

PWRDF Diocesan Representatives and Volunteers National Gathering October 17-19 2019

Recently I was blessed to be invited to attend the PWRDF National Gathering in Toronto. Over 40 people from across Canada; Diocesan representatives; volunteers and staff met to discuss the good work of PWRDF and how we can further our goals. We worshiped together, participated in educational workshops and had the great pleasure of listening to wonderful speakers from Canada and abroad.



Ros Macgregor and Pamela Manning (Ros right front and Pam to her right) enjoying the dinner and presentation

Our welcome included opening worship and an Aboriginal Territorial acknowledgement.

Throughout the session we had 3 Networking sessions to discuss in groups the challenges and successes of our PWRDF involvement in our Parishes/Dioceses in addition to practical information for the PWRDF representatives. The sessions also enabled us to get to know each other better!

Some highlights of the gathering include:

- “Theological Reflection” presentation by Greg Smith focusing on the work of PWRDF and how it can be described as the *work of divine hospitality*.
- Cheryl Marek, Greg Smith and Suzanne Rumsey presented on a new Interactive Workshop *Exploring Indigenous and Settler Relationships; “Mapping the Ground We*

Stand On". A facilitator's guide has been developed and is available to interested Parishes. Hopefully this excellent workshop will be carried out in many parishes in the coming year.

- Carolyn Vanderlip spoke about our PWRDF Strategic Plan – the 5 year strategic plan includes: *A sustainable Future, Mutual Reconciliation, Strong Partnerships, Meaningful results and a Collaborative Approach*.
- Zaida Bastos provided an update on our PWRDF Development Program Overview of a number of projects including the *All Mothers and Children Count* project. This project continues until March 2020. This project currently enjoys partnership with the Canadian Food Grains Bank who generously match our contribution by six times which is an incredible benefit.
- We had a Video Conference with Josephine Kizza Alidekki of St. Jude Family Projects in Uganda. She and her husband created a teaching farm which has already had an extraordinary impact on the nutritional health of the local people: Since 1997, St. Jude Family Projects has trained, closely monitored and transformed 186,000 farmers, and is this year touching the lives of 6,000 farmers alone. All six of their children work in some capacity at St. Jude. PWRDF has been able to support 210 families in the community by improving food security (three meals a day instead of one and a half), increasing income through farm entrepreneurship and teaching agricultural conservation techniques to cope with climate change.
- Musu Taylor-Lewis, our partner from the Canadian Food Grains Bank showed us a video "Common Strength". The video is about Colleen Dyck, a farmer and entrepreneur from Niverville, Manitoba, who travelled to western Kenya to live and work alongside small-scale farmer Lucy Anyango.
- Ros Macgregor, our Montreal PWRDF Diocesan rep gave an inspiring presentation about our very successful *MUHC/All Mothers and Children Count fundraiser*. All attending were most impressed!

We enjoyed a presentation dinner with PWRDF ED Will Postma and Keynote speaker Bishop James Almasi, Diocese of Masasi, Tanzania. Bishop James delighted us with a slide presentation showing pictures of the people involved in *The All Mothers and Children Count* project and the resulting benefits to over 73 villages in Masasi. 145,341 people (74,979F/70,362M) are the direct beneficiaries that include pregnant women, lactating mothers, and newborns, children under five, women and men of reproductive age. Below Bishop James is between the gentleman with the Vodaphone T-shirt and the lady with the lovely blue head scarf.



The Archbishop Linda Nicholls, Primate of the Anglican Church of Canada blessed us with an inspiring conversation followed by the Holy Eucharist. Below she is with Musu Taylor-Lewis



Please go to <https://pwrdf.org> for more information about PWRDF.

