



The Catholic
Archdiocese
of **Edmonton**

**Office of
Ecumenical and
Interreligious Relations**

**ANNUAL
REPORT**

2013 - 14

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Background

Since the conclusion of the Second Vatican Council, the Archdiocese of Edmonton has maintained, in some form or other, an ecumenical and interreligious ministry.

Throughout the 1970's, an “**ecumenical commission**” of priests, religious and lay people offered workshops in parishes to introduce the ecumenical vision of the Council into the life of the Archdiocese. Those “early years” generated a great deal of ecumenical excitement and fervour:

There were week-long sessions, many weekends, many one-day sessions, as well as evenings and ecumenical retreats all dedicated to study and dialogue. Facilitators, with doctorates in ecumenism and theology, came from various parts of Canada and the United States. The Roman Catholic Archdiocese with the Anglican and Lutheran dioceses, as well as the United Church Presbytery gave a face to dialogue in Edmonton and area. The archdiocese has a history of dialogue with these three denominations.

(Sr. Rosaleen Zdunich, “Letter to the Editor,” *Western Catholic Reporter*, April 30, 2012)

In 1980, **Sr. Rosaleen Zdunich** became a volunteer member of the Archdiocese’s Commission for Ecumenism and by 1983 she had been named the Chair by Archbishop MacNeil. One of her many early endeavors in this role included coordinating a 1986 interfaith prayer service/dialogue at an Edmonton synagogue. Sister Rosaleen also served as a member of the team that planned Edmonton’s first ecumenical prayer service to mark the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, an event that has flourished and grown every year since. She also initiated through Newman Theological College the first Summer Ecumenical Institute, a project that continued in Edmonton for some years before being taken over by the Prairie Centre for Ecumenism in Saskatoon. Through institutions like the Edmonton & District Council of Churches, the Archdiocese maintained a very active and vibrant ecumenical ministry throughout the 1980’s.

Sr. Rosaleen went on to serve as the first coordinator of the newly-founded (1995) Edmonton Interfaith Centre for Education and Action. She was succeeded in the ecumenical ministry of the Archdiocese by **Ms. Cathy Harvey** and a part-time office assistant, two Catholic lay woman hired part-time by the Archdiocesan Ecumenical Commission in the mid-1990’s. Ms. Harvey was given a mandate to continue and broaden the ecumenical portfolio. An excellent events coordinator, she oversaw Catholic participation in several large interchurch events and activities held in Edmonton, including the Jubilee 2000 Christian festival and an international conference of the Association of Interchurch Families in 2001. The Archdiocesan Ecumenical Commission continued to meet monthly during this time under the chairmanship of various people – lay, religious and ordained.

In 2002, **Julien Hammond** was hired by Archbishop Collins to be the full-time “Ecumenical Officer” of the Archdiocese. He continued to work with the part-time ecumenical office assistant. For the first time, the Archdiocesan Ecumenical Commission had not been involved in

the hiring process for the coordinator/director's position and the responsibility of chairing the Commission was turned over to the Ecumenical Officer. The Commission continued to meet monthly during this time as Julien became involved representing the Archdiocese on boards and committees of many well-established ecumenical and interfaith structures at work in the Edmonton area: the Edmonton & District Council of Churches, the Edmonton Interfaith Centre for Education and Action, the Phoenix Multi-faith Society for Harmony, Faith in Action, and several others. At the same time, as one formally trained in ecumenical and interfaith ministry, Julien was also called upon to serve the Catholic community (parishes, schools, prisons, hospitals, social services) as an advisor and teacher on ecumenical and interfaith matters. He led workshops, retreats, and courses on ecumenical and interreligious themes, and encouraged visits and other occasions for fellowship between Christians and people of other faith traditions. Much of this work and these associations continue to the present.

In 2004, as part of a larger re-structuring process in the Archdiocese, the office assistant position was discontinued and the Ecumenical Commission was disbanded and replaced by an "Ecumenical Office." The Office continued to be staffed on a quarter-time basis by Julien Hammond, who was now at the same time named as Director of Pastoral Services for the Archdiocese. The addition of supervisory and administrative duties effectively restricted the type and scope of initiatives that could be undertaken in the name of ecumenical and interreligious relations in the Archdiocese.

In 2008, in the midst of a further re-structuring led by Archbishop Smith, Julien Hammond was re-assigned as Director of Evangelization & Catechesis, all the while maintaining the quarter-time ecumenical/interfaith portfolio. In this new capacity, Julien continued to emphasize teaching and formation as the key functions of the ecumenical/interreligious office.

In 2013, Archbishop Smith initiated an operational review of all the ministries serving out of the pastoral and administrative offices of the Archdiocese. As a result of this review, a new pastoral plan for ecumenical and interreligious relations was drawn up, and Julien Hammond was reappointed in January 2014 as full-time "Ecumenical Officer."

Mission Statement:

The Office of Ecumenical and Interreligious Relations exists to promote unity and reconciliation between Catholics and members of other Churches and ecclesial communities within the Archdiocese; it also fosters relations of respect and understanding between Christians and members of other faith communities present in the Archdiocese. The Office provides support and training for activities related to ecumenical and interreligious prayer, education, dialogue and various social action initiatives.

Coordinator's Report - Julien Hammond



2013-2014 was a year of great activity and transition for me and for the ecumenical/interreligious ministry in the Archdiocese. I would like to thank Archbishop Smith for allowing me (since January 2014) to resume my role as full-time Ecumenical Officer of the Archdiocese. It is a role that I cherish in the Archdiocese both for its importance to the life of our church and world today and for the privilege which it affords me to represent the Catholic Church in relation to other faith communities present throughout the Archdiocese and beyond.

