

JUSTICE MINISTRIES, THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN CANADA
Report to 2016 General Assembly

Staff Associate Secretary: Stephen Allen
Program Coordinator: Katharine Masterton

HEALING AND RECONCILIATION PROGRAM

Outreach

Since the 2015 General Assembly Justice Ministries staff led nine healing and reconciliation presentations or workshops for congregations, presbyteries, synods and presbyterials. In addition, there were two local leader training workshops. The Confession was read at three reconciliation events hosted by Indigenous people.

Local Leaders Network and Training

One of the priorities in the program is leading training workshops for Presbyterians who would like to be local leaders in their congregations, presbyteries and communities. More than 150 Presbyterians across Canada have attended training workshops since 2007. The purpose of these workshops is to widen the base of local leaders who can speak to congregations and inform and involve more Presbyterians.

The training takes place in communities across Canada. Workshop presentations cover the history of residential schools, The Presbyterian Church in Canada's involvement in residential schools and The Presbyterian Church in Canada's commitment to healing and reconciliation. Participants do the Blanket Exercise (developed by the Aboriginal Rights Coalition, one of the ecumenical coalitions brought together to form KAIROS). Participants visit a First Nation community, a Friendship Centre or an Indigenous elder may speak to the group.

Two local leaders training workshops have taken place since the 2015 General Assembly. David Phillips and Susan Samuel were hired to plan these workshops. David Phillips facilitated a local leader training workshop in Waterloo, Ontario on Saturday, September 26. The workshop was hosted by Knox Church, Waterloo, and planned with St. Andrew's Church, Hespeler. Fifteen people attended. Youth played an important role in the workshop.

Susan Samuel planned the workshop with a team from Chippewas of Nawash Unceded First Nation (Cape Croker First Nation near Lion's Head, Ontario in the Bruce Peninsula) on September 25–27, 2015. Twenty Presbyterians attended. Following the workshop many participants spoke to their congregation and/or presbytery about their experience. Hosts from Chippewas of Nawash Unceded First Nation have invited the church to partner with them for future events. Participants from the Presbytery of Grey-Bruce-Maitland are planning several workshops in 2016 to learn more about healing and reconciliation and to consider the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to

Action. One participant is exploring opportunities to partner with Saugeen First Nation to organize a healing and reconciliation event.

Healing and Reconciliation Seed Fund

Since the Healing and Reconciliation Seed Fund was established in 2006, 65 projects totaling \$246,786 have been funded. In 2015 the Healing and Reconciliation Advisory Committee approved seven projects for \$22,040. Information about the seed fund is online at presbyterian.ca/healing/#funding.

Summaries of Seed Fund Projects

The Presbytery of Brandon in Manitoba is developing a relationship with members of **Birdtail First Nation**. Presbytery members attend worship at Birdtail and organize social gatherings once a month. Funds support food for community meals and fellowship, travel costs for participants and Sunday School supplies. Project leaders are working to establish a church council to ensure ongoing leadership by members of Birdtail in decision making. This project was approved April 29, 2015 and received \$4,800.

Camp Kintail (Synod of Southwestern Ontario) received seed funding to support the travel costs for two young women, Tammy Wedamin and Brenda Gon, from Gamètì, Northwest Territories, who were hired as counsellors by Camp Kintail in the summer of 2015. Gamètì is between Great Slave and Great Bear Lakes in a traditional hunting area of the Tłı̨cho and Sahtu Dene peoples. This was an opportunity for counselors and campers to learn about Tammy and Brenda's communities. While in Ontario, Tammy and Brenda visited Chippewas of Nawash Unceded First Nation (Cape Croker First Nation) where they were warmly received. Tammy and Brenda taught 80 counsellors to round dance. They left a lasting impression on Camp Kintail and underscored the value of young Indigenous and non-Indigenous Canadians working and having fun together. This project was approved April 29, 2015 and received \$2,040.

Dianne Ollerenshaw, staff for the Synod of Alberta and the Northwest and a group of Presbyterians partnered with Blood (Kainai) First Nations to host an event in September 2015 called **Moving Forward Together as a People** that focused on the impact of residential schools. Children and youth from Blood First Nation participated. This was a two day event. On the first day, participants had a community feast. A play called "New Blood" was performed by youth from the community which explored the legacy of residential schools. On the second day, youth from Blood First Nation hosted panels to talk about the intergenerational impact of residential schools. Church leaders from the Anglican, Catholic, Presbyterian and United churches responded to the TRC's Calls to Action. Presbyterians from the Presbytery of Calgary-Macleod attended. This project was approved September 1, 2015 and received \$5,000.

Kingston Community Reconciliation Feast took place October 21, 2015, where 180 people attended the feast. The purpose was straightforward – invite Indigenous and non-Indigenous people in Kingston to share a meal together. The Feast was endorsed by the

Presbytery of Kingston. The Rev. Dr. Andrew Johnston, minister at St. Andrew's Church was on the planning team and worked with the Katarokwi Indigenous Grandmothers Council and KAIROS. The evening also featured the Shimmering Water Drum Circle. Presbyterians from several congregations attended. A member of the Grandmothers' Council wrote to the Rev. Dr. Johnston: "Andrew, you lit a special fire when you reached out to the Grandmothers to join in this Feast. Your openness rekindled the flames of inclusivity in many, many hearts last night". This project was approved October 16, 2015 and received \$2,500. Project leaders returned \$364.23 of unspent funds.

