***Poverty in Canada 2015 Program One-Pager
Poverty in Canada Working Group, Commission on Justice and Peace***

***November 2014***

***Prepared by Peter Noteboom***

**Introduction**For the 2012-15 CJP Program Plan, Poverty in Canada is the #2 priority for the Commission. In Sept 2014 the Program Plan was updated to reflect work completed (not much) and proposals for 2014 and 2015. This brief one-pager summarizes what is proposed for the 2015 program. At this CJP meeting, we will want to confirm the direction of this 2015 program.

*Policy: Dignity for All Report*The Canadian Council of Churches is on record advocating for a Federal Act to end Poverty in Canada, a national action plan that complements and strengthens provincial and territorial plans. The CCC has endorsed the Dignity for All campaign. After several policy summits on food, labour, housing and homelessness, and health care, for example, Dignity for All is ready to release a comprehensive policy report in January 2015. The Poverty in Canada Working Group proposes to animate, shape, communicate, point to, and invite reflection on the report, especially for church and community members. This would be a call to engage in citizenship, a critical part of Christian discipleship, and could include church leaders modelling engagement: visiting a food bank (that they might like to see close!), speaking with an MP, signing a petition, for example.

*Federal Election: Education and Civic Awareness*

KAIROS has begun a process to inquire whether or not KAIROS, Project Ploughshares, Citizens for Public Justice and The Canadian Council of Churches might like to prepare a shared Federal election resource. The Poverty in Canada Working Group will contribute the section on Poverty in Canada.

*Vision: A More Generous and More Fair Canada @ 150*We propose to consider soliciting written, theological contributions every 6 months beginning in 2015 that would have a devotional character, be social media ready, and available for church bulletins and as sermon reflections. We would want to translate the vision piece into an animated, audio-visual productions too that can also be used for sermons and in church education sessions.

*Other Possibilities to Keep in Mind*It may be possible to link Climate and Poverty issues as the #1 and #2 priorities of the CJP through a church leaders’ tour or some other series of programmed events to engage faith communities in 2015 together with other CJP partners.

The Governing Board meets again in Ottawa May 13-15 2015, and a new Triennium will begin, also for the CJP.

The Truth and Reconciliation Commission releases their report with a series of activities May 30 – June 2 in Ottawa.

*CJP Members who have participated in Poverty in Canada Working Group meetings*

Barbara Lloyd (UCC), Jessica McKeachie (SA), Sara Hildenbrand (Millennium Kids and C&MA), Janelle Vandergrift (CPJ), and Peter Noteboom. Other members include Murray MacAdam (Anglican) and Kathy Vandergrift (CRCNA).