

The Canadian
Council of Churches

founded in 1944



Le Conseil canadien
des Églises

fondé en 1944

*Minutes of the Governing Board Meeting
Saint Paul Residence & Conference Centre, Ottawa
May 14-16, 2014*

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PRESENT

Anglican Church of Canada	The Ven. Jim Boyles The Ven. Bruce Myers
Canadian Baptists of Ontario and Quebec	Dr. Scott Kindred-Barnes Rev. Tim McCoy
Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops	The Most Rev. Ronald Fabbro Mr. Bede Martin Hubbard Msgr. Noel Simard
Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Canada	Dr. Robert Steffer
Christian Reformed Church N.A., Canada	Mr. Anthony Elenbaas Dr. Jim Payton
Coptic Orthodox Church of Canada	Dr. Ibrahim El-Behery Fr. Ammonius Guirguis
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada	The Rev. André Lavergne Ms. Pat Lovell
Mennonite Church Canada	The Rev. Dr. Willard Metzger
The Polish National Church in Canada	Dr. Jasmine DøCosta
The Presbyterian Church in Canada	The Rev. Carol Wood
Regional Synod of Canada ó Reformed Church in America	The Rev. John Kapteyn
Canadian Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)	Dr. Rosemary Meier
The Salvation Army	Lt. Col. Jim Champ
United Church of Canada	The Rev. Erin C. Burns The Rev. Doug Martindale Ms. Nora Sanders

COUNCIL OFFICERS

President	Lt. Col. Jim Champ
Past-President	The Rev. Bruce Adema
Vice President	The Rev. Dr. Susan Eagle
Vice President	Archpriest Cyprian Hutcheon
Vice President	The Rev. Dr. Das Sydney
Treasurer	Mr. Larry Brennan

COUNCILGROUPS/COMMISSIONS/COMMITTEES

Canadian Interfaith Reference Group	Ven. Bruce Myers (on behalf of Gail Allan, chair)
Commission on Justice and Peace	Ms. Joy Kennedy, Co-Chair
Personnel Committee	Rev. Alan Hall
Constitution Committee	Rev. Doug Martindale

VISITORS/GUEST

Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada The Rev. David Wells
Yonge Street Mission The Rev. Dr. Rick Tobias
World Vision Canada The Rev. Dr. Don Moore

COUNCIL STAFF

General Secretary	The Rev. Dr. Karen Hamilton
Commission on Faith and Witness -Associate Secretary -Assistant Coordinator	Dr. Mary Marrocco Dr. Thomas Hentrich
Executive Assistant	Ms. Diane Meredith
Communications Officer	Mr. Jesse Hair
Recording Secretary	Ms. Emma Burns
Intern	Jacob Liao

MEMBERS/OBSERVERS NOT REPRESENTED

Apostolic Catholic Church	Canadian Baptists of Western Canada
Friendship Ministries Canada	Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada

REGRETS

Dr. Gail Allan	Fr. Peter J. Avgeropoulos
Hon. Bill Blaikie	Maj. Gillian Brown
The Rev. Bernard DeJonge	Mr. Peter Derrick
Angie Draskovic	L.K. Father Messale Engeda
Joe Gunn	Rev. Stephen Kendall
Dr. William Koopmans	Fr. Alexander Laschuk
Ann Mitchell	Rob Ogalvie
Dr. Peter Reid	Rev. Bill Ryan
The Ven. Marion Vincett	Mr. Bruce Walter
Mr. Alemayehu Zenebe	

