funding \$365,000 (\$544,000 in 2020 and \$523,000 in 2019)

As we continue to manage our assets and resources of investments, camps and people we estimate we will have \$315,000 in savings or investments at the start of 2021 comprised of unrestricted reserves of approximately \$140,000 and restricted reserves for youth, evangelism and mission of approximately \$175,000.

We have 2 camp boards (Samish Island and Hills of Peace), 13 congregations and 5 mission staff (3 paid and 2 volunteer), and we have a restricted minimum balance of \$228,000 under the World Church minimum balance policy.

From my perspective, our learning lessons for planning a sustainable future include the following:

- we currently spend more than our support and contributions each year,
- our congregation contributions have not changed in a long time,
- our individual donations have not always covered programs, activities or events costs,
- our reserves are declining and are currently very low, and
- we cannot continue to sustain our current activity levels beyond 2021 using one-time reserve transfers without increased support from congregations and individual contributions or new funds.

Our current financial management philosophy and principles are as follows:

- we contribute corporately and we make donations individually,
- we support and subsidize only youth who cannot pay,
- we create innovative and flexible arrangements to meet changing needs as in COVID-19 and virtual gatherings,
- we work with limited resources and we manage our funds to keep our program and administrative costs minimal, and
- we leverage technology to bridge distances and minimize costs

Our shared goal remains to be sustainable as a Mission. In 2021 and going forward we propose the following:

- we need to annually balance our budget,
- we need to reduce reliance on reserves to minimal support,
- we need to increase congregation support in 2021 and potentially more in the future,
- we need to increase individual contributions to be able to continue programs which both meet needs and cover cost
- we need to continue to price registration fees for programs, activities and events to cover the costs, and
- we need to seek alternative funding – likely in the form of grants or alternate revenues.



Therefore, we recommend approval for a 2021 Mission budget of \$365,000. We also recommend a review to clarify the purpose and use of restricted net asset funds, so we have future planning flexibility and accuracy in use of funds.

Attached Schedule is part of this draft budget presentation.

	Approved FY2020 BUDGET	Draft FY2021 BUDGET
<b>Programs, Activities and Events Expenditures</b>		
Evangelism	\$ -	\$ -
Young Adult Retreat	\$ 3,500	\$ 3,500
BC Women's Retreat	\$ 1,300	\$ 1,300
Prairies Women's Retreat	\$ 3,500	\$ 3,500
BC Men's Retreat	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000
Prairies Men's Ministries	\$ 2,600	\$ 2,600
Youth Ministries	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000
CWM Events	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000
CWM Conference	\$ 6,000	\$ 6,000
SPEC/IYF	\$ 19,500	\$ 19,500
Young Adult Retreat	\$ -	\$ -
Winter Retreat	\$ 4,000	\$ 4,000
HOP- Junior Camp	\$ 9,700	\$ 9,700
HOP - Junior High	\$ 9,200	\$ 9,200
HOP - Senior High	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000
HOP - Adult Reunion	\$ 3,900	\$ 3,900
HOP - Family Reunion	\$ 25,000	\$ 25,000
Other - HOP (Cooks, golf carts, misc.)	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,000
Samish - Junior Camp - "Mungai"	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000
Samish - Junior High Camp - "Kluane"/"Chimacum"	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000
Samish - Senior High Camp - "Kimtah"	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000
Samish - Family Reunion	\$ 35,000	\$ 35,000
Samish - Fine Arts	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000
Samish - Other Camps - Friends & Family	\$ 4,100	\$ 4,100
Nurturing Spirit Retreat	\$ 6,500	\$ 6,500
Nurturing Silence Retreat	\$ 5,200	\$ 5,200
Day of Nuturing Spirit	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500
Encounter World Religions - Vancouver & Calgary	\$ 2,500	\$ 2,500
GST on Program Expenses	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000
<b>Total Events and Activities Expenditures</b>	<b>\$ 170,000</b>	<b>\$ 170,000</b>

# Mission Centre President Report

## Annual Report of the Mission Centre President to the 2020 Canada West Mission Centre Conference

A year ago we had just come out of our mission conference in Edmonton at which, among other things, we approved two priesthood calls and a very challenging budget. Neither ordination has yet occurred due to the constraints of the COVID-19 pandemic (although both candidates have been ready for ordination for several months). And the budget did not quite work out as we had optimistically hoped. As will be formally presented in this year's budget discussion, we had to implement a mid-year budget adjustment. As one element of that adjustment I have moved from employed status to volunteer status in the role of Mission Centre President as of July 1.

Despite those challenges, the mission centre has functioned well and efficiently. You will find detailed reports about specific programs and initiatives in this conference program from Debra Donohue, Lisa Neudorf, and Parker Johnson. These very skilled people have continued to offer quality services to members and friends of the mission centre. I thank them for their dedication to their tasks.

Similarly, Sam Smalldon, in his role as Mission Centre Financial Officer, has brought us entirely up to date on annual audits of our financial documents. He laid the groundwork for last year's budget and then helped us navigate the implementation of the budget adjustment. Sam's professional accounting background has served us very well through his advice and actions and I thank him for his contribution to strengthening the financial framework of the mission centre.

Finally, we have had a new person join our mission centre staff. As a result of adjusting Debra's role to enable her to focus solely on being the Creating Connection Director for the mission centre, she needed to leave her responsibilities as administrative assistant and communications coordinator. I recognize Debra and thank her profusely for her contributions in that role over several years spanning the terms of three mission presidents. Sandra Rodriguez was contracted on a part-time basis to take on those responsibilities in March, just before the implications of COVID-19 began to be felt most directly. I thank her for coming on board at a difficult time and taking the initiative to understand and support the mission centre. I particularly recognize her work on the mission centre conference organization and getting this brochure prepared and distributed.

Reports also have been prepared by other volunteer leaders in the mission centre including: Linda Klughart, Recorder; Anita Bates, Historian; Rod Downing, Peace and Justice Committee; Chris Phelps, Online Reunion Director; Jim Fish, Samish Campground Board; and Jesse Levitt, Hills of Peace Campground Board Chair. I express my thanks to these folks who's work is so important to the functioning and effectiveness of the mission centre.

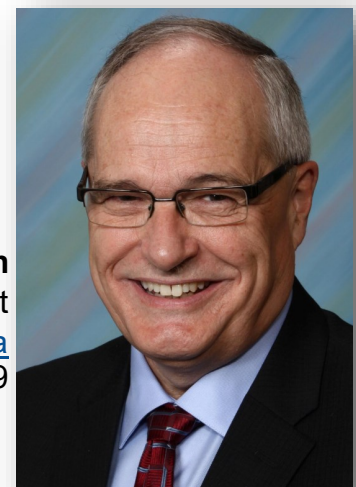
On March 13, 2020, the First Presidency issued the first of a series of directives to the church concerning our response to the COVID-19 pandemic. All congregations closed that week and have not formally re-opened since then. Eventually our spring retreats and our summer camps were cancelled. Some very creative online alternatives were created in place of the Hills of Peace Spiritual Retreat, three youth camps (Junior, Junior High, and Senior High), and one reunion (the Samish Reunion became the CWM Online Reunion). This conference has been moved online. Some congregations have organized outdoor gatherings that have respected physical distancing and other virus-related mitigation strategies. Some congregations have held online worship services or other online gatherings. I have personally hosted “Virtual Visiting Fellowship Meetings” for anyone in the mission centre twice a week since early April. Other programs have been adapted where needed and where possible; some others have had to be cancelled.

