

**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

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information on
anything in this
newsletter
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**NEXT NADC Full
Board Meeting:**

February 7, 2019 @
Ebenezer CRC in
Leduc.

Standing, Walking or Running to Year-end:

Deacons represent the hands and feet of Christ and are to encourage all members and friends to have a heart for God's mission in word and deed. This often means finding ways to change our lives from doubt to hope, from impatience to patience, from self absorption to sacrificial love, from inaction to action. We can start by acquiring knowledge, we need to learn best practices and be equipped, but at some point we must step out in grace and courage. I was recently reading about the Matthew 25 Challenge, as described by the well known organization, World Vision. They have a practical steps challenge that people of all ages could take on in their homes and communities. It might be something your diaconate could look at engaging in, or even walking in partnership with your churches youth group as mentors. They have a six week challenge that includes a week of skipping a meal, a week of drinking just water, sleeping on the floor, wearing the same clothes, writing an encouraging note to someone and going on a prayer walk. These all come with scriptural teaching, background information for learning and can be applied to the context you find yourself in. It is a way to change a habit, form a new perspective and do some experiential learning. Check out the Matthew 25 Challenge for yourself today.

- ⇒ **December Double:** A couple of years ago we mentioned the idea of reverse advent calendars and I am seeing them pop up all over the place on social media these days. Advent and Christmas are fast approaching and reverse advent calendars can be a great way to intentionally think about our spending and giving habits. Challenge yourself and your church to do one this year! Another more immediate day to remember is *Giving Tuesday*. As a prophetic response to Black Friday, there are many non-profit organizations that run Giving Tuesday campaigns and it is a good time to respond with charitable giving from a generous heart. What group are you supporting this Giving Tuesday?
- ⇒ **Refugee Sponsorship - World Renew :** Many churches in our Classis are involved in this ministry and did you know that next year will be the 40th Anniversary of World Renew (CRWRC) helping CRC churches sponsor refugees in Canada? It is an interesting time today, with the US cutting way back on their numbers, forcing agencies to look at alternative ways to help. The Canadian Council of Refugees is a great group to get connected to and get on their email list. They give help in resources, current events and training. There is also a US group called Miles4Migrants who are pooling air miles from all over North America to use to fly refugees here. Ananias Mission is another group who has explored the possibility of raising US money to partner with Canadian churches, in order to share US resources to bring refugees to Canada. If you want to explore any of these further, check them out online and be sure to connect with Rebecca Walker from World Renew to ask if they are able to help connect to these resources. worldrenew.net/refugees
- ⇒ **DOE 2018 Feedback:** It was another great year of learning and being encouraged and, despite a slightly smaller crowd, the keynote speaker Bill McAlpine was well received with many saying he was the best one we have had in a number of years. I have been going over the written feedback, but if you were not able to get around to it, I would still welcome any emails with comments to improve and adjust for next year. We are always tweaking things and would love your input as we brainstorm for the first Saturday in November 2019. Consider sharing your experience at church and personally inviting someone who has never gone, for next year... REMEMBER NOVEMBER.
- ⇒ **YOUR STORY HERE!** I would love to connect with you about your passions or a ministry you are involved with. I can meet over coffee, by phone or on the internet to "interview" you and then write up your story to share, inspire and encourage others. At our NADC board meetings we have heard about connections to EduDeo, Jasper Place Wellness, ENHC, Christian Care Center and many more. Lets encourage others by sharing how these ministries and others have impacted you and your churches.

EYE ON IT

Current events in Classis AB North:

CRCNA and CAN - Save the date for the World Renew Just trAID event on March 23, 2019.

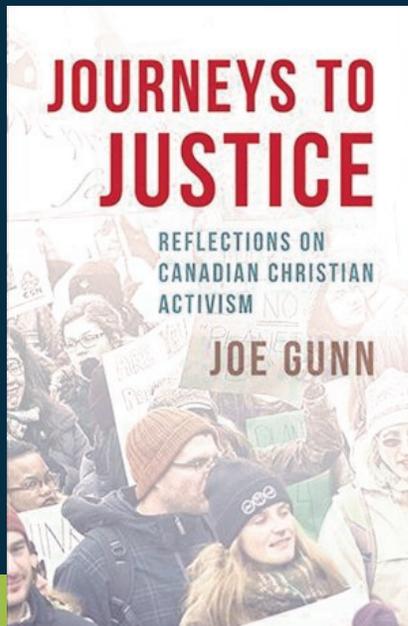
Creators Sacrifice: Contact journadc@gmail.com for details. This resource is one way for your community to continue to respond to the TRC calls to action. Art can be a powerful connecting tool across many of the boundaries we face.

