



**The Church Council on Justice and Corrections
334 MacLaren Street, Ottawa, Ontario K2P 0L4**

28 June 2023

Dear Friends, Members and Supporters of the Church Council on Justice and Corrections,

I wanted to update you about developments at the Church Council on Justice and Corrections (CCJC) since Bonnie Wepler, our Executive Director stepped down due to illness in January 2023. Since then, the Board of CCJC has been in a process of reflection and discernment about the future of CCJC. It was clear to the Board that employment and office space reforms were necessary to secure a sound financial position. Core to our discussions was the desire to protect our financial resources and continue to move forward with CCJC's work of focusing on justice and corrections as we have done in the past. We believe we have found a sustainable path forward.

The Board approached The Canadian Council of Churches (CCC) based on the historic link between that organization and CCJC to discuss a possible merger. This May at their meeting in Quebec City, the Governing Board of The Canadian Council of Churches voted unanimously to affirm the proposal that the CCJC merge with The Canadian Council of Churches. This merger will permit the work of CCJC to continue within a more stable framework and continue a long and fruitful relationship. Those of you who were present for the founding of CCJC know we were a project initiated by the CCC and the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops fifty years ago. Our new format will allow us not only to continue the historic work of CCJC, but also to consider other projects that align with the foundational values of CCJC in its mandate to pursue the values of restorative justice and reconciliation within the correctional system in Canada.

We bring our financial and relational resources to the CCC and the long history we have forged within the restorative justice movement in Canada. We are excited by the future, and how this new configuration will be mutually beneficial.

The Board continues to meet regularly, discerning the best way forward for CCJC. While this merger unfolds, the work of CCJC is being carried out by the board as we fill the many and

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diverse roles that are required of our project. In this way the CCJC is present, participating, and contributing to community justice networks, restorative justice networks, and the interfaith prison chaplaincy networks.

Our Federal Public Safety funding is still on going, as are the generous donations from the various member churches who partner with us. The vision of the Board is one of optimism and collaboration, but above all else we desire the continuation of CCJC as a sustainable and vital project.

One of our next steps will be to propose a gathering of friends and partners this Fall to reflect on how far we've come and to propose what the focus needs to be in the future.

As members, supporters and friends, we will keep you updated as to how this merger is progressing. We anticipate this merger will be completed somewhere towards the end of 2024. We believe we have found an exciting way forward to continue the traditions of CCJC within a new framework at the CCC.

With gratitude for your continued support,

Pam Dillon
Chair, Board of Directors

p.s. Your donations to the work of restorative justice, community care, and corrections are needed more than ever. Please make your charitable contribution through CanadaHelps at <https://www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/the-church-council-on-justice-and-corrections/>.