Call for Papers
Canadian Theological Society
2027 Annual Meeting
Tuesday, June 1 – Thursday, June 3, 2027
In-person | Toronto School of Theology, Toronto, Ontario

The theme of the 2027 Canadian Theological Society Annual Conference, **Humanity/Humanities**, offers the opportunity to reconsider the human condition in the current context of unbridled technological development and increasing sociocultural and geopolitical tensions.

The emergence of technologies such as generative artificial intelligence emulating and/or surpassing human behaviour and performance invites further reflection on what defines human nature and an existence worth living. At this year's annual meeting, the Canadian Theological Society (CTS) invites papers which are grounded in interrogating what defines and gives meaning, purpose and fulfillment to human lives and education/formation. What does being authentically human mean and entail, in a 21st century marred by economic, social, political, and ecological crises?

This call invites us to propose new ways of understanding our unique condition and predicament and of forming responsible inhabitants and citizens, involved in life-giving relationships with other human beings, non-human creatures, and the creations of the human mind and hand. Thinking about our shared humanity/humanities in its/their myriad forms (natural and artificial) offers both opportunities and challenges.

- How can theologians, theological schools and churches contribute to rethinking what defines wholesome human existence and education/formation, and the relationship these (should) entertain with technology?
- How can and should teaching, research and practice in/of theology be revised/adapted to ensure their relevance for technologically-informed religious and secular environments?
- In the age of generative AI, how are human dignity and personhood, as well as their theological underpinnings (such as the doctrine of the *imago Dei*), to be conceived and lived out (taking due account of the history and enduring effects of endemic/systemic colonialism/colonization, white privilege, racism, sexism, patriarchy, etc.)?
- How are we called to reframe and rework our relationships with other humans, the environment, and technology in a world marked by fragmentation, polarization, climate crisis, and rapid technological advancement?
- By what should the economic, social and political visions and models undergirding the current unbridled technological development (led by giant multinational corporations) be replaced? What defines authentic, healthy and sustainable human growth/progress as such and in response to the current economic, social, political and environmental crises?
- How can human beings experience communion and learn to build community in the present technology-mediated era? How can access to and use of advanced technologies (such as AI) be made affordable, equitable and sustainable for all individuals and communities

(especially considering the prevailing economic, social, political and ecological inequalities and their effects on marginalized, vulnerable and oppressed populations)?
- What role(s) do embodiment, creativity and work play in a human existence ever more permeated with and lived in alternate/remote, artificial/virtual worlds and realities? What are humans being called to be and do in this life?
- In the Anthropocene, where the human footprint has become most significant and more tasks are accomplished by machines than ever before, how are human freedom, agency and responsibility to be understood? Which voices and insights are being neglected or silenced?
- How are religious believers, ministers and theologians challenged to rethink their relationships with creation in light of technological inflation and ecological devastation but also with those marginalized peoples most affected by it?

The CTS invites reflection and engagement on questions such as these. We welcome proposals on all topics in theology, and in all of the theological disciplines, including biblical, constructive, liturgical, moral, pastoral, philosophical, and systematic theology.

The CTS is committed to providing fair representation of Canadian diversity within and beyond the theological community. Women, Indigenous, and Black scholars as well as members of other underrepresented groups are therefore especially enjoined to submit proposals. We also welcome papers engaging a variety of racialized, cultural, and religious perspectives, including Indigenous, Black, Latina/o/x, Womanist, 2SLGBTQIA, critical disability, anti-racist, post-/decolonial, Marxist, non-religious theologies/spiritualities, and environmental and animal studies.

Proposal Formats
The Canadian Theological Society invites proposals in two formats:

Individual Presentations (10-12 minutes)
We invite presentations of 10-12 minutes that will be part of roundtables involving 3 presentations and 20 minutes of discussion. Typically, the presentation will be an account of a larger research project. In addition to academic papers, presentations may take the form of artistic expressions, such as performance or film, incorporation of images with the Pecha Kucha 12×12, or other creative formats. Since members work in a variety of fields and specializations, attention should be given to presenting advanced work in an accessible way.

