



JUSTICE SUMMIT 2024

RENEWAL IN THE NEIGHBOURHOOD



NOVEMBER 1-2
IMMANUEL BAPTIST | TRURO, NS

JUSTICE SUMMIT 2024 SCHEDULE

Friday November 1

5:30 pm	Registration Open
6:00–8:00 pm	United Way Poverty Simulation
8:00–9:00 pm	Main Session
9:00–9:30 pm	Coffee and Dessert

Saturday November 2

8:30am	Doors Open, Coffee available
9:00–9:30 am	Welcome and Rally
9:30–10:30 am	Workshop 1
10:30–11:00 am	Break
11:00–12:00 pm	Workshop 2
12:00–1:00 pm	LUNCH
1:00–1:50 pm	Panel Discussion
1:50–3:30 pm	Ideas Lab
3:30–3:45 pm	Coffee Break
3:45–5:00 pm	Main Session 2

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

"The CBAC recognizes that no people and no buildings can exist without land to support and uphold them. Prior to the founding of our denomination or any of our churches, before the beginning of any of the Atlantic provinces, or the dominion of Canada – this land was entrusted by the Creator to the Mi'kmaw, Wəlastəkwewiyik, Peskotomuhkati, Penobscot, Innu, and Inuit nations as well as the former Beothuk nation. Many of our churches exist in unceded territory, and we, as a predominantly settler body, are governed by treaties with the First Peoples of this land. In the spirit of Truth and Reconciliation, and with the guidance of the United Nations Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous People, we acknowledge these lands and their Indigenous custodians and we recognize ourselves as treaty people. As Baptists of Atlantic Canada, we seek to walk in a good way upon the land that sustains us, and alongside our Indigenous neighbours and hosts."

SPONSORS

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BOOK RECOMMENDATIONS

FROM OUR FRIENDS IN MISSION, ATLANTIC BAPTIST WOMEN



General Resources

- Seed Falling on Good Soil: Rooting Our Lives in the Parables of Jesus by Gordon W. King (2016)
- Jesus and the Disinherited by Howard Thurman (1976)
- The Other Side of Hope: Flipping the Script on Cynicism and Depair and Rediscovering Our Humanity by Danielle Strickland (2022)
- Defiant: What the Women of Exodus Teach Us About Freedom by Kelley Nikondeha (2020)
- The First Advent in Palestine: Reversals, Resistance, and the Ongoing Complexity of Hope by Kelley Nikondeha (2022)
- Faith-Rooted Organizing: Mobilizing the Church in Service to the World by Alexia Salvatierra and Peter Heltzel (2014)
- Friendship at the Margins: Discovering Mutuality in Service and Mission by Christopher L. Heuertz and Christine D. Pohl (2010)

Anti-Racism and Indigenous-Settler Relations

- Recovering Racists: Dismantling White Supremacy and Reclaiming our Humanity by Idelette McVicker (2022)
- This Here Flesh: Spirituality, Liberation, and the Stories That Make Us by Cole Arthur Riley (2022)
- Truth Telling: Seven Conversations About Indigenous Life in Canada by Michelle Good (2023)
- Our Home and Treaty Land by Raymond C. Aldred and Matthew R. Anderson (2024)

- True Reconciliation: How to Be a Force for Change by Jody Wilson-Raybould (2022)
- Out of the Depths: The Experiences of Mi'kmaw Children at the Indian Residential School at Shubenacadie, Nova Scotia by Isabelle Knockwood (2015)
- Buffalo Shout, Salmon Cry: Conversations on Creation, Land Justice, and Life Together by Steve Heinrichs (ed.), (2013)
- Dear White Peacemakers: Dismantling Racism with Grit and Grace by Osheta Moore (2021)

Disability Justice

- My Body is Not a Prayer Request: Disability Justice in the Church by Amy Kenny (2022)

Ecology and Climate Change

- Saving Us: A Climate Scientist's Case for Hope and Healing in a Divided World by Katherine Hayhoe (2022)
- The Understory: An Invitation to Rootedness and Resilience from the Forest Floor by Lore Ferguson Wilbert (2024)
- Planted: A Story of Creation, Calling, and Community by Leah Kostamo (2013)
- Making Peace with the Land: God's Call to Reconcile with Creation by Fred Bahnson and Norman Wirzba (2012)

IDEAS LAB

Over the next several pages you will find tools for personal, and communicable discernment, as well as practical brainstorming and planning. If you have come with a team that already has a well-defined 'Holy Action' underway or in mind, we invite you to skip to section 3, Part 3.

If you are still discerning what God may be calling you or your church to, start here!

Part 1: Scripture Reflection

Reflect on the following prompts with your church team or table group.

ISAIAH 61:1-4 (NIV)

- 1 The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is on me,
because the Lord has anointed me
to proclaim good news to the poor.
He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted,
to proclaim freedom for the captives
and release from darkness for the prisoners,
- 2 to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor
and the day of vengeance of our God,
to comfort all who mourn,
- 3 and provide for those who grieve in Zion—
to bestow on them a crown of beauty
instead of ashes,
the oil of joy
instead of mourning,
and a garment of praise
instead of a spirit of despair.
They will be called oaks of righteousness,
a planting of the Lord
for the display of his splendor.
- 4 They will rebuild the ancient ruins
and restore the places long devastated;
they will renew the ruined cities
that have been devastated for generations.

Who are the poor, the broken-hearted, those who are mourning, or those who carry a spirit of despair in your midst? What places and spaces do you see these people? (locally or globally)

What does God promise for these people and places you've named?

What might Renewal look like in your neighbourhood? How does it start? What does it become?

