

**STUDENT CHRISTIAN MOVEMENT
ORGANIZING MANUAL**

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1. WHAT IS THE SCM?

The SCM was founded in 1921 and came out of the YMCA and YWCA of Canada and the Student Volunteer Movement. The students involved in the Movement's formation were interested in establishing a movement which was open, co-educational and one in which students had complete freedom in controlling its program and activities. Through the years, the SCM has always been committed to the belief that just relations are at the heart of religious or spiritual experience and have strived to connect their faith to meaningful social action.

Local Units

The basic unit of SCM is the Local Unit. This historically has been at a single campus, university or college, but city-specific groups are more common now. SCM groups provide a safe space for students to explore spiritual questions and to work together on justice-focused projects. The group organizes its own discussion groups/worship time and activities and projects. They are connected nationally through retreats and the National Programs.

Advisory Boards for Local Units

These are Boards on campus or in the region where local units are active. Advisory Boards are made up of senior friends of the SCM – past student members. Senior friends are happy to support you. They provide support and funds to help the groups in their activities. Not every campus/region has an advisory board, but the National Office and Local Units can work together to form an advisory board.

SCM National Office

SCM Canada currently has one national coordinator (paid staff) who works in the national office in Toronto. The National Office plans National Programs and provides training and resources for local units. SCM National also works with the Advisory Boards in each campus/region to support local units.

The National Coordinator reports to a National Board of Directors. They support the Coordinator in their work and provide guidance and direction. Often they are made up of senior friends and sometimes students.

International Affiliation

The SCM is a part of the World Student Christian Federation (WSCF), which has SCM groups and affiliates in 80 countries around the world. SCM Canada is part of the North American Region (NAR) of the WSCF.

Local units and national movements can establish relationships with other SCMs around the world. For example, SCM Canada has had internship/exchange programmes with SCM Nicaragua and Philippines. We see many benefits to these exchanges: sharing ideas and energy, building personal and institutional solidarity, spreading awareness of the damage done by systems of injustice here and around the globe, and learning how communities around the world resist oppression.

Every year there are opportunities for SCM Canada people to travel internationally, with solidarity tours, Inter-regional Leadership training, exchanges, and more. Keep an eye out for students eager and equipped for cross-cultural relationship building! You can travel the world with the SCM, and this can be a big draw for some potential participants.

2. WHAT KIND OF LOCAL UNIT SHOULD WE BE?

If you are a local coordinator and you don't have a group already established, it can be hard to know where to focus. There are a lot of possible things to do! Don't do them all!

Begin with planning discussion or worship meetings that interest you, so that you have something to offer students you recruit. Keep in mind one or two justice issues relevant to your context that the group can work on.

Once you have a group of students, then work with your suggestions to decide together on a discussion/worship project and a social justice project you want to work on. Look under programs to get some ideas and check out our website for worship/discussion resources.

Always consider: are there existing groups on campus that are working on these issues? We don't want to duplicate or co-opt other people's work! We also know that it is hard to be the sole voice on an issue - so if there are justice issues where it makes sense to create a partnership or coalition, consider that.

Some Local Units have a weekly or biweekly meeting during term time, to establish a community. This could be a lunchtime Bible study, an evening gathering, or something on the weekend. This should be a place for conversation and discussion among friends, so it needs to be safe, with shared values, and open to others so that it does not become a clique.

Other Local Units will focus on putting on larger events like a speaker series or debates, along with unprogrammed social nights. This works best where there is either an established SCM group or committed core of SCMs, or a supportive chaplaincy or other group that has a regular attendance, and wants to organise with SCM.

SCM membership is pretty fluid. If people are members of a weekly meeting and want to affiliate with SCM, we don't need to create a whole new weekly meeting. In this case, try to keep a personal connection and invite people to larger regional or national SCM events.

For the coordinator(s) of either group model, the minimum organisational framework is the same - email and facebook accounts for the group, a membership/contact list of some sort, capacity to design and produce promotional materials, access to resources for programming, access to finances and record keeping, and contact with the National Office to assist coordination and share ideas. The rest of this document will give some starting points.

