



The Catholic
Archdiocese
of **Edmonton**

Office of
Ecumenical and
Interreligious Relations

ANNUAL
REPORT

2016 - 17

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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; 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 was succeeded in the ecumenical ministry of the Archdiocese by **Ms. Cathy Harvey** and a part-time office assistant: both hired part-time by the Archdiocesan Ecumenical Commission in the mid-1990's. An excellent events coordinator, Ms. Harvey 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 chairing of various people – lay, religious and ordained.

In 2002, **Mr. Julien Hammond** was hired by Archbishop Collins as full-time "Ecumenical Officer" of the Archdiocese. He continued to work with the part-time ecumenical office assistant 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 began 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 interreligious matters. 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, 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 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 second re-structuring led by Archbishop Smith, Julien Hammond was re-assigned as Director of Evangelization & Catechesis, all the while maintaining the quarter-time ecumenical/interreligious portfolio. In this new capacity, Julien continued to emphasize teaching and formation as the key functions of the 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



2016-2017 was a wonderful year in the E&I Office of the Archdiocese. We made significant progress on the pastoral plan approved for the office in January 2014 and updated in January 2017. I am pleased to report that we were able to complete many of the goals that we set out for the year; others were advanced and will carry over into the year ahead.

I hope you will take time to peruse the pages in this report to see everything that we accomplished together in the last year. Aside from many events and projects, 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 would like to thank Archbishop Smith, my supervisor Teresa, my administrative assistants, members of the Advisory Committees serving the office, and my many colleagues in the Department of Parish and Pastoral Services and throughout the Archdiocese for their moral and prayer support. Without their assistance and advice at times, I certainly would not have been as effective in advancing the mission of the office this past year.

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 interreligious spirit.

Thank you to all our ecumenical and interreligious partners throughout the Archdiocese who collaborate with us on, and often invite us into, life-giving initiatives and activities. We are truly blessed to reside in a part of the world so filled with people of various backgrounds and traditions, who value the spiritual life and desire the good of all.

Finally, I give thanks to the Lord whose wisdom and strength guided us throughout the past year. I am proud of all that we were able to do and I recognize in all of it the working of the Holy Spirit. May we continue to heed the voice of Jesus guiding us toward greater Christian unity and interreligious understanding in our time.

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

PROGRAM AREA REPORTS

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.



With/For Archdiocesan Audiences

- August 29, 2016: “Welcoming, Loving, Forgiving, Encouraging: Peoples of Faith Lighting the Way” Workshop presentation for Faith Development Day of St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic School Division (Beaumont, AB)
- September 21, 2016: “Introduction to Ecumenical/Interreligious Ministry” Archdiocesan Volunteer Coordinators’ meeting (Catholic Archdiocese Offices)
- September 30, 2016: 2015 Annual Report for the Office of Ecumenical & Interreligious Relations
- October 20, 2016: “Ecumenism and Interfaith Ministry in Canada.” Enculturation of Priests Program (Ukrainian Basilian House of Studies, Edmonton)
- October 31, 2016: “Introduction to Ecumenism” Introduction to Theology course (Newman Theological College)
- November 14, 2016: “Introduction to Interreligious Relations” Introduction to Theology course (Newman Theological College, Edmonton)
- November 14, 2016: “Preparing the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2017.” Lay Formation Program (Newman Theological College, Edmonton)
- January 22, 2017: Announced Catholic-Mennonite public meeting at all Sunday masses (St. Anthony/St. Agnes Parishes, Edmonton)

- February 28, 2017: “Embracing Diversity” Sophia Talk for Catholic Social Services (CSS Main Office, Edmonton)
- March 3-4, 2017: Anthony Jordan Lecture Series featuring Dr. Hans Boersma titled “Real Presence: An Ecumenical Perspective” (Newman Theological College)
- March 4, 2017: “Introduction to Ecumenical and Interreligious Relations” Presentation to CAEDM Diaconal Formation Program (Providence Renewal Centre, Edmonton)
- March 6, 2017: “Introduction to Interreligious Ministry.” Lay Formation Program (Newman Theological College, Edmonton)
- May 4, 2017: “Introduction to Ecumenical and Interreligious Relations” Presentation to St. Matthew’s Parish CWL Spring Banquet (St. Matthew’s Catholic Church, Rocky Mountain House)
- May 23, 2017: “Introduction to Ecumenical and Interreligious Relations” Presentation to St. Thomas d’Aquin Parish PPC (St. Thomas d’Aquin Catholic Church, Edmonton)

In the Context of Reformation 500

- September 1, 2016: “The 500th Anniversary of the Reformation & Pope Francis’ Upcoming Visit to Sweden.” Julien prepared a Catholic Primer for use within the Archdiocese
- October 1, 2016: “Reformation 500: A Roman Catholic Perspective” Julien presented at ELCIC Conference Convention (Northern Alberta) (Trinity Lutheran Church, Westlock, AB)
- October 15, 2016: “Reformation 500: A Roman Catholic Perspective” Julien presented at ELCIC Conference Convention (Central Alberta) (Messiah Lutheran Church, Camrose, AB)
- October 19, 2016: “Commemorating the Reformation: 500 Years Later” A Ronning Centre Conversation with Bishop Larry Kochendorfer (ELCIC), Dr. Faith Nostbakken



