

A Portrait of Atlantic Region CLC

Community

There are 13 CLCs in Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island and New Brunswick with 68 members in total. NB has 10 of the 13 communities. The largest community has 10 members, the smallest 2. The average size is 5 or 6 members. The youngest community officially became a CLC a year ago, while the older communities have been together for more than 30 years. Since the communities are in different stages of development, we are conscious of this in our formation. We have two members who are 'waiting to form' a community. They regularly attend our regional meetings. Four communities have a shared coordinator role.

Communities are required to have a Group Guide to start and at this time, all have a GG. NB Group Guides meet 3 times a year, on a Friday evening and Saturday, for peer supervision, consultation, and formation. Regularly these GGs plan a celebration with formation around Saint Ignatius day that is open to all CLCers in the region. In NS, there is just one GG in the province and in PEI, there are six GGs but only two communities. This year there has been a commitment of \$600.00 set aside for formation purposes from the regional budget. Leadership formation is a main focus for this money, as is starting more Come and See programs for CLC.

Spirituality

Spiritual formation – 4 communities are doing or have just completed the Communal Spiritual Exercises. One community is using 'The First Spiritual Exercises' by Fr. Michael Hanson, SJ. as a resource. Another is doing "the Retreat in the Real World" through Creighton University's online adaptation of the Spiritual Exercises. More than 2/3 of members have made the Spiritual Exercises Anno. 19 and a handful have done the Spiritual Exercises Anno. 18. 22 members have made permanent commitments and 34 members have made temporary commitments.

Mission

For the past couple of years, our Atlantic Region has been discerning our Common Mission. In the spring of 2015, we wrote the statement of our Atlantic Regional Common Mission, which is ***'As the Christian Life Community {CLC} Atlantic Region we are called to place our gifts at the service of the poor, assisted by CLC development for this mission.'*** Since then, this mission has been inspiring, strengthening, and giving direction to our region.

Individual communities use a number of 'rituals' for sending members on new missions and we often use a sending ritual at Regional gatherings when a member leaves a role, for example secretary, and when someone takes on the role.

Other

Some strengths of our region: we have spring and fall regional gatherings where usually more than 12 of our 13 communities are represented. At each gathering, communities write and post a report, which provides a snapshot of them, their mission, and spiritual focus. A template is provided for this report. There is a connection in material and formation from one regional gathering to the next. The connection continues at our once-every-3 year assembly. Our last Atlantic Regional Assembly was held at the Belcourt Centre in South Rustico, PEI, on June 24 to 26, 2016. Through continued formation and personal witness from communities, understanding and using the DSSE process is becoming more comfortable and tangible. Also over the past few years, each community's own sense of mission has deepened as we have worked to clarify our Regional mission.

Areas that still need attention: sharing our Regional Common Mission, leadership formation, introducing CLC to others, and using our CLC tools.

Respectfully submitted,

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