



Community of Christ

CHRIST'S MISSION, OUR MISSION

October 24, 2020

Mission Centre Financial Officer 2020 Report:

I don't have to tell you that this past year has been a year that we will remember for a long time, and now we are preparing to enter into 2021 with many more fears and the same uncertainty we felt in 2020.

As your MCFO, it has demanded my attention in managing all the assets and resources where we have some level of control, contributions, investments, expenses, and support of our dedicated congregational CFO's. I will tell you that we have weathered the first storm as best we could. You as members have continued to support the Mission Centre financially, working with our investment manager to minimize the market uncertainty and fluctuations, limited our expenses to the essential needs and events that supported the growth and mission of the Church, and was available to work with CFO's and Congregational Leaders who had questions or financial needs caused by the Covid-19 pandemic.

In 2020 almost all of our planned in-person events were cancelled, revenues and expenses normally associated with these events were not received or incurred. Even with the uncertainty surrounding events happening next season, our 2021 budget reflects similar revenues and expenses as 2020 with the hopes that we will be able to run all the events we have planned, I will continue to work with the planners and business managers to provide meaningful and successful programs.

I want to thank all the congregational leadership teams for their support this past year, I also want to thank the CEM office staff for their continued dedicated professional work in sometimes-trying settings.

I want to express my hope and faith that we as a mission centre will continue to be a positive testimony of what faithful dedicated members can do when living the mission of Christ.

Thoughts on the Purpose of the Canada East Mission Centre

The *Church Administrators Handbook—2005 Edition* (p. 15) proposes this purpose for mission centres:

Mission Centers exist to support congregations, facilitate church expansion, and provide linkage between World Church ministries and congregations.

The statement continues by providing a list of twelve “Key functions” of which some are highlighted:

- Financial resource development and support
- Technical assistance to congregations – legal, risk management, real estate, etc
- Specialized ministries (e.g., children, youth, young adult, singles)
- Leadership development, missionary ministries, church planting, and human resources

With those points considered, the following is a brief outline the core purposes of the Canada East Mission Centre that underly the desire to provide the programming as presented in our budgets and the other supports that do not necessarily show up as a program or event with a budget.

Canada East Mission Centre exists for the following purposes:

- To support congregational leaders (i.e., pastors, financial officers, and priesthood) with training and educational opportunities, as well as counselling and direction when necessary, to help them provide the best leadership possible to their congregations.
- To support the reunions/family camps, youth camps (all ages), retreats, and occasional workshops to ensure collective opportunities for sharing in sacred community. These events provide for learning about church initiatives to encourage spiritual growth and strengthening of personal faith. Such events also provide skills and training for the leaders for these events and for leaders and attendees to use in their home congregations.
- To creatively envision the future of the church in Eastern Canada and consider possibilities beyond traditional congregations for the expression of the Community of Christ in the twenty-first century.
- To model and promote the Community of Christ identity, mission, message and beliefs of the church as currently expressed in *Sharing in Community of Christ, Fourth Edition*. This helps ensure a common understanding our Scriptures, Basic Beliefs, Enduring Principles, Mission Initiatives, and other primary statements placed before us by the World Church leadership.

Presented for consideration and discussion by leaders and members. Responses are welcome.

Thank you, and blessing for you and your families

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