The E&I Office serves a vital role in educating the wider community about the unity and diversity of religious expressions found within the Catholic Church, between the Catholic Church and other Christian churches, and our relationship to communities of the world's religions present in the Edmonton-area. The commitment and hard work of many volunteers in parishes, in Catholic schools and institutions, and on boards and committees in the wider community makes this possible. **Thank you to our pastors and many lay leaders who support the work of the office with their prayers and tangible supports in various ways. Words cannot convey how grateful I am to serve a community of such ecumenical openness and collaborative spirit.**

Much of what I would have to report is contained in the pages that follow. I hope you will take time to peruse this report to see everything that we are doing together in the name of Jesus Christ. I am proud of all that we have been able to accomplish this year and I recognize in all of it the working of the Holy Spirit. I hope that you will agree with this assessment.

Some highlights of the year for me:

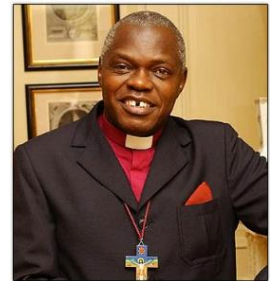
- **I concluded my two-year term as President of the Edmonton & District Council of Churches.**



The Archdiocese enjoys a long-standing relationship with the EDCC, and it was my privilege to serve as President of the Council for the past two years. The Council organizes quarterly meetings and sponsors notable ecumenical events

throughout the Capital region. The President has an opportunity to help shape the Council's agenda and guide its projects throughout the year. The President also serves as the face of the Council at many civic, cultural and religious events. **I am thankful to have worked on this project with an excellent executive committee, and with Natalie Rose of the Archdiocese. Together we accomplished a great deal in two years and continued to move the project of Christian unity forward here in the Edmonton region.**

- On October 16, 2013, I attended a fun-filled fundraising dinner hosted by the Anglican Diocese of Edmonton; part of their year-long 100th anniversary celebrations. The guest of honour was **The Most Reverend and Right Honourable Dr. John Sentamu, Archbishop of York**. The Archbishop's warmth and light-heartedness encouraged both laughter and generosity. **Congratulations to Bishop Jane Alexander and our sisters and brothers of the Anglican Diocese on the occasion of their centenary!**



- On November 4, 2013, I stood on the steps of the Edmonton City Hall, together with Rev. Larry



Wright (United Church), Rev. John Dowds (City Chaplain) and over 100 men from many different walks of life to participate in the launch of **Family Violence Prevention Month** in the City of Edmonton. The theme for the event was: "What is your role? Men and boys speaking out." Participants donned white ribbons and took a public pledge at City Hall to not use violence in their

relationships. It was a profound and moving experience, and I was privileged to be present there. **Thank you to the organizers for including faith-based representatives, and our Archdiocese, in the effort to purge family violence from our society.**

- In the Fall of 2013 I was appointed by the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity to a five-year term (2014-2019) on **the international dialogue between the Roman Catholic Church and the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)**. In January 2014, I travelled to Nashville (USA) to meet the dialogue group and hammer out a five-year plan to address the theme “Formed and Transformed by the Eucharist.” In June 2014, the group met in Rome (Italy) to consider the first part of the theme, “Formed by the Eucharist.” What an extraordinary opportunity it is for me to be a part of this dialogue group! **I am very grateful to Archbishop Smith for permitting me to accept this appointment and for pledging the support of the Archdiocese for the five-year term.** By God’s grace we will complete the task given us in this phase of the dialogue and advance our two churches along the path of full and visible unity.



- In 2014, a group of Christian leaders began to think about ways in which the local Edmonton community might commemorate the **500th Anniversary of the Reformation (in 2017)**. It was my privilege to participate in two meetings (January 20 and April 15, 2014) on this topic at The King’s University College in Edmonton.

- On February 6, 2014, Archbishop Smith hosted a luncheon for the members of the **Orthodox Clergy Brotherhood** at his home in Edmonton. It was my pleasure to arrange this meeting and to join the priests and the Archbishop for their lunch meeting. This was an extraordinary event characterized by friendship, good humour, and warm conversation. The priests in attendance were from the Greek, Ukrainian, Russian, Romanian, Coptic and OCA churches. President of the Brotherhood, Fr. Cornell Zubritsky, presented Archbishop Smith with a beautiful icon of the Mother of God. **Thank you to Fr. Zubritsky and the Orthodox clergy for accepting Archbishop Smith’s invitation and for the generosity of their gift to him.**

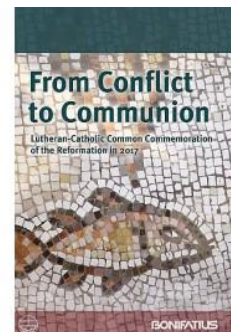


- Between December 2013 and April 2014, I attended several information, training and debriefing sessions related to the **National Truth & Reconciliation Commission** event that took place at the Shaw Conference Centre in Edmonton, March 27-30, 2014. The TRC was a major undertaking in Edmonton with many different facets of the community taking part, notably many aboriginal people. As a volunteer at the event, I participated as a one-on-one listener and helped to distribute cupcakes during the common birthday celebration held on the Sunday afternoon of the event. I was also responsible for arranging the focus on Aboriginal Christian spirituality as the central feature of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity display at the Edmonton City Hall in January 2014.



The TRC called me to examine my attitudes towards aboriginal sisters and brothers, and inspired me to look for a new way forward in my relationships with them. I am extremely grateful for the extraordinary leadership and counsel provided by aboriginal elders and leaders in our ecumenical communities and the hundreds of persons, agencies, religious communities and organizations who served to guide me on this journey. May the Lord of reconciliation lead us all further along the road of healing and renewal.

- On May 7, 2014, we launched a **new dialogue in the Archdiocese with the Lutheran Church-Canada**. It is always exciting to see a new dialogue activity taking place in the Archdiocese and I am **extremely grateful for the leadership provided to this group by Drs. Jason West (Newman Theological College) and Gerald Krispin (Concorda University College)**. As we approach the 500th anniversary of the Reformation (2017), this meeting of Lutherans and Catholics in Edmonton will prove invaluable.



