

Report of the Partners in Mission (PIM) Committee to Niagara Synod 2016

Several exciting developments and events have happened with our Companion Diocese Relationship with Cuba since our last Diocesan Synod.

Bermejas: In January the rebuilt Church in Bermejas was re-consecrated. St. George's Guelph had raised most of the money for the rebuilding and two of St. George's parishioners: Alayna and Shastyn Griffin were able to fly down and attend the consecration.

World Day of Prayer: This year the International World Day of Prayer focused on Cuba. The entire liturgy reflected the Church in Cuba. Because of a request for speakers for World Day of Prayer Services, the PIM committee developed a Video resource for use within the diocese.

Justice Camp: Much work was done especially in Niagara by Bill Mous and Christyn Perkons (along with Anglican Church of Canada, PWRDF and Cuban Planning team members) in preparation for the International Justice Camp held in Cuba April 30th to May 7th. The camp brought together 25 Canadians and 25 Cubans. Immersion experiences included Economic Justice, Food Security and Social Engagement. There is much to learn about the experience on the website justicecamp.ca

Visit by Archdeacon Andreis and Marcela: On May 15th Dean Cormack was priested and we were delighted to see both the Ven. Andreis Diaz Dorta and his wife, Marcela who journeyed from Cuba to attend the ordination. Dean had spent time with them in Cuba. Also Andreis and Marcela were both very involved in the recent Justice Camp in Cuba.

At General Synod: (July 7th to 12th) Cuban Bishop Griselda Delgado del Carpio,, husband, Gerardo, Dr. Pepe Bringas and his wife Olga were present as observers and presenters. On the Friday they made an hour-long presentation to the whole of General Synod. On the Monday, they hosted a lunch forum with Q&A. Stuart Pike acted as the translator for both events, as well as for the group during most of the rest of General Synod.

Water Project: Following General Synod a meeting with the four Cubans, members of PIM and John Page (a Justice Camp Participant) put together the start of an exciting new major project in Cuba: Bringing water purification systems into Parishes that need them. These systems in rural Cuba supply fresh water not only for parishioners, but for the entire village, greatly improving the health of the whole community. Watch for ways that your parish will be able to be involved in making a difference in this way.

PIM "Celebrating Mission Day": PIM will be organizing a day in early 2017 where parishes can "show and tell" about the ways they are involved in mission partnerships so we can learn from and encourage each other.

Respectfully submitted,
The Reverend Canon Stuart Pike