PRAY: Thank God for the promises named in this scripture. Ask that He would give you (and your group) a vision for what renewal could look like, in your personal spiritual life, in your church community, your neighbourhood, and the world beyond.

Part 2: Personal Discernment

“The Passions Audit” [Adapted from 3dm Europe]

Prayerfully move through the following exercise on your own. Take your time, and listen to the Spirit as you move along. We recommend taking 20 minutes for this activity (4 minutes per circle).

“The place God calls you to is the place where your deep gladness and the worlds’ deep hunger meet.” – Frederick Buechner

Passions

What has your attention right now?
What energizes or excites you?
What person or people group do you
feel a particular burden for?

Discontents

As you think about your community,
neighbourhood, city, province, nation,
or world, what injustices most saddens
you? Grieves you? Angers you?

Needs

Where do you see needs that intersect with your passion and discontent?
What are the needs that cause you to feel deeply?

Opportunities

In your current context, where, how, and with whom do you have opportunity to express God's deepest longings for this world?
[Shalom, wholeness, rightness, just relationships, just systems]
Who might God be inviting you to be in solidarity with?
In what ways specifically?
How? Where?

Wisdom

As you consider these opportunities, what words of challenge or encouragement have you received from God and others?

Part 3: Communal Discernment

Section 1 - From Passion to Opportunity

DISCUSS: Using your personal Discernment work as the foundation, Share these opportunities with your church team or table. Once everyone has shared, notice what resonates with the group.

A. Make a List of the Passions and Needs that have been named by the group.

B. Make a list of the opportunities that have been named by the group.

C. Where do you see natural connections?

PRAY: Take a few minutes to pray as a team, table, or smaller group. Offer these needs, opportunities, and connections to God, and ask him to begin to highlight to your team one or two specific areas to focus on.

FOCUS: Decide as a team how you will proceed for the rest of this Lab. Will your church team work with one idea? Will you group into subgroups and develop 2-3 of your strongest ideas? Will you continue on individually?

Section 2: From Service to Solidarity

REFLECT: As you consider the opportunity the spirit is highlighting to you, let's begin by checking our motivations, assumptions, and the structural issues at play. This ground work will help frame yours and your church's "holy action."

1. Bringing awareness to patterns of dehumanization (Personal Journal Response)

Personal Journal: Considering the opportunity I (we) have identified, in what areas might I be continuing to dehumanize (or superhumanize) the people or group at hand? Ask: Holy Spirit, how can I begin to see the people or group at hand as your imago dei, Image of God, as an equal to myself?

2. Bringing awareness to structural injustice

Considering the opportunity that I (we) have identified;

- list the individuals and groups in the system that have oppressed, created injustice, and inequality.*
- identify the systemic forces and assumptions that are at play.*

Individuals / Groups that have caused injustice

Ongoing systemic forces at play

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3. Where am I, and where is our church, an ongoing part of the problem? [Where do I allow injustice to persist in my workplace, community, family; where is injustice present in our church?]

4. Discuss and Pray: Discuss these observations with your team.

Then take space to pray; repent for where you and your church have been and continue to be part of the problem. Ask God to clarify a new path forward. Ask for his power to guide you. Take space to listen for words, whisperings, scripture, etc. that he may be speaking to you, your team, table, or small group.

Section 3: Cultivating a Response

1. **BRAINSTORM:** There are multiple ways to solve a problem, and ranges of approaches to respond to injustice. As you consider the opportunity at hand, perhaps the specific area of injustice that you feel burdened with, consider: **What are some possibilities, ideas, initiatives, or action steps we could take that would make a difference? What could we do that might bring about positive change? [connect your needs & opportunities work, but begin to clarify and get more specific]**

2. Summarize into a clear 'big picture' statement:

What do we hope to see? (vision)

How do we plan to bring that hope to life? (strategy)

3. Consider, what would be the wins of this approach (in what areas might this approach right injustice?). What might be the shortcomings (in what ways might this approach perpetuate injustice / oppression / existing power dynamics)?

Wins

Shortcomings

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4. As you consider the opportunity at hand, ask: What is it that I bring to this response? List your personal assets, skills, strengths.

5. What is it that our church brings? List your church's strengths and weaknesses as it pertains to this.

6. What pre-existing connections, partnerships, relationships, resources, or people do we have in our church network that could be part of making this idea a reality?

7. Is this opportunity or dream already in line with my church's vision, mission, budget priorities? In what ways specifically?

8. What are we missing? What do we need? What do we need to learn more about before we continue?

9. Who are the stakeholders involved at a macro and micro level? [ie. Church leadership, local government, local partners, etc.]

9. Pause and seek feedback:

10. What do we need to change, expand, rethink based on the feedback we received?

FOR MORE RESOURCES:

- Neighborhood Assessment Workbook Available online at CBACyf.ca
- “5 Conversions from Service to Solidarity” at Center for Action and Contemplation
- Community Tool Box - <https://ctb.ku.edu/en>

POST EVENT CONVERSATIONS

Have this conversation on your drive home, or schedule a debrief meeting post event!

- 1. Coming away from the event, what specific justice issues are most compelling to your team?**
 - What has you most excited?**
 - What can you see most clearly in your local context?**
 - What does your team feel God is collectively inviting you into?**

- 2. Consider your pre-event work, discernment work, and 'Ideas Lab' work - What needs / issues do you now feel most equipped to respond to? Does this match your enthusiasm? Resources? Existing Church culture?**

- 3. What follow up resources will help us move from dream to reality?**
[Recommended CBAC Resources: CBAC Housing Resource, Mission Edge Resource, Neighborhood Assessment Workbook, UnStuck, Launch]

4. What are your 3 priorities in the next 90 days?

5. What are your 3 priorities in the next 6 months?

6. What are your top 3 goals in the next 12 months?