- In the Spring (May) of 2014, I held **two consultation events in Edmonton to present the new pastoral plan** for ecumenical and interreligious relations in the Archdiocese. These were beautiful opportunities to meet partners in ecumenical and interreligious ministries from virtually every sector of the pastoral life of the Archdiocese: parishes, schools, chaplaincies, social services, etc. Participants had an opportunity to learn about the plan and to offer their input on future directions for the Ecumenical/Interreligious office and ministry. **Thank you to everyone who took part in the consultations to help set a new course for ecumenical and interreligious relations in the Archdiocese.**
- I was invited to and participated in several interfaith activities in and around Edmonton. We live in a beautiful part of the world that embraces diversity and celebrates the positive interactions

of all religious peoples. It is a privilege and a joy to represent the Archdiocese when the wider community of believers gathers to mark religious holy days and festivals. **Thank you to our many interfaith partners for sharing these moments with the Archdiocese and inviting us to celebrate these occasions with you.**

Aside from these many events and activities, perhaps the most satisfying aspect of the past year has been the witness of people from all over the Archdiocese coming together to serve Christ through ecumenical and interreligious ministries. I am grateful to be able to be a part of it all, even if only in a supporting role.

I give thanks for the year past and pray to the Lord for guidance and strength for the year ahead.

With gratitude for the support of many prayers, in Christ,
Julien

Financial Report

CAEDM OFFICE OF ECUMENICAL & INTERRELIGIOUS RELATIONS
BUDGET AND ACTUALS – JANUARY 1, 2013 – DECEMBER 31, 2013

| <u>Office Expenses</u> | <u>Budget 2013</u> | <u>Actual 2013</u> |
|--------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Automobile Mileage | \$ 1000.00 | \$ 876.00 |
| Facility Services | \$ 1500.00 | \$ 1500.00 |
| Library | \$ 300.00 | \$ 390.00 |
| Meetings and Luncheons | \$ 350.00 | \$ 365.00 |
| Office | \$ 50.00 | \$ 30.00 |
| Photocopy | \$ 600.00 | \$ 493.00 |
| Postage | \$ 50.00 | \$ 91.00 |
| Professional Development | \$ 800.00 | \$ 966.00 |
| Salary | \$ 18610.00 | \$ 18522.00 |
| Salary Benefits | \$ 2800.00 | \$ 2776.00 |
| Telephone | \$ 10.00 | \$ 14.00 |
| Travel/Conferences | \$ 1000.00 | \$ 1080.00 |
| Memberships | <u>\$ 2500.00</u> | <u>\$ 930.00</u> |
| Total Office Expenses | \$ 29570.00 | \$ 28033.00 |

Variance of Budget to Actual Office Expenses: \$ 1537.00 -

| <u>Program Expenses</u> | <u>Budget 2013</u> | <u>Actual 2013</u> |
|--|--------------------|--------------------|
| Week of Prayer for Christian Unity | \$ 2000.00 | \$ 337.00 |
| Western Diocesan/Eparchial Coordinators of Ecumenism | \$ 500.00 | \$ 500.00 |
| Interfaith Events | <u>\$ 500.00</u> | <u>\$ 158.00</u> |
| Total Office Expenses | \$ 3000.00 | \$ 995.00 |

Variance of Budget to Actual Program Expenses: \$ 2005.00 -

COMMENTS:

The restructuring of the Pastoral and Administrative Offices of the Archdiocese in 2013-2014 had an adverse effect on the Ecumenical/Interreligious budget projections for the past year. This was particularly true in the program areas, where the office organized far fewer activities than were originally planned for 2013. Time and resources were re-routed instead (especially in the Fall) to pastoral planning, with a new pastoral plan adopted in January 2014. Implementation of the pastoral plan beginning in 2014 should bring programming areas back to typical levels in the years ahead.

Overall office expenses were more or less in keeping with budget projections in 2013. Slight overages in Library, Meetings & Luncheons, Postage, Telephone and Travel/Conferences accounts. Slight underages or parity in all other account lines, with a net variable of \$-1537.00.

PROGRAM AREAS

A. Ecumenical and Interreligious Formation

One of the key purposes of the E&I Office of the Archdiocese is to provide resourcing and support for ecumenical and interreligious formation both within the Archdiocese and with partners in the community. Such formation occurs in a variety of settings and through various means:

- **Presentations/Publications from the Coordinator:**
 - September 21-22: “Exploring Spiritual Ecumenism” Study Days with Permanent Deacons of the Archdiocese of Edmonton (Providence Renewal Centre, Edmonton)
 - September 24, 2013: “Ecumenism and Interfaith Ministry in Canada” Enculturation of Priests Program (St. Joseph’s Seminary, Edmonton)
 - Fall 2013: “Best Practices in Practical Ecumenism, Part II” *Koinonia* (a quarterly online journal of the Paulist Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations Office), Issue 49, Fall 2013: <http://www.paulist.org/ecumenism/reflections-best-practices-practical-ecumenism-part-ii>
 - October 9, 2013: Brought Archdiocesan greetings to the 24th Annual Strathcona County Ecumenical Mission. Mission led by Rev. Dr. Danielle James (Our Lady of Perpetual Help parish, Sherwood Park)
 - October 14, 2013: “Papal Failure to Speak in Defence of Jews is a Troubling Legacy.” Editorial article in the *Western Catholic Reporter*
 - November 4, 2013: “Introduction to Ecumenism” Introduction to Theology course (Newman Theological College, Edmonton)
 - November 18, 2013: “Introduction to Interfaith Relations” Introduction to Theology course (Newman Theological College, Edmonton)
 - January-April 2013: Taught CHRTC 501 – Directed Reading: Ecumenism & Vatican II (St. Joseph’s College, Edmonton)
 - January 20, 2014: “Local Ecumenical Scene is Booming, says Hammond.” Interview with the *Western Catholic Reporter*, p.13
 - January 22, 2014: “Grassroots Ecumenism is Booming in Edmonton.” Reprint of WCR interview in *Prairie Messenger*, p.5
 - March 4, 2014: 9th Annual Intercultural Dialogue Institute Friendship Dinner; delivered Closing Remarks at the event (Fairmont Hotel MacDonald, Edmonton)
 - March 15, 2014: “Faith, Family and Culture: An Exploration of Inter-Twined Values” (Presentation along with former Alberta Premier Ed Stelmach). Invited by the Knights of Columbus Father Duncan MacDonnell Council #6363. (Dow Centennial Centre, Fort Saskatchewan)
 - May 28 & 30, 2014: Consultations on the new Pastoral Plan for Furthering Ecumenical and Interreligious Relations in the Archdiocese (PAO)
 - Spring 2014: “Catholic Interreligious Reading Since the Second Vatican Council.” Book Review in *The Ecumenist* (Novalis), Issue 51:2 Spring 2014

