

2022 Canada East Mission Centre Conference



Saturday, October 22, 2022
Virtual Conference



Community of Christ

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CEM Conference Schedule

<p>Tuesday, October 18 @ 10 am and Wednesday, October 19 @ 7 pm Choose one date or attend both sessions</p>	<p>As a means to streamline our business meeting, this is everyone's opportunity to engage in dialogue, ask questions, share opinions. Pre-legislative sessions- Everyone welcome. Delegates and ex-officios, please be sure to plan to attend one session.</p>
<p>Tuesday, October 18 @ 7 pm or contact Troy IN ADVANCE of business meeting for training</p>	<p>Refresher session for Poll Everywhere (voting platform) and Zoom</p>
<p>Friday, October 21 @ 7 pm</p>	<p>Final congregational delegate lists must be received by Melissa Freer. Pastors, please communicate any changes or updates to your congregational list.</p>
<p>Saturday, October 22</p>	
<p>9:45 - 11:00 am</p>	<p>Check-in, welcome, orientation & Mission in Action (two sessions approximately 30 minutes each will be offered)</p> <p><i>Option 1 - Peace & Justice – Rod Downing</i></p> <p><i>Option 2 - Canadian Projects – John Hamer</i></p> <p><i>Option 3 - Mission – How Even the Smallest Congregations can do it - Ron Rowbottom</i></p> <p><i>Option 4 - North America Climate Justice Committee - Joan Thompson</i></p> <p><i>Option 5 - World Accord – Kristen Douglas</i></p> <p><i>Option 6 - Social Room</i></p>
<p>11:00</p>	<p><i>Recognitions and Appreciation</i></p> <p><i>Emeritus Status - Carmen Thompson, Larry Buchanan, Shirley Stoner</i></p> <p><i>2022 Camp Directors</i></p>
<p>11:30-12:30</p>	<p>Bring your lunch, check-in for conference with Melissa Freer and join various break out rooms. Enjoy light chitchat or use posted questions as springboard for conversation on where we go from here as disciples and seekers together in community.</p>
<p>12:45</p>	<p>Gather for our business meeting</p>
<p>1:00</p>	<p>Business Meeting</p>
<p>7:30</p>	<p>Ordination Service for John Nichols via Zoom from Woodfield Congregation. John will be ordained to the office of High Priest - Evangelist</p>
<p>Sunday, October 23</p>	
<p>12:00 PM</p>	<p>CEM Conference Worship Celebration with Apostle Art Smith hosted by Beyond the Walls</p>

Bylaws For Canada East Mission (CEM) Conference

Derived from the 2002 Bylaws of the Community of Christ [referenced as (Article.Section)] and previous Conference actions.

Article 1. The Function of the CEM Conference is to:

- A. Sustain the President, Financial Officer, Executive Staff, other Officers, and Appointees assigned to the Mission; (I.4; VI.3; VI.5)
- B. Consider legislation of concern to the area as a whole and which is in harmony with, and subject to, World Conference action and subject to the advice of the World Conference officers concerned; (VI.5)
- C. Sustain a Mission Centre council established according to World Church guidelines; (VI.4)
- D. Approve the budget; (VI.5)
- E. Elect delegates to the World Conference; (IV.1)
- F. Consider recommendations for submission to the World Conference; (VI.5)
- G. Hear reports from Mission and World Church officers, committees, commissions, and boards, or like bodies, on matters pertaining to the Mission's programme, and consider any recommendations;
- H. Authorize and provide for by-laws and officers of corporations, associations, foundations, etc., which may be formed from time to time to support the Mission's programme.

Article 2. Conference Organization

- A. The CEM President presides, except that another member of the Mission staff may be chosen to preside, at the request or absence of the President; (VI.8)
- B. The Conference shall be structured on a delegate basis, with additional ex-officio members; (VI.5)
- C. Conferences should be held annually, and special conferences may be called more often; (IV.1;IV.4;VI.5)
- D. Legislation for consideration by the annual conference is to be forwarded to the Mission office and is to be post-marked no later than 21 days before such conference.
- E. A list of delegates and alternates from each congregation is to be supplied to the Mission office at least two weeks before the annual conference.
- F. A list of delegates unable to attend must be given to the Conference Credentials Committee not less than one hour prior to the opening of the first business session.

Article 3. Conference Membership

- A. The conference shall have Delegates from the following:
 - 1. congregations, from each's membership list;
 - 2. non-resident membership; and
 - 3. the category list called General.

- B. Delegates shall be selected on the ratio of one for each fifteen members, except that fractions shall be rounded up to the next integral Delegate number.
- C. A quorum for the conference is twenty-five of the Delegates.
- D. A number of Alternates may be selected equal to the relevant number of Delegates.
- E. The following individuals from the CEM have ex-officio status at conference: All High priests, All Seventies, Mission Commission and Committee Chairpersons, the Conference Secretary, the Conference Parliamentarian, Congregation Pastors, Mission Executives, and assigned Appointees.
- F. Members of the First Presidency, the Council of Twelve, and the Presiding Bishopric shall have voice and vote when present.
- G. The term of office for Delegates and Alternates is about one year, from the start of the annual meeting for which they were selected until the start of the next annual conference, or until their replacements are selected within that interval.

Article 4. Parliamentary Rules of Order

- A. The parliamentary authority for the conference will be the current edition of ROBERT'S RULES OF ORDER NEWLY REVISED, where the rules are not in conflict with the church's Bylaws or any special or standing rules of order adopted by the conference from time to time. (VIII)
- B. Votes are calculated on those Conference members present, qualified to vote, and voting.

Article 5: Amendments

Amendments may be made herein at any annual conference by a simple majority vote, provided that the full text of such proposed amendment has been published in the notice of call of the conference; failing which, such amendment shall require a two-thirds vote for adoption.

Guide to Good Dialogue

- Suspend the urge to decide "right now"
- Listen carefully for points of agreement
- Speak respectfully, using care in your language
- Speak for yourself. Offer your perspective concisely
- Respect confidentiality
- "More" perspectives are better than "few"
- Expect a better outcome than if you had not had the dialogue; trust the process
- Turn cell phones off or put them on silent

Parliament Quick Reference

- 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 toto, 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 the previous question.
- 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.

Business Meeting Agenda October 22, 2022 - 1:00 P.M.

1. **Announcements and Welcome**
2. **Land Acknowledgement** – Kerry Richards
3. **Guided Meditation** – Tina Heathers
4. **Hymn Video CCS 160 BTW**
5. **Invocation** – John Nichols
6. **Call Assembly to Order** – Mary Jean
7. **Presentations and Reports**
 - a. Introductions:
 - i. Apostle Art Smith – World Church Greetings
 - ii. President of Seventy John Glaser – Greetings
 - b. Overview, Reports
 - c. Mission President’s Remarks – Vonda
8. **Technology Check** (for registered ex-officios and delegates) – Troy Roach
9. **Conference Organization**
 - a. Conference Procedures and Parliamentary Guide (page 4 - 6)
 - b. Motion to approve Credentials Committee Report (pages 11 - 14)
 - c. One motion to approve the following:
 - i. ARLAND WICKSEY as Secretary for the Conference
 - ii. DARRELL KENNEDY as Parliamentarian for the Conference
 - iii. HEATHER HUFFMAN be sustained as Mission Recorder
 - iv. JOHN HAMER be sustained as Mission Historian
10. **Approval of CEM Conference Minutes**
 - a. Motion to approve the 2022 CEM Conference Minutes (pages 16 - 18)
 - b. Business Arising from the Minutes
11. **Business**
 - a. Motion to sustain the Mission Centre President Team
MARY JEAN BELROSE, DAWN DAWSON, VONDA DENBOER
 - b. Motion to sustain the Mission Centre Financial Officer DAR SHEPHERDSON
 - c. Motion to sustain Camping Leadership Team
NANCY BROOKSHAW and STACEY BROOKSHAW
 - d. Motion to elect delegates for World Conference (Page 22)
 - e. Motion to amend CEM Conference Bylaws (Pages 10)
 - f. Motions to approve World Church Office Priesthood Calls
12. **CEM Finances**
 - a. Motions to approve Canada East Mission 2021 Financial Audit (Appendix A)
 - b. Motion to Appoint Auditors for 2022
 - c. Budget Report and Motion to Approve 2023 Mission Budget (pages 23 - 24)
 - d. Disciples Generous Response to cover conference expenses
13. **New Business**
14. **Motion to Adjourn**
 - a. Hymn Video CCS 651 “Send Me Forth”
 - b. Benediction – President of Seventy John Glaser

Resolutions for Fall Canada East Mission Conference 2022

1. *Resolved*, That the CREDENTIALS REPORT be approved - *see Pages 11 - 14*
Submitted by Credentials Committee

2. *Motion to approve the slate of MC / Conference officers as follows*
Resolved, That ARLAND WICKSEY be Secretary for the Conference.
Resolved, That DARREL KENNEDY be Parliamentarian of the Conference
Resolved, That HEATHER HUFFMAN be sustained as Mission Recorder
Resolved, That JOHN HAMER be sustained as Mission Historian.
Submitted by Mission Centre President Team

3. *Resolved*, That the minutes of the March 26, 2022 CEM Conference be approved
see Pages 16 - 18
Submitted by Mission Centre President Team

4. *Resolved*, That the Mission Centre President Team, MARY JEAN BELROSE, DAWN DAWSON,
VONDA DENBOER be sustained in their respective Appointment - *see Page 19*
Submitted by First Presidency

5. *Resolved*, That the Mission Financial Officer, DAR SHEPHERDSON be sustained in his respective
appointment - *see Page 20*
Submitted by First Presidency

6. *Resolved*, That the Camping and Retreats Leadership Team, NANCY BROOKSHAW and
STACEY BROOKSHAW be sustained in their respective appointments – *see Page 21*
Submitted by the Mission Centre President Team

7. *Resolved*, That the list of those nominated as delegates for World Conference be submitted to
World Church. Further names may be added to the list by advising the CEM office, allowing for a
total of up to 74 delegates. Additional names beyond that number will become alternates.
Submitted by the Mission Centre President Team

8. *Resolved*, That the Bylaws for the Canada East Mission (CEM) Conference be amended as follows: (see
page 10 for full Resolution)
Submitted by the Mission Centre President Team

9. *Resolved*, That in response to the direction of the Holy Spirit and with the approval of
appropriate administrative officers, the following priesthood calls be approved:

- a. Dawn Dawson, Providence Bay Congregation and Mission Centre President Team, be ordained to the office of Seventy
- b. Vonda DenBoer, LaSalle Rd. Congregation and Mission Centre President Team, be ordained to the office of High Priest.

10. *Resolved*, That the AUDITOR'S REPORT on the Canada East Mission operating account and various funds for 2019 be approved – see *Appendix A*

Submitted by Mission Financial Officer

11. *Resolved*, That RLB, LLP, be appointed as auditors for 2022.

Submitted by Mission Financial Officer

12. *Resolved*, That the *MISSION BUDGET for 2023 be approved - see Pages 23 - 24*

Submitted by Mission Financial Officer

Motion to Amend Canada East Mission Centre Bylaws

Submitted by Mission Centre President Team

Whereas, the current CEM conference bylaws create an unfair disadvantage between delegates and ex-officios since ex-officio members are not required to be elected; and

Whereas, certain categories of priesthood offices receive ex-officio status and privilege, and as such are favoured over other offices including that of member; and

Whereas, the number of delegates allotted to each congregation limits overall participation at CEM business meetings when smaller congregations may have greater numbers than their allotment who are willing to be involved while larger congregations are often unable to reach their maximum delegation; and

Whereas, age, infirmities and travel distance make attendance of in-person meetings in the large geographic area of CEM challenging, and

Whereas, moving to a member conference would enable more equitable and widespread representation, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Bylaws for the Canada East Mission (CEM) Conference be amended as follows:

1. In Article 2, by deleting clauses A to F, and Inserting the following as clauses A to D:

Article 2. Conference Organization

- A. The CEM President presides, except that another member of the Mission staff may be chosen to preside, at the request or absence of the President; (VI.8)
- B. The conference shall be structured as a member conference, with additional ex-officio members.
- C. Conferences must be held annually, and special conferences may be called more often; (IV.1;IV.4;VI.5) Such conferences could be in-person, electronic or hybrid but all voting must be in real time.
- D. Legislation for consideration by the annual conference is to be forwarded to the Mission office and is to be post-marked no later than 21 days before such conference.

