

## PUBLIC WITNESS FOR SOCIAL AND ECOLOGICAL JUSTICE (PWSEJ)

### 1. FOR INFORMATION

*In the General Synod triennium, 2013-2016, priorities for the ministry of Public Witness for Social and Ecological Justice (PWSEJ) reflected the Anglican Church of Canada's commitment to Marks of Mission 4 and 5.<sup>1</sup> These include:*

- Care for creation (2013 General Synod resolution A170-R1; 2010 GS resolution A180-R1)
- Truth and reconciliation (2010 GS resolution A179-R2)
- Responsible resource extraction (2013 Joint Assembly Declaration)
- Homelessness and affordable housing (2013 Joint Assembly Declaration)
- Justice and corrections
- Peace, conflict and violence

#### **A. Creation Matters (2013 General Synod Resolution A170-R1: Supporting creation care across the church)**

- Creation Matters Working Group (CMWG) membership grew to 20, with representation from more than half the dioceses. In this triennium, the CMWG was chaired for two years by Randal Goodfellow, then by co-chairs Nancy Harvey (Huron) and Canon Ken Gray (British Columbia). Due to the growing interest in this work, we made a distinction between the Working Group and a growing Network of 12 additional people. Main areas of information sharing and action:
  - diocesan priorities: in 2015-16, reviewed existing investment policies and drafted new ones; diocesan education/outreach on a range of environmental stewardship issues within dioceses, with KAIROS, Indigenous peoples, and other civil society and government partners
  - ecological justice issues and action across Canada: fracking, pipelines, tanker traffic, and climate change impact, especially in the Arctic
  - drafting a resolution to Council of General Synod and General Synod on responsible investment. The resolution passed in March 2016. Ongoing learning, networking and presenting on resource extraction and responsible investment (especially fossil fuels).

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<sup>1</sup> To transform unjust structures of society, to challenge violence of every kind and pursue peace and reconciliation. To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation, and sustain and renew the life of the earth

*(Bonds of Affection-1984 ACC-6 p49, Mission in a Broken World-1990 ACC-8 p101)*

- Green audits: a General Synod project of financial support for parish green audits. In 2014 and 2015, nine audits were completed in various dioceses -- <http://www.anglican.ca/wp-content/uploads/Green-Audit-Summary-Report-2014-2015.pdf> This was preceded by nine green audits in 2013 -- <http://www.anglican.ca/wp-content/uploads/Green-Audit-Report-2013.pdf> In February and March 2016, we assessed the application process and the audit delivery via a parish survey and review of green audit communications, and are implementing findings with our partner, Faith and the Common Good.
- Active ecumenical and Anglican coordination in --
  - the Canadian church leaders' tour on poverty and climate change (spring 2015)
  - the March for Jobs, Justice and the Climate (July 5, 2015)
  - the UN climate conference in Paris in December 2015 for which we promoted and used the Prayers for Paris initiative by Citizens for Public Justice and held a special eucharist at Church House on November 30 with the Primate presiding.
- Exploratory discussions with PWRDF and several dioceses re. faith community resilience in crises caused by extreme weather – wildfires, blizzards, floods.
- Anglican social media and communications support for Salal and Cedar, an innovative watershed discipleship program in the Diocese of New Westminster funded by the Ministry Investment Fund and operational budget in 2016.

## **B. Truth and Reconciliation**

An overview of General Synod responses to the TRC Calls to Action, 2013 - 2016 --

- Director (Henriette Thompson) coordinated national and local Anglican participation in three Truth and Reconciliation Commission National Events – Vancouver, BC (September 2013); Edmonton, AB (March 2014); Ottawa, ON Closing Event (June 2015). Member of TRC All Party (to the Settlement Agreement) table.
- Coordinated production of “Indigenous Peoples and the Anglican Church in Canada: Timeline of an Evolving Relationship” with cross-functional team in 2014.
- Planned and coordinated broad church participation in post-TRC gathering, Peoples of Faith Moving Forward in Reconciliation, in Pickering, ON, in November 2015. Approximately 60 Indigenous and non-Indigenous participants identified commitments and actions moving forward.
- Coordinated ecumenical and interfaith responses to TRC Call to Action 48 (implementation of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples) in statement-writing processes with ecumenical, KAIROS and the Canadian Interfaith Conversation for March 31, 2016 deadline. Active coordination with ecumenical planning group for event on March 30 in Ottawa.
- Completed and posted the translation of the 1993 Anglican Apology into Naskapi in early February, 2016.
- Active promotion of KAIROS Winds of Change campaign, Call to Action 62 on education for reconciliation. Co-facilitated a Blanket Exercise with Esther Wesley at Church House on February 17, 2016.

- Workshop facilitation and public speaking on reconciliation in Kingston, Toronto, Montreal, Oakville.

### **C. Responsible Resource Extraction (2013 Joint Assembly Declaration)**

*Responsible resource extraction ad hoc working group:* a cross-departmental and full communion working group (Indigenous Ministries, Finance and Administration, Government Relations, PWRDF, ELCIC) coordinated by Public Witness for Social and Ecological Justice.

After ACC and ELCIC senior leaders and staff met in Winnipeg in October 2015, the two churches proceeded with separate internal discussion and decision processes re. responsible investment while keeping each other informed of developments.

