

Justice Ministries In Our Small Corner

...and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?
Micah 6.8

New Resource

"One in the Spirit" is a new liturgical resource for healing and reconciliation between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people. It is commended for use on Aboriginal Day Sunday (June 20), and any time by individuals leading worship services, Sunday school classes, Bible studies and other forms of discussion and reflection on healing and reconciliation.

Peace and Human Security Internship

The Presbyterian Church in Canada is delighted to announce that Ms. Melanie Ferrier will be the 2010-2011 Peace and Human Security Intern with Project Ploughshares. Ms. Ferrier holds a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from



UN Photo, Michos Tzovarasi. Used with permission.

McMaster University. She brings to the internship an interest in international affairs and strong communication and research skills. In 2008 she spent time in Bangladesh visiting community development projects and writing about the experience. Ms. Ferrier begins her internship in September 2010. She is a member of Cheyne PC in Stoney Creek ON.

The second year Intern, Ms. Laura Ashfield, completed her internship May 14, 2010. Laura writes:

"I was eager to put into practice what I had been studying, and get a position that related to my degree [Global Studies, Wilfrid Laurier University]. The Peace and Human Security Internship sounded like the perfect stepping stone for a recent graduate interested in peace, global human security, and international development.

As an intern, I worked on projects concerning the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, the small arms trade, women and war, and domestic violence and guns in Canada. This opportunity has given me foundational knowledge and work experience, which I can build upon as I move onto my next endeavours. I have a deep respect for the staff at Project Ploughshares, and I'd like to thank The Presbyterian Church in Canada for the opportunity to work with such a well-respected organization."

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Update on KAIROS

KAIROS is an ecumenical organizations made up of 11 church denominations and agencies, including The Presbyterian Church in Canada. KAIROS' work includes an overseas' partnership program with 21 organizations in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Middle East. KAIROS and its predecessor coalitions have been in partnership with the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) for 35 years. KAIROS' most recent program (2006-2009) received an excellent CIDA evaluation.

In March 2009, KAIROS submitted a program proposal (2009-2013) to CIDA. KAIROS consulted with CIDA staff during the development of this proposal, and at no time did KAIROS receive any indication that the proposal did not meet CIDA's priorities. The proposal was submitted to the Minister of CIDA, The Hon. Bev Oda for approval. On 30 November, KAIROS was notified that CIDA would not fund their program, because it did not meet CIDA priorities. Detailed information about KAIROS' overseas' program and news articles about this situation are posted on KAIROS' website (www.kairoscanada.org).

Archbishop Desmond Tutu writes:

"The initiatives of...KAIROS have inspired continued faithful ecumenical action not only in Africa but around the world to uphold human rights. The world needs more of KAIROS Canada. It would be an unparalleled setback for the poor, vulnerable and disenfranchised if the voice and work of KAIROS in the global South is muted." (Open letter, 9 December 2009)

Despite the continuation of grants to overseas partners from KAIROS members churches, the consequences of Minister Oda's decision is felt acutely by KAIROS' overseas partners.

KAIROS brings policy issues to the attention of the public it serves and to Canadian policy- and decision-makers. The issues that KAIROS brings forward come out of the lived experiences of vulnerable human beings. The issues may be controversial and challenge conventional discourse. But carefully researched issues inspired by the Gospel's call to care for the widow, the orphan, the outsider and informed by the experiences of church partners, reflect KAIROS and its members' commitment to justice and are intended to contribute to public life in Canada.



Throughout the winter, Presbyterians and members of other denominations sought a reversal of Minister Oda's decision. Presbyteries, congregations and individuals in at least 25 presbyteries have written letters to their federal Members of Parliament, The Hon. Bev Oda, Minister of CIDA, and to The Rt. Hon. Stephen Harper, Prime Minister. Presbyterians have met with their MPs on their own or with colleagues from other denominations.

Despite the tremendous outpouring of support for KAIROS, the decision to not fund KAIROS' program has not yet been reversed. In April 2010, KAIROS submitted a revised program proposal to CIDA. We will share with you the outcome of this submission. Please contact Katharine Masterton or Stephen Allen if you have any questions about this situation.

KAIROS holds annual, regional meetings each fall. These meetings are opportunities to participate in worship, learning and fellowship. Information about KAIROS' upcoming campaign focus is also shared. Please contact Katharine Masterton if you would like to attend a meeting.

Atlantic Region: September 24-26—Tatamagouche Centre, Tatamagouche NS

Réseau oecuménique justice et paix: time and location to be determined (French-speaking only).

Great Lakes-St. Lawrence: October 1-3, Mount Mary Retreat Centre, Ancaster ON

Cambrian-Agassiz: October 16, outside Winnipeg MB

Prairies North: date to be determined, Edmonton AB

BC-Yukon: October 1-3, Sorrento Retreat Centre, Sorrento BC

Restorative justice in Canada

Restorative justice is alive and growing in Canada. In March 2010, 80 people gathered in Winnipeg to discuss Canadian restorative justice work. The Winnipeg event was a formational meeting for a new Canadian Restorative Justice Consortium, and was organized by the Church Council on Justice and Corrections. Participants were from victim groups, government, and various restorative justice groups.