- (ELCIC) and Dr. Julien Hammond (Roman Catholic Archdiocese Edmonton) (U of A-Augustana Campus, Camrose, AB)
- October 22, 2016: “Reformation 500: A Roman Catholic Perspective” Julien presented at ELCIC Conference Convention (Southern Alberta) (Nazareth Lutheran Church, Standard, AB)
 - October 31, 2016: Viewing of joint Catholic-Lutheran commemoration of the Reformation anniversary in Lund, Sweden (Newman Theological College)
 - October 31, 2016: “Reformation 500: A Roman Catholic Perspective” Julien preached a sermon within the context of the College Chapel time (Concordia University of Edmonton)
 - November 11, 2016: “From Conflict to Communion” Julien was one of three church leaders to offer a Christian Prayer Station within the context of the annual Remembrance Day Interfaith Peace Walk (Cenotaph/Downtown Edmonton)
 - November 15, 2016: “Commemorating the Reformation: 500 Years Later” Julien presented with Dr. Faith Nostbakken (ELCIC) in the context of the Edmonton & District Council of Churches meeting (McDougall United Church, Edmonton)
 - December 15, 2016: “Reformation 500: A Roman Catholic Perspective” Julien presented at “An Ecumenical Evening in Cold Lake” (Lakeland Lutheran Church, Cold Lake, AB)
 - Lent 2017: *Together in Christ* – A 5-part study series written by the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops and the National Office of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada. Julien co-hosted this activity with Pastor Barbara Groote (Ascension Lutheran Church, Edmonton)
 - March 18, 2017: “Reformation 500 Hymnfest” Julien served as one of two narrators for this event (Hosanna Lutheran Church, Edmonton)
 - June 11, 2017: “With One Voice: Hymns and Choral Works of the Reformation Era” Julien co-hosted/emceed an ecumenical concert to mark the 500th anniversary of the Reformation (St. Joseph’s Basilica, Edmonton)
 - June 13, 2017: “Reformation 500: A Roman Catholic Perspective” Julien offered a formation session with the Diaconal Ministers of the ABT Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada (ABT Synod Office, Edmonton)



With Partner Organizations

➤ **Edmonton & District Council of Churches** – presentations from:

- September 20, 2016: John Dowds (Edm. City Hall)
- November 15, 2016: Faith Nostbakken/Julien Hammond (McDougall United Church)
- January 17, 2017: Travis Enright (St. Faith’s Anglican Church)
- March 21, 2017: Zanette Frost (Catholic Archdiocese Offices)
- May 16, 2017: Lucy Nay (West Edmonton Mall Chapel)
- June 15, 2017: Julien Hammond made a Plaque Presentation on behalf of the No Room in the Inn Committee (A Safe Place, Sherwood Park)



➤ **Edmonton Interfaith Centre for Education & Action:**

- *Interfaith Explorations* visits to houses of worship
 - October 5, 2016: Gurdwara Sri Guru Singh Sabha Society
 - April 6, 2017: Edmonton Christian Community (Chinese) Church
- *Celebrating Our Faiths*: series of faith displays at Edmonton City Hall
 - October 20, 2016: 10th anniversary of “Celebrating Our Faiths”
 - January 2017: Celebrating the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity
- *Lunch & Learn* series of presentations on faith topics
 - September 12, 2016: Ian Kellogg, “Mill Woods at 40 years”
 - October 11, 2016: Salima Versi, “Islam and Ethics”
 - November 14, 2016: Stephen Gallard, “Hope and Remembrance”
 - December 12, 2016: Lewis Cardinal, “The Three R’s: Reconciliation, Reparation, & Relationship”
 - March 6, 2017: Paula Kirman, “Screening of her new film *McCauley: A Caring Community – Conversations on Social Housing*”
 - April 3, 2017: Shiraz Kanji, “A Common Thread among the Three Monotheistic Religions: Judaism, Christianity, and Islam”
 - May 8, 2017: Karen Kerr, “The Edmonton Society of Atheists”
 - June 12, 2017: Batya Friedman and Mike Van Boom “The Capital Region Interfaith Housing Initiative”



- June 19, 2017: Rabbi David Kunin, “A King in Papua – A visit to the Jews of Indonesia”
- Other:
 - September 21, 2016: UN International Day of Peace Flag-Raising Ceremony (Edmonton City Hall)
 - January 29, 2017: *Building Bridges Interfaith Concert* (Royal Alberta Museum, Edmonton)
 - March 21, 2017: UN International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (Edmonton City Hall)



➤ **Inner-City Pastoral Ministry:**

- March 16, 2017: “Five Ecumenical Imperatives for ICPM.” Julien was guest speaker at the Annual General Meeting of Inner City Pastoral Ministry (St. Faith’s Anglican Church, Edmonton)

➤ **Intercultural Dialogue Institute (IDI)-Edmonton:**

- December 7, 2016: “The Art of Living Together” Julien offered closing remarks at IDI-Edmonton’s First Annual Art, Essay & Short Film Competition (Chateau Nova Yellowhead Hotel, Edmonton)
- February 1, 2017: “Abraham in Christianity.” Julien participated on a panel discussion on “Abraham in Judaism, Christianity and Islam” for World Interfaith Harmony Week, organized by IDI-Edmonton (Chateau Nova Yellowhead Hotel, Edmonton)
- June 7, 2017: Julien co-hosted/emceed a Community Iftar Dinner (Providence Renewal Centre, Edmonton)



➤ **Islamic Shia Ithna-Asheri Association of Edmonton:**

- January 21, 2017: “Catholic-Muslim Relations in Edmonton” Julien presented at the Milad un-Nabi event with the Islamic Shia Ithna-Asheri Association of Edmonton (Maharaja Banquet Hall, Edmonton)



➤ **Mahatma Gandhi Canadian Foundation for World Peace:**

- October 2, 2016: Annual Interfaith Banquet (Fantasyland Hotel, WEM, Edmonton)
- July 4-13, 2017: Mahatma Gandhi Summer Institute 2017 (University of Alberta)



