

January 5, 2023

Winter/Spring Classis Report

Greetings to our partners in ministry!

How does your church measure 'success'?

Have you ever thought about this? Sometimes the word *success* feels a bit icky; it sounds prideful or boastful; we think of celebrities or the ultra rich perhaps. But isn't success really just a matter of accomplishing your desired aim(s) or purpose?

Each year we put out an [Annual Report](#); an accounting of what we've done in the previous fiscal year. By all accounts, we would say we had a successful year! Not because we became rich and famous, but because **we saw deacons and churches live into their calling to be the hands, feet, and mouth of Jesus whenever and wherever they went.** And we were there to help them.

One 'success' worth mentioning is the upcoming launch of our online Stewardship Course. We know that deacons can often struggle with how they can help their church live more stewardly with their time, talents, treasures, and trees/God's creation. We hope this course will allow churches to see the impact they can have both locally and globally as they faithfully manage ALL of their gifts and resources for God's Kingdom. Stay tuned for more details in the coming weeks!



We are also celebrating two newly updated workshops for deacons; our Deacon 101 workshop and a "Developing Guidelines for Benevolence" workshop. Our Regional Ministry Developers and Diaconal Coaches are trained and ready to lead these learning events both in-person and online! This past fall, we already led 16 workshops across Canada! What a privilege it is to work with deacons, guide them through challenges, answer their questions, and celebrate the ways in which God is using them to transform communities for Christ.

We ask that you also mark your calendars for our annual NewGround Offering (formerly Operation Manna) for Sunday, May 7, 2023. NewGround helps churches love their community by offering grants and coaching support to start or grow community ministries. Ministries like Open Homes Hamilton (pictured here) who help newcomers to Canada find housing and resources!

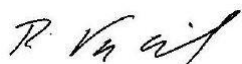


As you may recall, in order for us to continue to do our work, we rely heavily on a **ministry share funding model**, which is both *stewardly* and *cost-effective*. Our Diaconal Ministry Shares (formerly “Dues”) are not the same as Denominational or Classical Ministry Shares and are part of an agreement that Canadian Deacons made with each other in the 1960s and recommitted to in 2001 when Diaconal Ministries Canada was officially formed. (You can read more on our website about this: <https://diaconalministries.com/how-were-funded/>).

It is our sincere hope and desire that your church has been impacted by the work that we do to equip and encourage deacons in the areas of community engagement, justice & mercy, and stewardship. If you ever have any questions or concerns or need assistance in any way, please reach out to one of us personally (see our staff listing on the next page) or at our office (dmc@crcna.org). You can also visit our website and start browsing our resources and tools there.

May God bless each one of you in your ongoing ministry!

Respectfully submitted,



ron vanden brink

National Director, Diaconal Ministries Canada

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Encl (1)

For your information, we wanted to share a listing of our current Staff, Board, and Diaconal Coaches:

Staff:

Ron Vanden Brink, *National Director*; rvandenbrink@crcna.org

Administrative/Financial Assistant; dmc@crcna.org

Rachel Vroege, *Regional Ministry Developer (Western Canada)*; rvroege@crcna.org

Mark Vanderwees, *Regional Ministry Developer (Eastern Canada)*; mvanderwees@crcna.org

Karla Winham, *NewGround Coordinator*; kwinham@crcna.org

Kathrin Veenstra, *Fundraising Coordinator*; kveenstra@crcna.org

Erin Knight, *Communications Coordinator*; eknight@crcna.org

Board Members & Diaconal Coaches (by Classis):

Classis	Diaconal Coach	Board Member
Alberta North	Helen Krol; hckrol@hotmail.com Marg Hoogland; marghoogland@gmail.com	Jesse Edgington
Alberta South/Sask.	Jean DeBeer; jeandb3@gmail.com	vacant
British Columbia NW	David Hornor; hornpipe2022@gmail.com	Cindy Verbeek
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