

**Cancellation of Summer Events**  
**Frequently Asked Questions**  
**April 24, 2020**

The following questions and answers are intended to provide additional information related to the recent announcements of the cancellation of all events through to the end of August 2020.

If further questions are raised and answered, they will be added to this document.

If you have a question that is not addressed here, please contact Steve Thompson, Canada West Mission Centre President, at [steve@communityofchrist.ca](mailto:steve@communityofchrist.ca)

1) Exactly which events have been announced today (April 24) as being canceled?

- a) Graceland Spectacular, usually known as SPEC. It was to have been held at Graceland University in Lamoni, Iowa, from July 18 to 25. The event normally attracts over 1,000 youth from across the United States and Canada (plus leaders and other support staff).
- b) Canada West Mission Centre BC Family Camp/Reunion at Samish Campground near Bow, Washington. The camp was scheduled for July 25 to August 1.
- c) Three Canada West Mission Centre camps at the Hills of Peace Campground near Provost, Alberta:
  - i) Junior Camp, June 29 to July 3
  - ii) Family Camp/Reunion, July 4 to July 9
  - iii) Junior High Camp and Senior High Camp, July 11 to 15

2) What events have been previously announced as cancelled or postponed?

Beginning with events from today (April 24) forward:

- i) Nurturing Justice Retreat at Samish Island Campground, April 24 to 26
- ii) Samish Island Work Week, April 27 to May 3
- iii) Creating Connection Facilitator Training Retreat, Chilliwack Congregation, May 2 to 3
- iv) Jan Kraybill Weekend, Vancouver Congregation, May 15 to 17
- v) Hills of Peace Camp Opening Weekend, May 22 to 24
- vi) Nurturing Friends and Family Weekend, Samish Island Campground, May 29 to 31
- vii) Hills of Peace Spiritual Retreat, June 12 to 14

3) Will registrations be refunded for cancelled events?

Yes. Refunds have been processed for previously cancelled events. Refunds are still in progress for the Hills of Peace Spiritual Retreat. Registrations for other events had not yet been accepted.

4) What is the status of the funds raised in support of youth registering to attend SPEC?

The funds raised will be held over for use in 2021.

- 5) What is the status of events following the end of August?
- a) Canada West Mission Conference, Chilliwack Congregation, September 4 to 7: This event is still intended to go ahead, however future decisions may change this. If necessary at least the business meeting component of this event will be held online.
  - b) Hills of Peace Men's Retreat, September 18 to 20: Will not be able to be held at Hills of Peace. Watch for updates on this event.
  - c) Prairie Women's Retreat, Drumheller, Alberta, September 25 to 27: Currently still scheduled. Watch for updates.

- 6) Will any online opportunities be provided in place of cancelled events?

- a) Online options are being developed in place of the Hills of Peace Spiritual Retreat, June 12 to 14. Watch for details and registration instructions.
- b) An online Friends and Family "virtual campfire" has been planned for Friday, May 29 which would have been the first evening of the Nurturing Friends and Family Weekend.
- c) Online options MAY be considered in some way related to the cancelled reunions and youth camps. No arrangements have so far been made. Watch for details as they are announced, IF they are arranged.

- 7) What about the annual youth camps scheduled for Samish Campgrounds?

These camps are sponsored and operated by the Greater Pacific Northwest Mission Center (GPNW) of Community of Christ. Decisions about these camps will be made by GPNW and announced by them. These camps include:

- i) Camp Atsaken, for grades 7 to 9, July 19 to 25
- ii) Camp Kimtah, for grades 10 to graduation, August 2 to 8
- iii) Camp Mungai, for grades 3 to 6, August 9 to 13
- iv) Also: Adult Reunion, August 16 to 21

- 8) Will congregational church services and programs be resuming soon across the Canada West Mission Centre?

- i) As of today (April 24) the direction for congregations to remain closed from the church's First Presidency applies to the end of May, with strong recommendations for the cancellation of camp-related events through the end of June.
- ii) However, it is expected that provincial requirements in all four provinces of the Canada West Mission Centre will remain in effect through the summer that will restrict large gatherings to a maximum of 10 or 15 persons (depending on the jurisdiction). Therefore, the Canada West Mission Centre is directing that congregations remain closed through at least the end of August.