Churches Responding to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission involves eight congregations from Free Methodist, Mennonite Brethren, Salvation Army and United churches and Westwood Presbyterian Church in Winnipeg, Manitoba. They planned three educational evenings over three months beginning January 2016. Each evening had a different speaker. Justice Murray Sinclair, former chair of the TRC was one of the guest speakers. The fourth evening in April focused on discerning on to faithfully respond to the TRC's Calls to Action. This project was approved November 24, 2015 and received \$2,000.

Youth in Mission Trip to Winnipeg Inner City Missions is an initiative of the youth program at Knox Church in Waterloo, Ontario. Youth and adult will visit the WICM in the summer of 2016. Youth and adult participants learn about Aboriginal peoples as part of their preparation for the trip. Youth will share their experiences with their church afterward. The importance of youth participation in healing and reconciliation cannot be understated as new generations of Indigenous and non-Indigenous grow up. They will become leaders who continue to build new relationships between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people. This is the second time Knox Church has received funding for this initiative. The project was approved November 24, 2015 and received \$5,000.

United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Interfaith Workshop involved members of Knox Church, Calgary, Alberta and included support from the Calgary Interfaith Council. The Rev. Mark Tremblay served on the planning team. Ms. Doreen Spence facilitated a one day workshop for participants to discuss why and how the Declaration can be implemented in Canada. Doreen Spence is a Cree from Alberta. She is a respected traditional healer and contributed to the development of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples that took over 20 years to work through the United Nations system. This workshop was filmed and will be a resource for the church. This project was approved November 24, 2015 and received \$700. The Truth and Reconciliation's Calls to Action include the Government of Canada, churches and other faith groups to implement the Declaration (Call to Action No. 48).

Plan to Implement the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action

The 2015 General Assembly adopted a motion that "the Assembly Council to develop a plan to implement the recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission related to church apologies and reconciliation, through committees, agencies and departments of The Presbyterian Church in Canada and the synods, presbyteries and

congregations and to report to the 142nd General Assembly on the plan and the progress made”. (A&P 2015, p. 25) Justice Ministries will work with the Assembly Council in preparing this report.

Responding to Initiatives from Indigenous People

In December 2015, Justice Ministries was contacted by Sam Thomas, a Cayuga artist. He invited The Presbyterian Church in Canada and other denominations to participate in a project he has initiated called “Opening the Doors to Dialogue”. Sam collected doors from several residential schools. “Opening the Doors to Dialogue” involves inviting Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples to come together to learn how to bead, but more importantly to talk. Sam is a researcher, artist and educator of Iroquois beadwork. Together worship participants beaded patterns on the doors. Sam Thomas received funding for “Opening the Doors to Dialogue” from the Canada Council for the Arts as well as from one of the largest private foundations in Canada.

The launch took place at the Woodland Cultural Centre in Brantford on January 16, 2016. Katharine Masterton read the Confession on behalf of The Presbyterian Church in Canada. The launch included statements by the Chief of the Six Nations of the Grand River, the Director of the Woodland Cultural Centre, a member of the Brantford City Council, the local member of the Ontario Legislature and several survivors of residential schools.

Some 30 participants participated in the beading workshop. Several residential schools survivors courageously spoke about their experiences at school. Other participants spoke about their hopes for the future and why they believe reconciliation is important. These stories create sacred spaces where healing from brokenness becomes possible.

Similar events were planned in Niagara on the Lake, Ontario and Fort Erie Ontario. The Rev. Wally Hong read the Confession on behalf of the church at the February 20, 2016 event at the Niagara Regional Native Centre in Niagara on the Lake and Stephen Allen read the Confession at the April 2, 2016 event at the Fort Erie Native Friendship Centre in Fort Erie.

Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada

The Closing Event began with a sacred ceremony on Victoria Island on the Ottawa River on Sunday, May 31, 2015. Victoria Island is traditional Algonquin territory. The Presbyterian delegation attended a wonderful service at St. Andrew’s Church, Ottawa. At noon that day, the Walk for Reconciliation began in Gatineau, Quebec and ended next to the Ottawa City Hall. Between 7,000 and 10,000 people walked together for reconciliation. Young and old, Indigenous and non-Indigenous, walking together. It was a moving day.

On June 2, the Commissioners presented a summary of the final report and the 94 Calls to Action, of which 42 focus on healing the wounds of residential schools and 52 are

steps for building new relationships. As each Call to Action was read by one of the Commissioners, there were often loud cheers of hope and for some survivors, tears, perhaps because they felt that their pain (and it is as much Canada's pain) was finally being publicly acknowledged. A number of the Calls to Action are directed to the churches and taken together, provide a road map for the continuing journey of truth telling, asking for forgiveness and seeking reconciliation. Together they build a foundation for justice and right relations.

