

Partners in Mission and Ecojustice Meeting
February 15-17, 2013

Global Relations Program Update: November 2012-February 2013

Highlights:

1. Partner Visit: Diocese of Jerusalem, November 3-22, 2012
2. Partner Visit: Diocese of Cuba, February 6-11, 2013
3. 'Being a Partner Church in a Global Communion' Consultation, November 27-29, 2012
4. Partnership Proposal Conversation with Canadian Friends of West Indian Christians
5. Budget 2012 Year End
6. 2013 Annual Partner Letters and Joint Ministry Agreements
7. 'Global Church Relations' presentation to Anglican Students, Vancouver School of Theology, January 22, 2013
8. Canadian Companions Advisory Council Meeting, January 28-29, 2013
9. 'Justice in the Americas' speaker, Cristosal Foundation St. Mary Kerrisdale, February 2, 2013
10. 'Peace with Justice in Palestine Israel' presentation, St. Alban Anglican Church, Richmond, February 3, 2013
11. Ecumenical Forum on *Kairos Palestine* with Canadian Arab and Muslim community leaders, Church House, February 4, 2013.

Meetings:

1. Canadian Churches Forum for Global Ministries Executive Committee (November 26, 2012; January 11, 2013;) & Board Meeting (December 5th, 2012)
2. Management Team (January 15, 2013) & Leadership Circle (January 21, 2013)

Note:

Detailed reports on the Partnership Visit to Jerusalem, and 'Being a Church Partner in a Global Communion' are attached as appendices.

Regarding other select highlights in the past 3 ½ months:

In the interests of exploring new ways of working with Anglicans in Canada and global church partners, conversation is taking place with the Canadian Friends to West Indian Christians (CFWIC). CFWIC is a small national Anglican organization, based primarily in Scarborough, Ontario and Montreal, Quebec, for the purpose of supporting the mission priorities and scholarship needs of the dioceses of the Church of the Province of the West Indies. CFWIC has operated since 1984 and has status as a Canadian charitable organization. Global Relations and CFWIC seek to work together to: raise awareness in the Anglican Church of Canada about CPWI, connect Anglicans in Canada with an interest in CPWI, and increase financial support through CFWIC to CPWI dioceses.

According to 2012 Financial Results released February 8th, 2013, Relationships 2012 budget was disbursed with a draft variance of \$34,434. Part of this variance is due to funds (\$23,452) disbursed to The Rev. John Organ's appointment to Jerusalem. These funds will be repaid in full to the Global Relations budget from the Ministry Investment Fund 2012. Part of the variance is due to overspending

in Global Relations administration, including the costs of 2012 PMEJC meetings, salaries, benefits, legal fees and staff travel.

Regarding staff travel, the 'cross the board' equal cut to all staff travel budgets by the Treasurer in 2011 to reduce the 2012 budget, reduced the Global Relations staff travel line to a very low level (\$13,000). It was difficult to keep all travel spending to \$13,000 given three major international trips to partners (Solomon Islands, Cuba and Jerusalem), travel between Vancouver Toronto, and travel to other North American meetings. I raise the matter of travel costs to explain the large annual program budget variance, to 'flag' potential challenges in 'one size fits all' budgeting, and to note one of the real costs of working a decentralized, national structure with offsite/regional staffing. Global Relations staff travel budget was reviewed and increased to \$15,000 for 2013.

Almost all annual letters to 2013 partners and scholarship students were sent by the end of January. Remaining letters will be sent as soon as possible. 2013 will be the first year of using the Joint Ministry Agreement (JMA) template with Schedules recommended by General Synod's lawyers Cassel Brock. A series of meetings took place in November/December with Cassel Brock at the urging of the Treasurer and Director of Planned Giving, to develop a 'Canada Revenue Agency – friendly' Agreement for the purpose of sending tax protected Canadian dollars to global partners for ministry. The JMA, a long and rather technical legal document, will be reviewed and assessed with partners over the next several years.

The Advisory Council of the Canadian Companions of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem held its first face-to-face meeting since forming in 2011, at the Vancouver School of Theology, January 28/29. Five of the seven participants either live in lower British Columbia or were otherwise in Vancouver. Council members agreed on the positive impact of meeting in person; depth of discussion, clarity of 2013 work planning, personal relationship building, good to meet in Vancouver. There is much work to be done in 2013 to strengthen connection and activity within this new national network. 2013 priorities include: reporting to member Companions on 2012 developments; taking the Companions initiative out into synods, dioceses, colleges for information and increased membership; promoting/developing resources for deeper intercultural, morally responsible pilgrimage and mission trips; stronger advocacy initiatives with Canadian partners for peace with justice in Palestine Israel; to observe the Seventh Sunday of Easter, commonly known as the Sunday after Ascension Day, as Jerusalem Sunday. On that day special attention will be given to the work of the Anglican Church in the land of our Lord's birth, death, and resurrection. A special financial offering will be taken up as a gift to the Diocese of Jerusalem.

The Ecumenical Forum on Kairos Palestine met on February 4th with leaders of the Canadian Arab and Muslim community (from the Greater Toronto Area and Ottawa), to begin as partners in solidarity for peace with justice in Israel Palestine. There has never been intentional collaboration between Canadian churches, Christian-related organizations, and Canadian Arab and Muslim organizations with respect to solidarity and advocacy for peace with justice in the Middle East. Canadian churches and ecumenical organizations have long been influenced by the analysis and intervention of the Canadian Jewish Congress, now Centre for Israel Jewish Affairs, in such matters. The meeting and meal on February 4th was a positive first step in moving forward together.

A comparatively brief partnership visit with the Iglesia Episcopal de Cuba (IEC) took place February 6-11, 2013, on the occasion of their annual Synod. I accompanied the Primate and General Secretary who were also in Cuba for a meeting of the Metropolitan Council of Cuba (MCC). The Primate is the Chair of MCC and the General Secretary is the Secretary. The work and mood of Synod was encouraging and

positive. It is clear Bishop Griselda Delgado del Carpio is working hard to implement the diocese's ambitious development plan. She has the growing respect and support of clergy and lay leaders, who thanked her with extended applause at the conclusion of her 2 hour charge to the diocese.

Time did not permit detailed conversation with Bishop Griselda regarding our churches' current and future partnership. A follow up visit is being planned for the near future. The two purposes of the second visit are i) to discuss and distinguish the four main points of connection between the Anglican Church of Canada and IEC, including the Metropolitan Council of Cuba, Global Relations, Diocese of Niagara (companionship), and PWRDF, and ii) to discern how best we all work together to effectively meet mutual mission priorities. Included in Global Relations priorities is the development of IEC financial administrative capacity in accounting and reporting on General Synod funds sent to IEC for ministry.

Last but not least, it is always interesting and enjoyable to have opportunity to meet and speak with local Anglicans about our church's connections and relationships with other Provinces and people of the Anglican Communion. While local levels of information about General Synod's work and leadership within the Communion are rather limited, people are generally impressed and encouraged when they hear what is happening. Many years and resources have been invested in better ways of 'telling the General Synod story'. Much excellent print and online material have been developed and made available, and this important work continues. Yet if 'telling the story of General Synod's ministries' is to encourage interest in and support of General Synod, it must be accompanied by working, meeting, direct encounter with local churches, dioceses, individuals; by connecting and partnership for mutual ministry priorities.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrea Mann
Global Relations Coordinator