NADC Consultant Classis Report: October 16&17, 2020

Northern Alberta Diaconal Conference (NADC): A Classis ministry of which all CAN churches are members. The full board consists of a representative of each church. This representative is usually, though not always, a deacon. We exist to encourage and inspire congregations and communities to grow in living lives of stewardship, justice, mercy, and compassion. This is done by regularly meeting, collaborating, communicating and sharing of experience between members and ministry partners. Since we met last:

1. NADC deacons and reps met via zoom in June and early October. The summer meeting featured Pastor Josh Friend who gave a report about the flood relief efforts in Fort McMurray. It was a great time to hear the encouraging stories of connection and support given by many churches within our Classis. We also heard from ministry partners; Diaconal Ministries Canada and World Renew. Full video and notes of the meeting are available on the NADC tab of the Classis website. The fall meeting featured the Christian Stewardship Services with one of their training sessions led by Paul Stehelin.
2. DOE 2020 will be happening via zoom on the first Saturday of November. Save the date for November 7 and watch for announcements in bulletins and on social media very soon.
3. With so many ministries active online right now, there are lots of opportunities to explore new things from the comfort of your own device at home. Online I participated in the *Love You Neighbor* Conference with Calvin Seminary, the *Inhabit* Conference with Neighborhood Parish Ministry and Disability Leadership Training conference over the summer. If you would like more info on any of these or want to stay in the loop for others coming up, please contact me to connect.
4. Another meaningful practice to engage in during this season is self-reflection, education and justice exploration. I participated in a book club, reading and zoom meetings with a small CRC cohort about the church and racism. Trouble I’ve Seen, by Drew Hart. I have been digging into racism issues within my own readings and online gatherings with Christian Peacemaker Teams, Indigenous and Black theologians. I am sharing these experiences by writing blogs on the classis website; www.classisalbertanorth.ca/nadc.
5. My involvement continues with prison ministry connections. There was a Safe Church online event and by partnering with The Mustard Seed, we have been able to help facilitate community reintegration group meetings; both online and outdoor physically distanced.
6. Resources available to your churches, such as the coming DOE, 8th Fire, Cree Easter paintings and a Decolonizing the Bible webinar to name a few are just an email away. If you would like to know more about a ministry or resource, please contact me and I will look into it with you.

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