Links: www.cpj.ca - Learn more about this organization that brings an ecumenical group of leaders together to advocate for justice in our nation, from a Christian perspective. They have many practical ways to connect and take action.

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).

Books: Advocacy can seem daunting and tiring sometimes, but as Joe Gunn features in this book, it has been woven into the rich fabric of Canadians for a long long time. Be inspired and moved by the stories and words of many past and present activists who speak out against injustices of all different forms and magnitudes. Be ready to receive encouragement and hope!



Opioid Crisis - Ben Bridgstock at the River CRC

You have probably heard about this crisis in the media or even from relatives and friends. I attended this SJI event at The River in October and was blown away by what I heard through the main speaker and also through the married couple that shared their own personal story. I will not be able to do it justice in a couple of paragraphs but I wanted to highlight a couple of things, if not only to urge others to look into it more for their own communities. This has the potential to impact ANY-ONE, no matter your stage of life, socio-economic standing or your religious beliefs.

As I listened to this couple describe their journey with their child, who had become addicted to fentanyl, I could not comprehend how they could be telling this in front of a group of strangers. My heart broke for them and the thought of other families going through this. It also gave me an uneasy feeling of raising children with this challenge looming on the horizon of their potential experiences as they get older.

I learned some things that seemed simple afterwards, and maybe you have more experience in this field, but a couple of things struck me. One, was that users typically are not ongoing users to get a high, but merely continue using to mitigate the pain they are experiencing through their circumstance or withdrawal. The initial hook can come from experimenting with substances but it can also come from everyday medical and pharmaceutical practises. We have to be knowledgeable and question what we are getting at the doctor and dentist, to mitigate pain after surgery, for example. The other thing that struck me was the difference Bridgstock pointed out, between legalization and decriminalization. This is a huge topic for us now, as Canada has legalized cannabis, and it was interesting to hear the different contexts around the simple word choice in making policy. So much to explore, from med safe boxes, to SMART groups, overdose prevention action and more.

Just trAID, March 23/19.

The save the date in the side bar references an upcoming opportunity to participate in conversation, learning, a shared meal and trade fair all in one day. World Renew is joining with Partners Worldwide to bring Daniel Jean-Louis and Doug Seebeck to Covenant CRC in Edmonton to explore topics of development, relief, trade and global economic impact. Jean-Louis, a business entrepreneur from Haiti, is one of the coauthors to the book, From Aid to Trade, that talks about the lessons learned from Haiti. Seebeck is the founding director of PWW.

- Your NADC pick for this editions "Artist Feature" is **Ron Prins**. At this years Day of Encouragement, Ron was one of the local CRC artists who provided the beautiful photographs of Sacred Spaces. He hails from Lacombe, Alberta and his eye for capturing light and bringing God's beauty of nature into focus is stunning. His work features places that we can connect with God, places that bring us joy, amazement, peace and more. Ron's company is called Long Shadows Photography and you can look him up at [Instagram.com/rnprns](https://www.instagram.com/rnprns) or email him at rnprns@gmail.com. All the art he had at the DOE is currently for sale and you can connect with him if you are interested in a piece or you see something else on his Instagram account that catches your eye.

World Renew: When helping hurts

- World Renew and DMC are teaming up to provide an excellent series of workshops across the country and one is coming to Edmonton. Helping Without Harming will be happening on January 12, 2019 at Southpointe Community Centre, 11520 Ellerslie Road. It will run from 10 AM to 2:30 PM and you can register at worldrenew.net/hwhworkshop. Also don't forget about the great World Renew gift catalogue for this Christmas season for an excellent way to buy gifts that make a difference for those in your family, church and around the world. worldrenew.net/gifts