

KAIROS

2012 Annual Report

FAITHFUL ACTION FOR JUSTICE

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Message from the Board Chair



When Jesus enters Jerusalem a few days before his death, people spontaneously join the Jesus parade. The presence of

Christ brings joy and transforms lives; it is to be celebrated. Of course, joining the Jesus parade also means loving enemies, working for justice, giving, sharing and discovering a willingness to lose your life in order to save it; this parade heads to the cross. Good thing God is with us.

Some important people object to all the noise about peace and heaven. The image of “shouting stones” seems ever relevant to the call to seek justice: when there is injustice, God will act. The justice initiatives we do through KAIROS are part of God’s work. If we don’t do this work, God will find another way to get it done. I find this reality to be both humbling and invigorating.

On May 7, 2012, KAIROS gathered for a “Celebration of New Ministry.” It was a time of celebration of Jennifer Henry’s new role as Executive Director, and of thanksgiving for the many, many people who are a part of KAIROS. It was a time of worship, intended to ground us in faith as we move forward.

Gathered in worship, we declared KAIROS’ Mission with a loud voice:

In all that we do as KAIROS, we are rooted in faith. We pray for theological courage. We are connected to the work and witness of churches. We are part of global movements for social transformation. We uphold the dignity and rights of all peoples. We seek sustainability for all communities and for the whole earth. We pray to be deep and focused in our pursuit of God’s vision. Working together, we amplify and strengthen our witness. Et qu’est-ce que le Seigneur réclame de toi, rien d’autre qu’agir avec justice, aimer avec tendresse, et accompagner humblement ton Dieu.

We promised “to work with KAIROS in seeking justice through education, advocacy and action; to support and pray for Jennifer Henry in her role as Executive Director; and to renew our commitment to transform the world.”

The whole multitude of the disciples began to praise God joyfully with a loud voice for all the deeds of power that they had seen, saying,

“Blessed is the [one] who comes in the name of the Lord!

Peace in heaven, and glory in the highest heaven!”

Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to [Jesus], “Teacher, order your disciples to stop.”

He answered, “I tell you, if these were silent, the stones would shout out.”

(Luke 19:37–40)

And we prayed, “May God who has given us the desire to do these things, faithfully support and encourage us.”

This ecumenical service was one of the best experiences of my life. At the same time, I spent the days before and after profoundly aware that more important than our celebration are the peoples and the lands who yearn for justice.

God is at work in the long term, and God will work in surprising ways, with unexpected partners, in order to renew this world. It is my hope that the stories in this report will humble and inspire you. If we are silent, the stones will shout out.

Paul Gehrs
Chair, KAIROS Board

The members of KAIROS are: the Anglican Church of Canada, Canadian Catholic Organization for Development and Peace, Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops, Canadian Religious Conference, Christian Reformed Church in North America (Canada Corporation), Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada, Mennonite Central Committee Canada, the Presbyterian Church in Canada, the Primate’s World Relief and Development Fund, Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) and the United Church of Canada.

KAIROS: Reconciliation, resilience, renewal

When the Idle No More movement became a major news story in the fall of 2012 and Chief Theresa Spence of Attawapiskat First Nation gained national attention with the launch of her hunger strike in December, the urgent need to address Indigenous rights issues was brought home to Canadians once again. It's a message that KAIROS has long been keenly aware of and one that was at the heart of its program work throughout 2012. This is just one example of the organization's relevance and ability to sense the *kairos* moment—the moment of crisis and opportunity—in critical social justice issues of the day.

KAIROS' vision of a faithful movement for human rights and ecological justice saw expression in its most cohesive and integrated program to date. Reconciliation, resilience and renewal emerged as themes throughout the year.

At the 2012 gathering of KAIROS board, staff and ecumenical partners, members of the KAIROS Indigenous Rights Circle took centre stage. After a sacred ceremony, Circle members facilitated a presentation that gently challenged the other KAIROS members, and KAIROS itself, to envision a renewed relationship with Indigenous people. It was a watershed moment.

In an effort to meet this challenge, KAIROS offered a rich program of Indigenous rights and justice activities integrated throughout almost all of its work. A significant achievement came through recognition for KAIROS' highly successful Blanket Exercise. This experiential educational workshop,



Kim Uyede-Kai joins KAIROS' "Put Yourself in the Picture" campaign in support of Indigenous rights (Photo credit: Richard C. Choe)

using simple blankets to represent the lands of what is now Canada, is used in introductory work on right relationships. Deep emotions are often stirred as the exercise guides participants, standing on their blanket 'land', through a history of treaty making, colonization and resistance that continues to this day.

