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**Diocese of Toronto**  
Anglican Church of Canada

## Social Justice and Advocacy Update September 2020

### NEWS FOR SEPTEMBER 2020

1. **Season of Creation resources and events**
2. **Supporting Shelter Residents in Midtown Toronto (Sept. 6)**
3. **Shared Black and Indigenous Pathways speaker series (Sept. 9-23)**
4. **A Reconciliation Walk - Niigaanibatowaad:FrontRunners (Sept. 17)**
5. **Schomberg Country Run for Toronto Urban Native Ministry (Sept. 19-26)**
6. **AURA Ride for Refuge (Oct. 3)**
7. **REGISTER for Diocesan Outreach Conference (Oct. 24)**
8. **Advocacy Campaigns: Basic Income, Justice for Migrant Workers**
9. **Outreach and Advocacy Prayer Cycle**

**1. Season of Creation resources and events:** September 1 marks the start of the Season of Creation, a global ecumenical movement running through to the Feast of St. Francis on October 4. Christians around the world are encouraged to join together in prayer, education, and action to care for the earth. Here are some resources and initiatives to help guide you and your parish in observing this season:

- **Weekly devotions and reflections** from the leaders of the Anglican Church of Canada, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada, the Episcopal Church and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, as well as **other resources for parishes and youth groups** can be found on the Anglican Church of Canada [website](#).
- **Make your voice heard For the Love of Creation:** Sign the [e-petition](#) calling on the Canadian government to set ambitious carbon-reduction goals, invest in a just transition to a green economy, honour the rights of Indigenous peoples, and invest in climate adaptation and mitigation efforts for countries most impacted by the climate crisis. The Anglican Church of Canada is a member of the [For the Love of Creation](#) campaign along with many other Canadian churches and faith-based organizations. The petition will close **Oct. 6, 2020**.
- **Participate in KAIROS Climate Action Month.** This [30-day challenge](#) offers suggestions for actions you can take every day during the month of September to address the climate crisis and honour Indigenous rights.

- **Join the Global Climate Strike on September 25, 2020.** The youth of Fridays for Future Toronto are organizing a socially-distanced sit-in from 12:00-3:00 p.m. at Bay and Wellesley. Youth and youth groups are especially invited. Please bring/wear a mask! See the [event page](#) for more information.
- **Parish celebrations for the Season of Creation:**
  - **St. Mary, Richmond Hill**, together with other local churches and Neighbours for the Planet, are holding a free online event, "Jubilee - New Hope for the Planet" on **Sunday, Sept. 27** from 3:00-4:30 p.m. [Register here](#).
  - **Church of the Redeemer** is holding its Season of Creation from Sept. 27 - Oct. 27 on the theme All My Relations: Learning to live in the Family of Earth. Events include Sunday services as well as online workshops on "What's in a Worldview - From Creation Stories to Trickster Tales" with Dr. Cynthia Wesley-Esquimaux (Oct. 3) and "Worship with Your Wealth: Responsible Investing for Creation Care" with Peter Bennett (Oct. 26/27) Full details and links to register can be found [on the parish website](#).
  - **St. Aidan in the Beach** will observe Season of Creation Sept 20 - Oct. 11 with a series of sermons and parish discussions on the themes of the season. A parish hike is being planned for Sept. 27 and a retreat day at St. Andrew-by-the-Lake for October 3. Visit St. [Aidan's website](#) closer to the date for more information

**2. Supporting Shelter Residents in Mid-Town Toronto.** In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the City of Toronto has moved many people experiencing homelessness into new temporary shelters to achieve physical distancing. Shelter hotels have been opened across the city, but tensions have flared in the Yonge-Eglinton area between existing residents and the residents of the shelter-hotels. In mid-August, Anglican outreach workers and local Anglican clergy sent a [letter](#) to Mayor Tory and Councillor Matlow in support of the shelter residents. Local parishes are also seeking ways to support the new residents and defuse tensions in the neighbourhood. Area Bishop Kevin Robertson will be speaking at an interfaith event in support of the shelter residents on **Sunday, Sept. 6 from 2-3 p.m.** at the Redpath Parkette, 130 Erskine Ave. Support from local Anglicans is welcome! Please wear a mask, and consider bringing signs with messages such as "Love Your Neighbour" and "Housing For All."

