

Ecclesiology & Mission

EVANGELICAL MISSIOLOGICAL SOCIETY (EMS) CANADA 2025 REGIONAL CONFERENCE

Friday, April 11, 2025

8:30 AM – 5:30 PM (EDT)

Tyndale University (Toronto, ON Venue)

[Online Zoom Link](#)

Partners



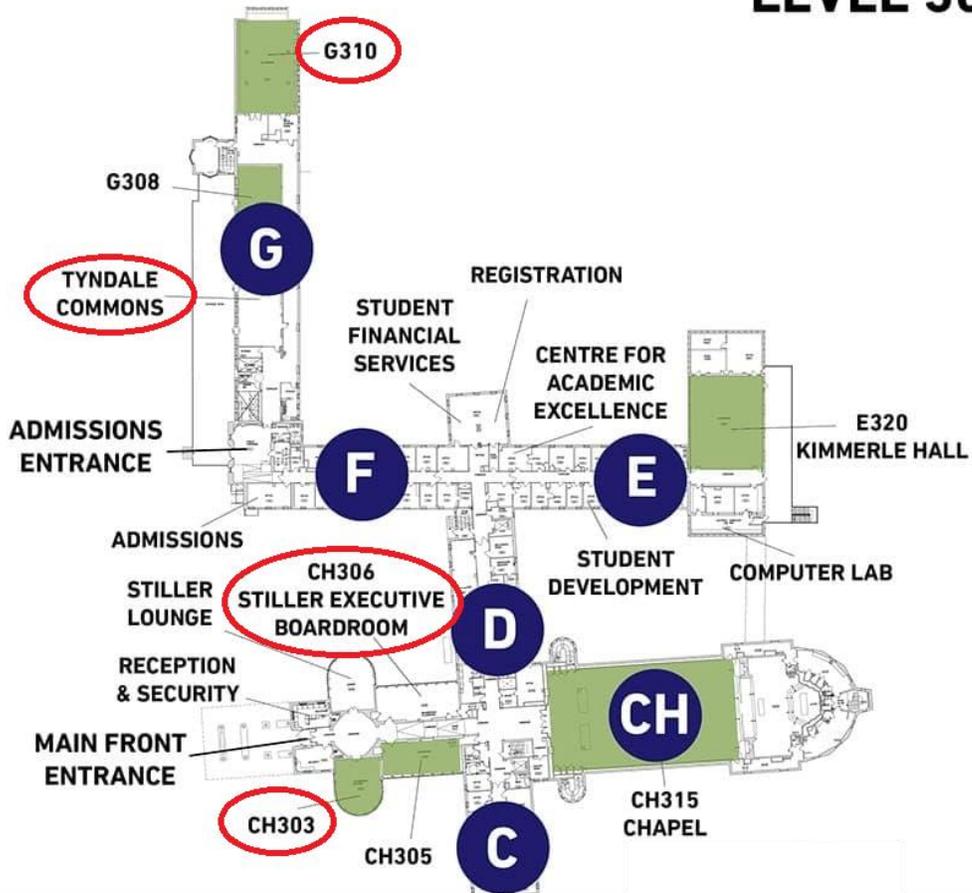
Lausanne Movement
Canada



“Ecclesiology & Mission” - Ontario Program & Schedule

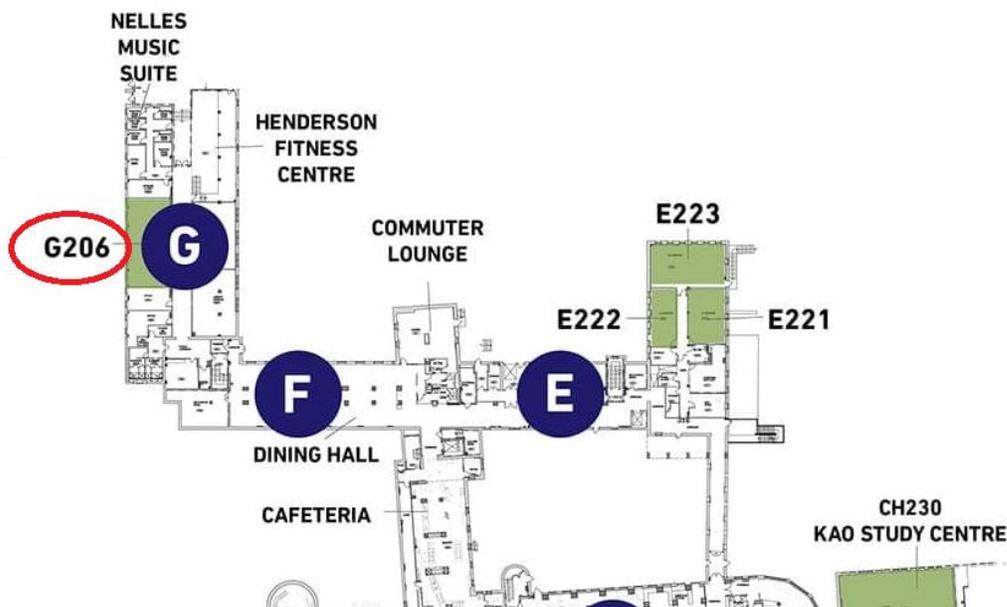
Time	Program	Room
8:00 AM - 8:20 AM	Registration & Check-In	Tyndale Commons (G307)
8:20 AM – 8:30 AM	Introduction & Welcome Land Acknowledgement, Welcome, Prayer (Joel Zantingh [MC], Beth Green [Tyndale University Provost], Narry Santos [EMS Canada VP])	Tyndale Commons (G307)
8:30 AM – 9:30 AM	Paper Presentations #1 (5 Papers, 5 Tracks) The Incarnation as a Framework for Theological Reflection in Healthy Kingdom Communities (Jon Fuller) It’s About God’s Church, Not Your Church (Willy Kotiuga) New Congregations in the Canadian Kaleidoscope (James Watson) Contextualizing the Gospel for Young Adults in Quebec: A Preliminary Exploration (Élizabeth Lecavalier) Using the Henry Venn’s Three “Selves” to Nurture the Mission of Rural & Small-Town Churches in Post-Christendom Canada (Peter Bush)	Tyndale Commons (G307) G310 CH303 CH306 G206
9:35 AM – 9:50 AM	Break	Tyndale Commons (G307)
10:00 AM – 11:15 AM	Plenary Keynote #1: “We believe in One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic Church’: The Church and the Mission of God” (Grant LeMarquand) – Live from AB Response: Ashoor Yousif – Live in ON	Tyndale Commons (G307)