3. RECRUITING STUDENTS

➤ **Make a Poster**

Make an eye-catching poster for your meeting or event.

Many student council offices or computer science labs have desktop publishing programs for student or club use, or if you're artistically inclined, you can design one in a "low tech" fashion. However you do it, try to come up with a catchy title for your event and use an interesting graphic. If you're no DaVinci, clip art books are always helpful, and often newsletters of other organizations will have something useful.

Once the poster is made, place them in areas where students congregate – libraries, pubs, lecture halls, etc. Putting a poster in an area where there are none means no one is looking there anyway. Putting one in an area where there are thousands tends to lead people to gloss over them.

Send a copy to the National Coordinator and the local board, plus any chaplaincies or churches you are connected with. Always carry a few around - putting up a poster is an easy favour to ask.

➤ **Table**

Table at Clubs Day at the beginning of the semester. And you can also table at anytime during the year. Most campuses will allow clubs to put a table with information and resources in well-traversed areas. Find out from your student council what the rules are around this.

This is an opportunity for you to display information on upcoming events as well as SCM pamphlets, 'swag' and resources. You should have a Sign Up sheet to get interested students emails and contacts.

➤ **Advertise in Campus Newspapers**

Many campus newspapers give free advertising space to clubs. Even if they don't, this can be money well spent.

All newspapers will have size requirements and often you will be required to provide "camera ready" text and art for them, although some will be willing to help you in this area.

➤ **Explore Campus online sources**

See if there are listings of clubs and societies that you can get SCM's name and logo into. If it is possible to add a description, think about what makes the SCM stand out from

other Christian groups - queer-inclusion, critical thinking, justice focused, or international connections?

Include a link to the main SCM website, and to your own email/facebook etc.

➤ **Email, Facebook, Social Media**

If you're an existing group you should inherit an email list. If you're not, creating one is the first order of business. You can get YourName@scmcanada.org for you or your group, and use that to form an email list for your contacts. Crucially, this is something that you can pass on to someone else when the time comes!

A weekly or bi-weekly email describing your next event is worth prioritizing.

Add students who signed up on orientation day to your list and also add people who attend your meeting. Always circulate a sign up list, and write down people's emails when you talk with them (because you can read your handwriting better than theirs).

You should create a Facebook page or group for the campus, and post items of interest. Social media is a good way to build some connections with other campus groups!

➤ **Write a Press Release**

If you are planning an event, then... write a press release. Releases to the campus media and the local media are often a way of getting free advertising about your event (especially if it involves a speaker from outside). The campus media are always looking for stories, and may wish to follow up your release with a request for an interview.

➤ **Ask sympathetic professors to promote an event or series in class.**

For example, if it's about religion and the environment, then find out if a course is offered on this topic and ask the professor to announce the event.

➤ **Promote your meeting and events in other related organizations** such as chaplaincies, social justice organizations, women's centres, etc, and through PIRGs. If you are doing an inter-faith event, then plan the approach the Muslim Student Association for example. Use discretion in deciding which groups you want to "target" and get the word out.

4. HOW TO KEEP YOUR GROUP GOING

Where can we meet?

Finding meeting space is one of the first challenges for a Local Unit. Campus chaplains are often happy to let you meet in their office. It is also usually possible to book classrooms or student centre rooms through an official university system - you often

need club status for this. If you don't have club status, friendly professors, chaplains, or other student groups may be willing to book space for you. You can also meet off-campus at a local church, coffee shop, or pub.

Campus Club Status

Most universities have a student life office or similar body (sometimes a student union) that administers resources for student clubs, such as grants, access to printing, and free room bookings. If your SCM is going to be a recognised club on campus, you will need to fulfil various requirements, such as having a certain number of student members, submitting a copy of your constitution, etc. Investigate the options well in advance of the deadline! If you already have a group running, submit your application in May for the following year so that you don't have to scramble to get it done in September.

Planning your Programme

To keep a group going, you need to have a programme planned for the semester, so everyone knows how and when they can be involved. The group will lose interest if meetings are not planned well or ahead of time and if no projects/activities are planned or taking place. So in collaboration with the group, set dates in advance, especially if you have regular meetings, so that people can schedule them.

