



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

FALL REPORT TO CLASSIS - 2019

August, 2019

Warmest Greetings to each of our Partners in Ministry!

Diaconal Ministries is an organization created “**by** Deacons **for** Deacons”, with the vision to help Deacons fulfill their calling/mandate as spelled out in the Church Order (2016) and the Charge to Deacons as articulated in the form for the Ordination of Elders and Deacons (2016).

In order to fulfil this vision, our Diaconal Coaches and Regional Ministry Developers make personal contact with approximately 90% of diaconates every year – if you haven't been contacted please let us know. Here's a look at what else we've been working on since our last report to Classis in the spring:

- Operation Manna is now **NewGround**. NewGround will continue to offer everything that Operation Manna did and more! Building on more than 20 years of successfully helping churches love their communities, NewGround provides:
 - Deacon Scholarships
 - Help with conducting Community Opportunity Scans
 - Community Ministry Grants & Coaching
 - Youth Justice Initiative Grants & CoachingCheck our website for more information. <https://diaconalministries.com/newground/>
- A new **Website**. <https://diaconalministries.com/>
In July we launched our new Website. It's overflowing with updated and relevant resources for Deacons. Our e-quip blog is also filled with inspiring stories, helpful tips and links. And our FAQ section is a great place for deacons to receive information, support and encouragement.
- Extensive work has been done in the area of **Stewardship** and **Benevolence** to better equip deacons and congregations:
 - A brand new collaboration with Christian Stewardship Services and the CRC in Canada has begun. Together we'll be launching a new **Stewardship Pilot Project** in the coming year. *Stay tuned to Diaconal Ministries for more information.*
 - We continue to offer a workshop entitled “**Helping Without Harming**”. These half- or full-day workshops teach the differences between *Relief* (offering temporary relief during a crisis), *Rehabilitation* (helping communities recover from a crisis), and *Community Development* (helping those in chronic poverty to support themselves and challenge systems that work against people fulfilling these callings.) This workshop has been very well received in cities like Edmonton, Nanaimo, and Toronto and a fall workshop is being planned for Thunder Bay.



To accomplish all of the above-mentioned work and more, we continue to be funded primarily through Diaconal Ministry Shares (dues) which are invoiced yearly to each Canadian CRC. It's important to note that these are NOT the same as *Denominational* or *Classical* Ministry Shares. Diaconal Ministry Shares are part of the agreement that **Canadian** Deacons made with each other in the 1960s and recommitted themselves to in 2001 when DMC was officially formed. Each year the DMC Board reviews and approves the amount – and each year these amounts, along with audited financial statements, are presented at Diaconal Ministries Annual General Meeting.

For your information, our **Board Executive** for 2019-20 consists of:

Chair – Erica Snippe-Juurakko (Thunder Bay, ON) erica.snippejuurakko@gmail.com

Vice-Chair – Martin Slofstra (Toronto, ON) martinslofstra9@gmail.com

Secretary – Norm Hasyema (Leduc, AB) normhaayema@gmail.com

Thank you for partnering with us in fulfilling the vision which God has given us to inspire, empower, and equip deacons, churches, and their partners across Canada as **together** we join in God's transforming work. Thank you for your time, your prayers, and your financial support: we could not do this without you. May God continue to bless and guide us all as we carry out the ministries He calls us to.

Please don't hesitate to call or write if you have any questions.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Vanden Brink".

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