On June 3, the Governor General of Canada, His Excellency David Johnston, hosted a closing ceremony at Rideau Hall. The Presbyterian Church in Canada's delegation to this ceremony included: the Rev. Dr. Stephen Farris, Moderator of the 140th General Assembly; the Rev. Stephen Kendall, Principal Clerk; Ms. Vivian Ketchum, survivor of Cecilia Jeffrey residential school.

The WMS had a delegation at the Closing Event in Ottawa. Justice Ministries recruited a team of 12 people; it included Indigenous people and young adults. Many members of this team have spoken to their congregations and presbyteries.

Presbyterians across Canada marked the Closing Event in different ways including through worship, in local Walks for Reconciliation and in community feasts.

The TRC's Final Report was presented in Ottawa, December 15, 2015. The Moderator of the 141st General Assembly, the Rev. Karen Horst spoke on behalf of The Presbyterian Church in Canada. The mandate of this historic Commission has come to the end, but the journey for reconciliation continues.

The TRC's Calls to Action that are directed to churches are posted on a new webpage that will provide background information and stories from Presbyterians responding to these actions (presbyterian.ca/healing/trc-calls-to-action/).

Peoples of Faith Moving Forward in Reconciliation

In November 2015, representatives from a number of denominations, ecumenical agencies and traditional elders met in Pickering, Ontario, to consider how they might work together on the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action. The gathering was fortunate to have Shirley Williams, a traditional elder from Peterborough participate in the gathering.

In addition to the churches that are part of the Indian Residential Schools Settlement Agreement (Anglican Church of Canada, The Presbyterian Church in Canada, the United Church of Canada), there were representatives from the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops, Canadian Council of Churches, Canadian Yearly Meeting (Quakers), Christian Reformed Church in North America, the Evangelical Fellowship of Canada, Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada, KAIROS, Mennonite Church Canada, Mennonite Central Committee and the Salvation Army.

There was agreement to cooperate on Call to Action No. 48 – developing a plan by March 31, 2016, to implement the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

There were other proposals for possible ecumenical collaboration. These will be considered in the months to come.

Stephen Allen (Justice Ministries) and Yvonne Bearbull (Kenora Fellowship) represented The Presbyterian Church in Canada on the planning team.

Congregations are responding to the Calls to Action

The session at First Church in Port Colborne, Ontario, created an ad hoc committee to inform the congregation, community and the Presbytery of Niagara about Presbyterian involvement in residential schools and to discern ways to promote healing.

Westwood Church in Winnipeg, Manitoba is cooperating with eight churches in their community to host four evening events in January to April 2016. The first three evenings will have speakers who will address themes that run through the Calls to Action. The final evening will be community discernment for ways the community can respond to the Calls to Action together.

First Church in Regina, Saskatchewan is working ecumenically and with Indigenous organizations to advocate for the commemoration and maintenance of the cemetery of children who died at the Presbyterian-run Regina Indian Industrial School. The school closed in 1911 (Call to Action No. 75).

The Presbytery of Ottawa is developing liturgical resources for congregations to learn more about the legacy of residential schools and the TRC's Calls to Action.

Knox Church in Calgary is learning about the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. The congregation joined an interfaith planning team and organized a forum to discuss how peoples of faith can implement the values and principles enshrined in the Declaration.

The Rev. Susan Samuel planned a workshop in the spring, 2016 for members of the Presbytery of Grey-Bruce-Maitland to learn about the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. Both of these initiatives are faithful responses to Call to Action No. 48 which calls on churches to learn about and implement the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. Copies of the UN Declaration are available from Justice Ministries.

These are just some of the local initiatives that Presbyterians across Canada have been involved in since the release of the TRC's Calls to Action.

Justice Ministries is available to lead workshops on the Calls to Action. The Calls to Action can be found at trc.ca/websites/trcinstitution/File/2015/Findings/Calls_to_Action_English2.pdf.

Recommendation No. 5 (adopted, p. 20)

That congregations and presbyteries be encouraged to study the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

Hard copies of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples are available from Justice Ministries. Softcopies can be downloaded online from un.org/esa/socdev/unpfii/documents/DRIPS_en.pdf.

Recommendation No. 6 (adopted, p. 20)

That sessions and presbyteries consider ways to respond to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action in their communities.

The General Assembly now begins by acknowledging the traditional territory on which Assembly gathers. This is in response to an overture from the Presbytery of Waterloo-Wellington in 2013. (A&P 2013, p. 541; A&P 2014, p. 373) This act is a sign of respect and for those who are not Indigenous, a brief history lesson.

Identifying the traditional territory may require some research. In some cases, several First Nations or Indigenous groups may need to be recognized as traditional territories may have overlapped or been shared. This is a project that could involve young people in the congregation. Here are some steps to take.

Identify the traditional territory the church is on. It may be a treaty territory. Libraries may provide this information or do some research on the internet. The other approach is to contact the closest First Nation community or organization (Friendship Centre). In addition, many universities and community colleges have Indigenous student organizations or Indigenous Studies programs.

Justice Ministries is developing a resource to assist congregations to identify the traditional territory on which their buildings are located.

Recommendation No. 7 (adopted, p. 20)

That congregations be encouraged to acknowledge the traditional territory on which the congregation meets to worship by posting this information in bulletins, by a sign in the church or a combination of both.

