

Creating Connection

By Troy Roach, Canada East Director

In Canada East Mission, we had a productive and engaging year, focusing on supporting congregations and fostering new initiatives. We shared best practices, experiences, and provided technical, marketing, and training support to groups across the mission centre.

Key collaborations included:

- **Awakening Spirituality:** Supported Spirit Quest gatherings at their new Spiritual Centre in the former Proton congregation building.
- **Barrie Congregation:** Co-organized World Religion Day with the Bahá'í community, participated in the Coldest Night of the Year fundraiser, Wonder Walk with Simcoe KAIROS, and mentored the Official Barrie Scrabble Club.
- **Kitchener Congregation:** Supported Coffee & Conversation, launched a Coffee & Cards meetup, and explored live-streaming opportunities.
- **Walkerton Congregation:** Supported their weekly in-person Coffee & Conversation group.
- **Perth Congregation:** Helped establish a Coffee & Conversation group led by a member who relocated from Kitchener.
- **Port Elgin Congregation:** Collaborated on their summer Labyrinth experience and provided guidance on technology upgrades.
- **Whole Food Plant-Based Efforts:** Supported community-driven initiatives from the Collingwood area.
- **Reaching Out Congregation:** Provided mentoring, support, and resources for ongoing efforts.
- **Camp Groups:** Engaged with Ziontario, Noronto boards, and the Senior High team.
- **Healing & Freeing Retreat:** Introduced our Deep Listening workshop, inviting adoption by other communities.
- **Watercolor Class Community:** Continued support for their growing online community.

In addition to these collaborations, we modeled effective social media use, connection group ideas, and aligned our efforts with national recognition days. We also assisted in event descriptions, optimized technology use, and improved communication strategies.

Training sessions were offered on platforms like Canva (graphic design), Mailchimp (communications), and Corsizio (registration). Recorded resources are now available for ongoing use.

Interest in the connection group model remains strong, with regular requests from across Ontario. These conversations help share insights, support ideas, and bring visions to life.

As society shifts spiritually, with fewer people knocking on church doors, Creating Connection continues to meet the growing need for belonging, meaning, and purpose—helping people make a positive difference in the world.