➤ **On Eagles Wings Ministries**

- October 25, 2016: “From Conflict to Communion.” Julien offered a devotional morning prayer for On Eagles’ Wings USA/Canada board members (Conference Call)
- **Advent 2016: “Bearing God to the World.” Julien wrote a reflection for On Eagles Wings Advent booklet**



➤ **Phoenix Multifaith Society for Harmony**

- March 16, 2017: Diversity Day with Edmonton Public Schools; organized in conjunction with the Phoenix Multifaith Society for Harmony; participated in the “Living Library” (EPS Board Office, Edmonton)



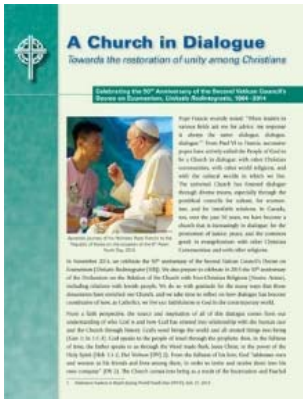
➤ **Taylor Seminary**

- March 17, 2017: “Reading Romans Missionally.” E.P. Wahl Lecture Series given by Dr. Michael Gorman (St. Mary’s Seminary, Boston)

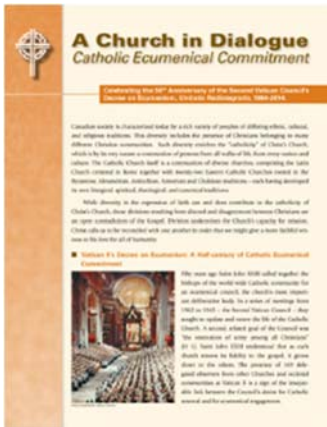
➤ **Other Formational Items:**

The CCCB produced a new resource in 2016 entitled *Our Evangelical Neighbours – A Catholic Reflection on Evangelical Christianity*. This resource is the latest addition to the *A Church in Dialogue* series launched in 2015 to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the *Decree on Ecumenism* and the *Declaration on the Church’s Relations with Non-Christian Religions*. These documents are all available on the CCCB website as

downloadable PDFs which can be printed and distributed without charge. Parishes receive notification of new releases through the Archdiocese’s *Quid Novum* e-newsletter.



"A Church in Dialogue: Catholic Ecumenical Commitment". This resource provides introductory information about the Catholic Church's commitment to and involvement in ecumenism since the Second Vatican Council. The resource defines key terms and definitions to assist those exploring ecumenism for the first time.



"A Church in Dialogue: Towards the Restoration of Unity among Christians". This publication provides an in-depth presentation of the Church's commitment to ecumenical dialogue and is intended for those already involved in, and familiar with, ecumenical work.



"Our Evangelical Neighbours – A Catholic Reflection on Evangelical Christianity". Developed in close consultation with the Evangelical Fellowship of Canada, this publication presents a respectful overview of the Christian identity of Evangelical Christians, areas of convergence and divergence between Evangelicals and Catholics, and prospects for future dialogue between our church communities.

B. Ecumenical and Interreligious Dialogues

The Archdiocese supports quite a number of formal and informal dialogue sessions with ecumenical and interreligious partners.

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

The Archdiocese maintains active contact with members of the Anglican Diocese of Edmonton through the Edmonton Anglican-Roman Catholic (EARC) dialogue group. The group normally meets twice in the year to consider local happenings and ways that our two dioceses might collaborate on projects.

- No meeting was held in Fall 2016, as new members were recruited to participate in the dialogue.
- At our Spring meeting (April 2017), the group considered “**Continuing to walk together**”: a report on the 8-day pilgrimage from Canterbury to Rome undertaken by bishops of the International Anglican Roman Catholic Commission on Unity and Mission (IARCCUM).

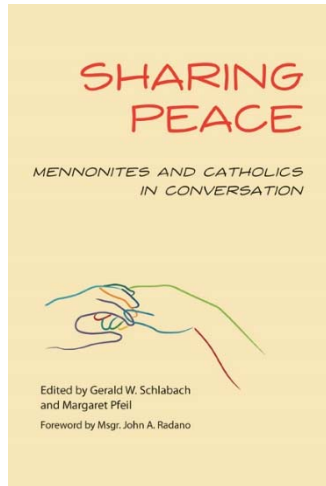


We also embarked on a fresh read of the 2007 IARCCUM document ***Growing Together in Unity and Mission***. Consideration of this document will continue into the coming year.

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

The Archdiocese maintains active contact with local members of Mennonite and Mennonite Brethren churches through the Edmonton Mennonite-Roman Catholic (EMRC) dialogue group. The group typically meets bimonthly to consider local happenings and ways that our churches might collaborate on projects.

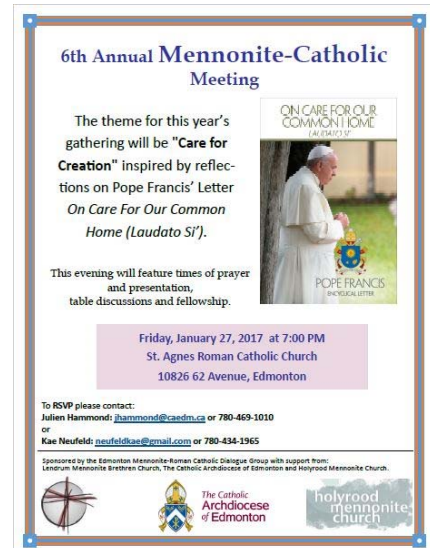
- As our main activity this year, our group undertook a study of ***Sharing Peace: Mennonites and Catholics in Conversation (2013)***. This book features several



essays from Catholic and Mennonite theologians offering a 10-year retrospective and development of themes first introduced by the 2003 Report of the International Mennonite-Catholic Dialogue, *Called Together to be Peacemakers*. These include: a shared reading of history, theologies of the church, sacraments or ordinances, the healing of memories and understandings of Christ's call to be peacemakers.