Kathleen Cleland Moyer, a consultant with twenty years of experience in conflict resolution and restorative justice, gave an inspiring opening address. She challenged the group to "dream in full colour" - to envision the whole picture, and to discern what the ultimate purpose of a national restorative justice organization could be and plan towards that vision. Participants worked together in small groups to discuss the Consortium's purpose, structure and governance.

Stories about local justice initiatives

The Spirit's gifts manifest in unique and special ways in each of us, and God invites us to share our gifts, passion and energy to build the Reign of God, and fulfil the biblical imperative to do justice. Please share your personal stories with us!

Linda Ashfield, minister at Knox PC in Waterloo writes:

"I have always heard very positive comments about KAIROS, used their materials, and encouraged my congregation to get involved. I was proud that we were a part of this ecumenical endeavour. It came as a shock when I read about the decision to not fund KAIROS' program. I understood that this meant that overseas partner organizations would suffer.

I immediately reached for my phone and made an appointment to visit with our local Member of Parliament, Mr. Peter Braid. Early in the new year [2010], we (myself and a church elder) had an hour long conversation with Mr. Braid, expressing our concerns with this decision. As the meeting concluded, I asked Mr. Braid if he would be willing to extend the dialogue to include other church leaders from the community. He agreed and so on February 4, 2010, seventeen people from Presbyterian, Lutheran, Mennonite, Roman Catholic, United Church and Anglican denominations met in a round table discussion with Mr. Braid."

On the last day of the conference, the conference Steering Committee was empowered by those gathered to take the information from participant discussions and formulate a proposal for the formation of a Canadian Restorative Justice Consortium. Stay posted - exciting things are happening in the field of Restorative Justice in Canada.

The Church Council on Justice and Corrections is a faith-based coalition founded in 1972 by 11 church organizations, including The Presbyterian Church in Canada.

Carol Smith is a Presbyterian minister and the facilitator of St. Luke's Renewal Centre in Springhill Institution, a medium security federal prison for men in Nova Scotia. She is a member of the Presbytery of Pictou.

Laura Smith, member of St. Andrew's PC in Ottawa writes:

"The degradation of our environment is in the news almost daily. A group at St. Andrew's PC, Ottawa, took time during Lent [2010] to consider what this means for us as Christians. We considered the role of God as Creator and the role he has given us as stewards. We examined various environmental issues (food production, energy and water) and what our Christian



Study group at St. Andrew's PC, Ottawa. Back (from left): Ray Boomgaardt, Colin Fyfe, George Boomgaardt. Front: Marion Hopkinson, Marion Breatly.

faith has to say in response. While we were not all of one mind, the study provided a good opportunity for participants to approach these issues from a faith-based perspective. It is clear that God calls us to be stewards of his earth, and that this calling has implications for ways we live out our daily lives."

2010 Dates to Remember

JUNE

20—World Refugee Day

20—National Aboriginal Day Sunday

August

6,9 Anniversaries of Hiroshima and Nagasaki (1945)

September

21—International Day of Prayer for Peace (World Council of Churches)

October

16—World Food Day

17—International Day for the Eradication of Poverty

November

22—National Housing Day

14-21 Restorative Justice Week

December

1—World AIDS Day

18—International Migrants' Day



People helping people

New Resources for responding to urgent action requests are available at www.presbyterian.ca/justice.

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Faith, Life and Technology Forum

On 3 –4 December 2009, the Canadian Council of Churches' Biotechnology Reference Group hosted *A Forum on Faith, Life and Technology*. This event celebrated ten years of education, public witness and advocacy in bioethics and biotechnology. The forum was an opportunity to explore emerging issues in biotechnology and the potential impact on the health and well-being of people, and the environment.

The scientific, ethical, theological and policy dimensions of emerging technologies and their medical applications were explored. To what extent can and/or should natural human abilities and genetic endowments be extended or modified? Will biological "enhancement," made possible by technology, result in a society in which people are valued on the basis of their biological constitution? What knowledge is required to adequately address issues presented by the biological revolution of our age?



Presbyterian participants. From left: Stephen Allen, George Tattrie, Katharine Masterton, Adam Bartha.

The challenges and opportunities of emerging technologies in agriculture were explored. How useful and safe are the technologies being used in the agricultural industry? Are trade-related intellectual property rights a way of creating and hoarding in the global north, knowledge that is then packaged and sold in the global south? Is it always the case that human self-interest should dominate the rest of creation?

The pervasiveness of the biotechnological revolution of our age and its affect on just about every aspect of our life was impressed upon participants. Participants will reflect anew on the question of what it means to be human, what is acceptable in what we permit to be done to the human person. Participants were reminded of the ongoing need to pursue a stewardship of a world entrusted to our care, in the light of the values of God's Kingdom, by which we are called to live.

George Tattrie, Forum participant. George represents The Presbyterian Church in Canada on the Canadian Council of Churches' Biotechnology Reference Group. He is a member of Knox PC, St. Catharines. Forum Proceedings are available from Justice Ministries.