THE CANADIAN COUNCIL OF CHURCHES
LE CONSEIL CANADIEN DES ÉGLISES

Highlights and Decisions

The Canadian Council of Churches Governing Board Meeting

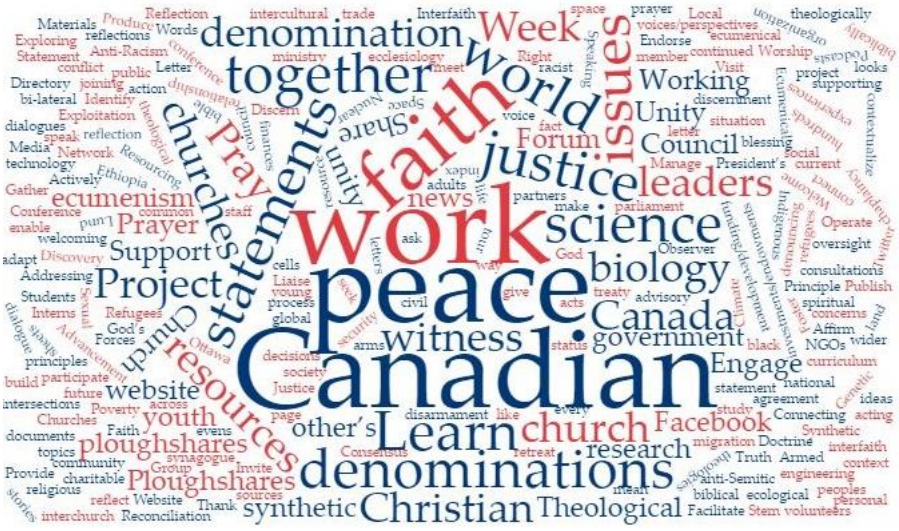
November 16-18, 2016 – Crieff Hills Retreat Centre, Puslinch, ON

The Canadian Council of Churches (the Council) is the broadest and most inclusive ecumenical body in Canada. The Governing Board brings together representatives from Anglican, Evangelical, Free Church, Eastern Orthodox and Oriental Orthodox, Historic Reformed, and Catholic member denominations.

The purposes and functions of the Council shall be to serve God's mission in the world, to give expression to the unity which is offered to the world through Jesus Christ, to witness to the continuing renewal of the Church by the Holy Spirit, to promote the growth of ecumenical and missionary obedience among all Christians, and to facilitate common action by the member churches.

At this semi-annual meeting of the Governing Board we:

1. ***Shared*** important news and prayer concerns of Christian denominations in Canada.
2. ***Resumed*** the usual planning process to nominate new Executive Committee leadership for the Council for the 2018-2021 Triennium.
3. ***Examined*** the surprising developments in synthetic biology ("genetic engineering on steroids") and ***agreed*** to organize an international event on synthetic biology in collaboration with the World Council of Churches.
4. ***Presented*** testimonies on peace as the heart of ecumenism, in particular Catholic, Quaker, Orthodox, and United Church traditions on peace.
5. ***Reviewed*** indicators of reach as the Commission on Faith and Witness moves from print resources to digital episodes on social media and on-line.
6. ***Prayed*** using the 2017 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity materials from Germany (country marking the 500 year Reformation).
7. ***Finalized*** a Statement on Religious Freedom and ***previewed*** an on-line interfaith directory.
8. ***Advanced*** the growing collaboration and integration of the Canadian Churches Forum for Global Ministries (the Forum) and the Council in intercultural ministry.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