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**Diocese of Toronto**  
Anglican Church of Canada

## Social Justice and Advocacy Update January 2020

### NEWS FOR JANUARY

1. **Advocacy Campaigns**
  - **Provincial Budget Consultations**
  - **City of Toronto Budget Consultations**
  - **Provincial Poverty Reduction Strategy**
  - **Social Justice Vestry Motion**
2. **Upcoming Events**
  - **Thomas Merton series at Redeemer, Weds. Jan. 15, 7:00 p.m.**
  - **York Region Affordable Housing Forum, Thurs. Jan. 16, 7:00 p.m.**
  - **Faith & Welcoming Communities Forum, Tues. Jan. 28, 9:00-4:00**
  - **A Gathering to Disrupt, Heal and Lead, Sat. Feb. 8, 9:00-4:00**
3. **Outreach and Advocacy Prayer Cycle for January**

### 1. Advocacy Campaigns

- **Provincial Budget Consultations:** As part of the provincial pre-budget process, the Standing Committee on Finance and Economic Affairs is holding public hearings throughout Ontario this month. To request the opportunity to address the Toronto hearing on Friday, January 17, please e-mail the clerk of the committee, Ms. Julia Douglas, at [comm-financeaffairs@ola.org](mailto:comm-financeaffairs@ola.org) **before 5 p.m. on Thursday, January 9**. Please include your name, address, phone number and e-mail in the request. You may also make a written submission to the committee by **6 p.m. on Friday, January 24**. As is our practice, our office will be making a submission on behalf of the Diocesan Bishop and this will be posted on our website as soon as it is available.
- **City of Toronto Budget Consultations:** The City of Toronto is holding public hearings on its 2020 Budget on **Monday, January 20 and Tuesday, January 21**, at locations downtown and in Etobicoke, North York, and Scarborough. To be put on the speakers' list for one of these meetings, please email [buc@toronto.ca](mailto:buc@toronto.ca). More information can be found on the [City's website](#).
- **Provincial Poverty Reduction Strategy Consultations:** Every five years, the Ontario government consults on and updates its Poverty Reduction Strategy.

The provincial government is currently seeking input to inform its next five-year strategy. Organizations and individuals are invited to provide written submissions to [prso@ontario.ca](mailto:prso@ontario.ca). For more information, read the provincial [news release](#) and see the resources on our [Diocesan website](#).

- **Social Justice Vestry Motion:** This year's Vestry Motion invites parishes to take action to address climate change, through advocacy directed to the federal government as well as through their own commitment to reducing their carbon footprint. The text of the motion and original backgrounder are available on our [Diocesan website](#); additional resources are being prepared and will be posted by **Friday, January 17**. An article in this month's [Anglican](#) also discusses the motion.

## 2. Upcoming Events

- The series "**Radical Contemplative: The Legacy of Thomas Merton**" at Church of the Redeemer (Bloor and Avenue Road, Toronto) concludes on Wednesday, **January 15** at 7 p.m. with "We are Already One: Indigenous Peoples and Race in Thomas Merton," featuring guest speaker Paul Dekar. Free, but please [register here](#) or call 416-922-4948.
- The Social Planning Council of York Region invites anyone interested to a **Community Forum on Homelessness and Affordable Housing**, to be held at Aurora Public Library (15145 Yonge St., Aurora) on Thursday, **January 16** from 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. The Rev. Alexander Wilson of St. Stephen's Presbyterian Church in Scarborough, and Elin Goulden of the Diocese of Toronto, will be among the panelists. All welcome.
- The Toronto North Local Immigration Partnership invites you to the **2020 Faith and Welcoming Communities Forum** "Exploring the Role of Faith Communities and Service Providers in Supporting Newcomer Integration." The forum will be held Tuesday, **January 28**, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the North York Central Library (5120 Yonge St.). Free, but please [register here](#).
- The Black Anglicans of Canada are hosting "**A Gathering to Disrupt, Heal, and Lead**" on Saturday, **February 8**, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at St. Andrew, Scarborough (2333 Victoria Park Ave.). Featuring keynote speaker Dr. Carol B. Duncan of Wilfrid Laurier University, the event will address topics such as decolonizing our faith, gun violence as a public health issue, Black health issues, and anti-Black racism. The cost is \$30 for adults and \$20 for seniors/students. For more information, contact Br. Reginald Crenshaw at [blackanglicans@gmail.com](mailto:blackanglicans@gmail.com).

## 3. Outreach and Advocacy Prayer Cycle for January

**January 5, Christmas 2** - *Pray for* Christ Church, Roches Point, its provision of meals at Cedarvale Lodge, support of the local food bank, and focus on local Indigenous justice and water protection issues;  
*for* Christ Church, Scarborough, its weekly Deacon's Cupboard emergency food bank, monthly community lunches, participation in Operation Backpack, Woolly Tree for winter accessories and support to the Scarborough Village Residence and the YouthLink transitional home;  
*and for* Christ Church, Stouffville, its Deacon Al Fund, providing assistance to people in need, support of the Yellow Brick House, Porter Place, Stouffville Food Bank, York Region Children's Aid, and Community Care Access Centre.

**January 12, Epiphany 1** - *Pray for* Christ Church-St. James, its refugee sponsorship, food pantry, and support of Stonegate Community Ecumenical Ministry;  
*for* Christ Memorial Church, Oshawa, its support of the Gate 3:16 drop-in centre, Luke's Place, Simcoe Hall Settlement House food bank, Cornerstone men's hostel, St. Vincent's Kitchen, Mary Street School snack program, and the Pikangikum Water Project;  
*and for* the Parish of Churchill and Cookstown, its monthly community and seniors' lunches, refugee support, and "Christmas for Kids Year-Round" program of practical and spiritual support for vulnerable families.

**January 19, Epiphany 2** - *Pray for* the Parish of Craighurst and Midhurst, its support of the Barrie and Elmvale Foodbank, Youth Haven and women's shelters, and Christmas outreach to local families;  
*for* Epiphany and St. Mark, Parkdale, their work in the Hope Community Garden, partnership with the Dale Ministries, involvement with the Parkdale Neighbourhood Land Trust, and social justice, advocacy, and environmental initiatives;  
*and for* the Parish of the Evangelists, New Tecumseth, its Family Market second-hand shop and its Good News Café Saturday drop-in.

**January 26, Epiphany 3** - *Pray for* FaithWorks, and the 14 ministry partners it supports in the Diocese;  
*for* the Parish of Fenelon Falls, its community gardens, community kitchen, cooking classes, and support of the Good Food Box;  
*and for* the Parish of Georgina, its Summer Outreach Chaplaincy to Sibbald Point Provincial Park, its support of ecumenical community dinners, the Georgina Food Pantry, Sandgate Shelter for Women, Salvation Army Youth Shelter, its refugee sponsorship, and its prayer shawl ministry.

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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