2. By deleting Article 3 and replacing it with the following:

Article 3. Conference Membership

- A. All members in good standing (as defined in church administrative procedures) within the Mission Centre are voting members of the Mission Centre conference. Members who have been participating in the Mission Centre but whose membership transfer has not yet been processed, may be given the right of voice and vote by action of the assembly.
- B. A quorum for the conference is twenty-five members more than the number of ex-officio members present at the conference.
- C. The following individuals have ex-officio status at conference: Mission Centre Officers, assigned World Church Ministers, and members of the First Presidency, the Council of Twelve, and the Presiding Bishopric.

CEM Fall Conference Delegate 2022 Credentials Report

Using MIS (Ministerial Information System) April 30, 2022, the number of CEM delegates were calculated according to the total congregational membership.

Congregation	Total Members	# of Delegates	Delegate Name
Amherstburg	83	6	-
Awakening Spirituality	12	1	Heather Oliver
Barrie	109	8	Catherine Manson
Bellville/Kingston	73	5	-
Blenheim	41	3	-
Brydges St.	83	6	Hank Bates Pat Pallister Susan Trimble Rick Badder Len Fluhrer Jeff Shannon
Cambridge	37	3	-
Chatham	150	10	Doug Lethbridge
Corinth	75	5	-
Grand Valley	86	6	Bill Arnold
Guelph	83	6	Deb Whitworth Diane Franks Cheryl Jackson Patricia Lewis
Hamilton	88	6	-
Kanata	28	2	Marc Chauvin Anakin Chauvin
Kitchener	129	9	Linda Snell

Congregation	Total Members	# of Delegates	Delegate Name
LaSalle Road	118	9	Barry White Patricia White Lorrie Mootrey Melissa Freer
Lowbanks	43	3	Pat Jacobi Robert Graham
Monetville	76	6	Gary Whitworth
Montreal	71	5	-
New Liskeard	69	5	Frances Shepherdson Kent Fielder
Niagara Falls	44	3	Wendy Robson Rex Smith
North Bay	36	3	Dave Wilkinson Karen Hewitt Mary Mitchell
Ottawa	77	6	Lew Shepherdson Carol Shepherdson Wanda White Neil Hagerman Joy Green
Owen Sound	60	4	-
Port Elgin	57	4	Wendell Martin Kevin Mercer Colleen Mercer Irene Howe
Proton	74	5	-
Providence Bay	44	3	Marlene Moore
Reaching Out	155	11	Shannon Dailey Reg Reynolds

Congregation	Total Members	# of Delegates	Delegate Name
Sarnia	76	6	Elsie Burley Heather Reid Terry MacGregor
Sault Ste. Marie	60	4	Sandra Houston Mary Welton Winnifred Edwards Joyce Gaudette
Scarborough	110	8	Cathy Baker Scott Baker David Donoghue Arland Wicksey Peter Williams Linda Armstrong
Sharing Love in Mission	19	2	-
St. Thomas	98	7	Don Millard Susan Silcox
Stratford	192	13	Robert Smith Carol Smith Scott Brookshaw Stacey Brookshaw
The Gathering Place+	155	11	-
Thunder Bay	19	2	-
Toronto	69	5	Evan Sharley Vickie Thatcher Becky Savage Mark Shannon Melanie Leitch
Wabash	214	15	Lori Tinline Doug Tinline Jenn Pederson
Wiarion	40	3	-
Willow	105	7	-

Congregation	Total Members	# of Delegates	Delegate Name
Windsor	136	10	Twyla Glassford Susan Abbey Jon Abbey Mary-Elizabeth Schauer Daryl McDonald
Woodfield	110	8	Wayne Stronghill Scott Scherer Steve Northey Tom Wright Carol Rowbottom
CEM Non-Residents	193	13	-
CEM General	1685	113	-
Total:	5282	370	

CEM Mission Ex-Officio Delegates

(2004 By-Law Article 3E) 2022-10-17

Arthur Smith	Field Apostle		Dwight Fryer	Monetville	P/HP
Vonda DenBoer	Mission President		Heather Fryer	Monetville	HP/EV
Dawn Dawson	Mission President		Albert Cineus	Montreal	P/S
Mary Jean Belrose	Mission President	S	Kent Fielder	New Liskeard	P
Dar Shepherdson	MCFO / Bishop of Canada	HP/B	Clair Shepherdson	New Liskeard	HP/EV
Arland Wicksey	Conference Secretary		Rex Smith	Niagara Falls	P
Darrel Kennedy	Parliamentarian		Doug Bolger Sr.	North Bay	P/ HP
			Donald Arrowsmith	North Bay	HP/EV
			Barb Kernohan	Ottawa	S
Robert Wismer	Amherstburg	P/HP	Darrel Kennedy	Ottawa	P
Donald Jones	Amherstburg	HP	Pam Mooney	Ottawa	HP
Darwin Wismer	Amherstburg	HP/EV	Lew Shepherdson	Ottawa	HP/B
Tina Heathers	Awakening Spirituality	P	Marten Ternan	Ottawa	HP/EV
Audrey Cosway	Awakening Spirituality	HP	Martha Tettenborn	Owen Sound	P
Mary Jean Belrose	Awakening Spirituality	S	Janice Storms	Port Elgin	P
Melissa Roach	Barrie	P	Darrell Belrose	Port Elgin	HP/EV
James Poirier	Barrie	HP/B	Larry Buchanan	Port Elgin	S
Troy Roach	Barrie	S	Wayne McLean	Proton	P
Jack McCurdy	Belleville/Kingston	P	Dawn Dawson	Providence Bay	P
Roy Young	Belleville/Kingston	HP	Vivian Beeching	Reaching Out	P/HP/B
Wende Badder	Blenheim	P	Kenneth Avery	Reaching Out	HP/EV
Chris McCurdy	Brydges St.	P	Rod McLean	Reaching Out	HP/EV
Paul Fitzgeorge	Brydges St.	HP	Pat MacGregor	Sarnia	P
Ron Grigsby	Cambridge	P	Bill Reid	Sarnia	HP/EV
David Rock	Canada East General	HP/EV	David Wood	Sarnia	HP
Howard Clifford	Canada East General	HP	Sandra Houston	Sault Ste Marie	P
Kerry Richards	Canada East General	HP	Linda Armstrong	Scarborough	P/HP
Ken Barrows	Canada East Non-Res	HP	Catharine Baker	Scarborough	S
Robert Hodgson	Canada East Non-Res.	HP/B	Donald Millard	St. Thomas	P
Tim Stanlick	Canada East Non-Res.	HP	Shone Carson	Sharing Love in Mission	P
Dorothy Lethbridge	Chatham	P	Don Robb	Sharing Love in Mission	HP/B
John Scherer	Chatham	HP	Mary Robb	Sharing Love in Mission	HP/EV
Cheryl Brooks	Corinth	P	Nancy Brookshaw	Stratford	P
Delbert Franks	Grand Valley	P	Carole Heathers	Stratford	HP/EV
Grant Bennington	Grand Valley	HP	Bill Leney	Stratford	HP/EV
Roy Hillis	Grand Valley	HP/EV	John Nichols	Stratford	HP
Johan Koeslag	Grand Valley	HP/EV	Mercedes Zelaya de Pena	The Gathering Place+	P
John Rowe	Guelph	P	Dolores McCormack	The Gathering Place+	HP/EV
Frank Silverthorn	Guelph	HP/B	Bryce Taylor	The Gathering Place+	HP
Marion Smith	Guelph	HP	Alfredo Zelaya-Martinez	The Gathering Place+	S
Susan Hare	Hamilton	P		Thunder Bay	P
Dianne Galbraith	Kanata	P	John Hamer	Toronto	P/S
Larry Galbraith	Kanata	HP/EV	Roger Dodson	Toronto	HP
Jeremy Smith	Kitchener	P	Jacomina Malott	Wabash	P
John Black	Kitchener	HP/EV	Dorothy Burdette	Warton	P
Ruth Black	Kitchener	HP/EV	Larry Porter	Warton	HP
James Brown	Kitchener	HP	Linda Porter	Warton	HP/EV
Doug Robinson	Kitchener	S	John Morgan	Willow	P/S
David Snell	Kitchener	HP/B	Elaine Kerr-Morgan	Willow	HP/EV
Carman Thompson	Kitchener	HP/EV	Twyla Glassford	Windsor	P/HP
Joan Thompson	Kitchener	HP	Carson Imeson	Windsor	HP/EV
Wayne Freer	LaSalle	P/HP	Henry Plancke	Windsor	HP
Carol Manley	LaSalle	HP/EV	Ron Rowbottom	Woodfield	P/HP
Beverley Moor	Living Water	HP/EV	Ann Mitchell	Woodfield	HP
Debi Weaver	Lowbanks	P			
Marilyn Graham	Lowbanks	HP			

P – Pastor

HP – High Priest

S – Seventy

HP/EV- High Priest/Evangelist

HP/B – High Priest/Bishop

Minutes of Special CEM Conference

March 26, 2022, 1:00 – 4:00 PM

The conference opened at 1:20 pm. The conference attendance number was confirmed as 124 online.

1. The conference was opened by Kerry Richards. Kerry welcomed all the new volunteers in the new leadership role positions: Vonda Den Boer, Dawn Dawson, and Mary Jean Belrose who will comprise the volunteer Mission President Team; and Nancy Brookshaw and Stacey Brookshaw of the Camping and Retreats leadership Team.
2. Kerry Richards then read the land acknowledgement statement.
3. He then introduced Vonda DenBoer, who led us in a worship session. We sang CCS #350 “We are a family of faith”, followed by a collective prayer offered by Mary Jean Belrose. Dawn Dawson, Vonda DenBoer, Stacey Brookshaw, and Nancy Brookshaw.
4. A technology check was conducted by Troy Roach.
1:40 pm
5. Kerry then passed the chair to Apostle Art Smith who called the assembly to order.
6. Art brought greetings from the First Presidency and thanked the generosity of all those individuals who had donated to the Disciple’s Generosity Response.
7. A) Apostle Smith drew our attention to page 8 of the agenda. He noted that Mission Centre Conference Officers who were appointed for the October 2021 Mission Centre Conference would remain in their respective positions and no other action was necessary.
 - i. Arland Wicksey, Secretary for the Conference
 - ii. Darrel Kennedy, Parliamentarian for the Conference
 - iii. Heather Huffman, Mission Recorder
 - iv. John Hamer, Mission Historian

B) Motion to approve the Credentials Committee Report

Melissa Freer reported 70 delegates, 57 ex officios, for a total of 127 voting members.

Moved by Vonda DenBoer, LaSalle congregation

Resolved, That the Credentials Report be approved.
(see pages 10 – 14)

Carried CEM 22-293

8. Approval of CEM Conference minutes

2021 CEM Fall Conference minutes

Moved by Dawn Dawson, Providence Bay

Resolved, That the minutes of the October 23, 2021, CEM Conference be approved. (see pages 15-18)

Carried CEM 22 –294

9. The chair was relinquished to Kerry Richards who recognized Dave Lloyd's contributions and achievements in creating online learning courses for temple school.

The chair was returned to Apostle Art Smith. Kerry Richards was recognized for his leadership and future visions for the Community of Christ. He was thanked for his years of service as Mission Centre President.

The conference took a 10 minute break.

10. Motions to consider resolutions for submission to the world conference

A) Baptism and Membership Resolution

Moved by Paula Tite, Sharing Love in Mission

Resolved, That the resolution "Baptism and Membership", submitted by the SLIM congregation be approved for submission to the World Conference of Community of Christ. (see pages 19-20)

The chair accepted a motion by unanimous consent to move the previous question.

