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Diocese of Toronto
Anglican Church of Canada

Social Justice and Advocacy Update September 2019

NEWS FOR SEPTEMBER 2019

1. **Register NOW for our fall Outreach Conference!**
2. **Season of Creation/Climate Action Month resources and events**
3. **Federal Election resources and events**
4. **Other events this month**
5. **Outreach and Advocacy Prayer Cycle**

I hope all our readers had a pleasant summer. There are MANY events coming up in the next few weeks. I have grouped similar ones by theme, but please read through to the end!

1. Register NOW for our fall Outreach Conference! "Grounded and Growing in Christ: Church as a centre of resistance and hope" is the theme for this year's Outreach & Advocacy Conference, to be held on Saturday, October 19, 2019 at Havergal College in Toronto. With a keynote address from Thea Prescod of Sanctuary Ministries, Toronto and a diverse line-up of workshop presenters, we will explore ways in which churches can engage in faithful and creative ways to respond with hope and build community, in the face of inequality, injustice, and ecological breakdown. A special program is offered for Diocesan Youth. Tickets (\$30/\$15 students/youth/low-income) include a delicious hot lunch. Visit www.toronto.anglican.ca/outreachconference for more information and to register.

2. Season of Creation/Climate Action Month resources and events. From the World Day of Prayer for Creation on September 1 to the feast of St. Francis on October 4, Christians worldwide are invited to participate in a Season of Creation. In July, General Synod 2019 approved a resolution adopting the Season of Creation and encouraging Dioceses in the Anglican Church of Canada to engage with the Season of Creation. Season of Creation also overlaps with this year's month of Climate Action across Canada and worldwide.

- **Watch our [new Season of Creation video](#) with Bishop Andrew.** This 5-minute video explores Biblical themes on caring for and renewing God's creation, and urges parishes to action. Please watch and share widely!
- **Season of Creation resources.** Prayers, hymns, lectionary reflections and more can be found on our [Diocesan website](#), on the [Anglican Church of Canada site](#) and the

international [Season of Creation site](#).

- **Mobilize Mondays.** Activists from Extinction Rebellion Toronto and faith groups across the city are meeting every Monday from Aug. 12 - Oct. 7 at Yonge and Dundas Square, Toronto at 5 p.m. There will be speeches and signs. From 6:00 to 6:15 p.m. they will occupy for fifteen minutes to bring attention to the urgency of the climate crisis and call for concrete action, especially from federal leaders as we approach the October 21 election. All are welcome. For more information or to join the speaker's list, contact the Rev. Cheri DiNovo at (416) 272-1176
- **Climate Action Month.** KAIROS has designated September 2019 Climate Action Month. On each day in September, an event, blog post, environmental challenge, or combination of all three, will be posted on the [KAIROS Climate Action Month Calendar](#).
- **Week for Future: Climate Vigil (Sept. 22) and Climate Strike (Sept. 27)**
KAIROS is also supporting the youth-led Climate Strike and the "Week for Future" (September 20-27), which coincides with the UN Climate Action Summit. **On Sunday, September 22**, beginning at 7:30 p.m., KAIROS and Holy Trinity Anglican Church will host an **Interfaith Climate Vigil**. The vigil will begin at Friends House (60 Lowther St., Toronto), proceeding by candlelight to Queen's Park and on to Holy Trinity for 9 p.m. Holy Trinity will be open for an overnight vigil until a sunrise ceremony at 7 a.m. Monday Sept. 23. Another interfaith meet up will be held in Toronto during the general **Climate Strike on Friday, September 27** (location to be determined.) To get further details on either the Vigil or Climate Strike please follow the [KAIROS Action Month Calendar](#) or our [Facebook page](#).

