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Diocese of Toronto
Anglican Church of Canada

Social Justice and Advocacy Update Summer 2018

"The truth is that we are not yet free; we have merely achieved the freedom to be free, the right not to be oppressed. We have not taken the final step of our journey, but the first step on a longer and even more difficult road. For to be free is not merely to cast off one's chains, but to live in a way that respects and enhances the freedom of others. The true test of our devotion to freedom is just beginning."

- Nelson Mandela,
born 100 years ago today on July 18, 1918

NEWS FOR Summer 2018

1. **Last Call for Parish Outreach Survey**
2. **Registration open for Outreach & Advocacy Conference**
3. **Indigenous Pipe Ceremony at Petroglyphs Provincial Park, Aug. 18-19**
4. **Give Feedback on Toronto Poverty Reduction Strategy (till Aug. 31)**
5. **Reach Out to Your New Provincial Government**
6. **Outreach and Advocacy Prayer Cycle (through Labour Day weekend)**

1. Last Call for Parish Outreach Survey! More than 60 parishes have completed this year's Parish Outreach & Greening Survey, but we'd like to see even wider participation, in order to help us get the fullest picture of outreach, advocacy and greening activities in the Diocese and to enable us to better support your parish in these areas of your ministry. The online survey takes about 10-15 minutes to complete and can be filled out either by the priest or a lay member of the parish. To go to the survey, click on <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/HYCBGP6>

2. Registration open for Outreach & Advocacy Conference. This year's Outreach & Advocacy Conference, "Transformed Hearts, Transforming Structures" will be held on Saturday, October 27, 2018 at Havergal College, 1451 Avenue Road, Toronto. Our location this year is fully accessible and easily reached either by car or TTC. Our keynote speaker, André Lyn, brings a wealth of personal and professional experience as a researcher and advocate in the areas of homelessness, poverty reduction, and anti-racism. Workshops include youth perspectives on social justice, indigenous identity and the protection of land and water, grassroots anti-poverty organizing, non-violent intervention techniques for drop-ins, ministry with migrant workers and with ex-offenders, housing for vulnerable seniors, and more. Visit www.toronto.anglican.ca/outreachconference to learn more and to register.

3. Indigenous Pipe Ceremony at Petroglyphs Provincial Park, Aug. 18-19

The Indigenous Solidarity Working Group at Church of the Redeemer welcomes community, neighbours and friends to join in their next "Travel for Learning" event to Petroglyphs Provincial Park for a rare opportunity to partake in a traditional pipe ceremony on Sunday, August 19. Gather in Peterborough for an afternoon discussion and dinner on August 18 and stay overnight at Trent University residence, or come for the day on August 19. To learn more and sign up, follow [this link](#) on Redeemer's website.

4. Give Feedback on Toronto Poverty Reduction Strategy. The City of Toronto is coming to the end of the first 4-year phase of its 20-year Poverty Reduction Strategy. Until August 31, you are invited to provide feedback and input to help the City design the 2019-2022 Poverty Reduction Strategy Action Plan. Resources are available to organize or participate in a community conversation, or you can also provide your feedback in an online survey. Follow the link [here](#).

5. Reach Out to Your New Provincial Government. The new provincial government has been sworn in and the Legislature is in session. Most of the Members of Provincial Parliament are new to office. Why not reach out with a letter to your local MPP introducing yourself and your concerns, and reminding them that our churches regularly pray for those in public office? This can help build a foundation for later advocacy. To find contact information for your MPP, follow this [link](#).

6. Outreach and Advocacy Prayer Cycle July 22 - Sept. 2, 2018

July 22, Pentecost 9 - *Pray for* St. Luke, Peterborough, its Thrift Shop and Food Cupboard, financial and practical support of outreach in the local and wider community, and needs assessment survey;

for St. Margaret, Barrie, its Food Shelf and support of the Barrie Food Bank, and its support of Barrie Out of the Cold and the David Busby Street Centre;

and for St. Margaret, New Toronto, its monthly community dinners and Christmas "Among Friends" event, Deacon's Cupboard, participation in the Lakeshore Out of the Cold program, and its support of local outreach initiatives.

July 29, Pentecost 10 - *Pray for* St. Margaret-in-the-Pines, its Caring Hands and Back Pack ministries and support of community outreach organizations;

for St. Mark, Midland, its involvement in an Out of the Cold program, support of the Georgian Bay Native Friendship Centre, support of the Next Door transitional home for teens, and refugee sponsorship;

and for St. Mark, Port Hope, its support of the Green Wood Coalition, Fare Share food bank, and participation in the River of Hope refugee sponsorship project.

August 5, Pentecost 11 - *Pray for* St. Martin, Bay Ridges, its support for many local initiatives including a food bank, Herizon House and Joanne's House youth shelter, Moorelands Community Services, and a newcomer settlement program, its Green Team, and its involvement in advocacy for anti-poverty measures;

and for St. Martin-in-the-Fields, its partnerships with PARC, Romero House and the Redwood Shelter, participation in an Out of the Cold program, refugee sponsorship, and education and advocacy initiatives.

August 12, Pentecost 12 - *Pray for* St. Mary, Richmond Hill, its involvement in the Out of the Cold program, Home on the Hill supportive housing initiative, Richmond Hill Community Food bank, and refugee sponsorship projects;

and for St. Mary Magdalene, Toronto, its participation in the Parkdale Deanery weekly meal program, refugee support, annual HIV/AIDS walk, and its education programs on Truth and Reconciliation.

August 19, Pentecost 13 - *Pray for* St. Mary and St. Martha, and its support of a weekly community supper, local food bank, community garden, and partnerships with neighbourhood arts and outreach organizations;

for St. Matthew, Islington, its hosting of an ecumenical Out of the Cold program, its Food Cupboard, and its engagement in social advocacy;

and for St. Matthew the Apostle, Oriole, its monthly community clothing sale, Good Food Market, after-school reading program, and support of the Lansing Food Bank, Mission to Seafarers, North York Women's Shelter, and Oriole Food Space.

August 26, Pentecost 14 - *Pray for* St. Matthias, Bellwoods, its support of Bellwoods House, John Gibson House, and the Fort York Food Bank;

for St. Matthias, Etobicoke, and its support for Ingles House and Youth Without Shelter;

and for St. Michael and All Angels, Toronto, and its Beeton Cupboard and Sunday hot lunch program.

September 2, Pentecost 15 - *Pray for* St. Michael the Archangel, Scarborough, its support of community Out of the Cold and food bank programs, sponsorship of a child in Haiti, and fundraising for the AIDS Committee of Simcoe County;

for St. Monica, Toronto, and its food bank and neighbourhood advocacy;

and for St. Nicholas, Birch Cliff, its weekly community lunch, its men's cooking and support group, its participation in a community Christmas dinner program, and the Churches by the Bluffs Food Bank.

For more information about social justice activities across the diocese, to be added to the distribution list for this newsletter, or to share information on events, please contact me at the email address or phone numbers listed below. If you would like to receive more frequent updates on our activities, consider liking our [Facebook page](#).

In faithful witness,

Elin Goulden

Social Justice and Advocacy Consultant

egoulden@toronto.anglican.ca

Tele: 416-363-6021 x240

Toll-free: 1-800-668-8932 x240

Social Justice and Advocacy Website: www.toronto.anglican.ca/sjac

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