

**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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page. www.facebook.com/yournadc
www.classisalbertanorth.ca/nadc

NEXT NADC Full**Board Meeting:**

June 6, 2019 @ TBA.
Watch for more details

Spring has Sprung: Spring is an exciting time for those of us living in Alberta. After a long dark winter, after four weeks of minus thirty degree weather, we are ready to have the sun shine bright and the days get warmer. All the melting, and emergence of green again, gives us renewed energy and hope. The seasons are a powerful reminder that our world belongs to God and that He is the source of transformation and renewal in us and our world. At our most recent Classis AB North spring meeting, delegates opened the meeting with a devotional time that included a confessional responsive reading that incorporated an indigenous land acknowledgment. I found this significant and affirming to remember who we are, why we do what we do and the importance of recognizing the place and history that we are rooted in. I am grateful for the leadership and direction of Classis in this area of reconciliation with our indigenous brothers and sisters. Another encouraging thing that happened, within the structure of Classis meetings, was the affirmation of an invitation to emerging churches in our Classis to send delegates to Classis meetings. This means our church plants can send the pastors and leaders of their church to be present and participate in the work of the CRC church in its regional support and functioning. For details on this and more, check out the minutes of these meetings at www.classisalbertanorth.ca.

- ⇒ **Friday & Saturday meetings:** Last year, a motion was received at Classis to shift the two day meetings from their weekday format to a weekend format. The intention of this was to encourage, and hopefully make it easier for, elders and deacons to attend. It was noted that anyone working a full time job (not in the church ministry field) would have to take two days off work in order to attend. Moving it to the weekend format would at least cut that down to one and possibly even none, if people could flex time or make up half days. The change was done on a trial basis and was evaluated at the March Classis meeting. Statistics supported the change as attendance numbers for both elders and deacons were up. The decision was made by the body, in a unanimous vote, to continue with the weekend format until a further review was needed.
- ⇒ **Benevolence and Senior Care :** Deacons have been engaged with a couple of topics recently at our NADC meetings and in extra training sessions. As we continually try and be faithful to the resources of the church, as well as grow and learn more about how we distribute it, it is important to learn about how that affects the giver and receiver. Diaconal Ministries Canada has some great resources to assist in this and facilitates training workshops with your diaconates. If you have not been able to participate in one, please be in contact with your local DMD to make plans to do so soon. Also, Lucinda Klapwyk is working on developing resources for deacons to be mindful of the needs for Elder/Senior care ministries in our churches and would love your input. Check out the work that has been done thus far on the Deacon Documents post at www.classisalbertanorth.ca/nadc.
- ⇒ **DOE 2019 Welcoming the Stranger - Celebrating 40 years of Refugee Sponsorship:** Can you believe World Renew has been facilitating the sponsorship of newcomers to Canada for forty years! Many churches in our Classis have been participating in that work and we would like to celebrate that along with World Renew. It will be a day of stories about the work, the people and the blessings that have been shared in families, churches and communities all over Alberta North. If your church or refugee committee would like to contribute or be involved, please be in contact with me asap about what you would like to do or share. The DOE is always an exciting time of learning and growth so if you have gone in the past, consider sharing your experience at church and personally inviting someone who has never gone... REMEMBER NOVEMBER.
- ⇒ **Deacon Stories:** It is a blessing to hear about churches connecting with their city and communities! One church in our area has been blessed to partner with their local leaders to hire a community parish nurse. Another church teams up with their community league leaders to support events and meals for the community at the local community hall. These are inspiring stories of connection and blessing that deacons can share with churches and I would be happy to put more detail to them and share with others.

