



# News from the Student Christian Movement



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## News from Local Units



### SCM Brock (St Catharines)

Brock University's Faith & Life Centre has nurtured the formation of an SCM group, which has experimented with engaging the student body with a variety of initiatives, including participating in the annual CoExist fair, conversations and social time, and involvement in larger SCM events. The group is keen to incorporate work for the social good of the campus and the community, from an informed and inclusive perspective.

### SCM Edmonton

As the final SCM event of the school year, Edmonton coordinator Wynne Taylor and speaker Mona M Ismaeil joined *The Green Room*, a local program for Muslim youth, in their monthly storytelling event, where five Muslim women shared their experiences and thoughts on feminism and the faith journey.

Wynne is working with the WSCF – North America Regional Committee to organize 'Your Faith on Feminism' – a conference of intersectional, international and interfaith feminist theological responses to the current world situation, set for October 20-22, 2017.



SCM McMaster is a burgeoning branch looking to make new friends! After a season of preparation and relationships building, we'll be having our first official meeting on April 18 and talking about what the group will be doing. So far, people have expressed interest in a Bible/book study and discussion group, but the slate is clean, new ideas and participants are warmly welcome!

Rebecca Bauman is coordinating the group, following time working with SCM during the summer of 2016 as the Summer Student Assistant. They are also part of the Worship & Gathering Committee for the Cahoots festival, and will be a participant in the Pilgrimage for Indigenous Rights!

### SCM McMaster (Hamilton)

### SCM-Montreal / MÉC-Montréal

The Montréal group has continued to build momentum over winter with a series of events to support tired and stressed students (and faculty!) including craftnoots and clothing swaps. The recent event; *Our Stories: Queer/Trans and Christian Without Contradiction* drew great crowds and important discussion, and used the 'Facebook Live' technology to broadcast the conversation online.

Recently, coordinator Lina recorded and shared her discussion on Canadian conservation and the Biblical imperative of creation care with Éric Hébert-Daly, the National Executive Director of CPAWS / Société pour la nature et les parcs.



## SCM Ottawa



With plenty of activity spurred by the US election, SCM Ottawa has been out on the streets protesting, and collaborating with like-minded organizations.

Right now the focus is on Sanctuary City Ottawa. They are also working on a Reproductive Justice Devotional, along with a letter to churches to encourage them to engage on reproductive justice dialogue, and join a faith presence in peaceful opposition to March for Life. They're also teaming up with No One is Illegal to hold a film screening of Migrant Dreams sometime in May.

"We're big on brunch meetings."

## SCM U of T

After a busy semester of Radical Bible Studies and occasional events like the 'Protest Pin' making workshop (organized with Victoria College and KAIROS), the students are in the final stretch for exams and papers, and we're winding down our regular programming for the semester.

We have an exciting spring and summer in store - our Easter Season young adult retreat on April 22 will offer opportunities for skill-building in areas ranging from urban gardening to nonviolent action. And we are excited to invite everyone to our Spring Gala on April 28 to celebrate another year of good work!



## SCM York

The presence of SCM on campus is a valuable contributor to the dialogue about what the Christian faith is - and what it might be. As well as a weekly Bible Study, SCM members occasionally find a bench to play guitar, hand out stickers and SCM propaganda with students wandering by, trying to offer alternative ideas about what it means to be Christian.

# World Student Christian Federation - North America

June 16-18, 2017

WSCF – NA is planning the next event on the theme of Racial Justice and Indigenous Rights, focusing on Indigenous Solidarity with a program based out of Winnipeg, Manitoba. The program will include:

- Participation in a seasonal event at Sandy Saulteaux Spiritual Centre, the United Church's training centre for ministry in Indigenous communities
- Conversation Café to engage interracial conversations on race, privilege and reconciliation
- Working with a Playback Theatre Troupe, with past SCM Winnipeg coordinator Brad Leitch
- Connection with the Indigenous Peoples Solidarity team of Christian Peacemaker Teams

We will bring together students from the countries we call the United States and Canada, into a different experience of the land and the relationships of the land. Building on the model of the Border Solidarity trip (US-Mexico border, October 2016) and the advocacy training in Bangladesh (December 2016), this event will advance the Advocacy and Solidarity objectives of the World Student Christian Federation.

**Applications will open soon**

If you are a **Senior Friend** interested in taking part in a **Winnipeg gathering** to coincide with the program, contact the **SCM Canada office** at (416) 463-7622, or email [info@scmcanada.org](mailto:info@scmcanada.org).

## Pilgrimage for Indigenous Rights

Between April 23 and May 14, two SCM local unit coordinators will be joining dozens of others on the **Pilgrimage for Indigenous Rights**, a walk from Kitchener-Waterloo to Ottawa to call on Canada to fulfill our commitment to the United Nations Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

This initiative has been organized by our friends at Christian Peacemaker Teams along with Indigenous-Settler Relations of Mennonite Church Canada, as part of a far larger movement.

