

August, 2023

Fall Classis Report

Greetings to our partners in ministry!

Who is Diaconal Ministries Canada?

Believe it or not, [our roots](#) go back to the 1950s! From the Maritimes to British Columbia, deacons formed local and regional “conferences” and met to share experiences and resources, develop workshops and training events, and find ways to assist each other and their congregations. In these early years, World Renew (CRWRC at this time) worked closely with diaconates on both sides of the border.



Over the years, the number of Diaconal Conferences expanded and contracted as new ones formed, some merged and others folded. Then in 1998, at a Classis Renewal Gathering in Chicago, Canadian folks representing the various Diaconal Conferences, along with representatives from Home Missions (now Resonate Global Mission) and CRWRC, met over lunch and began dreaming about pooling their diaconal experiences, resources, and training materials into an “umbrella” organization which would oversee the training of

deacons right across Canada. Soon the napkins on that table (the only paper they had available) were filled with circles, triangles, and arrows pointing from east to west and north to south.

It was an exciting time and, after a few more years of discussions (and maybe some more napkin drawings), the boards of the existing Conferences jointly approved the formation of a new organization and **in 2001, Diaconal Ministries Canada was officially constituted!** Diaconal Ministries adopted the ministry share model that was part of an agreement that Canadian deacons made with each other in the 1960s and recommitted to in 2001. (Note: These are different from Denominational Ministry Shares and Classis Ministry Shares. Read more on our website about this:

<https://diaconalministries.com/how-were-funded/>).

What do we do?

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](#), service & [justice](#), [benevolence](#), and [stewardship](#). Our staff includes two Regional Ministry Developers (one in Western Canada, one in Eastern) which oversee our team of Diaconal Coaches, approximately one per classis.



A few highlights from this past year...

Our online Stewardship Course has launched on the [CRCNA Learning Portal](#). Deacons have been asking for ways they can help their churches live more stewardly - so here it is! Modules cover the four "T's" of Stewardship: time, talents, treasures, and trees (God's creation) and offer a variety of practical tools and tips to implement their learning.



A new workshop called "Everyday Justice" will soon be offered on the CRCNA learning portal as a self-directed study for churches and deacons. This workshop can be facilitated in-person or online for deacon teams and groups. Contact our Justice Mobilizer, Cindy Stover, at cstover@crcna.org or Regional Ministry Developer, Rachel Vroege, at rvroege@crcna.org with your questions.

Our newly revamped "**Helping without Harming in Church Benevolence**" workshop has been run several times and deacons are loving it! Our Regional Ministry Developers and Diaconal Coaches are trained and ready

to lead this and other workshops, both in-person and online!

Did your church hold an offering for [NewGround](#) yet? NewGround Sunday was designated as **May 7, 2023**, this year! NewGround (*formerly called Operation Manna*) helps deacons and churches love their community by offering grants, coaching, and resourcing. What could YOUR church do with a NewGround partnership?

Are your deacons looking for help and support?

If your church or deacons ever have any questions or concerns or need assistance in any way, they are encouraged to reach out to us - see our staff listing on the next page. Deacons are also encouraged to 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)

Diaconal Ministries' current Staff, Board, and Diaconal Coaches

Staff:

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Board Members & Diaconal Coaches (by Classis):

Classis	Diaconal Coach(es)	Board Member
Alberta North	Erika Repka; erika_nyland@hotmail.com Marg Hoogland; marghoogland@gmail.com	Jesse Edgington
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