11:30 AM – 12:20 PM	Paper Presentations #2 (5 Papers, 5 Tracks) Missional Spirituality: Integrating Mission and Spiritual Formation for the Life of the Church (Marilyn Draper) Pastors as Bridgers for the Mission of the Church in a Polarizing World (Narry F. Santos) Shaping the Future: Canadian Denominational Organizations Fostering Multiplication Culture (James Watson) Faith-Based Interventions in eSports: Enhancing Mental Health & Spiritual Growth for Youth & Young Adults through Healing Coaching & Strategic Parenting Tools (Bret Chapman) Recovering Missio Dei & Motus Dei: Christological Missiology Driving Us Toward Adaptive Ecclesiology for a Post-Truth Canada Toward Adaptive Ecclesiology for a Post-Truth Canada (Chris Carr)	Tyndale Commons (G307) G310 CH303 CH306 G206

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Plenary Keynote Speakers & Respondents:



**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.



**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.



**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.



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 #2

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.



Alexander Lee (ON)

In addition to serving as an Intercultural Leadership Consultant with the TIM Centre, Alexander is a PhD candidate in Missiology at Fuller Seminary, where he also teaches 'Theology of Mission' as an adjunct faculty member. His latest article on new frontiers in missiology can be found in the current issue of the Journal of the Evangelical Missiological Society, and a forthcoming article on evangelical engagement with the spirit realm will be published in Studies in World Christianity this summer. Alex was recently selected to join the Templeton Pluralism Fellowship, a catalyst for Christian and Muslim discourse, research, and writing on religion in public life. Before returning to Canada in 2021, Alex served as a missionary pastor for fifteen years in East Asia, Central Asia, and Turkey with his wife and two children.

