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**Diocese of Toronto**  
Anglican Church of Canada

## Social Justice and Advocacy Update February 2020

### NEWS FOR FEBRUARY 2020

1. **Vestry Motion 2020 - Taking Action on Climate Change**
2. **Give it Up for the Earth! Lenten Postcard Campaign**
3. **Have your say on Ontario's Poverty Reduction Strategy**
4. **Provincial Pre-Budget Submission**
5. **Events this Month: Black History Month events, Scugog Poverty Coalition, Interfaith Festival of Creation, Port Hope Repair Café and more!**
6. **Outreach & Advocacy Prayer Cycle**

**1. Vestry Motion 2020 - Taking Action on Climate Change.** February is Vestry Season and, as is our practice, the Social Justice & Advocacy Committee has prepared a Social Justice Motion for consideration at your parish vestry meeting. This year's motion includes advocacy directed at the federal government on transitioning from fossil fuels to a decarbonized economy, as well as inviting parishes to reduce their own ecological footprint. The motion and supporting materials can be found on our Diocesan [website](#). Don't forget to [let us know](#) the results of the motion in your parish!

**2. Give It Up for the Earth! Lenten Postcard Campaign.** As part of your parish response to the Vestry Motion, consider participating in this Lenten postcard campaign from Citizens for Public Justice. The [campaign](#) includes a postcard calling on the federal government to invest in a national just transition and decarbonization strategy, while committing to personal action to reduce carbon emissions. We have ordered a large number of postcards for distribution to Diocesan parishes: please [contact us](#) to get your postcards and materials.

**3. Have your say on Ontario's Poverty Reduction Strategy.** The provincial government has opened up consultations for the next five-year Poverty Reduction Strategy. You can participate in an [online survey](#) or send written submissions to [prso@ontario.ca](mailto:prso@ontario.ca) up to March 30, 2020.

**4. Provincial Pre-Budget Submission.** Our annual pre-budget brief was submitted to the provincial government last month, calling for action on income security, housing,

and climate change. You can read the full submission on the Diocesan [website](#). A summary will also appear in the March edition of Anglican.

## 5. Events this month

- **Saturday, Feb. 8:** The Black Anglicans of Canada are holding "A Gathering to Disrupt, Heal & Lead" at St. Andrew, Scarborough (2333 Victoria Park Ave., Toronto ON) from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. This forum is intended as a safe space for Black Anglicans to meet. Dr. Carol B. Duncan of Wilfrid Laurier University will give the keynote address. Workshops will focus on Decolonizing our faith, Gun violence as a public health crisis, Black health issues, and Anti-Black racism. The cost for the day is \$30 (\$20 for seniors/students). To register please contact [blackanglicans@gmail.com](mailto:blackanglicans@gmail.com)
- **Sunday, Feb. 9:** All are welcome to a Black History Month Public Forum, "From Harriet Tubman to Black Panther: Afrofuturism and Prophetic Imagination" at St. Margaret, New Toronto (156 Sixth St., Toronto) from 2-4 p.m. Dr. Carol B. Duncan of Wilfrid Laurier University and Dr. Gideon Strauss of the Institute for Christian Studies will be the featured speakers. Child care provided. Donations welcome.
- **Wednesday, Feb. 12:** The Scugog Poverty Coalition will hold its first meeting at Church of the Ascension (266 North St., Port Perry) from 7-9 p.m. All are welcome to participate in a discussion of poverty in Scugog and what can be done to help those who struggle in the community.
- **Thursday, Feb. 13:** Dr. Mary Jo Leddy, founder of Romero House, will present the Fraser Centre Scarboro Missions Lecture at Regis College (100 Wellesley St. W., Toronto) at 7:00 p.m. Dr. Leddy will speak on "Faith in the Commons: Becoming Neighbours Includes the Personal and the Political."
- **Sunday, Feb. 16:** Interfaith Festival of Creation at the Mary Ward Centre (Loretto College), 70 St. Mary St., Toronto, from 1-5 p.m. This family-friendly event will include music, poetry, prayers, information booths, light refreshments, children's activities along with presentations from Christian, Sikh, and Islamic perspectives. All welcome!
- **Saturday, Feb. 22:** Eculinks Etobicoke presents "Strategies for Sponsor Group Effectiveness: A Workshop for Church and Community Refugee Sponsors" at Islington United Church (25 Burnhamthorpe Rd., Toronto) from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Free, but please [register](#).
- **Saturday, Feb. 22:** Repair Café at St. John the Evangelist (33 Pine St. N., Port Hope) from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Bring along broken appliances, clothes, toys, bikes, crockery, and volunteer repair experts will be on hand, with tools and materials to help make all possible repairs free of charge (although donations are welcome.) What a great way to learn new skills - and keep items in use and out of the trash!
- **Sunday, Feb. 23:** The 25th annual Diocesan Black History Service will be held at St. Paul, Bloor Street (227 Bloor St. E., Toronto). Music starts at 4 p.m. and the service starts at 4:30 p.m. The Rev. Canon Stephen Fields will be preaching. All are welcome to this service of celebration.