Recommendation No. 8 (adopted, p. 20)

That congregations be encouraged to acknowledge the traditional territory on which the congregation meets to worship on Aboriginal Day Sunday.

Recommendation No. 9 (adopted as reworded, p. 20)

That sessions, presbyteries and all church groups are encouraged to acknowledge the traditional territory on which they are gathering at each meeting.

Healing and Reconciliation Advisory Committee

The Rev. Tim Choi (Native Ministries Representative), Ms. Carol MacLennan, the Rev. Katherine McCloskey, the Rev. Linda Patton-Cowie (convener), the Rev. Barbara Pilozow, Ms. Heather Purdy, Mr. Keith Randall, Dr. Douglas Stewart, Ms. Laura VanderVleuten.

The Rev. Dr. J.H. (Hans) Kouwenberg and the Rev. Dr. W.G. Sydney McDonald completed two three-year terms. Justice Ministries thanks them for their contributions.

KAIROS: Canadian Ecumenical justice initiatives

KAIROS unites 11 Canadian churches and religious organizations in a faithful ecumenical response to the call to “do justice, and to love kindness and to walk humbly with your God” (Micah 6:8). KAIROS advocates for social change, amplifying and strengthening the public witness of its members, including The Presbyterian Church in Canada. KAIROS is a Greek word meaning “God’s time” and refers to an auspicious moment for decision or action. KAIROS was established on July 1, 2001, and brought together ten ecumenical coalitions. KAIROS has five national Circles of Ecumenical Collaboration. Members of the circles contribute to shaping KAIROS’ programs. Representatives are appointed by Justice Ministries to the following circles: Sustainability, Dignity and Rights, Indigenous Rights and Movement Building. The representative to the Global Partnership Circle is appointed by PWS&D. The grant from the Life and Mission Agency to KAIROS in 2015 was \$42,700. The website is kairoscanada.org.

Spirited Reflections

Individuals are invited to submit theological reflections that are posted on KAIROS’ website. The reflections may follow the lectionary cycle, but this is not essential. Several Presbyterians have contributed reflections in the past year including Diane Munier and Charmila Ireland.

Sustainability Circle

KAIROS hosted a national forum on fracking on October 30–31, 2015 in Moncton, New Brunswick and Vancouver, British Columbia. Over 100 people attended the two events. In addition participants joined over the internet. Speakers from New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Quebec described the fracking debates in their respective provinces. On Saturday, Alma Brooks, a grandmother from the Maliseet Nation, spoke from the perspective of a woman who lives in an affected community. Kenneth Frances and Katrina Clair shared their experiences in resisting fracking on Elsipogtog lands. Jennifer

Henry, KAIROS' executive director, offered a theological reflection which emphasized some common points between Christianity and Indigenous spirituality.

In Vancouver two Indigenous women, Freda Huson from the Unist'ot'en clan of the Wet'suwet'en nation and Christine Martin from the Lax Kwa'alaams explained why their nations set up camps to defend their territories from corporations wishing to build shale gas pipelines and a Liquefied Natural Gas export terminal. The forum ended with strong presentations by Toghestiy, Hereditary Chief of the Likhts'amisyu and Grand Chief Stewart Phillip of the Union of British Columbia Indian Chiefs.

KAIROS policy briefing papers are written to contribute to public debate on key domestic and foreign policy issues. Two were written in 2015: "Hopeful Signs, Alarming Realities on the Road to Climate Justice" and "Canada Falls Far Short of Pope Francis' Call for Ecological Justice". In 2016 KAIROS prepared a briefing paper called "Huge Challenges for Canada after Paris Climate Conference".

The Circle supports reconciling relationship with Indigenous peoples and will continue to consider how to advocate with corporations and governments to implement free, prior and informed consent, an article of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, for genuine involvement of Indigenous peoples at every stage of resource development in Canada and abroad.

The Circle will continue to animate KAIROS' reconciling in the watershed program which encourages people to learn about their community through the watersheds.

Ms. Janette McIntosh (Vancouver, British Columbia) is our representative on the Sustainability Circle.

Dignity and Rights Circle

Members of the Dignity and Rights Circle worked with the Indigenous Rights Circle and staff at KAIROS in researching and writing a submission to the United Nations' Human Rights Committee regarding Canada's compliance with obligations to Indigenous people under various international conventions to which Canada is a signatory. The report, NGO Shadow Report – Submission of information by KAIROS to the Human Rights Committee for the examination of Canada's Sixth Report – July 2015. The report received coverage in several national media. Copies are available from Justice Ministries.

In the coming year, members of the Dignity and Rights Circle will research and prepare briefs to United Nations organizations and possibly regional multilateral bodies such as the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights. This work will be done in consultation with other Circles and with staff.

With support from a major foundation and in partnership with migrant workers and other organizations, KAIROS held a forum in Fredericton in February 2016, on Migrant Rights. In the coming year, KAIROS will work with these organizations in

recommending changes to Canada's Temporary Foreign Workers Program (TFWP). One change would be a clearer path to permanent residence which is denied to agricultural workers under the TFWP. Workshops are being planned with migrant workers for the fall, 2016. Migrant workers are participating in KAIROS' Blanket Exercise and learning about Indigenous and non-Indigenous relations in Canada.

