**Conference Call Notes**

**Commission on Justice and Peace**June 4 2014

Present: Mike Hogeterp (Chair-CRCNA), Joy Kennedy (CCC), Grant Effer (SA), Jennifer Lucking (RCA), Paul Gehrs (ELCIC), Joanne Beach (C&MA), Henriette Thompson (ACC), Bill Janzen (MCC), Barbara Lloyd (UCC), Kathy Vandergrift (CRCNA), Kyle Ferguson (CCCB), Patrick Fletcher (CCCB), Jim Champ (SA), Jessica McKeachie (SA), Stephen Allen (PCC), Joe Gunn (CPJ), Peter Noteboom (CCC), John Siebert (PP), Jonathan Schmidt (CCFGM), Siobhan Rowan KAIROS)

Regrets: Das Sydney (CCC-VP), Keith Helmuth (Friends), Norine Gullens (ELCIC), Stewart Hunter (PAOC)

1. **Welcome and Opening**Joanne Beach, a representative from the Christian & Missionary Alliance was welcomed. The Christian & Missionary Alliance has observer status with the CCC.

Opening Prayer led by Mike Hogeterp

Joy clarified her role which has now changed. With Peter’s illness she picked up a role as coordinator for the Faith and Public Life work during the May Governing Board. Currently she is helping to coordinate the 70th anniversary assembly as the Special Events Coordinator.

Agenda was reviewed and approved. Several updates on low and medium priority items are described in the agenda but will not be addressed specifically during this call.

Special note was taken of the scheduled 70th Anniversary Assembly November 17-21, 2014. The Commission on Justice and Peace will meet from Tuesday the 18th through to noon on Wednesday the 19th.

Selecting renewed leadership for the Commission on Justice and Peace is a priority for the November meeting. Interested members should contact Mike and Joy directly.

1. **Climate Justice***a. Framing Principles for Climate, Energy and the Economy*The formulation of these principles was done by the Climate Justice Working Group to respond to what seemed to be a gap in the public discourse about climate change and its relationship to energy policies and the environment. The idea was that if we could identify principles that help us think through decisions and developments as they arise, this could be a helpful complement to a letter that may focus more on Canada’s international profile. This work is intended to strengthen the discussion as it is played out in the domestic arena in Canada.

We could advance the discussion of these principles by approving the text in the Fall. It has been sent out now for information and consultation, now we need to decide if we would like to advance to its adoption as a consensus statement. At its May meeting the Governing Board expressed its appreciation for a principled approach to climate justice.

Henriette: The draft is good, and I am now at the stage where we are at a critical mass having gone through some fresh experiences that create the space for us to engage this a little more actively. Receiving this with good appreciation, and we need time to dig in more deeply.

Patrick: we also need a bit more time to reflect and work on it internally, perhaps strengthen the theological basis and the proclamation of the Gospel. Question: where can churches as churches actually get together to talk more about this topic and exchange points of view?

Barbara: Yes, we should move ahead on the statement, and we’d like to see this collectively advance our work, as a touchstone to grow from and elaborate on for a collective and for singular voices along the way.

Stephen: I appreciate the work and thinking that has gone into this. I haven’t had time to dig into it deeply, and we will want to take it to my Advisory Committee.

***Proposal: we pursue the forum consensus process, considering carefully the timeline necessities of all member churches.***
A question at the Governing Board is that even if there isn’t full adoption as a working document, it can also be useful reference point for ongoing work. Is there any status short of full adoption? Can it be used as a working document? If we are within days on a pipeline decision for example, can it be used as a working draft? Using it will allow us to test and refine it.

Pieces within the document can be used and re-articulated without sharing the whole document. We need to be careful not to get ahead of ourselves. Can we give permission to members to extrapolate pieces of it for further use. Yes, be open to drawing on these principles without formal attribution at this stage.

Regarding the consensus process, it can start now, and finish in the Fall. Beginning the consensus process does not presume agreement.

Kyle: It might still be helpful, even prior to the project, that there is a forum where churches sit down and try to understand each other’s perspectives on the issues.

Joy: this could be included as part of the process, a thorough consultation would be good. And… how it will happen is something we need to wrestle with.

***Return the document to the working group to propose some milestones and a process toward the Fall.***
*b. 10 Proposed Church Actions for Climate Justice*Joe Gunn highlighted the 10 points menu along with the context of the September climate summit meetings at the UN in New York. Henriette noted that she will bring these 10 points to her upcoming committee meeting on the topic. Bill expressed support for them as a whole. Barbara: lots of good ideas here. She will also take these to staff members who are doing work on this topic.

Joe: Please take these ideas back to your committees and office, then respond by the end of June with what you have learned. Many of these ideas can be used also well beyond the September events.