Participants will feel a greater connection to the group, if they have tasks and roles. This could be as simple as reading an opening prayer or land acknowledgement, or making sure that there are pictures taken, or as significant as keeping track of money and receipts. Distribute tasks and roles fairly, according to the capacity of individuals, and the group should keep each other accountable.

Looking Ahead

In the longer term, be thinking about expansion. As your group gets bigger it will become more settled and less eager to find new members. Start to think about events that will bring in other people and still be fun and engaging for your existing group. Keep an eye on National events, and on the regular opportunities for international travel to WSCF events. These can be a real draw once the logistical difficulties of time and

Many SCM groups like to network with other social justice or religious organizations on campus. A coalition of like-minded groups can often be a highly effective means of learning and challenging society. People from other groups help us learn that social change is a cooperative venture.

Having said that, there are two notes of caution:

- 1) Larger and more organized groups can swamp SCM, and the movement loses the visibility that you have struggled to establish.
- 2) Sometimes a lot of energy goes into networking, and not into building a local SCM community. You end up with only one or two members working with groups but without any "home" SCM community.

funding are addressed.

5. PROGRAMMING

As mentioned earlier, programming should always revolve around issues that are the passionate interest of the members of the group.

- What things do they really want to learn about?
- What kind of actions do you find most meaningful and energizing?

Here are some examples to choose from:

- **A six week workshop on a key topic.** Each week there would be a different resource person addressing a particular aspect of the topic (e.g., different forms of liberation theology). You can use one poster to advertise all the events, with each week's upcoming event underlined in red grease pencil.
- **Individual events.** There might be a fascinating speaker or workshop leader available to you for one occasion only. This event could be advertised widely. For example, a well-known feminist theologian from the university could do a talk on feminist theology as it relates to a local issue, or someone returning from a WSCF global trip could report on their experience and what they learned.
- **A demonstration or vigil.** This could take place at a consulate, company or office of the university. Often this is done in co-operation with other groups (e.g., picketing a department of the university engaged in military research). So look to collaborate with other groups who are working on a specific justice issue, for example Students Against Israeli Apartheid, etc.
- **A term-long series of meetings based around a common theological perspective.** For example, every Thursday there could be an exploration of themes as diverse as free trade, foreign debt, domestic violence and militarism from the perspective of women and feminist theology.
- **A study weekend or retreat.** Members book a location for a whole weekend to reflect on a related series of topics (e.g., A study weekend on prayer, meditation and power for social change).
- **Find a like-minded organization working on a specific campaign** and meet with them to see how your group can support them. For example, maybe the Student Against Israeli Apartheid are holding a demonstration on bombings in Gaza. See if you can support by making posters and banners for the demonstration, and bring your local unit together to

come out to the demonstration. Invite local churches to attend. You can organize outside of your campus with the churches and faith-based communities around you.

- **Have an interfaith series** and work with other faith groups such as the Muslim Student Association and Hillel (UofT examples) on learning about other faiths. Consult with the Multi-Faith Chaplaincy on this.
- **Contact the National Office and ask them about their National Campaigns.** Often the office will have a couple of campaigns on specific issues that you can work on.

You can find an Event Planning Checklist in the Appendix. As well as planning, debrief! ‘If it’s worth doing, it’s worth debriefing’.

Some questions to ask after a meeting or event:

- What worked? What was most effective?
- How could it be improved?
- What does not seem to get off the ground?
- What could be eliminated or changed?
- What would you do next time?

Depending on your group and the event, you can ask for feedback from specific individuals, the entire group, or people you partnered with to put the event on. Consider sending requests for feedback to new people who came- it is a way to gauge someone’s interest and position and allows you both to continue the relationship.

6. HOW TO STRUCTURE YOUR GROUP

SCM groups are organized along one of these three commonly-used models:

The Collective

A group is formed with the understanding that every single member is fully responsible for the life of the group. Tasks are divided evenly, often based on the individual skills and interests of members. These tasks can also be rotated so that one or two people do not get stuck with collective tasks. Decisions are always made collectively. A collective chair or facilitator may be appointed, a responsibility that would also rotate. Usually collectives need people responsible for such jobs as finances, publicity, facilitating meetings, relating to the national SCM, contacting other campus groups, administration and correspondence, and sitting at book and information tables.