➤ **Collaborations with other archdiocesan offices:**

- November 18, 2013: Lunch & Learn Session on “Restorative Justice”; A dialogue with Bert Pitzel, Social Justice Director of the Archdiocese of Regina; sponsored by the Office of Pastoral Care (PAO)

➤ **Collaboration/promotion of events with ecumenically/interreligiously minded organizations in the community:**

- Edmonton & District Council of Churches () – presentations from:

- September 25, 2013: Howard Lawrence (Abundant Community Initiative)
- September 25, 2013: Rev. John Pasma (Christian Reformed Church)
- November 27, 2013: Janice Melynychuk (Edmonton Poverty Reduction Committee)
- November 27, 2013: Rev. Geri Redekop (Braemar Baptist Church)
- November 27, 2013: Chuck Cathcart (Edmonton Oxford Houses)
- January 22, 2014: Rev. Eileen Conway (Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2014)
- January 22, 2014: Detective Stephen Camp (EPS-Hate & Bias Crimes Unit)
- March 26, 2014: Dr. Bob McKeon (Truth & Reconciliation Commission)
- March 26, 2014: Rev. Rick Chapman (Alberta Justice Camp 2014)
- May 21, 2014: Jane Bowe-McCarthy, Diane Lamoureux & Kathryn Ivany (Archivists of Faith and Religious Organizations Group)
- May 21, 2014: Rev. Christina Bellsmith (McDougall United Church)



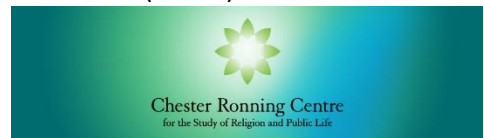
- Mahatma Gandhi Canadian Foundation for World Peace:

- October 1, 2013: Dialogue between Mr. P.V. Rajagopal and Senator (ret.) Douglas Roche, moderated by Hon. Jim Edwards, on the topic of engaging political and community leaders in work for peace. (Barnett House/Alberta Teachers Association, Edmonton)



- Chester Ronning Centre for the Study of Religion and Public Life (U of A)

- October 22, 2013: “Omar Khadr: The Man” Lecture and Reception: Brig. Gen. (ret.) Stephen Xenakis, MD (University of Alberta)
- February 1, 2014: Mumtaz Ahmad. “Blasphemy and the Challenge of Freedom of Speech” (King’s University College, Edmonton)



- World Vision Canada:
 - March 20, 2014: Don Moore and Bruxy Cavey. “Shifting Stats-Shaking the Church.” (Abundant Life Ministries, Edmonton)



- St. Stephen’s College:
 - March 21-22, 2014: John L. Bell of the Iona Community. “Celtic Gifts for Modern Times.” Part of the Phoenix Series (MacDougall United Church and St. Stephen’s College, Edmonton)



➤ **Other ecumenical & interreligious formation events/activities in the Archdiocese:**

- Many churches in the Edmonton area (including some Catholic parishes) participated in Alberta 2013: an invitation from the province’s churches for Albertans to attend an ALPHA course in Fall 2013. An integrated media campaign was created to encourage people to “Question Everything” by asking the most basic question, “Why?” Alpha Canada reports that over 30,000 people in Alberta participated in this ecumenical initiative, with some 325 churches taking part across the province.



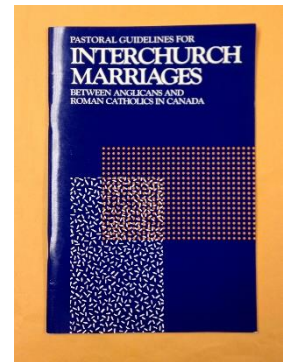
- The Archdiocese was invited by the local community of the Franciscan Sisters of the Atonement to join with them in welcoming back to Edmonton Sr. Lorelei Fuchs, SA, Associate Director of the Graymoor Institute (New York) and President of the North American Academy of Ecumenists. Sr. Fuchs was meant to come to Edmonton to present a week of ecumenical formation in March 2014, a continuation of the work that she had begun in Edmonton in March 2012. Alas, weeks before she was due to arrive, we learned that Sr. Fuchs’ schedule had changed suddenly and she would not be able to visit us after all. **Our thanks to the Franciscan Sisters for their efforts toward making this formation opportunity a reality for us.**

B. Ecumenical and Interreligious Dialogues

➤ **Edmonton Anglican – Roman Catholic (EARC)**

The Office maintained an active contact with members of the Anglican Diocese of Edmonton. A 10-member dialogue group (5 RC, 5 Anglican) met twice in the year to consider local happenings and ways that our two dioceses might collaborate on projects:

