

THE JUSTICE & PEACE COMMISSION
Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Kingston &
Anglican Diocese of Ontario
Nov 12, 2019 – 1:15pm – Chancery Office, Room B

Minutes

Attendance: Valerie Kelly (Chair), Sharon Dunlop, Bp. Michael Oulton, Blaine Barclay, Wayne Varley, Leigh Smith, Nadia Gundert, Mary-Jo McKinnon-Simms, Bronek Korczynski (Minutes)

Regrets: Archbp. Michael Mulhall

Prayer: *Living With Holiness Today*

Approval of Agenda - Approved

Approval of Minutes of Sept. 10, 2019 – Moved by Sharon Dunlop, Seconded by Nadia Gundert that the Minutes be accepted as presented. **Carried.**

Agenda Items & Up-dates:

- Funding Social Planning Council 2nd Affordable Housing Forum May 2020

Received from the Social Planning Council, a letter of thanks to the Commission from Alice Gazeley, expressing gratitude for our support of last May's affordable housing forum. It was agreed to extend similar support of \$500 for their upcoming spring forum (date TBD) as well as a willingness to assist with the logistics of the event, subject to clarification of the date and availability of Commission members. Chair agreed to see that a cheque would be sent c/o Alice Gazeley before end of 2019.

- 15th Anniversary Celebration of the Commission's joint ministry (2020)

Suggestions (as per agenda) of possible activities to mark this occasion were discussed. It was agreed that the Commission sponsor an event in the spring, likely in April or May (but not to conflict with housing forum TBD). Discussions were particularly positive around hosting a forum on human trafficking involving parents from School Councils from both local school boards. High praise was expressed for such a presentation by Robin Jones (Mayor of Westport and a former OPP officer). Colleen Hill was also identified as a possible presenter. It was noted that the recruitment of youth poses an on-going threat for which too little has been done, in particular for youth grades 6-12. Such a presentation would promote safety strategies as well as provide information about the present state of affairs. It was suggested that local Kingston police be involved as well. Such an event could also be live-streamed to allow for broader/distance participation. The Chair will contact Robin Jones to assess availability. Once that has been established, local school boards would be formally contacted to seek commitments/involvement.

Member announcements & brief updates:

- PeaceQuest – It was reported than the “handing over” of the organization and its assets are in its final stages. **Public Response**, a Toronto based group under the leadership of Steve Staples, has agreed to continue the work of PQ. A Remembrance Day concert at the Isabel (4th time for this event) was a great success. Hopes still exist that the city of Kingston will post the WW1 Memorial Walk (available now in both official languages) on its own web site.
- Social Justice Committee, Belleville – It was reported that the recently formed Justice Committee at St. Joseph Parish (Belleville) hosted a successful all candidates meeting for the recent federal election; it was well received. The support of the Commission was again extended to this group.
- Kingston Faith and Justice Coalition – It was reported that the group has been focusing on letters to the Ontario government with regard to recent cuts to health care and education. These efforts will continue. The group is also likely to support the proposed event of human trafficking.
- D&P – No update available from Archbp. Mulhall as to the future of the group in the Archdiocese of Kingston.
- Youth Ministry – Efforts to expand the summer camp are ongoing. Plans to promote D&P youth activities for Lent (e.g. Think Fast) on hold.
- Religious Education – Presentations on theme *On Mercy* have been well received throughout the Archdiocese and are ongoing. Prison ministry training sessions coming to a successful conclusion; volunteers are still in need. A presentation on the role of grandparents as catechists is being planned for April/May 2020, featuring speaker David Daylor of Hamilton; further information TBA.
- Prison Ministry - *Empathy* project has concluded at Collins Bay Institution, with success; new sessions on relationships to begin next. Bee Keeping project this summer at CB also a great success, producing wonderful tasting honey. Regional Headquarters called all chaplains to a central meeting with regard to question of better record keeping of inmates’ religious affiliations. Such information would be of benefit with regard to: addressing issues of ill health; death and burial; dietary requirements; and planning for community engagement. Most important is the evidence it would provide to justify the hiring of chaplaincy services through Bridges Canada. There seemed to be some resistance based on concerns for increased work load. Discussions continue. As well, a public event on wrongful convictions, featuring Rick Sauvé and daughter, was successfully hosted on November 2; it was recognized that such stories are not generally well-known and need to be better promoted in the public eye.

- Diocesan Programs (e.g. DOORS) – Members of the Green Group recently participated in a round table hosted by the city of Kingston, seeking strategies for the city with regard to the climate crisis; ideas were well received. DOORS continues to be very active; its budget of 2020 has been approved and the work of Mimi Merrill celebrated. A new coordinator for PWRDF has been appointed (Liana Gallant of Westport). She promises to bring renewed energy to this important portfolio. It is hoped that she will connect with the Commission in the future.
- Bp. Oulton – The Coventry Litany of Reconciliation continues at St. George’s Cathedral at noon on Fridays; all are invited to participate. The Bishop reported that the Coventry Cross of Nails accompanies him to his parish visits, prompting fruitful conversations.

Announcements:

- Interfaith Pot Luck – Kingston City Hall Thursday, November 14 (5:30); pre-registration encouraged
- Maude Barlow presentation – Kingston Central Public Library, Tuesday, November 19 (7:30)

Discussion items for next meeting:

- Update on human trafficking event

Next meetings: Luncheon on December 17 (12:30) at Ramekins in lieu of a business meeting.

Next regular meeting: January 7, 2020 (1:15pm)

Minutes for Next Meeting: Leigh Smith (followed by - Nadia, Sharon, Blaine)

Refreshments: Mary-Jo (thank you!)