

Highlights and Decisions

The Canadian Council of Churches Governing Board Meeting November 16-18, 2022 – Queen of Apostles Renewal Centre (Mississauga)

The *Canadian Council of Churches* (the Council) is the broadest and most inclusive ecumenical body in Canada. The Council's Governing Board brings together representatives from Anglican; Evangelical; Free Church; Eastern Orthodox and Oriental Orthodox; Protestant; and Catholic member denominations to review and coordinate its Committees and Commissions, appoint officers, obtain funds, and determine external relations with other religious and secular organizations and movements.

AT THIS SEMI-ANNUAL GOVERNING BOARD MEETING OF THE COUNCIL, WE:

1. **SHARED** current news and challenges and supported one another in prayer and song.
2. **MARKED** the recent loss of **Richard Schneider**, Former President (2003-06) and long-time Chair and member of the Commission on Faith and Witness, who left an indelible mark on the Council.
3. **RECEIVED governance and program reports** from all bodies of the Council; **ASSESSED** risks to the Council and **NAMED** ways to manage and mitigate them.
4. **WELCOMED KAIROS**, the **North America Baptist Fellowship (NABF)**, and **Church Council on Justice and Corrections (CCJC)** as new Affiliates; and **RECEIVED** the application of prospective affiliate from the **Order of St. Lazarus**.
5. **ADOPTED** a **Bilingualism Policy** to reaffirm guidelines for the Council's commitment to French and English.
6. **ADOPTED** the **2023 Budget** for the Main Office and Project Ploughshares.
7. **OFFERED LAMENTATION** to God for the loss of a **National Multilateral Forum for Christian-Jewish Dialogue** using the psalmitic themes of **Brokenness, Cry, Complaint, and Hope**.
8. **ANIMATED** the **2023 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity** theme of "**Do good, seek justice**" (Isaiah 1:17) through powerful testimonies from **Minnesota Council of Churches** representatives the **Rev. Dr. Kelly Sherman-Conroy** and **Pastor Dr. Anthony Appiah**, and a special prayer service with deep, personal sharing.
9. **COLLECTED QUESTIONS** about a theology of interculturality led by the **Forum for Intercultural Leadership and Learning (FILL)**.
10. **WERE LED IN PRAYER AND SONG** by leaders in the **Catholic, United, and Pentecostal** traditions.
11. **WERE ENGAGED** in reflection and action on spiritual care in Canada, especially in the military and prisons, by a presentation by **Imam Michael Taylor**, Chair of the **Interfaith Committee on Canadian Military Chaplaincy**.
12. **GAINED INSIGHT** into Christianity and religious affiliation and observance in Canada today from a presentation by **Halo Canada** and **WayBase** on the 2021 Census data.
13. **LEARNED** from the **Rt. Rev. Dr. Isaac Mar Philoxenos Episcopa** about the history, life, and scope of the **Mar Thoma Church in Canada**; and from the delegation of the **United Church Canada** about its history and future.
14. **APPOINTED Rev. Fr. Anthony Mourad** (Coptic Orthodox Church of Canada) as Vice-President
15. **APPOINTED Sara Solomon** (Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahedo) and **Boston Laferté** (Evangelical Lutheran) as Youth members of the Governing Board.
16. **BEGAN PLANNING** for the **2024-27 triennium** by appointing a Nominations Committee.

The next meeting of the Governing Board is scheduled to take place May 24-26, 2023
at Le Monastère des Augustines, Quebec City.

Attendees of the November 2022 Governing Board meeting (Nov 17, 2022, Queen of Apostles Renewal Centre, Mississauga, ON).



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