Sunday, March 16th

1.	OPENING PRAYER
	Jim Champ read from the book of Micah and led the opening prayer.
2.	REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES
	<p>Jim introduced the agenda for approval, and went through the changes. (News from Project Ploughshare is no longer part of this meeting.)</p> <p>Question was raised as to whether there would be a time to report back on the parliament meetings. Joy indicated that this will take place during the talking circle. Karen suggested that next time on the agenda we label this as "Report Back".</p> <p>Jim moved to accept the agenda and Bishop Fabro seconded. The motion was carried. Doug moved that the minutes from the last meeting be adopted. Jasmine seconded. The motion was carried.</p>
3.	WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS
	Each member introduced themselves and their denomination.
4.	FINANCE REPORT
	<p>Larry Brennan reported that the audit went more smoothly this year, with an operating surplus of a little over \$9,000 (mostly due to the support of our members). He also reported that despite Project Ploughshares' operating deficit there is definitely a sense of hope, and that they are going through a strategic planning process this year and will give us a full report in the fall meeting.</p> <p>He then gave an update on the fund that came under the direction of the CCC in 2013, explaining that the Churches Council of Theological Education transferred \$150,000 to us (with specific negotiations on guidelines), with the hope that it will sustain their operations for a long time to come.</p> <p>Larry also specifically asked that if any of the denominations would be willing to send in their contributions earlier this year, rather than at the year's end, it would be much appreciated.</p> <p>Larry and Matthew Pupic of Project Ploughshares have signed off on the financial statements simply indicating that it is accurate information. It is common that the auditors give a qualification as well. (Revenues are detailed on page 3.) Member statements are available, for everyone to see how their own organization did.</p>

	<p>The Finance Committee has recommended to the Governing Board the approval of the audited financial statements and appointment of Graham Mathew as auditor for the 2014 fiscal year.</p> <p>There was a request for the following, for the purpose of CRA charity audits: an invoice for membership fees, audited statements, the annual report, and the percentage of activities that are considered political activities by the CRA.</p> <p>Larry answered that that will come with the T3010 in June. It was requested that if possible this percentage be available for the end of May.</p> <p>Larry agreed that he and Diane will make sure to send these documents to all Governing Board Members. The only issue would be in terms of the membership grants, as these would not appear on “accounts receivable” (as they are on the basis of good will, and are treated as receivable but without being such for accounting purposes). An invoice on letterhead, however, is available, and Karen pointed out that we already send these out.</p> <p>Susan moved to approve the audited financial statements for the year ending December 31 2013, as presented. Tim seconded. Motion carried.</p> <p>Susan moved that the president and treasurer be authorized to sign them. Andre seconded. Motion carried.</p> <p>Susan moved to approve the auditors for 2014 fiscal year. Doug seconded. Motion carried.</p>
5.	<p>EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT</p>
	<p>Doug Martindale was asked to give a brief report on Oiko Canada affiliation. He summarized that Oiko Credit applied in 2013 for affiliate status, and it was agreed that they meet our criteria under article 7. The Constitution Committee therefore recommends to the board that they be approved.</p> <p>After some discussion and clarification, Carol made a motion to accept Oiko Canada’s affiliate application. Pat seconded. The motion was carried.</p> <p>Karen confirmed that we will let Oiko know, and thanked those involved.</p> <p>Next, Susan Eagle, vice-president, was asked to speak about the plans in place for the November Assembly</p> <p>Next, Karen took a moment to go over the Triennium Priorities.</p>

6.	NEWS OF THE MEMBERS
	<p>Jacob joined us, as did representatives from the Ethiopian Orthodox church.</p> <p>We divided into groups of five and shared news from our denominations with each other, also discussing what expectations we have for the Governing Board meeting this week. Each group was invited to share with the larger group afterwards.</p>
7.	COMMISSION ON JUSTICE AND PEACE
	<p>Joy walked us through climate justice work. She also introduced Jacob, a U of T student working with us on climate justice.</p> <p>Joy noted that we haven't yet fully articulated the Framing Principles for Witness and Action, and encouraged the board to review the work on this question included in the package. She also cautioned that because the Framing Principles document is a draft, we don't want it circulated yet, but that we are looking for feedback and comments for improvements - not additions per se, but theological introduction may be needed.</p> <p>Joy also asked the churches to get on board with the Fast for Climate Justice, and Jacob was invited to speak about his experience working on this project.</p> <p>Mike then spoke about the Dignity for All campaign and Citizens for Public Justice, and noted that there are significant opportunities for all church communities to reflect on National Poverty Reduction and Elimination strategy. He also encouraged everyone to be aware of the work done by the Centre for Community Based Research on immigration and refugees.</p> <p>Questions were invited and thanks were offered to Joy and Mike.</p>
8.	REPORT ON VISIT TO THE HILL
	<p>The delegation that had already gone to the PMO was invited to report to the group. Karen commented that it was very striking that they asked to hear back from us and asked us for materials, even asking us to help inform them on the issues. It was noted that we need to follow through on that and continue building that relationship. (It was pointed out that Doug, as a retired parliamentarian, could be helpful with our questions on how to do that.) Jasmine added that Cynthia, from the PMO's office, had invited us to come regularly instead of once a year.</p> <p>Joy then gave a talk, reminding those delegations that are preparing to go to the Hill about why their work is important, and how best to approach these meetings, as well as answering logistical questions. We also had an opportunity to go over the topics once more that we planned to bring up.</p>

