

EMC Delegate Information



Introduction

“And in the church God has appointed...those with gifts of administration.” (1 Corinthians 12:28)

“If your gift is... to lead, do it diligently.” (Romans 12:8)

The Conference Council is the legislative assembly of the Evangelical Mennonite Conference. As a delegate, you are a member of this governing assembly, directing the corporate ministries of our churches.

Christ-Centred Meetings

- ◆ At the heart of all EMC meetings is the understanding that all our work is under the direction of the Holy Spirit.
- ◆ Corporate prayer is important for discernment about agenda items.
- ◆ Conversations and discussions are participated in with a spirit of love and trust anticipating that the Holy Spirit will inform our deliberations.



Moderator Abe Bergen, November 26, 2022

Council Meetings

- ◆ The Council meets twice a year. Time and place are determined by the General Board.

Role of the Council

- ◆ Receive reports from all Boards and have the final authority over all Board action.
- ◆ Approve the annual budget
- ◆ Amend the Constitution.
- ◆ Approve all changes in general Conference policies.
- ◆ Consider applications of churches wishing to join the Conference.
- ◆ Authorize the release of a local church from membership in the Conference.
- ◆ Receive reports from para-Conference organizations directly related to the Council.
- ◆ Elect Conference officers and members on Conference Boards.

Council Members

- ◆ Each church has the following members on the Council.
 - ◆ one delegate per 50 members or less, chosen by the congregation
 - ◆ the pastor or other official leader of that congregation, and
 - ◆ the church board chairperson of that congregation.
- ◆ In addition, all members of EMC Boards are also members of the Conference Council.
- ◆ The term of office for the church representatives is determined by the local church.
- ◆ Observers may attend Conference Council sessions but do not have voting privileges.

Expectations, Procedures and Tips for Effective Council Work

- ◆ It is the duty of the Council members to attend the Conference sessions, to represent their local churches as they participate in Conference business and to strengthen Conference/church relationships by representing and interpreting Conference issues and concerns at the local level.
- ◆ It is the expectation that each participant has prepared and prayed for discernment in advance of the meeting.
- ◆ It is the expectation that all Council members will familiarize themselves with the agenda and meeting material provided in advance of the meeting.
- ◆ It is recommended that the pastor and delegates meet before Conference Council meetings to discuss the agenda, budget, elections and other issues that are being presented or that they might want to raise.
- ◆ While delegates represent their church, as a member of the Conference Council they are at the meeting to make decisions for the benefit of the Conference as a whole. It is beneficial to have a good understanding of their own church's position, but they need to be able to discuss and interact with other delegates at the meeting and be able to modify their response based on the information and Spirit's leading at the meeting itself. For this reason it is important that the church trust in the wisdom and spiritual maturity of the delegate they choose.

Travel Subsidy Request—Conference Council June, 2024

As a church delegate, you are eligible for a subsidy for travel to Conference Council meetings. To request a subsidy, please complete the online form at <https://emconference.churchcenter.com/people/forms/553170> or submit the following information to the EMC office. Delegate brochures will also be available at the Conference Council meeting itself.

Name _____

Address _____

Email _____

Church _____

Amount of subsidy requested \$ _____

If you would like to donate part of all of your travel costs as a gift to the EMC, we would gratefully accept and will issue a receipt for your gift. Please submit your expense claim just as you would otherwise and we will reimburse you by cheque. Then send us a cheque or donate online in the amount you choose.

Signed by _____

2024 options and recommendations

- Travel options include flying to Edmonton or Grande Prairie and renting a vehicle to travel to La Crete, or driving the full distance to La Crete. Carpooling is strongly encouraged whether taking your own vehicle or renting.
- Conference delegates are eligible for up to \$800 per person or carpool and EMC board members are eligible for up to \$1,200 per person or carpool. It is expected that churches bear some of the costs for delegates.



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