For our local group, this study opened up conversations about our respective ecclesial identities, the similarities/differences that continue to energize our traditions today, and theological area requiring further exploration in our dialogue. We look forward to engaging some of these themes in the years ahead.

- On January 27, 2017, we held our **6th annual Mennonite-Catholic Meeting at St. Agnes Catholic Church** in Edmonton. This meeting is always an opportunity for our local Catholic-Mennonite dialogue group to share with a larger gathering of Catholic and Mennonite parishioners the theme(s) of their previous year's study. This year's theme explored "Care for Creation" inspired by reflections on Pope Francis' encyclical letter, *Laudato Si'*. **Thank you to Reverend Joby Augustin CFIC, Pastor at St. Agnes for permission to invite the parish to this event, and to Rev. Carol Penner and the staff at Lendrum Mennonite Brethren Church for their collaboration in hosting this event.**



➤ **Edmonton Lutheran – Roman Catholic Dialogue**

For a full listing of Catholic-Lutheran activities held in Edmonton in the context of commemorating the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation, please refer to the “Formation” section above. The following offers only certain highlights of activities conducted with specific Lutheran communities.

➤ **Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada (ELCIC):**

The Archdiocese partnered with the Synod of Alberta and the Territories (ELCIC) to offer a five-part Lenten dialogue series at Ascension Lutheran Church in Edmonton. The series entitled ***Together in Christ: Catholics and Lutherans Commemorating the Reformation***, was prepared by the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops in collaboration with the National Synod Office of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada. It featured the following themes set within the context of evening prayer events:

- 1) Commemorating the Reformation
- 2) Conflict breaks Communion
- 3) From Conflict to Communion
- 4) Growth in Communion through Dialogue
- 5) Commitment to Communion

While the series was rather lightly attended (about 20 people for each session), it provided continuity with the Lenten series initiated in the previous year and advanced the ecumenical aspirations of the Archdiocese and the ABT Synod.



Together in Christ
Lutherans and Catholics Commemorating the Reformation

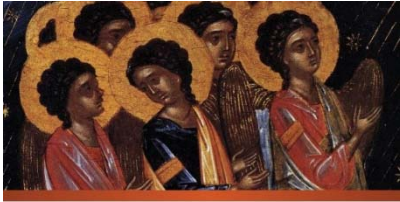
Thank you to ELCIC Synod Bishop Larry Kochendorfer, ELCIC Ecumenical Officer Dr. Faith Nostbakken and Archbishop Smith for their generous support in making this series possible. Thank you to ELCIC Pastor Barbara Groote for the gift of her time and talent in planning and co-presiding the evenings of prayer. Finally, thank you to the congregation of Ascension Lutheran Church for providing us with gracious hospitality and the perfect space these evenings of prayer and dialogue to unfold.

➤ **Lutheran Church-Canada (LCC):**

The Archdiocese maintains active contact with Edmonton members of the Lutheran Church-Canada through the Edmonton Lutheran Church-Canada – Roman Catholic (ELCCRC) dialogue group. The group normally meets four times in the year to consider local happenings and ways that our two dioceses might collaborate on projects.

- The ELCCRC dialogue group met four times in 2016-2017: two sessions at Newman Theological College (October 20, 2016 and February 16, 2017) and two at Concordia Lutheran Seminary (December 8, 2016 and April 20, 2017). The group continued its study of [From Conflict to Communion](#) – the document published by the Lutheran World Federation and the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity to prepare Catholics and Lutherans to commemorate the 500th anniversary of the Reformation together in 2017. This year’s study explored three significant themes in Catholic-Lutheran dialogue: Justification, Eucharist and Ministry.

- In June 2017, the Archdiocese together with LCC partners presented an ecumenical concert of sacred music to mark the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. Entitled **“With One Voice: Hymns and Choral Works of the Reformation Era”**, the concert took place at **St. Joseph’s Basilica** and featured the cathedral’s Schola Cantorum singing sacred music of the 15-17th centuries. Choral selections were punctuated by explanatory narration and congregational singing of hymns. Donations were collected and shared between Catholic and Lutheran charities. About 500 people attended this activity.



With One Voice
Hymns and Choral Works of the Reformation Era


An ecumenical concert to mark
the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation
— joining —
St. Joseph’s Basilica Schola Cantorum
Roderick Bryce, Director
with Guest Organist Mariba Veculak, Grace Lutheran Church

SUNDAY
JUNE 11, 2017
2:00 PM


ST. JOSEPH’S BASILICA
10044 - 115 Street, Edmonton

Admission by donation. Proceeds in support of Canadian Lutheran World Relief
and the Canadian Catholic Organization for Development & Peace.

An initiative of the Edmonton Lutheran (LCC)-Roman Catholic Dialogue Group
co-sponsored by



The Catholic
Archdiocese
of Edmonton



LUTHERAN
CHURCH CANADA
MEMBER OF THE ECUMENICAL DISTRICT

Thank you to LCC National President Robert Bugbee, LCC Alberta-BC District President Glenn Schaeffer and Archbishop Smith for their generous support of this concert. Thank you to Rev. Martin Carroll and the staff of St. Joseph’s Basilica for hosting this event. Finally, a great thanks to Mr. Roderick Bryce, Dr. Joy Berg, to the singers, musicians, writers, narrators and leaders of song who allowed us to sing “with one voice.” This activity was truly unique in the context of Reformation 500 commemorative events held across Canada.

