



PWRDF

The Primate's World Relief
and Development Fund

*le fonds du Primate pour le secours et
le développement mondial*

THE ANGLICAN CHURCH OF CANADA

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To the Bishops of the Anglican Church of Canada

“Above all it is time to recognise ourselves as the Body of Christ, to support one another and to reflect God’s concern for all people, especially the most vulnerable.” (The Anglican Alliance)

Many greetings on behalf of the staff, board and partners of The Primate’s World Relief and Development Fund.

COVID-19 is affecting the church and has caused suffering and anxiety around the world. We are writing to update you on the important work that responds to such hurt on behalf of Anglicans across Canada, and to let you know how you and the people of your Diocese can participate in this work alongside PWRDF.

Although we are all working very differently right now, in many ways physical distancing is not new for PWRDF. Through PWRDF, Anglicans in Canada have always been the body of Christ from afar. We may not be able to touch with our hands the seeds that were planted. We may not be able to walk with people to the well to fetch clean water. We may not be able to see or hear those we support around the world in person. But through our partners (and the miracle of technology!), we can hear, see and share their successes. We continue to support our partners from afar, to implement quality programs, empower girls and women and support those made even more vulnerable because of this pandemic.

During this time of COVID-19, PWRDF’s work includes supporting partners in Canada and around the world as they:

- Deliver food and medicine and social supports to vulnerable seniors in Canada [can list local partners relevant to the diocese]
- Support Indigenous midwives in Edmonton
- Have access to PPE, prevention and education resources and quality health care in Burundi (Village Health Works), Kenya (National Church Council of Kenya), Bangladesh (UBINIG), and throughout the world (Partners in Health, ACT Alliance)

How can you support PWRDF at this time? First, we ask for your prayers for the work of PWRDF and for our partners. All are welcome to join our weekly [Praying with PWRDF](#) on Zoom every Thursday at 1 p.m. ET. We would be very encouraged should you be able to offer a reflection during this time of prayer with supporters from across Canada and often around the world. Please contact Suzanne at srumsey@pwrdf.org should this be possible.

We are aware that Bishops and other clergy are offering regular reflections within their churches and that parishioners are finding these moments as spiritually uplifting and a very welcome opportunity to be in contact with community. I or others of PWRDF’s staff would be pleased to make ourselves available during or

after such services if you'd like us to share during the service, at coffee hour, or to prepare a video interview. We have resources to support producing something innovative and responsive to specific interests and priorities. This can be a moment to update and encourage churches as to how their support is being used to respond to the pandemic as well as ongoing programs to stop gender-based violence, care for refugees and ensure maternal and newborn child health. Please contact Christine at chills@pwrdf.org to inquire. Parishes are also encouraged share the short video we have prepared with an update on our work at this time (click [here](#) to view).

Parishes can also use our new [worship service](#). We are holding monthly webinars to provide updates on our work. And soon we will be launching Encounters - our virtual Vacation Bible School (contact Su at smcleod@pwrdf.org for more details). These opportunities may be especially helpful to clergy who may need and welcome a refresh over the summer, so we ask that you share this information with them.

Of course, financial support is very important to continue our work. Without churches being able to collect weekly offerings for PWRDF or hold fundraising events, we are asking donors to [give to us directly via our online donation platform](#). We are grateful for those who have been able to continue supporting PWRDF during this difficult time, and particularly to those who have committed to becoming a monthly donor. There are many Canadian Anglicans who support PWRDF and our partners, for which we are grateful. PWRDF as an organization has been accredited by Imagine Canada for good governance, financial controls and overall efficiency and effectiveness. In 2019, PWRDF was recognized by Charity Intelligence and Maclean's magazine as among the top 100 Canadian charities and among the top ten international Canadian charities.

We also encourage Anglicans to join us in this year's virtual [Ride for Refuge](#) – a “freestyle” event where any activity can become a fundraiser – bike riding, walking, running, reading, sewing, singing – the possibilities are endless.

Few things show us just how interconnected we really are than an unrepentant virus. Now more than ever, we see that people in vulnerable communities, in our own cities and towns and on the other side of the world, are indeed our neighbours. Micah 6:8, PWRDF's value statement, continues to anchor us in our global and domestic partnerships. We are humbled to be able to serve as Christ's hands and feet in whatever ways possible.

Blessings and strength to you and thank you for your support and encouragement to PWRDF.



Will Postma
Executive Director



Valerie Maier
President, Board of Directors

A Prayer for PWRDF:

*Loving God, give PWRDF and the people who depend on its support,
the courage and strength to persevere in this time of pandemic.
Be with them in the challenges they are facing,
and hold us to our vision for a truly just, healthy and peaceful world.
In the name of your child, Jesus,
Amen.*