Submission
Submit a proposal that includes:
- Title of presentation;
- Proposal of a maximum **250 words** (with word count), which includes an abstract, the problem your scholarship engages, and the contribution you plan to make;
- Indication of need to display slides, images, or videos during presentation (PowerPoint or other format);
- On a separate page, please include: presenter's name, institutional or professional affiliation, and contact information.

N.B.: Conference sessions will not be recorded.

Group Panels (50 minutes total)
We invite panels on issues that are relevant to members, especially as related to the theme of the annual meeting. Panel proposals should be developed to include diverse voices and perspectives and foster dialogue among the panelists as well as with those attending in the audience. We discourage panels that consist only of reading several papers.

Submission
Submit a proposal that includes:

- Title of panel;
- Length of panel (total of **50 min**, including 30 min for presentations and 20 min for discussion/conversation);
- Proposal of a maximum **250 words** (with word count), which includes an abstract, the problem your scholarship engages, the contribution you plan to make, and how you plan to foster dialogue among panelists and audience;
- Indication of need to display slides during presentation (PowerPoint or other format);
- On a separate page, please include: convener's name, institution, and contact information. The convener will be the link between the panel and the CTS;
- Names, institutions and contact information of all members (**max. of 4**) of the panel;
- Either the name and contact information of the moderator, or a request that CTS provide a moderator.

N.B.: Conference sessions will not be recorded.
All proposals should be submitted in a Word or PDF file by email attachment by **February 7, 2027, midnight ET** to: canadiantheologicalsocietyinfo@gmail.com. Presenters whose first language, or whose primary language for work, is not English are invited to submit their proposal in their preferred language along with an English translation.

We will confirm receipt of all proposals submitted by email. **If you do not receive such an email confirmation within three days of submitting your proposal, contact Patrick Nolin at patrick.nolin@utoronto.ca**

Presenters will be allowed to give only one paper. Due to the limited number of sessions, the selection process may be more selective than in previous years.

Selection Criteria
In selecting proposals for 10-12 min presentations or for panels, the committee will consider:

- The clarity and significance of the proposal;
- The quality of the contribution to scholarship;
- The relationship of the presentation to the thematic focus of the annual meeting;
- The contribution of the presentation to a diversity of perspectives and approaches;
- The potential for inspiring discussion and engagement among the members.

Our goal as a Society is to foster collegial discussion of the work of CTS members and other Canadian theologians. All presenters and attendees are encouraged to participate in as much of the program as possible. All presenters must be members in good standing of the CTS prior to the Annual Meeting. Membership dues must be paid prior to registering for the conference. We welcome all members, students, and other interested persons to join us this year.

STUDENT ESSAY CONTEST

Canadian Theological Society / Société théologique canadienne
Subject: "Humanity/Humanities" or another topic in theology
Eligibility: Any student currently registered in a Canadian university/theological college
Length: 15 pages, typed and double spaced (4,000 words)
Due Date: February 7, 2027 (by email)

Essays need not be written originally for this contest and may be assignments from a course in theology or religious studies. The topic, however, must be theological in nature. This year's theme invites further consideration of the human nature and condition in light of unbridled technological development and its social, political and environmental implications (for more details, please see the 2027 CTS Annual Meeting Call for Papers).

A letter or email from a member of the theological or religious studies department to which the student belongs, indicating that the student is in good standing with the university or college, must also be submitted for each applicant.

The author of the winning essay will receive: $200; an invitation to read the paper at the annual meeting of the Canadian Theological Society at the Toronto School of Theology, June 1-3, 2027; payment of meeting registration fees; and a subvention for travel and accommodation costs.
Send essays by e-mail ***no later than February 7, 2027*** to Patrick Nolin, at **patrick.nolin@utoronto.ca**

Please include with your submission: institutional affiliation, mailing address, phone number(s), and e-mail address. Submit all documents via e-mail attachment in Microsoft Word or PDF format. Send letters verifying a student's registration in a theological college or university to the above email address.