

# MOVING FORWARD

Regional Gatherings 2016



As the FMCiC LifePlan Study Team prepares for the 2017 General Conference, it is at the stage of providing a “writing team report” to the FMCiC constituency. You are invited to prayerfully reflect on it in advance of the **2016 Regional Gatherings** – to ask the Lord to give you insight into what has been identified and what has been missed.

Please work your way through the issues that are listed and also make good use of the prayer prompts as you pray.

## WHAT KINDS OF CHURCHES DOES CANADA NEED?

The Canadian religious landscape has changed. The fastest growing segment of the Canadian population are people who are converting toward having no religious identity at all (the so-called ‘Nones’). In order to be more faithful to what God is calling us to be and do, we need to recognize that many Canadians see life very differently from us. We need to understand how much has changed and reach out beyond our comfort zones.

### *As evidenced by:*

- Much of our resources are invested in reaching Evangelicals - 12% of the population. Much of our growth continues to come from this small segment of the population.
- 45% of Canadians identify themselves as Christian but that makes no appreciable difference in the way they live their lives and what they value.
- The “Nones” have grown from 4% to 24%, in the last 40 years. There is now a 2nd generation of Canadians who are being raised to believe that having no religion is the most positive way to live.
- Immigration has bolstered the number of committed Christians in Canada but it has also increased the number of members of “Other Religions” in Canada- from 4% to 11%.

### *Prayer:*

- Lord, what would Your church look like if we actively gave more of our attention to “the other 88%”?
- Lord, what can we do together in order to reach more kinds of people?
- Lord, who are the people in my life that deserve more of my attention?

## CLARITY OF FMCiC IDENTITY

When people healthily identify with the mission, vision and values of the FMCiC, they are able to experience the benefits of full participation in its ministry. In order to be more faithful to what God is calling us to, we must address the lack of clarity around what it means to be a Free Methodist in our churches.

### *As evidenced by:*

- A general lack of knowledge in our congregations of what it means to be Free Methodist.
- A lack of intentional formation in our churches around the unique calling of Free Methodists within Canada.
- A lack of willing engagement in the FMCiC accountability infrastructure.

### *Prayer:*

- Lord, what is your unique mandate for us as a denomination?
- Lord, what more can I be and do to more faithfully live out who You have called us to be?

## DENOMINATIONAL ECOSYSTEM

Our denominational ecosystem is the interrelated way by which we sustain and nurture life together as local churches, pastors, and lay leaders. In order for us to be more faithful to what God is calling us to do we need to take a deeper look at the functioning of our denominational ecosystem.

### *As evidenced by:*

- the fears, that some express, regarding church and pastoral transitions
- the frustration among leaders regarding inadequate coaching (eg. the tracking process)
- the inconsistencies in participation in Core (the national operating budget) and Giving Streams (Church Planting, Global Missions and Leadership Development)

### *Prayer:*

- Lord, what vision could you birth in us for our denominational ecosystem?
- Lord, how can we collectively steward our resources and energy?

See all research data and notes at:

<http://fmcic.ca/regional-gatherings-2016/>



## DISCIPLESHIP

Free Methodism relies on intentional discipleship as a core component of Christian formation in our churches. In order to be more faithful to what God is calling us to we must continue to develop a culture of discipleship within our churches.

### **As evidenced by:**

- Pastors and churches still feel inadequate to make disciples
- Discipleship is a momentary practice in our churches rather than an ongoing rhythm.
- Measuring discipleship practices continues to be a challenge for our churches
- The need for new leaders continues in order to fulfill the mission we see before us.

### **Prayer:**

- Lord, I know that you have told us to go and make disciples. Please help me.
- Lord, release the gifts you've given us for the equipping of the saints for the work and for the building up of the Body of Christ.

## COMMUNICATION

Healthy two-way communication is essential for a robust organization. In order to be more faithful to what God has called us to do, we must address the issue of communication.

### **As evidenced by:**

- Good news stories of local churches, FMCiC initiatives, programs and systems are not being heard.
- The lack of clarity of the roles and responsibilities of the National Leadership Team.
- The lack of responsiveness from the constituency to requests from the FMCiC (eg. Performance appraisals).