The Local Coordinator

Sometimes one or two people have more time and energy and can take on a larger coordinating role. This person is the “local coordinator” in SCM-speak. Often local

coordinators are responsible for the administration and fundraising work of the group, with most programming still planned collectively. The local coordinator is responsible to get the group going in the fall, is a contact person and relates to the Advisory Board (of Senior Friends) and the National Office on behalf of the group. In some cases, this work is a paid position, and in others it is a volunteer position.

The Committee System

In tandem with either of the above structures, local groups may wish to divide up into committees to divide up jobs. There might be a committee for programming, one for outreach, and one for fundraising.

As you can imagine, there are countless variables on these models. Think about your group, their time, energy and skills. What configuration would work best?

7. FUNDRAISING

Every group needs some money – for programming, conferences and office costs. Yet fundraising is almost universally seen as an onerous task. There’s one key psychological point: You do good and important work. You deserve the donations you receive, plus more! So how do you get money?

The Two Key Sources of Money for SCM Local Units

- **SCM Friends and Alumni.** If you do not have a list of SCM alumni for your university, contact the National Office for that information. Write alumni a letter, invite them to a potluck or give them a call. SCM alumni almost always support local activities very generously.

If you have an advisory board, they will work with you to contact senior friends. If you don’t have an advisory board, then contact the National Office for a list of Senior Friends in your area. They will support you with funds and resources. The important thing is to be in contact with them. Do not just send them a fundraising letter once per year. Hold a potluck dinner where you can meet and talk. Send them a newsletter or update. Invite them to events on campus. Above all, do not be afraid of them! They may be professors or clergy or have roles that sometimes hold power over and intimidate students, but remember: they support SCM because they were once in your shoes – students searching for justice and a sense of spirituality. Usually they are still involved in these pursuits, but are simply no longer in university.

REMEMBER: any personal donations can be tax deductible if you channel them through the National Office or apply for charitable status at your local university.

- **Local Churches.** Contact the churches in the neighbourhood. Offer to speak to youth groups, outreach committees, to preach sermons, to cater “after service” refreshments, etc., and keep them posted about your activities - add them to your email list or send them events for their bulletin. Most church folk these days are excited when young people are doing the kind of work the SCM does. They will very often support you if you write them a fundraising letter (with lead time - they have their own committees to ask). Often it is best to contact the minister/priest first, unless you have a contact with an SCM alumni or friend who can advocate for you.

There are also other fundraising possibilities

- Student Councils often have funding available for projects.
- Do various kinds of “a-thons” and get lots of sponsors.
- Apply to home congregations, even if they are not in the same place as your university.
- Many religious orders are very generous, especially with young people.

Above all, do not be shy about asking for money. You do very important work that deserves the support of people in your community.

8. RESOURCES & TRAINING

The National Office provides you with resources and training as needed to meet your goals. Essentially, the National Office is as useful as you want it to be. National staff are there to assist you as much as you need them to.

The National Office will provide you with training & support in such areas as:

1. Organizing an SCM Group
2. National Campaigns your group can plug in to
3. Consensus decision making
4. Connecting with Senior SCM Friends
5. Establishing an SCM Advisory Board in your area
6. Advice and support for your Local Unit

The National Office provides you with resources:

1. Electronic newsletter on National Program and Global Programs
2. Pamphlets on the SCM
3. Devotionals to distribute to students and use at events
4. SWAG – SCM Stickers, pins and other resources as produced.
5. Communiqués on actions and justice issues and requests for urgent actions
6. Lists of Senior Friends
7. Bible studies focused on social justice that you can use in your group

8. Liturgies you can use in your group
9. Book and websites recommendations on radical Christian faith and living

9. HOW TO WORK WITHIN A GROUP

It's a community

The SCM is a community organization, so you will always be working with others. Developing the skills to build good relationships and create effective, safe group dynamics is essential, not just in SCM but in all areas of life.