Carried 2/3

Carried CEM 22 – 295

B) Universal Scripture Access Resolution

Moved by Evan Sharley, Toronto

Resolved, That the resolution "Universal Scripture Access" submitted by the Toronto congregation be approved for submission to the World Conference of Community of Christ. (see page 2)

Carried CEM 22 - 296

11. Motion to sustain the Mission Centre President Team

Moved by Carman Thompson, Kitchener

Resolved, That the Mission Centre President Team, VONDA DENBOER, DAWN DAWSON, and MARY JEAN BELROSE be sustained in their respective appointments. (see page 22)

Carried CEM 22 - 297

12. Motion to sustain the Mission Centre Camping and Retreats leadership Team

Moved by Ken Barrows, General Membership

Resolved, That the Camping and Retreat Leadership Team, NANCY BROOKSHAW and STACEY BROOKSHAW be sustained in their respective appointments. (see page 23)

Carried CEM 22 - 298

13. The chair was turned over to Mary Jean Belrose. Because this was a special conference, no new business was in order and the meeting was adjourned without objection at 4:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

M. Arland Baker-Wicksey



Community of Christ

CHRIST'S MISSION, OUR MISSION

22 October 2022

To the Canada East Mission Center

As you gather in the spirit of loving community as an expression of Community of Christ, I hope your time together is meaningful and spiritually uplifting. May your time of sharing in fellowship, worship and the business of the mission center offer you opportunities to share and hear the stories of how mission is alive in the church wherever the people are present. Let this be a time of celebration and gratitude for what God is up to in your midst.

As part of the business of the mission center, the First Presidency is pleased to recommend for your consideration Vonda Joan DenBoer, Dawn Marie Dawson, and Mary Jean Belrose to serve as your Mission Center President Team. The role of mission center president team is essential to assist congregations in living the mission Community of Christ has been called to. We are grateful for Vonda, Dawn, and Mary Jean's willingness to serve in this essential leadership and ministry position. The Mission Center Team will be chaired by Vonda J. DenBoer.

We ask for your prayerful consideration to sustain Vonda, Dawn, and Mary Jean to serve as the appointed Mission Center President Team. May you continue to hold each of them in your prayers.

In the spirit of peace,
THE FIRST PRESIDENCY

K. Scott Murphy

cc: Art Smith, Apostle

KSM/les



Community of Christ

CHRIST'S MISSION, OUR MISSION

22 October 2022

To the Canada East Mission Center

As you gather in the spirit of loving community as an expression of Community of Christ, I hope your time together is meaningful and spiritually uplifting. May your time of sharing in fellowship, worship and the business of the mission center offer you opportunities to share and hear the stories of how mission is alive in the church wherever the people are present. Let this be a time of celebration and gratitude for what God is up to in your midst.

As part of the business of the mission center, the Presidency and Presiding Bishopric are pleased to recommend for your consideration Dar Shepherdson to serve as your Mission Center Financial Officer. The mission center financial officer in partnership with the mission center president provides the financial leadership necessary to live the mission of the church. We are grateful for Dar's willingness to serve in this essential position to uphold and support your congregations in generosity and whole-life stewardship, which are important principles in living the mission of Christ.

We ask for your prayerful consideration to sustain Dar to serve as the appointed Mission Center Financial Officer. May you continue to 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
Steve Graffeo, Presiding Bishopric

KSM/kat

Community of Christ

Christ's Mission, Our Mission

September 26, 2022

To the Canada East Mission Centre

Dear Friends,

This year, perhaps more than other years, we recognized the value of our reunions and camps as we were able to gather once again. We are so grateful to Nancy Brookshaw and Stacey Brookshaw for their willingness to serve in leadership of our camping programs. With much enthusiasm, courage, leadership and planning and a plethora of volunteers, we were able to offer not only reunions this year but also some kids and youth camping retreats. The retreats were borne out of the amazing fellowship and children's ministry which happened as we gathered at reunions. This desire for more fellowship prompted leaders to seek out ways to make small retreats happen. We are thankful for their willingness to continue to serve in this very important leadership and ministry. They are already full of ideas for the 2023 season.

We invite the body to sustain Nancy and Stacey in their volunteer leadership roles as camping and retreat leaders. Nancy focuses on leading the adult and family camping and retreats program while Stacey focuses on leading the children and youth camping programs. In collaboration with the Mission Centre President Team, they work alongside of Melissa Freer on the CEM staff and the countless volunteer leaders around the mission centre to make our camping program remarkable.

Your Servants in Christ



Vonda DenBoer



Dawn Dawson



Mary Jean Belrose

Mission Centre Presidency Team

CANADA EAST MISSION CENTRE
129-355 Elmira Rd North, Guelph N1K1S5
(519)822-4150 (888)411-7537
www.communityofchrist.ca

World Conference April 21-28, 2023 Delegate/Alternate Nomination List

#	Last name, first name		#	Last name, first name
1	Hewitt, Linda Mae		48	
2	Hewitt, Karen Dawn		49	
3	Robb, Donald Everett		50	
4	Rowbottom, Ronald Alfred (Ron)		51	
5	Rowbottom, Carol Edwina (Teddy)		52	
6	Belrose, Mary Jean		53	
7	Belrose, Darrell Lloyd		54	
8	DenBoer, Vonda Joan		55	
9	Dawson, Dawn Marie		56	
10	Richards, Kerry John		57	
11	Shepherdson, Darwood Morley		58	
12	Roach, Troy Joseph		59	
13	Roach, Melissa Michele		60	
14	Hamer, John Charles		61	
15	Palacios, Leandro		62	
16	Manson, Catherine Betty		63	
17	Reid, Heather Joan		64	
18	Reid, William Herbert (Bill)		65	
19	Martin, Wendall Howard		66	
20	Taylor, Lynne Marlene		67	
21	Taylor, Bryce Athol		68	
22			69	
23			70	
24			71	
25			72	
26			73	
27			74	
28			ALTERNATES	
29			1	
30			2	
31			3	
32			4	
33			5	
34			6	
35			7	
36			8	
37			9	
38			10	
39			11	
40			12	
41			13	
42			14	
43			15	
44			16	
45			17	
46			18	
47			19	

Canada East Mission Centre 2023 Budget

	2022 Canada East Mission Conference					
	2023 BUDGET	Budget Detail	2022 BUDGET	Budget Detail	2021 ACTUAL	Actual Detail
CEM Income						
MC Operating Dept	164,500		177,000		208,727	
Operating Congregational Quotas		100,000		100,000		113,862
Campground Quota		50,000		50,000		56,931
Shared Service Support		2,000		1,000		900
CEM Operating Investment Income		12,500		26,000		37,034
MC Operating Misc		0		0		0
MC Events Dept	0		0		2,800	
Contributions (e-camping)		0		0		2,800
Kids Camp		0		0		0
Jr. High		0		0		0
SPEC		0		0		0
Sr. High		0		0		0
Thanksgiving		0		0		0
Loaves and Fishes Reunion		0		0		0
Healing and Freeing Reunion		0		0		0
Noronto Reunion		0		0		0
Women's Retreat Prov. Pt.		0		0		0
Retiree's Retreat		0		0		0
Women's Retreat Ziontario		0		0		0
Leadership Development Dept	5,500		5,500		549	
Marriage Ministry		500		500		0
Leadership Contributions		500		500		0
Temple School / e-Learning		500		500		90
Christian Ministries Certificate (CIMM)		4,000		4,000		440
Priesthood Retreat		0		0		0
HST		0		0		19
Leadership Misc		0		0		0
Encounter World Religions Dept	0		0		90,705	
Discovery Week / Program		0		0		20,680
Fee for Service		0		0		41,278
EWR Contributions		0		0		9,871
Jurisdictional Support		0		0		18,846
Advertising and Promotion		0		0		30
Youth Activitives Dept	5,500		8,000		16,424	
Youth Contributions		300		500		48
CEM Youth Investment Income		5,200		7,500		16,376
Growth and Expansion Dept	134,000		171,000		173,898	
CEM Growth Contributions		100,000		120,000		122,472
Church Expansion Investment Income		28,000		45,000		49,534
CEM Conference		6,000		6,000		1,893
Growth Misc		0		0		0
TOTAL Income	309,500		361,500		493,104	

Canada East Mission Centre 2023 Budget

CEM Expense					
MC Operating Dept	175,500		180,000		152,101
Disbursed Campground Quota		60,000		60,000	56,931
Shared Office Expense		25,200		32,640	32,640
Equipment		2,000		2,500	1,842
Audit & Legal		11,000		12,000	8,991
Insurance		1,800		1,360	1,467
Office Staff Compensation		72,800		68,800	68,756
Recovered Compensation Costs		0		0	-19,470
Memberships		1,500		1,500	824
MC Operating Misc		1,000		1,000	0
Bank Charges		200		200	122
MC Events Dept	0		0		839
Various Event Programming/Supplies		0		0	839
Kids Camp		0		0	0
Jr. High		0		0	0
SPEC		0		0	0
Sr. High		0		0	0
Thanksgiving		0		0	0
Loaves and Fishes Reunion		0		0	0
Healing and Freeing Reunion		0		0	0
Noronto Reunion		0		0	0
Women's Retreat Prov. Pt.		0		0	0
Retiree's Retreat		0		0	0
Women's Retreat Ziontario		0		0	0
Leadership Development Dept	10,500		10,500		1,035
Facility Use/Meals/Guest Ministry, etc.		1,000		1,000	0
Supplies		250		250	14
Travel		250		250	0
MEADS		4,000		4,000	68
Leadership/Skill's Retreat		5,000		5,000	953
Priesthood Retreat		0		0	0
Leadership Misc		0		0	0
Encounter World Religions Dept	0		0		105,875
Discovery Week / Program		0		0	0
Advertising and Promotion		0		0	27,395
Travel		0		0	784
Field Staff Compensation		0		0	86,096
Recovered Compensation Costs		0		0	-19,470
Field Staff - MR		0		0	5,821

Canada East Mission Centre 2023 Budget, Cont'd.

	2022 Canada East Mission Conference					
	2023 BUDGET	Budget Detail	2022 BUDGET	Budget Detail	2021 ACTUAL	Actual Detail
Staff & Volunteer		0		0		4,454
EWR Misc		0		0		796
Youth Activities Dept	2,000		2,000		0	
FAY Support		2,000		2,000		0
Growth and Expansion Dept	121,500		169,000		240,943	
Growth Programming		10,000		10,000		1,842
CEM Conference		5,000		5,000		264
Travel (Bishops)		1,000		1,000		0
Field Staff Compensation		146,000		77,000		41,914
Recovered Compensation Costs		-131,000		0		-6,278
Lifeguard Program		21,000		23,000		0
Camping Ministry Team		2,500		1,000		360
Donation to EWR		10,000		50,000		18,846
Transfer to Revitalization Project		55,000		0		182,118
Growth Misc		2,000		2,000		1,876
Total Expense	309,500		361,500		500,794	
TOTAL Mission Centre Income	309,500		361,500		493,104	
TOTAL Mission Centre Expense	309,500		361,500		500,794	
NET Gain \ Loss	0		0		-7,690	
Canada Mission Centre Investments		Jun 30/22				Dec 31/21
CEM Operating		427,629				462,402
Church Expansion Development		926,017				943,627
CEM Youth Fund		177,212				190,938
Gary Vanzant		32,536				38,571
TOTAL		1,563,394				1,635,537