- Stakeholder analysis produced in October 2013. Presentations and discussions with directors of General Synod, PWRDF, Pension, and Foundation in 2014, 2015.
- Co-facilitated Justice Camp 2014 (theme: the Land) immersion group to the oil sands in northern Alberta.
- Co-facilitated discussion and produced report on the CoGS/NCC (Anglican/Lutheran) November 2015 session on divestment of fossil fuels. Coordinated multi-party presentation and draft resolution on socially responsible investment to CoGS on March 12, 2016.
- Monitored Canadian and global Anglican and ecumenical mainstreaming of divestments of fossil fuels.
- Became affiliate member of Shareholder Association for Research and Education (SHARE). Worked with SHARE to host seminars with Edward Mason, head of Church of England Ethical Advisory Working Group in September 2014. Attended and actively participated in several annual meetings of SHARE in Toronto and invited Anglican investment committee members.

### **D. Homelessness and Affordable Housing (2013 Joint Assembly Declaration)**

- Completed and posted the “Come and See” pilgrimage guide for Anglican and Lutheran congregational use in March 2016. We appreciated the active role by Angie Hocking (Toronto) in designing the pilgrimage itself in November 2014 and in drafting the guide.
- On December 10, debriefed experience of Anglicans from the dioceses of Montreal and Ottawa who attended the third annual Canadian Alliance to End Homelessness (CAEH) conference in Montreal, November 2 to 4, 2015. In 2014. Debrief involved consideration of broadening Anglican and Lutheran support for housing, noting mandate letters across several new government departments. Debriefing to provide consideration for future participation in CAEH conferences.
- Continued exploration of links between affordable housing and greening Anglican spaces to broaden approach, eg. “mission per square foot.” Engaged with the Housing for All Network, a national network of affordable housing advocates. Informed by Michael Shapcott (Toronto) and Citizens for Public Justice to frame housing issues within a broader anti-poverty agenda.

**E. Justice and Corrections**

- Coordinated Anglican response to policy and governance changes by Correctional Services of Canada in 2014ff re. interfaith chaplaincy in federal correctional institutions. Anglican representatives to the Interfaith Chaplaincy – the Rev. Dale Gillman (Qu'Appelle) and the Rev. Wayne Varley (Ontario) – continue to attend semi-annual meetings of this advisory body to Correctional Service Canada.
- Circles of Support and Accountability (CoSA) Canada in late 2015 became legally incorporated and created a national board. Anglicans across Canada are involved in local CoSA chapters to support high risk offenders who have served their terms reintegrate into the community. In February, CoSA reached out to the new Minister of Public Safety, Ralph Goodale. In 2015 Anglicans contributed \$2,400 to support CoSA work through Gifts for Mission.
- Ongoing coordination with Anglican representative to the board of the Church Council on Justice and Corrections (and president of the Board), the Rev. Sharon Dunlop (Ontario), to find project funding for CCJC initiatives, to communicate ministry with victims and offenders to our church, and to provide input into policy discussions such as mandatory sentencing.

**F. Peace, Conflict and Violence**

- Ongoing support for and communications with Anglican representative to the Project Ploughshares' Governing Board, Debbie Grisdale (Ottawa). Provided input and distributed statement (directed by Ploughshares and Canadian Council of Churches) on Canada's military involvement in Iraq in early 2015.
- Engagement with the Canadian Council of Churches' Human Trafficking in Canada Working Group. The Rev. Carolyn Seabrook (diocese of Ottawa lead), Debbie Grisdale (diocese of Ottawa), and the Rev. Canon Alice Medcof (chair of International Anglican Women's Network of Canada) and the Rev. Ginny Doctor (Indigenous Ministries) are involved in Anglican engagement on stopping human trafficking. Government plans for a national inquiry on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls have illuminated the connection between human trafficking and missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls.

**G. Ecumenical and Interfaith Engagement**

- Full communion (Anglican/Lutheran): regular phone, email and in person discussions with the Rev. Paul Gehrs of the ELCIC to monitor work on housing and homelessness, and resource extraction as framed in the Joint Declaration. We met in person 2 to 3 times per year – using KAIROS Board meetings as opportunities to be in bilateral conversation, and ACC/ELCIC senior staff meetings.

- Continued collaboration with the Rev. Laurette Glasgow (Government Relations) on various matters such as the 2015 federal election, and more recently the imminent closing of the Office of Religious Freedom.
- KAIROS board – Henriette co-chaired KAIROS 2014-15 Strategic Planning Working Group. The new Strategic Plan was approved by the Board on October 21, 2015. Henriette served as Board liaison with the Indigenous Rights Circle for 8 years to March 31, 2016. Liaised with Indigenous bishop, PWRDF and government relations in several areas especially resource extraction, climate change, Indigenous rights. Ongoing engagement with Anglicans in the Circles of Ecumenical Collaboration to generate ideas and advise KAIROS board and staff.
- Canadian Council of Churches’ Commission on Justice and Peace – new triennium’s priorities on climate change, reconciliation, bioethics. Attended semi-annual meetings in person, and engaged in the work in-between.
- December 1, facilitated a two-hour workshop with members of the Canadian Interfaith Conversation, on TRC Call to Action #48 concerning implementation of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples by all faith communities.

*Respectfully submitted by Judith Moses, Chair, Public Witness for Social and Ecological Justice*

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PWSEJ Coordinating Committee (2013 – 2016):

Judith Moses, Randal Goodfellow (until fall 2015), Ken Gray (fall 2015 – 2016), Barbara Henshall, Rick Chapman, Jennifer Warren, Chris Hiller

PWSEJ Staff:

Henriette Thompson (Director, March 12, 2008 – March 31, 2016)

Sonia Hsiung (Program associate, part-time, March 2015 – March 2016)