Ms. Margaret Evans (Toronto, Ontario) our representative on the Dignity and Rights Circle.

Movement Building Circle

The Movement Building Circle's priority is to support participation by KAIROS' member churches in its education programs. The focus of these programs has been Indigenous rights and supporting the work of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

KAIROS' campaign for 2015–2016 is called *Winds of Change*. It is in response to Call to Action No. 62 which calls for the residential school legacy, treaties and past and present Indigenous contributions to Canada to be a mandatory part of the curriculum in primary and secondary schools in each province and territory. There are workshop and activity resources. There are petitions for each province as well as background information on each province and territory's policies and practices on KAIROS' webpage (kairoscanada.org).

KAIROS' Blanket Exercise is being used in churches and increasingly in many other organizations across Canada. Here is one example. A professor at Queen's University in Kingston, Ontario invited staff from KAIROS to train 20 of her teaching assistants. The teaching assistants then did the Blanket Exercise with over 800 students in the professor's course.

The Blanket Exercise is the most requested workshop facilitated by Justice Ministries' staff. A Presbyterian version of this resource is online at presbyterian.ca/healing.

The Movement Building Circle periodically meets in different parts of the country in order to highlight KAIROS' work. In November, 2015, the Circle met in the newly opened Truth and Reconciliation Centre at the University of Manitoba in Winnipeg. The Circle participated in organizing a community discussion on reconciliation that took place at the Thunderbird House.

Ms. Katharine Masterton (Toronto, Ontario) is our representative on the Movement Building Circle.

Indigenous Rights Circle

The KAIROS Indigenous Rights Circle includes representatives from KAIROS' member churches and partner organizations as well as Indigenous people from across Canada. Its

mandate is to suggest ways KAIROS members can reset the relationship with Indigenous peoples within KAIROS as well as within our local communities.

Beginning in February 2015, Deborah Tagornak, an Inuit living in Ottawa, and Ray Jones, an Hereditary Chief from the Gitksan Nation in British Columbia, will be an interim Indigenous presence on KAIROS' board of directors.

During the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Closing Event, the Indigenous Rights Circle led a workshop on "Perspectives on Reconciliation" at a KAIROS gathering.

Two members of the Indigenous Rights Circle attended the intergenerational "Future of Life in the Arctic Conference" in Storforsen, Sweden. Their report described the devastating changes that are occurring in the Arctic, and their concern that the people of the North were under-represented at the December, 2015 United Nations Climate Change Conference in Paris, France.

The Rev. Susan Samuel (Lion's Head, Ontario) is our representative on the Indigenous Rights Circle.

KAIROS Board of Directors

Mr. Stephen Allen represents the Life and Mission Agency on KAIROS' board and the Rev. Dr. Andrew Johnston represents PWS&D.

Church Council on Justice and Corrections

The Church Council on Justice and Corrections (CCJC) is a national faith-based coalition of eleven founding churches, incorporated in 1972. Through education, advocacy and community development programs, the CCJC seeks to foster healthier communities and crime prevention through social responsibility.

The CCJC has been active over the past year with a view to inspiring innovation about restorative justice. For Restorative Justice Week (November 15–22, 2015) CCJC held an art contest and circulated infographic materials about restorative justice which can be viewed at: ccjc.ca/restorative-justice-week/.

CCJC has recently advocated for the reopening of prison farms and better support for chaplaincy services. An event was held in Ottawa January 28, 2016 to launch the book *Looking for Ashley: Re-reading What the Smith Case Reveals about the Governance for Girls, Mothers and Families in Canada* written by Rebecca Bromwich.

The CCJC's website is ccjc.ca.

Ms. Rebecca Bromwich (Ottawa, Ontario) represents our church on the CCJC's Board of Directors and serves as the treasurer.

Canadian Council of Churches

Commission on Justice and Peace

The Commission on Justice and Peace (CJP) is able to do as much as it does because of the active participation of the denominations that have representatives on the Commission. The Commission's Associate Secretary is part-time. The Commission's program includes: Climate justice; human trafficking; poverty in Canada; undoing racism in Canadian churches.

The Canadian Council of Churches was officially represented by the CCC's vice-president, Willard Metzger, at the United Nations Climate Conference in Paris in December, 2015.

The Commission on Justice and Peace coordinated a statement released in September 2015 on climate justice and ending poverty in Canada signed by a number of denominations, religious communities, ecumenical agencies and other faiths. The Moderator of the 141st General Assembly signed on behalf of The Presbyterian Church in Canada.

The Canadian Council of Churches and the Church of Sweden co-organized the Future of Life in the Arctic – The Impact of Climate Change. This consultation took place in northern Sweden to consider Indigenous and religious perspectives on the impact of climate change in the Arctic.

The Commission on Justice and Peace contributed to a Federal Election Resource involving a number of ecumenical agencies.

