



EMS Canada 2025 Regional Conference

Theme: "Ecclesiology & Mission"



Date: Friday, April 11, 2025

Locations:

Alberta (*Edmonton*), British Columbia (*Langley*), Manitoba (*Steinbach*) & Ontario (*Toronto*)

INVITATION & CALL FOR PAPERS

The [Evangelical Missiological Society \(EMS\)](#) exists to advance the cause of world evangelization by promoting the study and evaluation of mission concepts and strategies from a biblical perspective. As a professional academic society, EMS includes several hundreds of missiologists, mission administrators, educators, pastors, and students of missiology. Regional gatherings foster collaboration across diverse perspectives while contributing to the larger missiological conversation at the EMS annual conference.

The [2025 theme](#), "***Ecclesiology & Mission***," explores the Church's role as the Body of Christ—a dynamic, creative, and reproducing mission community. Commissioned to proclaim God's word, nurture faith communities, and demonstrate His love and power, the Church, in all its diversity and courage, faithfully engages its mission amidst institutional challenges and cultural shifts. Submissions are encouraged to examine how the Church engages dynamically across one or more of the **Four As**¹:

- **Academy** - Theological and Educational Sectors
- **Assembly** Local Church Communities
- **Agency** - Missions Organizations and Networks
- **Agora** - Marketplace and Public Spaces

The [EMS Canadian Regional Conference](#) provides a platform for everyone—scholars, ministry practitioners, and learners alike—to engage in missiological conversations rooted in Canadian contexts, with a view toward both local and global impact. This multi-provincial gathering is not limited to those presenting papers but is an open fellowship invitation to all who wish to explore, learn, reflect and contribute to the mission of the whole church.

¹ For more on this Canadian-developed framework, see [The Past, Present, and Future of Evangelical Mission: Academy, Agency, Assembly, and Agora Perspectives from Canada](#), ed. Narry F. Santos and Xenia Ling-Yee Chan, Evangelical Missiological Society Monograph Series (Eugene, OR: Pickwick Publications, 2022)

SUBMITTING YOUR PROPOSAL AND PAPER

To present at the [2025 EMS Canada Regional Conference](#), submit a proposal outlining your paper's focus and relevance to the conference theme or sub-themes. Accepted proposals will proceed to the development of a 2,000-word preliminary presentation paper, which the author will present during a breakout session at one of the Canadian provincial conference locations.

Timeline and Requirements:

- **Proposal Deadline:** January 31, 2025
 - Submit a title and 200–300-word abstract to **Dr. Narry Santos, EMS Vice President for Canada Region**, at nsantos@tyndale.ca
- **Preliminary Paper Deadline:** March 28, 2025
 - Presentation Papers will be reviewed and distributed to participants ahead of the conference to foster dialogue and equip moderators for discussion.
- **EMS Canada 2025 Regional Conference:** April 11, 2025

Guidelines for Preliminary Papers:

- **Length:** 2,000 words.
- **Content:** Clearly present key arguments, research questions, and findings, drawing from academic research, ministry experiences, or practical insights.
- **Style:** [Chicago Turabian author-date](#) citation format is encouraged for all submissions. Reflective practitioner submissions may adopt a less formal style as appropriate for storytelling or case studies, provided sources are acknowledged where relevant.
- **Purpose:** Preliminary papers serve as the foundation for conference presentations, which authors will deliver in breakout sessions. These papers equip participants and moderators with insights for meaningful engagement and discussion.

Note: Plenary keynote addresses and responses are by invitation only and will be announced on the EMS Canada webpage. Interested individuals may contact Dr. Narry Santos at nsantos@tyndale.ca for future consideration.

Pathway to EMS Annual National Conference:

After the EMS Canada Regional Conference, regional presenters who are invited or wish to be considered for the EMS Annual National Conference (October 3-4, 2025 in Dallas, TX and online) and potential inclusion in the [EMS Annual Compendium](#), may expand their 2,000-word preliminary paper into a full-length submission (4,500–7,000 words). Expanded papers must demonstrate additional scholarly depth, align with the Annual Conference theme, and adhere to the *Journal of the Evangelical Missiological Society* [submission guidelines](#).

- **Full-Length Paper Deadline (for National Conference):** May 30, 2025
- **EMS Annual National 2025 Conference (Dallas, TX & virtual):** October 3-4, 2025

SUB-THEME CATEGORIES AND TOPICS

Submissions may address any aspect of the 2025 theme "*Ecclesiology & Mission*," with a focus on the **Canadian context**. Suggested sub-themes include:

1. The Church as a Mission Community

Exploring the theological and biblical foundations of the Church's mission identity and implications for ministry in Canada's diverse and pluralistic society. Topics may include:

- The Church's theological role as the Body of Christ on mission.
- Sacraments, community life, and Bible translation in nurturing faith communities.
- Remaining life-giving amidst institutional challenges.
- Reflections on the Church as a diverse and courageous mission community.

2. Church Planting, Evangelism, and/or Intercultural Ministries

Examining practical expressions of mission, including church planting, evangelism, and intercultural engagement. Topics may include:

- Church planting models and intergenerational strategies.
- Evangelism in contexts of violence, secularism, or post-Christian environments.
- Intercultural engagement in fostering belonging and reconciliation across cultural, ethnic, and generational divides.
- Leadership development and discipleship within multicultural and intercultural contexts.
- How diaspora and Indigenous churches serve as models of mission.

3. Mobilizing the Whole Church for Mission

Addressing how the whole church catalyzes collaboration and mobilization across its diverse expressions and roles in Canadian society. Topics may include:

- Collaborative partnerships between churches, parachurches, and other organizations in mission training and engagement.
- Discipleship in and through the marketplace and vocation, equipping believers to live out their faith where 99% of life is lived—beyond church walls.
- Practical strategies for addressing systemic issues such as poverty, reconciliation, and justice within Canada.
- Holistic mission frameworks that integrate word (proclamation), sign (demonstrations of God's power and presence), and deed (acts of service and justice).
- The Church's engagement with multicultural and secular Canadian contexts.
- Leveraging digital tools and technology to support mission, discipleship, and holistic transformation.

Join us on April 11, 2025, as we collaborate, learn, and shape the Church's mission locally and globally. If you would like to volunteer or support the conference in any capacity, please contact Dr. Narry Santos at nsantos@tyndale.ca.