➤ Catholic-Jewish Relations

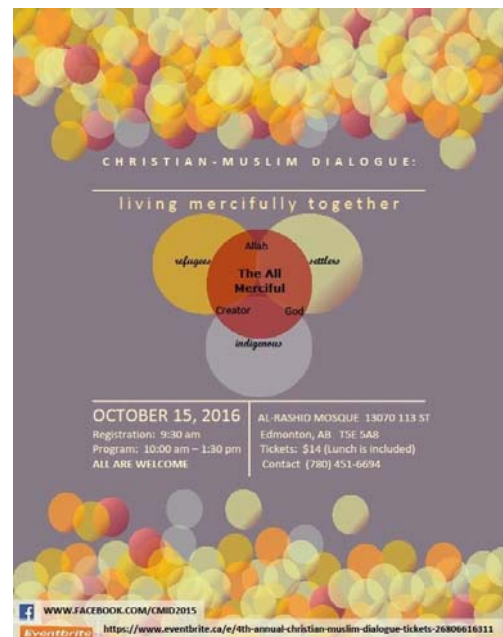
The Office maintained active contact with various local Jewish communities:

- October 2016: Archbishop Smith sent a letter to the Jewish communities of Edmonton offering his personal best wishes on behalf of the Catholic community on the occasion of the High Holy Days: Rosh Hashanah/Yom Kippur.
- April 24, 2017: Yom Ha-Shoah Commemoration (Holocaust Memorial on the grounds of the Alberta Legislature)
- May 28, 2017: Julien attended the Bat Mitzvah ceremony for Ms. Joey Friedman, second daughter of Rabbi Daniel and Rabbanit Batya Friedman (Beth Israel Synagogue, Edmonton)

➤ Catholic-Muslim Relations

The Office maintained active contact with various local Muslim communities:

- August 17, 2016: Julien attended “Faith in Turkey: Understanding the Attempted Coup of 2016” – a lecture by David J. Goa; part of the St. Stephen’s College course: “Sensing Spirit in a Secular Age” (St. Stephen’s College, Edmonton)
- On October 15, 2016, about 150 Christians and Muslims gathered at Al-Rashid Mosque in Edmonton to engage in a day of meeting and learning about one another’s faiths under the auspices of [A Common Word-Alberta](#). The theme for the day was "**Living Mercifully Together**" and it featured participants from Sunni, Shiite, Roman Catholic, Anglican, United, Mennonite and Aboriginal traditions. Representatives of both the Edmonton & District Council of Churches and the Edmonton Council of Muslim Communities brought greetings to the event.



- December 21, 2016: Julien attended the Annual Holiday Luncheon at the Edmonton Islamic Academy)



- January 19, 2017: Julien attended “Creating Thriving Societies in Troubling Times” – a lecture by Dr. Tariq Ramadan; sponsored by Canadians for Justice and Peace in the Middle East (University of Alberta, Edmonton)
- January 21, 2017: Julien spoke at “Catholic-Muslim Relations in Edmonton” – an event with the Islamic Shia Ithna-Asheri Association of Edmonton marking the festival of Milad un-Nabi (Maharaja Banquet Hall, Edmonton)



- January 30, 2017: Vigil for the Victims of the Quebec Mosque Shooting; organized by the Alberta Muslim Public Affairs Council (on the steps of the Alberta Legislature)

- January 31, 2017: Fr. Stefano Penna joined a CBC radio panel discussion with a Rabbi and an Imam. The topic was how people of faith respond to an attack on faith such as the one in the Quebec City mosque. [Click here to listen to their reflections with Edmonton AM host Mark Connelly.](#)

- February 1, 2017: Julien participated on a panel discussion on “Abraham in Judaism, Christianity and Islam” – part of World Interfaith Harmony Week, organized by IDI-Edmonton. **Dr. Jason West, President of Newman Theological College introduced and moderated the panel.** (Chateau Nova Yellowhead Hotel, Edmonton)



- February 8, 2017: Julien delivered a reflection and participated in a round table discussion on violence towards religious groups in the wake of the Quebec Mosque Shooting; event organized by the Muslim Association of Canada-Rahma Mosque (Edmonton City Hall)
- February 11, 2017: Archbishop Smith invited leaders from the Edmonton Council of Muslim Communities to meet with him at his home.



- April 28, 2017: In collaboration with Fr. Matthew Hysell, Julien organized a viewing of Pope Francis’ Pastoral Visit to Egypt. Representatives from Egyptian Coptic, Muslim & Catholic Church in attendance. (Corpus Christi Parish, Edmonton) [Read story by Thandiwe Konguavi here.](#)

- June 7, 2017: The Office co-hosted along with IDI-Edmonton, a **Community Iftar Dinner at Providence Renewal Centre**. The program for the evening featured a documentary film – *In the Footprints of Francis and the Sultan*, table conversations, prayers and hymn-singing, and a festive meal. Over 100 people attended this activity from a variety of Muslim, Christian and some other faith communities.



- June 2017: Archbishop Smith sent a letter to the Muslim communities of Edmonton offering his personal best wishes on behalf of the Catholic community for the feast of Eid al-Fitr (end of Ramadan).



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

The Office maintained active contact with local community representatives of various Eastern Religions:

- October 2, 2016: 28th Annual Banquet of the **Mahatma Gandhi Canadian Foundation for World Peace**. (Radisson Hotel, Edmonton).



