

# **Wolfville Area Inter-Church Council**

## **President's Report**

11 May 2016

It was an honour to have been your President for the past two years and I am glad to report that the Wolfville Area Inter-Church Council (WAICC) has been flourishing during this time. We should be grateful for those representatives who have taken the responsibility of representing their churches at each of the Council's monthly meetings. Recently, whilst looking along the Council table, it came to mind that we have some of the best minds and leadership within our congregations.

Of course, WAICC is also composed of many volunteers, some long-term and others for specific responsibilities, to perform herculean tasks and projects of the Council. For instance, there are approximately 90 volunteers who help with the WAICC Food Bank, and approximately 50 others who are assisting with the WAICC Refugee Committee. To both the council representatives and the volunteers we give hearty and prayerful thanks.

WAICC has been very active in our communities presenting services to those who are in need of some sort, and showing that our churches, along with those of our communities, take seriously the ministry of Christ to others. On the other hand, we were sorry to learn of the closing of the Atlantic Ecumenical Council earlier this year. We were charter members of this Council. A certificate has been sent to us to mark this part of our ecumenical history.

The Council, of course, initiates and coordinates the above-mentioned activities, and the church representatives take on the responsibility of meeting regularly to discuss, plan, organize and carry out what they agree needs to be done. It is thrilling to see that the greater communities appreciate and join with us in these projects. Meetings like this can seem a burden, but the spirit is refreshing and invigorating for each of us.

The Food Bank takes much of our finances and is wisely used. There is much more than groceries that are provided to families in need. Other supplies are also shared, and simple advice is offered for domestic concerns. The Food Bank, as we continue to call it, is extremely well accepted and supported by the wider community. We would be a much lesser community without it, and this is well recognized.

The Refugee Committee has been a scene of great activity this year as we sponsor two refugee families, one which has already arrived and seem well established, and another soon to arrive amongst us. We would be almost speechless if we attempted to describe the fullness of our gratitude to the volunteers who are seeing this project through to completion.

The Habitat for Humanity group has erected a new home and a family is gratefully residing within it. Another home is now planned for Greater Halifax. Through this group we might remember the former Inter-Church Housing Society and the project that built over \$2,000,000 of Hearth Homes in our vicinity.

The Clergy Committee also meets regularly and lately have taken on all the planning of the various ecumenical worship services such as the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity and Good Friday. We are grateful to the congregations who host these services for all of us.

The Planning Committee also meets when required four or five times a year and propose programmes for the Council and the public meetings we organize.

Because of the increasing activities of the Council and growth of the projects we already maintain, we are investigating the possibility of incorporation in order to protect the actual church representatives appointed to the Council. Although it is a sad reflection upon contemporary society, the risk is increasing for individuals of an unincorporated society to be sued because of accident or misadventure. Incorporation would limit such action against the Council itself rather than to the individual members comprising the Council.

We wish to recognize and extend our sincere thanks to the Executive: our Treasurer, two Assistant Treasurers, and our two Secretaries who faithfully report and record our financial standing and business. They also play the leading role in the raising of funds so we may continue our projects. As we may see in the Treasurer's reports and the proposed Budget for the coming year, we step out in faith that people will respond, as they so generously have done these past 45 years.

It is a pleasure to present this report and to pass on this magnificent work of the Council to those who will follow.

Roger H. Prentice  
President.