ON Track #1: Fresh Frameworks for Church and Mission (*Tyndale Commons - G307*)

“The Incarnation as a Framework for Theological Reflection in Healthy Kingdom Communities”

Abstract: This paper explores the Incarnation of Christ as a theological framework for fostering healthy Kingdom-centered communities within organizational contexts, particularly Christian organizations. Drawing from personal narrative, scripture, missiology, and theological traditions, the author argues that the life and ministry of Jesus—especially understood through the threefold office of prophet, priest, and king (the *Munus Triplex*)—offers a vital lens for theological reflection by organizational leaders. As prophet, Christ calls organizations to pursue Kingdom vision and purpose with integrity. As priest, he models sacrificial leadership and relational community rooted in service, unity, and mutual care. As king, he challenges structures of power and promotes systems oriented toward justice, accountability, and God’s rule.

The paper critiques common organizational dysfunctions in Christian settings while affirming the importance of theological grounding for all human enterprise. It illustrates this framework with examples from leadership experiences, global mission contexts, and even cultural narratives like *The Lord of the Rings*, showing how the priestly call to service, the prophetic call to vision, and the kingly call to systems renewal must be integrated. Ultimately, it argues that theological reflection, rooted in the Incarnation, is essential for building communities that glorify God through their mission, relationships, and organizational life.



Jon Fuller (ON)

Jon grew up in the Philippines where his parents served as missionaries with OMF International. He and his wife Marilyn returned to the Philippines with OMF to live and serve in a Filipino Muslim community for many years. Jon also served in global mission leadership with OMF based out of Singapore and Canada. Jon is the author of *Cross Currents: The Story of the Muslim and Christian Encounter in the Philippines*, combining historical research and personal stories to explore the complex encounter between Islam and Christianity in the Philippines. He has an MA in Inter-Cultural Studies from Fuller Theological Seminary and a Doctor of Ministry in Leadership from Tyndale University. In January 2023 Jon was appointed as Resident Missiologist with the Evangelical Fellowship of Canada (EFC). As a missiologist, he spends time engaging with Canadian leaders around the intersection of gospel, church, and culture. Jon’s passion continues to be investing in the next generation, helping them become everything God has called them to be. Jon and his wife Marilyn are blessed with three grandchildren and look forward to teaching them how to stern a canoe, trim a mainsail and shape their lives to the winds of the Spirit.

“Missional Spirituality: Integrating Mission and Spiritual Formation for the Life of the Church”

Abstract: When mission and spiritual formation are integrated, the church is prepared to more fully participate in Christ’s mission in the world in the 21st century. Particularly in Western traditions, there is a tendency to think of spiritual formation as an isolating activity with a focus on how God is shaping the individual in his or her interior life. As a result, spirituality often becomes separated from mission. Further, because mission is perceived as an outward activity, personal evangelism and social ministry tend to be removed from spiritual formation. This paper seeks to integrate the two concepts showing how this connection emerges in the biblical narrative and revealing that this integration deepens our practice of church as the loving and hope-filled community that bears witness to the Holy Spirit’s work in the world. Learning to participate together in Christ’s mission will bring forth transformation in the Christian community because through participating in the *missio Dei* (or *missio Trinitas*), we are participating together in Christ’s life. Participating in Christ’s life through the Spirit (in other words deepening our spirituality) equips us to live into our calling and practice of mission. Mission and spiritual formation need to be

effectively intertwined and integrated because they are not simply separate activities enacted by Christian individuals; rather, the two are foundational lived realities that combine to express the true nature and function of the Christian church.



Marilyn Draper (ON)

Rev. Dr. Marilyn Draper is Associate Professor of Practical Theology at Tyndale Seminary. As a church planter and an ordained minister, Dr. Draper combines years of frontline ministry experience with theological expertise. Through her teaching and research, Dr. Draper encourages us to wrestle with the nature of church leadership and what it means for us to actively participate in God's mission in our current global context.

"Mission to the Nations: An Ecclesiological Perspective"

Abstract: In all of scripture, God has a purpose for the nations in glorifying him. His mission is to draw all nations to him. Pierson claims that in reading the missionary text in the Old Testament, God intends to bless all nations (panta ta ethne). In the New Testament, God desires the discipling of all nations. In both cases, the idea of mission to the nations is directed to the call to all nations to be gathered under his lordship.

Delineating God's mission to all nations necessitates asking two questions: what is the biblical meaning of nation (ethnos) and, why is the mission to the nations salient in God's mission? The first question lays the foundation for clarity of God's intent and the second question delves into the theology of ethnicity and its missiological implications. It is imperative, however, to further ascertain the mission to the nations from an ecclesiological perspective as the nature and role of the church is essential to God's salvific act.

