

- 2. That religious communities take initiative to strengthen their ability to support one another and to act effectively to eliminate religious persecution and intolerance.**

Rationale

Religious communities in Canada have worked on religious persecution/intolerance issues with their counterparts in other countries. We have not collaborated with one another within Canada. We need to know what is happening to believers in each others communities, to share resources, and to act collaboratively wherever possible. Our formal religious institutions¹ presently divide us along the lines of some of the divisions in the rest of the world. Therefore, we will need to find a table large enough for all religious communities that wish to participate.

Purpose

- (i) To assist Canadian religious communities in deepening their knowledge of the situation of religious communities suffering from intolerance and persecution and in the human rights standards, instruments, and methods that can be most useful;
- (ii) To develop the capacity of Canadian religious communities to engage governments effectively on this issue and to offer support to believing communities overseas.

Process

- (i) Discuss the issue openly in each of our major faith organisations. (Christians need to do this in 2 steps: the Conference of Bishops and the United Church will undertake to take the issue to the Canadian Council of Churches; then the CCC and the Evangelical Fellowship of Canada churches need to look at the issue together.) Use the report of this Roundtable as a starting point.
- (ii) Meet on an inter-faith basis.

¹ That is, the Canadian Council of Churches, the Evangelical Fellowship of Canada, the Canadian Jewish Congress, the Council of Muslim Communities, the Sikh Council of North America, and so on.