

EMC Delegate Information



Introduction

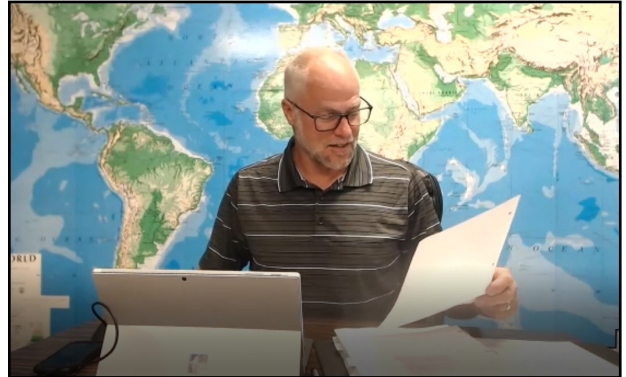
"And in the church God has appointed...those with gifts of administration." (1 Corinthians 12:28)

"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.
- ♦ Throughout the course of each meeting, there could be times of prayer and discernment for agenda items.
- ♦ The entire Conference Council meeting is a spiritual gathering, and the anticipation is that we gather to give glory to God and that the Holy Spirit informs our deliberations and decisions at all times.



Moderator Barry Plett, June 27, 2020

Council Meetings

- ♦ The Council meets twice a year—on a Saturday in early summer and early winter. 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.
- ♦ 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 fifty 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

- ◆ There is an expectation that each participant has prepared and prayed for discernment in advance of the meeting.
- ◆ 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 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.



Delegates adopting the minutes, June 27, 2020—note one delegate in this screen joining from Mexico and another from Ethiopia.



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