# PILGRIMAGE FOR INDIGENOUS RIGHTS

[www.pfir.ca](http://www.pfir.ca)

The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) was originally opposed by Canada, along with the USA, New Zealand, and Australia. UNDRIP's 46 articles cover everything from education, nationality and healthcare to land and culture rights, and set a minimum standard needed for Indigenous nations to thrive. The Truth and Reconciliation included a call for Canada to fully adopt and implement the Declaration in its Call to Actions, and also encouraged other groups like churches to set out plans to incorporate the Declaration.

**Last year, Canada removed its objector status. But UNDRIP is not yet part of Canadian law and practice.**

The Pilgrimage for Indigenous Rights will involve over thirty people walking 600 km to Ottawa, along with many others joining for a day or a week. Each day the Pilgrims will pray together and walk in company, bearing witness to the importance of UNDRIP for future justice and reconciliation in Canada. Each night the Pilgrims will host a teach-in at the church or community centre they are sleeping in, to explain their purpose.

**Support the pilgrims by purchasing Rebecca's beautiful lino-block cards**  
Contact [rebecca.e.bauman@gmail.com](mailto:rebecca.e.bauman@gmail.com) or 226-868-1716 to order cards.  
**Cards are \$3 each or four for \$10, and come in a variety of colours.**

The Student Christian Movement will be represented by Esther Townshend (SCM Toronto) and Rebecca Bauman (SCM McMaster).



They welcome your prayers of support, donations, and accompaniment along the way, either as walkers for a day, or at one of the evening teach-ins.



Support Rebecca Bauman  
as they walk on the  
**Pilgrimage for Indigenous Rights**  
from April 23 to May 14, 2017  
PFIR.CA  
email: [rebecca.e.bauman@gmail.com](mailto:rebecca.e.bauman@gmail.com)  
cell: 226-868-1716  
\$3 each  
\$10 for 4  
hand-printed lino block cards  
envelopes included

You can find out more about the Pilgrimage at:  
[www.pfir.ca](http://www.pfir.ca)

## SCM – USA, Leadership Training Program

Between March 23<sup>rd</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>, dozens of students, activists, and leaders in social movements gathered on “Holy Hill” at the 150-year-old Pacific School of Religion in Berkeley, California to discuss **Resisting Empire**. The event was facilitated by Student Christian Movement – USA, and my trip was sponsored by SCM Canada and Menno Simons College, and I want to express my sincere gratitude. Prior to the conference, I was excited - especially coming down from Canada - to go into the belly of the beast to talk about empire. I met incredible people from Lebanon, Columbia, Rwanda, South Africa and many other places, who all challenged my thinking in different ways.

As well as formal speakers and workshops, there were times for simple conversation. These times seemed to me the most valuable. I heard a story of someone’s first direct action resulting in a death in their arms, and of conflict resolution work being done in Palestine, and I connected with a Mennonite from Columbia involved in social action in a country I have no connection to. This is not to take away from the amazing speakers and workshops. Learning the history of SCM-USA and the World Student Christian Federation, and now being involved in that history was inspiring to think about.

Listening to David Vasquez-Levy’s discourse on migration, theology, and social action was moving – in the sense that it moves you to action. The workshops were spectacular. The diverse discussion facilitated by Dr. Filipe Maia on **God, Capitalism, and Empire**, challenged some of my Western conceptions and has me rethinking how I view debt. The workshop on **Radical Bible Studies** by SCM Canada coordinator Peter Haresnape, allowed a space to re-imagine reading scripture, and how to read it contextually and communally.

On the final day we shared a Communion Meal, serving each other in our final morning in community before we head back to wherever our current home may be. I pray that as we all reflect on our time, we remember our commitments.



**Chris Sundby** - Raised on the West Coast, now living in the inner city of Winnipeg's West End while pursuing a degree in Conflict Resolution and exploring what it means to live in community.

### Senior Friends Gathering – Ottawa Saturday June 3, 2017

5pm – Opening remarks  
6pm – Join the Feast with KAIROS!

To register – email [info@scmcanada.org](mailto:info@scmcanada.org), call 416-463-7622, or write to us.

### Kitchi Blanket Exercise – Ottawa, June 2, 2017

Where: **Parliament Hill, Ottawa, Unceded Algonquin Territory**

Who: **Everyone!**

When: **June 2, 2017**

Schedule:

3:30 pm – Cultural programming

5:00 pm – Elder Opening and Special Guests

5:30 pm to 7:30 pm – **Kitchi Blanket Exercise**

### Join SCMerS and friends!

The KAIROS Blanket Exercise is a visual and experiential way to represent colonization in Canada and its impact on Indigenous peoples. Kitchi means “really big” in Anishinaabemowin, the language of the unceded Algonquin territory where our settler capital is located. This *really big* Blanket Exercise is a collective commitment to build reconciliation based on justice for Indigenous peoples.

The event will mark the 2nd Anniversary of the TRC’s Calls to Action and the 20th anniversary of the KAIROS Blanket Exercise. It will also provide a perspective on Canada 150 that is different from that of many of the events taking place across the country.