This paper seeks to answer these three questions with the intent to highlight the nature of the church as an ecclesial (assembly) community of the nations and a missional community that seeks to disciple the nations. The paper seeks to posit that an ecclesiological perspective of mission to the nations reframes the missiological direction from evangelism to discipleship. This challenges the assumption of the prevailing perspective of "finishing the task" of reaching out to all people groups as the end goal of mission.



Nestor Abdon (ON)

Rev. Dr. Nestor Abdon is a ministry practitioner and missiologist who seeks to understand the nature of diaspora movements in the context of God's redemptive purpose. This is reflected in his ministry experience, first through his work at Adam House Refugee Center where he engaged with churches to welcome refugees, and then at The Peoples Church where he served as Newcomers Ministry Pastor. In this responsibility, he elevated the role of churches in the newcomer settlement process by spearheading program collaboration with non-profit settlement organizations. In his time at Knox Presbyterian Church as local and global missions Pastor, he led the church in equipping and strengthening its hospitality posture and celebrating cultural diversity. Currently, he is serving as the Global and Local Outreach Pastor of Bramalea Baptist Church in Brampton, Ontario. He is married to Liza who is a settlement counselor supporting immigrants and refugees in their settlement process in Canada. Nestor holds a Doctor of Public Administration degree from the University of the Philippines, and Doctor of Intercultural Studies from Western Seminary in Portland, Oregon. His dissertation has been converted into a book on the intersection of migration and mission. He has also published articles on church diaspora hospitality and contextualization with the Lausanne Global Analysis and Mission Frontiers, respectively.

ON Track #2: Reimagining Church and Mission (G310)

“It’s About God’s Church, Not Your Church”

Abstract: The Church’s mission is not about institutional preservation; it is about being accountable to God’s transformative vision. This paper explores how ecclesiology and mission intersect when we prioritize divine accountability over human traditions. Are we, as Jesus warned, trying to put new wine into old wineskins? Drawing on the messages of the prophets—such as Haggai, Amos, and Isaiah—we see a consistent call to justice, integrity, and transparency. The prophets’ insights provide timeless best management practices for today’s Church, urging us to move beyond institutional inertia. Additionally, this paper examines the metrics we use to gauge success, asking whether we are applying God’s standards or our own. Insights from faith-driven project metrics and principles of spiritual discernment highlight the importance of measuring fruitfulness rather than mere productivity. We will also address the role of effective mentorship and holistic discipleship, exploring where discipling truly begins—in the marketplace, home, and congregation.

Finally, rediscovering lament as a spiritual practice offers a pathway to see the Church’s mission from God’s perspective. Through lament, we confront our shortcomings and realign with divine purpose. This paper challenges the Church to embrace a dynamic, Spirit-led mission that transcends institutional boundaries, ensuring that we remain faithful to God’s vision for His Church.



Willy Kotiuga (QC)

Willy Kotiuga is Chair of the Board of Regents at Bakke Graduate University (www.bgu.edu) and a Co-Catalyst of the Lausanne/WEA Global Integrity and Anti-Corruption Network (www.globalintegritynetwork.org). He teaches a graduate course on Metrics of Innovation. He holds a Ph.D. from the University of Waterloo and an MFA in Creative Nonfiction Writing from University of Kings’ College. An author and advocate for integrity in leadership, Willy serves on several faith-based nonprofit boards. He was the Program Chair for the Lausanne Global Workplace Forum held in Manila in 2019. He resides in Montreal, Canada, with his wife, Nita.

“Pastors as Bridgers for the Mission of the Church in a Polarizing World”

Abstract: The increasingly polarized world culture affecting North America can be evident in four dichotomized ways that Canadian Christian churches seem to view the mission of the church. These four dichotomies are the sacred–secular divide, clergy–laity divide, Sunday–Monday divide, and church–community divide. Two other dichotomies can also be found in the congregational mindsets of cultural and generational divides. To move away from these polarizing paradigms, this paper proposes that the church shift to the “bridge” metaphor in relation to its mission (i.e., sacred and secular bridge; clergy and laity bridge; Sunday and Monday bridge; church and community bridge; cultural and generational bridges).

