Community of Christ in Canada

2026 Canada Mission Centre Conference

Frequently Asked Questions

General Information

1. What is the purpose of the Canada Mission Centre Conference?

This is the primary business and ministry gathering of the Canada Mission Centre. Participants review reports, conduct business, sustain leadership and appointments, approve the annual budget, and engage in mission-focused discussions and learning opportunities.

2. How many people are registered?

As of November 1, 155 members and 2 observers are registered.

3. Will the conference be recorded?

Yes. The business session will be recorded for administrative purposes; however, the recording will not be publicly published.

Governance and Leadership

4. Who will serve as Conference Officers?

Members of the Leadership Team of Community of Christ in Canada will be sustained as Conference Officers:

- Vonda Den Boer
- John Hamer
- Leandro Palacios
- Lanette Vawter
- Sam Smalldon

5. Who will serve as conference secretary and parliamentarian?

- Secretary: Lisa Neudorf
- Parliamentarian: Daryl Kennedy

6. Who is being sustained as Canada Mission Center President?

Sam Smalldon will be sustained as the Canada Mission Center President of Record and Mission Center Financial Officer.

7. Are there any changes to the Mission Center Council?

Yes. Sandra Hunter has stepped down from the council, and Marnie Fisher is being recommended to join.

8. Who is being sustained to serve as historians and recorders?

- Historians: John Hamer and Stephen Thompson
- Recorders: Janine McCully and Heather Huffman

Voting and Procedures

9. How will voting take place?

Voting will be conducted electronically using Poll Everywhere.

10. How do I access the voting platform?

A voting link will be distributed by email and shared in the Zoom chat during the conference.

11. What if I need help using Poll Everywhere?

A technology refresher session will be offered before the conference to review Poll Everywhere and Zoom procedures.

12. How do I speak during the business session?

Participants wishing to introduce business, make motions, or propose amendments should use the dedicated Speaking Queue Chat.

13. When should I use the Zoom "Raise Hand" feature?

The Raise Hand feature should only be used for:

- Point of order: Calls attention to violation of rules.
- Point of Privilege: An urgent request concerning a situation affecting the rights or ability of the body to proceed (e.g., participants cannot hear, there is uncertainty about what is being voted on because the motion is not visible, or a confidential matter is being discussed in the presence of guests).

2027 Budget

14. What is the proposed 2027 Canada Mission Centre budget?

The proposed consolidated budget totals $1.997 million.

15. Why does the budget appear larger than previous years?

The budget combines the former Canada East Mission Centre Canada West Mission Centre, and Canada Mission Centre Strategies budgets into a single Canada Mission Centre budget.

16. Are congregational contributions increasing?

No. The budget assumes approximately $220,000 in support from congregations and maintains the current generosity model.

17. What new revenue sources are included in the budget?

A new donor endowment is expected to generate approximately $200,000 annually to support Canada Mission Center camping ministries.

18. What are the major expenditure priorities?

Key expenditure areas include:

- Operations and administration
- Leadership development
- Congregational support
- Outreach initiatives
- Innovation projects
- Camping ministries
- Shared services

19. How much is allocated to growth and expansion initiatives?

The budget proposes $425,000 for growth, expansion, and strategic mission initiatives.

20. Why are operational costs increasing?

Operations are projected to increase by about $51,000 due to staffing, benefits, and inflation.

Mission Centre Resources and Reserves

21. What resources are available to the Canada Mission Centre?

Total available resources are approximately $3.365 million.

22. How much is designated for church expansion and development?

Approximately $1.448 million is designated for church expansion and development purposes.

23. How much is held in unrestricted operating funds?

Approximately $1.365 million is available in unrestricted operating reserves.

24. Is one-time funding being used in 2027?

Yes. Approximately $1,001,958 from reserves will be used as one-time funding in 2027.

Canadian Corporation Board

25. What is the difference between the Canada Mission Centre and the Canadian Corporation Board?

Canada Mission Centre

- Determines Canada Mission Centre priorities
- Approves Canada Mission Centre ministry budgets
- Supports Canada Mission Centre congregational and missional activities
- Led by representatives of congregations in the Canada Mission Centre from across Canada

Canadian Corporation Board

- Serves as the legal steward of assets
- Oversees endowments and investments
- Manages property and long-term resources
- Safeguards resources for future generations

26. Why aren't endowment funds used to pay annual operating expenses?

Endowments are intended to provide long-term sustainability for the church in Canada. They are generally managed to support ministry over generations rather than funding short-term annual expenses.

Audits and Financial Oversight

27. Who are the proposed auditors?

The recommendation is to reappoint RLB as auditors for the 2026 audit cycle.

28. Why is RLB being recommended again?
RLB was selected through a market review process approximately one year ago and continues to provide audit services to the organization.

Conference Agenda

29. What business items will be considered?

Participants will be asked to:

- Approve previous conference minutes
- Sustain leadership appointments
- Receive the audit report and appoint the Auditors for 2026
- Approve the 2027 budget
- Address any additional conference business

30. What reports and presentations will be included?

Featured presentations include:

- Aurora Belt Field ministry report (Shannon McAdam and Lachlan Mackay)
- Canadian Corporation Board Chair Report (Ron Rowbottom)
- Onward Together strategy updates from the five Leadership Team members
- Mission activity highlights from across Canada

Breakout Sessions

31. What breakout sessions are being offered?

Participants may choose from sessions focused on:

Topic	Facilitator
Economic Justice	Rod Downing
Sacredness of Creation	Joan Thompson
Social Violence	Steve Northey

Special Features of the Conference

32. Will there be special recognitions during the conference?

Yes. The conference will include:

- Recognition of Unsung Heroes from Canada East and Canada West
- Ministry highlights from across Canada
- Community-building activities

33. Will there be any priesthood business?

Yes. The conference will consider a priesthood call for Becky Middleton.

Remote Participation

34. Can any congregation become a remote conference site?

Potentially. Additional remote sites may be accommodated depending on operational requirements and voting procedures.

35. Who should congregations contact regarding remote-site participation?

Congregations interested in becoming a remote site should contact Troy Roach to discuss feasibility and capacity.

Other Questions

36. What is the Gary Vanzant Fund?

The Gary Vanzant Fund is understood to be a donor-restricted fund originating in Canada East Mission Centre. Additional details are being verified and will be shared when confirmed.

37. How does current registration compare with previous conferences?

Conference leadership noted that current registration numbers are generally consistent with attendance levels experienced at previous national conferences.

Additional Information

38. Where can I find the full conference program?

The Leadership Team plans to publish the complete conference program before the conference.

39. Where can I get technical assistance before the conference begins?

Watch for information about the pre-conference technology orientation session, which will review:

- Zoom participation
- Poll Everywhere voting
- Speaking queue procedures
- Conference etiquette

40. Who should I contact with additional questions?

Questions may be directed to Sam, Vonda, Lanette, John, Leandro, or Troy.