

# Canada East Mission Centre Conference

September 20<sup>th</sup> 2025

Ziontario Campground, Priceville, Ontario

## 1. Conference Opening

**Welcome to Conference:** President Mary Jean Belrose welcomed everyone to the conference. The hymn CCS #360 '*God of the Future*' (verses 1,3,4) was sung as the invocation of the conference.

**Blessing of Concern:** Evangelist Ruth Black shared a Blessing of Concern for Twyla Glassford.

**Welcome:** MaryJean Belrose offered a welcome to all participants in person and on Zoom. She shared a poem written by Monica Jacobson Tennyson '*Welcome*'.

**Introduction** of Sam Smalldon, Bishop of Canada from Calgary, Apostles Shannon McAdam from Port Coquitlam, and Lachlan Mackay from Independence Missouri.

**Greetings:** Our Apostles Shannon McAdam and Lachlan Mackay conveyed greetings to the Conference gathering. Lach shared how the Council of 12 is being newly configured to focus on places where the Church is growing quickly.

Acknowledgement was given to Darrel Kennedy as our Parliamentarian.

Also acknowledged Troy Roach as our Technology Support and his assistants.

**Thanks** were extended to participants of the pre-legislation discussion and Common Consent sessions.

**Thanks** were also extended to the generous donations of hats, mitts, and other clothing for the McPhail Public School in Flesherton.

**Delegates and Exofficios voting:** online will use the Zoom poll feature and those in person will use a raised card.

**Conference Booklet** prepared by the Communications Team, both a full version, an express program, and a printer friendly version available online.

**Standing Rules for a Hybrid Conference** will become effective upon adoption (Express pages 13-14)

**Queue system** for asking questions to ensure an equitable system for all.

**We Commit** – conduct during meetings.

**Land Acknowledgement for the Ziontario area** read by Victoria Pederson, Wabash Congregation.

**A Moment of Blessing** was shared as a Spiritual video, “Let the Spirit Breathe.” (missionalleaders.org)

**Greetings** from Vonda DenBoer, Mission Co-President of CEM, shared greetings and opened with Doctrine & Covenants 161:1a

## 2. **Conference Organization:**

**2.1 Call to Order:** The 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual CEM Conference was called to order by President Vonda DenBoer at 2:14 p.m. She referred the conference body to “**Conference Procedures and Parliamentary Guide**” (Express pages 15-17).

2. Troy Roach led a **technology check** using Zoom Poll

3. **Motion to receive Credentials Committee Report (Express pages 9-12)**

**Moved** by Roger Dobson- Toronto Congregation. Seconded.

Melissa Freer reported corrections to the credential report.

4. **Motion to Suspend**

**Resolved**, That the rules be suspended to consider a motion which deals with lists of delegates and alternatives received after the September 6, 2025 bylaw deadline.

**Moved** by Dawn Dawson- Providence Bay Congregation. Seconded.

Carried **CEM 25-337**

Melissa added names of 36 in-person delegates

The total number (at this time of the conference) – delegates in person=53  
Delegates online= 36  
Ex-officio in person=30  
Ex-officio online= 14

**Resolved**, that the CREDENTIALS REPORT of Canada East Mission Centre be approved as amended.

**Moved** by Mary Jean Belrose – Awakening Spirituality. Seconded.

Carried **CEM 25 – 338**

**5. Motion to Adopt Standing Rules (Express pages 13-14)**

**Resolved**, that the Standing Rules of CEM Hybrid Conference be adopted as presented.

Submitted by Standing Rules Committee

Without objection, Standing Rules approved.

**3. Business**

**3.1 Motion to Approve the CEM Conference Agenda without objection.**

**Moved** by Vonda DenBoer

Without Objection, Conference Agenda is approved.

**3.2 Motion to Approve Conference Officers**

**Resolved**, That **Vonda DenBoer and Dawn Dawson**, Mission Centre Co-Presidents, preside over this conference and be authorized to complete the conference organization, and be it further

**Resolved**, that **Pat Pallister** be Secretary of the Conference, and be it further

**Resolved**, that **Darrel Kennedy** be Parliamentarian for the Conference

**Moved** by Lori Mootrey – LaSalle Congregation. Seconded.

Carried **CEM 25- 339**

**3.3. Motion to approve Minutes**

**Resolved**, That the minutes of the October 26, 2024 CEM Conference be approved as presented. (See full program page 31-35)

**Moved** by Cathy Swain- Lowbanks Congregation. Seconded.

Carried **CEM 25- 340**

**4. Disciples Generous Response:**

Dawn Dawson blessed our generous contributions of hats and mitts for nearby school. Sam Smalldon offered a blessing on the offering.

**5. CEM Finances and Budget ('Fun with Numbers with Sam')**

**5.1 Consideration of audit report for 2025.**

**Resolved**, That the AUDITOR'S REPORT on the Canada East Mission operating account and various funds for 2024 be approved (Express report -page 20-30)

**Explained and moved by** Sam Smalldon -Bishop of Canada. Seconded.

Carried **CEM 25- 341**

Sam acknowledged that an amount of \$50,000 has been allocated to CEM campgrounds from the sale of the church in Victoria B.C.

## **5.2 Motion to Appoint Auditors for 2025**

**Resolved**, That RLB, LLP, be appointed as auditors for 2025

**Moved by** Sam Smalldon – Bishop of Canada. Seconded.

Carried **CEM 25- 342**

## **5.3 Financial Report and Motion to Approve 2026 Mission Budget (Appendix B)**

**Resolved**, That the MISSION BUDGET for 2026 be approved as presented.

**Moved by** Sam Smalldon – Bishop of Canada. Seconded

It was explained that this Budget will hold for amalgamation.

Carried **CEM 25-343**

## **6. Other Business**

### **6.1 Field Organization Proposal for Canada East Mission Centre**

#### **Canada Mission Centre Creation**

**Resolved**, that Canada East Mission Centre desires to join with Canada West Mission Centre as one Canada Mission Centre effective January 1, 2026, upon approval by the appropriate governing bodies under Community of Christ bylaws; and be it further

**Resolved**, that the Canada East Mission Centre supports their budget being subsumed into a Canada Mission Centre budget, which shall be approved at a Canada Mission Centre conference to be held before February 28, 2026; and be it further

**Resolved**, that Canada East Mission Centre supports a plan for Canada Mission Centre leadership to be sustained at a Canada Mission Centre conference to be held before February 28, 2026. (as corrected from the original motion)

—Submitted by Field Apostle Shannon McAdam

**Moved by** Bryce Taylor- Gathering Place Congregation. Seconded.

Carried **CEM 25- 344**

## **6.2 Recognition and Thanks**

**Canada Board of Directors Report** presented by Ron Rowbottom

**Recognition** – Thanks to all people instrumental in all Community of Christ programs. The draft Camping Schedule for 2026 is now available and found in the full Conference program.

**Retirements:** An acknowledgement of Kerry Richards' and Mary Jean Belrose's retirements and their individual contributions to the work of Community of Christ. Mary Jean was presented with a beautiful book about Drumming.

Apostle Shannon McAdam also acknowledged the valuable contribution of the co-pastorate of the Canada East Mission Centre.

**6.4 Adjournment** -Vonda DenBoer adjourned the Canada East Mission Centre 2025 Conference at 3:55 p.m.

**Closing Hymn:** CCS 649: "With a Steadfast Faith Together"

Pat Pallister  
Conference Secretary.