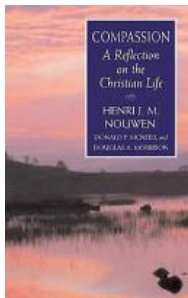
- In November 2013, we considered the theme of “Receptive Ecumenism,” with a particular emphasis on the gifts presence in each of our churches that might inspire the other.
- In May 2014, the group began drafting a document that we hope to develop into a “covenant” agreement between our two dioceses. We will continue this work at future dialogue meetings. We also reviewed together the landmark text by the Anglican-Roman Catholic Bishops in Canada, *Pastoral Guidelines for Interchurch Marriages between Anglicans and Roman Catholics in Canada*. On the 27th anniversary of this joint statement, ARC groups across the country were asked re-read the statement and suggest revisions/updating. Our suggestions were sent to the Catholic co-chair of ARC-Canada, Bishop Don Bolen (Saskatoon).



➤ **Edmonton Mennonite – Roman Catholic (EMRC)**

The Office continued to coordinate an ecumenical dialogue with local members of Mennonite and Mennonite Brethren churches. A 12-member dialogue group (6 RC, 6 Mennonite) met bimonthly to consider local happenings and ways that our two churches might collaborate on projects.

- The first part of the year was dedicated to two topics: a study of the Mennonite “Pax Service” model as an alternative to military service (September). A presentation on “Transformational Living” from Terry Lamb, Director of Pastoral Care for the Mennonite Brethren Conference of Alberta (November).
- On January 31, 2014, we held a public session at Lendrum Mennonite Brethren Church, sharing with a larger gathering of Catholics and Mennonites our previous year’s study on the theme of “Reconciliation.” This was a time of accountability to our respective communities and also an opportunity to invite new participants to the dialogue group.



- In the second part of the year, we read together *Compassion: A Reflection on the Christian Life* by Henri Nouwen, Donald McNeill and Douglas Morrison. The book offered profound insights into the virtue of compassion in our life with

God and for community living; considerable resonance with Pope Francis' appeal for mercy in our day.

- The year concluded with an informal BBQ held at Newman Theological College.

➤ **Edmonton Lutheran Church Canada – Roman Catholic (ELCCRC)**

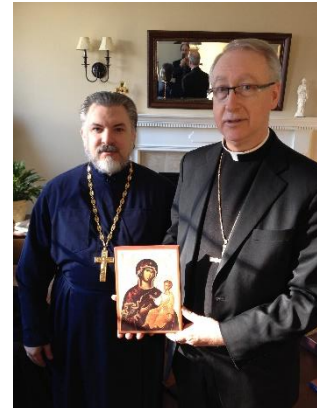
The Office initiated an ecumenical dialogue with local members of the Lutheran Church-Canada.

- An 8-member dialogue group (4 RC, 4 Lutheran) gathered for the first time on May 7, 2014. This was an occasion for the members of the dialogue to meet one another, to review the mandate offered to the group by its sponsoring bodies (Archdiocese and LCC Commission on Theology and Church Relations), and to set terms of reference for future meetings of the group.
- A second meeting is planned for the Fall of 2014.

➤ **Orthodox – Catholic Relations**

On February 6, 2014, Archbishop Smith hosted a luncheon for the members of the Orthodox Clergy Brotherhood at his home in Edmonton. The Office was instrumental in arranging this meeting and the Coordinator was invited to join the priests and the Archbishop for lunch.

- This was an extraordinary event characterized by friendship, good humour, and warm conversation. The priests in attendance were from the Greek, Ukrainian, Russian, Romanian, Coptic and OCA churches. President of the Brotherhood, Fr. Cornell Zubritsky, presented Archbishop Smith with a beautiful icon of the Mother of God. There is a hope to organize other such gatherings in the future.



➤ **Reformation 500**

Two meetings took place at The King's University College (January 20 and April 15, 2014) to consider how the local Christian community might mark the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. The meetings were called by Dr. Melanie Humphreys, President of King's.

- It is clear that the Reformation 500 anniversary means different things to different people, individually and collectively. It is equally clear, however, that all of our church communities have been deeply influenced by the Reformation and the legacy of the 16th century reforms upon the whole Christian family.

- We are thankful to Dr. Humphreys and the community of The King's University College, for calling the wider Christian community to this moment of recollection. We equally thank leaders from the Lutheran, Reformed, Anabaptist, United, Pentecostal, Evangelical and Orthodox communities for inviting us to be part of these planning sessions. The Archdiocese celebrates this initiative and pledges support for ecumenical activities that may arise out of these deliberations.

➤ **Catholic-Jewish Relations**

No formal dialogue meetings took place between Catholics and Jews in 2013-2014. However, some activities brought the Archdiocese into direct contact with Edmonton's Jewish communities, namely:

- A formal letter was prepared and sent from Archbishop Smith's office to Edmonton rabbis (on the occasion of Rosh Hashanah)
- December 6-7, 2013: Julien attended a Shabbat Dinner and Service to celebrate the installation of Rabbi Kliel Rose, new rabbi of Beth Shalom Synagogue.
- December 15, 2013: Phoenix Multi-faith Society for Harmony organized an Abrahamic Tri-Faiths Celebration to mark Eid, Hanukah and Christmas at Edmonton City Hall.
- April 28, 2014: Julien attended the annual Yom Ha-Shoah Commemoration at the Holocaust Memorial on the grounds of the Alberta Legislature.
- June 10, 2014: Julien met with Rabbi Nachum Schifren to discuss the persecution of Christians in the Middle East.



➤ **Catholic-Muslim Relations**

Informal and formal meetings took place between the Archdiocese and Edmonton's Muslim communities in 2013-2014, namely:

- November 4, 2013: Julien attended a ceremony at the Alberta Legislature celebrating the Muslim festival of Eid-ul-Adha. This event was organized by the Edmonton Council of Muslim Communities and the Speaker of the Alberta Legislature.



