



Community of Christ

CHRIST'S MISSION, OUR MISSION

October 13, 2020

Mission Centre President Report:

The life of our Canada East Mission Centre has continued to be vibrant through the months of our collectively experienced pandemic uncertainty. Limited In-person connections have been transformed in many ways; some through new on-line forms but also through a resurgence of meaningful phone conversations and surprise mailings. In our yearning for connection we create. Thank you for your brilliance combined with action to reach and bless one another. Are we not now more aware of the breadth of our Canadian and global faith community? We have shared in over 100 Zoom camping events, joined with the UK in peace forums, toured historic sites. We have been linked in innovative ministries and conversations. An explosion of on-screen services has been experienced with guest ministry from across the globe hosted by congregations both urban and rural. New relationships have been formed. Sacred Community has flourished.

At the same time, powerful witnesses of human inequality have risen from the shadows into the light of day. Our hearts have swelled with compassion, our understanding has broadened with recognition of systemic processes which we ourselves have participated within. Our Enduring Principle upholding the Worth of All Persons has become meaningfully relevant. We are humbled by the long reaching consequences of historic privilege. We are called to follow Jesus the Peaceful One in new ways. To enter into incarnational connection with those whose lives bear the burdens of inequality.

Our Conference theme for 2020 is **“Disciples and Seekers Blessing Sacred Community.”** As we acknowledge the inestimable worth of the often invisible “other” and strive to know them and love them as our neighbour; communities of joy, hope, love, and peace can surely emerge. The worth of the other encompasses their whole person, not the parts we like. It is not about acceptance from a distance, or merely tolerating difference. It is celebrating the diversity of the other in the fullness of their life expressions. This includes their language, ethnicity, culture, traditions, faith distinctions, spiritual practices, and forms of worship. God has assuredly blessed us all with the same Spirit of Oneness. As we enter into the story of our neighbour’s lives, we invite all into ours and together we experience mutuality, learning, spiritual formation, nurturing loving relationships and being blessed by one another together in community.

May we covenant with Jesus the Peaceful One to live out this day to day reality of the Worth of All persons we encounter. As Disciples we need to seek encounter. Let us express in our lives the many words and phrases we see on the placards of peaceful marches. "We see you." "We say your name." "We honour you." May we be nurturing catalysts of healing, restoring, and reconciling love. The Spirit is upon us and equally upon our neighbour to come together to bless our community with wholeness. Namaste.

With meaning,

Kerry Richards

I acknowledge that I live on land which is the traditional & treaty territory of the Anishinabek & Huron-Wendat; now known as the Chippewa Tri-Council.