3. Federal Election resources and events

- **CPJ 2019 Election Bulletin: Shaping a Just Canada.** Concerned about poverty, climate justice, and welcoming refugees? Ecumenical advocacy organization Citizens for Public Justice has prepared an election bulletin with background information and questions to ask federal candidates. Visit their [site](#) to order a free hard copy of the bulletin, or download it as a PDF.
- **Election conversation with Michael Coren, Weds. Sept. 11.** On Wednesday, Sept. 11 from 7-9 p.m. St. Timothy, North Toronto (100 Old Orchard Grove) is hosting a conversation with author and columnist Michael Coren on "Election Issues from a Christian Perspective." Free. All welcome.
- **Beaches All-Candidates Meeting, Thurs. Oct. 3.** An interfaith group from the Beaches/East York is hosting a candidates' meeting on Thursday, Oct. 3 from 7-9 p.m. at Beach United Church, 140 Wineva Ave., Toronto. Candidates will respond to questions on the topics of the environment, inequality, and health.
- **CPJ Fall Pre-Election Tour, Thurs. Oct. 3.** In the lead-up to the federal election, CPJ will engage voters with a series of non-partisan townhall gatherings across Canada. The Toronto event will be held on Thursday, October 3, from 7:00-9:30 p.m. at Christ Church, Deer Park (1470 Yonge St., Toronto) This is an opportunity to gain a better understanding of key policy issues and learn how to engage federal candidates. The event is free, but please register at [cpj.ca/Tour2019](#)

4. Other events this month:

- **Catch a Fire - Murray MacAdam Book Launch, Sept. 10, Toronto.** Murray MacAdam was the Diocesan Social Justice & Advocacy Consultant from 2004-2014. The launch of his new memoir, *Catch a Fire*, is on Tuesday, Sept. 10 from 6-8 p.m., at the Alchemy Bar, 890 College St., Toronto (near Dovercourt). Readings will be given at 6:30 p.m. but come when you can. The book will be available for purchase at \$25 (\$20 for low-income)
- **Thomas Merton Series at Redeemer, beginning Sept. 18.** Church of the Redeemer (162 Bloor St. W., Toronto) is offering a four-part series on the legacy of the "contemplative radical" monk Thomas Merton. The first session, "Thomas

Merton - Global Visionary," with author and professor Michael Higgins, will take place Weds., Sept. 18 at 7 p.m. Free, but please [register online](#).

- **City Matters: Faith & the Common Good in Toronto, beginning Sept. 18.** St. James' Cathedral's fall lecture series will explore how our faith can help point us forward to a way of life that benefits the common good of our neighbourhoods and the city around us. The series begins on Weds. Sept. 18 with "Experiencing the City: The Good, the Bad & the Hopeful" by Andrew Kuhl. Each session begins with a short service in the Cathedral, followed by a light supper at 6:30 and the lecture at 7 p.m., in the Cathedral Centre. For more information visit the [Cathedral website](#).
- **Scarborough Steeplechase for PWRDF, Sept. 21.** On Saturday, September 21, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Anglican churches in York-Scarborough are hosting the first ever Scarborough Steeplechase scavenger hunt and inviting members of the community to participate.
Teams will begin at Church of the Holy Trinity, Guildwood (85 Livingston Rd.) and travel to 10 churches, before reaching Grace Church (700 Kennedy Rd.) for an awards ceremony reception. At each location, at least one member of each team must complete an activity. Contestants will need to navigate their way through an undisclosed course with only clues they win at the challenges to guide them. Anyone may [register online](#) with a \$25 donation to PWRDF.
- **Housing Challenges: Finding a New Home for Newcomers, Sept. 28.** One of the greatest challenges for refugee sponsors is finding suitable, affordable accommodation for refugee families. Eculinks Etobicoke and Islington United Church are hosting a workshop on this important topic for church and community sponsors on Saturday, Sept. 28 from 9:30-12:30 p.m. at Islington United Church, 25 Burnhamthorpe Rd., Toronto. Free, but please [register](#). To learn more, contact [Barbara Sheffield](#).
- **Schomberg Country Run for Pikangikum, Sept. 28.** The 9th annual Schomberg Country Run will take place on Saturday Sept. 28 from 9 a.m. to noon starting at St. Mary Magdalene, Schomberg (116 Church St., Schomberg ON) Adults and kids alike are welcome to participate in this fun, dog-friendly event, either a 1K walk or 5K run. Proceeds from the registration go towards the Pikangikum Water Project and parish outreach. Register [here](#).
- **Orange Shirt Day, Sept. 30.** Orange Shirt Day is a day to remember Indigenous children who were taken away from their families to residential schools. It has become an opportunity for First Nations, local governments, schools and communities to come together in the spirit of reconciliation and hope for generations of children to come. Wear orange and use it as an opportunity to discuss residential schools and the journey of reconciliation. Learn more about the significance of [Orange Shirt Day](#).
- **Uxbridge Poverty Coalition Fall Meeting, Oct. 5.** On Sat. Oct. 5, from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., join the Uxbridge Poverty Coalition at St. Paul's Church (59 Toronto St. S, Uxbridge) for a session led by the Rev. Christian Harvey, director of the Warming Room Community Ministries, on focusing poverty-reduction efforts on tangible outcomes for the local community. Free, but please [register here](#).