- December 14, 2013: Julien attended a gala dinner to mark the 75th Anniversary of Al-Rashid Mosque in Edmonton. Al-Rashid was the first mosque built in North America and the original building is now preserved and on display at Fort Edmonton Park. The gala event was held at the Edmonton Islamic Academy.
- December 15, 2013: Phoenix Multi-faith Society for Harmony organized an Abrahamic Tri-Faiths Celebration to mark Eid, Hanukah and Christmas at Edmonton City Hall.
- February 8, 2014: Julien attended an event and lecture to commemorate the Prophet Muhammed's life (Milad-un-Nabi). This event took place at the Royal Alberta Museum.
- March 4, 2014: Several Catholics attended the 9th Annual Friendship Dinner organized by the Intercultural Dialogue Institute (a Turkish Muslim group) held at the Fairmont Hotel MacDonald. Julien delivered closing remarks at this event.
- Two formal meetings took place (May 1 and May 22, 2014) to plan a Muslim-Christian Dialogue Day in the Fall 2014. The meetings were called by Ms. Donna Entz of the Mennonite Central Committee, and participants were from Catholic, Mennonite, Shia and Sunni religious traditions. An event is being planned for September 13, 2014 at the Edmonton Islamic Academy. This project is part of a larger worldwide movement between Christians and Muslims called "A Common Word Between Us and You." A new website for "A Common Word – Alberta" is planned for ongoing reference.
- A formal letter (accompanied by the official message from the Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue) was prepared and sent to the Edmonton Council of Muslim Communities (on the occasion of Eid al-Fitr)

➤ **Dialogue with Eastern Religions (Hinduism, Buddhism, Sikhism, etc.)**

Several events/activities took place that brought the Archdiocese into contact with members of Eastern Religions, namely:



- September 8, 2013: Western Canadian Samagam (Religious Congress) of the Sant Nirankari Mission at the Capilano Conference Centre, Edmonton. A highlight of the visit was the opportunity to meet His Holiness, Hardev Singh Di Maharaj, spiritual leader of the Sant Nirankari community worldwide.
- October 2, 2013: 25th Annual Banquet of the Mahatma Gandhi Canadian Foundation for World Peace. The banquet featured keynote speaker, Mr. P.V. Rajagopal (Rajaji) of India who spoke on the theme of non-violent grassroots movements in India (Maharaja Banquet Hall, Edmonton).

- November 5, 2013: Dinner to acquaint and update Edmonton-area faith leaders on developments related to Edmonton’s bid to host a Parliament of the World’s Religions in 2017. Rev. Adam Lech (Chancellor) represented the Archdiocese at this event.
- Formal letters (accompanied by official messages from the Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue) were prepared and sent from Archbishop Smith’s office to the Hindu Society of Alberta (on the occasion of Diwali), Sikh Communities in Edmonton (on the feast of Guru Nanak Jayanti), the Jain Society of Alberta (on the occasion of Mahavir Jayanti), and various Buddhist associations (on the occasion of Vesakh).
- May 1-4, 2014: Julien participated in “Faiths Coming Together” – a four-day conference at the University of Alberta organized by the Edmonton Committee for a Parliament of the World’s Religions. This is one of several pre-parliament events taking place in Edmonton in preparation for Edmonton’s bid to host the PWR in 2017.

➤ **Regional, National and International Dialogues**

The Coordinator represents the Archdiocese in dialogue meetings at home and abroad:

- Western Diocesan and Eparchial Coordinators of Ecumenism (WDECE):
 - November 5-9, 2013: Annual Meeting of the WDECE hosted this year by the Diocese of Saskatoon; Theme: “Receptive Ecumenism and the New Evangelization”; featuring Paul D. Murray (Director of the Centre for Catholic Studies, Durham University) and Archbishop Gerald Lacroix (Archbishop of Quebec)
- Anglican-Roman Catholic – National Dialogue (by appointment of the CCCB):
 - November 29-Dec. 2, 2013 (Niagara Falls, ON)
 - June 19-21, 2014 (Mississauga, ON): Julien did not attend this meeting.
- Roman Catholic-Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) – International Dialogue (by appointment of the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity):
 - January 7-12, 2014 (Nashville, USA)
 - June 13-20, 2014 (Rome, Italy)

C. Spiritual Ecumenism and Interreligious Relations

➤ Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2014

The preparatory materials for this year's Week of Prayer for Christian Unity brought attention to the reality of Christianity in Canada, with a particular focus on First Nations and the pluralistic reality of Canadian society today. Invited by an ecumenical writing team from different parts of Canada, Christians worldwide were invited to reflect on St. Paul's provocative question to the ancient Corinthian community: "Has Christ been divided?" (I Corinthians 1.13)

The Office was involved in four activities related to the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2014:

- Each year, in association with the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, the Edmonton & District Council of Churches is invited to mount a three-week display at Edmonton City Hall as part of the "Celebrating Our Faiths" series of displays co-sponsored by the City of Edmonton and the Edmonton Interfaith Centre for Education and Action.

Typically the display calls attention to the biblical theme that animates the Week of Prayer, and highlights some of the ecumenical work that is being done locally in support of that theme.



This year's theme from I Cor. 1.13 and the focus on Christianity in Canada, gave us the opportunity to display Christian symbols, artifacts and materials pertaining to spiritualities of the First Nations in Canada.

Julien worked with Rev. Canon Travis Enright of the Anglican Diocese of Edmonton to prepare the display and organize a launch event held at Edmonton City Hall on January 17, 2014. Thank you to Duane Alexis, Reuben Quinn, Donna Enright, Ernie Gambler, the City of Edmonton and the Edmonton Interfaith Centre for Education and Action, each for their contribution to the display launch event.

A news story about the display and the launch appeared in the [Western Catholic Reporter](#).

