

Special Report to the CCC Governing Board, November 2014
Christian Interfaith Reference Group

Chair: Gail Allan

Please note:

This Report is special because we are presenting it as an annotated version of topics from our fall meeting agenda. Particular questions to the Governing Board are included with each agenda item. By the evening of Tuesday, November 18, after CIRG's meeting has been completed, we will update this Report online [www.councilofchurches.ca/70th-anniversary-assembly-important-documents/] and indicate particular questions we are directing to the Governing Board. We respectfully request that you give your denomination's feedback and guidance personally to our Chair, staff members, and/or the CIRG representative from your denomination before the end of the November Governing Board meeting.

CIRG November 2014 Agenda Topics:

- **Visit to Commission on Faith and Witness**
 - progress on CFW's Religious Pluralism discussion / document
 - possible directions for Religious Pluralism discussion / document
- **CIRG Welcome**
 - Representatives from CIRG to attend Churches' Forum on Global Ministries (second half of presentation) and Biotechnology Reference Group meetings on our behalf
- **Religious Freedom statement**
 - General discussion of statement and suggestions (Gail Allan), including May 2014 report to the Governing Board
 - Decision: Where to go from here?
- **CIRG visits Churches' Forum on Global Ministries** (general presentation)
- **Inter-Faith Database**
 - Presentation by Robert Smith
 - Discussion
 - Decision as to next steps and completing the work

Note: Robert Smith is a researcher on a special contract with CIRG to gather and shape the Interfaith Resources Database for Canada. He will be reporting on the work done thus far, and on his vision for completing it. CIRG will be deciding (in consultation with Jesse Hair, CCC Communications Officer) how to present this database on the CCC website.

- **CIRG Business**

- 3 year plan (this triennium and next triennium)
- report or requests to Governing Board
- business arising from today's activities
 - Religious Freedom statement
 - Database
 - Relationship with Commissions and Committees
- membership and leadership of this Group
- relationships with Canadian Christian-Jewish Consultation (CCJC) and National Muslim Christian Liaison Committee (NMCLC) and Interfaith Conversation

Note: One of CIRG's roles is to communicate the work of CCJC and NMCLC to the CCC GB.

- news of and relationship with North American Interfaith Network
- next meetings

Note: Spring 2015 meeting will be in Kingston.

- **Round-Table Discussion on Inter-Faith Work in Our Contexts (open to the Assembly)**

Discussion Questions:

In the context of your denomination, what are the key calls for interfaith work in the future?

What is your advice for the CCC as it seeks to engage member churches in this work?

Note: We will be providing further information about the participants, and about the content of this discussion, after the CIRG meeting.