

## Sorrento Retreat and Conference Centre

Bishop and Members of the Territory of the People Assembly:

Sorrento Centre is located on the territorial lands of the Secwepemc peoples on the shores of Shuswap Lake, BC in the Diocese of Kootenay. For over 54 years, this holy place has provided opportunities for community, faith formation, innovative worship, youth ministry, personal development, theological education and restoration of the soul.

Sorrento Centre has two areas of ministry. It is a *retreat* centre: providing courses and workshops for spiritual development and learning through programming. Since 2015, over 1900 people were registered participant in our program *retreat* ministry. This includes folks from the ages of 1 month up to 94 year olds! We value our intention to be intergenerational and inclusive in our welcome! The *Five Weeks of Summer* Courses and the spring and fall programs were offered on music, justice and food security, science and theology, the arts, scripture, theology, creation care, Circles of Trust, holy walking and pilgrimage, to name only a few.

Sorrento Centre is a *conference* centre that offers the ministry of hospitality and facility usage to groups who utilize and rent the space for their own purposes and programming. Over 4770 people have participated in our conference centre ministry over the past two years. This important ministry of welcome engages people from beyond the faith community to experience rest, renewal, learning healing and belonging on this beautiful site. It is important outreach and witness.

Sorrento Centre continues in its commitment and mission to provide excellence in youth ministry and leadership development. Two onsite retreats are held yearly in partnership with the BCYAYM and the Diocese of New Westminster youth ministry team. Between 50 -70 young people from BC and Alberta gathered on the long weekends in February for the Winter Retreat and in May for the Young Sojourners retreats. Our summer youth staff program also attracts young people for summer employment and leadership training. This life changing experience is a vital ministry of faith formation, leadership development and community.

The Sorrento Centre Farm continues to provide educational opportunities to guests, volunteers, staff and the local neighbours in the areas of organic farming practices, food security issues and creation care. This popular aspect of the Centre's mission continues to grow!

Fund Development and Future Plans: The Sorrento Centre Board has engaged in reflection and a reorientation of focus concerning fund development. The Capital Campaign begun in 2012 wound down its efforts, and in the spring of 2015, the board initiated the development of an annual campaign model. The board is listening deeply to the needs of donors and partners, and implementing necessary steps to establish confidence in future initiatives. The creation of a clear business plan, the reassessment of building needs and cost analysis, establishing secure trust tools for growth, will contribute to a strong future. The Abiding Gift: Abiding Presence Annual Appeal began in 2017 and will re-engage our many supporters, forge new partners and friends as we move into God's future for this "*holy place of transformation for learning, healing and belonging*". The important ministry of Sorrento Centre is able to continue through the presence of the Holy Spirit, and the generous support of many. The Territory of the People's prayers, participation and partnership have helped the ministry and work that this "Holy Place of Transformation" provides. We are grateful. Thank you for your support as one of our founding partners. Thank God for you.

Respectfully submitted,

The Rev. Louise Peters,

Executive Director Sorrento Retreat and Conference Centre