Both of the campgrounds used by Canada West members have been dramatically affected by the cancellation of retreats and camps and reunions. The Hills of Peace Campground and the Samish Campground and Retreat Centre have been closed to both Community of Christ users and external users or renters from essentially March to the end of this year. Both are surviving on accumulated cash reserves to cover ongoing expenses that do not go away despite a lack of programming. Both can subsist in this manner for between 1 and 2 years. Both would certainly appreciate being remembered by usual users with donations to assist them through this difficult time.

It truly has been an “unprecedented” year in the life of the Canada West Mission Centre as well as the rest of the church and, for that matter, our nation and world. I invite your continued prayerful support and patience as we find our way through this. I look forward to returning to some form of “normal” sometime in the future. Meanwhile, be well and be safe.

Grace and Peace,

**Stephen Thompson**  
Canada West Mission Centre President  
[steve@communityofchrist.ca](mailto:steve@communityofchrist.ca)  
cell/text: 780-904-4389



# Administrative Assistant to the Mission Centre President

I feel so fortunate to be part of the Community of Christ, to work for the Mission Centre and assist in many tasks that have helped me to get to know its members, pastors and staff.

Some of you may know me or maybe heard about me through Steve Thompson, but for those who do not know me yet, my name is Sandra Rodriguez. I began my role as the new Administrative Assistant for the Canada West Mission Centre on March 23, right at the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic.

I have been attending the Calgary Congregation for a year (and now virtually through online fellowships). I have met amazing people in this congregation, had very good times and made good friends.

Some of the tasks that I perform for the Mission Centre are:

- Maintaining the website (CWM News & Updates).
- Editing, publishing and ensuring distribution of weekly updates via our newsletter, the Weekly Wire.
- Being a point of contact for members and friends seeking information about events, programs and services.
- Assisting the Mission Centre President with creation and distribution of emails and other communications to pastors, as well as maintaining lists of contact information.
- Creating or assisting others with the creation of promotional materials for programs and events (for example, creating this conference program and other communication initiatives).
- Managing the clergy registration processes for all four provinces of the Mission Centre.

I am sure that many of you have received our weekly emails with updates on events, online fellowships and special announcements posted on our website. If not please let me know and I will make sure you receive the link to sign up for our newsletter. Certainly, an important part of what I do for the Mission Centre is to ensure the distribution of the Weekly Wire and keep announcements up to date, so nothing is missed. During these almost 6 months that I have been working for the Mission Centre I have had the opportunity to learn a little more about its 13 congregations, their structures and challenges.

I look forward to that time where we can meet in person, talk and get to know each other. I anticipate the day when we can look back and realize how strong and resilient we were to overcome these unprecedented times.

**Sandra Rodriguez**  
Administrative Assistant to the CWM Centre  
[sandra@communityofchrist.ca](mailto:sandra@communityofchrist.ca)



# Mission Centre Financial Officer Report

## We share a Mission and a Purpose

Consistent with our theme of sharing a Mission and a Purpose, we continue to work collaboratively and collectively to provide opportunities to gather, share and grow. This philosophy has been the basis for my work in the role of Mission Centre Financial Officer (MCFO).

As notice, this will likely be both my first conference report and likely my last on financial matters to provide you with an update and a perspective on our fiscal well-being and our Mission sustainability. My role will transition at this conference.

In general terms, there has been much in the way of change and learning in the past few years.

- We know our reserves are just that, they are funds available for one-time use and when they are gone, they need to be replenished. Our reserve balances have reduced from \$1.25 Million to just about \$315,000 since 2016 and this should remain a minimum reserve level to back stop the future for the Mission.
- We are now up to date with our 2016-2019 financial audits and CRA accountabilities.
- We changed to registration fees for programs, activities and events to ensure we balance our costs with funding.
- We created new software programs for registrations, and we continue to use new technology to improve our processes for donations and payments.
- We have now have two key leadership positions of Mission Centre President and Mission Centre Finance Officer as volunteer positions.
- We continue to fund Mission with funding for current operations and current programming at sustainable levels going into 2021 and beyond.

We have also improved our accounting and reporting processes using technology. We started to streamline and integrate Congregation Finance Officer (CFO) work activities into the Shared Services model offered by the Bishop of Canada.

As part of this transition, the MCFO role will be assumed by the Bishop of Canada going forward to ensure work by CFOs across Canada are done to the same standards for the Church and for CRA. This Shared Services model will ensure work is done efficiently, accurately and consistently and with the use of technology and systems now available.

It is my hope to continue as a resource to assist the Bishop of Canada and the Mission. My hope will be to work as required in the background as a volunteer in support of the Mission, CFOs and the Bishop of Canada. It has been an honour to serve and contribute as a volunteer in the Mission. If there are any questions, please contact me.

**Sam Smalldon**  
Mission Centre Financial Officer  
[sam@communityofchrist.ca](mailto:sam@communityofchrist.ca)



# Creating Connection Director Report

## Creating Connection 'All are Welcome'

As part of the Mission Conference weekend, we're giving you two opportunities to experience our new expressions of mission with Creating Connection. Coffee and Conversation will take place Thursday September 10th at 7pm for BC, 8pm for Alberta and Saskatchewan, and 9 pm for Manitoba. Our topic is 'Hopes, Ideas and Concerns for re-opening our Doors'. On Sunday September 13th at 1:30 BC, 2:30 AB and 3:30 SK and MB, we're holding a special edition of An Afternoon of Nurturing Spirit called 'Singing into Silence' led by Doug and Vickie MacArthur. Vickie is part of the Nurturing Spirit team and is often a special guest for An Afternoon of Nurturing Spirit.

It was great to see many of your faces at our special edition of An Afternoon of Nurturing Spirit during Samish Online Reunion. It was during our online Reunion I realised a couple of fairly important things. Many of you don't know exactly what I do as Creating Connection Director, and you may be unclear about what Creating Connection is. Hopefully, this will help.

Creating Connection is a division of Community of Christ, created as a pilot project in Canada to bring people together in small groups from both outside the church and within, in a mindful, meaningful, and spiritual environment without the religious context. Creating Connection gatherings are welcoming to everyone regardless of age, race, sexual orientation, gender identification, or religious background. Everyone is welcome to share in these groups without judgement. Some people think of these gatherings as fulfilling what we, Community of Christ members, get from church (fellowship, community, thoughtful listening), in a non-church environment. For some, this essentially is church for them.

Creating Connection uses an advertising platform called Meetup to advertise our gatherings online. Anyone can join Meetup free of charge at [meetup.com](https://www.meetup.com), select your interests, then you'll be sent recommendations of groups you may like to join, and you can search for groups too. Once you join a group, you'll receive emails detailing when that group is meeting, information about that session, and the zoom link to attend online.

Canada West currently has two active groups, we call them meetups, and we have four more we're hoping to have up and running this fall.

- An Afternoon of Nurturing Spirit, Wednesday's from 3-4:30 pm Pacific Time
- Coffee and Conversation Thursday's from 10:30 – 12 pm Pacific Time.

It's wonderful when we discover that people who practice their spirituality in different ways from us, have the same hopes, fears, dreams and love for our world. When we practice being open-minded, we can truly become a church and people who believe 'All Are Welcome'. Think of our Creating Connection meetups as being similar to the Encounter World Religions program. We visit other faiths to better understand them, discover what we have in common, and ultimately appreciate and accept people of all beliefs.

In Coffee and Conversation, all are warmly invited to participate in meaningful conversation. In this safe, inclusive, casual, and accepting environment, dialogue is encouraged over debate as each person can share from their own perspectives and experiences without interruption. While each person is sharing, the rest of the group become 'active listeners' to really hear and try to understand what is being shared.