The Canadian Council of Churches is the legal entity under which Project Ploughshares operates and, as such, the Governing Committee of Project Ploughshares is accountable to The Canadian Council of Churches. The Canadian Council of Churches has official accreditation to the United Nations which meant that Project Ploughshares' Executive Director and a member of staff attended United Nations discussions on nuclear disarmament. On a program basis, Project Ploughshares connects to the Commission on Justice and Peace.

Mr. Stephen Allen represents our church on the Commission on Justice and Peace.

Project Ploughshares

Project Ploughshares is an agency of the Canadian Council of Churches. Its vision for a secure and just world at peace has guided the agency since it was founded in 1976.

This has been a year of change at Project Ploughshares. A new Executive Director, Cesar Jaramillo, began his duties in July 2015. Mr. Jaramillo will provide leadership in implementing the organization's new strategic plan. The plan calls Project Ploughshares

to provide leadership with evidence-based research and policy options for sustainable peace and disarmament. Towards this goal, Project Ploughshares held a number of community events in the past year, including a book launch for Ernie Regehr's new book, *Disarming conflict. Why peace cannot be won on the battlefield*. Ernie Regehr is one of the founders of Project Ploughshares.

Since 2007 The Presbyterian Church in Canada has provided funding for a Presbyterian who has recently graduated from university to serve as the Peace and Human Security Intern for an eight month period. Philip MacFie is the sixth intern. He began working at Project Ploughshares in September 2015 and completed his work in April 2016. This internship program was an opportunity for a young Presbyterian to gain valuable work experience and to do so with an ecumenical agency. The internship has been funded for two three year terms. Additional funding will not be sought to continue the internship beyond 2016.

Project Ploughshares' website is ploughshares.ca.

Ms. Kathryn Hare (Waterloo, Ontario) is our representative on Project Ploughshares' Governing Committee.

Biotechnology Reference Group

The Biotechnology Reference Group (BRG) is an initiative of the Canadian Council of Churches. The BRG strives to understand the theological and ethical implications of some of the major developments in biotechnology including: direct to consumer genetic testing, genetic privacy, synthetic biology, labeling of genetically modified organisms (GMO) in our food and nanotechnology.

Mr. Stephen Allen (Toronto, Ontario) and Ms. Rose Janson (Hamilton, Ontario) represent our church on the Biotechnology Reference Group.

The Rev. Dr. George Tattrie (St. Catharines, Ontario) completed his term this year. Justice Ministries thanks him for his contributions.

The Biotechnology Reference Group's website is councilofchurches.ca/biotechnology.

ECOLOGY

CDP – Driving Sustainable Economies

Formerly called the Carbon Disclosure Project, the name has been changed to “CDP – Driving Sustainable Economies”. The 2008 General Assembly approved a recommendation that The Presbyterian Church in Canada become a signatory to the CDP and has been listed as such in the CDP's annual reports since 2009 (A&P 2008, p. 328, 41).

The CDP is an investor coalition representing over \$95 trillion in assets from 822 institutional investors. It is an independent, not-for-profit organization and the largest investor coalition concerned about climate change in the world. Investors include private and public pension funds and faith communities in the USA, Canada, the UK, Australia and a number of other countries.

The CDP requests full disclosure from corporations regarding the opportunities and risks they face due to climate change and publishes the results. In Canada, annual surveys are sent to the 200 largest publically traded corporations listed on the Toronto Stock Exchange. The survey is voluntary.

The Presbyterian Church in Canada's Investments

The 2012 General Assembly approved a recommendation that Justice Ministries identify the corporations that were invited to complete the CDP's survey in which The Presbyterian Church in Canada has investments and that the Moderator write to these corporations to commend or encourage participation in the CDP survey (A&P 2012, p. 373, 32). Out of the 200 corporations that received the surveys, The Presbyterian Church in Canada held shares in 91; of these, 70 completed the 2015 survey and 21 corporations did not. The Moderator of the 141st General Assembly wrote to these corporations. Justice Ministries will post the list on the website. The list may be of interest to church trustees, financial management committees and groups responsible for the management of endowment funds.

Report on the 2015 General Assembly's Carbon Footprint

Justice Ministries has developed a series of questions for a university or community college about how the institution is reducing its carbon footprint. These questions are available for use by those planning General Assembly. The responses to the checklist are not intended to decide whether or not the venue will be used, because there may be limited venues available in a community, but to communicate The Presbyterian Church in Canada's concerns about the environment.

Each year the General Assembly's carbon footprint is calculated as one way to highlight the ecological impact of Assembly.

A note about the calculations

The calculations of the General Assembly's carbon footprint only include travel (air and auto). The carbon footprint incurred at the venue itself is not included as universities or community colleges do not provide this data (air conditioning, electricity, meals, waste, etc.).

Air mileage is calculated from airport to airport, using the carbon calculator recommended by the Pembina Institute. Car emission calculations are based on a medium sized vehicle and are calculated using KAIROS' carbon calculator. Mileage information

is gathered from the expense claim forms of those attending General Assembly. Miles and flight distances are estimated when information is not available.

Car Travel

- This information is gathered from two sources: 1) expense claim forms and 2) forms submitted by commissioners requesting specific information on their carbon footprint.
- General Assembly participants collectively drove 40,062 kilometers producing approximately 8,661 kg of CO₂e.