- October 2016: Archbishop Smith sent a letter to the Hindu communities of Edmonton offering his personal best wishes on behalf of the Catholic community for the feast of Diwali.

- January 30-April 4, 2017: The Office promoted the Season for Nonviolence through its Facebook page: CAEDM UNITY. This program offers “64 Daily Practices to educate and inspire individuals and organizations alike to actively seek out nonviolent means by which to empower themselves and others to co-exist in peace and prosper together in community.”
- April 2017: Archbishop Smith sent a letter to the Jain community of Edmonton offering his personal best wishes on behalf of the Catholic community for the feast of Mahavir Jayanti.

➤ **Regional, National and International Dialogues**

The Archdiocese is represented in dialogue meetings at home and abroad:

- **Western Diocesan and Eparchial Coordinators of Ecumenism (WDECE):**



November 3-4, 2016: The Archdiocese hosted the annual meeting of the WDECE on the theme: “500 Years of Reformation: From Conflict to Communion.” A Symposium co-sponsored by the Ecumenical/Interreligious Office of the Archdiocese of Edmonton, the Synod of Alberta & the Territories of Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada, the Prairie Centre for Ecumenism (Saskatoon), and the Western Diocesan & Eparchial Coordinators of Ecumenism (WDECE): featuring Sr. Donna Geernaert

(former Ecumenical Officer of the CCCB) and Rev. Dr. Kayko Driedger Hesselein (Pastor, St. John’s Lutheran Church, Calgary). Each speaker

presented two papers:

- Sr. Donna: “New Perspectives on Martin Luther and the Reformation”
- Rev. Kayko: “From Conflict to Communion: Meeting Christ in Both”
- Sr. Donna: “The *Joint Declaration on Justification by Faith*”
- Rev. Kayko: “From Communion to Community: Meeting Christ in the World”



The event also featured an ecumenical panel offering other denominational perspectives on the Reformation anniversary by Rev. Dr. Scott Sharman (Anglican), Dr. Randal Rauser (Baptist) and Dr. Kae Neufeld (Mennonite). (Trinity Lutheran Church, Edmonton). About 70 people attended the 2-day event.

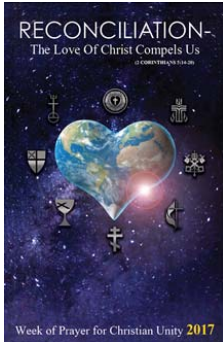
- **Anglican-Roman Catholic – National Dialogue Commission** (Julien attends these meetings by appointment of the CCCB):
 - November 18-21, 2016 (Montreal, QC)
 - June 1-3, 2017 (Saskatoon, SK)

- **Roman Catholic-Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) – International Dialogue Commission** (Julien attends these meetings by appointment of the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity):
 - June 22-28, 2017 (San Juan, Puerto Rico)



C. Spiritual Ecumenism

➤ Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2017



The preparatory materials for this year's Week of Prayer for Christian Unity brought attention to the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. Invited by an ecumenical writing team from Germany, Christians worldwide were invited to reflect on the theme: *"Reconciliation – The Love of Christ Compels Us"* (2 Corinthians 5:14-20).

Several activities took place in the context of marking the Week:

- January 20, 2017: The neighbouring parishes of **St. Thomas D'Aquin Roman Catholic Church** and Holy Trinity Anglican Church held a Taizé prayer event around a campfire in Edmonton's Millcreek Ravine.
- January 21, 2017: The **Archdiocesan Council of the CWL** used part of the service for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity to open their Midwinter Meeting at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish, Sherwood Park.
- January 22, 2017: **Bishop Greg Bittman** joined pastors and leaders from several Christian churches in the Edmonton area at an ecumenical prayer service held at Trinity Lutheran Church, Edmonton.

The service featured a beautiful ecumenical choir, hymns, prayers and preaching around the biblical theme. The service was followed by a time of fellowship in the parish hall, around a beautiful table of 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.





- January 23, 2017: The **Students' Association of Newman Theological College** hosted an ecumenical prayer service to mark the WPCU 2017. The service was organized by the Lay Formation Students of the College and highlighted the Christian diversity of the student population.



➤ **Outdoor Way of the Cross**

The 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 **37th annual Outdoor Way of the Cross** took place on Good Friday April 14, 2017 in Edmonton's inner-city. The theme for this year's event was "The cry of the Earth and the cry of the Poor are one."

➤ Taizé Prayer Events

An increasing form of ecumenical prayer ministry in the Edmonton area is the meditative style of prayer practiced by the monastic community of Taizé, France.



Once a month members of several churches in the Bonnie Doon neighbourhood of Edmonton participate in a **Taizé-style ecumenical prayer** ministry. Different churches take turns hosting an evening of prayer, while a group of musicians leads the local congregation and friends from the neighbourhood in the chants. Typically between 30 and 60 people participate in these prayer evenings.

The participating churches in 2016-2017 were:

- **Sept. 2016: Assumption Catholic**
- Oct. 2016: Robertson-Wesley United
- Nov. 2016: Holyrood Mennonite
- Dec. 2016: Ascension Lutheran
- **Jan. 2017: Resurrection Catholic**
- Feb. 2017: Grace United
- Mar. 2017: All Saints Anglican
- **May 2017: St. Thomas D'Aquin Catholic**
- **June 2017: Assumption Catholic**

The Bonnie Doon group also led Taizé-style prayer evenings this year with the L'Arche community of Edmonton and prayer around the cross on Good Friday evening at the **Providence Renewal Centre**. The Archdiocese covers a licensing fee for printing copyrighted materials associated with this ministry.