EYE ON IT

Current events in Classis AB North:

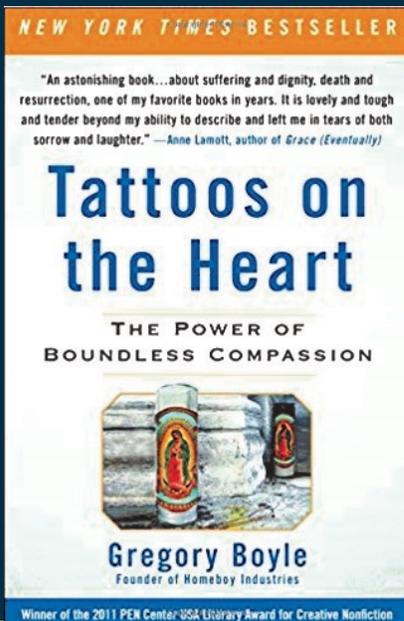
CRCNA and CAN - March 2 - April 21: Keiskamma art project. Imbumba - mixed media art show and sale at the McMullen Gallery, UofA Hospital.

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. March 24 at CentrepoinTE CRC and April 7-21 at Mosaic East Campus.

Links: www.worldrelief.org. Serving the world's most vulnerable. Partners with church and community.

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: What an amazing story of restorative justice and the power of love. Taking the most hardened gang members and transforming them into community change agents. Read about the stories of struggle, ministry and persistence by a man they call G-Dog. It had me in tears and inspired me to visit the work first hand at Homeboy Industries. www.homeboyindustries.org



NADC - Caring and Sharing

When we gather together as deacons, ministry leaders and representatives, we enjoy a time of sharing about what is happening in our diaconates, churches and communities. This is always a great time of encouragement and celebration, as well as a chance to collaborate and hold each other up. Did you know that your church, or others in our Classis have reached out to their communities by helping families give gifts to (and on behalf of) their incarcerated family members at Christmas time? Amazing! More than one group of deacons has helped their church forge a church to church partnership with a church in Africa, many are supporting refugees and continue to faithfully serve the seniors and widows in our congregations.

When deacons get creative about encouraging our congregations to steward resources, it can look like fun giving competitions that include socks and underwear. You know who you are red team and green team! It may look like education classes on financial management, helping at tax time, collecting gift packages for community members or even hosting Christian Stewardship Services to do a will/estate planning seminar. All of these are possible and deacons would be happy to share their experience and insights around them. If you have not done so and would like to learn more about how to go about it, let me know.

Deacons have also been growing in their call as office bearers and are more actively being involved in their church and community. Many are being challenged to stretch and serve in the Sunday morning worship services, to speak and pray with the congregation and to be active in learning about the needs of the community, not just waiting for those needs to come to them. It takes a council and church leadership team that is actively engaged with each other, in communication across ministries and who is always willing to try something new, even if it is difficult to measure success.

Just trAID, March 23/19. - Cancelled due to low ticket sales.

Prayer, renewal and training: In partnership with Dunamis Fellowship Canada, join church leaders and renewal lab teams in learning about growing the church in the power of the holy spirit. This conference will be taking place in Edmonton from May 7-10, 2019. For more details contact patti@dfcanada.org or Pastor Tom Baird.

- Your NADC pick for this editions "Artist Feature" is **Micah Bournes**. This multi-platform artist brings his talents and art to faith communities through partnerships with World Relief and The Justice Conference. The whole world can find him on his website and on YouTube. As a spoken word poet and hip-hop/blues musician, Micah delivers words that cut to the core of current global issues and matters of spirituality and faith. His work is edgy, powerful and will leave you with chills. Check him out at www.micahbournes.com or this video at <https://youtu.be/yZ9ze-LTEno> or this one <https://youtu.be/iTMD90oDuTM> . Do we have any spoken word artists blossoming in our CRC churches? I really hope so and would love to hear about them!

World Renew: Disaster Response Services

- World Renew's arm of DRS has a network of talented and excited volunteers who are often lovingly referred to as green shirts. They also have a brand new member named Handy! Handy is the new DRS mascot and you can learn more about who and what Handy is at <https://youtu.be/oUsqygtDoYI>
- Service trips can range from one to three weeks and may be suited to you.
- For information on World Renew collection Sundays check your CRC resources and worldrenew.net. Get all your latest media needs to share on Facebook and during Sunday Morning collection times there too.