



# Ecclesiology & Mission

EVANGELICAL MISSIOLOGICAL SOCIETY (EMS) CANADA 2025 REGIONAL CONFERENCE

Friday, April 11, 2025

7:30 AM – 4:30 PM (EDT)

The King's University (Edmonton, AB Venue)

## Partners



Lausanne Movement  
Canada



Faith at Work Network



Centre for  
Pastoral  
Imagination



Steinbach  
Bible College



## **“Ecclesiology & Mission” - Alberta Program & Schedule**

<b>Time</b>	<b>Program</b>	<b>Room</b>
7:30AM – 7:50AM	<b>Registration &amp; Check-In</b>	(N101)
7:50 AM – 8:00AM	<b>Introduction &amp; Welcome</b> Welcome, Prayer (James Bruyn [MC])	(N101)
8:00 AM – 9:15 AM	<b>Plenary Keynote #1:</b> “We believe in One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic Church’: The Church and the Mission of God” (Grant LeMarquand) – Live from AB <b>Response:</b> Ashoor Yousif – Live in ON	(N101)
9:20 AM – 10:00 AM	<b>Paper Presentations #1 (2 Papers)</b> “Mission in the Local Healthcare Setting” (Madi Trovell) “A Case study of Maisha Project and Gull Lake Centre: A Mutual Benefit Relationship” (Myah Bots)	(N101) (N101)
10:00 AM – 10:45 AM	<b>Paper Presentations #2</b> Missiology from Above: Theological Foundations for a Missional Ecclesiology (Reed M. Schulze)	(N101)
10:45 AM – 11:00 AM	<b>Break</b>	(N101)
11:00 AM – 12:15 PM	<b>Plenary Keynote #2:</b> “Church Collaboration in Canadian Cities: Insights and Reflections from Research” (Daria Nardozza) – Live in ON, from QC <b>Response:</b> Sarah Han – Live in ON	(N101)
12:15 PM – 12:45 PM	<b>Lunch</b>	(N101)
12:50 PM – 1:10 PM	<b>Paper Presentations #3</b> “Restoring Dignity & Cultivating a Learning Community: A Holistic Approach to Breaking the Dependency Trap” (Hyeong-Deug Kim)	(N101)
1:10 PM – 1:55 PM	<b>Paper Presentations #4</b> “Towards a Closer Collaboration of Assembly and Agency for Missional Movement in Canada” (J. P. Greg Laing)	(N101)
2:00 PM – 3:15 PM	<b>Plenary Keynote #3:</b> “Evaluating ‘Missions Within Reach’: 30 Years Later” (Sherman Lau) – Live from BC <b>Response:</b> Dorothy Pang & Alexander Lee – Live in ON	Tyndale Commons (G307)

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3:15 PM – 3:30 PM	<b>Break</b>	(N101)
3:30 PM – 4:20 PM	<b>Paper Presentations #5</b>	
	“The Influence of New Immigrants on the Revitalization of Canadian Urban Churches” (Bonibelle Hodge)	(N101)
4:20 PM – 4:30 PM	<b>Closing Segment</b>	

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### Plenary Keynote Speakers & Respondents:

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**Grant  
LeMarquand (AB)**

#### **Plenary #1**

*“We believe in One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic Church’: The church and the mission of God”*

Grant LeMarquand is a retired bishop and professor of biblical studies and mission, with teaching roles in Canada, Kenya, and the U.S., including at Wycliffe College and Trinity School for Ministry. A graduate of McGill University and Wycliffe College (Th.D.), he served as Area Bishop for The Horn of Africa (2012–2018), overseeing 150 churches, and later as Interim Bishop for the Diocese of the Great Lakes. He was awarded a D.D. by Wycliffe in 2014 and named Emeritus Professor at Trinity in 2015. Author of *Why Haven’t You Left? Letters from the Sudan*, he continues to support global mission while living in Innisfail, Alberta, with his wife Wendy, a retired medical doctor. They have two grown children and one grandchild.

Grant will also be a plenary speaker at the [EMS Annual National Conference](#) in October, in Dallas, presenting on the same paper, expanded.

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**Ashoor Yousif  
(ON)**

#### **Responder**

Yousif is an interdisciplinary scholar and pastor with a research focus on Middle Eastern Christianity, Christian–Muslim relations, and Islamic religion and culture in the early ‘Abbasid period (750–950 AD). A graduate of the University of Toronto (Ph.D.), he has taught at institutions in Canada and the Middle East, including Tyndale University and Arab Baptist Theological Seminary in Lebanon. His doctoral work on Christian historiography under Islam earned national awards such as the Joseph-Armand Bombardier CGS and Ontario Graduate Scholarship. He is a board member of the Canadian Society for Syriac Studies and part of a regional theological initiative developing Arabic-language resources for seminaries in the MENA region. An Assyrian-Iraqi Christian, Ashoor is fluent in Arabic and Assyrian, with additional knowledge of Aramaic, Hebrew, and Syriac. He lives in Ontario with his wife and serves as Associate Professor of Christian History and Pastor at Middle East Baptist Church.