*c. May Governing Board Meetings in Ottawa*The climate panel was very well received. Many questions were raised and a helpful, frank exchange occurred. There was a lot of value in the conversation with experts. These kinds of events can and should be replicated. John Stone (Carleton University) and Claire Demerse (Pembina) made substantial presentations, the texts of their presentation are available upon request.

Governing Board members met with political party leaders, MPs, staff from the Prime Minister’s Office and other government officials. Governing Board members continue to express appreciation for the opportunity to engage in the practice of faith in public life, specifically related to the topics of climate justice, human trafficking, and religious freedom this year.

1. **Poverty in Canada**The *Dignity for All* report is due to be released on October 17. This will be essentially a consultation, not a public media event.

Tentative support was expressed for a consultation prior to its release… members will confirm their support for the event with Peter by the end of the week. He will then coordinate a convenient date and possibly a virtual connection to bring in people from a distance.
2. **Indigenous Rights**The Canadian Council of Churches Expression of Reconciliation, delivered at the Alberta National Event of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission in March was– eloquent statement that was a product of a lot careful reflection and negotiation. The statement included some commitment statements that come back to us. Mike reiterated the commitments made in the Expression and the need for the Commission to act on them.

It is possible that the KAIROS blanket exercise will be included in the 70th Anniversary Assembly. TRC Commissioner Marie Wilson will also be invited as a keynote person at the event.

Stephen: Wonderful statement that the President of the Council made. The question for the Council of Churches generally as the Governing Board: what does that commitment look like over the next few years? What is possible in light of the CCC’s capacity? The Council as a body, how will the leadership advance these issues? Having made the commitment, the next step is identifying what is desirable and possible when the GB meets in November.

Barbara: How will the CCC make a unique contribution above and beyond the many other efforts that are underway and working on the same goal? The importance of non-indigenous people to bear witness to the range of issues… an added voice to voices already speaking. This will deserve focused agenda time at the next CJP meeting and the next GB meeting.
3. **Peace and Disarmament**John Siebert, Executive Director of Project Ploughshares noted that they are grateful for a successful move to the campus of Conrad Grebel college. They are in beautiful new space in the Centre for Peace Advancement in the new building addition. More new partnerships will likely be happening as a result.

Grateful for collaborative work on nuclear non-proliferation at the recent Non Proliferation Treat (NPT) talks in New York. There is a movement to more closely align non-proliferation and humanitarian movements and agendas.

40 states have signed and ratified the Arms Trade Treaty. 50 are required for the treaty to come into force. Canada is not among the signatories. It could take years for Canada to join the ATT.

Internally to Project Ploughshares, a strategic planning process is underway that several CJP members are participating in.

Joy also reported that many delegations raised the importance of the Arms Trade Treaty during meetings in Ottawa. We stressed the deadline for sign-on.

Stephen: Our General Assembly voted to send a letter to Minister Baird regarding the Arms Trade Treaty. The correspondence raised the question of a technical review. Nothing has yet been released regarding the release of the technical review.

1. **Human Trafficking**The CJP’s Human Trafficking in Canada Working Group has been closely monitoring developments related to the new prostitution legislation. During the call itself the announcement was made regarding Bill C-36, *The Protection of Communities and Exploited Persons Act* has been made. Jennifer Lucking, Chair of the Human Trafficking in Canada Working Group and CJP member has been reviewing the document in real time. At first glance she says she is happily surprised. Jennifer summarized the main points of the legislation that have been published so far. The Human Trafficking in Canada Working Group will continue to monitor developments closely.
2. **Other Agenda items**Time had elapsed, and so there was no time to address any remaining items. Please see the agenda for details on developments that did not get attention during the call.
3. **Adjournment**Next Meeting November 18 and 19, 2014 during the 70th Anniversary Assembly.

The Working Group will be likely supporting the announcement and addressing any concerns we may have.

They are looking for a statement of support or quote from us. A consultation will occur with the Working group

Acknowledge their outreach, then that they have heard concerns brought forward.

The Human Trafficking group will be convening shortly to prepare a response. Commission members are invited to join in on that process.

Thanks to Jennifer for her and the working group’s contribution. Good opportunity for making a significant contribution.

Faith and Genetics
Peter informed the group of a shift in strategies from congregational outreach to public, ecumenical events organized locally, beginning in Toronto.

Refugees
Bill C-585 update… the bill won’t come up now until the Fall now that the new House schedule has been released. Keep those interested in refugee issues to be aware and vigilant regarding this issue.

Health Care
Joy and Peter provided background to the question, Barbara Lloyd spoke up in support. Stephen: good idea, but maybe not possible. Part of the experience was that by meeting regularly we could learn about the issues and communicate effectively to our membership and to the politicians and civil servants that we meet. It is vital, but we don’t have enough broad support now. If there is interest apart from that network. The Canadian health Coalition is a good location to pursue this work as well.