	Each group leader gathered their delegations for tomorrow to debrief.
9.	PANEL 6 CLIMATE JUSTICE, ENERGY, AND THE ECONOMY
	<p>Susan introduced the panel speakers, and referred to the draft document which was circulated.</p> <p>Dr. John Stone spoke to the group on the science of climate, in lay terms, followed by a talk by Claire Demerse about where we stand on climate change in Canada, and what needs to happen next.</p> <p>Kathy Vandergrift introduced the draft paper in our packages, and spoke to the conversation on the intersection of climate change, faith, and economy, looking for a set of principles that we can use to have this conversation. She invited the group to take it and look at it, to speak more about it at our next meeting.</p> <p>Jacob spoke about the climate fasting initiative, inviting everyone to visit the links to the initiative on social media.</p> <p>The group broke into small discussions of two or three, to speak about how their own denomination was connecting on climate change.</p> <p>Joy asked that if anyone has any comments on the draft principles, submit them to your representative on the Commission on Justice and Peace, or forward any comments you might have to Joy and Peter, who are working towards having this as a consensus policy document for the council. Joy said it would be okay to circulate this <i>carefully</i> (to own staff for instance, but not electronically where it could end up anywhere.)</p> <p><i>[End of Day's Sessions]</i></p>
10	TALKING CIRCLE: ECUMENISM AND PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT
	<p>The group welcomed Nora Saunders, Mary M, Bishop Simnard, and Rosemary Meier, who joined us today.</p> <p>Joy invited everyone to come back to the circle and share their experiences from the Parliament Hill visits and each person was asked to briefly summarize their impressions of the visits in the day.</p>
11	CHAPLAIN GENERAL

	<p>Karen introduced the Chaplain General, Padre Fletcher, who provided an update on the work and ministry of our military chaplains. After the talk, an opportunity was given for questions and discussion.</p>
12	WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY
	<p>Thomas went over the most recent year's Week of Prayer events, providing figures related to our great increase in donations this year while the week was focused on Canada. He then introduced the theme of 2015's Week of Prayer, "Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink" (John 4:7)</p> <p>Tim suggested that an access card with a code could track who and when is downloading the materials, if we gave a different code to each denomination's he agreed to shared this with Jesse.</p>
13	CIRG
	<p>Bruce Myers (in place of Gail Allen) delivered the report on the CIRG's recent meeting in Kingston. He gave updates on the interfaith database project, and a follow-up on the GB's request for the CIRG to spend some time on questions of religious freedom, in light of the Quebec Charter of Values.</p>
14	BIOTECHNOLOGY REFERENCE GROUP
	<p>Nobody was available from this group to give a report. Fr. Cyprian invited everyone to read the report in the package.</p> <p>Karen, meanwhile, spoke briefly about the Advancement Advisory Council, and passed out folders from that group.</p>
15	TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION
	<p>Jim outlined the CCC's involvement with the Truth and Reconciliation Commission in Edmonton this year, and invited Joy to speak more fully on the experience of presenting the Expression of Reconciliation, who drew everyone's attention to copies of the Expression of Reconciliation in the packages.</p> <p>Ed then spoke about the work that KAIROS is doing around indigenous rights, particularly the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, and plans they have for going forward.</p> <p>Joy thanked Ed and asked Jim to say some words to move us forward.</p> <p><i>[End of Day's Sessions]</i></p>