5. Outreach & Advocacy Prayer Cycle

September 1, Pentecost 12 - *Pray for* St. Paul, Bloor Street, Toronto, its ESL Café, its support of the Regent Park community dinner, and Advent Ask campaign in support of PWRDF;

for St. Paul, Innisfil, and its support for the Grocery Assistance Program in Barrie, and for the David Busby Centre drop-in for homeless and at-risk individuals;

and for St. Paul, Newmarket, its support of the local food bank and Inn from the Cold program, Karanda Mission Hospital in Zimbabwe, Elimu education programs in Kenya, and school knapsacks for St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

September 8, Pentecost 13 - *Pray for* St. Paul-on-the-Hill, Pickering, its food bank,

scholarship program, shelter clothing program, and support of the Durham Region HIV/AIDS ministry and other local community initiatives;
for St. Paul, Rexdale, its Food Bank ministry, monthly services at two retirement homes, and sponsorship of a foster child through World Vision;
and for St. Paul, Uxbridge, its support for programs including the Loaves and Fishes food bank, Jennifer Ashleigh Children's Charity, and North House Transitional Housing.

September 15, Pentecost 14 - Pray for St. Peter, Cobourg, its involvement in a winter soup-and-sandwich supper, its Crisis Fund, its support of the Fare Share Food Bank and Operation Eyesight, and of a ministry for AIDS orphans in Mzuzu, Malawi;
and for St. Peter, Erindale, its Deacon's Cupboard, parish nursing initiative, refugee sponsorship, and the work of its outreach/social justice team.

September 22, Pentecost 15 - Pray for St. Peter, Oshawa and its parish food bank and cooking club, sponsorship of a family in Kerala, and support of local community programs such as Denise House and The Refuge;
for St. Peter, Scarborough, its monthly community lunches, twice-annual clothing giveaways, pastoral care to residents of Bendale Acres and Rockcliffe nursing home, support of "I love First Peoples", work with St. Ninian's food bank, collection of personal care products for the local shelter and winter hats, mittens and boots for those in need, and its prayer shawl ministry;
and for St. Peter and St. Simon, Toronto, its after-school program, support of Codrington College in Barbados, and the local food bank, refugee sponsorship, advocacy on poverty, food security, and housing issues, its work with St Simon's Shelter for homeless men, and education on Indigenous and Right Relations issues.

September 29, Pentecost 16 - *Pray for* St. Philip, Etobicoke, its monthly community lunch, Christmas hamper program, and support of the Dorothy Ley hospice and the Weston Area Emergency Services food bank;
for St. Philip-on-the-Hill, its participation in refugee sponsorship, and its support of a local breakfast club and ecumenical Christmas program;
and for St. Saviour's, Toronto, its Bread of Life grocery card program, and its participation in Centre 55's Share a Christmas program.

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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