

Annual Conference of Canada East Mission
October 15th, 2016, 9:30 am – 5:00 pm
Minutes

Melissa Freer greeted the assembly at 9:20 am. and reviewed the emergency measures.

1. *Announcements and Call assembly to order*

Kerry Richards greeted the assembly at 9:30, especially welcoming the three new Branches: Amherstburg, and Sault Ste Marie (formerly Bluewater Mission Centre), and Thunder Bay (formerly Headwaters Mission Centre). These transfers were to accommodate the requirements of the Canada Revenue Agency.

2. *Presentations and Reports*

a. *Introductions*

Kerry Richards introduced the guests in attendance:

Art Smith, Apostle for CEM

John Glaser, President of Seventy

Art Smith spoke briefly, introducing himself as responsible for Canada, Haiti, Texas, Mexico and First Nations fields. Art spoke enthusiastically about Community of Christ being the best kept secret (woman in Calgary), about his two thirds rule of time, about Revitalization Ministries, about Mission Advocates, and about the GROW initiative.

Kerry Richards continued with CEM Staff introductions.

He then reviewed the 2017 Strategic Plans. These plans include 3 simultaneous strategies:

1. GROW, created by Jim Atkinson, and being used in Iowa
2. Invitational Entry Points (Coffee and Conversation groups)
3. Create Integration Models (giving entry point participants opportunities to experience deeper spiritual connections in the safe settings of Community of Christ)

Kerry explained the GROW initiative helps congregations to choose a 30-90 completion date for a congregational goal. Congregations are encouraged to be creative, have fun, socialize, celebrate, make a difference, and invite others.

The following reports were available in the Conference booklet, for the assembly's perusal.

b. President's Report - see page 5-7

c. Mission Centre Financial Officer Report – see page 34

Reports were accepted from the following: World Accord by David Barth, World Religion Encounter by Brian Carwana, and SHALEM-FaithCare by

Mark Vander Vennen.

Kerry then presented information and answered questions about the resolutions to be discussed later.

The assembly broke for lunch at 12:07.

3. *Conference Organization*

Kerry Richards called the assembly to order again at 1:30 pm with a welcome to delegates and friends.

The 3 new congregations were welcomed again to CEM.

Amherstburg
Sault Ste. Marie
Thunder Bay

Kerry introduced the head table and our special guests, the CEM support staff, and the cooks, Apostle Art Smith, John Glaser, President of Seventy, Dar Shepherdson, Bishop of CEM and Canada, Pat Lewis, Darrel Kennedy.

Art Smith brought greetings to the conference from President Steve Veasey, Presiding Bishop Stacey Cramm, and Jan Kraybill, Principal Organist at Community of Christ Headquarters (whose position is funded by Temple Endowment held in Canada. Jan is allowed to come to Canada twice a year from now on).

CEM is appreciated by World Church. Canada funds about 10% of World church budget.

Kerry Richard's remarks began with a video, asking us to appreciate each other's situations.

CONFERENCE BUSINESS

- a. Direct Attention to Bylaws for the CEM Conference and Parliamentary Guide

Kerry drew our attention to the Bylaws and encouraged us to proceed with a spirit of Common Consent.

- b. Motion to approve Credentials Committee Report

Emily Hatch reviewed the changes in the Credentials Report.

Moved by Mary Pirie, Hamilton

Resolved, That the CREDENTIALS REPORT be approved.

Carried

CEM 16-194

- c. Motion to approve Secretary

Moved by Doug Bolger Sr, North Bay

Resolved, That PAT LEWIS be Secretary for the Conference.

Carried

CEM 16-195

d. Motion to approve Parliamentarian
Moved by Lou Shepherdson, Ottawa
Resolved, That DARREL KENNEDY be Parliamentarian of the
Conference.
Carried CEM 16-196

4. *Approval of CEM Conference Minutes*
a. 2015 CEM Conference Minutes
Moved by Lorrie Mootrey, Sarnia
Resolved, That the minutes of the Oct 17, 2015 CEM Conference be approved.
Carried CEM 16-197

b. There was no business arising from the minutes

5. *Business*
World Church Appointments
The Chair was handed to Art Smith.

Art read letter from K. Scott Murphy and the First Presidency.
a. Motion to sustain Mission President
Moved by John Morgan, GTA West
Resolved, That the Mission President be sustained in his respective
appointment. Kerry Richards, Mission President
Carried CEM 16-198

Art then read a letter from K. Scott Murphy and the First Presidency.
b. Motion to sustain Mission Financial Officer
Moved by Vivian Beeching, GTA West
Resolved, That the Mission Financial Officer be sustained in his respective
appointment.
Dar Shepherdson, Mission Financial Officer
Carried CEM 16-199

Art Smith thanked the conference for their support of Kerry and Dar, in their
respective positions.
Kerry Richards resumed the chair

6. *CEM Appointments*
a. Motion to sustain counselors to the Mission President
Moved by Kevin Mercer, Lowbanks
Resolved, that the following be sustained as counselors to the Mission
President:
High Priest Grant Bennington & High Priest Bryce Taylor.
Carried CEM 16-200

b. Motion to sustain counselor to the Mission Financial Officer

Moved by Calvin Robinson, Warton

Resolved, that the following be sustained as counselor to the Mission Financial Officer: High Priest/Bishop David Snell.

Carried

CEM 16-201

c. Motion to sustain Mission Recorder

Moved by Kelsey Shantz, Kitchener

Resolved, That EMILY HATCH be sustained as Mission Recorder.