Our format:

- Welcome and Introductions
- Explanation of how we share in Coffee and Conversation
- Ice Breaker topic: a light topic to get us warmed up
- Featured topic: each person shares without interruption and is given time for thought. The rest of the group practice being active listeners.
- If time allows for it, we engage in back and forth conversation.

My third group, Walk on the Sunnyside, has been postponed until it is safer to meet face-to-face. It's really hard to hold a conversation with 4-8 people each 6 feet apart, and even harder while wearing masks, so we won't be starting this up again until it makes sense to do so. Walk on the Sunnyside is a 'walk and talk' group, where the topics must be positive or 'sunny' as we say in the title. No matter what has happened in the last 24 hours we're all challenged to find the gold nuggets that were positive. It's a great exercise and everyone seems to really enjoy it. We walk at an easy pace so talking under non-covid conditions is easy.

As Community of Christ explores new visions of mission, especially during the pandemic, I encourage you to check out these groups at least once, so you'll have an understanding of what we're doing.

In An Afternoon of Nurturing Spirit, we have guests of various modalities share their practices with the group. These modalities range from meditation to astrology, dream analysis to stress management, and vocational ideas to reiki. We invite practitioners of these modalities to share with our group as a way to learn and better understand others, and perhaps discover what we have in common.

There are a couple different ways to see what meetups are coming up. Either sign up on Creating Connection Vancouver, you can cancel anytime, or go to the Canada West website under Connection Groups, Canada East has several different groups in Creating Connection who are currently meeting online as well. Feel free to join in with one of them as well for a different experience. You may discover that this is something you'd like to do as a new vision of mission in Community of Christ. Creating Connection is always looking to hold more 'meetups' so if you have a topic or hobby you love (you don't need to be an expert) and you'd like to lead a group, call or email me and let's chat. I'm here to help you every step of the way. For now, we'll be meeting online. Hopefully, we can get back to in person gatherings again in 2021.

So, I guess what I'm really hoping for is that you'll find the time to attend Coffee and Conversation and An Afternoon of Nurturing Spirit either during Mission Conference weekend or at least once each over the next few months. It always helps to be aware of, and to understand what other people are doing in the church.

All are welcome. Join us and see how Creating Connection is helping to make that happen.



*Click above to visit Creating Connection website!*

**Debra Donohue**  
Creating Connection Director Canada West  
[debra@creatingconnection.ca](mailto:debra@creatingconnection.ca)  
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# Church Mission & Young Adult Ministries Report

## To the 2020 Canada West Mission Centre Conference:

As we prepare to enter into the final quarter of 2020, I can't help but look back and think: What a year! It goes without saying that 2020 has been one for the history books, and I know it has been difficult for everyone – myself included – in a variety of ways. Isolation; economic uncertainty; ever-changing health and safety guidelines; border closures; cancelled trips; postponed baptisms, confirmations, weddings, and ordinations; and more. The list of concerns could go on, but perhaps what is most important is the list of resilient, innovative, and exciting accomplishments that committed members and volunteers were able to achieve this year. We have overcome so much as a community, and I am proud of us!

- When we were informed it was no longer safe to meet for in-person worship services...we developed online methods to meet this need.
- When we realized our summer camps would not be able to be held...we created meaningful online camp experiences with our youth and families.
- When we could no longer place our tithing envelopes into the basket each Sunday...we took to online methods of giving and mailing cheques to financial officers.
- When we felt lonely in the midst of social distancing...we set up phone tree programs and online fellowship groups to ensure everyone stayed connected.
- When we were able to safely do so...we scheduled physically-distanced outdoor gatherings in Calgary to see one another while following all government and World Church guidelines.

With the heavy reliance on technology due to COVID-19, my time has been reallocated in some areas to better support the needs of the church at this time. Some projects I've been directly involved with this year include:

• <b><i>Beyond the Walls (Weekly online services)</i></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Technology support</i></li> <li>• <i>Social media moderation, cross-promotion, and engagement</i></li> <li>• <i>Scheduling</i></li> </ul>
• <b><i>Calgary Weekly Fellowship Hour (Online)</i></b>	
• <b><i>Calgary Pastoral Care</i></b>	
• <b><i>Calgary Monthly Physical Outdoor Gatherings (August – present)</i></b>	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Calgary Facility Transition</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Site visits, meetings, and communications</i></li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Calgary Marketing/Communications</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Website (<a href="http://www.cofchristyyc.ca">www.cofchristyyc.ca</a>)</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◇ <i>Ongoing maintenance</i></li> <li>◇ <i>Content creation, marketing/promotion efforts, and calendar</i></li> </ul> </li> <li>• <i>Social Media</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◇ <i>Content creation and scheduling, moderating efforts, marketing/promotion efforts, and event management</i></li> </ul> </li> <li>• <i>Established Congregational Phone Tree Program</i></li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>CWM Virtual Camps</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Promotion, engagement, live call support, facilitator</i></li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Marketing/Communications</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Canadian/CWM Website (<a href="http://www.communityofchrist.ca">www.communityofchrist.ca</a>)</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◇ <i>Ongoing maintenance, content creation, management/training, and marketing/promotion efforts</i></li> </ul> </li> <li>• <i>Social Media</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◇ <i>Content creation and scheduling, moderating efforts, marketing/promotion efforts, event management, volunteer management/training</i></li> </ul> </li> <li>• <i>Congregational Website Development Program Workshop</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◇ <i>Victoria, BC</i></li> <li>◇ <i>Facilitated and led two-day accelerated workshop with Victoria Congregation assisting local volunteers with the development of a congregational website that they were able to build themselves.</i></li> </ul> </li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Giving Tuesday 2019</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◊ <i>Doubled Canadian online contributions by drafting scripts, email marketing campaigns, and coordinating influencer agreements</i></li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Latter-day Seeker Ministry</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Working with Apostle Robin Linkhart, I act as a central point of contact for Canadian Latter-day Seekers to discuss their journeys, ask questions, and get resources on Community of Christ should they be interested.</i></li> </ul>

Needless to say, it has been a busy year!

Each of you has been on my heart during these troublesome times, and I look forward to being able to meet together again soon. As always, if you have any questions or concerns please feel free to contact me at [parker@communityofchrist.ca](mailto:parker@communityofchrist.ca).

Respectfully submitted,

**Parker Johnson**  
Church Mission and Young  
Adult Ministries Specialist  
[parker@communityofchrist.ca](mailto:parker@communityofchrist.ca)



# Camping and Retreat Specialist Report

When I am preparing to write my annual report for Mission Conference, I usually review the previous year's report to refresh my memory. My 2019 report began "with the arrival of September comes the realization we are quickly nearing the end of our ... camping and retreat season". This year, I experienced mixed emotions as I grieved our in-person camps and retreats. As we reached certain dates, I thought about what I would likely be doing that day, what events would be starting or wrapping up and reflecting on previous years. Of course, I could rely on Facebook to remind me of memories from past years.

Sadness aside, there have been a number of blessings which have arisen from our change in circumstances. The Spiritual Retreat which is held annually at Hills of Peace was moved online. We had thirty-three registered attendees from Canada West, Canada East and the United States participate in sessions led by Tony and Charmaine Chvala-Smith. It felt good to expand our borders and connect with members outside of Canada West. Many of us felt the presence of God and I was pleasantly surprised to realize attendees felt connected to one another despite the distance.