This paper presents the following two lines of support for the “bridge” metaphor shift: (1) four theological concepts (i.e., the Lordship of Christ over all of life; the Spirit bestowing gifts to all believers; the mission of God for all days; and the kingdom of God in all creation); and (2) biblical examples in Acts for cultural bridge-building (Acts 6:1-7; 11:19-21; 13:2 [cf. 4:36; 221:39]) and in Genesis for generational blessings (from Abraham [Gen. 12:1-3; 15:5; 17:5-8] to Isaac [Gen. 26:3-5] to Jacob [Gen. 28:13-14] to the twelve sons of Jacob [Gen. 49:1-28]). Finally, this paper recommends that pastors take on the crucial role as “bridgers” (people who intentionally link separated church concepts and practices and who fully seek to help construct, maintain, and protect these connected concepts and practices). Pastors can embody their “bridger” role by serving their congregation and community as integrative guides, intercultural shepherds, and intergenerational stewards.



Narry F. Santos (ON)

Narry F. Santos is Associate Professor of Christian Ministry and Intercultural Leadership at the seminary of Tyndale University in Toronto, Vice President of the Evangelical Missiological Society Canada, and Board Member of the Global Gates Canada. He completed his PhD in New Testament from Dallas Theological Seminary (1994) and his PhD in Philippine Studies from the University of the Philippines (2006). He wrote several books, including *Family Relations in the Gospel of Mark* (Peter Lang) and *Slave of All: The Paradox of Authority and Servanthood in the Gospel of Mark* (Sheffield Academic Press), edited books like *Mission and Evangelism in a Secularizing World: Academy, Agency, and Assembly Perspectives from Canada* (Pickwick Publications), and contributed chapters in edited books and academic journals. He currently serves as part-time Senior Pastor of Greenhills Christian Fellowship (GCF) Peel and GCF York in Ontario, Canada.

"Deconstructing Church & Reconstructing Creation: "Righting the Canoe" as a Missiology for the Era of Climate Change"

Abstract: According to 2023 polls, self-identified Christians have become a minority in Canada for the first time since before Confederation, and the numbers are trending further down as the number of religious "nones" trends upward. Soon the two demographic lines will cross on the population graph. This paper explores the canoe metaphor and qualitative data presented in my co-authored book *Blessed are the Undone: Testimonies of the Quiet Deconstruction of Faith in Canada* (New Leaf Press 2024).

This paper argues that the re-election of Donald Trump as President further exacerbates the negative perception of the (evangelical) church in Canada, as Christianity becomes further associated with white Christian nationalism, the legacy of colonialism, discrimination against LGBTQ+ persons, disregard for climate change, and an anti-science posture. In response, the deconstructed church best mobilize for a mission of reconciliation, following a path similar to the ethos of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. This includes reconciliation with indigenous peoples, LGBTQ+ persons, climate activism, and scientific investigation. This calls for a shift of posture from one poised first for defensive apologetics, to one poised more toward pro-active apologies.

Whatever variety of ecclesiologies shape the church of the future, it will be argued that they must have stronger ties to land, place, and parish. The deconstruction of faith in Canada is inevitably linked to the decolonization of faith in Canada, and key to such repentance is a stronger land ethic, symbolized by the canoe. This paper concludes with reference to Randy Woodley and his book *Shalom and the Community of Creation* and some related examples from the Canadian church. By reconciling our faith with the land, and healing what has been abused in creation, the church not only re-configures its understanding of mission, but mitigates other pressing issues, like the disembodiment that accompanies online culture, the epidemic of mental illness, and the liabilities of nationalism and patriarchy. If our shared canoe is tipping or even sinking, we need practises that stabilize and redirect our current ecclesiology and ecology. In fact, only an ecclesiology that is deliberately linked to a stewardly ecology will bring healing to our land, church, and culture.



Peter Schuurman (ON)

Peter Schuurman (PhD Waterloo Religious Studies) is executive director of Global Scholars Canada and adjunct faculty at Redeemer University (theology). His recent book *The Subversive Evangelical* (McGill-Queens) will have a co-authored sequel this year *Faith on Thin Ice: The Quiet Deconstruction of Christianity in Canada* (New Leaf Press). He lives in Guelph with his family.