Air Travel

- 300 participants travelled by plane to attend the General Assembly. The carbon emissions from flights totaled 492,006 kg of CO₂e. Calculations are based on direct, return flights.

Totals

- The total emissions for 341 participants is 500, 667 kg of CO₂e. The average is 1,468.23 kg per person.

General Assembly Carbon Footprint

Year	Number of Participants	Location	Total (tonnes of CO ₂)	Average (tonnes of CO ₂)
2010	222*	Sydney, Nova Scotia	271.5	1.2
2011	358*	London, Ontario	98.8	.29
2012	356	Oshawa, Ontario	163.8	.46
2013	345	Toronto, Ontario	140.3	.41
2014	341	Waterloo, Ontario	134.0	.39
2015	341	Vancouver, British Columbia	500.7	1.5

* Travel for ecumenical and overseas partners and guests was not included in these calculations.

Calculations in 2012 and 2013 were more robust than those made previously because the calculations include car travel for participants to and from airports in addition to participants who drove directly to General Assembly. This, in part, accounts for variances between 2010–2011 and 2012–2013. The method for calculating mileage for 2015 was different than previous years because of a change in how mileage information is collected. This may cause variations in mileage (road transportation only) between 2014 and 2015.

- A return flight from St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador to Victoria, British Columbia produces 3.04 tonnes of CO₂.
- The average citizen in India emits 0.9 tonnes of CO₂ annually.

- On a per capita basis, Canadians emit 22.4 tonnes of CO₂ annually.
- To limit the increase in the globally averaged combined land and ocean surface temperature to two degrees Celsius and based on the earth's sustainable capacity to absorb carbon emissions, each person should have a personal annual cap of 2 tonnes of CO₂.

All references in the bulleted list are from Atmosfair, an online carbon calculator for air travel at atmosfair.de/en. Countries in the Global North are responsible for a majority of the greenhouse gases that have caused the climate crisis. Countries in the Global South face the most serious impacts of climate change, have little capacity to mitigate and adapt to climate change, and have historically contributed very little to the problem. The ethical issue is this: those who contribute least to climate change suffer disproportionately while those who contribute the most suffer the least.

Update on Climate Change

This report will provide a summary of the most recent information available on climate change. It will comment on current international climate change talks. It will conclude with recommendations that encourage the Government of Canada to take a leadership role to avoid serious or irreparable damage to the earth's ecosystems by climate change.

Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) is the leading scientific authority on climate change. Its reports are consensus findings reflecting a majority of independent and peer reviewed scientific research. The IPCC's 2014 report states that climate change is "unequivocal" (IPCC 2014, 1). The averaged combined land and ocean surface temperature increase is 0.85 degrees Celsius since the industrial revolution (IPCC 2014, 1). The report projects global temperatures will continue to rise and that the impacts of climate change will intensify. Impacts include more intense and longer heat waves and more intense and frequent storms. Oceans will continue to warm, become more acidic and mean ocean levels will rise (IPCC 2014, 10).

Canada's Carbon Emissions and Reduction Commitments

The most recent information on Canadian emissions available from Environment Canada indicates that in 2013, Canadian greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions were 726 megatonnes. It is important to track and report emissions so we can follow changes over time and be able to compare data from different countries. For example, the international community developed the Copenhagen Accord. Under this voluntary Accord, Canada committed to reduce emissions to 17% lower than its 2005 emissions by 2020. Canada's target for 2020 is 611 megatonnes and is unlikely to meet this target.

In December 2015, the international community negotiated the Paris Accord. The agreement calls for emission targets that result in limiting global warming to "well below" 2 degrees C compared to pre-industrial period, and striving to limit warming to

1.5 degrees C. An increase of 2 degrees C is considered the threshold to limit catastrophic climate change. The Moderator of the 141st General Assembly wrote to the Minister of the Environment and Climate Change, the Hon. Catherine McKenna, encouraging Canada to set goals for emission reductions that limit warming below this threshold.

196 countries agreed to the Paris Accord. Under the Kyoto Accord, countries in the Global South did not have to reduce emissions. They do under the Paris Accord. While the Paris Accord is considered legally binding, critics have noted that there are no penalties for countries that fail to meet reduction targets. Countries are expected to publish their greenhouse gas reduction targets.

The goal of the Accord is to achieve a carbon neutral world after 2050 and before 2100. Carbon neutral means that emissions for human activity do not exceed the natural ability of the earth's systems (e.g. soil, trees, oceans) to absorb greenhouse gases.

The Paris Accord calls for \$100 billion to be set aside annually by 2020 to assist countries in the Global South to combat climate change. In November 2015, the Government of Canada committed to spend \$2.65 billion dollars over 5 years to assist poorer countries in the Global South. This commitment doubles commitments made by the previous government. When combined with the \$1.2 billion dollars given to a similar fund negotiated as part of the Copenhagen Accord, the CBC notes that Canada has "exceeded the \$ 4 billion target that environmental groups have been urging it to meet as its 'fair share,' based on [Canada's] national wealth" (Barton).

The federal Minister of the Environment is scheduled to meet with provincial and territorial counterparts by March 15, 2016 to discuss how both levels of government will work together to meet the commitments that Canada agreed to in the Paris Accord.