In July we held weekly Virtual Camps for Junior, Junior High and Senior High campers. Our thirty-six campers from Saskatchewan, Alberta, BC and Washington were led by Caitlin d'Esterre, Marsha Kilotis, Jahnelle Geddes, Deb Mason and myself. Each camper received an activity pack which contained all of the necessary supplies the campers would need for their weekly activities or crafts. We made ice cream in a bag (some had success, some did not), tissue paper bowls, painted rocks, sheep bookmarks, vision cards and virtual campfires. It was a learning experience for the adults but we had a lot of fun. I appreciated the opportunity to get to know the campers who do not normally attend camp at Hills of Peace.

As I shared last spring, our camping programs are our opportunity to simply step away from life to connect with one another and allow ourselves to be nurtured through friendship, ministry, good food and simply hanging out together. Although our programming was different, we still found opportunities to be living examples of Community of Christ's Enduring Principle Blessings of Community. We tried something new and by doing so allowed ourselves to "become vulnerable to God's grace and to each other". We upheld the worth of all persons to provide a nurturing environment for one another and, despite the separation, we welcomed new friends as we recreated Christ's peace in a virtual community.

As we move into fall, I will be looking for opportunities for us to continue providing Blessings of Community to one another. I am in the preliminary stages of planning a general interest online retreat for later this fall and, as always, I am hopeful we will be able to plan in-person events for 2021 starting with Winter Retreat in February.

I continue to look forward and am filled with anticipation of events filled with joy, hope, love and peace.

**Lisa Neudorf (aka General Lili)**  
Camping and Retreat Specialist  
[lisa@communityofchrist.ca](mailto:lisa@communityofchrist.ca)



# Online Reunion 2020 Report

## CWM Reunion - a week of online visiting!

For obvious reasons (a world-wide pandemic and a closed border with the United States and a prohibition on meeting as a large group) our Samish Island CWM Reunion was taken virtual this year. As a result, we were able to include people from all over the mission centre, as well as friends from Washington State, Oregon, Ontario, and Missouri. The lack of travel (other than to and from whatever zoom room people had set up) made for a wonderful broad community that was able to gather together for the week.

Katie and Zac Harmon-McLaughlin provided guest ministry. One day they will even manage to travel out west to Samish for our Reunion week - maybe next year? They taught a class focussed on the Pastoral spiral, a mechanism for reflection and creating positive change in the world. Their guidance through our class time and through the worship parts of Reunion were greatly anticipated and appreciated. THANKS KATIE AND ZAC!!!!

We had a wonderful group time together sharing in a Talent Show, where our host Eman Soupidis showed off his talent for online hair loss, gradually shaving his beard, to much delight from his family! We also shared in an online campfire, with much silliness and joy. Many people sent in videos of campfire songs and skits, and talent show acts for these two joyous events.

It took a lot of planning and head scratching to make the transition from meeting in person at Samish Island, to spending a week together online, but it was fully worth all the efforts of many to make our Reunion happen. I suspect we may even incorporate some of the lessons learned into our next in person Reunion.

See you in 2021!

**Chris Phelps**

Reunion Director

[chrisinlangley@gmail.com](mailto:chrisinlangley@gmail.com)



# CWM Recorder's Report

**Report to be added when available**



# Peace and Justice Committee Report

## CANADIAN PEACE / JUSTICE COMMITTEE

### June 2020 Report

The Committee was formed in April, 2007, primarily to support local congregations in our attempts to be “. . . dedicated to the pursuit of peace” and to “Share Christ’s Peace.” The committee was again hampered because: (a) the Chair’s entire time was spent on the Climate Change subcommittee; and (b) we feel we have hit the limit of available volunteer time for subcommittees.

#### I. ACTIONS THIS YEAR

##### A. Created a Climate Change Crisis Subcommittee.

Our primary efforts have been to create and feed into The North American Climate Justice Team. Originally intended to create on Oct. 2020 Colloquy, the team had to pivot and now has an entire series, started this summer and going culminating at the in-person Colloquy, Oct. 29-31, 2021. This series includes world-class scientists and other with a deep and wide background in the various facts of the topic.

##### B. Create Social Media Resources.

We have created a Facebook Page and will continue to experiment with its possibilities. Thanks, Sariah and Betty! We also want to create podcasts and webcasts, to expand our reach.

##### C. Maintained Our Current Projects and Our Peace / Justice Website.

While not an emphasis this year we have continued support for such endeavours as:

- **Indigenous Relations:** We have some key resources, thanks to the address by Barb Oldale at our 2017 Mission Conference, and also Tracy Smith. This is only a start, contact us if interested in helping with reconciliation.
- **Maintaining Resources to Develop Healthy Relations with our Muslim Community:** This is centered on a hopeful, nonviolent strategy of trying to strengthen the reasonable voices within our own community, within the Muslim community and among society in general. It includes the opportunity for congregations to engage with their local Muslim community
- **Buying Fair Trade** coffee where possible, which supports the “Abolish Poverty” initiative

- **Expanding the church's Canadian Peace / Justice website.** Still fairly skeletal. If you see an unfilled area where you would like to help - we would love to hear from you!

#### **D. Phase II - Subcommittees.**

In 2014 we transitioned to the 2<sup>nd</sup> phase – creating **subcommittees** - to raise up and provide resources for those Canadian-specific issues that call us via recent inspired counsel to courageously challenge and help transform societal trends that diminish God's creation. Further topics include:

- **Mental Health & Eliminating Stigma**
- **Justice: Restorative not Punitive**
- **Foreign Aid, no strings attached; etc**
- **Inter-religious Relations**
- **Human Trafficking close to your Church**
- **Eco. Concerns: Water, GMOs, etc**
- **Child Poverty; . . .Others?**

**Note:** We have recognized that this phase has stretched our ability to tap into the available volunteer capacity of our Field and thus each year we will focus simply on one or two topics.

## **II. NEXT YEAR AND LONGER TERM**

We remain focused on implementing robust **subcommittees**, as listed above, **but we need help**. If you are interested in being part of this exciting endeavour, please contact one of the committee members.

In appreciation and support,

#### **The Canadian Peace / Justice Committee**

Anna Jean Bradley-Canada East

Bryce Taylor-Canada East

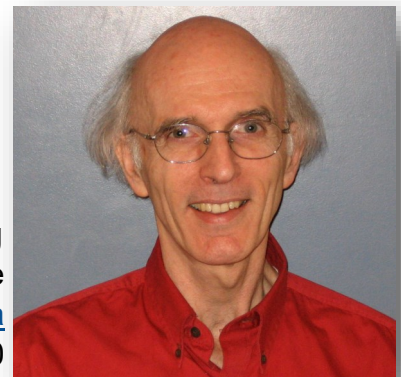
Sariah Middleton-Canada East

Steve Northey-Canada East

Betty Williams-Canada West

Don McLeod-Canada West

**Rod Downing**  
The Canadian Peace/Justice Committee  
[rdowning94@shaw.ca](mailto:rdowning94@shaw.ca)  
604-535-6550





# CWM Historian's Report 2019/2020

The World Conference (2019) was designated as a special conference. Tribute was given in honour to the Community of Christ Temple (Independence, Mo., USA) 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations. On the day of the Temple dedication (1994), W. Grant McMurray (Church President) stated the following: "We stand in this place, assembled beneath this glorious sky, in the shadow of an awesome spiral reaching to the heavens, and on brick fashioned to represent every land and every sea and every place throughout God's world. We stand here on behalf of the generations who dreamed of this day. We stand here on behalf of the generations who are yet to know of this day." On the day of the Temple 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations (2019), Stephen M. Veazey (Current Church President) gave the reflection as follows: "God speaks of the Temple as sacred space-symbol, each disciple-member as temple, and the whole church body as temple, oneness with Christ".