Taizé prayers are also held monthly at All Saints Anglican Cathedral, and on the campus of the University of Alberta through a partnership of the chaplaincies at **St. Joseph's College** and St. George's Anglican Church. Occasional prayers are organized at **Newman Theological College**, and at various churches in the Edmonton area.

The Archdiocese thanks all of the Taizé music ministry leaders and 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 **Monthly Pastors' Prayer** meetings at the Marketplace Chapel in the West Edmonton Mall and at Calvary Community Church in Mill Woods.

➤ **Edmonton Ecumenical Peace Network (EEPN)**

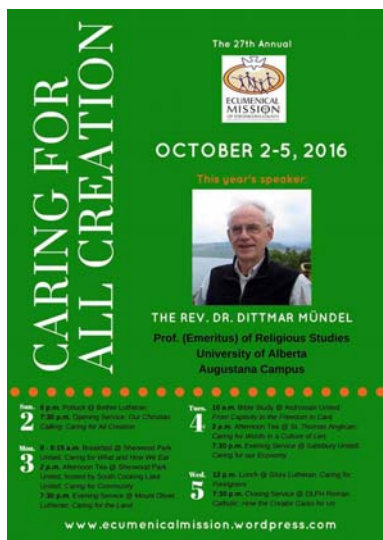
The Edmonton Ecumenical Peace Network organizes an annual candlelight **Prayer Walk for Peace** through downtown Edmonton held during the evening on Remembrance Day (November 11). It follows an interdenominational prayer service usually held at McDougall United Church. The Archdiocese helps to promote this event and is often called upon to lead prayers during the service/walk.

➤ **Edmonton Prayer Breakfast**

Every year the Christian communities of Edmonton organize an **ecumenical prayer breakfast** to pray for God’s protection upon the city, its Mayor and other elected and civic leaders. This is a major undertaking attracting several hundred participants each year. **Special thanks to our Edmonton Catholic Schools for their participation in the planning and sponsoring of this event.**



➤ **Ecumenical Mission of Strathcona County**



The mainline churches of Strathcona County organize an annual **Ecumenical Mission** that features preaching from one of the participating churches. The mission takes place over a four-day period and events take place in the morning, at mid-day and in the evening.

This year’s mission ran from October 2-5, 2016. The mission leader was Dr. Dittmar Mundel who preached on the theme of “Caring for All Creation.”

Julien attended and brought greetings to the worship service held at Salisbury United Church on Tuesday, October 4, 2016.

➤ **World Day of Prayer**

The Archdiocese promotes the annual **World Day of Prayer** (1st Friday in March) organized and prepared by the Women’s Inter-Church Council of Canada (WICC).

The preparatory materials for this year’s World Day of Prayer service brought attention to the reality of Christianity in **The Philippines**. Invited by an ecumenical writing team from

that country, Christians worldwide were invited to reflect on the social justice theme, “Am I Being Unfair to You?”



Many services were held around the Archdiocese, often with the leadership or participation of members of the **Catholic Women’s’ League**.

➤ **Cardinal George Alencherry consecrates St. Alphonsa Church**



It was a truly Indian welcome on for the Major Archbishop of the world's Syro-Malabar Catholics, who came to Edmonton for the consecration of the **St. Alphonsa Syro-Malabar Forane Church**.

Drumming and dancing, decorative red umbrellas shipped from India, children bearing bouquets of flowers, and women

wearing colourful saris met Cardinal George Alencherry on July 29, 2017 as he arrived at the new church building, located at 9120 - 146 Street.

[Click here to read the full story](#)

➤ **Unity Retreat**



International Ecumenist, Rev. Thomas Ryan, CSP, returned to **Providence Renewal Centre** July 21-27, 2017 to facilitate a six-day retreat marking the 500th anniversary of the Protestant Reformation.

Entitled “*Making Jesus' Prayer for Unity Our Own*” this retreat provided fresh historical insight and perspectives, better appreciation for each other’s traditions and practices, plus concrete action proposals for the way forward.

➤ **2017 Bridgefolk Conference**

Julien (and two other members of the Edmonton Mennonite-Catholic Dialogue group) attended the 16th annual Bridgefolk Conference on the theme, *Pilgrimage Toward Christian Unity: Beginning with Baptism*.

The conference was held in Seattle, July 27-30. It marked the first time ever that this grassroots conversation between Mennonites and Catholics has taken place on the west coast.



Hosted by area Mennonites, conference participants gathered on the campus of Seattle University. Sixty persons—thirty-five Mennonites, twenty-one Catholics, and four others—participated in the conference.

[Click here to read the post-conference press release.](#)

➤ **Other Occasions for Spiritual Ecumenism**

- September 1, 2016: Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation – organized by CCODP (On the grounds of the Catholic Campus, Edmonton)
- September 21, 2016: UN International Peace Day (Edmonton City Hall)
- November 14, 2016: St. Stephen’s College 92nd Annual Convocation (Convocation Hall, U of A, Edmonton)
- January 30, 2017: Vigil for the Victims of the Quebec Mosque Shooting; organized by the Alberta Muslim Public Affairs Council (on the steps of the Alberta Legislature)
- February 23, 2017: Kickoff event for Habitat for Humanity’s 2017 Interfaith Works Project; Julien led the opening prayer (HFH Prefab Shop, Edmonton)
- April 26, 2017: Wrap-up event for Habitat for Humanity’s 2017 Interfaith Works Project; Julien led prayer before the meal (Carter Place/Evangel Pentecostal Assembly, 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 our Office:

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

Covenant Health is Canada’s largest Catholic healthcare provider, and is committed to respecting diversity and ensuring inclusive practices within its organization. The



Archdiocese participates in quarterly meetings of their Diversity & Inclusion Committee.

