

5th Annual Conference of Canada East Mission
October 18, 2008 1:05 pm – 4:13 pm

MINUTES

1. *Call the assembly to order*
Ken Barrows called the assembly to order at 1:05 pm after the singing of the hymn "We Would Be One".

2. *Conference Organization*
 - A) Ken brought to the attention of the Conference the Rules of Order and Parliamentary guide as printed in the Conference bulletin as well as our bylaws for Conference Resolutions.

The list of ex-officio members will be amended to show the reason why the names are on the list, and to delete the reference of CEM Staff.

Corinth Congregation was acknowledged for having provided lunch for us today.

- B) With Ken Barrows presiding, Dave Snell, Kitchener, moved (Resolutions are duly seconded throughout, but names are not recorded):
Resolved, That the CREDENTIALS REPORT be approved as amended.

Cheryl Campbell reviewed the changes and additions to the delegate list printed in the Conference bulletin. There were 131 Delegates and 61 Ex-officio registered, a quorum of Delegates being present. Ken Barrows reminded the Conference that only those who are delegates can vote.

Carried (CEM08-63)

- C) Carol Jordan, Guelph, moved:

Resolved, That PAT LEWIS be Secretary for the Conference.

Carried (CEM08-64)

- D) Tim Stanlick, Guelph, moved:

Resolved, That DARREL KENNEDY be Parliamentarian of the Conference.

Carried (CEM08-65)

Ken Barrows declared the conference now organized and ready to consider what comes before it.

3. A) Shirley Stoner, Niagara, moved:

Resolved, That the minutes of the Oct 20, 2007 CEM Conference be approved

Carried (CEM08-66)

- B) Business arising from the minutes

Ken announced that still no one has come forward to fill the position of Historian.

4. Reports and Presentations

- A) Senior High camp and the camping congregation: Alfredo Zelaya brought an update of these camping programmes. The emphasis of these programmes is on training the youth for future leadership positions in the camping programme, as well as providing life-emphasis skills like CPR.
- B) Canada East Mission Co-Mission Pastor Initiative: Doug Bolger updated the Conference on this programme which, like the camping programme, also emphasizes leadership development. Four congregations are participating: Corinth, Providence Bay, Lowbanks, and Hamilton.
- C) Ken Barrows brought attention to the Peace and Justice report that is with the Conference Booklet. John Morgan brought greetings from the committee. The committee's focus will be on educating people about and encouraging people to purchase "fair trade" coffee.
- D) Zerim Presentations: Bryce Taylor gave a brief overview of Sionito as the "domestic" arm of working with and for poverty stricken individuals. Sionito develops local communities of support. Jim Poirier and Karen Cronkite (absent) were honoured by Bryce for the work they have done on the Board. Jim was presented with a plaque of recognition.
- E) Special presentation: Jim Poirier and Melissa Ashwell presented Mary Lou Snell with gifts to honour her on her retirement, and for her "over 20 years" of service and dedication to the CEM office.

5. *New Business*

Ken turned the chair over to Jim Poirier.

- A) Jim Poirier spoke to the Conference regarding the newly created position of Mission Centre Financial Officer.
- B) With Mary Jacks Dynes in the chair, Mary read the letter from the First Presidency recommending Michael J. Hewitt as the Financial Officer for the Canada East Mission.
John Morgan, Willowdale, moved:
Resolved, That Mike Hewitt be sustained as the Financial Officer for the Canada East Mission

Carried (CEM08-67)

Mike Hewitt was set apart as Financial Officer by Mary Jacks Dynes and Jim Poirier.

Mary announced that Jim Poirier will now assume more duties as Mary's Field Apostolic Assistant.

Mary turned the chair back to Ken Barrows.

- C) Ken shared the announcement and his acceptance of a call to become Mission President for Australia.

D) Mary Jacks Dynes returned to the chair and read the letter of recommendation from the First Presidency for Carman Thompson to be President of the Canada East Mission effective January 1, 2009.
Wayne Freer, LaSalle Rd, moved:
Resolved, That Carman Thompson be sustained as the President of the Canada East Mission beginning January 1, 2009.

Carried (CEM08-68)

Carman will be set apart to this role at some point in the future

E) We then paused to sing the hymn of reflection, "Lord, Thou Hast Brought Us to This Place".

Ken returned to the chair.

F) Bill Leney, Stratford, moved:
Resolved, That CHERYL CAMPBELL be sustained as Mission Recorder.

Carried (CEM08-69)

Ken turned the chair over to Jim Poirier.

G) Dave Snell, Kitchener, moved:
Resolved, That the AUDITOR'S REPORT on the Canada East Mission operating account and various funds for 2007 be approved.

Carried (CEM08-70)

H) Wendell Martin, Port Elgin, moved:
Resolved, That Robinson Lott and Brohman, LLP, be sustained as auditors for the year 2008.

