

**NORTHERN ALBERTA DIACONAL CONFERENCE
OF THE CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH
GENERAL BOARD MEETING – Minutes**

7:00 pm -- Thursday, June 5, 2019 at Sunrise CRC, Ponoka

Board Members & Advisors Present: Norm Haayema (NADC Exec/ DMC rep/ Leduc Ebenezer), Jesse Edgington (NADC Consultant/Centrepointe CRC), Ted VanderMeulen (Lacombe Wolf Creek), Nanette Murray, Luuk VanAken, Jenette Oosterink (Ponoka Sunrise) and Jon Drok (Red Deer First).

Guest: Tarence Barg - from Canadian Food Grains Bank (Breton, AB) & Peter Doornenbal (Ponoka, AB).

Churches and Advisors NOT represented (Central/South Region): Rimbey, Red Deer New Life, Lacombe Bethel, Lacombe Woody Nook, Marg Hoogland (NADC Exec/Woody Nook), Lucinda Klapwyk DMD (Edm/North), First Rocky, Covenant Rocky, Cuba Connection, Martin Mobach (Pastoral Advisor), DMD Parkland, WR and DRS.

1. **OPENING:** Welcome – Norm Haayema
2. **DEVOTIONS:** – Jesse Edgington – NADC consultant – God made a Farmer video and land connection. Followed by a prayer walk out around the church in creation (Lectio Terra).
3. **INTRODUCTIONS:** All – What is your favourite part about deacon ministry? Members shared personal highlights.
4. **AGENDA:** Review and adopt agenda – any additions? None
5. **MINUTES:** adopt February 7, 2019 Board Minutes (p.2+3) – passed.
6. **BUSINESS:**
 - a. Tarence Barg, Canadian Foodgrains Bank presentation. (www.foodgrainsbank.ca) Tarence shared a very enlightening presentation with us about who CFGB is and what they do. They have been operating since 1983 and now include 15 partner agencies. The work that started with shipping grain to other countries has evolved and changed but the impact of relief and development work has continued to increase. They are involved with 36 different grain growing projects in Alberta with many CRC churches connected to them, but also raise money for foreign development in a variety of other ways, which they describe as Grow Hope projects. Churches don't have to just be rural and connected to farmers to be a part of CFGB. Examples of other ways are cycling, golf tournaments, cattle auctions, community fundraisers and advocacy campaigns among others. Currently they are promoting the "I Care Campaign" found on their website. They are still well supported by the Canadian government because of their variety of partners and often get matching money from the government up to 4:1. This advocacy is important to continue that strong connection with the government.
 - b. Peter Doornenbal – Shared about personal involvement with CFGB – Peter described the numerous years of being involved and the blessings it has been. Currently he says there are seven core member for their Ponoka Growing project and up to 40 or 50 farmers who help in different ways at different times. They now have a 150 acres plot of land designated with a 5 year contract.
 - c. NADC 2020 budget proposal – no revisions, to submit to classis treasurer.
 - d. NADC ministry review survey – would be easier to look at with more time or in digital format. Jesse will email the word document format for deacons to look at and discuss, as well as a link for a Survey Monkey online version if people prefer that.

- e. Deacon mentoring – Ideas of what is done in the various churches were shared, strengths and challenges were discussed and there are ideas of practical resources within churches that can be shared to others looking to develop it further.

7. **REPORTS:**

- a. World Renew - Ray Prins/Peter Bulthuis – Watch for Joint Ministry Committee (JMC) meetings that are coming in September on the 27th & 28th. There will be a time for engagement for deacons and WR ambassadors, so save the date if interested.
- b. Disaster Relief Services – Gary Duthler/Henry Visscher
- c. Refugee Sponsorship news – DOE 2019 will have refugee and hospitality theme. Churches will have a role in sharing, telling stories and participating in the day. Speakers will include Lewis Cardinal, Ida Kaastra-Mutoigo, Rebecca Walker and Jennifer Henry (among others for workshops). Watch for announcements and early bird registration later in the summer.
- d. Diaconal Ministries Developer's – Lucinda Klapwyk (Edmonton and North) South/Central still looking for their next DMD, Lucinda is filling in when and where she can.
- e. DMC Regional Ministry Developer – Rachel Vroege – Operation Manna has changed to New Ground and the new information and campaign has been sent to churches and is available on the website. Contact Rachel for more and also look for new initiatives going along with the new name. www.diaconalministries.com
- f. Diaconal Ministries Canada Board – Norm Haayema
- g. Cuba Connection – John Strikwerda
- h. NADC Consultant – Jesse Edgington – Jesse talked about the Walking for Common Ground event that was ongoing and had just progressed from Maskwacis to Ponoka and would go from Ponoka to Lacombe the next day. It is an opportunity to walk as allies with the Indigenous community and build relationship and understanding of living as treaty people. He reminded churches that he is also willing to facilitate the Living the 8th Fire material in a variety of formats to deacons or church groups. Ponoka deacons shared about Sean and Becky Folkerts who have spoke at their church and are currently in ministry in their area with NAIM (North America Indigenous Ministries). www.naim.ca

8. **CARING AND SHARING:**

Sharing joys and concerns – Examples of current joys and activities were shared. Hands and feet Sundays continue spring and fall at Wolf Creek and have been a blessing. Red Deer first is starting a church-to-church partnership with a church in Kenya, were busy with helping file tax returns at tax time and participated in a community bike tune up clinic. They have also been in connection with the Mustard Seed in Red Deer. Ponoka is exploring a mission trip to Belize with EduDeo, they encourage their gardening members to plant and grow a row for the food bank or to give away and they continue to partner with another local church to help out with a community breakfast.

9. **CLOSING Prayer:** Next meeting date: October 3, 2019

Common Abbreviations: CAN: Classis AB North. CIC: Classical Interim Committee. DOE: Day of Encouragement.

DMC: Diaconal Ministries Canada. DMD: Diaconal Ministries Developer. OM: Operation Manna. WR: World Renew.

DRS: Disaster Response Services.