- January 19, 2014: Julien was invited by the Camrose Ministerial Association to deliver a homiletic reflection to open the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. This event took place at St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church in Camrose, and involved members from the Roman Catholic, Anglican, Evangelical Lutheran and Church of God traditions. About 80 people attended.

- January 20, 2014: Julien attended an ecumenical prayer service at Newman Theological College to mark the WPCU 2014. The service was organized by the NTC Students' Association and highlighted the Christian diversity of the student population at the College.
- On January 26, 2014, Archbishop Smith joined leaders and pastors from several Christian churches in the Edmonton area at an ecumenical prayer service held St. Matthias Anglican Church (6210 188 St NW, Edmonton) to close out the Week of Prayer.



The service featured an ecumenical “gift exchange” where representatives of the different churches brought forward objects representing the specific gifts of their tradition to share with the whole Christian community. Bishop Jane Alexander of the Anglican Diocese delivered a homily on Christian unity. Participants prayed for and recommitted themselves to the eight millennial goals articulated by the United Nations and adopted by the Canadian

Council of Churches in the year 2000. The service was followed by a time of fellowship in the parish hall, around a beautiful table of Canadian delicacies and sweets.

A collection was taken at the service with all of the funds going to support the designated recipient for this year’s No Room in the Inn project.

News stories about the EDCC service appeared in the [Western Catholic Reporter](#) and The [Anglican Messenger](#).

➤ **Outdoor Way of the Cross**

The annual Good Friday Outdoor Way of the Cross is an ecumenical prayer event commemorating the suffering and death of Jesus. It is a time to notice how the gospel values of Jesus are important to individual and social life today.

The theme for this year’s event was “Be Not Afraid,” based on 1 John 4:18 “There is no fear in love. Love drives out fear.”

Participants joined in a 6-station way of the cross pausing to reflect on social injustices occurring in the Edmonton area especially toward impoverished people and vulnerable populations in the downtown core.



The weather posed a most difficult challenge for this year’s walk. Overnight snow and ice left streets dangerously slippery. For the first time in 34 years, it was not possible to proceed with the walk, so all the stations took place on the block in front of Hope Mission. In spite of the weather,

over 200 people participated in the event. There was excellent print and television media coverage of the event including from the Edmonton Journal, Edmonton Sun, and the Global Edmonton.

➤ **Taizé Prayer Events**

Once a month members of several churches participate in a Taizé-style ecumenical prayer ministry that takes place in the churches around the Bonnie Doon neighbourhood of Edmonton. Different churches in the area take turns hosting a prayer evening, while a group of musicians leads the local congregation and friends from the neighbourhood in the meditative style of prayer practiced by the monastic community of Taizé, France. Typically between 30 and 60 people participate in these prayer evenings. The Archdiocese covers a licensing fee for printing copyrighted materials associated with this ministry.

The participating churches in 2013-2014 were: Assumption Catholic, Strathearn United, Holyrood Mennonite, St. Thomas D'Aquin Catholic, Hope Lutheran, St. Luke's Anglican and St. David's Anglican. The group also led Taizé-style prayer evenings this year with the L'Arche community of Edmonton, one afternoon at the Royal Alexandra Hospital in Edmonton, and around the cross on Good Friday evening at the Providence Renewal Centre.



The Archdiocese thanks all of the Taizé music ministry leaders and of the participating churches for their hospitality in encouraging this ecumenical ministry in Edmonton.

➤ **Edmonton and Area Ministerial Association (EAMA)**

The Edmonton and Area Ministerial Association (formerly called the Edmonton Evangelical Ministerial Association) hosts a monthly pastors' prayer meeting at the Marketplace Chapel in the West Edmonton Mall. Julien attended 6 of these meetings over the course of the year.

➤ **Edmonton Ecumenical Peace Network**

The Edmonton Ecumenical Peace Network organizes an annual candlelight Prayer Walk for Peace through downtown Edmonton held during the evening on Remembrance Day. It follows an interdenominational prayer service usually held at McDougall United Church.

➤ **Other Occasions of Spiritual Ecumenism**

- November 19, 2013: In his capacity as President of the Edmonton & District Council of Churches, Julien was invited to lead the opening prayer at an Edmonton City Council meeting.
- April 9, 2014: Julien attended the 19th Annual Mayor's Prayer Breakfast (Shaw Conference Centre)
- May 29, 2014: Pastors' Appreciation Breakfast hosted by Shine-FM (King's University College, Edmonton)

D. Common Witness and Discipleship

There are literally dozens of ecumenical/interreligious common witness projects occurring in the Archdiocese, so many that it is impossible to name them all. The following are examples of projects formally endorsed and/or supported through the Office:

➤ **Covenant Health – Diversity and Inclusion Committee**

Julien represents the Archdiocese to this committee: quarterly meetings.

➤ **Chester Ronning Centre for the Study of Religion and Public Life (U of A)**

Julien represents the Archdiocese on the Board of Directors of this Centre: semi-annual meetings.

➤ **Capital Region Interfaith Housing Initiative**

The Archdiocese is one of 22 signatories to the Capital Region Interfaith Housing Initiative, which animates faith-based activities aimed at tackling the problems of homelessness and affordable housing in the Edmonton area. Julien attended two meetings of the coalition in 2014.

➤ **Habitat for Humanity – Interfaith Housing Build**

On March 20, 2014, Julien attended the launch event for Habitat for Humanity's annual interfaith housing build. The event took place at the Neufeld Landing build site in South Edmonton. It was the beginning of the new Spring season of the Habitat Interfaith Works 2014, from March 20th to June 21st, 2014. Over 150 volunteers from 15 new faith communities participated in this year's interfaith build. Some were involved as lunch providers, prayer leadership, volunteers in the build site or re-store, as well as supports with advertising and logistics.