References

Barton, Mary. "Government announces \$2.65B to help developing counties fight climate change" CBC, November 27, 2015. cbc.ca/news/politics/funding-for-climate-change-chogm-1.3339907.

Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (2014). "Climate Change 2014 Synthesis Report – Summary for Policy Makers." ipcc.ch.

Overtures 2015 re human sexuality

In 2015 the General Assembly referred to Justice Ministries Overture Nos. 4 and 5, 2015 requesting statements recommending full inclusion of all persons regardless of sexual orientation and gender. Overture No. 21, 2015 requesting a study paper on human sexuality that affirms the statement made in 1994 was referred to Justice Ministries in consultation with the Church Doctrine Committee. Overture No. 23, 2015 was directed to the Committee on Church Doctrine and Justice Ministries re gay and lesbian candidates for ministry and same-sex marriages. Overture Nos. 24, 30 and 35, 2015 requested

statements recommending full inclusion of all persons regardless of sexual orientation and gender and were directed to the Committee on Church Doctrine and Justice Ministries. Overture No. 15, 2015 was referred to Justice Ministries and the Committee on Church Doctrine and requested a statement that would lead to a “fresh round of listening” in the church. Overture No. 29, 2015 referred to the Committee on Church Doctrine and Justice Ministries requested a review of the traditional exegesis of the biblical texts that speak to homosexuality alongside revisionist readings of the same texts and prepare a report to guide the church. Overture Nos. 14, 21, 26 and 33, 2015 were referred to the Committee on Church Doctrine and Justice Ministries and requested a statement affirming the Statement on Human Sexuality (1994). Overture No. 32, 2015 was referred to the Committee on Church Doctrine and Justice Ministries requested a statement upholding marriage as between one man and one woman.

Recommendation No. 10 (adopted, p. 20)

That permission be granted to the Life and Mission Agency (Justice Ministries) to present a response to the above Overture Nos. 4, 5, 14, 15, 21, 23, 24, 26, 29, 30, 32, 33, 35, 2015 to the 2017 General Assembly.

OVERTURE NO. 9, 2016 (p. 504)

Re: Utilize and develop resources re passive energy

Overture No. 9, 2016 from the Presbytery of Winnipeg was referred at its request to the Assembly Council and the Life and Mission Agency (Justice Ministries). The overture requests that a) an action plan be developed and implemented to make the church’s national office a passive energy building; b) enter into conversation with the theological colleges so they become passive energy buildings and instruct the Life and Mission Agency (Justice Ministries) to develop a resource to assist congregations make their buildings passive energy buildings, explore the viability of clergy serving multi-point charges to use electric cars and explore the costs of congregations with strategically located parking lots to build charging stations for electric cars.

This overture will require consultation with the Assembly Council and will also require significant research in preparing a response. For these reasons, the following recommendation is presented:

Recommendation No. 11 (adopted, p. 20)

That permission be granted to the Life and Mission Agency (Justice Ministries) in consultation with the Assembly Council to present a response to Overture No. 9, 2016 to the 2017 General Assembly.

Note: A passive energy building can result in a dramatic reduction of energy consumption for heating or cooling. Passive design strategies include day lighting, natural ventilation, and solar energy. Active design strategies use purchased energy to keep the building comfortable and include forced-air HVAC systems, heat pumps, radiant panels or chilled beams, and electric lights.

PUBLIC WITNESS

Education, reflection, prayer, advocacy and solidarity are essential to how we serve as the body of Christ in the world. Since the 2015 General Assembly, Justice Ministries staff and volunteers led workshops or made presentations to: five WMS groups and presbyteries; five congregations; one synod; Knox College; Assembly Council; and Camp Kintail in the Synod of Southwestern Ontario. Justice Ministries will be participating in Canada Youth 2016.

Justice Ministries communicates with congregations and courts of the church through PCCconnect, Mission Capsules, Prayer Partnerships and the website presbyterian.ca/justice. It produces a semi-annual newsletter “Streams of Justice”, of which there are over 800 subscribers. A monthly e-newsletter on healing and reconciliation is also produced.

Justice Ministries produced bulletin inserts highlighting National Affordable Housing Day (November 22), Human Rights Day (December 10), and Earth Day (April 22).

The Social Action Handbook is updated each year following General Assembly and is available online.

The Moderator of the 141st General Assembly wrote to the Hon. Stéphane Dion, Minister of Foreign Affairs, acknowledging the Government of Canada’s efforts to secure the release of the Rev. Lim sentenced to 13 years of hard labour by the Supreme Court of the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea (DPRK) as well as to the DPRK’s Ambassadors the United Nations in Geneva and New York requesting the Rev. Lim’s release and return to Canada.

JUSTICE MINISTRIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Rev. Daniel Cho, the Rev. Jeffrey Lackie, Mr. Brockenshire Lemiski, Ms. Shirley Miller, Ms. Deb Schlichter, Mr. Seth Veenstra and the Rev. Marty Molengraaf.

Ms. June Campbell, the Rev. Mary Campbell and the Rev. Dr. Pam McCarroll completed their terms. Their contributions to Justice Ministries are appreciated.