



An Awareness-Based Action Research Project in Adult Faith Education in Canada: *Towards Transforming Practice*

PROJECT UPDATE – February 24, 2019



FOCUS GROUP for the project (l-r): Miriam Martin, co-researcher, Carol Kuzmochka, researcher, Karen deKoninck, Diocese of Saint Jean Longueuil, Quebec, Loriann Pacenti, Hamilton Wentworth R.C. School Board, Charlene Peters, Diocese of Charlottetown, P.E.I. and chair, *Atlantic Catechetical Association*, Christine Taylor, Diocese of Prince Albert, Sask and chair, *Western Conference of Catholic Religious Educators*.

Highly regarded practitioners from across Canada have joined our researchers to form a Focus Group (shown above) in search of innovative, transforming practice in adult faith education that helps to close the gap between faith and life. This **Awareness-Based Action Research Project in Adult Faith Education in Canada: *Towards Transforming Practice*** is now well into its mandate after the Focus Group gathered at Saint Paul University in Ottawa, at the end of November, to launch its collaborative research.

A Focus Group of experienced, competent practitioners from a specific field is an established and effective method for engaging in qualitative research. Its collaborative work is well known for generating new perspectives and essential

practical wisdom for addressing challenging problems. An Action-Based methodology provides the framework for our Focus Group to engage in a collaborative, progressive process of reflection, planning, action and observation that is yielding some emerging principles and beginning elements for innovative theory. Our Focus Group is studying five emerging principles arising from its collaborative work that can contribute to transforming practice in adult faith education. The time-line (shown below) presents a visual representation of how the Focus Group is moving through this process.

In the field of Religious Education, where the need for more empirical research has been clearly identified, this Action-Research Project is valuable and timely. We are eager to continue this work which holds hope and promise for making a meaningful contribution to adult faith education in Canada.

