

## Social Ministry Report

Since January, 2011, Pastor Ryan Andersen and Pastor Renita Falkenstern have been serving the Southern and Northern parts of the Synod of Alberta and the Territories, as Social Ministry Coordinators. Each of the Coordinators endeavour to introduce themselves and what they are able to offer congregations, by sending out a (more or less) monthly newsletter. The newsletter alerts congregational members to the opportunities in their areas, to the issues of injustice and how to be equipped to best serve in order to make a positive difference. Our Coordinators work ecumenically wherever possible – Pastor Renita with Greater Edmonton Alliance; and Pastor Ryan with Multi-Faith Alliance.

The mandate of the Social Ministry Coordinator is to share with congregations:

- The call to do justice; (why do we work in the ‘justice’ realm?)
- Ideas about how to respond to issues of poverty and hunger in a land of plenty;
- Resources that are available to assist, including funding of some “Compassionate Justice Initiatives” of congregations

It appears that many congregations are more conscientious about employing good environmentally-friendly practices (how much more effort would it be to wash our glass cups rather than use Styrofoam?); more aware of the poor in their own community and are finding ways to assist (what’s involved in providing a food bank for the hungry in our community?) ; and, more interested in the justice issue behind some of the situations (why are we willing to pay more for fair trade coffee?)

“Compassionate Justice Initiatives” is a fund for domestic poverty alleviation, so if your congregation has a project that a. builds awareness of hunger and poverty and offers a solution; b. employs someone that directly supports poverty alleviation; c. does development in the area of health care, water, sanitation, literacy, housing... then please contact the synod office (Sharon) to obtain an application. These funds are provided by CLWR through the gifts that are sent from this Synod.

If you would like to receive the newsletter, please contact the synod office ([abtsynodoffice@elcic.ca](mailto:abtsynodoffice@elcic.ca)). If you would like to contact the Social Ministry Coordinators regarding social ministry in your area, please send either one, a direct e-mail at:

[rfalkenstern@elcic.ca](mailto:rfalkenstern@elcic.ca) (Pastor Renita – northern Coordinator); or

[randersen@elcic.ca](mailto:randersen@elcic.ca) (Pastor Ryan – southern Coordinator).

Respectfully Submitted,  
Sharon Villetard  
Program Coordinator