➤ **Other Common Witness Initiatives**

- October 2, 2013: Julien attended the official opening of the Gerry Segger Heritage Collection: a collection of archival materials commemorating the Dutch and German-Canadian experience and the traditions of Reformed Christianity in Canada (King's University College, Edmonton)

- March 13, 2014: Julien attended the annual fundraising breakfast for Cornerstone Counselling Services; invited as a guest of Touch Canada Broadcasting/ShineFM (Sutton Place Hotel, Edmonton)
- March 19, 2014: Julien attended the Annual General Meeting of the Order of St. Lazarus-Edmonton Commandery (Glenora Bistro, Edmonton)
- March 21, 2014: Julien accompanied Bob McKeon to the unveiling of a new aboriginal mural at the Grandin LRT Station in Edmonton
- March 27-30, 2014: Julien participated in the national Truth & Reconciliation event held at the Shaw Conference Centre in Edmonton
- April 9, 2014: Julien attended the Annual General Meeting of the Phoenix Multi-Faith Society (held at Robertson-Wesley United Church). He was named to a planning committee of Jews, Christians and Muslims who will work with the Edmonton Police Service to plan (in 2014-2015) a tri-faith session on “Hate Crimes in Alberta”
- May 2014: Julien began to meet with Sr. Pat Desnoyers and several Edmonton area faith leaders to plan out a local interfaith celebration marking the 50th anniversary of the worldwide L’Arche community (for Fall 2014)

E. Other Meetings:

➤ Ecumenical and Interreligious Associates

- September 19, 2013: Anglican Chaplain – University of Alberta
- September 24, 2013: Director – Ronning Centre, U of A
- September 30, 2013: Pastor, C3E Edmonton Church
- October 11, 2013: Interview with WCR Reporter
- October 21, 2013: Treasurer, EDCC
- November 3, 2013: Special general meeting of the Phoenix Multi-Faith Society for Harmony (ScotiaPlace, 10060 Jasper Ave, Edmonton)
- November 15, 2013: Pastor, C3E Edmonton Church
- December 11, 2013: Rector – St. Faith’s Anglican Church, Edmonton
- December 18, 2013: Preparing Orthodox-Catholic clergy luncheon
- January 13, 2014: President – King’s University College, Edmonton
- January 14, 2014: Rector – St. Faith’s Anglican Church, Edmonton
- January 16, 2014: Rector – St. Faith’s Anglican Church, Edmonton
- January 22, 2014: Archbishop Smith, Bishop David Motiuk and Fr. Stephen Wojchichowsky (Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy)
- February 3, 2014: Dialogue Coordinator – Anglican Diocese of Edmonton
- February 19, 2014: Grand Knight, Father Duncan MacDonnell Council #6363, Fort Saskatchewan
- February 20, 2014: Associate Pastor – Calvary Community Church, Edmonton
- March 12, 2014: Program Director, Providence Renewal Centre, Edmonton
- April 1, 2014: Planners for Christian-Muslim Dialogue
- April 2, 2014: Alberta Regional Director – World Vision Canada
- April 8, 2014: Associate Pastor – Calvary Community Church, Edmonton
- April 9, 2014: Catholic Archdiocese of Edmonton Religious Education Coordinators (CAEREC) Meeting
- May 1, 2014: Dialogue Coordinator – Anglican Diocese of Edmonton
- May 5, 2014: Associate Publisher – Novalis
- May 15, 2014: Pastor – St. Boniface Catholic Church, Edmonton)
- June 3, 2014: Program Director, Providence Renewal Centre, Edmonton
- June 7, 2014: Theological Consultation with Anglican colleagues (Holy Trinity Anglican Church, Edmonton)
- June 10, 2014: Treasurer, EDCC

➤ Pastoral & Parish Services (PPS) – Department Meetings

- October 30, 2013: Meeting with Teresa Kellendonk (Department Head)
- November 13, 2013 (team meeting)
- November 19, 2013 (team meeting)
- December 17, 2013: Meeting with Teresa Kellendonk (Department Head)
- January 15, 2014: Meeting with Archbishop Smith and Teresa Kellendonk (Department Head)
- January 21, 2014 (team meeting)
- February 25, 2014 (team meeting)
- March 18, 2014 (team meeting)
- April 15, 2014 (team meeting)

- May 12, 2014 (team meeting)
- June 4, 2014 (coordinators meeting)
- June 11, 2014 (coordinators meeting)

➤ **Miscellany**

- November 14, 2013: Attended staff assembly updating PAO Operational Review
- January-April 2014: Taught CHRTC 250 – The Theological Formation of a Catholic Teacher (St. Joseph’s College, Edmonton)
- January 29, 2014: Attended staff in-service on Together We Serve
- February 5, 2014: Attended the funeral of Rev. Jack Spicer (St. Alphonsus Parish)
- February 12, 2014: Attended staff in-service on using MSync, MSOutlook, Skype
- February 14, 2014: Participated in hiring interviews for Administrative Assistant position
- March 17, 2014: Attended meeting (in place of Teresa Kellendonk) on Immigration & Settlement Services, Catholic Social Services
- March 25, 2014: Attended staff assembly updating PAO Operational Review
- April 4, 2014: Attended appreciation Luncheon for Bob McKeon (PAO)
- April 7, 2014: Attended staff retreat with Rev. Stefano Penna (Providence Renewal Centre)
- April 22, 2014: Attended 90th Birthday celebration for Archbishop MacNeil (PAO)
- May-June 2014: Taught CHRTC 250 – The Theological Formation of a Catholic Teacher (St. Joseph’s College, Edmonton)
- June 7, 2014: Presented to the Archdiocesan Pastoral Council on the Extraordinary Synod of Bishops on the Pastoral Care of the Family (PAO)
- June 10, 2014: Attended farewell event for Andrew Papenbrock and Maria Baca (PAO)