Decisions made should be understood by all members, with space given for the contribution of each person. This is not to avoid conflict (which is a natural consequence of organising), but it gives a good foundation for addressing conflict healthily. There are a number of important things to keep in mind:

- **Remember that people have very different personalities.** Some people talk more than others. Try to facilitate discussions so that everyone feels safe to contribute.
- **Use check-ins to begin meetings,** where people can talk about the things happening in their lives before they meet. It can clear the air of problems that are clouding peoples' minds and centre the group.
- **Always use a facilitator in meetings** (someone who will keep track of time, ensure that the group keeps to the agenda, monitors the contributions of various people and generally keeps the group on track). The position of the Facilitator should be rotated amongst the group.
- **Include social time after meetings** or on other occasions when possible. Developing friendships with group members increases commitment, respect, enjoyment and clarity in even the most challenging of meetings.
- **Rotate responsibilities in groups** so that no one person takes on more work than others or so that one person does not come to dominate the group. Keep track of decisions and key discussions.
- **Take special note of and review any tasks** that are assigned to individuals between meetings.

Some check-in ideas:

A 'temperature check' on a scale of 1-10. "How do you feel today, with 1 being 'not good at all', and 10 being 'feeling amazing'. Let them know that they can answer with as much or as little detail as they wish!

What was the highlight of your week?

Ask what they are looking forward to in this semester, or in the coming week.

Ask for one thing that they learned/remembered/pondered from a previous meeting or event that you all attended.

- **Communicate in a thoughtful manner and encourage good listening skills.** Try to use “I” language; in other words, do not generalize or speak for others whenever possible.

How to Make Decisions in Your Group:

Consensus decision-making is often an ideal method to go about resolving things in a group. Consensus means finding a way to go about the work of a group that everyone can support. Consensus, even when not fully achieved, ensures that the group reviews a decision most carefully and pays attention to counter-positions and alternatives. This method can often take more time than traditional methods such as voting, but for the group, the result is worth it. Sometimes consensus cannot be achieved or would require the compromise of program, of political stances, or the expenditure of an inordinate amount of time. Sometimes a group must decide, in as gracious a manner as possible, to agree to disagree and go with what the majority thinks, or with the guidance of an experienced or responsible person. Arriving at this can be a consensus decision.

How to resolve conflict in the Group:

Conflict and disagreement is very common in group situations. What is just as common, and much more unfortunate, is the way problems and differences are buried until they end up inhibiting the community or even destroying it. A healthy group is one that both acknowledges that conflict comes with the territory of community formation and deals with it openly, promptly and with a sense of respect and caring for the relationships involved.

- **Conflict Among Individuals**

When a conflict arises between individuals, it is usually best that the two people resolve it on their own. It is better not to involve the whole community in an essentially personal conflict, especially if this leads to “taking sides” or seeking allies. Having said this, there are a number of scenarios where the involvement of other people is helpful and necessary.

One important example is the “power-over” situation where sexism, homophobia, racism or other such forms of coercion take place. In these cases, the person doing the confronting may need the support and presence of another person or the whole group.

A third party or the whole group may also help two people who cannot resolve a problem on their own. Often a third person helps to clarify the situation. In these cases it is best not to hurry the process, but to carefully and painstakingly give each person a chance to say, uninterrupted, exactly what s/he perceives the issue to be. Only when the problems themselves are clearly understood can one move on to working out potential resolutions.

- **Conflict with one individual in the group**

The whole group may be upset with the behaviour of one individual. In this case, a group meeting is appropriate, but it may be better that only one person speak on behalf of the group. Others may add their agreement or expand on comments, but essentially this process attempts to prevent a “ganging up” kind of situation where “attacks” are coming from all sides. It also ensures that the problem is clarified among the group and the process for the confrontation is carefully thought out.

➤ **When Conflict Involves the Whole Group**

Often political or theological differences lead to conflict or debilitating disagreement. This is sometimes more difficult to deal with since people have fundamental disagreements. In these cases it is always important to clarify the positions, to have mutual respect and to accept that a different focus for the group might be necessary.

