

Minutes of the 20th CEM Conference
Held October 21, 2023, 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Woodfield Congregation, London and Online

The conference opened at 10:05 am. Attendance was confirmed at:

71 In person delegates and Ex-officio
11 In person visitors
61 Online delegates/Ex-officio

1. Gathering Sing-along led by Leandro Palacios

Participants gathered to sing “We Are a Family of God” CCS #350 and “Bring Many Names” CCS #5.

2. Welcome

Mission President Mary Jean Belrose welcomed everyone. She thanked the tech team who were helping us with the conference online and in-person. She also thanked Woodfield for hosting the in-person gathering. Mary Jean acknowledged the loss of members who passed recently: Stella Robson and Judi Hopkin.

3. Land acknowledgment - video presentation.

4. Invocation

The invocation was offered by Rick Badder of Brydges Congregation.

5. Review of Housekeeping and technical items, and procedures for voting in-person and online, parliamentary guidelines on pages 7-8, Standing rules pages 14-15 - Mary Jean Belrose.

6. Moment of Blessing

Pam Luce, Beyond the Walls Congregation accompanied by Linda Hammond of Michigan with flute (original composition).

7. Greetings from World Church Representatives

Apostle Art Smith brought greetings to all of us from World Church and the First Presidency and asked for continued prayers for President Steve Veasey.

President of Seventy Juanito (John) Glaser brought greetings to us from Apostle Angela Ramirez from the Dominican Republic and from the Seventy Quorum.

Mission President Vonda DenBoer assumed the chair.

- 8. Call to Order** by Vonda DenBoer at 10:53 am
- a. Conference Procedures and Parliamentary Guide (page 78)
 - b. “We Commit” (page 6)

9. Mission Centre Presidency Team Remarks/Report (see pages 32-34)

10. Motion to Approve Credentials Report

Melissa Freer reported 71 in-person delegates and Ex-officio, 11 In person visitors and 61 online delegates and ex-officio.

Moved by John Nichols, Woodfield congregation.

Resolved, That the Credentials Report be approved as corrected and submitted.
(See pages 16-19)

Carried **CEM 23 - 312**

11. Motion: That the Standing Rules for CEM Hybrid Conferences be adopted

Moved by Dawn Dawson - Providence Bay

#11 of the proposed Standing Rules is struck because of redundancy to the preamble of the Standing Rules. (see Page 15)

11a. Motion to Amend #7 and #8 of the Standing Rules.

Scott Baker of Scarborough Congregation moved that clauses 7 and 8 be replaced by the following amendment:

7. No delegate is allowed to speak in debate more than twice on the same question on the same day or longer than ten (10) minutes without permission of the Conference. This will be granted by a two-thirds ($\frac{2}{3}$) vote without debate. These time limits may be extended for non-English speaking delegates whose remarks require translation. Individuals called to provide information are not governed by this rule.

Discussion ensued.

John Nichols, Woodfield, raised a point of privilege on behalf of hard-of-hearing persons. The chair accepted the point and ordered that a microphone be reversed to face the congregation.

11b. An Amendment to the Amendment

Laura McKinnon – North Bay, moved to amend the amendment (which substituted different numbers for the time values):

12. A Moment of Blessing – John Nichols, Woodfield Congregation

11b. Debate resumed.

7. No delegate is allowed to speak in debate more than twice on the same question on the same day and no longer than five (5) minutes for the first speaker for and against and three (3) minutes for all subsequent speakers without permission of the Conference. This will be granted by a two-thirds ($\frac{2}{3}$) vote without debate. These time limits may be extended for non-English speaking delegates whose remarks require translation. Individuals called to provide information are not governed by this rule.

Dariq Wolseley – Woodfield, moved the previous question and to close the debate on all matters.

Voting on the previous question and closing the debate passed.

The vote on the amendment to the amendment was taken.

11c. A vote was taken on the amendment as amended.

7. No delegate is allowed to speak in debate more than twice on the same question on the same day and no longer than five (5) minutes for the first speaker for and against and three (3) minutes for all subsequent speakers without permission of the Conference. This will be granted by a two-thirds ($\frac{2}{3}$) vote without debate. These time limits may be extended for non-English speaking delegates whose remarks require translation. Individuals called to provide information are not governed by this rule.

Carried

11d. Original motion as amended.

Resolved, That the Standing Rules for CEM Hybrid Conference as amended be adopted. (see pages 14-15)
(Amendments include Amendment of #7 and Striking #8; Renumbering #9, 10 and #11.)

Carried

CEM 23 – 313

13. Approval of 2022 Conference Minutes

Moved by Lorie Mootrey, LaSalle

Arlene Caldwell – Awakening Spirituality, indicated several errors:
#3 Capitalize Heathers, #7b “Glaser” misspelled, and #12 change “slat” to “slate”
Resolved, That the minutes of the October 2022 CEM Conference as corrected be approved. (see Pages 20-27)

Carried

CEM 23 – 314

14. No further business arising from the minutes was noted.

The chair was relinquished to Apostle Art Smith.