16	WORSHIP AND PROFESSING/CONFESSING
	<p>Morning prayer was led in the Catholic tradition.</p> <p>Bishop Fabbro and Bishop Simmard gave a talk about the canonization of two popes, and spoke about Pope Francis' way of life.</p> <p>The CCC was presented with a framed picture of General Secretary Karen Hamilton meeting Pope Francis, by the CCCB.</p> <p>Fr. Cyprian read a letter on the day of friendship between Copts and Catholics.</p>
17	COMMISSION ON FAITH AND WITNESS
	<p>Fr. Cyprian presented the report on the Commission on Faith and Witness. He expressed an ongoing wish to amplify the membership, in particular from communities who do not yet have a representative on this commission (ie. the Coptic church and the Presbyterians). He then explained the mandate and triennial topics, and spoke about the presentations of papers on Christian Witness in interreligious context and the discussion and reflection which followed.</p> <p>He also talked about the Salvation Video project and invited help and ideas for this. He went on to bring up the Prairie Centre for Ecumenism's Forum on Dialogue in summer 2015, in which the Commission on Faith and Witness and the Centre for Ecumenism have been invited to participate. Fr. Cyprian asked the board to publicize this event and encourage members of their denominations to participate, particularly those denominations that have a strong presence in the prairie provinces. It would also be helpful if board members could connect the commission to people in their denominations who are currently working on such dialogues.</p> <p>During the discussion, it was agreed that Kyle would be a prime contact person for this forum. There was also a suggestion that the CFW might be interested in taking a look at the Anglican Roman Catholic dialogue's multimedia project "Common Witness".</p> <p>Bruce Myers was named as the Anglican staff-person best connected in this matter, and he agreed to get us the names of those participating.</p> <p>Cyprian asked others to come forward in the next few months if they are interested in being involved with this forum. (The date would be in June, 2015.)</p> <p>Fr. Cyprian concluded with a reminder that the two reference groups that the CFW is involved in would welcome higher numbers and denominational breadth.</p>

18	NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE
	<p>More youth and Aboriginal representation was encouraged, either by appointments from denominations or by invitation to participate in other ways. Because Bishop Mark McDonald (an indigenous leader) has just been elected as the North American representative for the WCC, there was a suggestion that he could engage with us on that topic if we request it. Fr. Cyprian also made a reminder that we need more Francophone representation. There was also a hope of encouraging denominations to appoint members from other parts of the country, though this can be difficult due to cost.</p>
19	CONSTITUTION COMMITTEE
	<p>Doug Martindale gave the report on behalf of the Constitutional Committee. After their review, it was moved that the revised constitution of the Churches Forum on Global Ministries be approved by the board. Anthony seconded this.</p> <p>The motion was carried.</p>
20	NEXT MEETING 6 DATES, AGENDA
	<p>The next meeting will be at the November assembly, which will take place in Mississauga at the Queen of the Apostles, and will run from November 17-21. (The Governing Board will meet from November 19-21, but are also encouraged to observe the meetings of other commissions and subcommittees during that week.)</p> <p>Tim requested an updated list of people on commissions and committees.</p> <p>Jim thanked the staff of the CCC.</p> <p>Karen spoke about Pat Henshaw's condition, as well as Dan Gibson's, and recommended that members feel free to email him at the old address. She also passed along Jonas Abromaitis's retirement.</p>
21	HOLDING ONE ANOTHER IN PRAYER
	<p>Jim invited everyone to return to groups of 3-5 and have a moment to offer impressions of the board, concerns, and an opportunity to pray for each other out loud or silently. He closed by reminding all that the strength of the board is our relationship together in Christ.</p>