Canada East Mission Centre Congregational and Campground Assessments for 2023

	2021	2020	2019	3 Year Average		2023	2022	Difference	2023 Congregational	2023 Campground	2023 Total
Amherstburg	\$39,493	\$41,983	\$43,876	\$41,784	5.42%	\$5,412	\$5,574	\$ (162)	5,412.00	2,706.00	8,118.00
Awakening Spirituality	\$2,200	\$150	\$0	\$783	0.10%	\$250	\$0	\$ 250	250.00	125.00	375.00
Barrie	\$8,353	\$7,648	\$8,448	\$8,150	1.06%	\$1,056	\$868	\$ 188	1,056.00	528.00	1,584.00
Belleville	\$3,455	\$7,710	\$9,715	\$6,960	0.90%	\$901	\$1,128	\$ (227)	901.00	450.50	1,351.50
Blenheim	\$6,871	\$3,312	\$19,684	\$9,956	1.29%	\$1,289	\$1,938	\$ (649)	1,289.00	644.50	1,933.50
Brydges	\$30,845	\$27,137	\$24,058	\$27,347	3.55%	\$3,542	\$3,480	\$ 62	3,542.00	1,771.00	5,313.00
Cambridge	\$8,420	\$11,905	\$12,265	\$10,863	1.41%	\$1,407	\$1,416	\$ (9)	1,407.00	703.50	2,110.50
Chatham	\$12,275	\$13,109	\$14,145	\$13,176	1.71%	\$1,707	\$1,631	\$ 76	1,707.00	853.50	2,560.50
Corinth	\$20,660	\$20,133	\$20,144	\$20,312	2.63%	\$2,631	\$2,701	\$ (70)	2,631.00	1,315.50	3,946.50
Gathering Place	\$12,460	\$14,311	\$14,906	\$13,892	1.80%	\$1,799	\$1,866	\$ (67)	1,799.00	899.50	2,698.50
Grand Valley	\$19,630	\$19,460	\$21,035	\$20,042	2.60%	\$2,596	\$2,682	\$ (86)	2,596.00	1,298.00	3,894.00
Guelph	\$27,951	\$21,786	\$31,295	\$27,011	3.50%	\$3,499	\$3,685	\$ (186)	3,499.00	1,749.50	5,248.50
Hamilton	\$0	\$552	\$6,144	\$2,232	0.29%	\$289	\$536	\$ (247)	289.00	144.50	433.50
Kanata	\$6,370	\$6,204	\$7,572	\$6,715	0.87%	\$870	\$846	\$ 24	870.00	435.00	1,305.00
Kitchener	\$36,328	\$38,173	\$41,689	\$38,730	5.02%	\$5,016	\$5,032	\$ (16)	5,016.00	2,508.00	7,524.00
LaSalle Road	\$20,845	\$20,585	\$15,785	\$19,072	2.47%	\$2,470	\$3,150	\$ (680)	2,470.00	1,235.00	3,705.00
Lowbanks	\$10,323	\$12,089	\$14,547	\$12,320	1.60%	\$1,596	\$1,605	\$ (9)	1,596.00	798.00	2,394.00
Monetville	\$13,619	\$18,233	\$25,317	\$19,056	2.47%	\$2,468	\$2,613	\$ (145)	2,468.00	1,234.00	3,702.00
Montreal	\$40,616	\$42,082	\$39,150	\$40,616	5.27%	\$5,260	\$5,044	\$ 216	5,260.00	2,630.00	7,890.00
New Liskeard	\$14,730	\$11,632	\$15,995	\$14,119	1.83%	\$1,829	\$1,895	\$ (66)	1,829.00	914.50	2,743.50
Niagara Falls	\$1,760	\$1,226	\$3,082	\$2,023	0.26%	\$262	\$298	\$ (36)	262.00	131.00	393.00
North Bay	\$19,820	\$15,385	\$13,910	\$16,372	2.12%	\$2,121	\$1,685	\$ 436	2,121.00	1,060.50	3,181.50
Ottawa	\$24,973	\$23,098	\$23,063	\$23,711	3.08%	\$3,071	\$3,046	\$ 25	3,071.00	1,535.50	4,606.50
Owen Sound	\$8,704	\$11,975	\$14,505	\$11,728	1.52%	\$1,519	\$1,614	\$ (95)	1,519.00	759.50	2,278.50
Port Elgin	\$11,953	\$13,270	\$13,932	\$13,052	1.69%	\$1,691	\$1,696	\$ (5)	1,691.00	845.50	2,536.50
Proton	\$8,065	\$9,800	\$8,555	\$8,807	1.14%	\$1,141	\$1,207	\$ (66)	1,141.00	570.50	1,711.50
Prov. Bay	\$10,867	\$11,001	\$14,768	\$12,212	1.58%	\$1,582	\$1,691	\$ (109)	1,582.00	791.00	2,373.00
Reaching Out	\$19,255	\$16,950	\$14,906	\$17,037	2.21%	\$2,207	\$1,975	\$ 232	2,207.00	1,103.50	3,310.50
Sarnia	\$30,148	\$35,833	\$29,666	\$31,882	4.14%	\$4,130	\$3,750	\$ 380	4,130.00	2,065.00	6,195.00
Sault Ste Marie	\$15,115	\$17,115	\$23,036	\$18,422	2.39%	\$2,386	\$2,668	\$ (282)	2,386.00	1,193.00	3,579.00
Scarborough	\$29,783	\$32,339	\$25,534	\$29,219	3.79%	\$3,785	\$3,467	\$ 318	3,785.00	1,892.50	5,677.50
SLIM	\$9,540	\$5,950	\$0	\$5,163	0.67%	\$669	\$250	\$ 419	669.00	334.50	1,003.50
St. Thomas	\$27,486	\$24,703	\$25,094	\$25,761	3.34%	\$3,337	\$3,304	\$ 33	3,337.00	1,668.50	5,005.50
Stratford	\$41,298	\$35,167	\$42,434	\$39,633	5.14%	\$5,133	\$5,037	\$ 96	5,133.00	2,566.50	7,699.50
Thunder Bay	\$4,740	\$6,445	\$7,735	\$6,307	0.82%	\$817	\$889	\$ (72)	817.00	408.50	1,225.50
Toronto	\$28,144	\$23,272	\$17,165	\$22,860	2.97%	\$2,961	\$2,456	\$ 505	2,961.00	1,480.50	4,441.50
Wabash	\$31,681	\$33,463	\$39,936	\$35,027	4.54%	\$4,537	\$4,490	\$ 47	4,537.00	2,268.50	6,805.50
Warton	\$31,165	\$22,960	\$23,069	\$25,731	3.34%	\$3,333	\$2,604	\$ 729	3,333.00	1,666.50	4,999.50
Willow	\$6,032	\$6,964	\$8,394	\$7,130	0.92%	\$924	\$1,134	\$ (210)	924.00	462.00	1,386.00
Windsor	\$47,028	\$36,810	\$32,058	\$38,632	5.01%	\$5,004	\$4,384	\$ 620	5,004.00	2,502.00	7,506.00
Woodfield	\$18,318	\$21,169	\$41,655	\$27,047	3.51%	\$3,503	\$3,962	\$ (459)	3,503.00	1,751.50	5,254.50
CEM Reserves											
Total	\$761,319	\$743,089	\$808,268	\$770,892		\$100,000	\$100,000	\$0	\$100,000	\$50,000	\$150,000

CEM(11-113) Motion Approved in 2011 for Congregational and Campground Assessments

Resolved, That a formula be approved which would set congregational assessments as a percentage of its annual received income, as reported to the government of Canada, and averaged over the previous three year period; and

Resolved, That requests from estates of deceased individuals and large "one-time" donations of \$10,000 or more be excluded from calculations of such averages provided that immediate notification is given to the Mission Centre officers upon receipt of such a gift; and

Resolved, That a minimum assessment of \$375 be assigned to each congregation; and

Resolved, That the Mission Centre officers be authorized to spend as a Contingency Fund up to ten per cent of the balance of the combined Operating Reserves and the Ontario Congregational Reserves and report back to the next CEM Conference; and

Resolved, That this resolution supersede resolution CEM06-50

CEM Mission President Team Remarks and Report 2022

The past year in CEM has seen significant change as we emerged from two years of pandemic restrictions. The transition to a volunteer leadership team of presidents supported by a camping leadership team is developing new opportunities and expanding our understanding of transformation. In addition to the administrative roles of implementing world church policies and modeling the church's identity, message, mission and beliefs, the role of your leadership team is to support and strengthen congregations, develop leadership, coordinate reunions, camps and conferences, and lead mission.

Assessment of Camp Opening

With only a few short months to prepare, we were able to offer the fellowship found within our reunions to a membership thirsty for the opportunity to gather in community. Success with adult camping and the enthusiasm to be together encouraged us to offer limited youth camp retreats. We appreciate that our camping program is a mainstay in growing fellowship in community. It is there, distanced from everyday life demands, that we can experience the blessings of community. This could become more of an invitational ministry. Our camp experiences are much more than a time to gather in fellowship, they are a blessing that we can offer to persons greatly in need of such solace. As we live out our expression of the worth of all persons, opportunity abounds in our camps to create a safe space, a sanctuary for the marginalized who often are confronted with discrimination in the world and desperately seek to find an unconditional welcome.

Post COVID (if our current situation could be called post), many congregations have embraced the concept of hybrid services using a combination of in-person gatherings while extending their reach to those unable or unwilling to join in person, using technology learned during the pandemic peaks. Some congregations have expanded their reach with attendees from across Canada and USA. Using virtual connections, more guest ministry is possible, easing the burden on small congregations with few willing to serve in the speaking role. But looking forward, we must be careful that we are not confining our ministry to a set time, place or format, but rather responding to changing societal needs.

We are called by Brother Veazy to Boldly Venture. *"The world is changing. Old forms are crumbling. New possibilities are emerging. We live between what was and what will be. We need faith, curiosity, openness and boldness. God is challenging assumptions, shaking up structures, disrupting routines, and making connections"* **Boldly Venture June 12,2022** Brother Veazy said in **A Time to Act September 2017**, *"as we respond to the unavoidable change in the world, simply persisting in typical church activities will not take us into the future. We need to adjust how we understand, communicate and live the gospel in a new time."*

Assisting Congregations in a Discerning Process

We are working with several congregations who question whether their building is necessary or whether it is the right fit for their current congregation. The trend of declining funds, aging membership, buildings outdated for current needs, technology and accessibility continues at an accelerated pace. How people view 'the church' is influenced by the legacy of damage perpetrated on persons by religious institutions. Many persons question the relevance of church in relation to their life circumstances and personal spiritual journey. Others view hypocrisy between what is espoused and what is lived, as a deterrent to interest in participation in organized religion. Younger generations, already saddled financially, often requiring two jobs to make ends meet, do not have the time nor desire to inherit the responsibility of caring for old buildings.

Leadership Development

Not only is our membership aging, but also our leaders. The church's future depends on leaders willing to go where the Spirit is calling us to go and that involves people of all ages, gender and orientation. We say we are a peace church, one that values the worth of all persons. We need to develop disciples who live and breathe the enduring principles so there is no disconnect between what we say on our website and how we live in our homes, communities and congregations. Individual and congregational spiritual formation that focuses on spiritual, relational and missional growth will birth and nurture those leaders willing to move forward.

The Challenge of Change

With every change, there is pain. The pain of letting go of the familiar. A trapeze artist hangs for a split second in midair after letting go of one rope and before catching the next. That is somewhat what we may feel like. We have been praying the Mission Prayer for several years and asking for courage to "risk something new". That courage is essential if we are to venture into the future in the face of apathy, fear and resistance. Here are some of the realities facing churches. Decentralized attendance has become the new norm. Not everybody will be in the building. Not everyone wants a sermon. People today are struggling with many issues that demand their attention and need a safe space for support. Growing churches need to recognize that on demand access has surpassed the need for in-person events. That may look like zoom recordings or podcasts or discussion groups or YouTube available to people to watch whenever they want. While church buildings may not be essential, opportunities for connection are. How we connect is less important than the fact that we authentically connect. Rather than focusing on space for gathering, growing churches focus on connecting to study, share and engage in spiritual formation and missional activities. This provides opportunity to build relationships. Creating Connection has been successful in promoting deep conversation about relevant issues with seekers and disciples alike. Those encounters can build relationships that can lead to transformation.

Where Do We Go From Here?

The gospel is all about connecting with people in need, making a difference, changing lives. In the parable of the Good Samaritan, the person most unlikely to help (in the eyes of society) is the one who responded compassionately and generously. As we offer our future to God, our hope is that we are becoming more like that Samaritan. Our vision for the future is not tied to buildings or static models of worship. Our vision for the future involves growing disciples who are willing to be open to the leading of the Holy Spirit. It's easy for us to decide what our agenda is and move forward with new plans. The priority is to discern our direction, suspend our judgment in order to sense God's guidance through prayer, paying attention to thoughts, inspirations, our communities and be open to new experiences. (For a better understanding of discernment see <https://cofchrist.org/discernment/>)

Our growth will be linked to our degree of spiritual formation. Growth is dependent on love. Love that is contagious. Love in action that reflects Jesus' mission of peace and justice with mission outreach that changes lives. Love that invites others to join the cause of building the peaceable kingdom. *"There are many lives waiting to hearing the redeeming words of the gospel or to be lifted from hopelessness by the hands of loving servants"* Doctrine and Covenants 162:7a. We are called to become emissaries of peace and justice, love and reconciliation - temple people with hearts dedicated to living the gospel. We will become who we are called to be if we focus on living in sacred community rather than on our fear of transformation. ***Every person must courageously respond.*** Our hope and prayer is that you are ready and willing to venture into that future.