➤ **When Conflict Crosses the Line**

As mentioned above, the multiple and inter-related ‘isms’ like racism, sexism, heterosexism and colonialism are part of our world and culture, and influence our conflicts. Exploring this fully is beyond the scope of this document, but not beyond the responsibility of the SCM at any level. Consider these dynamics and do not be afraid to reach out to check in with your peers, both for advice, and for accountability.

In cases of sexual harassment, SCM has a policy to guide a formal process, along with support from members of the Personnel committee, staffpeople, or board members. It is important that people know that this policy exists and that it applies to the work we are doing.

<http://scmcanada.org/about-us/71-2/scm-sexual-harassment-policy/>

Use of this policy is not mandatory, nor does a person’s participation in SCM activities prevent them from accessing any other policies and supports available to them.

10. APPENDIX

- **SCM Mission Statement**
- **Graphic Design**
- **Resources for workshops, worship, discussion**
- **Event Planning Checklist for Student Organization**
- **Thoughts on Monthly Planning**
- **Sample Sign up Sheet**
- **Contacts**

SCM Mission Statement

Our Living Prayer mission statement was created at 1995 National Conference (Sylvan Lake, Alberta). The Living Prayer statement is read at every national gathering of SCM to build unity in our diversity; however, SCM has no creed or dogma to which one must agree to participate.

We are the Student Christian Movement because we feel called to engage the prophetic teachings of the revolutionary Jesus of Nazareth. We include people of many beliefs and faiths seeking to explore and challenge the Christian tradition.

Locally, nationally and internationally, we strive to be a healing community. Through spiritual practice we strengthen and challenge each other on this journey.

Embracing radical ecumenism and interreligious praxis, we celebrate the paradox of unity in diversity.

We seek through reflection, study and action to discern God's will for the world and to understand our role in it.

Proclaiming God's preferential option for the poor and marginalized, we act in solidarity with the oppressed to resist structures of domination and realize justice in this world. This we offer as a living prayer.

Resources for workshops, worship, discussion

<http://scmcanada.org/resources/>

<http://workshop.org.uk/peacemeal/>

<http://cpt.org/resources>

Check out 'Spirited Reflections' on www.kairoscanada.org

Graphic Design

The website Canva is really good to use, and it is easy to make posters, memes, Facebook or Twitter images, etc. We have an SCM propaganda team you should join, where we can share resources.

www.canva.com

Logos, graphics and posters we've used before can be added to this Google Drive folder:

[Main SCM Google Drive - Graphics](#)

Event Planning Checklist for Student Organization

Adapted from Anna Berglowe, Towson University.

Come up with an idea

What do you hope to accomplish?

What population will your event or activity attract?

Does the event reflect your group's vision? If not, what are some downfalls or benefits to this?

Would this event benefit only your University's interests? Are other schools encouraged to attend?

Is this a charity or fundraising event?

Choose a tentative date

What other events are going on this week? Is there a conflict?

Is the day or date appropriate for the event? (i.e. is it feasible to have a cookout during the holy season of Ramadan?)

Does this date give you enough time to plan and/or fundraise?

Are there any grants available for this date and do you have enough time to apply?

Reserving a room

Can you get a room for the tentative date?

What process do you have to go through? How much time does this process take?

Are you looking for a space on campus?

Is your space physically accessible?

Are there symbolic dynamics to consider? For example, inviting an Indigenous speaker into a Christian chapel to talk about church-run residential schools. On that note, if such a speaker wished to smudge (creating some smoke) there are often concerns about smoke detectors - ensure that you have discussed these before the event!

Budgeting

Is the event cost effective?

If it is a fundraising event, will it yield a desirable profit?

If costs are too high, is there a possibility of bringing in a group to co-sponsor the event?

If co-sponsoring, how much is each group willing to give of their budgets toward the event? How much of the profit is each group entitled to?

If your group is budgeted, make sure you know where the money will come from, and how and when it will be paid.

As you continue planning your event, make sure you secure all entertainment contracts, keep all receipts, etc.

