



CCSAC NEWSLETTER

CENTRETOWN CHURCHES SOCIAL
ACTION COMMITTEE

July 2021

Executive:

Chair: Kristine Burr
Vice-Chair: Emmy Verdun
Secretaries: Elizabeth Demaray &
Mary Mussell
Treasurer: Janet Rivers
Communications & Newsletter
Editors: Mary Mussell &
Lorna Kingston
Facebook Coordinator: Anisha Eipe

Member Churches:

Blessed Sacrament
Canadian Martyrs
Centretown United
Christ Church Cathedral
Church of the Ascension
Dominion-Chalmers United
Eglise unie St-Marc
First Baptist
Fourth Avenue Baptist
Glebe-St. James United
Knox Presbyterian
Quaker Ottawa Meeting
St. Andrew's Presbyterian
St. Barnabas Anglican
St. Giles Presbyterian
St. John the Evangelist Anglican
St. Matthew's Anglican
St. Patrick's Basilica
St. Peter's Lutheran
St. Peter & St. Paul's Anglican
St. Teresa's Roman Catholic
Southminster United
Trinity Anglican

Our Mission:

To unite Christians of all
denominations through joint
participation in social projects and
prayer.

Get in Touch!

We would love to hear from you!
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www.centretownchurches.org

Summer Health and Hygiene Initiative

In May and June CCSAC's Outreach Committee took on a new project to provide health and hygiene supplies to a youth shelter and two drop-in centres located in downtown Ottawa. The Committee recognized an opportunity for outreach when the city's closure of many public buildings due to COVID created a problem for vulnerable persons who use these places for personal hygiene. Haven Too, Centre 507 and Ottawa Inncity Ministries all appreciated receiving a generous supply of toiletries, water bottles and other small comforts! The Committee is already thinking about a second initiative in the autumn!



CCSAC's Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of CCSAC was held via Zoom on April 21. There were 42 members and guests in attendance, which included 8 clergy from our member churches. Rev. Karen Dimock, minister at St. Andrew's Presbyterian, opened the meeting in prayer.

Guest speaker Diana Mahaffy, Manager of the Centretown Emergency Food Centre (CEFC), shared biographical details as well as work and volunteer experiences at the Parkdale Food Bank, Gracefield Christian Camp and Retreat Centre, Centre 507 and St. Stephen's Presbyterian Church. She began her new job at the CEFC in November 2020. She described the many challenges of dealing with the COVID crisis and the impact of Kerry Kaiser's death on the volunteers. Diana observed how quickly the CEFC was able to adapt to the situation and make effective changes that were both difficult and inspiring. She is planning to implement a new "Client Shopping Model" in the future which will give clients more choice and autonomy when selecting food items.

In her report as CCSAC Chair, Kristine Burr thanked Allison Dingle for her leadership in overseeing the CEFC's operation during the months until Diana Mahaffy became the new manager. In addition, Kristine noted community outreach projects during the year, including sleeping bags for the homeless and a financial donation to the Community Laundry Co-op.

Msgr. Kevin Beach of St. Patrick's Basilica offered words and prayers to install the new officers for CCSAC and CEFC. Pastor Joel Crouse of St. Peter's Lutheran gave the closing prayer.

New Clergy at CCSAC Churches!



Southminster United

Rev. Dr. Steven Moore has been their full-time minister since October 1, 2019. He was formerly a chaplain in the Canadian Armed Forces for 22 years and later served in various roles with the Ottawa Presbytery.



St. Matthew's Anglican

Rev. Geoffrey Chapman arrived in April 2020. After receiving a Masters of Divinity and Master of Arts in Religion degrees, he was ordained to the priesthood in the Diocese of Montreal. In Ottawa, he served as the Incumbent of Epiphany Anglican Church.



First Baptist

Rev. Dr. John Perkin became their new minister in July 2020. Formerly, he was the University Chaplain at Mount Allison University in New Brunswick and Adjunct Professor of Religious Studies. He holds degrees in History, Philosophy and International Relations.



St. Giles Presbyterian

Rev. Paul Wu graduated in 2007 with a Masters of Divinity degree from Knox College in Toronto. He was an active member of the Presbytery of Montreal where he served as the minister at the Taiwanese Robert Campbell Presbyterian church.



St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran

Pastor Joel Crouse was ordained in 1997 after graduating with a Master's degree in theology from Waterloo Lutheran Seminary. Before coming to Ottawa, he was the minister at Zion Lutheran Church in Pembroke.



Dominion Chalmers United

Rev. Andrew Love is an ordained minister with the United Church of Canada and also a military chaplain in the Canadian Armed Forces. Prior to his arrival at Dominion Chalmers in November 2020 he served in a number of congregations in Eastern Ontario. He has also been active in multi-faith initiatives for over ten years.



St. John the Evangelist Anglican

Rev. Gary van der Meer became their new rector in February 2021. He has degrees from the University of Toronto and York University, studied theology at Trinity College and was ordained in 1993. In 2018, he was appointed Interfaith Officer for the Anglican Diocese of Toronto.

John Pedersen's Award

John Pedersen, longtime CCSAC rep from St. Peter's Lutheran Church, received a 2020 Ontario Volunteer Service Award on February 9. This award recognizes volunteers for providing committed and dedicated service to an organization. Congratulations John!