The CWM Conference (2019) was held in Edmonton, AB., and celebrated with guest ministry as follows: S. Thompson, Danny and Penelope Belrose, John Hamer, Rod Downing, Edith Wallace plus members of all delegated congregations sharing in the Lord's ministry. The theme: "The Importance of Story" unique for the faith and trust and especially the arduous paths that have to be cultivated for Christ's "Story" to the nations. The 2020 Conference was to be hosted by Chilliwack, BC., but will be held online instead due to the restrictions arising from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Apostle Art Smith (Canada, Mexico-Texas Field, Mission Centres - numerous, Indigenous Ministry) faithfully served all Centres which benefited from his generosity of spirit, humbly sharing the servant-hood of Jesus. The CWM Centre was faithfully blessed with special ministry in 2019.

Apostle Art Smith confirmed the continuing appointment of Stephen Thompson to serve as mission centre president for the CWM in 2020, and to Samuel Smalldon to serve as mission centre financial officer. Art Smith also gave honoured tribute to Stephen Thompson upon his graduation from Community of Christ Seminary with a Masters of Arts degree in Religion.

The CWM Campgrounds (Hills of Peace/Samish Island) both shared community and at the same time the presence of God's loving spirit. Special notations of increased attendance, enthusiasm, and positive feedback were inspirational for the growth of the Lord's Mission, and guest ministries were exceptional blessings. Thanks and praises to our Savior and Lord, Jesus Christ.

COVID-19, and yes, reflections for 2020. Congregational historians were requested to record, archive the essential moments of COVID-19 history. Remember history speaks volumes for the church for future generations. We're lucky – our isolation has been relative.

The Franklin expedition's was literal: two ships worth of officers and crew became trapped in Arctic ice and languished there for more than a year and a half before succumbing to disease, cold and starvation. There were no Zoom calls or smartphones in the 1840s. Those poor souls spent two hellish winters living in the bowels of their ships, waiting for help that never came, before starting a death march south that ended in ruin. Now that's isolation!

A special note to the congregations whose historians are current, designated, or to be appointed, and yes, some yet to complete the history year of 2019. Let your history be an inspiration and abound with records (stories) of dedication, resolve and resilience. History tells us that there is HOPE for the future.

Jesus Christ is our rock, and fortress, and yes, our light and faithful companion. Let us humbly serve as we adhere faithfully to Christ's Mission, and abide with HOPE in the future as GOD leads the way.

In Christ's Love, Peace, and Hope.

**Anita R. Bates**

CWM Centre, Historian

[bates001@telus.net](mailto:bates001@telus.net)



# Samish Island Campground Report

Samish Island Campground and Retreat Center is completely closed but is alive and well. It's really too bad the way things have been going this year because I think some significant improvements could have been made. Last year was a good year in that \$40K was transferred from Operations fund to the Development fund and last year we received some nice contributions from individuals for some more cabin upgrades.

Current Development fund balance is \$183,323 which includes a \$45K recent donation from an estate. About \$10K is transferred from the Development fund per month to support the present operations. Although the campground is closed, there is still income from Taylor Shellfish for using part of our property to access theirs.

The monthly average for campground costs are currently about \$15K. These costs are for insurance, utilities, salaries, and some food costs. Our insurance runs around \$5100 per month. The utilities have been much lower due to the closure. The board authorized some food supplement for the employees because they are normally supplemented by the events.

One question that is probably on everyone's mind is how long could the campground last without any events. My estimate is probably a little over two and a half years. The income from Taylor would be a big help however the Development fund would be pretty well depleted.

Late last year the CFC was repainted by Eric Meinke of Cross Creek Construction. Eric is the one who refaced the south wall of the CFC and the painting was part of the project. He washed the building first and then painted it. As always, he did a great job.

First of this year all of the trees along Scott Road were removed. This was something requested by the county and needed to be done because of the age of the trees. They were old and in danger of causing damage to neighbors properties. Now we need to remove the stumps and plant new trees. A committee is working on obtaining new trees to plant.

There is now a TV installed in the dining hall above the coffee stand. Its purpose is to show pictures of past and present events, as well as announcements.

One of the immediate needs of the campgrounds is to replace the doors on the dining hall. Present ones are breaking apart. The door project got put on hold because of the freeze invoked by world church.

Chris and Shawna (campground managers) have been taking care of the grounds. Chris walked the grounds with Glen Fishel the other day to see what needs to be done before winter since there have been no work parties.

## **Jim Fish**

President

Samish Island Campground Association

# Hills of Peace Campground Report

Hello All,

I would like to start by thanking everyone for their continued support throughout the year. None of what we do would be possible without our vigilant supporters and donors, so on behalf of everybody on the Board of Directors, Thank you!

I would like to extend my personal gratitude to the rest of the board members as this year has definitely been a trying time for us. We have met electronically now, I believe four times this year, and have plans for at least two more meetings before the end of 2020.

Unfortunately our campground, much like everyone else's, was closed this year due to the widespread COVID-19 pandemic. We are still planning to do some much needed work to the campgrounds however, in hopes for next year's camping season. We are in the process of demolishing two cabins that are not fit for use and renovating a few existing cabins on the grounds that will improve the longevity of the cabins as well as the quality of life for people who are staying in them for future uses.

Once again, I need to extend a big "Thank You" to our Campground Caretaker, Courtney Znak, who has been instrumental in keeping our grounds well looked after. She has done an amazing job and we are hopeful that she will continue her dedicated work.

Due to unforeseen circumstances, we were not able to continue work on our outdated "Craft Shack" building. What we had hoped for and we can actually accomplish are, sadly, two very different ideas. We will have to discuss what steps to take next in order to ensure we are using the facilities to our fullest potential in years to come.

We appreciate the constant support from everybody during this difficult time. Thank you for all that you do and continue to do. We hope that everyone has a wonderful year, stay safe, and we hope to see you soon.

**Jesse Levitt**  
President  
Hills of Peace Campground Committee



## Report for Edmonton Congregation 2020

For the last 4 months of 2019 and the first 2.5 months of 2020, life for the Edmonton congregation was normal and enjoyed by all. On the Labour Day weekend, Edmonton of course hosted the 2019 Mission Conference. In December, we had our annual Christmas inter-generational service, potluck lunch and sleigh ride at Birch Bay Ranch and later that month we also had a baby blessing of Alexander Thompson, son of Ben and Kate Thompson and grandson of Heather Barrington.

On March 8, 2020, the congregation members participated in a discussion centered on checking the “health” of the congregation. What were we doing well, what could we improve upon or let go of, and where was the future taking us? One aspect that we considered was the “Three Thirds” strategy and how church might be different in the future. Little did we know how different church would be the very next Sunday!

The Edmonton congregation stopped holding in-person services on March 15, 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This aligned with both recommendations from World Church and the Province of Alberta. We did, however, record and broadcast our services on Facebook and YouTube for the next several weeks.

Priesthood and others who participated in the services either came to the church building where the service was being recorded or participated through Zoom from their homes. Social distancing was in place at all times and surfaces that were being touched (doorknobs, light switches, washrooms, etc.) were constantly sanitized.

We broadcast the World Church Easter service and encouraged our members to tune in to that. We also encouraged viewing of the services broadcast from Toronto or Calgary when Edmonton did not hold its own service. The last service put on by the Edmonton congregation was May 10. Since that time, we have continued to encourage congregation members to tune into the services provided by Toronto congregation.