In 2012 KAIROS was honoured with an invitation by the Assembly of First Nations to include the Blanket Exercise in its national Education Tool Kit which is distributed across Canada to schools with First Nations students. First developed 15 years ago by the Aboriginal Rights Coalition, one of the precursors to KAIROS, in collaboration with Indigenous elders and teachers, the Blanket Exercise has since been offered thousands of times to church groups, students, teachers and others wanting to learn more about right relations; and 2012 was no exception. In order to reach even wider audiences, the Blanket Exercise is being adapted for youth, new Canadians and Francophone participants.

"This exercise is genius. If you had sat and told us all this history, I could not have grasped it. But instead we were asked to walk in another's shoes and we FELT what the impact was as we listened and learned."

—Blanket Exercise Participant at Rexdale Alliance Church Event

"This exercise amazed me – it's exactly what we need to help people understand why treaties are important, and what the details of the history with our people are."

—Terry Debassige, a local Indigenous treaty educator and Blanket Exercise participant at Manitoulin Island Event

In 2012 KAIROS also worked to actively support the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) on residential schools. KAIROS facilitated the participation or attendance of some grassroots activists and Southern partners at the TRC hearings into the impact of residential schools on Indigenous peoples. This involvement was a crucial step in supporting the healing process begun by KAIROS member churches that played a role in the schools.

Partnerships of all kinds are the lifeblood of KAIROS' work and partners from the South are at the forefront of these relationships. Building on previous Women of Courage tours, KAIROS invited Claudia Castellanos Roncancio, a human rights lawyer and advocate from the Popular Feminist Organization in Colombia, and Lucy Talgieh, Women's Project Coordinator at Wi'am: Palestinian Conflict Resolution Center in Bethlehem, to speak about their work for human rights during a tour that saw them visit Nova Scotia, Newfoundland, Ontario and Saskatchewan. Claudia and Lucy connected with local KAIROS groups at community events and in worship services.

In keeping with KAIROS' commitment to a more integrated program, both women also attended the national TRC hearings

in Saskatchewan in June. This gave them an opportunity to witness firsthand the testimony of the courageous women and men who appeared before the commission. It also provided them with a unique opportunity to make links between the work that their organizations do on violence prevention and reparation, particularly as it affects women, and the experiences of Indigenous people in Canada.

KAIROS partner Ecumenical Voice for Peace and Human Rights in the Philippines organized a tour of three human rights defenders to raise awareness of the culture of impunity in their country. KAIROS supported this United Church of Canada initiative by co-hosting public events and meetings between the delegates and federal politicians.

The Philippines delegation consisted of Bishop Reuel Marigza of the United Church of Christ, agricultural worker Angelina Bisuna Ipong and Dr. Merry Mia-Clamor. Sister Angie, as she is affectionately known, spent five years as a political prisoner and Dr. Mia-Clamor was detained for nine months. Both women were released from prison only a few months before coming to Canada and spoke movingly about their experiences and about conditions



Participants in the Regional Women's Courts for Justice, Territory and Peace in Cali, Colombia, November 27-28, 2012 (Photo credit: Dolly Sanchez)

faced by other detainees. Sister Angie, who was sexually assaulted while in prison, demonstrated tremendous resilience and courage in dealing with this devastating experience. Her stories about creating a vegetable garden and an income generating greeting card enterprise for prisoners while in detention were inspirational.

Internationally, KAIROS was a witness at human rights tribunals in Colombia and assisted partners in Africa to reactivate women's programs and host educational workshops. Workshops in Sudan and the Democratic Republic of Congo focused on UN Security Council Resolution 1325, which affirms the important role women play in the prevention and resolution of conflicts. The resolution also stresses the importance of the equal participation and full involvement of women in all efforts for the maintenance and promotion of peace and security.

In the Middle East we were gratified to see the work of KAIROS partners in refugee camps for Syrian refugees. And KAIROS drew on 39 years of work on economic and financial issues to contribute to conversations at global ecumenical forums on how to transform the world economy in light of the fallout from the 2008 financial crisis.



In November 2012, KAIROS received a UFCW Agricultural Workers Award in recognition for its outstanding contribution to improving the lives of agriculture workers in Canada. From left, UFCW National Representative Stan Raper hands the award to KAIROS Migrant Justice Program Coordinator Alfredo Barahona, Executive Director Jennifer Henry, Board Member Adele Finney and Asia-Pacific Program Coordinator Connie Sorio. (Photo Credit: UFCW)

In Canada, KAIROS was involved with another headline grabbing issue in 2012. Stakes are high in the proposed Northern Gateway Pipeline project from Alberta to Kitimat, British Columbia. Given the enormous challenges the pipeline would pose for Indigenous rights and for the environment, KAIROS has helped its members and grassroots constituency to understand the issues behind the headlines.

