

## Summary of Pre-Legislative Meetings for Conference (10/22/2024 & 10/23/2024)

### Overview

The pre-legislative meetings held on October 22 and 23, 2024, focused on preparations for the upcoming Mission Center Conference, addressing financial matters, logistics, and a website tour. The meetings explored logistical details for the conference, including online accessibility, and voting processes. The discussions also touched on financial planning for 2025, and ensuring inclusivity for all attendees, whether in-person or online.

### Key Topics Discussed

#### 1. Conference Preparations:

- **Check-in Procedures:** Melissa was tasked with preparing check-in procedures, particularly for late arrivals attending only the afternoon business meeting. Additionally, attendees were encouraged to visit the iPad set-up in the fellowship hall for in-person attendees to greet and interact with online participants, fostering a sense of inclusion between the two groups.
- **Voting Process:** One highlight was the importance of ensuring that participants understood the voting process, particularly the “raise hand” feature for parliamentary priority actions. It was emphasized about making this process clear to all participants, with Vonda taking responsibility for ensuring the necessary guidelines were communicated effectively to online attendees.
- **Inclusivity and Accessibility:** Concerns were raised regarding participants who may not be tech-savvy or lack access to the necessary technology. The group discussed options such as voting by phone or participating with other assistance.

#### 2. Financial Matters:

- **2025 Budget Review:** Sam, the new financial officer, presented the projected budget for 2025, which included allocations for both mission and camp programs. He clarified the differences between non-restricted funds and reserve funds, explaining that reserve funds could be either restricted or unrestricted. Discussions included the budget’s implications for local congregations and potential areas for adjustment, including advertising and public relations activities at the congregation level.
- A specific point of discussion revolved around the junior high camp program, with Catherine raising the possibility of allocating funds for it. Sam confirmed that any such allocation would require an amendment to the existing budget. The team was in favor of exploring options to ensure sufficient support for camp programs.
- **Canadian Corporations' Financial Profile:** Sam provided a detailed overview of Canadian financial corporations, noting that 41 million dollars were distributed across three funds, with 25 million allocated to the operating fund. These figures also included liabilities held on

behalf of congregations and campgrounds. A question was raised about the potential merging of Canadian East and West, but Sam confirmed this would not impact the financial balance sheets.

- Ron sought clarification on Erie Beach’s financials, specifically distinguishing between program-related expenses and broader campground expenses. Sam clarified that his calculations were consistent with previous years and that further details would be provided in the final 2024 report, expected by the end of December.
- **Conference Financial Logistics:** Sam agreed to be available during the designated Q&A time on Saturday to answer any further questions regarding the budget and other financial matters. Dawn emphasized the importance of arriving early for setup, ensuring everything was in place for the smooth running of both the online and in-person components.

### 3. **Website Navigation and Updates:**

- **Website Features:** Troy led a comprehensive review of the Community of Christ Canada website, walking the group through its various features, including the event calendar, staff directory, search functionality, and resources for congregations. He also demonstrated the AI companion chatbot, which would be available to assist conference attendees with real-time questions.
- Troy emphasized the importance of keeping the website updated, particularly ensuring that details regarding congregations were current. Feedback on improving the website was encouraged, especially concerning the placement of search boxes. Wayne suggested relocating them to a more prominent place on the homepage, a recommendation the team agreed to consider.
- Troy highlighted the benefits of the “What’s Happening” newsletter, urging everyone to sign up and encouraging other participants to do the same. The team agreed that it was a useful tool for keeping members informed about key events, updates, and resources.

### 4. **Draft Policy on Priesthood Relationships:**

- The priesthood relationships draft policy was another important topic discussed during the meetings. Discussions on the policy are planned for November 3rd and 4th, with no formal vote expected during the conference but an open forum and presentation.
- Vonda was assigned the task of reviewing the process for online participants to raise priority actions during the business meeting and ensuring that the guidelines were clear to all attendees.