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic period, the Edmonton congregation has continued to operate as a depot for the Edmonton Food Bank, where every Wednesday (other than Christmas, New Years, July 1 and July 8) the church received food hampers for Food Bank clients and distributed them to the clients later in the day. Typically, the clients came between 5:45 and 7:00 PM to pick up their hampers. During the COVID-19 period, congregation members have taken shifts from 11 AM to 7PM and scheduled people to pick up their hampers one at a time. Also, due to the technical wizardry of Carl Lindemann, a camera and remote monitor was set up to view client identification from a distance so that social distancing could be maintained. Again, all surfaces being used were continually sanitized and masks and gloves were worn as required when handling boxes of food or interacting with people.

On May 16 we celebrated a “drive by” party for Dorothy Radakovich as she commemorated her 86<sup>th</sup> birthday. From time to time, the book club held discussions on the books they have recently read, either meeting virtually or with distancing in place.

On August 1, 2020, 29 members of the congregation gathered to wish farewell to Nicole Mason and her family who have since moved to Regina. The event was held outside on the church lawn and individual refreshments (bags of chips, ice cream bars and pop/juice/water bottles) were provided while people socialized while keeping their distance. Wearing masks was encouraged.

Our congregation looks forward to church life returning to a more normal situation in the near future but also appreciates that all the safety measures being required are for our own benefit, especially as we have a number of members with a higher degree of risk from the virus.

**Ryan Levitt**

Pastor

[ryan.levitt1955@gmail.com](mailto:ryan.levitt1955@gmail.com)

# Report for Meadow Ridge Congregation 2020

September 1, 2019 - July 31, 2020

This has been an eventful year for the Meadow Ridge congregation. Ongoing discussions for the previous year or more resulted in the need for a decision as to whether the church property should be sold. To help facilitate that decision and any resulting action, Gary McDonald was appointed pastor on October 1, 2019 by WCMC President, Steve Thompson. Further discussion resulted in a congregational business meeting on November 24, 2019 at which meeting a motion to sell the property was approved unanimously. Realtors were engaged and in December the property was listed for sale. Two initial offers were received but were deemed unacceptable. Then, in February, an offer was received that was deemed acceptable, albeit below asking price. This was due to municipal zoning requirements and impediments to development that were not disclosed in initial investigations. Nevertheless, the offer was accepted by the congregation and the Bishop of Canada. The conditions of the offer called for a one-month subject period to be followed by the payment of a \$200,000 non-refundable deposit and a closing date of February 27, 2021. The deposit was paid in March and the deal is considered firm.

To complicate matters beyond anyone's anticipation, the COVID-19 pandemic hit the world like an atomic bomb in early March and all operations at the church were indefinitely suspended - except for the Daycare which continued to operate with a reduced attendance and strict safety protocols. As of the end of July, the building remains closed, except as noted above. It is hoped that we will be able to reopen for services in Sept., but there is no guarantee. We hope to have a gathering in the fall to celebrate 40 years of caring ministry to the community, but that remains to be seen.

Prior to the pandemic crisis, several events occurred that had opposite emotional consequences: on the positive side, Rick and Pat James came home from the USA after 15 or 16 years of Pastoring in New York and working at the Kirtland Temple. Countering that, we lost Bruce, Angela (Weiss) and Carly Fraser, who moved to Osoyoos in May. Although no longer a B.C. resident, Audrey Salahub's mother, Grace Suffern, who was well loved by folks in B.C., passed away early this spring.

Our congregation used each communion Sunday to collect items for the Food Bank and thanks to Bill Morrison, we managed to raise funds on two occasions to assist a family from Victoria, that is otherwise unknown to us, and whose little girl is battling a life-threatening illness.

Speaking as short-term Pastor, and for my wife, Helene, we truly enjoyed our 5 months of active service to and sharing with the Meadow Ridge folks and we continue to stay in touch during the shut down. We are in awe of the loving, nurturing ministry that is so clearly evident within the congregation. So, although the time has come for previous leaders to step aside and enjoy a much needed rest from a combined 40 years of compassionate caring, we know that the pastoral ministry they gave to both members and the community alike will be greatly missed.

**Gary McDonald**

Pastor

[garysart@shaw.ca](mailto:garysart@shaw.ca)

## Report for Ribstone Congregation 2020

As with likely most congregations, there have been many changes, events, and shared joys and sorrows in the Ribstone congregation over the past year. Ribstone's leadership changed right before CWM's 2019 conference, as our new pastor (Joanne Fraser) of just over six months resigned suddenly (due to family health reasons) in July. Darleene Skinner and Leila Goheen were elected co-pastors near the end of August (effective until December 2020).

We've continued with our regular collections and congregational giving: Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes organized by Wendy Belik (our final year of this collection), Change 4 Change (for World Accord), Loonies for Literacy (for Al Wigood's wife's memorial fund for education through World Accord), Mitten Tree, White Gifts, Cookie Trays for shut-ins and seniors, Food Bank Collection, and memorial and peacemaker awards at our local school.

One of our younger youth group leaders, Tara Schaffer, changed group ages and re-started a Jr./Sr. High youth group in the fall of 2019. The group of teens chose CIA as their name, which stands for Christ is Alive. Ribstone's younger youth group, Eager Saints Troop (EST), was led by Karen Ell, Darleene Skinner, and Leila Goheen for the 2019/2020 school year. Though gatherings had to cease in March, EST had wonderful meetings prior to quarantine. The year's theme was "Journeys in the Bible."

The members and attenders of Ribstone Community of Christ are well-known for community and ecumenical involvement. Since last year's CWM conference, we've participated in the following: World Day of Prayer in Provost, Alberta at Faith United Church (Emelia Goheen and Tara Schaffer were readers and Pastor Darleene Skinner gave the message).

After over 30 years of holding a Children's Christmas Sale, we turned the event over to the Chauvin Elks. They asked us to assist them in 2019 in order to help the changeover go smoothly. (The sale, for children from birth to Gr. 6, was for kids to shop for their immediate family members and have their gifts wrapped. The proceeds went to community organizations or locations which involved children.)

Yearly, our pastors are invited to participate in various ways in Gregory's Funeral Home Remembrance Service. Pastor Darleene was asked to read a poem at the 2019 service.

For over 50 years (except a couple of years ago when we had freezing rain), we have held one annual fundraiser—a Fall Supper. October's supper was more successful than a few of the previous years, which means it was very fruitful.

Trunk 'n' Treat (an event open to the community) was held on October 27, organized by Karen Ell and Emelia Goheen. Clarissa McLean was our guest speaker for our worship service that day, which was followed by a potluck and then the Trunk 'n' Treat event. The kids had loads of fun, even though the "trunks" were rooms in the church, due to bad weather.

### ***A few highlights of Ribstone's past year were:***

- Our 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Truck Pull in September (we pulled a fire engine, thanks to the Chauvin Fire Department). That day was also Marie Andersen's final sermon, as she is now retired from many years of wonderful and insightful preaching.