KAIROS' Ethical Reflection Paper on the Northern Gateway Pipeline, released in August, has proven to be a valuable resource for its member churches and garnered public interest as well. KAIROS also facilitated a dialogue with the Enbridge Corporation. Providing Canadian churches with the tools and capacity to engage in the pressing justice issues of the day is an important part of KAIROS' mandate.

Resource extraction was the subject of an important educational resource released late in the year. In the Gospels the story is told of Jesus calling fishermen to be his disciples. This exciting and hopeful story is in contrast to the image in the KAIROS video Remember the Land: Global Ecumenical Voices on Mining. It shows a former Filipino fisherman who lost his legs after fishing in water contaminated with mercury from a mine in his community.



Singing during devotions on the first day of a workshop on UN Security Council Resolution 1325 in Bukavu, Eastern DRC. (Photo credit: FECCLAHA)



Participants in CEIBA's agro-ecology workshop prepare organic fertilizer in the Chuj zone of Huehuetenango, Guatemala (Photo credit: CEIBA)

This powerful image and other stories from mining affected communities in the South are shared in the video. It is based on presentations by church leaders and activists at the ecumenical conference on mining which KAIROS co-sponsored in May 2011. At that time, 150 people, 50 of them from Southern countries, gathered in Toronto to explore the impact of the Canadian resource extractive industry and to develop a common understanding of the role churches can play in the struggle for ecological justice for mining affected communities.

Another very effective educational resource produced in 2012 was Seeking Shelter, KAIROS' first Advent resource. Modeled on Las Posadas, the Mexican holiday ritual re-enacting Mary and Joseph's search for shelter, Seeking Shelter connects the biblical story to modern day struggles, including those of refugees and migrants. KAIROS continues to collaborate with others in advocating on behalf of vulnerable migrant workers in Canada and overseas and was honoured to receive an award from the United Food and Commercial Workers Canada in 2012 for its decade of work in support of migrant workers.

In addition to offering workshops on human rights issues and producing quality educational resources, KAIROS mobilized its network and engaged the public through a campaign called Truth, Reconciliation and Equity: They Matter to Us. It invites people to photograph themselves with a frame or sign signaling their commitment to right relations with Indigenous peoples. This important public witness is on display online and at TRC events.

There would be no support for any of KAIROS' work if people did not know about it and KAIROS' small communications team continually strives to tell the organization's story through a variety of media platforms. KAIROS enjoys a solid reputation as a respected and credible organization through coverage of its work by church media and a broad range of mainstream print and broadcast media, as well as influential bloggers. Close to 5,000 people receive KAIROS' electronic newsletter KAIROS Times and last year the same number of people connected with KAIROS through Facebook. KAIROS' twitter accounts continue to attract followers and KAIROS is seeking to use videos of partner interviews to engage audiences.

Despite financial hardship and the challenge of having more ideas than we have the capacity to implement, KAIROS' Board, staff and engaged local network continues to vibrate with energy and enthusiasm for seeking ecological and social justice and ensuring human rights. In 2013 we are excited to celebrate 40 years of ecumenical social justice activism through a series of events across Canada throughout the year. We will continue to support the TRC process at hearings in Quebec in the spring, and in Alberta and BC in the fall. Also this spring the organization will host a roundtable on mining as a follow up to the ecumenical mining conference KAIROS co-sponsored two years ago. In June KAIROS will lead a delegation to the eastern Democratic Republic of Congo to witness and support partners' work on gender-based violence in the DRC.

In August KAIROS will partner with The Otesha Project to co-host the Nation to Nation bike tour in southeastern Ontario



Participants in a workshop on UN Security Council Resolution 1325 in Bukavu, Eastern DRC (Photo credit: Richard Ndayambaje/FECCLAHA)

for Indigenous and non-Indigenous youth. In the fall, KAIROS will hold an intergenerational gathering in western Canada, building on a similar successful gathering in Cornwall, Ontario in the fall of 2012. We look forward to launching training on bioregional discipleship and a participatory resource on Free, Prior and Informed Consent, the principle that Indigenous peoples have an

inherent right to give or withhold consent to proposed projects or actions that may impact them or their lands and territories. As we look ahead to this work, inspired by the resiliency of KAIROS partners and hopeful for renewed relationships through reconciliation, we pray for the day when news headlines will speak of peace, right relations and a healing environment.

Special Thanks to Donors

Thank you to all donors whose support and partnership helped us to grow and thrive in 2012. Your commitment to social justice and spirited collaboration is our inspiration. Together we took valuable steps towards justice, equality and peace – in Canada and around the world.

Grants from the following institutional donors made it possible for KAIROS to implement a year of innovative grassroots programming for human rights and ecological sustainability.