ON Track #3: Doing Research on Church and Mission (CH303)

“New Congregations in the Canadian Kaleidoscope”

Abstract: This study examines the worship services of 30 new congregations (a decade old or less) in the Waterloo Region. Vignettes from these church plants provide insight into the variety of ecclesial responses to a culturally diverse region in southern Ontario. Missiological perspective is offered on ways in which new congregations inspire hope for the future of the Canadian cultural kaleidoscope. The research report can be downloaded from: <https://ciecr.wycliffecollege.ca/portfolio-item/10847/>

“Shaping the Future: Canadian Denominational Organizations Fostering Multiplication Culture”

Abstract: Interviews with Canadian leaders within denominational organizations stating they have a plan for supporting the planting of new churches revealed interesting patterns. An organizational change analysis was applied to their responses to investigate how vision was actualized through organizational structures and processes. The intentionality of shaping organizational culture to support the leadership and missional development of new churches has been accomplished by a variety of Christian traditions each with their own developmental processes.



James Watson (ON)

Dr. James Watson is an instructor at Tyndale University and has conducted research in the areas of: church planting, flourishing congregations, tentmakers, intercultural evangelism, and churches' response to immigration.

“Connecting the Church for Mission”

Abstract: Relationships play a fundamental role in congregational health in congregations with diverse populations. Without such health congregations are less likely to engage in fruitful mission activities. Such connections don't happen by themselves. Using data from four case studies on flourishing congregations this paper explores participant perceptions of relational connections within and beyond their congregations and how that relates to congregational flourishing. Following a general discussion of connectedness in these congregations it explores connections with family, with friends, and with congregational leadership within their multicultural communities. We follow this with a brief discussion of some of the challenges that impede this connectedness. The paper ends with an exploration of what this tells us about how relationships sit at the intersection of the different characteristics of congregational flourishing with specific attention to global and local missions.



Mark Chapman (ON)

Dr. Mark Chapman is Director of the Doctor of Ministry Program and Professor of Research Methods at Tyndale University. He is also the Lead Researcher for the Tyndale Intercultural Ministry (TIM) Centre. His research explores intercultural issues in Canadian congregations.

Co-Authored with James Watson

ON Track #4: Ministry to Young Adults and the Agora (CH306)

“Contextualizing the Gospel for Young Adults in Quebec: A Preliminary Exploration”

Abstract: The more I study missiology and interact with young adults in my context, the more I subscribe to Donald McGavran’s belief that no one should have to change culture to find Christ. Yet in Quebec, this is precisely what many evangelical churches are asking of young adults—especially non-religious Quebecers. This paper begins a preliminary exploration of the cultural gap between the evangelical church and young adults in Quebec and proposes that contextualizing the Gospel requires a deeper understanding of the cultural imagination of this generation.

Drawing on epistemology, sociology, and biblical studies, the paper highlights three key fields: (1) the epistemological shift affecting how young adults process authority and truth, (2) sociological insights into their fragmented cultural identity, mental schemas, and value models, and (3) New Testament perspectives on both the content and the shape of the Gospel. These insights guide the formation of the central research question: What models of values and mental patterns would make it possible to contextualize the Gospel in Quebec with a view to cultivating a space for conversation with young adults?

Rooted in both ministry practice and interdisciplinary research, this project aims to offer a foundation for practical recommendations to help the Quebec evangelical church proclaim a Gospel that is both faithful and culturally resonant.



Élisabeth Lecavalier (QC)

Elizabeth Lecavalier is a doctoral student in theology at Université Laval (Ph.D) and has been chaplain to young adults with the Québécois team of Power to Change - Students since 2013. A graduate of Concordia University (B.Comm) and Fuller Theological Seminary (MAGL), she participated as a Canadian delegate at the recent Lausanne Congress in Seoul and has led several student trips to Western Europe and the Arab world in her career. Her heart beats for post-Christian peoples, and it is her hope that – *un beau jour* – there will be an evangelical theology that is properly contextualised to the reality of Québec. The daughter of Lynn and Pierre, Elizabeth enjoys urban life in Montreal with her friends and sister Lydie-Ann, and is part of the community at *Église le Portail* in Laval.

“A Preliminary Survey of Support Systems Available for Agora Participants Transitioning to Vocational Ministry”

Abstract: This paper is written from the perspective of a believer who came to Christ later in life, having spent his formative years in the agora, or marketplace. Therefore, though His conversion was filled with holy anticipation upon receiving life in Christ, the author had limited exposure to the practical aspects of Christian culture and living. This was most profoundly experienced as the author discerned God’s call to enter into full-time vocational ministry outside the marketplace. This anecdotal experience revealed a perceived propensity for the current Canadian Christian culture to default to preparing marketplace participants for ministry within the marketplace rather than preparing marketplace participants to transition to a non-marketplace ministry. Both are faithful expressions of a commitment to living as Jesus calls, though the latter is not the norm and therefore support systems for the latter pathway remain underdeveloped.