- In December we had an Old-Fashioned Christmas Concert and Dinner. It was a wonderful service filled with “acts” of all ages and genres.
- We had two Baby Blessings–Golden Glasgow and Ward Rosenfeldt.
- Church had to be cancelled on two of the winter Sundays, plus two other Sundays we asked the seniors to stay home, due to the cold and poor road conditions. One of those Sundays was our last day at church before quarantine, consequently our seniors have missed church for longer than the rest of us.
- We had birthday cake for Ribstone’s 112th on February 9 (real birthday is the 3rd).
- At our lunchtime Advisory Council on January 12 we had members attending all the way from World Accord in Honduras (Josie Buck and Wayne Skinner).
- For one of our EST meetings we invited the congregation for an afternoon of bowling. It was a ball! We had people between the ages of 7 and 91 participating.
- We were blessed to continue to have Bobbi-Jean May play once a month (most months) for our services. And due to surgery, our Adult Sunday School teacher (Pastor Darleene) had her class taught by Bev Cargill for five weeks in the fall. Everyone in attendance enjoyed Bev’s teaching.
- As for CWM involvement, we had four kids from our area attend the Youth Retreat in Saskatoon in February 2020. As well, five of our kids attended the 2020 online summer camp –Emelia Goheen, Isabella Goheen, Keira Pawliuk, Olena Pawliuk, and Grayson Smith.
- Once the temporary abnormal began, we continued with our monthly congregational newsletters and the updates to our Facebook page. As well, Pastors Darleene and Leila have sent out a weekly update via email to stay connected. Though we haven’t gathered as a congregation in person, our church yard caretakers, Wayne and Kathy Watson, have maintained our beautiful yard, giving a glimpse of beauty as people drive past.

**Darleene Skinner**

**Leila Goheen**

Pastors

[ribstone@hotmail.com](mailto:ribstone@hotmail.com)

[leila\\_avon@yahoo.ca](mailto:leila_avon@yahoo.ca)

Photo:  
Ribstone’s 13th Annual Truck Pull,  
with a portion of the congregation  
pulling a (full) fire truck, provided  
by the Chauvin Fire Department.





# Report for Saskatoon Congregation 2020

Another year the Lord has made.. and what a year it has been!

In the fall of 2019 Congregational events besides worship services included a family bowling event, a young adult Christmas party, and we gathered for Christmas Eve to celebrate the birth of our Jesus once again. 5 Christmas hampers as well as our change for change (for local charities) has been a longstanding practise. In February we hosted a weekend Retreat with 15 youth attending. Guest Minister was Bryan Tidwell. On March 8, 2020 we had our last inhouse worship service. The two community groups using our facility also were put on hold. We continue to check and maintain our building and grounds. It's a good opportunity for sifting and sorting. One community group is again using the facility under present guidelines.

Following a period of adjustment to the new norm, we are connecting via phone, email, backyard/gazebo/park visits. For many folks there has been a marked increase in connecting with family members. We enjoyed assisting and participating in the Spiritual Retreat on June 13/14. Tony and Charmaine Chvala-Smith offered a wonderful and timely ministry.

In July, the virtual youth camps were offered. How special to have 31 Junior, Junior High and Senior High from Saskatchewan, Alberta, British Columbia, and Washington State participating.

Several folks are enjoying the online opportunities as the worship services from Edmonton and Toronto. Some are also watching other worship experiences. Emma Smith Hymn Fest, Wednesday Meditations, Tuesday and Thursday virtual visiting with the CWM President Steve Thompson and other lectures. We are grateful for the "electronic" offerings and opportunities. However, we do miss gathering, being together. It may be that yearning and longing and knowing that takes us to the future. Where will the Spirit lead us?

We will miss Peter Bueckert. So loved by family. Long time friend. A brother in Christ. This is a short story within a long one. In our discussions and preparation for this report, we were particularly aware of the many faithful, dedicated people who have gone before us. Through the laughter and the tears... In resnet Scripture we are reminded; "You are a good and faithful people" D&C 162 a, b, c... And 162:3a "Do not be discouraged. You have not been promised an easy path, but you have been assured that the Spirit that calls you will also accompany you."

In Trust we say Amen.

**Jae Senga**

Pastor

[jae.senga@gmail.com](mailto:jae.senga@gmail.com)



Photo:  
Saskatoon Congregation  
on Christmas Eve.

# Report for Senlac Congregation 2020

The year of 2020 started very differently for the entire world due to the COVID-19 pandemic. We typically start our services at the Senlac Congregation around Mother's Day - 2nd Sunday of May. This year all "in house" services have been suspended by World Church/CWMC until at least the end of August.

We have been joining online services [from our own homes] with Toronto - Beyond the Walls Community of Christ Congregation and Edmonton Community of Christ congregation when they have it. Both these services have included remote participants and "social distancing" but have still provided excellent ministry and participation with singing, communion of the Lord's Supper, disciples generous response etc. We are very grateful to be able to worship together this way.

We have been participating in a virtual visiting group across CWMC on Tuesday mornings and keeping connected as well through individual phone calls.

All retreats and camping activities have been cancelled for the summer. Very sad for this loss as many of our connected youth participated in these camps. Some of our grandchildren participated in the online camping activities while visiting here with us. This effort is appreciated to stay connected but is not the same as being at camp!

All funerals have been reduced to very small family groups usually graveside. So far we have presided at three funerals in connection with the community but not members of the congregation.

We performed a wedding on April 26, 2020. Again, a very small family group with the ceremony held in a home in Unity, SK. A lovely and meaningful sacrament just the same.

We performed a second wedding on June 20. There were about 50 people. Restrictions allowed for outdoor gatherings of 150 by this time. It was a lovely outdoor service in their backyard on a beautiful day. Again, very meaningful.

There have been two other weddings postponed until 2021.

We stood on call the month of July for the United Church minister from Unity and officiated at one funeral in this capacity.

**Becky Middleton**

Pastor/Historian

[dbmiddleton@sasktel.net](mailto:dbmiddleton@sasktel.net)

## Report for Victoria Congregation 2020

Like several other congregations, Victoria has experienced joyful and sad events and faced challenges (including the pandemic) over the proceeding year.

Starting in September, we had a celebratory service and lunch to mark Norm's 102<sup>nd</sup> birthday.

At the end of November, our musician's search resulted in the acquisition of an organ for the congregation. The addition of this instrument, in the hands of our talented musician, Daniel, has added great depth to the musical component of our worship experiences. Our "Red Sack" contributions through November and December allowed us to donate over an additional \$1,000.00 to a local community centre to support their food hamper program.

Also, during December we held our annual Christmas luncheon and gift exchange. As usual, this event was very well attended. It is always a great amount of fun, enjoyed by many members, friends and associates of the congregation. Kelly Duff organized a special Christmas eve service, which even a few from another church group who use our building attended. Sadly, we were all impacted by the passing of George Glasier, whom had been involved with the congregation in a number of ways over the years.

In January, we held a confirmation service for Daniel and Susan. After the service we celebrated this wonderful event with a lunch. Daniel came to the congregation several months before –and immediately stepped into the role of pianist– which had been vacated by our previous musician due to health challenges. Susan (Daniel's mother) started attending after we had the organ. It has been a pleasure to have both join our group!

In February, the Victoria Congregation website was launched thanks to Parker, Debra, John, Dana, Georgia, and Kelly. At the end of February, we lost Thora, who though not able to join us for the last number of years, had been a long time member of the congregation. Carl officiated at a memorial service which was held for her.

The late winter and early spring proved particularly challenging. Mid March brought about the closure due to the situation with the pandemic. Sadly, a short time after Norm passed away. Then around Easter, Wilma passed, and like Norm, though we haven't yet been able to hold a memorial, was a significant loss for the families and the congregation.

Fortunately, one thing we do well is support one another. While we haven't been able to support one another in all the usual ways, many have made efforts to support others. Use of email and phone have been vital to staying connected and sharing needs and support. Zoom has also become a useful means to share needs and support.

Toward the end of May we took the first steps in setting up a regular meeting via Zoom which congregational members can connect. Since our initial attempts we have been learning and evolving. For some in the congregation it has been an opportunity to get used to Zoom and then use it to expand their circles. Through this we have been able to congratulate Carl and Shirley for their 61<sup>st</sup> anniversary at the end of July, and Joe and Pat for their 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary at the end of August. As restrictions have eased, some have been gathering in expanded bubbles.

