

Report on Canadian Council of Churches Representation – Hugh Kirkegaard

The past year has marked a significant milestone for the Canadian Council of Churches which celebrated the 80th anniversary of its founding in December 2024. The anniversary offered an opportunity to raise funds to support the work of the Council and raise the profile of the CCC at the same time. Special contributions from member churches and a targeted fund-raising effort was successful in achieving both goals.

In 2025 the Council marked another anniversary – that of the 1700th year of the Nicean Council which led to the adoption of the Nicene Creed by the early church. Preparations for this at the November meeting of the Council led to interesting theological conversations between those creedal traditions which are well represented in the CCC and those of us like CABF, who as Baptists, are non-creedal.

The passing of Pope Francis in April, just after Easter, led to an invitation to Canadian faith leaders from the federal government to attend the funeral Mass for the Pope in the Vatican. Rev. Amanda Currie, the current president of the CCC and a Presbyterian minister from Regina represented the CCC on this occasion.

The Council met in November 2024 in Mississauga and in May 2025 in Ottawa and I was present for both meetings representing the CABF. Being a part of the CCC as a member church allows us to be part of these larger national and international ecumenical conversations and to share in Christian community with a wide range of other Christian churches and organizations in Canada who are also members or affiliates of the Council. This continues to be an important and valuable historical relationship for the CABF to nurture and I am privileged to represent us there.

Respectfully Submitted,

Hugh