Your Mission Centre Presidency Team

Mary Jean Belrose, Dawn Dawson, Vonda DenBoer

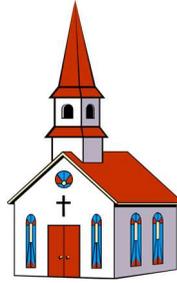
Standing on the Promises: Now what?

Here's the church,

Here's the steeple,

Open the doors,

Where are the people?



Times have certainly changed and many of us long for the days of yesteryears gone by when our churches were bustling with activity all throughout the week. Remember the days when there were two worship services on Sundays, a full slate of Sunday School classes, choir practice and prayer service during the week, plenty of potlucks, church picnics, baptisms, and so much more. Now, the reality is that many of us are struggling to keep just one worship service alive with only a handful of people. It's the last piece of familiarity that we cling to in hopes that something miraculous might happen. Meanwhile, for many congregations, offerings and other income are not near enough to carry the expenses of our empty aging facilities.

In reality, we are in new territory and have been for some time. The hard truth is that no rearranging of our schedule, repackaging our worship or switching the furniture will likely attract enough new people to help keep us moving forward. The fact is that churches everywhere are dealing with the same issues—aging membership, declining numbers, empty buildings, and challenges from the pandemic. According to a study done by Barna in 2014, the top two reasons people do not attend church is that they find God elsewhere and they do not find church relevant.

The \$5,000,000 question is how do we now reach people to share this incredibly remarkable community that we cherish? Truthfully, we don't know any other way than what we have lived and breathed for all of our life. And we simply continued the form from the foundation that we inherited—gathering in our buildings for study, worship, meetings, potlucks, etc. So now what? It may feel like a huge void as we try to discern what the next part of our journey will look like without a map or some concrete plan before us.



It's a well-known fact that people fear change, right? The fashion and electronic industries seem to believe otherwise. So do the weight loss and travel sectors. All of them are doing very well thanks to our desire for something different. Actually, we don't know how to live without change. Change brings new possibilities even if they are unknown, uncertain, unstructured, unproven, or freaky. We are now in a place where we can keep everything the same or we can make a difference, but we cannot do both.

Many years ago, I was inspired by the saying, "If you're not living on the edge, you're taking up too much space" (Morgan Freeman). It made me think about all the comfortable spaces that I was hanging out in. Yes, I may have known what to expect and could avoid surprises. But I wasn't going to

ever experience new opportunities and I wondered what I was missing by being overly cautious. Was there something more that I might be able to do?

Stress is compounded for congregations with very few members and a building that is crushing the budget. Do we continue to love it or should we list it weighs heavily on the hearts of all stakeholders? Although ownership of all facilities in our Mission are held in trust by World Church and managed by the Bishop of Canada, Canada East Mission is NOT the body who will decide for congregations. You are the author of your congregation’s future. Perhaps it may be necessary to crunch some numbers in order to determine the financial health of the congregation and to note any trends.

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Attendance					
New members/friends					
Deaths/losses					
Contributions					
Other income					
Total facility expenses					
All other expenses					

Important questions to consider:

- What do the numbers tell us?
- If we keep doing what we’ve always done, where can we expect to be in 5 years?
- What do we want to dedicate our time and energy to?
- What is your congregation here for?
- What is God doing in our midst and in our neighbourhood?
- How could we contribute to our community to make a difference?
- If we sold our facility and were gifted with a portion of the funds for mission, what would that make possible?

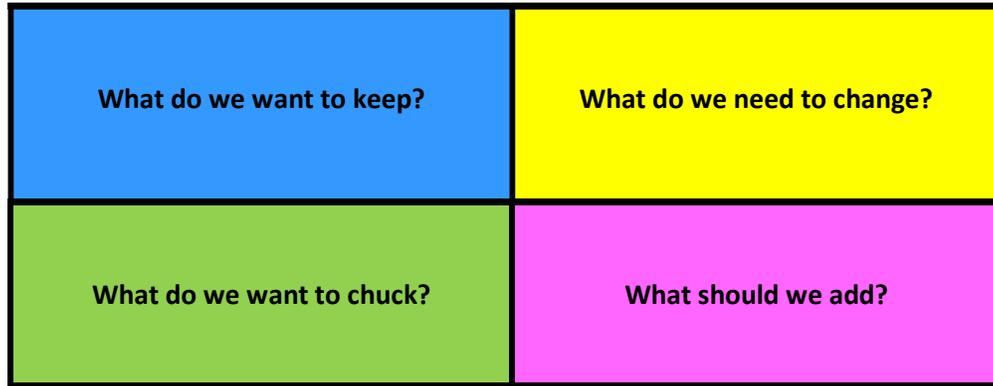


Certainly, sale of a facility will cause grief. The walls are filled with voices and memories from the past. Undoubtedly, many of our ancestors sacrificed blood, sweat, tears and finances for our spiritual homes. We can be grateful for all that they provided. For without their gifts, we would not likely be reaping the benefits today. Are we letting them down by choosing to let go of the bricks and mortar? Or are we letting them down by using up all of our resources until we are forced to turn the lights off and walk out the door empty handed?

We need to take an honest look at whether the building’s purpose has passed and ask if it truly is supporting mission and ministry or if we are serving the building with our limited energy and resources. The transition may feel scary, and we may be full of emotion and fear. But no matter where we land, we take the most important things with us for the ride—the people, our faith, values, passions.

Whether we continue with or without our building, positioning ourselves to meet the challenges of a new age is vital. There are things that we used to be able to do and we still can do. There are things that we could not do, and we still can't do. There are also things that we could do before but can't do now. And there are things that we could not do before that we can do now.

It may be helpful when thinking about the future to fill in each of the quadrants.



Remember, “The early church leaders didn’t have the things we now consider essential for our faith. They didn’t have official church buildings, vision statements or core values. They had no social media, radio broadcasts or celebrity pastors. They didn’t even have the completed New Testament. Christ-followers were often deeply misunderstood, persecuted and some gave their lives for their faith. Yet they loved, and they served, and they prayed, and they blessed—and slowly, over hundreds of years, they brought the empire to its knees. They did it through love.” (Read more in *Sacred Roots: Why the Church Still Matters*)

“Lift up your eyes and fix them on the place beyond the horizon to which you are sent. Journey in trust, assured that the great and marvelous work is for this time and for all time.” D&C 16:1a

We are called to be disciples of Jesus Christ and to share generously our faith, to create communities of joy, hope, love and peace. We can close our mind and lose the opportunity to make change. Or we can open our mind and risk disappointment for a chance to make a difference. If we take a deep breath, can we see opportunities? What’s in it for us? What’s in it for the people in our communities? We get to write this new part of our story. The road may be bumpy, and it may feel weird, but the promises are sure. Fasten your seatbelts!

“The Spirit of the One you follow is the spirit of love and peace. That Spirit seeks to abide in the hearts of those who would embrace its call and live its message. The path will not always be easy, the choices will not always be clear, but the cause is sure and the Spirit will bear witness to the truth, and those who live the truth will know the hope and the joy of discipleship in the community of Christ. Amen.” (D&C 161:7)

Camping Ministries Report

By Stacie Brookshaw, Nancy Brookshaw and Melissa Freer

We're All Together Again! It was a long time to wait, but we finally did it. We gathered again, in person, for some of our summer camps! There were some hard decisions to make, and some creative strategies put into place. A huge thank you goes out to everyone who was involved in the careful planning of these camps.

Each camp, each campground and each experience is unique and valued. Whether you attended at Ziontario Campgrounds, Camp Noronto, Erie Beach Campground or at McGowan's Lake, the feeling of being together again, in God's sacred space was definitely there.

Your love for our sacred camping community is what will keep us building community year after year. We will continue to grow and share this hidden gem of ours with as many people as we can. This little light of mine...let's let it shine and share it with everyone!

2022 Camping Program

Here's a list of our camps we were able to run this year:

Loaves and Fishes Reunion - Ziontario Campgrounds

Healing and Freeing Reunion - Ziontario Campgrounds

Erie Beach Reunion - Erie Beach Campgrounds

Noronto Reunion - Camp Noronto

McGowan's Lake Family Reunion - McGowan's Lake Campgrounds

Summer Youth Retreat - Ziontario Campgrounds

Retirees Retreat - Camp Noronto

Child and Youth Worker Training

A reminder that every staff at camp needs to be a Registered Child and Youth Worker through the Community of Christ. The Child and Youth Worker training is now available online and can be found by clicking [here](#). The paper work can be found by clicking [here](#). Both the training and the paper work need to be submitted to become registered.

Camp Kitchen Staff

For those of you interested in cooking for any of our camps, the FOOD SAFETY HANDLING course is required. This is also available online. For safe food handling please contact Melissa Freer.

2023 Camping Season

We have some exciting plans for next year and camp planning is already underway. Here is the tentative lineup for our 2023 Camping Season!

EVENT	LOCATION	DATES
Loaves and Fishes Reunion	Ziontario Campgrounds	July 1 - 7
Kids Camp Retreat	Camp Noronto	July 7 - 9
Jr. High Camp	Ziontario Campgrounds	July 9 - 15 (to be confirmed)
Kids Camp	Ziontario Campgrounds	July 16 - 20 (to be confirmed)
Healing and Freeing Reunion	Ziontario Campgrounds	July 22 - 28
Erie Beach Reunion	Erie Beach Campgrounds	July 29 - August 6
Noronto Reunion	Camp Noronto	August 12 - 19
Sr. High Camp	Camp Noronto	August 19 - 26
McGowan's Lake Reunion	McGowan's Lake	To be confirmed
Thanksgiving Retreat	Ziontario	To be confirmed
Retirees Retreat	Noronto	To be confirmed

If you are interested in joining one of our camps as a staff, director, or camper OR have any questions or ideas, please reach out to one (or all) of the following and we can point you in the right direction.

Nancy Brookshaw - nancybrookshaw@communityofchrist.ca

Stacey Brookshaw - staceybrookshaw@communityofchrist.ca

Melissa Freer - melissa@communityofchrist.ca

Don't wait until next summer to reach out. We would love to hear your thoughts, to answer your questions and to help support each other in our amazing camping ministries.

With much love,
Nancy, Stacey and Melissa

Canadian Peace / Justice Committee - June 2022 Report

The Committee was formed in April 2007, primarily to support local congregations in our attempts to be “. . . dedicated to the pursuit of peace.” Activities were again hampered because: (a) the Chair’s 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. Continued our Climate Change Crisis Subcommittee

Our primary efforts have been to feed into The North American Climate Justice Team. Originally intended to create an October 2020 Colloquy, the team had to pivot and now has an ongoing webinar series that includes world-class scientists and others with a deep and wide background on key topics.

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:

- a. **Indigenous Relations:** We have some key resources thanks to Barb Oldale’s address at the CWM 2017 Mission Conference and also, Tracy Smith. This is only a start – contact us if interested in helping. It has been updated for the recent discovery of child and unmarked graves.
- b. **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 and has been updated due to recent events.
- c. **Buying Fair Trade** coffee where possible, which supports the “Abolish Poverty” initiative.
- d. **Expanding the church’s Canadian Peace/Justice website.** We added a statement on the war in Ukraine. Overall, while our website is 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 2nd 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 the following (if interested in any topic, please contact a committee member):

- **Mental Health and 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?**
-

In appreciation and support,

The Canadian Peace/Justice Committee

Anna Jean Bradley	Canada East	Betty Williams	Canada West
Bryce Taylor	Canada East	Don McLeod	Canada West
Sariah Middleton	Canada East	Rod Downing	Canada West, Chair
Steve Northey	Canada East	rdowning94@shaw.ca	604-535-6550



By John Hamer

With the end of pandemic restrictions, we have been able to expand back from online only gatherings to resume in-person meetups. As with so many other aspects of church life, the past few years have given us pause to reflect on how we do things: what is essential? What matters most as we attempt to respond to the call of mission?

Creating Connection has long sought to help disciples overcome the challenges we face in responding to the first mission initiative: “Invite People to Christ.” How can we be more effective at invitation and more truly welcoming to seekers? While many disciples have found fulfillment organizing and facilitating conversation meetups (“Coffee & Conversation”), others feel called to explore missional activism or spiritual practices.