Meet with your facility person

If you're renting a space there will be someone to help you set up the room, arrange audio, etc.

Review policies and rates.

Decide what additional needs you have (i.e. technical requests, parking, food, gaming permits, alcohol requests, etc.)

Catering

If an external group is catering your event, contact them in advance to choose a menu, considering serving facilities, food restrictions (vegetarian, vegan, traditions, gluten/lactose intolerance, etc.)

Can you afford to pay for the food you requested?

Requesting a Vehicle (if needed)

How many vehicles are needed to accommodate at least your speakers/organisers?

How far is the site? Is gas mileage a problem?

Publicizing your Events/ Announcements

What methods are you going to use to advertising?

When are you going to start advertising?

How much money are you willing to allocate for advertising?

If you were going to use fliers, where would be a good place to pass them out/ hang them up?

What online and social media avenues do you have? What other groups can you ask to publicise?

Day of Event Activities

Review all that is needed for the event.

Arrive early to set up and meet your audience. Ask a core group to be there early in case there are last minute tasks

After the Event

Evaluate your event and decide what needs to be improved in the future.

Reconcile all financial records. Make sure you submit receipts to the appropriate office to receive proper reimbursement.

Thoughts on Monthly Planning

SCM's financial year ends on Dec 31. The Local Unit 'year' might be considered to begin in September, synched with the academic year.

September: Local unit coordinators, board members and members take part in tabling and orientation events. Network with other campus groups, and go for coffee with people you meet.

October: A good month for a retreat, either nationally or for your group. Also an All Hallows Party can be popular!

November: Have regular events if possible, and consider an Advent service to mark the start of the church year. The National Office will be sending out fundraising letters and your Local Unit might do the same. Think about what you want people to know about the last year, or the plans

for the year to come. SCM Local Units have produced alternative Remembrance Day services, which can be quite controversial, especially if done on Nov. 11 itself.

December: Depending on the students, they might disappear at different points in December, and are probably busy. Your events might tend towards the social, relaxing, meditative. A good time to be creative and make gifts!

January: Potentially, a good time of year for a retreat if your group likes winter activities! Or you might want to focus your efforts on being in warm places and doing Bible study. Consider some kind of New Year's Resolution with the group.

February: The most depressing month, statistically, so engage with self-care. Valentine's Day can be fun, but Feb. 14 is also a day to remember Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, with ceremonies across Turtle Island. These are not protests, but acts of love.

March: Mid-terms and papers for students. Have regular events, and more self-care. It's also Lent, which can open up discussions around simplicity, contemplation, and other spiritual disciplines.

April: Usually Easter is around this point. If you're in the SCM, make time to be exhausted by Easter. Go to all the church services, and host some yourself. Keep going back. Take part in events like the Ecumenical Good Friday Walk for Justice, which explore Good Friday with the contemporary crucifixion our colonial imperial patriarchal society is built on. Celebrate the liberation of life through Easter. Christ is risen, mofo.

May: Okay now we're all tired because of exams. Persevere! Is there an international solidarity trip to be looking towards? Do students need help fundraising or applying for funding to go?

June: We're likely to have the national Cahoots festival in June. Beg, bribe, cajole and threaten excommunication to get students to this. It's a chance to solidify their learning over the year in the company of good friends. Once someone has been at Cahoots once, it's a good time to ask them to consider helping to organise it in future - either on a planning committee, or to provide a workshop.

July: Summer time. Take a break, maybe. If you're jetting about, go and visit other SCMerS and stay on their couches. If you're going to conferences, talk about SCM.

August: Vacation time for lots of people... are you going on a CPT delegation? If not, you might grab some of those unoccupied pulpits and poison some parishioners' minds! More importantly we are planning for the year to come... do you know people starting university? Maybe we can set them up with an SCM.

Sample Sign Up Sheet

You will want to modify this for your university. If you are applying for club recognition from a student life office/student union, check their requirements before starting your outreach. You may need student's official university email addresses or their student numbers, or you may need to know which student union they are part of (e.g., undergraduate or graduate union...)

Name	Email Address	Year & Field of Study

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