

Justice, Mission & Outreach Grassroots Engagement Network

Justice, Mission & Outreach Grassroots Engagement Network in the United Church of Canada's Eastern Communities of Faith is a locally rooted, faith-driven network that empowers congregations and community members to embody justice, compassion, and reconciliation through active participation in addressing social, economic, environmental, and spiritual needs.

Vision

A just, compassionate, and inclusive United Church of Canada where communities of faith actively participate in transforming society, uplifting dignity, fostering reconciliation, and nurturing right relationships with all people and creation.

Mission

To equip and mobilize communities of faith in The United Church of Canada East:

- ✚ Practice justice as a core expression of faith
- ✚ Engage in meaningful outreach rooted in local needs
- ✚ Build inclusive, caring, and resilient communities
- ✚ Advocate for systemic change alongside marginalized voices
- ✚ Live out reconciliation with Indigenous peoples and all creation

Core Values

- ✚ Justice and dignity for all
- ✚ Compassion and hospitality
- ✚ Community and belonging
- ✚ Reconciliation and decolonization
- ✚ Stewardship of creation
- ✚ Faith in action

Expected Activities of Churches in the United Church of Canada East.

Move beyond charity only models into **relational, justice-oriented engagement**:

Community Connection & Belonging (Who are our neighbors).

- ✚ Hosting community meals that build relationships not just service delivery
- ✚ Creating safe spaces for newcomers, youth, and isolated individuals
- ✚ Intergenerational programs to reduce loneliness

Justice-Oriented Ministries

- ✚ Advocacy on housing affordability, poverty, and food insecurity
- ✚ Supporting refugees and immigrants with settlement and integration
- ✚ Engaging in communal ministry and restorative justice initiatives
- ✚ Creating diversity, inclusive & intercultural communities of Faith.

Indigenous Reconciliation

- ✚ Learning the history of local Indigenous nations (e.g., Mi'kmaq, Wolastoqey, Peskotomuhkati)
- ✚ Supporting Indigenous-led initiatives
- ✚ Practicing land acknowledgments with action not just words.

Environmental Stewardship

- ✚ Community gardens and food sovereignty projects
- ✚ Climate justice advocacy and education
- ✚ Sustainable church practices; energy, waste reduction, etc.

Spiritual & Educational Formation

- ✚ Bible studies focused on justice, peace, and liberation theology
- ✚ Workshops on anti-racism, equity, and inclusion
- ✚ Youth engagement in justice leadership

Partnerships & Collaboration

- ✚ Cluster Collaboration
- ✚ Communities of Faith collaboration and shared ministries.
- ✚ Working with NGOs, municipalities, and other faith groups
- ✚ Ecumenical and interfaith justice initiatives
- ✚ Supporting regional and national justice campaigns

Important Shift to Emphasize

This is key in our practices:

- ✚ From **charity** → **justice**
- ✚ From **doing for** → **doing with**
- ✚ From **programs** → **relationships**
- ✚ From **institutional control** → **community empowerment**
- ✚ From **we have been doing it this way** → **what we should do it now.**
- ✚ From **tradition** → **mission** (*Church in a Global Village*)
- ✚ From **decline** → **growth**