### **Prayer:**

- Lord, deepen our life together. Help us converse with one another - to listen and hear each other.
- Lord, help us encourage one another by sharing the stories of what you are doing among us.

## CONNECTION

Although connection is a core value of the FMCiC, some people are feeling less connected. In order to be more faithful to what God has called us to do, we must address the issue of what links us together.

### **As evidenced by:**

- Attendance trends at denominational events
- Limited interaction among churches in the same region
- Lack of awareness of the connection between local churches and the FMCiC.
- The desire of local church leaders for more connections with national leaders.

### **Prayer:**

- Lord, I pray that we would be one as You and the Father are one.
- Lord, how can I encourage and 'spur on' other Free Methodists ministering near me?

## YOUNG LEADERS AND DEVELOPMENT OF COMPETENT GODLY LEADERS

A healthy organization must be led by Godly competent leaders. In order to engage with the present and prepare for the future we must develop new generations. To be more faithful to what God has called us to do, we must address the issue of leadership recruitment and development.

### **As evidenced by:**

- The rapidly changing landscape of Canadian culture
- 50% of current pastors are over the age of 50
- 26 pastors are eligible to retire in the next 5 years
- An observable decrease in the number of youth and children in our churches

### **Prayer:**

- The fields are white unto harvest. Lord, please raise up a generation of courageous and insightful workers. Show me what I can do to love and encourage others to respond to your call.
- Lord, what can I do to love and encourage younger people?

## BI-VOCATIONAL PASTORS

At least 50% of our churches currently function with bi-vocational leadership. In order to be more faithful to what God is calling us we must grapple with the current realities of Bi-vocational pastoral ministry.

### **As evidenced by:**

- In an increasingly secularizing Canada, the demand for full-time pastoral employment may be diminishing.
- The economic realities of bi-vocational pastors have implications on their capacity to conduct ministry in churches with "full time" pastoral expectations.
- There are practical implications for bi-vocational pastors to fully participate in our essential parts of our ecosystem (e.g. network meetings, pastoral conferences, foundation courses, and leadership committees).

### **Prayer:**

- Lord, give me the spirit of doing whatever it takes to accomplish your mission
- Lord, I thank you for the willingness of others who sacrifice on our behalf. Help me to come alongside to encourage them.
- Lord, help me to be gracious and realistic in my expectations of others.

See all research  
data and notes at:

<http://fmcic.ca/regional-gatherings-2016/>



**Regional Gathering 2016**  
The Free Methodist Church in Canada  
[www.fmcic.ca](http://www.fmcic.ca)

# Regional Gatherings 2016

::: locations/groups/dates ::: from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm



## QUEBEC @ Rosemont FMC March 19, 2016

Clarenceville  
Gatineau, Église la lumière  
Laval, des Mille-Iles  
Le Gardeur  
Montréal, Pêheur d'Hommes  
Montréal, Centre biblique  
louange a l'éternel  
Montréal, Missionaire Bethseda  
Montréal, Rosemont  
Montréal, St Henri  
Montréal, Tabernacle de la Grâce  
Montréal, Vision de la lumière  
Quebec City, Libre l'Espérance  
Repentigny, la Foi des Elus  
Sherbrooke, Source d'eau vive

## South/southwestern ONTARIO @ Freedom CC April 2, 2016

Southwestern Ontario  
Dresden  
Kitchener, Una  
Port Rowan  
Sarnia, Iglesia del Buen Samaritano  
Sarnia, New Horizons  
Sarnia, theStory  
Simcoe  
Simcoe, The Comm  
Sombra, Zion  
Tillsonburg  
Wallaceburg, Charlemont

Niagara Peninsula  
Brantford, Freedom CC  
Burlington  
Caistor Centre  
Dunnville  
Hamilton, Buchanan Park  
Hamilton, Uncrowded House  
Hamilton, Rymal Road  
Niagara Falls, Queensway  
Ridgeway, The Journey  
St. Catharines, Grapeview  
Welland, Rice Road

## CENTRAL ONTARIO-NORTH @ Barrie FMC April 23, 2016

Barrie  
Bracebridge  
Gravenhurst, Ryde Cen  
Mt Albert, Holt  
Newmarket  
Orillia  
Sutton West, Belhaven  
Thornbury  
Uxbridge  
Wyevale