Carried

CEM 16-202

d. Motion to sustain Mission Historian

Moved by Bill Reid, Sarnia

Resolved, That JOHN HAMER be sustained as Mission Historian.

Carried

CEM 16-203

c. Motion to sustain Mission Centre Council appointments.

Moved by Wayne Freer, Lasalle Road

Resolved, That the Mission Centre Council appointees be sustained.

Carried

CEM 16-204

Kerry Richards commented on the effort to make this group gender-balanced, different ages, different geography.

Bob Wismer,	Amherstburg	John Nichols,	London
Johanne Chauvin,	Kanata	Don Arrowsmith,	North Bay
Dawn Dawson,	Providence Bay	Albert Cineus,	Montreal
Danica Withrow,	Scarborough	Carman Thompson,	Brydges St
Twyla Glassford,	Windsor,	Colleen Mercer,	Lowbanks
John Hamer,	Toronto	Emma Lamoure,	Chatham

The Conference paused for the singing of "Take the Path of the Disciple"

The chair was passed to Dar Shepherdson.

Dar shared with the Conference that he appreciates his Evangelist's blessing.

Dar knows he is not doing this work alone.

7. CEM Finances

a. Motion to approve the Auditor's Financial Report

Moved by Mervin Jaques, Blenheim

Resolved, That the AUDITOR'S REPORT on the Canada East Mission operating account and various funds for 2015 be approved.

Carried

CEM 16-205

b. Motion to appoint Auditors for 2016

Moved by Kevin Mercer, Lowbanks

Resolved, That Robinson Lott and Brohman, LLP, be appointed as auditors for the year 2016.

Carried

CEM 16-206

c. Budget Report & Motion to approve the 2017 Mission Budget

Moved by Robbie Taylor, Windsor

Resolved, That the MISSION BUDGET for 2017 be approved.

Carried

CEM 16-207

d. Offering – Bishops

Offering that is over the costs of today's Conference will go to support Haiti recovery.

The chair was returned to Kerry.

Kerry gave Conference an update on the resolutions from recent years.

Priesthood Morality (CEM 14-169) consideration from 2016 World Conference had been presented in numerous World Conference Dialogue sessions, and to the Conference floor where a substitute motion was adopted which was referred to the First Presidency for study and further dialogue.

CWM and CEM are collaborating together to pursue strategies to participate in the World Church discussions on this motion.

8. *CEM Action Items*

a. Submitted Motions

Bylaw Change in Delegate Ratio

Whereas, congregations have experienced declining memberships, increased representation at CEM Conference is desired.

Moved by Grant Bennington, Grand Valley

Resolved, that the CEM Conference revise our bylaws to increase the ratio of delegate representation from 1:25 to 1:15 book membership to permit greater participation in our common consent processes of decision-making by replacing in CEM Bylaws Article 3 B the word twenty-five with the word fifteen.

Carried

CEM 16-208

b. Other New Business

GTA West Motion # 1

Mission Centre Council

Moved by Marc Shepherdson, Barrie

[1] Resolved, that the Mission Centre leadership appoint a committee to

research and prepare a proposal for World Church to be presented as soon as possible in 2017 which would permit a pilot project of electing Mission Centre Council members to be implemented in the Canada East Mission in the 2018 calendar year or sooner;

[2] Resolved, that a research report written by a professional consultant be prepared no later than September of 2018 to be forwarded by the above committee to the World Church Presidency, based on:

- a) facilitated Mission-wide dialogues and surveys of the CEM membership, and
- b) an in-depth facilitated dialogue and survey of the CEM Council members and CEM staff

[3] Resolved, that World Church through this pilot project explore the value and impact of this protocol in the functions of Mission Centre processes, and consider a change to the World Church bylaws and Administrative Guidelines for 2019 World Conference; and

[4] Resolved, that, following these steps, the Canada East Mission Centre consider at a future conference a recommendation to the World Conference that Mission Centre Councils be elected from amongst the Mission Centre membership, and, during the inter-conference period, represent the Conference's "will" as expressed in its legislated motions and bylaws.

An admendment was moved by Lou Shepherdson, Ottawa

1. To insert "some or all" in Resolved #1 in front of "Mission Centre Council";
Carried
2. To insert "professional" in Resolved #2 prior to "research report"; and delete "written by a professional consultant";
Carried
3. To insert "to CEM leadership" in Resolved #1 after "to be presented";
Carried

It was duly moved and seconded to close debate.

Carried

The Main Motion as amended was Lost.

GTA West Motion # 2

Experience Community programme

Moved by Marc Shepherdson, Barrie

Resolved, that the CEM leadership appoint an "Experience Community" CEM committee by December 31, 2016, composed of individuals capable of implementing this programme.

Resolved, that the CEM conference support implementing the "Experience Community" programme ideally as a one-year programme.

Resolved, that the "Experience Community" programme begin as soon as the summer of 2017

Resolved, that the CEM Financial Officer be consulted by the committee in order to develop a financial strategy to facilitate the launch of the programme.

Resolved that the Canada West Mission be contacted by the committee to determine if this can become a Canada-wide programme

Carried

CEM 16-209

9. *Motion to adjourn*

Moved by Sandra Houston, Sault Ste. Marie

Resolved, That the meeting be adjourned.

Carried

CEM 16-210

Meeting adjourned at 4:05 pm

Grant Bennington concluded the Conference with a benediction.

Respectfully Submitted,

Pat Lewis, Guelph