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**Daria Nardoza  
(QC)**

### **Plenary #2**

#### ***“Church Collaboration in Canadian Cities: Insights and Reflections from Research”***

Daria Nardoza is a leader and researcher passionate about fostering church and community collaboration for flourishing cities across Canada. She co-founded [City Leaders Collective \(CLC\)](#) in 2023 and previously built a national network of City Network Leaders and community organizations. Her earlier leadership includes serving as the Canadian National Leader of 24-7 Prayer, where she advanced community development and spiritual engagement initiatives. With academic credentials including a Bachelor’s in Counseling/Psychology, an MA in Global Urban Leadership, and ongoing doctoral studies in Transformational Leadership at Bakke Graduate University, Daria brings deep expertise in urban leadership and community transformation. Daria is married to Matt and a proud mom to their 9-year-old son.



**Sarah Han (ON)**

### **Responder #2**

Dr. Sarah Han is Assistant Professor of Pastoral Ministry and brings practical ministry experience as an ordained minister and theological expertise as an academic. Dr. Han considers herself to be "third culture" Canadian-Korean-Chinese and her formative theology was shaped on the mission field abroad. She has provided leadership in the Canadian immigrant church context for over a decade and has diverse experience in the Canadian public and private sectors. Dr. Han's vocational commitment and theological passion are to critically observe and reflect on how ecclesiology shapes and informs missiology and her research focuses on an intercultural, intergenerational, missional ecclesiology for Canada.

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**Sherman Lau  
(BC)**

### **Plenary #3**

#### ***“Evaluating “Missions Within Reach” 30 Years Later”***

Sherman Lau serves as Lead Pastor of Killarney Park MB Church, an intentionally intercultural church in Vancouver, BC. He also teaches intercultural ministry courses at Pacific Life Bible College in Surrey, BC. He completed a Doctor of Intercultural Studies from Western Seminary in Oregon in 2022. His vocational objective is to advance the development and praxis of intercultural ministry in the Canadian multicultural context.



**Dorothy Pang  
(ON)**

### **Responders #3**

Dorothy brings 25 years of experience in law, business, and executive leadership to the TIM Centre team. She is passionate about creating collaborative environments where diverse teams can thrive and organizational health is optimized. She holds a Certificate in Intercultural Studies from UBC and is a qualified administrator of the Intercultural Development Inventory (ID) and a certified facilitator of the Intercultural Conflict Styles (ICS) assessment. Dorothy is a dynamic facilitator and public speaker. For 10 years, Dorothy was an executive leader in a large intercultural church in northeast Toronto. She is passionate about helping churches embrace the Rev 7:9 church – a place where all are wholly seen, accepted, and understood. Dorothy is married and lives in Canada. When she’s not working, she enjoys exploring the multiethnic tastes and sounds of the city.

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### **Madi Tovell (AB)**

#### **“Mission in the Local Healthcare Setting”**

Madi Tovell is a third year biology major, and chemistry minor at The King's University in Edmonton. She hopes to pursue a degree in medicine after graduation from King's, and values learning about how to follow Jesus' example in her everyday life.

**Abstract:** It is undeniable that practices and beliefs surrounding Christian Mission have changed over time, especially towards the idea of “Business As Mission” (BAM, n.d.; Rundle and Paul Lee 2022). This involves operating or working in business initiatives with the ultimate purpose of participating in God’s mission (BAM, n.d.). This is not just a global initiative, but is present within Canada as well, even though this is less commonly discussed (BAM Canada, n.d.). Upon reflection, it may be realized that each person can live out God’s mission in their day to day life. Building relationships with others, and demonstrating God’s love and support is, arguably, a form of mission (B 2023). A specific area this approach can be studied in, is the health care system. How can a healthcare professional, whether that be a health care aid, nurse, physician, etc, live out God’s mission in the “business” of healthcare? How can someone in this secular, challenging environment minister to both their co-workers, and patients without putting their job in jeopardy? These questions explore an interesting cross-section between healthcare, business as mission, and overall theology of mission. An investigation of this topic can provide insight into the challenges of actively modeling Christian faith and mission in one major, important type of workplace. The shift from traditional missions to BAM, especially in a local healthcare setting, is a topic worth studying and investigating to understand how to effectively apply this new strategy in the health-care system, and to reconcile it with one’s own theology of Christian Mission.