This paper includes (1) an autoethnographic study to identify the support needed to transition to non-marketplace ministry from the perspective of the participant, and (2) an initial survey of the scholarly and popular literature to identify resources available, processes followed, and dispositions held in the Canadian context that would provide

the desired support. This initial research is intended to provide direction for future study into both areas, as well as to prompt consideration for the reasons behind the disconnect between need and availability.

The findings of this and future studies may assist in developing a stronger support system for contemporary Canadian Christians, especially those with limited exposure to Christian culture and living, to navigating the variations in faithful expressions of a commitment to living as Jesus calls. This has benefits for both the supporters and supported, since a better developed support system provides the Church with an opportunity for greater unity in its working as the body of Christ.



Rommel Acob (ON)

Rommel Acob is a second-year Masters of Divinity student at Tyndale Seminary. He has spent over 20 years working in Finance, first at a public accounting firm and then at a government not-for-profit. With the support of his wife, church, and a Christian boss, he left his manager role of 10 years after discerning a call from God to prepare for full-time vocational ministry. This transition experience has informed his interest in the topic of his paper.

“Faith-Based Interventions in eSports: Enhancing Mental Health & Spiritual Growth for Youth & Young Adults through Healing Coaching & Strategic Parenting Tools”

Abstract: This paper explores the intersection of faith-based principles and the rapidly evolving world of eSports, focusing on the mental health and spiritual well-being of youth and young adults. Grounded in Reggie Joiner's 'Think Orange' philosophy, it examines how integrating faith-driven coaching models and strategic parenting tools can mitigate the adverse effects of intensive gaming while fostering positive mental health outcomes. The research highlights the unique challenges faced by eSports athletes, including mental health struggles, social isolation, and performance pressures. It proposes holistic interventions rooted in empathy, relational accountability, and community support.

By bridging the gap between traditional faith communities and digital cultures, this study offers innovative approaches for coaches, parents, and faith leaders to nurture young gamers' personal and spiritual development. The paper also introduces EñDgame eSports as a case study, illustrating practical applications of faith-based coaching and family engagement. This work contributes to the emerging discourse on digital ministry and youth development, providing a framework for future research and practical implementation within religious and secular contexts.



Bret Chapman (ON)

Bret Chapman has over 31 years of experience in pastoral youth and family ministry. He is currently partnered with Alliance Canada's New Ventures program, serving in the developmental role of Digital Discipleship. Bret is completing his Master of Education in Leadership and Learning at Yorkville University, with aspirations to pursue a Doctorate in Educational Leadership to advance digital discipleship practices in gaming and eSports. His research explores the intersection of faith, gaming, and mental well-being, advocating for ethical mentorship and holistic development within the eSports ecosystem. Passionate about bridging generational gaps in faith communities, Bret is committed to fostering innovative missional strategies for the digital age.

ON Track #5: Mission in a Post-Christendom Canada and an Interconnected World (G206)

“Using the Henry Venn’s Three “Selves” to Nurture the Mission of Rural & Small-Town Churches in Post-Christendom Canada”

Abstract: Many rural and small towns congregations in Canada have declining memberships, some are in communities facing rural depopulation, others are in decline simply because fewer people are attending church. These congregations struggle to fit the model of church that evolved in Canada over the last half of the 20th century. That ecclesiological model was predicated on a full-time professionally trained clergy person serving a congregation that met each Sunday in a church building. Those dual pillars of the “real” church have become increasingly difficult for many rural and small-town congregations to afford.

This paper will reflect on how Henry Venn’s three “selves” of self-supporting, self-governing, and self-propagating churches could provide ways forward for rural and small-town congregations in Canada to re-claim their identity as part of the mission of God in their communities. While Venn imagined the three “selves” for churches that were growing, those principles can free congregations struggling with unsustainable models of church to shape models of church, ecclesiology, that fit their mission context. Rural and small-town Canada provides enormous scope for churches to live out the mission of the kingdom of God revealed in Jesus Christ.