- Basilian Human Development Fund
- Canadian Auto Workers Social Justice Fund - Syndicat national de l'automobile, de l'aérospatiale, du transport et des autres travailleurs et travailleuses du Canada (CAW-TCA), Social Justice Fund
- Carranza LLP, Toronto
- Catherine Donnelly Foundation
- Charity Alive Fund, Sisters of Charity, Halifax
- Ontario English Catholic Teachers Association (OECTA)
- Ontario Public Service Employees Union – Syndicat des employés de la fonction publique de l'Ontario (OPSEU-SEFPO), Social Justice Fund
- Public Service Alliance of Canada / Alliance de la Fonction publique du Canada (PSAC-AFPC), Social Justice Fund
- St. Stephen's-Broadway Foundation
- United Food and Commercial Workers Canada / Travailleurs et travailleuses unis de l'alimentation et du commerce Canada (UFCW-TUAC)

We also extend a heartfelt thanks to donors who prefer anonymity and whose gifts are essential to our work.

FRONT and BACK COVERS: Human rights defenders Bishop Reuel Marigza of the United Church of Christ in the Philippines and former political prisoners Dr. Merry Mia-Clamor and Angie Bisuna Ipong on Parliament in April 2012 after meeting with the Parliamentary Subcommittee on International Human Rights. (Photo credit: Alex Felipe)

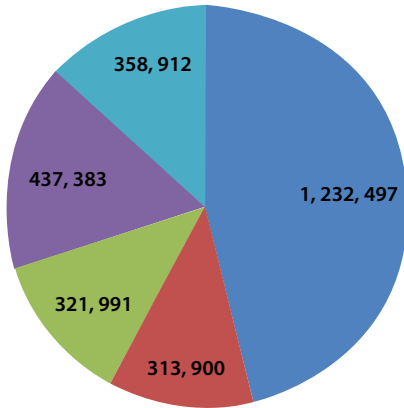
Team leader: Ed Bianchi / Project coordinator and Writer: Adiat Junaid / Design and layout: Cathy Vandergeest, gawck / Printing: Thistle Printing

KAIROS Financial Highlights

January 1 – December 31, 2012

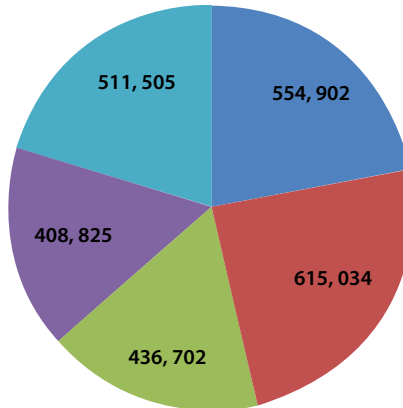
TOTAL REVENUE

\$2,664,683



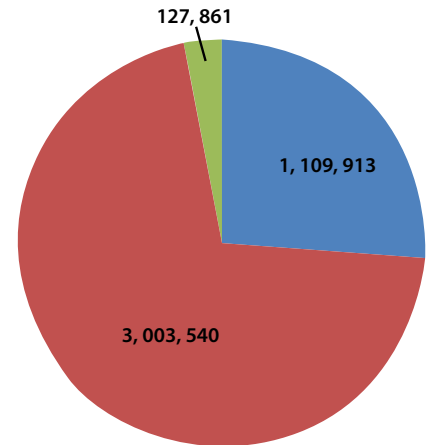
TOTAL EXPENSES

\$2,526,968



RESERVE FUND

\$4,241,314



- Member denominations
- Religious communities
- Individuals and groups
- Grants
- Other - sales, interest, etc

- Sustainability
- Dignity and Rights
- Network & Movement Building
- Grants to Southern partners
- Administration and Fundraising

- General fund
- Justice fund
- Capital fund

2012 audited financial statement available on request.



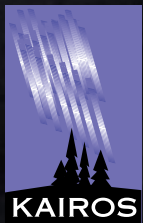
Children in the playground at a DSPR-run kindergarten in the Sabra-Shatilla refugee camp, Beirut, Lebanon. KAIROS partner DSPR has run a school in the camp for the children of Palestinian refugees since 1952. (Photo Credit: John Lewis/KAIROS)



The Seeds of Hope open a "Women of Courage" tour event at the United Church in South Brook, NL in June 2012 with a lively set of gospel tunes. (Photo credit: Rachel Warden/ KAIROS)



Members of KAIROS Prairies North and the national Indian Residential Schools Survivors Committee place KAIROS' Expression of Reconciliation into the sacred Bentwood box at the Saskatoon Truth and Reconciliation Commission national event. (Photo credit: Jennifer Janzen-Ball)



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