

Highlights and Decisions**Governing Board Meeting****Queen of Apostles Renewal Centre, Mississauga, ON****Nov 27- 29, 2019**

The Canadian Council of Churches responds to Christ's call for unity and peace, seeks Christ's truth with affection for diversity, and acts in love through prayer, dialogue, and witness to the gospel. We are a broad and inclusive ecumenical body, now representing 26 member churches including Anglican; Catholic; Evangelical; Free Church; Orthodox; and Historic Protestant denominations. At this Governing Board meeting we:

1. *Shared* news and prayer concerns with one another;
2. *Received* the governance and program reports for all the bodies of the Council;
3. *Adopted* the **2020 budgets** for the Council and its peace research institute Project Ploughshares;
4. *Examined and reflected* on **Ecumenism in the Americas** with the help of special guests The Rev. Dr. Casely B. Essamuah (Global Christian Forum), The Most Rev. Bishop Lionel Gendron (Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops delegate to the recent Synod of the Amazon), and Jim Hodgson (Program Coordinator for Latin America, The United Church of Canada) as context that shapes our work in Canada;
5. *Worshipped* together using the new **2020 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity** resources "They Showed Us Unusual Kindness" (www.weekofprayer.ca);
6. *Compared* pastoral, theological, and psychotherapeutic responses to challenges related to **mental health** with an expert panel;
7. *Placed ourselves* on a continuum of exclusion and inclusion as an intercultural community and discussed ways to live into a more **just intercultural community** together;
8. *Instructed* the General Secretary to write to the Chief Electoral Officer regarding the setting of **dates for Federal elections**;
9. *Shared* proposals for **strategic directions** for the next 2021-24 triennium during a President's sharing circle;
10. *Worshipped* together in The United Church of Canada and Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) traditions using worship materials from their new full communion agreement;
11. *Learned more about* the **Community of Christ Church in Canada** and decided to bring their application for membership to the next Governing Board meeting;
12. *Received* updates on the new directions and ground-breaking **peace and disarmament** work of **Project Ploughshares**, peace research institute of the Council;
13. *Renewed* our commitment and priority to respond to the **climate revolution**;
14. *Reactivated* the Nominations Committee to oversee officer appointments for the 2021-24 triennium.

The next meeting of the Governing Board is scheduled for **May 13-15, 2020** at Le Monastère des Augustines, Québec City; then **November 25-27, 2020** at Queen of Apostles Renewal Centre, Mississauga, ON. Visit <https://bit.ly/37OLBij> for photo highlights!