

**NADC
PURPOSE
STATEMENT:**

To encourage and challenge the growth of justice, compassion, mercy, and stewardship among God's people in the Christian Reformed Churches of Classis Alberta North

**For more
information on
anything in this
newsletter
contact:**

Jesse Edgington

Email:
yournadc@gmail.com

Phone:
780-819-7488

Address:

5940-159 Ave
Edmonton, AB
T5Y 0J5

Find me on Social Media —
on Facebook as: Ab North
or like and follow the NADC
page. www.facebook.com/yournadc

**NEXT NADC Full
Board Meeting:**

Feb. 1st, 2018 @
Location TBD.

Season of Advent: Advent is a very exciting season for many reasons, especially in the anticipation of what is to come. That anticipation is twofold as we celebrate the birth of the Christ but also as we anticipate the second coming of our Lord and Prince of Peace. Advent can also be a challenge because waiting is not always easy, as we live in a fast paced, busy, work and social activity driven culture. It may be a difficult time because Advent also comes with an invitation to join God in the restoration of all things (NT Wright), which can at times seem daunting. I will be the first to admit that I wrestle with this season of our Christian calendar. I long for what is to come, I long to see God work in the broken areas of my life, of those around me and especially of those suffering extreme injustices around the world. I want more but I know it is God's mission, so I wait for the Spirit's leading and look for where and how God is calling me to be. Sometimes I feel weighed down and paralyzed by it all but our comfort in Christ is that we do not have to fear, we can be made new each day and He is with us always. So in this important season, may we be ever mindful of whose we are and that we are made to love God, our neighbor and care for all of His creation until Christ returns.

- ⇒ **Black Friday, Giving Tuesday, Christmas gifts and more...** What a whirlwind we can be thrown into this time of year around gifts, giving and our consumer culture. In ways that are good and bad, it seems like everyone is trying to capitalize on our hearts and pocket books alike. Was there a preferred charity or organization that you supported this past annual "Giving Tuesday"? Are there benefits or downfalls to seasonal giving campaigns? How does this compare to developing long term sustainability or is it just a reality of the life and context we are faced with? Just some of the questions each diaconate might have to navigate around collections and benevolence funds.
- ⇒ **End Poverty Initiative:** It has been a busy time for End Poverty, with November being housing month, the city of Edmonton updating their progress and goals and then the Federal government announcing a National Housing Strategy. This is exciting momentum, in light of the fact that nation wide support has been absent for over 40 years. There is work to do to unpack what the strategy will entail, but it does look promising for provinces and municipalities to be able to join with the federal government to access some additional funds. It could mean extra support for non-profit social and housing agencies and our faith communities can play a role in that support and momentum. I have wonderings of what that could look like for our CRC churches but the most obvious is partnering with groups like The Mustard Seed, Habitat for Humanity, Homeward Trust and Welcome Home. What are your ideas for involvement?
- ⇒ **Classis Church Visiting:** At the last meeting in October, we heard a proposal for renewing how our Classis does church visiting. It was exciting to think about how churches could renew a focus to partner with another church to lift each other up in ministry. They talked about creating clusters of geographically based groups that could meet as leaders, councils or even whole churches for events, encouragement, accountability, prayer, joint ministry and more. As I listened to this, I thought of what we do a few times a year as deacons and how much it blesses those who join together at the NADC meetings. I really hope and pray that our Classis can find ways to practically and fruitfully embrace opportunities to connect and maybe our deacons could help lead the way. Does your diaconate formally or informally partner with another CRC church near you? How could we as deacons encourage our pastors, councils and leaders to embrace the idea of practical steps to intentionally connect with a sister church? I would love to hear your ideas or hear about connections already made.
- ⇒ **DOE feedback:** Another great day had people blessed by Steven Timmermans keynote address and encouraged that he was representing our denomination well. There was a buzz coming out of excellent workshops on various topics and people were excited to share what they had learned with others. One presenter was gracious enough to comment that "... I think I received more than I gave, thank you."

EYE ON IT

Current events in Classis AB North:

Dr. Karin Linschoten - Dec. 18 @ 7PM. Maranatha CRC Edmonton will be hosting an encore opportunity to hear and learn from Karin, who has extensive experience working with refugees around trauma and resettlement.

