

# Winter Classis Report



## Our Mission

*Relying on the Holy Spirit, we exist to Inspire, Empower and Equip Deacons as they animate congregations to join in God's transforming work in communities across Canada.*

## Happy New Year Deacons & Churches!

Thank you again for your continued support, prayers, and participation in Diaconal Ministries Canada. This past year was a busy one; leading training sessions and workshops and attending classis meetings. These are just some of the ways Diaconal Ministries is connecting with deacons and helping them live out their mandate to transform communities with Christ's love.

As we look to the year ahead, we wanted to share some exciting updates about our ministry.

## ReWriting the Financial Story with Anja Attema

This workshop and coaching program has been making a big impact on individuals and families across Canada!

In their benevolence ministry, deacons are often approached by the same individuals over and over again. While there is a time and place for immediate and short-term 'help' (eg. paying a water bill or buying groceries), deacons can now offer a more sustainable solution through Anja's financial coaching. Sometimes by digging a little bit deeper, a person's full financial 'story' can be uncovered and they can be empowered to make a better plan forward.



We were pleased to have Anja join us for our AGM in November. You can watch her presentation by visiting our Vimeo page (<https://vimeo.com/1035355255>) or by clicking the button below.

WATCH IT NOW



## What's NEW with NewGround

### Changes Ahead for NewGround Sunday

You may have noticed some significant changes recently to the **CRCNA Offering Calendar** which is produced by the denomination. It was decided last spring that any ministry that is not directly accountable to the CRCNA and that does not directly benefit from *denominational* ministry shares would be removed from this giving calendar. (Note: World Renew WAS still included; while they do not receive Denominational Ministry Shares, they are accountable to the CRCNA.)

It's important to note that Diaconal Ministries Canada is not a *formal* agency of the CRCNA; **we are a partner agency affiliated with the CRCNA**, just like the Calvinist Cadet Corps. As such, we do not receive denominational ministry shares or any other support from the CRCNA. (We collect our own *Diaconal* Ministry Shares, or "dues".)

Unfortunately, Diaconal Ministries was not a part of this decision and one direct result of this was that **NewGround Sunday - which was historically designated as the first Sunday in May - was removed from this offering calendar.**

In order to still help agencies like us promote our work and programs, the denomination included a **sheet of stickers** for deacons to use as they organize their offering schedule and themed Sundays.

***We hope that your church will commit to holding NewGround Sunday this coming year - on whichever date works best!***



### Moving Forward in Faith Conference

Were you able to attend this inaugural event in November? Read more about it in this CRC News story!

READ IT HERE





MISSION MONTREAL



BRUNCHKINS PROGRAM

Our 2025 NewGround Campaign resources will be available on or around February 1st and will be sent to each church by then. Deacons can visit our NewGround Campaign page to see updates over the coming months.

NewGround continues to be a vital resource for Canadian churches seeking to make a lasting impact through innovative community initiatives. The program provides funding, coaching, and other resources to help churches develop initiatives that address local needs and foster positive change in their communities. For this coming year, we are excited to announce that we have six (6) partners!

Together we can do even greater things to see God's good plan and purpose experienced here on earth as it is in heaven! Thank you for walking with NewGround and its partners. If you have any questions about anything in this letter or anything else, please do not hesitate to reach out to us!



GNC COLLECTIVE KITCHEN



It is our honour and privilege to support and equip deacons and churches like yours. May God bless each one of you in your ongoing ministry!

Respectfully submitted,

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