Troy Roach, director of Creating Connection for Canada East this year has developed the “Travelling Labyrinth Ministry” as a way for disciples and congregations to employ a meaningful spiritual practice as an invitational ministry. Concerning the ministry, Troy writes:

“Like the Temple in Independence, symbolizing God’s summons to pilgrimage, Labyrinths can take us into the intimate center of God and propel us outward into mission: to embody wholeness and grace in a suffering world. It is written that “the road to transformation is the path of the disciple” (D&C 161:3d), and the invitation into the experience of walking the labyrinth, affirms our understanding of the inward/outward journey toward God’s shalom, a movement toward wholeness, to finding the mystery of Christ, who is the center of faith. But it is also much more.

Labyrinths can be deployed as spiritual tools in countless ways, such as prayer, discernment, meditation, reflection, insight, processing grief, reducing stress, etc., and they can also be applied in a variety of settings. Now the labyrinth may look like a maze, but you can’t get lost. There is only one entry; the path in is the path out. It is a spiritual venture into the center and back again. And the thin place of the labyrinth offers an opening to our own transformation, so that we may not only deepen our faith, but also heal ourselves, and strengthen the virtues we need to heal the world.”

For the “Traveling Labyrinth Ministry,” Creating Connection makes use of the two canvas labyrinths owned by the Canada East Mission Centre. Because these labyrinths

are portable, they are being made available to and for congregations, camps, retreats, community groups, social service organizations, etc. — as a body, mind, spirit, wholeness experience for members, staff, clients and the local community. It is perfect for the heart/spirit-minded person passionate to lead something deeply impactful for others. And it is a different kind of “entry point” for those seeking belonging, meaning, and purpose in their lives.

Creating Connection brings the labyrinths, signage, handouts, presentation and mentorship. They handle all the local arrangements. By planning and working together, an experience is created that empowers self-expression, community building, awareness, education, and ways to make relationships and engage in dialogue. Some of the outcomes could result in others wanting to lead a labyrinth experience for their group or repeating the experience and seeing it grow in attendance, becoming its own connection group. Maybe it inspires someone to lead a charge to build a permanent labyrinth for the community, or to lobby city council to fund such an idea. It could even bring people together to revive an overgrown labyrinth nearby, or open the door for labyrinth use in schools, hospitals, jails, shelters, and more.

The beauty of the labyrinth is how it can mean different things to different people — where diverse paths find expression in this unifying way. Because of that, invitation is possible to everyone and anyone! The value and benefit can be expressed through almost any lens. When we invite people to Christ, to a connection activity with Christ at the center, where the mission of Jesus Christ matters most... we are inviting everyone into sacred community.

Creating Connection upholds the Travelling Labyrinth Ministry as a “Community Peace Project” because it can create pathways in the world for peace in Christ to be relationally and culturally incarnate. **If you would like to partner with Creating Connection to offer this ministry in your area, please contact Troy Roach (troy@creatingconnection.ca).** Together, let’s invite everyone to help build communities of joy, hope, love, & peace — Christ’s mission — our mission.



By John Hamer

The tradition of Reunions is at the heart of Community of Christ identity. Many individuals who are active in local congregational life also find meaning and share community and mission through our camping programs. For others who are not regularly involved in congregational life, Reunions are their primary intersection with the church. The All Voices Process continued through the summer with the resumption of in-person camping programs across Canada. Art Smith attended the Noronto Reunion and the Healing & Freeing Ziontario Reunion and John Hamer attended the Ziontario Loaves & Fishes Reunion, the Erie Beach Reunion, the BC Reunion at Samish Island, and the Hills of Peace Reunion.

At all of these camps, the conversation continued as we shared the many hopes and concerns that we have been hearing from the diversity of voices who make up the rich tapestry of Community of Christ in Canada. After more presentations, workshops, sermons, listening circles, and one-on-one conversations, some common themes are beginning to take shape:

- Desires for greater connections across Canada;
- Help for struggling congregations;
- Greater transparency in the Canadian church structure experienced via our tradition of common consent;
- A desire to share and live mission in ways that are meaningful to the communities outside the walls of our buildings; as well as
- Hope for sharing the load with new allies, friends, and seekers.

The next phase of our process will be to articulate some of these themes in a draft of our shared strategic vision for moving forward sustainably as Community of Christ in Canada. Our goal for the new year is to assemble an almanac that collects the many ways that our congregations, our reunions, our charitable affiliates, our various councils and networks, new mission expressions, and individual disciples and seekers are currently living mission across Canada. With this snapshot, we hope to celebrate mission together --- sharing our local ideas, inspirations, innovations, our success as well as lessons learned from our missteps --- to bolster our individual efforts by sharing them in sacred community. **To share what you and your group have been doing, please email John Hamer (john@centreplace.ca) for details and instructions.**

How is God calling us to be communities of Christ in Canada in the 21st Century? Let's share together the diversity of answers!

Encounter World Religions

Since my last report to you in 2018, well...a few things have changed!

Reorganization

- Legal: CEM finances made it necessary for Encounter to create an independent legal existence and so EWR is now its own Canadian charity. We have a new board, chaired by the generous and brilliant Lew Shepherdson.
- Strategy: EWR identified corporate diversity consulting as the key area to grow revenues and make EWR self-sufficient.
- Funding: We (mostly Lew) secured a grant from the Shaw Foundation to help EWR through this transition. This grant has been critical.
- Staffing: With that funding, we hired a Managing Director, the immensely gifted Karen McKay, and a virtual admin person (Adriana Fierastrau) who have really helped elevate Encounter's approach to the corporate world.

Work, School, Public

- These are the three areas where EWR tries to make a difference
- Public: We are doing programs with lifelong learners, community groups, and almost monthly talks with [RoadScholar](#) (you can sign up on their website).
- School: We worked online with schools during the pandemic but now, visits are returning.
- Work: This is the key to our future. So far, things have been going very well. We have won speaking engagements with the federal government, municipalities, multiple police services, and private corporations like Hyundai, Kinross, and Magnet Forensics. We are in some discussions for programs where the size and payoff would be unlike anything we've ever done. These are unhatched eggs and not chickens – but there's promise.

Discovery Week

- We ran our first in-person Discovery Week in three years and it was a great success! Despite having only 90 days to market it, we were near sell-out capacity.
- While many attendees came out of pure interest, we had more corporate attendees (coming for PD reasons) than ever before: 4 education executives, officers from 3 police services, 2 HR professionals, and a health care professional.

Blog/Newsletter

- We have a bi-weekly newsletter that comes out highlighting our blog and stories in the news. You can sign up at [ReligionsGeek.com](#).

Donations

- You can help! We are embarking on so many changes in staffing, planning, marketing, etc. But money is not plentiful. If you've got any amount you can share, we would be immensely grateful. You can donate [here](#).

You did this! You created this wonderful centre that has no parallel in Canada. Take a bow!

Project Ploughshares

By John Nichols

Project Ploughshares takes its name and its vision from the ancient biblical vision in the Book of Isaiah in which the material and human wealth consumed by military preparations are transformed into resources for human development, thereby removing the roots of war itself.

The word 'peace' appears far more often in the Bible than 'justice', 'righteousness', 'grace' and 'mercy'. The Bible witnesses to the creation of the world by God who intends that creation reflect the fundamental harmony we call 'shalom'. We derive our understanding of security from a vision of peace informed by the biblical idea of shalom, which encompasses not simply the absence of war but a state of well-being and harmony among people and with nature. The prophet Isaiah gives us the vision of the 'peaceable kingdom' where the wolf shall dwell with the lamb (Isaiah 11:1-9).

Project Ploughshares operates under the belief, shared by all 25 member denominations of The Canadian Council of Churches, that war is to be and can be avoided. The use of force in national and international relations is to be minimized. Conflict is to be resolved as much as possible in the interests of justice and without resort to violence. The use or threat of use of nuclear weapons cannot be justified under any circumstances and are contrary to the will of God.

Project Ploughshares was established as the peace research institute of The Canadian Council of Churches to give practical expression to the fulfillment of God's call to bear witness to peace, reconciliation and non-violence and to contribute to the building of a national and international order that will serve the goals of peace with justice, freedom and security for all.

While Community of Christ is not currently a member of The Canadian Council of Churches we have been allowed to join Project Ploughshares as a participating member. We are currently the only church involved with Project Ploughshares that is not a member of The Canadian Council of Churches.

Last year I was placed as the representative from Community of Christ on the Project Ploughshares Management Committee. The Management Committee meets four times per year, in person should covid allow, or via zoom when in person meetings are not practicable. The meetings are generally two days long and cover a wide variety of topics related to peace.

Our participation with Project Ploughshares allows this vital group to see Community of Christ in action and allows The Canadian Council of Churches to see that we are a community dedicated to peace.

Sionito Community Development Corporation

By Bryce Taylor CEO, John Hamer President: Sionito Group of Charities

Even as the One you follow reached out to those who were rejected and marginalized, so must the community that bears his name. (D&C 162:6c)

During COVID Canadians, maybe for the first time, recognized that the rejected and marginalized were in the nursing homes, boarding homes and senior apartments just down the street. In 2020, 14,140 excess deaths (senior deaths above normal expectations) occurred in our neighbourhoods.¹ Canada, in comparison to other countries did not do well.

Canadians now and into the future will need to find better ways to protect their seniors' population. Church meet ups, congregations and conferences are good places to dialogue about our rejected and marginalized seniors. A good resource to use is the book by Andre Picard, *Neglected No More*.



The Sionito Group of Charities is pleased that members from the Community of Christ have such a strong sense of mission as stated above in D&C 162:6c. Our report this year is simple. When our Canadian society was struggling to protect the marginalized seniors from COVID, our Bill McMurray Residence determined none of our seniors would be rejected or marginalized on our watch. **We report that we lost no seniors to COVID.** Our community of seniors and staff strategically planned ways to implement isolation measures; upgrade to disinfectant-

based cleaning, isolate by closing the dining room and delivering meals to the units, masking, and strict adherence to Public Health policies. We patiently, but with concern, tried to work with those in our community who did not have the cognitive ability to follow the COVID plans nor understand that in the first waves this was a life and death situation. A residence close to our location in Toronto lost 16 residents in the first wave, simply by not acting quickly enough.

We invite all who are interested as individuals or as congregations to unite with us in joining our missions together. Our mission and the non-profit projects that it has generated are described at www.sionito.ca. **Especially, we invite seniors wanting to help fellow seniors** through donations or legacy inclusions. We want to take this opportunity to thank the many individuals from the Community of Christ who sent money in a timely manner to ensure our otherwise impoverished seniors would have working TVs during isolation.

WORLD ACCORD UPDATES

UPDATES

- We have recently hired a new Executive Director. Kristin Douglas started in April 2022.
- We have recruited three new Board Members. In June, Stephen Thompson, Stephany Ospina Coral and Juhi Shah joined our Board.
- We are no longer partnered with PRR in Honduras
- We are looking to expand our work into new countries if we can secure funding
- Our main office has moved from Kitchener to Ottawa and is now located at Heartwood House at 404 McArthur

CURRENT PROJECTS

Women for Peace and Democracy-

- Works in districts affected by domestic violence as well as areas where women have a lack of economic opportunities
- Addresses gender inequality in rural communities by empowering women to participate in income generating activities and decision making in their communities. They also provide training in domestic violence prevention and advocacy around women's rights (they reach 472 women across 15 women's groups)
- Currently have one project funded through our Global Affairs Canada (RENEW project - four-year project to enhance social and economic empowerment of women and girls)

Mujeres en Accion

- Partnership began in 1991 to support indigenous women who were survivors of army assaults
- They work across 41 rural women's groups on agricultural activities and small businesses
- They train the women's groups to address food security through agroforestry and access to microloans
- We currently support them in their focus on environmental improvement through soil restoration and community organizing

Association of Local, Agricultural, Technology Transfer Committees of Yojoa Lake

- Partnership began in 2022 to support existing CIALEs (Investigative Agricultural Committees) created with PRR
- ASOCIALAYO is an organization of smallholder farmers' families that contributes to the improvement of their communities by implementing appropriate technologies, using local resources in agriculture, improving education, health as well as reinforcing community-based organizational structures.
- They promote organic farming and participatory agricultural research.
- We currently support them in their focus on reinforcing their members' capacities while strengthening their organization

Association for Community Development, Environmental & Multiple Services

- Improving lives of marginalized women and girls through economic empowerment across 11 communities in El Salvador
- Activities include agriculture, animal-raising, microloans, training and education (working mostly in rural areas where people have no government support)
- They reach more than 500 people in the community

CURRENT NEEDS

- Funding for our Socioeconomic Transformation Program for Women and Marginalized – SEWAM program in Nepal. The project aims to empower women that are traditionally excluded socially, economically, and politically to live dignified life in the society.
- We are currently in need of more monthly donors to be able to sustain the entirety of our work
- We are also looking for volunteers in the Ottawa area to help with a Trivia Fundraiser on October 27th. We could also partake in fundraising via Bingo's if we had two volunteers a week, this would earn approx. \$2,500/month in revenue.
- We will be having a Charity Trivia night on October 27th at the Lieutenants Pump in Ottawa starting at 7pm. We will email the Ottawa Congregation and surrounding Congregations the registration information so that folks can attend and support World Accord.

