

PMEJC October 1-4, 2009

Session 3: Applying Principles of Partnership to Ecojustice Program Work

The Ecojustice Program of General Synod has undergone several shifts over the past 10+ years. In 1996, the program was supported by a staffing level of about 3.5 Full Time Equivalents:

- Ecojustice Coordinator – 1 full time
- Mission and Justice Education Coordinator – 1 half time (shared with Partners in Mission)
- Indigenous Justice Coordinator – 1 half time (shared with ACIP)
- Program associates – 2 half time
- A portion of time from the Ethics Coordinator (Faith, Worship, Ministry) who gave support in the areas of ecology, bioethics, and health care reform in Canada.

In 2009, the staffing has been reduced by half to 1.75 positions: Coordinator for Ecojustice Networks, and Program Associate, with support for Indigenous and Anti Racism work from Healing Fund Coordinator, Indigenous Ministries staff, and Director of Partnerships.

When the full time Ecojustice Coordinator's position was terminated in 2001, the emphasis shifted from policy expertise to network development. The Ecojustice Committee was re-organized accordingly so that committee members could offer their time, expertise, and connections in these strategic areas, identified to coincide roughly with the program committees of KAIROS:

- Indigenous Justice
- Ecological and Economic Justice
- Peace and Nonviolence
- Canadian Social Development.

Functional work was divided into areas of Communications and Networking, and Justice Camps.

There was a recognition that Human Rights and Global Economic Justice were programmatic emphases that were more appropriately carried by the PWRDF.

Several factors have affected the landscape of this work over that period of time:

1. Formation of KAIROS and incorporation of previously separate coalitions
2. Radical decline in denominational staffing levels for work in justice and ecology. In recent years, staffing levels have been eliminated or substantially reduced in the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops, The United Church of Canada, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada, the Women's Inter Church Council, Commission on Justice and Peace (CCC).
3. Appointment of National Indigenous Anglican Bishop and formation of separate Indigenous Ministries department.
4. Emergence of Anti Racism, Truth and Reconciliation and Justice Camps as growing programmatic areas
5. Loss of staff and related expertise in areas of Indigenous Justice, ecology, ethics
6. Amalgamation of Ecojustice Committee with Partners in Mission Committee, resulting in reduced capacity for committee members to participate or serve as a reference group in the above-named program areas. Loss of a policy base for Peace and Conflict Resolution.
7. PWRDF has increasingly identified itself as "the justice arm of the Anglican Church of Canada", adding to confused perception and overlapping priorities.

8. Virtual disappearance of urban ministry as a programmatic area of ecojustice, even though it most directly engages parish ministry and congregational involvement.
9. In house capacity to distribute print resources (twice yearly mailings) and maintain a current networking database has never been strong but it has declined even more drastically in recent years. Compensating support for use of internet and website technology has not kept pace with this decline.

Opportunities and Challenges

- Issues of justice and ecology that affect global partners can help shape Canadian priorities
- Anti Racism and TRC work are emerging as compelling areas for mission and justice in Canada.
- Justice Camps have proven themselves as an effective approach to youth engagement, leadership development, and action on locally defined justice issues
- Indigenous Justice and Peace/Conflict need stronger bases of reference.
- Full communion with ELCIC offers new possibilities that have yet to be tapped
- Need to clarify with PWRDF areas of involvement in ecojustice issues and public messaging about who's doing what.
- Discontinued areas of work beginning to "creep" back into the ecojustice program of Partnerships, viz.
 - women's issues, e.g. International Anglican Women's Network
 - development issues, e.g. Millennium Development Goals, G8 summit
- Discerning and deciding which issues and campaigns to "champion" –
 - a) those coming from ecojustice partners (KAİROS, CPJ, Project Ploughshares, CCC),
 - b) those affecting or involving Canadian Anglicans directly (poverty, housing and homelessness, Indigenous justice, setting targets for reducing carbon emissions),
 - c) those affecting or involving global partners directly (Indigenous rights, mining, resource extraction, HIV/AIDS, development aid, debt relief, trade)

Respectfully submitted

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