➤ **Capital Region Interfaith Housing Initiative – Steering Committee**

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. In 2016-2027, Julien chaired the CRIHI Steering Committee which met monthly to oversee projects associated with the initiative:



○ **Habitat for Humanity – Interfaith Works Project**

Faith communities are invited to participate as lunch providers, prayer leaders, build-site volunteers or in **Habitat for Humanity’s** Re-store, as part of an annual Interfaith Works Project. This year’s build took place at Carter Place in Edmonton, February 23-April 26, 2017.



○ **Catholic Social Services – Welcome Home Project**

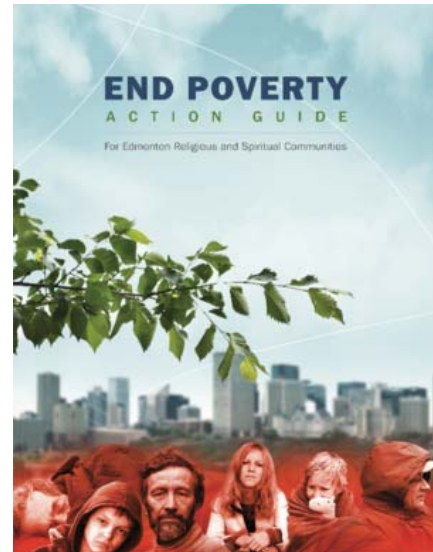
Welcome Home is a volunteer based program, administered by **Catholic Social Services**, that provides companionship to individuals and families making the transition from homelessness to settling into a home.



**CATHOLIC
SOCIAL
SERVICES**

○ End Poverty Edmonton

February 9, 2017, Julien and Steven Defer (Office of Life & Family) attended the launch of “End Poverty Action Guide” for Edmonton at All Saints Cathedral.



○ Homeward Trust

Julien attended two activities organized by Homeward Trust:

- February 24, 2017: City of Edmonton Workshop on Affordable Housing – Updating the City’s Plan to End Homelessness (Boyle Street Plaza, Edmonton)
- April 5, 2017: Community Stakeholders Roundtable on Affordable Housing – Updating the City’s Plan to End Homelessness (Coast Edmonton Plaza Hotel, Edmonton)

➤ No Room in the Inn Collection

No Room in the Inn is an annual ecumenical collection to assist an affordable housing project in the Edmonton area. Parishes are invited to contribute all or a portion of their Christmas Eve offering toward this collection.



This year No Room in the Inn helped to raise over \$76,000 for a shelter in Sherwood Park for women and children escaping from situations of domestic violence.

Several parishes in the Archdiocese are among the congregations that donated money from their Christmas collections to the ecumenical campaign, which is devoted to charities that help alleviate homelessness.

[Click here to read a full story about the 2016 No Room in the Inn campaign.](#)

➤ **Phoenix Multi-Faith Society for Harmony**

The Archdiocese is a member of the Phoenix Multi-Faith Society for Harmony, a non-profit organization dedicated to the promotion of inter-faith cooperation. Its board includes members from the Jewish, Christian and Muslim faiths, as well as the Edmonton Police Services.



On March 16, 2017, board members of the Phoenix Multifaitth Society for Harmony participated in a Diversity Day event, organized and hosted by Edmonton Public Schools.

➤ **Common Language for a Common Concern**

On January 16, 2017, Mr. **Matthew Besko** presented “A Cliff in Front of Us and Wolves Behind” at St. Joseph's College (University of Alberta). Mr. Besko is the Director of Wildlife, Policy Division within the Ministry of Environment and Parks, Government of Alberta. His presentation focused on Pope Francis' encyclical on the environment, *Laudato Si'*, from the perspective of a wildlife policy maker.

➤ **Citizenship & Belonging**

The King's University held their Winter 2017 Interdisciplinary Studies conference entitled “Glorious and Free? Generous Citizenship for the Next 150” on January 18-19, 2017. The conference focused on questions of citizenship and belonging in the context of the 150th anniversary of confederation. Catholic keynote speakers included **Jennifer McIntyre**, Director of Romero House in Toronto, and **William Cavanaugh**, Professor of Catholic Studies and Director of the Center for World Catholicism at DePaul University.

➤ **Interfaith conversation convened by Hon. Kerry Diotte, MP**



Julien participated in an interfaith conversation convened by Hon. Kerry Diotte, MP on Feb. 27, 2017. This was an opportunity to address matters of common concern in the Edmonton Griesbach riding and the contributions made by faith communities in that area to address: homelessness and affordable housing, safe injection sites, issues related to poverty, refugee sponsorship, hate and bias crimes, intercultural and interreligious dialogue, etc.

➤ **Religious Freedoms: A Community Conversation**

Catholic presenters **Bob McKeon** (Professor Emeritus, Newman Theological College) and **Teresa Haykowsky** (a lawyer who specializes in education, labour, and employment) participated in an interfaith event on religious freedom in the Canadian context. This event took place on Saturday, March 18, 2017, at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (9010 85 Street, Edmonton).

➤ **Earth Hour Vigil**

Parishes and other Catholic groups in the Archdiocese were invited to use an ecumenical prayer service prepared by The Roman Catholic – United Church Dialogue to observe International Earth Hour on Saturday, March 25, 2017 at 8:30 p.m. The Roman Catholic – United Church Dialogue sponsored by the **Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops** and The United Church of Canada produced the resources.

➤ **Urban Shalom**

On March 29, 2017, Julien participated in “Urban Shalom”: a meeting with leadership of the World Evangelical Alliance, King’s University faculty members, and community leaders and ecumenical guests (King’s University, Edmonton)