15. Motion to approve slate of Mission Centre/Conference Officers (see Pages 28-30)

Resolved, That PAT PALLISTER 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

Resolved, That DAR SHEPHERDSON be sustained as Mission Centre Financial Officer

Resolved, That NANCY BROOKSHAW be sustained as Camping Leadership Team

Resolved, That STACEY BROOKSHAW be sustained as Camping Leadership Team

Resolved, That MARY JEAN BELROSE be sustained as Mission Centre President

Resolved, That DAWN DAWSON be sustained as Mission Centre President

Resolved, That VONDA DENBOER be sustained as Mission Centre President.

Moved by John Nichols, Woodfield

Resolved, That the slate of Mission Centre /Conference officers as read be sustained.

Carried
CEM 23 – 315

The chair was returned to Mission President Vonda DenBoer.

16. Mission Council

Moved by Ron Rowbottom, Woodfield

Resolved, That the following individuals be sustained as Canada East Mission Council for 2024. (see Page 35)

Jon Abbey

Steve Northey

Bryce Taylor

Aarika White

Twyla Glassford

Lew Shepherdson

Vickie Thatcher

Tina Heathers

Kerry Spencer

Joan Thompson

Carried
CEM 23 – 316

17. Acknowledgements

- Ruth and John Black acknowledged The Mission President Team, the Mission Council and the CEM staff

- Campground leaders, boards, and all who participate in the running of reunions and camps
- Congregational leadership teams and Pastors
- New Ordinands
- People who have gone before us and passed on

Bryce Taylor and John Hamer recognized Kerry Richards and Dar Shepherdson for their contributions on the board for The Zionito Program and presented each of them with a plaque.

The conference recessed for Lunch at 12:35.

Conference was called back to order at 1:37 p.m.

18. Update on Canadian Community of Christ - Apostle Art Smith

19. Moment of Blessing- Johan Koeslag from Grand Valley congregation.

The chair was relinquished to Mission President Dawn Dawson.

20. Financial Reports and 2024 Budget

Dawn Dawson presented the Auditor's Report in Appendix A.

20a. Moved by John Nichols of Woodfield congregation.

Resolved, That the Auditor's Report on the Canada East Mission operating account and various funds for 2022 be approved. (Appendix A Pages 3-4)

Carried
CEM 23 – 317

20b. Moved by Lorrie Mootrey of LaSalle congregation.

Resolved, That the conference approve the appointment of RLB Chartered Professional Accounts as auditors for 2023. (Appendix A page 3)

Carried **CEM 23 -318**

20c. Moved by Hank Bates from Brydges congregation.

Resolved, That the Canada East Mission budget for 2024 be approved. (Appendix B)

Carried
CEM 23 – 319

21. Disciples Generous Response by Lew Shepherdson - Ottawa Congregation.

The chair was returned to Vonda Denboer.

22. Report on CEM Bylaws – Special Committee by Scott Baker (Page 11)

Scott Baker, Scarborough congregation, requested that the two recommendations in the report be voted on separately.

22a. Motion to Approve Dialogue on Member-based vs Delegate-based Conferences]

Moved by Scott Baker of Scarborough congregation.

Resolved, That the Mission Presidency encourages ongoing dialogue on the matter of delegate and membership-based conferences with congregations in order to establish consensus. Any subsequent recommendations emerging may be presented when an appropriate level of consensus is believed to be achieved.

Carried
CEM 23 -320

22b. Motion to Amend Conference Bylaw 2-C

Moved by Scott Baker of Scarborough congregation.

Resolved, That Article 2-C be Amended to read: Conferences should be held annually, and special conferences may be called more often; (IV.1;IV.4;VI.5) As directed by World Church, such conferences could be in-person, electronic or hybrid, but all voting must be in real time. (Underline Indicates Amended Text)

Carried
CEM 23 – 321

23. Moment of Blessing – John Nichols

24. Motion to Amend Conference Bylaws Regarding Notice (page 13)

An Objection to the Consideration of the Motion was raised by John Nichols –Woodfield Congregation - Defeated on a 2/3rd vote.

Moved by Scott Baker of Scarborough Congregation

Resolved, That the text of Article 5 be stricken and replaced with the following text which is in harmony with Community of Christ Bylaws Article IX - Amendments:

"CEM Conference Bylaws may be amended at any CEM Conference by a two-thirds vote, provided that notice of the full text of such proposed amendments is published to the CEM membership at least sixty days prior to the convening of the CEM Conference at which they will be considered."

Discussion ensued.

Vonda showed a comparison of the original article 5 and the amended Article 5.

Carried
CEM 23 – 322

25. Any New Business - no new business

26. A Moment of Blessing - Ruth Black - Kitchener Congregation

Acknowledgement of Beyond the Walls Choir and playlist.

27. Adjournment

Vonda thanked everyone for their patience and participation in this conference. The conference was declared closed at 3:13 p.m.

Announcements – Mary Jean Belrose

- Evaluation of the conference
- Day of Fasting, October 29, 2023, for discernment for our next World Church President
- E-Herald in Every Home
- Sunday October 22, 2023 – Ordination of Vonda DenBoer and Dawn Dawson at Woodfield congregation
- ‘What’s Happening’ online announcements
- Special Conference in April for any motions for World Conference
- Kathy Baker announced November 28, 2023 – ‘Giving Tuesday’
- Kid’s Calendars to order – info to follow

Hymn CCS #651 “Send Me Forth”

Benediction by Don Millard, St. Thomas Congregation.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Pat Pallister".

Pat Pallister
Conference Secretary