

Eastern Ontario Outaouais Regional Council Church Extension Committee Role, Activities, Support for Communities of Faith

Updated January, 2026

The Church Extension Committee supports Communities of Faith throughout the Eastern Ontario Outaouais Region by providing shared financial assistance and advice with respect to projects involving their buildings and facilities. The Church Extension Committee provides ongoing support for the Communities of Faith in the Eastern Ontario Outaouais Region with respect to their physical assets and facilities. The Committee provides advice and assistance with respect to:

- new buildings, land, and facilities for the purpose of establishing new congregations;
- renovations and upgrades to buildings, equipment, facilities and audio-visual technology projects and for disposal and demolition of buildings and facilities;
- providing suggestions and advice regarding ways to approach and finance their projects; and,
- providing financial guidance and support through grants, loans or mortgages to cover a portion of the costs.

The Committee's Vision Statement was approved on November 4, 2020: Our Vision: Striving to support the health and continuance of Communities of Faith throughout the Eastern Ontario Outaouais Region with excellent advice and shared financial support for their projects to repair and renew their physical assets.

Supporting Communities of Faith Since 1961 Looking back, the Committee operated between 1961 and 2018 within the former Ottawa Presbytery. The original capital for the Committee's work was provided by the congregations of the former Ottawa Presbytery. Church Extension Committee The Church Extension Committee is a corporation operating under the laws of Ontario. Its Letters Patent and By-Laws were revised in late 2018 to confirm the relationship with the Region.

Directors: Ted Brett, David Debenham-Treasurer, Alan Gale, Catherine Grant-Chair, Judy Harms-Potter-Secretary, Don Reynolds, Linda Suddaby, Mike Velichka-Vice Chair, Rev. Kevin Moratz

EOORC Appointments: Rev. Brian Cornelius, Rev. Eric Hebert-Daly (Resource Person)

The Committee used these funds for the purchase of land which was later donated for the creation of 12 new churches. It provided loans or mortgages to many congregations for major renovations or additions, and it provided grants to for smaller scale improvements to their buildings and facilities. Since the mid-1980s, the Committee supported congregations in the former Ottawa Presbytery with grants, loans or mortgages totalling \$1.3 million. The Church

Extension Committee became part of the Eastern Ontario Outaouais Region in January 2019. Working With Church Extension Each Community of Faith is responsible for management of its physical assets such as church buildings and manses, for maintaining and creating facilities to meet their current needs such as for accessibility ramps and audio-visual technology, and for upgrades to support new forms of ministries that will emerge in the future. The Church Extension Committee supports Communities of Faith to address these needs. Communities of Faith are welcomed to work with the Church Extension Committee in three areas.

1. Application and Advice for Projects: A guideline is available which provides information on the Committee's requirements when considering requests for grants or loans. Communities of Faith seeking funds submit applications and may meet with the Committee on Zoom to make their proposal for shared funding to support projects for their buildings or facilities. The Committee is available to give advice to Communities of Faith. This advice is very useful to the representatives of the Community of Faith if they do not have the expertise, experience or contacts in building-related matters. The Committee has advised several Communities of Faith on ways to make the best use of their facilities in order to supplement their income and increase their engagement with the surrounding community. Examples of alternative uses are renting space and facilities, hosting community events at the Church, or providing space for children's day care.

2. Financial Advice: During meetings with representatives of Communities of Faith, the Committee discusses the financial aspects of the project in detail. Typically, the sources of funding will be from a combination of the Community of Faith's reserves, from fundraising activities, and from Church Extension. The Committee makes suggestions about other sources of funding and works out repayment terms for loans which take account of the financial capacity of the Community of Faith. This advice on the financial aspects of the project leads to an improved funding arrangement.

3. Our budget for grants for a current year will be determined by calculating 4.5% of total income at our fiscal year end, June 30 of the previous year. We will consider applications at a Directors Meeting to be held annually in April, applications will be due by March 1st . Committee members will prioritize projects, providing grants up to but not exceeding its annual budget. If grant requests exceed the budget, the committee may not approve some of the grant requests or may adjust the amount of the grant to fit in the budget. The Corporation's Annual Members Meeting will be held separately in the fall but will not consider applications for grants or loans at the fall meeting. Any emergency applications will be considered on a case by case basis.

4 Thank you for your interest in working with the Church Extension Committee. We look forward to hearing from your Community of Faith.

Judy Harms-Potter-Secretary of the Church Extension Committee, January 2026