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Diocese of Toronto
Anglican Church of Canada

Social Justice and Advocacy Update November 2018

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1. **Social Justice Vestry Motion: Standing in Solidarity**

Our 2019 Social Justice Vestry Motion calls on parishes to take action to stand in solidarity with those living in poverty in our communities. Recalling that how we treat "the least of these" among us is how we treat Christ himself, parishes are invited to pledge one way to increase their direct outreach on behalf of those in need and one way to increase their advocacy efforts toward structural and policy changes to benefit people experiencing poverty. The text of the motion and background information is available at www.toronto.anglican.ca/sjac

2. **Take Action Today!**

a) **For Low-Wage and Precarious Workers**

The provincial government has tabled legislation (Bill 47) which would not only cancel the minimum wage increase scheduled for January 1, 2019, but would freeze the minimum wage at its current level until October 1, 2020, as well as roll back key protections for precarious workers. The Interfaith Social Assistance Reform Coalition (ISARC), one of our justice partners, has prepared a [brief form letter](#) that can be sent to your MPP. Please fill in with the name of your MPP and your provincial riding and send it to them, copying ISARC at coordinator@isarc.ca

To find your MPP's name and e-mail address, click [here](#).

For more information on how and why to speak out for low-wage workers, please visit <https://www.15andfairness.org/>

b) **For Ontarians on Social Assistance**

The provincial government's 100-day review of social assistance ends this week on November 8, 2018. Community and Social Services Minister Lisa MacLeod has said her department will "take a compassionate approach," but other actions of this government indicate that cuts may be in store. Earlier this month the Income Security Advocacy Centre sent a [letter](#) to Minister MacLeod urging her to incorporate the principles of income adequacy, economic and social inclusion, access and dignity, reconciliation with Indigenous peoples, and human rights, equity and fairness into the redesigned social assistance system. If you weren't one of the more than 1100 individuals who signed the letter, you can still urge Minister MacLeod to support these principles by sending a message to MinisterMCCSS@ontario.ca and copying your own MPP.

3. Abraham Jam, Tues. Nov. 6, 2018 (tomorrow!) from 6:00-10:00 p.m.

St. George's on-the-Hill (4600 Dundas St. W., Etobicoke) and its Youth Group are hosting the "Abraham Jam" interfaith dialogue and concert, featuring Muslim, Jewish, and Christian musicians talking and making music together. Tickets are \$10 online at <http://bit.ly/AbeJam> or at the door, with proceeds going to the Dorothy Ley Hospice Multifaith room.

4. Stop by at Synod, November 9-10, 2018

The Social Justice & Advocacy Committee will have a display table at Diocesan Synod on November 9-10, 2018. We'll have copies of the new Vestry Motion, tasty treats, and more. This is a great opportunity for new people to learn more about our work, ask questions, and get involved. If you're attending Synod, we hope to see you; if not, tell your clergy and lay representatives to stop by!

5. Toronto People's Assembly on Climate Justice, Sat. Nov. 17, 9:00-5:00

Climate change is not a future social and ecological crisis, but a current one and those most impacted are those most marginalized. Want to learn more? You are invited to join a full-day climate justice event, featuring workshops, panels, and assemblies on themes of Indigenous sovereignty and self-determination, labour and economics, migrant justice, violence against people and land, and food, medicine and sustainable alternatives. This FREE event (thanks to institutional sponsors) will take place at the Multifaith Centre at the University of Toronto, 569 Spadina Ave, Toronto, which is an accessible space. To learn more, visit <https://www.facebook.com/events/1700725663378614/>

6. Last chance to participate in our Parish Survey!

While nearly 70 parishes have already participated in our Parish Outreach and Greening Survey, and a preliminary report has already been released, we'd love to hear from still more! Your answers help give us a fuller picture of what's happening in terms of outreach, advocacy, and environmental action around our Diocese and help shape the development and delivery of our programs and resources. The survey, which takes only 10-15 minutes to complete, can be filled out by the parish's clergy, churchwarden and/or head of the Outreach or Green committee. To access the survey, go to <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/HYCBGP6>

7. Outreach & Advocacy Prayer Cycle for November

*** The new Prayer Cycle for 2018-2019 is being updated and will be posted online mid-month.

November 4, Pentecost 24 - *Pray for* St. Thomas, Millbrook, its monthly community dinners, prayer shawl ministry, driving for Community Care, and food bank support; *for* St. Thomas, Shanty Bay, and its support of Barrie Out of the Cold, the Busby Street outreach van, and a community garden; *and for* St. Timothy, Agincourt, its involvement with weekly hot lunch and breakfast programs and an Out of the Cold program, and its support of the Agincourt Community Services Association, Stephen Lewis Foundation, and other local, national and international outreach programs.

November 11, Pentecost 25 / Remembrance - *Pray for* St. Timothy, North Toronto, its monthly community lunches, monthly dinners at St. George House, support of services including Moorelands Community Services, The Stop Community Food Centre, the Pikangikum Water Project, and a school and rehabilitation centre in Malawi;
for the Sisters of Saint John the Divine, their ministry of intentional prayer and support for the outreach and advocacy work of the Diocese, and their provision of pastoral care to St. John's Rehab Hospital;
and for the Church of the Transfiguration, and its involvement in Meals on Wheels and an Out of the Cold program.

November 18, Pentecost 26 - *Pray for* Trinity, Aurora, its "Clothes Closet" second-hand store, weekly "Welcome Table" community meal, involvement in a refugee sponsorship, participation in a campaign to provide clean and accessible water to First Nations communities, and education projects on Indigenous issues;
for Trinity, Barrie, its support for the David Busby Street Centre drop-in and its advocacy and education on poverty and housing issues;
and for Trinity, Bradford, its involvement in a local food bank and community supper, and its second-hand shop.

November 25, Reign of Christ - *Pray for* Trinity East (Little Trinity), Toronto, and for a season of discernment as the parish reflects more specifically about the neighbourhoods in which its community lives;
and for Trinity-St Paul, Port Credit, and its program providing fruit, groceries, and skate and swim passes for children at a local school.

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,

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