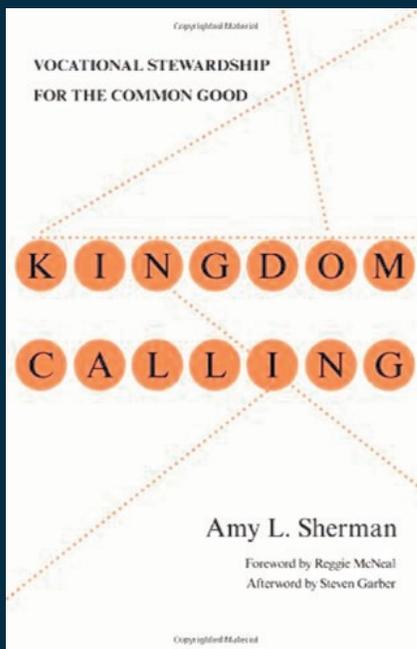
Creators Sacrifice: Open for booking. 2018 is the last year Classis covers travel costs. Contact journadc@gmail.com for more.

Coffee with DMD:

Every second Thursday of the month at the Carrot Café 10 AM and every third Thursday of the month at Second Cup at 7 PM (101 Ave + 75 St).

Brian Doerksen: In concert with the King's University Choir - January 20th, 2018. 7PM @ South Point Community Centre. Tickets online at Tix on the Square.

Books: This book helps us reflect on God's calling on our lives and how our jobs can join in His mission. Sherman explores ideas of "My 95," blooming where you are planted, inventing, investing, volunteering and much more. It is a great read when exploring ideas around vocation.



Reflections with your Pastor:

Do you or have you ever joined your pastor in a book or devotional study? I have been involved in church leadership in a number of capacities and we have always held devotional components to our meetings and structures, but recently I have had the blessing of sitting down with our pastor to discuss a book that we chose to read together. We picked one called "Joyful Exiles" by James Houston and each got a copy to go through on our own and then met regularly to discuss what we were reading, learning and experiencing in our lives as we explored the book. I know what your thinking, duh Jesse, it's called a book club; and I'll give you that, but it has been great to be able to get to know my pastor on a different level. Sometimes we find our interactions on a leadership level are focused on certain items or agendas and it has been refreshing to be able to grow on personal, leadership and friendship levels by going through this exercise. I would encourage and challenge you to consider an intentional study with another deacon, council member or pastor and see what a blessing it could be.

Non Violent Direct Action:

What does a title like this invoke in your heart, mind and spirit? I hope it does something in you, even if it is curiosity, excitement or discomfort. For me, it speaks of people who are so willing and committed to stand with others, that they will forgo the comforts and patterns of our everyday life to call attention to the injustice in our culture, systems and organizations. When I hear stories about this, people like Mike Frost and Shane Claiborne come to mind. Both have recently been involved with peaceful protests that were meant to call the attention of the general public to the plights of people who did not have a voice. In each case, they ended with the protesters being handcuffed and arrested for breaking public trespassing or disruption laws. Frost acknowledges that to some, disobeying political or legal authorities is wrong, but he argues that in the case of non-violent acts, it is a Christian act. Have you ever been part of a peaceful protest or civil resistance? Are we as deacons, Christians, called to fight injustice in ways that may include this? To read about it more, check out his blog post at www.mikefrost.net or see Shane Claiborne's story on his Facebook page.

- Your NADC pick for this editions "Artist Feature" is **Rebecca Joy Sumner**. She is a multitalented writer, blogger, theologian, liturgist and more! Check her out at www.rebeccasumner.com

World Renew:

- Having DRS partner with us for the Day of Encouragement this past November was a great blessing and was well received. Bob Laarman was able to share some insights into the work and structures of DRS and tell us some exciting stories of the work they do and the lives that are impacted. People shared feedback about learning a lot about DRS that they did not previously know and were excited to hear about the commitments World Renew makes to be in it for the long haul. The promise to remain in affected communities long after the media and many other organizations leave is one that resonated with the DOE attendees. There are many opportunities to work with DRS so please check out their website for more information.
- This time of year, WR offers subscriptions to Advent devotionals, opportunities to engage in ministry and ways to give to those around the world through the Christmas Giving Catalogue. www.worldrenew.net/gifts
- Also check out their new campaign called Ruby Slipper, www.myworldrenew.net/rubyslipper for a great opportunity to engage young people.