

**PMEJ - Ecojustice Working Group Conference Call
Monday, November 3, 2008**

Present: Paul Gehrs, Collen Sym, Peter John Hobbs, Susan Winn plus Maylanne Maybee and Lydia Laku as staff.

Regrets: Iola Metuq, Caroline Chum, Elizabeth Beardy, Peggy Wilmot, Jennifer Weiss.

1. Brief check-in

Colleen - Niagara recently had an orientation meeting for their 2010 "Community Justice Camp - Live the Change You Want to See", emphasizing community building, poverty reduction and the "25 in 5" campaign (reducing poverty in Ontario by 25% in five years).

PJ - Logo and promotion of the 2009 Halifax Justice Camp on "Poverty - Finding Abundance" is now posted on the web. <http://justicecamp.ca/home>

Paul - Judy Steers recently met with the Lutheran youth leadership committee regarding the national youth gathering, Ask and Imagine, Justice Camps. ELCIC is creating a link with the Halifax Justice Camp. Wondering about the mining part of Eco-eco priorities for PMEJ.

Maylanne - House of Bishops is forming a Justice Committee. Four or five bishops attended an Oct 29 meeting over lunch at their gathering. Expressed interest in issues ranging from the Millennium Development Goals to poverty, especially rural poverty. Also discussed using Bishops for advocacy vis à vis federal government to complement "grassroots" or local initiatives of parishes and dioceses. Working Group participants sought assurance that a House of Bishops committee would amplify rather than duplicate the work of PMEJ; suggested that minutes be shared of our respective meetings. Bishop David Torraville and Bishop Dennis Drainville were identified as the contacts.

Susan - Expressed concern about setting priorities, clarifying what can and cannot be done within budget, time, and staff constraints. Reminded staff to inform Richard LeSueur (Calgary) and Margaret Cornish (New Westminster) right away of decision coming out of COGS regarding how often committees will meet next year.

2. Terms of reference - discussed and revised to include Justice Camps, clarify principles, and establish frequency of meeting. Attached. Maylanne will invite Peggy Wilmot to serve as the convenor (moderating conference calls and small group meetings; working with staff as available to set agenda). [see below]

3. Discussion re priorities

Maylanne reminded participants that the former "Eco Eco" Working Group had identified three issue priorities for this triennium: (1) reducing greenhouse gas emissions; (2) housing and homelessness; (3) resource and mining extraction. She asked whether the reorganization of working groups would change these priorities.

Discussion raised these points:

a) Integrative role for Ecojustice Working Group, for example,

- using "Poverty reduction" as an umbrella for Housing and Homelessness Task Group, rural poverty (House of Bishops), MDG goal on extreme poverty and hunger.
- developing a "Justice Day" tool kit for mini-versions of the Justice Camp - to be applied to different issues

b) Mining and Resource Extraction

- a cross cutting issue with impact on northern communities in Canada, mission partners (e.g. Philippines, Congo, etc.), environment, socially responsible investment
- put on agenda for fall meeting; ask Florence to prepare a substantive briefing on mining in Philippines (Maylanne will follow up)
- poll Caroline, Elizabeth, Iola on whether they are interested in this as an Indigenous Justice priority (Maylanne)

c) Next Steps

- as part of the "check in" when PMEJC meets next (probably Fall 2009) other people could also be asked to prepare substantive briefings in areas of Poverty Reduction; Reducing Carbon Footprint; Mining and Resource Extraction
- aim to "piggy back" meetings with each other when we travel as a good way to network and stay in touch. E.g. Paul Gehrs will be in Toronto for KAIROS Board Meeting; Colleen will be in Toronto for ISARC meeting at Queen's Park; etc.

4. Next Meeting - by conference call end of February/early March. Time and date TBA. Other task groups will meet in between - on housing, carbon emissions, mining, justice camps, etc.

**DRAFT TERMS OF REFERENCE – ECOJUSTICE WORKING GROUP
PARTNERS IN MISSION AND ECOJUSTICE
November 12, 2008**

Rationale

The Ecojustice Working Group is a sub-group of the PMEJ Committee. The other working groups of PMEJ relating to program areas are Global Relations, and Mission Personnel & Education. There are also three "functional" sub-groups: Vision/Theology/Worship, Communications, and Oversight.

The purpose of the Ecojustice Working Group is

1. to assist the PMEJ Committee in identifying which ecojustice priorities the Anglican Church should act on, and how (including Indigenous justice, social justice, ecology, and peace);
2. to offer oversight and support to the Justice Camp Initiative.

Ecojustice Priorities

Decisions about which issues to address and which approaches to use are made according to these principles:

1. the overarching priority of Indigenous Justice in our work in all areas;

2. the perspective and priorities of our mission partners, as given voice by our international partners on the PMEJ committee and through the Global Relations program.

The Working Group will strive to select no more than three issues as a focus for the triennium, recognizing that others may arise from world events.

Priorities may be assigned or identified from these sources:

- General Synod or Council of General Synod resolutions
- Primate's office and House of Bishops
- The national office of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada
- KAIROS, Project Ploughshares, and other ecumenical justice partners
- Anglican and ecumenical mission partners.

Justice Camps

Justice Camps have been proven as a highly successful approach to leadership formation that is

- Intergenerational, ecumenical, part local, part national
- Focused on a locally identified issue of concern
- Theological and biblical in the Anglican tradition
- Initiated and led with minimal staff support at national level
- Practical, hands-on, experiential.

The Ecojustice Working Group will support, monitor, and encourage Justice Camps, as a strategic approach to changes in the capacity and resources of General Synod.

Composition

The Ecojustice Working Group (EWG) is made up of PMEJ Committee members who choose to participate. Other participants may be recruited from the wider church drawing from justice partnerships and networks. Staff support will be provided as available as requested.

Ways of Working

- The EWG will select a convenor with responsibility to moderate Working Group meetings by phone or in person.
- The EWG may form smaller task groups to focus on a particular issue or project.
- The normal way of meeting will be by conference call, and in person during face-to-face PMEJ Committee meetings.
- The suggested frequency is: three conference calls a year (late Feb/early March, June, late Oct/early Nov), and one face-to-face in the context of the national committee meeting.

Responsibilities

The EWG is responsible for:

1. recommending items for decision, discussion, or information to the PMEJ Committee through its co-chairs and Oversight group;
2. providing PMEJ Committee members with timely background information for agenda items; assisting in preparing materials, presentations, and docket contents;

3. becoming familiar with the policy, priorities and current work of the Anglican Church of Canada in given issue areas;
4. recommending action, advocacy, and communication strategies for promoting issues (e.g. poverty reduction) and initiatives (e.g. Justice Camps) in the wider community (church, government, society).

EWG members are expected to:

- be available for meetings, in person or by conference call
- put aside time to learn about issues and implement tasks
- where possible, be willing to participate in regional meetings, conferences, or events on behalf of PMEJ
- where possible, be willing to animate local or regional events or campaigns in collaboration with staff or other resource people.