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### **Myah Bots (AB)**

Myah is a 3<sup>rd</sup>-year Sociology student at King's University. She is passionate about mission and church work both within Canada and internationally. Myah currently works at Gull Lake Center, a non-profit kids camp focusing on leadership development, and she is a part of developing their international exchange program.

### **“A case study of Maisha Project and Gull Lake Center: A Mutual Benefit Relationship”**

**Abstract:** For this paper, I plan on exploring the theme of mission’s work based on a mutual relationship between both contributing organizations. Historically, this has not always been the approach mission work has taken, instead, there is a deep history of dominance and cultural misunderstanding when western missionaries inject themselves into communities of the global south. However, when missions is done with cultural intelligence and with a focus on the possibility for mutual benefit, then true flourishing can take place. I will be looking specifically at two organizations, the first is Maisha Project, a school and health clinic in Kisumu, Kenya. The second is Gull Lake Center, a summer camp in Lacombe, Alberta. These two organizations are working together to form leadership opportunities for both their organizations. Maisha is looking to develop a program that explores critical thinking, creativity and Leadership. Gull Lake is looking to develop a gap-year program offering student experiential learning opportunities. Both organizations offer value to the other, thus, being able to produce a mutually beneficial relationship for both parties. It is not only that these organizations can provide a benefit for the other, but in this the power dynamics between the two organizations get more level, allowing for true relationships to be formed. This relationship, I believe, is what is so interesting because it can have long-lasting, transformational benefits for both sides, it also represents the gospel truths of being in relationship with one another. I will look both at this isolated case between Maisha and Gull Lake, as well as looking at the literature about the missional benefits of mutual relationships. As well as exploring ideas from Samuel Well Incarnation Mission: Being With The World, and various other sources for a deeper theological understanding of the importance of relationship to the project of missions.

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### Reed M. Schulze (AB)

Reed Schulze resides in Calgary, Alberta, with his wife, Olivia, and their daughter, Leila. He is the young adult pastor and also leads the missional partnerships at Westside Kings Church. Reed holds a Master of Arts in Global Leadership from Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary and has academic interests in theology, culture, and discipleship. He has participated in various organizational ministries for over a decade. Outside work, he enjoys cycling, playing guitar, reading, and spending time in the mountains.

### “Missiology from Above: Theological Foundations for a Missional Ecclesiology “

**Abstract:** The church is inherently a missional entity. It is not simply an institution but a community called to bear witness to God's redemptive and reconciliatory work in the world. This proposal calls for developing a theological foundation for the church's missional identity and its implications for contemporary global evangelism.

Fundamental to the discussion is that mission is not an auxiliary activity the church undertakes but rather an embodied expression of its very essence. By the power of the Holy Spirit, the church is a missionary enterprise because it participates in the Triune God. Employed by biblical mandates such as John 20:21, where Jesus declares, “As the Father has sent me, I am sending you,” this paper will argue that God intrinsically sends the church into the world as a reflection of the Triune mission of God (*missio Dei*).

This preliminary paper will examine how the church's missional identity influences its theological role in vocational discipleship across the Four A's. It will also critique the tendency to compartmentalize mission as a subset of ecclesial activity, advocating instead for a more integrated approach to mission and discipleship. Furthermore, it will cite foundational missiological texts from David J. Bosch, Lesslie Newbigin, Timothy Tennent, and others to illustrate how ecclesiology and missiology are inseparable.

The presentation will explore historical and modern expressions of missional ecclesiology, offering insights into how the church can engage in cultural and societal changes while remaining faithful to its missional call. The primary aim is to foster a revitalized vision of the church as a missional, discipleship-based community embedded in God's redemptive work.

This paper will particularly interest theologians, church leaders, and missiologists seeking to align ecclesiology with a biblically faithful and contextually relevant approach to mission. By exploring the church's missional identity, the preliminary paper aims to inspire a deeper theological understanding of the church's calling to proclaim the Gospel and embody God's redemptive purposes in the world.

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### Hyeong Deug Kim (AB)

Hyeong-Deug Kim (Daniel) is an associate professor of International Business at Leder School of Business, The King’s University in Edmonton, Canada. He worked as country manager for a Korean multinational company and had also established his own business in India. From these cross-cultural business experiences, Daniel brings real-life examples into the classroom.

### “Restoring Dignity & Cultivating a Learning Community: A Holistic Approach to Breaking the Dependency Trap”

**Abstract:** This study examined the effect of dependency trap in the context of Autocare ministry, which provides services to people who are economically unable to repair vehicles, and to suggest effective ways to empower beneficiaries overcome dependency through the case of Good News Auto.