Carried (CEM08-71)

Mike Hewitt joined Jim to review the assessment and budget.

I) Doug Bolger, North Bay, moved:
Resolved, That the MISSION BUDGET for 2009 be approved (see Pgs 28-30)

Carried (CEM08-72)

The chair was returned to Ken Barrows.

J) Kevin Mercer, Lowbanks, moved:
Resolved, That in response to the direction of the Holy Spirit and with the approval of appropriate administrative officers, the following priesthood ordinations be approved:

Linda Armstrong to the office of High Priest

Carol Manley to the offices of High Priest and Evangelist

Doug Bolger to the office of High Priest

Each candidate was voted on separately and carried.

Carried (CEM08-73)

K) Other New Business

i) Wendell Martin, Port Elgin, moved:

1. **Whereas**, the gospel of Jesus Christ proclaims that all persons are of equal worth in the sight of God (D&C 16: c-f; James 2: 1-13); and
2. **Whereas**, God calls people according to their giftedness and not specifically by gender, race, economic or educational status (D&C119: 8b); and
3. **Whereas**, The sacraments symbolize God's gracious interaction within the life of the church as a whole and within the individual life of each disciple, and
4. **Whereas**, The sacrament of marriage symbolizes a sacred covenant between two people seeking to make a life-long commitment of mutual support, love, and faithfulness to one another; and
5. **Whereas**, Instructions given in former times are applicable in principle to the needs of today, and the principles are to be evaluated and to be interpreted anew (D&C 147:7); and
6. **Whereas**, WCR 1182 and WCR 272 contain principles of relationships involving marriages that apply to any person but which currently contain wording that could exclude some disciples;

Therefore, be it

Resolved, That WCR 1182 be amended by replacing the words "husband and wife" with the words "marriage partners"; and

Resolved, That WCR 272 be amended by replacing the words "husband and wife" with the words "marriage partners."

Aaron Grigsby, Kitchener, moved an amendment that the term "marriage partners" be changed to "marriage couple". Carried

The Amended motion states:

Resolved, That WCR 1182 be amended by replacing the words "husband and wife" with the words "marriage couple"; and

Resolved, That WCR 272 be amended by replacing the words "husband and wife" with the words "marriage couple".

A question was asked by David Donoghue, Scarborough, if the resolution was in order. The chair ruled it in order. The ruling of the chair was appealed to the house. On a vote, the ruling of the chair was upheld.

It was moved by Roy Young that the question be put. On a two-thirds vote, the motion carried.

A resolution was moved by Terry Silcox, St. Thomas, that the voting be conducted by written ballot. The motion was Lost.

Returning to the vote, the main motion was Carried as amended. (CEM08-74)

ii) Bill Reid, Sarnia, moved:

1. **Whereas**, WCR 386 identifies the First Presidency as the "leading interpreters and teachers of the laws and revelations of God"; and
2. **Whereas**, The sacrament of marriage symbolizes a sacred covenant between two people seeking to make a life-long commitment of mutual support, love, and faithfulness to one another, and

3. **Whereas**, Some civil jurisdictions recognize same-sex marriages in their laws; and

4. **Whereas**, The church recognizes such same-sex marriages for its members in its records; and

5. **Whereas**, Wording within Doctrine and Covenants 111 referring to “husband and wife” can be interpreted as scriptural justification for prohibiting priesthood within the *Community of Christ* from officiating at the sacrament of marriage for same-sex couples; and

6. **Whereas**, The current practice within the church of prohibiting priesthood members from officiating at the sacrament of marriage for same-sex couples in those areas where it is legal to do so amounts to a prohibition of sacramental ministry on the basis of sexual orientation;

Therefore, be it

Resolved: It is an expression to the First Presidency of the faith and earnest desire of this conference that priesthood within the *Community of Christ* be allowed to officiate at the sacrament of marriage for same-sex couples in those areas of the church where such marriages are legally recognized.

Bryce Taylor moved an amendment to add the words: “...and their Mission Conference sustains this action. The action, if sustained, would effect all of the Mission congregations except where the Mission Conference for cultural or any other reasons, exempts specifically named congregations.”

This amendment was ruled out of order by the chair.

It was moved by Mervin Jaques, Bothwell, that the question be put. On a two-thirds vote, the motion was carried.

The Original Motion was Carried (CEM08-75)

L) Offering to cover the cost of the conference was received by Jim Poirier.

6. *Announcements*

Ken Barrows brought to the attention of the Conference the CEM Calendar of events for 2009 and the CEM Retreats/Reunions/Camps listed in the Conference booklet.

He also asked that people take a short break at the conclusion of the conference while the podium area is rearranged, and remain for the ordination service.

7. *Adjournment.*

Ken Barrows declared the meeting adjourned at 4:13 pm.

Respectfully Submitted

Patricia Lewis, Conference Secretary