

Highlights and Decisions

The Canadian Council of Churches Governing Board Meeting May 24-26, 2023 – Le Monastère des Augustines (Quebec City)

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 to other religious and secular organizations and movements.

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

1. **SHARED** church news and challenges and supported one another in prayer and song.
2. **RECEIVED** the full package of governance and program reports from all bodies of the Council.
3. **APPOINTED** Pastor Peter Noteboom to another five-year term as General Secretary.
4. **AFFIRMED** the decision of the **Executive Committee** to respond positively to the request from the **Church Council on Justice and Corrections (CCJC)** to merge.
5. **WELCOMED** the **Order of St Lazarus (Canada)** as an **Affiliate** of the Canadian Council of Churches.
6. **ADOPTED** the 2022 audited financial statements and reappointed **Graham Matthews Professional Corporation** as auditor for 2022.
7. **ADOPTED** a revised 2023 budget and agreed on a pathway to a rigorous review of the 2024 budget and beyond.
8. **GAINED INSIGHT** into the religious situation in Quebec concerning **secularism, laïcité, and pluralism** from presentations by Prof. **Gilles Routhier** and Prof. **Solange Lefebvre**.
9. **WERE LED IN PRAYER AND SONG** by leaders in the Armenian and Coptic Orthodox traditions; the Community of Christ, and the Canadian Baptists of Western Canada.
10. **PARTICIPATED** in Bible study, faith sharing, and reflection on Acts 11, led by **Paul-André Giguère, with members of the local interdenominational Christian Council**.
11. **LEARNED ABOUT** the details and foundations of **Bill-21** from a presentation by MNA **Jean-François Simard** and **ENGAGED** with him by asking questions and sharing comments.
12. **CELEBRATED** **Dr. Mary Marrocco** and her work with the Council with words of appreciation and gratitude from **General Secretary Peter Noteboom, Pastor Tim Reimer, and Sister Dr. Donna Geernaert**.
13. **HEARD** from young adults on the subject of ***L'Église au Québec aujourd'hui***.
14. **PROPOSED** the gift sets and capacities needed for the *next Executive Committee/Officers in the 2024-27 triennium*.
15. **VISITED** the **Islamic Cultural Centre and Grand Mosque in Sainte-Foy, PARTICIPATED** in a tour and a community interfaith conversation, and **ATTENDED** prayers.
16. **WERE CHALLENGED** by presentations from **Cardinal Gérald C. Lacroix, Archbishop of Quebec and Primate of Canada, Rev. Darla Sloan** (United Church of Canada), **Jean-Yves Cossette** (University of Laval), and the **Anglican Bishop of Quebec, the Rt. Rev. Bruce Myers** on the topic of ***Synodalité et l'église au Québec demain***.

The next meeting of the Governing Board is scheduled to take place November 15-17, 2023
at Queen of Apostles Renewal Centre, Mississauga.



Attendees of the May 2023 Governing Board meeting (May 25, 2023, Quebec City).