As congregation members are freed from the financial burden of a model that is beyond their ability to afford, they freed from the cycle of fundraising dinners and bake sales to put energy into connecting with their communities in ways that fit their context. They are freed to claim who they are as churches engaging in the mission in their context, living out the call to be witnesses to Jesus in their Jerusalem.



Peter Bush (ON)

For more than 35 years Peter Bush has been a pastor in remote, rural, suburban and small-town contexts in Canada. His academic research and writing has included the involvement of The Presbyterian Church in Canada in Residential Schools, reflection on the tension being amateur and professional in the ministerial calling, the rise of Korean and African clergy serving English-speaking small town and rural congregations, and the impact of diaspora Christians on Canadian congregations.

“Collaborate: An Interactive Collaboration Process at the Lausanne Movement Congress In Incheon, Korea”

Abstract: The fourth Lausanne Movement Congress, held in Incheon, Korea in September 2024, brought together over 7,000 participants from 200 nations to explore how the global Church can collaboratively declare and display Christ in an increasingly complex world. Anchored in the book of Acts and shaped by a multi-year listening process, the congress identified 25 critical issues and opportunities facing the Church today. In response, an innovative and large-scale collaboration process was co-designed by Ann Chow and Dave Benson to foster trust, creativity, and strategic action among participants of diverse backgrounds and experience levels.

Using a human-centered design approach, the congress emphasized experiential learning over traditional instruction, guiding attendees through a four-step process: Listen, Imagine, Create, and Communicate. This method enabled individuals to assess current realities, envision Spirit-led futures, co-design practical solutions, and commit to collaborative actions. The initiative was not only successful in catalyzing real-time partnerships—such as anti-corruption training projects in India—but also yielded a replicable toolkit for local adaptation post-congress.

This paper presents a case study of this interactive model as a blueprint for engaging the global Church in united, Spirit-filled mission. It demonstrates how participatory design and cross-cultural trust-building can activate the body of Christ to take wise, coordinated action toward fulfilling the Great Commission together.



Ann Chow (ON)

Ann Chow is a leadership consultant and coach with over 25 years of experience facilitating collaborative processes, empowering women in leadership, and guiding complex conversations. Ann specializes in helping leaders and teams align diverse perspectives, navigate uncertainty, and co-create strategies for lasting and meaningful change. Her experience includes designing and facilitating large-scale initiatives, such as a recent Lausanne Movement congress of 5,000 leaders, where she inspired collaborative action and systemic transformation. Ann's ability to empower leaders to align vision with action and achieve meaningful results embodies what we do best—helping leaders make changes they didn't think were possible. Ann is based in Toronto, though you'll often find her travelling worldwide to connect with clients and drive impact.

"Recovering Missio Dei and Motus Dei: Christological Missiology Driving Us Toward an Adaptive Ecclesiology for a Post-Truth Canada"

Abstract: The God who is ever on mission (Missio Dei) and ever on the move (Motus Dei) calls us to join Him in that mission as He builds His kingdom through His Church. As a result, missiology is best fulfilled through adaptive ecclesiology. In our Canadian (and North American) post-truth and nihilistic culture, the Church will best find its way forward not primarily through fixation upon and obsession with a solely or primarily a Western intellectual systematic theological 'circling of the wagons' around the supposed or assumed pre-eminence of a very Westernized ecclesiology, but through recovering the forgotten ways of Missio Dei and Motus Dei via the pre-eminence of a robust Christological missiology that naturally births an adaptive contextualized ecclesiology. This is crucial in our rapidly changing North American context.



Chris Carr (ON)

Dr. Chris Carr has served as Executive Director of Global Gates Network of Canada since arriving in the Greater Toronto Area in Sept. 2017. He previously served cross-culturally as a strategist and missionary team leader in Russia and Ukraine from 1999-2015 with the International Mission Board. He is a graduate of Oklahoma Baptist University in 1986—Pastoral Ministry major and Sociology minor. Chris earned a Master of Divinity (with Biblical Languages) degree in 1997 from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, a Doctor of Ministry degree in International Church Planting Leadership in 2010 from Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Kansas City, Missouri, and a PhD in Biblical Missiology in 2021 from Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Kansas City. He and Eileen have five children: Nathan (26), Tim (24), Heather (22), and Stephen & Seth (20—twins). Chris loves to read, listen to music, and collect stamps.