Zerin Development Corporation, 615 Colborne Street, London, Ontario

September 13, 2022

303 Commissioners Road - Zerin Place Seniors Apartments

This 40-unit apartment building for independent seniors 65+ opened in 1985 and it is fully occupied.

Over the years tenants have looked out for each other, especially when the only elevator was modernized and inaccessible for several weeks. The opening of the community room recently, being closed since March 2020 was welcomed by tenants who can gather again while observing recommended health measures.

Over this past year maintenance and repairs have been done on the exterior brickwork and balconies as part of a strategic maintenance plan.

In addition, a plan has been put in place to upgrade the apartment units with new flooring, bathrooms, kitchen appliances and cupboards, etc. This refurbishment will bring the apartments up to current standards after thirty years with the original design. So far this year Zerin's Operations Committee has managed to upgrade five of the units when some resident turn over occurred as our average age of residents is mid eighties.

The Operations Committee has been advised that CMHC will pay up to 40% of the total renovations' costs with a maximum \$600,000 grant. The committee is preparing a proposal to CMHC that includes the exterior work, apartment refurbishments, hallways and common room refurbishment so that we can utilize as much of the \$600,000 grant as possible and complete all items under our building strategic assessment plan.

Residents are pleased and excited with the upgrades which does not have any impact on the current rental rates.

440 Clarke Road - Zerin Place on Clarke Road

440 Clarke Road was completed one year ago with residents occupying the building starting in September 2021. All 65 apartment units, including rent reduced affordable and CMHC market rent are occupied.

Zerin partnered with a number of support agencies to house clients in need for fully barrier-free units and lower rent units.

Prior to occupancy, Zerin launched its Building a Caring Community initiative. Management reports *"The tenants have been having monthly gatherings in the courtyard. They have been building a community and its great to see! They had an ALOHA bash Bar B Que on Canada Day and dressed up in Hawaiian attire. The live in Building Superintendent couple join in and supports these joyful gatherings in their helpful way."*

<https://zerindevelopment.ca/>

370 South Street - ZerIn Place on South Street

The third ZerIn property soon to be developed on the Old Victoria Hospital Grounds in London SOHO has been purchased as of September 8th by the Vacant Land Condominium (VLC) that has been set up for the five non-profits who are working jointly to develop their own buildings on the main site. ZerIn will include 118 units with barrier free and affordable rents mixed in with CMHC market rental units.

The sixth non-profit partner is not part of the VLC as their site is across the street on a separate lot.

The project is more ambitious than past developments for ZerIn as it includes an underground parking garage shared by four of the individual non-profits. ZerIn will have 90 parking spots in the underground parking garage. The apartments will have in-suite laundry in each unit and the design has included community rooms and a courtyard similar to Clarke Road.

The City of London is developing a community park on the corner of the property and our building will overlook the park on the one side.

We anticipate breaking ground late October with an anticipated occupancy in the fall of 2024.

<https://www.lcf.on.ca/vision-soho-alliance>

Strategic Planning

The ZerIn Board of Directors has started the process to develop a new five-year plan as the strategic action plan developed in 2018 comes to its successful completion. With new ventures and opportunities on the horizons, ZerIn is excited to develop a new strategic action plan that will guide and direct us over the next five years as we develop the current sites and look towards the future in order to assist in providing affordable accommodations in the London and area communities.

This aligns with our Mission, Vision and Values

Our Vision

ZerIn strives to create diverse, inclusive, respectful communities where people live in dignity with hope and joy.

Our Mission

To develop and manage affordable housing initiatives in which a sense of community and mutual respect can flourish.

Our Values

Empowerment

We will create conditions and systems wherein tenants can feel supported and empowered to do for themselves.

Compassion

We will strive for empathy in all of our endeavors and actions to truly understand the situation others find themselves in.

Inclusiveness

We will strive for inclusiveness where all persons, regardless of culture, socio-economic background, beliefs, abilities or limitations feel valued and enabled to contribute.

Accountability

We will ensure our business policies and practices are held to high standards of accountability but with preference for solving problems and working out solutions with mutual respect.

Diversity

We will regard differences and diversity (of social and economic status, level of ability, etc.) as assets that can enrich our community.

Respect

We will respect the inherent dignity and worth of every person with whom we work and we will cultivate an environment where all people are treated with dignity and care.

Submitted on behalf of ZerIn Development Corporation

Ron Rowbottom

Vice President

New Property Development Committee Chair

ZerIn Development Corporation

Hamilton New Expression

By Kerry Richards

For me, the transition from thousands of names on a collective database and online interactions to one of truly present in-person sharing has been profound. In the local proximity of my new ministry area lies our recent sold church building and a closed congregation. Those few remaining members, none with on-line technology, have been literally disconnected from the church for over 3 years except for occasional phone calls and others on the periphery a decade or more. This represents the reality of many closed and soon to close congregations.

Over time, contact information is now inaccurate, other inactive members have moved into the area unknown to us and the entire whole amounts to either a lost cause OR an opportunity for a new expression. There are always reasons why someone becomes a church refugee. So many still harbour within their hearts a legacy connection, BUT there are also hurts, guilt, unresolved feelings, relevance issues and changed belief identities.

A new beginning is far from automatic. The road to restored trust is a journey of vulnerability, deep listening and caring. It is pastoral in nature, yet you have to earn the relational, healing, reconciling right to even a conversation. Each conversation is the birth of a reframing of what was into a relevant New Expression of our emerging faith community. Diversity of spiritual needs, personal meaning, irrelevance of traditions, identity confusion and a sense of community belonging vary greatly. These renewing conversations take time.

The obstacle in faith community bridging is me and you. We are not fixing others. We are not providing answers. The Spirit guides the way. Ego gets in our way. The most powerful space is to not know, to surrender, listen, and then rely on discernment, Mission Prayer mindfulness and enter into conversation, allowing the Spirit to move through you and the other. We become an opening for awareness, understanding, belonging and the Spirit's presence.

This translates into possibility. A spontaneous heartfelt comment in a gathering last week from a lost decade member shared, "this time of reconnection, of reframed understanding, of spiritual experience has changed my life." The nods of others confirmed this. Her resistant journey has not been easy and these words for me fully encapsulated the parable of the found lost coin. JOY!!

The 2nd area of calling is Seekers in our local community. Following the Creating Connection model of hosting meetups in the Marriott courtyard, local coffee shops and a monthly community meal at Swiss Chalet, relationships are forming with the more spiritual than religious.

One by one we are forming sacred community. Our hub for gathering is a Marriott hotel which has become sacred space. Our gatherings are anything but typical. Our emphasis is mindfulness and spiritual practices to experience the Blessings of Wholeness. Our time together is rich and fully about interactive sharing. We have experienced healing moments through laying on of hands. We invite and affirm the diversity of lifestyles, faith expressions and spirituality. Small in numbers we exude vision, hope, joy, and love with the promise of sacred community.

Perhaps we are an emerging New Expressions model of hope for post pandemic realities facing many congregations. Our vision is to be a local Blessing of Wholeness where lives are lived in side-by-side community.

Who Does What on The Mission Centre Presidency Team?

Your Mission Centre Presidency Team is a volunteer team who share the responsibility of leading and supporting mission in Canada East Mission. We work to strengthen congregations, help congregations experience mission, develop leadership and community building and support leaders and operations of camping ministries.

We have been asked who does what which is a difficult question to answer as we have each been working diligently to assist congregations throughout the Mission Centre on a variety of issues including discernment and strategic planning, so have not typically divided up the Mission Centre or primary responsibilities. Our availability varies so, typically we respond as able but have found areas of strengths that have prompted us to divide our focus as noted below. Each has taken ex-officio responsibility for a campground and are finding sharing of that role for McGowans Lake campground to be the most sensible option at this time.



Mary Jean Belrose

- Communications
- Strengths in New Expressions / Ideas for Ministry
- Zionsville Campground Ex-Officio

Dawn Dawson

- Strengths in Financial Matters including Shelby
- Strength in Networking
- Noronto Campground Ex-Officio

Vonda DenBoer

- Priesthood matters
- Education
- Bylaw Issues
- Erie Beach Campground Ex-Officio

Appendix A

COMMUNITY OF CHRIST - CANADA EAST MISSION CENTRE
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2021

COMMUNITY OF CHRIST - CANADA EAST MISSION CENTRE
INDEX TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2021

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INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Members of: Community of Christ - Canada East Mission Centre

Opinion

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of Community of Christ - Canada East Mission Centre, which comprise the statement of financial position as at December 31, 2021 and the statements of changes in reserve funds, operations and changes in unrestricted net assets and cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies.

In our opinion, these financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Community of Christ - Canada East Mission Centre as at December 31, 2021 and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not for profit organizations.

Basis of Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are independent of Community of Christ - Canada East Mission Centre in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in Canada, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Responsibilities of Management and Those Charged with Governance for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not for profit organizations and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is responsible for assessing the organization's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to a going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the organization or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the organization's financial reporting process.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements, as a whole, are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards, we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the organization's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the organization's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the organization to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.



Guelph, Ontario
June 23, 2022

Chartered Professional Accountants
Licensed Public Accountants

COMMUNITY OF CHRIST - CANADA EAST MISSION CENTRE
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
AS AT DECEMBER 31, 2021

	2021	2020
ASSETS		
CURRENT		
Cash	\$ 297,676	\$ 91,736
Accounts receivable	1,844	9,168
Government wage subsidy receivable	0	5,252
Prepaid expenses	500	500
Government remittances recoverable	<u>4,399</u>	<u>3,831</u>
	<u>304,419</u>	<u>110,487</u>
INVESTMENTS (note 4)	<u>1,635,537</u>	<u>1,839,450</u>
CAPITAL		
Equipment	4,959	10,488
Less: Accumulated amortization	<u>(4,959)</u>	<u>(10,488)</u>
	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
	<u>\$ 1,939,956</u>	<u>\$ 1,949,937</u>
LIABILITIES		
CURRENT		
Accounts payable	\$ 727	\$ 1,271
DEFERRED REVENUE	<u>1,000</u>	<u>1,000</u>
	<u>1,727</u>	<u>2,271</u>
NET ASSETS		
RESERVE FUNDS		
Internally restricted reserve funds	1,428,765	1,493,082
Externally restricted reserve funds	<u>38,841</u>	<u>40,586</u>
	1,467,606	1,533,668
UNRESTRICTED	<u>470,623</u>	<u>413,998</u>
	<u>1,938,229</u>	<u>1,947,666</u>
	<u>\$ 1,939,956</u>	<u>\$ 1,949,937</u>

COMMUNITY OF CHRIST - CANADA EAST MISSION CENTRE
STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN RESERVE FUNDS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2021

	2020	Revenue	Expenses	Transfers	Investment Income	2021
INTERNALLY RESTRICTED						
Camping (Reunion) ministry	\$ 78,256	\$ 2,800	\$ 839	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 80,217
Youth camping/ministries	161,663	48	0	0	16,376	178,087
Leadership development	3,694	549	1,035	0	0	3,208
Growth and expansion	1,103,315	146,025	61,639	(200,964)	49,533	1,036,270
Encounter World Religions	146,154	91,329	125,346	18,846	0	130,983
Revitalization	0	0	182,118	182,118	0	0
	<u>1,493,082</u>	<u>240,751</u>	<u>370,977</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>65,909</u>	<u>1,428,765</u>
EXTERNALLY RESTRICTED						
Gary Vanzant memorial fund	40,586	0	4,000	0	2,255	38,841
	<u>\$ 1,533,668</u>	<u>\$ 240,751</u>	<u>\$ 374,977</u>	<u>\$ 0</u>	<u>\$ 68,164</u>	<u>\$ 1,467,606</u>