## 6. Outreach & Advocacy Prayer Cycle

**February 2, Epiphany 4 / Candlemas** - *Pray for* Grace Church on-the-Hill, its support of the Churches-on-the-Hill food bank, provision of meals for Out of the Cold programs, refugee resettlement work, and support of Indigenous ministries, international emergency response and development, prison ministry, and food security

organizations;  
*for* Grace Church, Markham, its monthly lunch, its participation in the Pikangikum Water Project and education and its advocacy on Indigenous and Right Relations issues;  
*and for* Grace Church, Scarborough, its monthly community lunch and cooking club, and its support of the Good Food Box.

**February 9, Epiphany 5** - *Pray for* the Parish of Haliburton, and its support of the Haliburton Youth Hub;  
*for* Holy Family, Heart Lake, and its food bank, caring and sharing program, and Christmas outreach initiatives;  
*and for* Holy Trinity, Guildwood, its food drives, parish nurse ministry, pastoral care to local nursing homes, and work with community partners on housing and poverty issues.

**February 16, Epiphany 6** - *Pray for* Holy Trinity, Thornhill, its support of food banks in Richmond Hill, All Saints Kitchen & Clothing Depot, and Eva's Place, refugee sponsorship, and its parish nurse ministry;  
*for* Holy Trinity, Trinity Square, its advocacy for the homeless and for affordable housing, its Homeless Memorial, refugee sponsorship and advocacy, Treaty People educational programming, and Trinity Square Café;  
*and for* the Church of the Incarnation, its support of local food banks, the North Yorkers for Disabled Persons group home, Flemingdon Park Ministry, the Pikangikum Water Project, monthly seniors lunch, refugee sponsorship, and community garden.

**February 23, Last Sunday after Epiphany** - *Pray for* the Parish of Lloydtown, its support of the King Township food bank, Christmas in King community initiative, and Pikangikum water project;  
*for* the Church of the Messiah, its community garden and hosting of the Avenue Road Food Bank;  
*and for* the Parish of Minden-Kinmount, its Thrift Shop, and the outreach initiatives it supports.

**March 1, Lent 1** - *Pray for* the Mission to Seafarers, and its ministry of pastoral and practical care to seafarers from around the world;  
*for* the Church of the Nativity, Malvern, its afterschool, summer camp and youth programs, Seniors' Community Lunch, and support for the local Indigenous community, Malvern Coalition and TAIBU Community Health Centre;  
*and for* Our Saviour, Don Mills, its partnership with the Common Table community garden, ongoing support of the Flemingdon Park Ministry, Sistering women's shelter, Haven Toronto men's drop-in centre, and for the Moorelands Community Services baby layette program.

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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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