**3. Shared Black and Indigenous Pathways Series, Sept. 9-23.** Black Anglicans of Canada and Toronto Urban Native Ministry are co-sponsoring a series of online events over three Wednesday evenings this month:

- Sept. 9, 2020 - "Decolonizing the Church: Shifting Power Dynamics in our Churches" with Rev. Evan Noodin Smith and Archbishop Mark MacDonald
- Sept. 16, 2020 - "Co-Creating Safety: Perspectives of Black-First Nations Women with Monica Shevoic Forrester and Aleshia Johnson
- Sept. 23, 2020 - "Building Alliances: Solidarity across Black and Indigenous Communities" with Aleshia Johnson, Rev. Leigh Kern, Sandra Campbell and Lance Wilson.

All events are free and begin at 8 p.m. Find more information and register [here](#).

**4. A Reconciliation Walk:** This Indigenous justice series, sponsored by the Deacons of the Parkdale-West Toronto Deanery and York-Credit Valley Area, begins **Thursday Sept. 17 at 6:30 p.m.** with **Niigaanibatowaad: FrontRunners**, a film

about ten Indigenous youth from residential schools who were chosen as torchbearers for the 1967 Pan-Am games. FrontRunner Bill Chippeway will join us for discussion after the film. Register for the event [here](#), and save the date for future events on October 15 and a three-part event on November 12, 19 and 26.

**5. Schomberg Country Run:** The Parish of Lloydtown is hosting its 10th Annual Country Run this year in honour of their late priest, the Rev. Sheilagh Ashworth., and her commitment to Indigenous justice. All proceeds will go to Toronto Urban Native Ministry. Participants can choose to run/walk any time between September 16 and 26. Learn more and register [here](#).

**6. AURA Ride for Refuge:** [Join or support](#) one of the teams cycling on October 3 to raise money for the Anglican-United Refugee Alliance and their refugee resettlement work.

**7. Register for Diocesan Outreach Conference October 24:** This year the Outreach Conference is a fully virtual - and free - event! Bishop Peter Fenty will give the keynote address on the theme "No One Is Disposable." This theme carries over into workshops on disability, justice for migrant workers, basic income, housing for ex-offenders, Indigenous ministry, anti-racism, and supporting marginalized neighbours during the pandemic. One workshop is **reserved for youth** 11-18 and youth leaders. [Registration opens Tuesday, September 8.](#)

## 8. Advocacy Campaigns:

- **Basic Income Petition:** The concept of a guaranteed basic income has been gaining traction over the past few months, since the introduction of the Canada Emergency Relief Benefit (CERB). Anglican Bishops from across the country [expressed support](#) for a guaranteed basic income in May. In August, MP Leah Gazan (Winnipeg Centre) submitted a motion to Parliament to convert the CERB into a guaranteed basic income. Over 35,000 Canadians have signed a petition supporting this motion. Learn more and sign [here](#).
- **Justice for Migrant Workers:** As we have learned this past summer, migrant workers have been especially vulnerable to the COVID-19 pandemic due to poor housing and working conditions, and limited ability to access healthcare or assert their rights. The Migrant Justice Network is petitioning the federal government to extend permanent resident status to migrant workers so they are protected in Canada. Learn more and sign [here](#).

## 9. Outreach & Advocacy Prayer Cycle for September

**September 6, Pentecost 14** - *Pray for* St. Paul, Beaverton, and its ministry of practical and pastoral support for Latin American migrant field workers and their families;

*for* St. Paul, Bloor St., its ESL Café, its support of the Regent Park community dinner, and Advent Ask campaign in support of PWRDF;

*and for* St. Paul, Brighton, its support of the Brighton Food Bank, Supper's Ready community meal, Maplewood Nursing Home, refugee sponsorship and provision of water filters in developing countries.

**September 13, Pentecost 15** - *Pray for* St. Paul, Innisfil, its support for the Grocery Assistance Program in Barrie, and for the David Busby Centre drop-in for homeless and at-risk individuals;

*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; *and for* St. Paul, Uxbridge, its participation in a weekly community lunch, Orange Shirt Day and education for reconciliation, refugee sponsorship, and support for the Loaves and Fishes food bank.

**September 20, Pentecost 16** - *Pray for* St. Peter and St. Simon, 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;

*for* St. Peter, Cobourg, its weekly community supper for the lonely and needy, involvement in an ecumenical soup and sandwich lunch for the needy, support of the Fare Share Food Bank, Operation Eyesight, a ministry for AIDS orphans in Mzuzu, Malawi, participation in the Pikangikum water project, its Parish Nurse, and prayer shawl ministry."

*and for* St. Peter, Erindale, its Deacon's Cupboard, parish nursing initiative, refugee sponsorship, and the work of its outreach/social justice team.

**September 27, Pentecost 17** - *Pray for* St. Peter, Oshawa, 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, and 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.

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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