COMMUNITY OF CHRIST - CANADA EAST MISSION CENTRE
STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS AND CHANGES IN UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2021

	2021	2020
REVENUE		
Congregational quotas	\$ 113,862	\$ 115,536
Investment income	37,034	30,119
Government wage subsidy	19,470	27,435
Shared Service Support	<u>900</u>	<u>450</u>
	<u>171,266</u>	<u>173,540</u>
EXPENSES		
Office salaries and benefits	68,756	68,421
Building operating expenses	32,640	32,640
Professional fees	10,457	10,168
Equipment repairs and maintenance	1,842	993
Regional activities - net	<u>946</u>	<u>774</u>
	<u>114,641</u>	<u>112,996</u>
EXCESS OF REVENUE OVER EXPENSES for the year	56,625	60,544
UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS, beginning of year	<u>413,998</u>	<u>353,454</u>
UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS, end of year	<u>\$ 470,623</u>	<u>\$ 413,998</u>

COMMUNITY OF CHRIST - CANADA EAST MISSION CENTRE
STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2021

	2021	2020
CASH PROVIDED BY (USED IN) OPERATING ACTIVITIES		
Excess for the year - unrestricted fund	\$ 56,625	\$ 60,544
(Deficiency) excess for the year - reserve funds	(66,062)	265,091
Items not requiring an outlay of cash		
Unrealized gain on investments	<u>(34,939)</u>	<u>(113,521)</u>
	<u>(44,376)</u>	<u>212,114</u>
Changes in non-cash working capital		
Accounts receivable	7,324	12,596
Government remittances receivable	(568)	(941)
Accounts payable	(544)	203
Government remittances payable	0	(4,193)
Government wage subsidy receivable	5,252	(5,252)
Deferred revenue	<u>0</u>	<u>(6,273)</u>
	<u>11,464</u>	<u>(3,860)</u>
	<u>(32,912)</u>	<u>208,254</u>
CASH PROVIDED BY (USED IN) INVESTING ACTIVITIES		
Investments	<u>238,852</u>	<u>(221,080)</u>
NET INCREASE (DECREASE) IN CASH	205,940	(12,826)
CASH, beginning of year	<u>91,736</u>	<u>104,562</u>
CASH, end of year	<u>\$ 297,676</u>	<u>\$ 91,736</u>

COMMUNITY OF CHRIST - CANADA EAST MISSION CENTRE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2021

1. NATURE OF ORGANIZATION

The purpose of the organization is to proclaim Jesus Christ and to promote communities of Joy, Hope, Love and Peace within the Canada East Mission Centre and through its connection with World Church into the world. The Mission is a not for profit organization and a registered charity and, accordingly, is exempt from income tax.

2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The organization's accounting policies are in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not for profit organizations and include the following significant accounting policies:

(a) BASIS OF ACCOUNTING

The organization follows the deferral method of accounting for contributions with fund accounting. The unrestricted general fund accounts for the organization's development and administrative activities. Externally and internally restricted funds have been set aside for designated purposes.

(b) REVENUE RECOGNITION

Unrestricted contributions are recognized as revenue in the year received or receivable if the amount can be reasonably estimated and collection is reasonably assured.

Designated contributions, which are either internally or externally designated, are recognized as revenue of the designated reserve fund in the year received or receivable if the amount can be reasonably estimated and collection is reasonably assured.

Interest income and other revenue is recognized when earned.

Government wage subsidy revenue is recognized in the period the related expense occurs, once eligibility has been determined.

(c) CAPITAL ASSETS

Capital assets are recorded at cost and are amortized on a straight-line basis over four years.

(d) IMPAIRMENT OF LONG LIVED ASSETS

Long lived assets are tested for recoverability whenever events or changes in circumstances indicate that their carrying amount may not be recoverable. An impairment loss is recognized when the carrying value exceeds the total undiscounted cash flows expected from their use and eventual disposition. The amount of the impairment loss is determined as the excess of the carrying value of the asset over its fair value.

(e) USE OF ESTIMATES

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with Canadian accounting standards for not for profit organizations requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities, the disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the year. Significant estimates used within these financial statements include useful lives of capital assets, government wage subsidies and the valuation of accrued liabilities. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

COMMUNITY OF CHRIST - CANADA EAST MISSION CENTRE
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2021

2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

(f) FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

Measurement of financial instruments

The organization initially measures its financial assets and liabilities at fair value.

The organization subsequently measures all its financial assets and financial liabilities at amortized cost, except for investments, consisting of fixed income and equity portfolios, which are measured at fair value. Changes in fair value are recognized in the appropriate fund to which the investment belongs.

Impairment

Financial assets measured at amortized cost are tested for impairment when there are indicators of impairment. If an impairment has occurred, the carrying amount of financial assets measured at amortized cost is reduced to the greater of the discounted future cash flows expected or the proceeds that could be realized from the sale of the financial asset. The amount of the write-down is recognized as an expense in the appropriate fund to which the investment belongs. The previously recognized impairment loss may be reversed to the extent of the improvement, directly or by adjusting the allowance account, provided it is no greater than the amount that would have been reported at the date of the reversal had the impairment not been recognized previously. The amount of the reversal is recognized as revenue in the appropriate fund where the investment belongs.

Transaction costs

The organization recognizes its transaction costs as an expense in the appropriate fund where the investment belongs in the period incurred. However, financial instruments that will not be subsequently measured at fair value are adjusted by the transaction costs that are directly attributable to their origination, issuance or assumption.

3. FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

Unless otherwise noted, it is management's opinion that the organization is not exposed to significant interest, credit, currency, liquidity, or other price risks arising from the financial instruments.

The extent of the organization's exposure to these risks did not change in 2021 compared to the previous period.

The organization does not have a significant exposure to any individual customer or counterpart.

4. INVESTMENTS

Investments, recorded at fair value, consist of various fixed income, mutual funds and equity portfolios. Investment balances related to each fund are as follows:

	2021	2020
Operating	\$ 462,402	\$ 572,689
Church Expansion	943,627	1,051,714
Youth Fund	190,938	174,670
Gary Vanzant Memorial	<u>38,570</u>	<u>40,377</u>
Total	<u>\$ 1,635,537</u>	<u>\$ 1,839,450</u>

COMMUNITY OF CHRIST - CANADA EAST MISSION CENTRE
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2021

5. TRANSFERS

All interfund transfers were allocations among internally restricted funds, as disclosed on the statement of changes in reserve funds, in order to consolidate and align internally restricted funds with their specific purposes.

6. UNCERTAINTY RELATED TO THE NOVEL CORONAVIRUS

The impact of the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) in Canada and the global economy continued during the fiscal year. Although the disruption from the virus is expected to be temporary, given the dynamic nature of these circumstances, the duration of business disruption and the related financial impact cannot be reasonably estimated at this time. This may impact the timing and amounts realized on the organization's assets and its future ability to deliver all services.

Appendix B

Provisions for Providing Online Conferences

The COVID-19 pandemic has caused many adjustments to the functions of Community of Christ entities (i.e., congregations, mission centers, etc.). One of those functions is conducting conferences/business meetings when members are not able to attend public gatherings.

Background

Many organizations have utilized electronic meeting formats to conduct their business. Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised (11th edition), the Community of Christ parliamentary authority, states that, "Except as authorized in the bylaws, the business of an organization or board can be validly transacted only at a regular or properly called meeting—that is defined as a single official gathering in one room or area (pages 81-82)—of the assembly of its members at which a quorum is present." (On page 97.) Community of Christ bylaws do not contain such a provision. However, they do allow for certain administrators to "recommend procedure" for conducting business and "do such other things as will best protect the interests of the church." (Articles V and VI). In the spirit of these provisions of the bylaws, the First Presidency is authorizing mission centers and congregations to utilize electronic meetings to conduct business. There are some general principles that need consideration when holding an electronic meeting.

These include:

- Providing "simultaneous aural communication" for each participant.
- To the fullest extent possible, all provisions of electronic meetings should provide equal participation and fairness for each participant.
- Ensure that the electronic platform used provides sufficient connections so that all who want to participate can do so. The platform needs to allow for connections from a variety of devices (i.e., computers, phones—smart or landline, and tablets.)
- It is important that careful consideration be given to the specific needs and contexts of the mission center or congregation. Guidelines developed for electronic meetings at a mission center or congregation need to be reviewed and approved by the next-higher administrative officer.
- Mission center officers should consider holding special conferences as defined by Community of Christ Bylaws and described in the Church Administrator's Handbook. Using the option of special conferences allows for shorter online meetings that address specific essential business items. Other items of business shall be deemed out of order and deferred until the mission center can meet in person.

Conference Preparation

Providing discussion forums for questions and perspectives prior to the conference can make for a much more efficient meeting. Pre-conference sessions contribute to the church's efforts to build consensus and promote common consent.

Mission center presidents should send notice to all congregations with the date and time of the conference. It is highly recommended that an online conference be used to manage essential business and that other items of business be deferred until the mission center can meet in person. Essential business items include:

- a. Sustaining and electing essential officers (normally president and financial officer and their counselors)
- b. Approving mission center budgets

c. Approving priesthood calls for seventy, high priest, bishop, evangelist
Legislative Guidelines for Mission Center Conferences

Zoom Procedures

Zoom is the recommended platform for annual business meetings. Information for connecting should be provided to all members attending the conference. Anyone having difficulty connecting may connect with the conference technical support to seek assistance.

1. The person responsible for registration shall determine who is a voting member of the conference, admit those members into the meeting service, and report a list of voting members to establish the presence of a quorum.
2. Members shall identify themselves as required to connect to the meeting and maintain meeting access throughout the meeting whenever present. Members shall sign out if leaving the meeting before adjournment.
3. Each member is responsible for their meeting connection. No action shall be invalidated on the grounds that the loss of, or poor quality of, a member's individual connection prevented participation in the meeting.
4. The host shall mute all participants to avoid echo and other potential difficulties. When a person needs to speak, they will unmute themselves. (If a participant is on a phone that does not have the mute feature, they can press *6 to unmute and mute themselves.)
5. The chair may disconnect or mute a member's connection if it is causing interference with the meeting. The chair's decision to do so, which is subject to an undebatable appeal that can be made by any member, shall be announced during the meeting and recorded in the minutes.
6. A time limit for speaking for or against a resolution should be established for the conference. This is especially important if the allotted time for the conference is reduced. When appropriate, the chair should follow the rule of alternates.
7. When attempting to obtain the floor to state a point of order, requesting to speak out of order, or other needs such as objecting, a participant shall unmute themselves and state their name and the reason for seeking the floor (i.e., "Bill Jones, point of order," "Susan Smith, point of personal privilege").
8. To seek recognition by the chair, a member shall _____ (options might be to unmute and speak out, raise hand on screen, use reaction icons on Zoom). If a participant wishes to second a motion, they may unmute themselves and simply state "second."
9. Amendments and main motions proposed during the meeting shall be typed and sent to the secretary and chair whenever possible. The screen sharing function on Zoom can be used. When an amendment is moved it should be audibly restated by the Chair.
10. To streamline a voting process, the chair can use a practice of unanimous consent by first asking if anyone objects to the approval of a motion. If there are no objections, the motion shall be adopted. Otherwise, each person connected through a device shall

express their vote.

11. The voting and polling features in Poll Everywhere count only one vote per connected device, therefore, each voting member requires their own unique device to cast a vote.
12. If a participant leaves the meeting, it shall be assumed that they chose to do so, and the meeting shall continue. The meeting does not stop simply because the person left.
13. Because of the possibility that the chair might lose their electronic connection, it is important to designate a designee to serve as the chair pro tem. This person shall assume the chair and the meeting shall continue. Similarly, someone should be made a co-host in case the host, whether that is the chair or someone else, loses their connection.

Reporting/Recording Conferences

Making a record of the conference is essential to ensure that all decisions made by the conference are carried out appropriately.

1. A conference secretary should record the minutes of the conference. As with all minutes, only action taken by the conference is recorded. Actual comments and speeches of the debate are not recorded in the official minutes.
2. Using Zoom makes it possible to record video and audio. It is recommended that the conference use this procedure and keep the digital recording with the official minutes.