## EASTERN ONTARIO @ Smiths Falls FMC – May 14, 2016

East  
Almonte  
Campbell's Bay  
Carleton Place  
Kemptville  
Mississippi  
Ottawa, Arlington Woods  
Ottawa, Ecclesiah  
Ottawa, Eglise Bethel  
Perth  
Smiths Falls  
Stittsville, Chapel Ridge

West  
Athens  
Cole Lake  
Harrowsmith  
Kingscourt-Kingston  
Kingston-Next  
Kingston-Polson Park  
Kingston-Rustle  
Kingston West  
Parham  
Seeleys Bay, Shiloh  
Seeleys Bay, Pine Grove  
Verona  
Westport

## CENTRAL ONTARIO-EAST @ Wesley Acres (formerly Frankford RG)- April 23, 2016

Belleville  
Campbellford  
Cloyne, Pineview  
Cordova Mines  
Enterprise  
Flinton, Thru the Roof  
Frankford  
Madoc  
Marmora  
Napanee  
Odessa  
Peterborough  
Peterborough-Third Space  
Picton  
Vennacher  
Warkworth  
Yarker

## CENTRAL ONTARIO - GTA @ Markham FMC April 9, 2016

East GTA  
Courtice, Trulls  
Oshawa, Free Way  
Armadae  
Eastern Koinonia  
Eglise Chretienne Emmanuel  
Markham  
Malvern Methodist  
Malvern Tamil  
Richmond Hill Chinese /English  
The Good Shepherd Arabic  
Wesley Chapel  
Wesley Chapel Japanese  
Whitby

West GTA  
Bramalea  
Bramalea Tamil  
Kingsview  
Mississauga, Assyrian  
Mississauga, Grace  
Mississauga, Saeronam  
Mississauga, Tamil  
Toronto, Gospel of Love  
Toronto, Emmanuel Chrétienne

## SASKATCHEWAN/Manitoba @ Arlington Beach Camp April 23, 2016

South  
Avonlea  
Eyebrow  
Killarney  
Moose Jaw, First  
Regina, Northview  
Roblin  
Wawota  
Weyburn  
  
North  
Melfort  
Prince Albert  
Saskatoon, Lakeview  
Saskatoon, God's Mountain  
Saskatoon, Hampton  
Saskatoon, Riversdale  
Spiritwood

## Northern ONTARIO @ St. Joseph's Island - May 7, 2016

Blezard Valley  
Sault Ste Marie  
St Joseph Island  
Timmins

## NW ONTARIO/Winnipeg @ Dryden FMC – April 30, 2016

Dryden  
Fort Frances  
Kakabeka Falls, O'Connor  
Thunder Bay  
Winnipeg

## ALBERTA @ Ellice

### May 7, 2016

Calgary, Pineridge House  
Calgary, West Springs  
Edmonton  
Okotoks, Genesis House  
Duffield, Mewassin

## BRITISH COLUMBIA @ Nicola Valley Evangelical Free Church May 14, 2016

Kamloops  
Kelowna  
Mission  
New Westminster  
Salmon Arm-Crossroad  
Salmon Arm-Lakeside  
Surrey

*What is the  
Holy Spirit  
saying to local  
church leaders?*



## The Free Methodist Church in Canada

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### LOCATION ADDRESSES

- Rosemont FMC — Location: 3553 rue Jean-Talon Est, Montreal
- Freedom Christian Community — Location: 152 North Park St., Brantford
- Barrie FMC — Location: 284 Cundles Road East, Barrie, ON
- Smiths Falls FMC — Location: 573 Hwy 29, RR 4 Smiths Falls ON
- Markham FMC - Location: 22 Esna Plark Place, Markham ON
- Arlington Beach Camp — Location: Cymric, SK
- Wesley Acres — Location: 1391 Wesley Acres Road Bloomfield, ON
- St. Joseph Island — Location: 1589 Hilton Road, Hilton Beach ON
- Dryden FMC — Location: 261 Van Horne Avenue, Dryden
- Alberta — Location:
- British Columbia — Location: Merritt, Nicola Valley Evangelical Free Church, 1950 Maxwell Avenue, Merritt