Like other congregations, we continue to seek ways to respond to our current situation. We are planning to review and evaluate the possibility of reinitiating in-person gatherings at the end of September. Until at least that time, we are going to continue our Zoom meetings.

## **John Canty**

Pastor

[jacanty@shaw.ca](mailto:jacanty@shaw.ca)



Photo:  
Victoria Congregation  
on Christmas 2019.

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# 2020/21 Camping and Event Calendar

## 2020

**October 9-11** Climate Change Colloquy – Online

**October 24** Nurturing Silence Retreat - Online

## 2021

**February 6** Mission Centre E-Conference

**February 12-15** Winter Youth Retreat  
LOCATION TO BE CONFIRMED

**February 26-28** Nurturing Spirit Retreat - Samish Island

**March 19-21** Women's Retreat - Drumheller

**April 23-25** Nurturing Justice Retreat - Samish Island

**April 28 - May 4** Work Week - Samish Island

**June 4-6** Nurturing Friends & Family Weekend - Samish Island

**June 11-13** Spiritual Retreat - Hills of Peace

**July 10-15** Family Camp - Hills of Peace

**July 17-24** Spectacular Graceland University

**July 25-31** Camp Atsaken (12-14 years) - Samish Island

**July 31 - August 7** Nurturing Community Family Camp - Samish Island

**August 3-7** Junior Camp - Hills of Peace

**August 8-13** Junior High / Senior High Camps - Hills of Peace

**August 8-14** Camp Kimtah (15-18 years) - Samish Island

**August 15-19** Camp Mungai (8-11 years) - Samish Island

**September 3-5** Canada West Mission Conference – Chilliwack, BC

**September 6** Guest Ministry Workshop  
TO BE CONFIRMED

**September 17-19** Men's Retreat - Hills of Peace

**October 1-3** Women's Retreat (BC)

**October 22-24** Nurturing Silence Retreat - Samish Island

**October 29-31** Climate Change Colloquy - Samish Island

**Dates are subject to change.**

[www.cwm.events/](http://www.cwm.events/)

**Reogio**

# Highlights 2019/2020



**2019  
Hills of Peace Men's Retreat**



**CWM Online Reunion 2020**

**Community Spirit CAN'T be cancelled!**



# Highlights 2019/2020



More pictures to be added when available

**Community Spirit CAN'T be cancelled!**

# Upcoming Events

Click on the picture to see more details.



2020 *European Peace Colloquy*  
Webinar Series

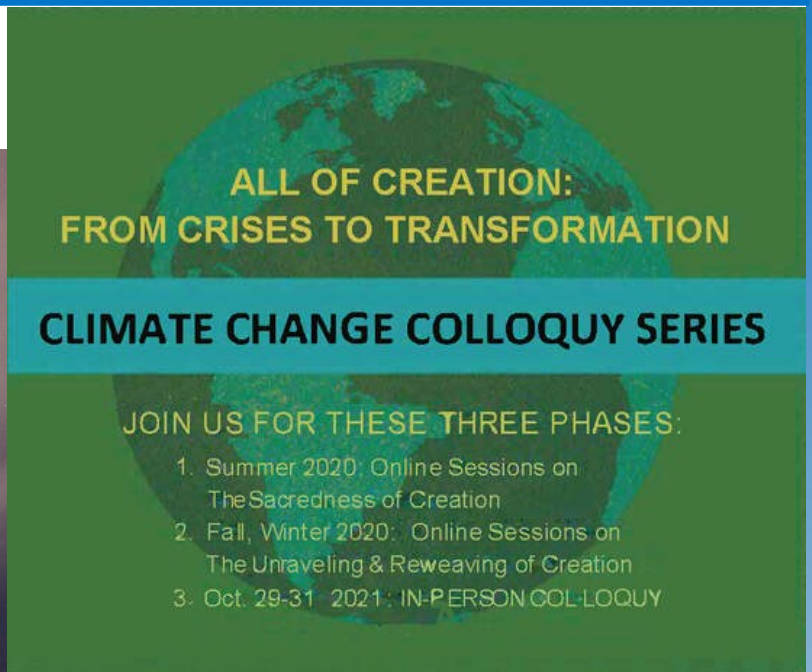
Peaceful Humanity: A New Creation

JULY 8 - OCTOBER 11, 2020

PEACE



Community of Christ




ALL OF CREATION:  
FROM CRISES TO TRANSFORMATION

CLIMATE CHANGE COLLOQUY SERIES

JOIN US FOR THESE THREE PHASES:


1. Summer 2020: Online Sessions on The Sacredness of Creation
2. Fall, Winter 2020: Online Sessions on The Unraveling & Reweaving of Creation
3. Oct. 29-31 2021: IN-PERSON COLLOQUY



Community of Christ  
Canada West  
Mission Centre

Virtual Visiting Fellowship

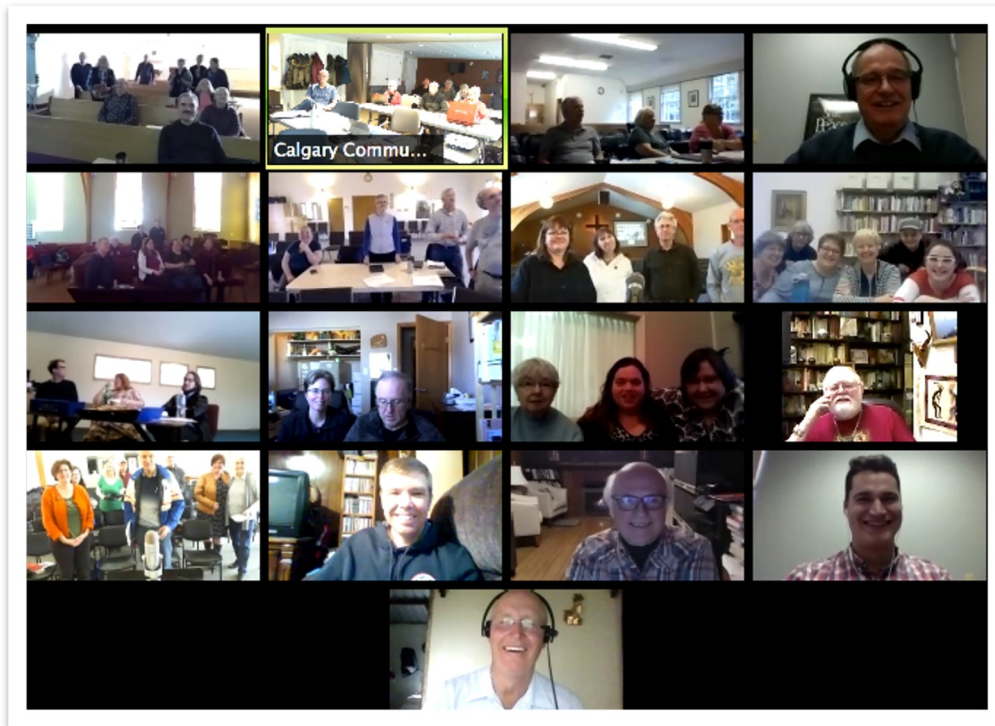
Tuesdays @ 10 a.m. MDT  
Thursdays @ 8 p.m. MDT



If plan A doesn't work out, the alphabet has 25 more letters.

**More flyers to be added when available**

**Join us for our e-Conference on  
*February 6, 2021***



**and for Mission Conference  
in Chilliwack, BC  
*September 3-5, 2021***