**Methodology** – Semi-structured interviews and document analysis were used to understand dependency traps, and self-determination theory was employed for theoretical reasoning and practical implementation planning.

**Findings** –The findings reveal that Good News Auto’s Jumpstart Fund Allocation and Training Program enhances the competency and autonomy of the beneficiaries, which restores a dignity that can act as energy to overcome dependency. However, rather than running the program as an event, it is necessary to form a learning community by participating in the beneficiary's journey so that they can overcome their dependence together and reach the stage of becoming a role model and coach for those in this situation.

**Contributions** –This research provides actionable insights that transform passive recipients into active contributors, inspiring others to step out of dependency traps and restore dignity. And actionable plans recommended to build capacity, foster autonomy, and cultivate learning communities can be applied in other contexts to overcome negative dependencies.

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### Greg Laing (BC)

Greg Laing is a Regional Mobilizer with the Multiply mission agency. Previous to this, he was a Regional Director of church planting (Ontario), a global worker (Bangkok) and a local church pastor (Vancouver). He is married to Andrea and they have two young adult children. Greg holds a Master's degree from Regent College (Vancouver), and a B.A. from Houghton College (New York).

### “Towards a Closer Collaboration of Assembly and Agency for Missional Movement in Canada”

**Abstract:** As prophetically promised, Jesus is building his church (Matthew 16:18) to fulfill the global missional vision of the gospel being planted within every tongue, tribe and nation (Revelation 7:9). Within the modern era, the partnership between Canadian churches and global mission agencies was relatively clear, robust but only one directional as numerous missionaries were raised up from churches and sent out by agencies.

Presently, because of substantial changes and challenges within both Canadian culture and the global landscape, mission agencies are reassessing their roles and revising their approaches. This paper will build upon two interconnected observations: First, there is an opportunity for global missionary agencies to adapt to be more helpful with fostering domestic Canadian ministry and, second, that the missiological idea of diaspora ministry is becoming more widely accepted. It will be argued that a closer partnership of assemblies and agencies will foster the healthy growth of existing churches as well as lead to the planting of new churches that will be more sustainable than former models.

This paper will explore the significant opportunity within Canada for global mission agencies, who have historically focused on sending missionaries abroad, to be more aligned with churches to equip their members to be more compassionate, capable and comfortable working with people from cultural backgrounds different from their own. As a mobilizer for a Canadian denomination mission, I will begin by identifying some of the current challenges that are at hand and then will suggest ways that local churches can grow in partnership with mission agencies towards missional movement in Canada.

Specifically, some of the themes that will be explored include evaluating the legacy of the common use of the “Homogenous Unit Principle” (pioneered by Donald McGavran) for new immigrant Canadian church planting (including with the critique of second generation believers who have not flourished within this approach); exploring the benefits of local churches partnering with mission agencies within a clear and compelling diaspora framework and evaluating the effectiveness of church models (either types of planting or assimilation) through which established churches have attempted to welcome newcomers to Canada.

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### **Bonibelle Hodge (AB)**



Bonibelle Hodge grew up in Northern Newfoundland, but her vocational ministry has taken her to cities across Newfoundland, Ontario, and Alberta. She currently serves as the Central Adult Ministry Pastor at Beulah Alliance Church in Edmonton, Alberta. Bonibelle has pursued education at Memorial University of Newfoundland, Master's College and Seminary, and Tyndale Seminary. She is currently completing her MA in Transformational Leadership in Urban Ministry at Bakke Graduate University. As a speaker and writer, Bonibelle challenges audiences to take their next step from brokenness to restoration in their lives, relationships, purpose, and cultural impact. As an activator, she informs and inspires people to live missionally among those they live, work, study, and play with. Passionate about seeing others thrive, she empowers individuals to become people of peace, bringing hope and healing in an urban context.

### **“The Influence of New Immigrants on the Revitalization of Canadian Urban Churches”**

**Abstract:** Canada's cultural and religious demographic landscape has changed and continues to change as the population of new immigrants continues to grow. This is particularly true of urban centers. . The influx of new Canadians into our churches should influence our culture, methods, and types of ministry, as well as our expression of faith, worship, and evangelism.

This paper will give a brief overview of Canada's changing demographics and how they have affected urban churches and culture. Using a few church examples from across Canada, some generalities will be made that are common to all. We will use Edmonton as a test example and share local churches' stories, methods, and ministry examples. A brief overview of what has been successful and not successful will be discussed.

The desired outcome of this paper will be to show, through statistics, stories, and methodology, the positive influence of new immigrants on Canadian urban churches. The goal is to present future considerations for ministry, including pitfalls and forward movement, as the Canadian urban church continues to thrive within its cultural and religiously diverse current reality.

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