

**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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www.classisalbertanorth.ca/nadc

**NEXT NADC Full
Board Meeting: 2019**

June 5 @ Sunrise
CRC in Ponoka &
June 6 @ Lady Flower
Gardens.

Inclusion vs. Exclusion: When we consider elements that make up community, there are many factors and within those factors there is a lot of variety. With these factors, each member of a community faces an internal and external examination of themselves and the values they feel are important. The diversity of who we are and how we have been created by God are both a blessing and a challenge for our human structures. When I think about things I value, that contribute to who I believe I am, I think about things like food, family, place, community, recreation, faith, and nature (amongst others; in no particular order). These are important to me but may not be to others. They may shape how I worship, work and interact with those around me but that list will be different from person to person. To seek unity, (not uniformity), we must try to consider how our part fits into the greater plan of God's mission. I think we must listen to each other, act in love and solidarity and be concerned for those who are on the margins of our communities and society. This takes time, investment into relationship, a posture of openness and the readiness to serve others.

- ⇒ **Reconciliation:** Last year in the summer, a couple of reconciliation walks took place in partnership with Poundmaker's and The Edmonton Native Healing Centre. This summer, Walking for Common Ground 2.0 is happening on a grand scale from May 31st to June 14th. The Mennonite, Anglican and Catholic churches have planned a two week walk from Edmonton to Calgary with stops in communities along the way. There will also be Treaty Talk presentations each night in host towns for people to participate in. Watch Facebook and email for details and check out www.treatytalk.com/commongroundwalk
- ⇒ **All Nations Heritage Week Celebrations:** Are you a part of a multicultural worshipping congregation? Have you seen the diversity of God's creation take shape in the people around you? Whether that has happened or not, whether it was intentional or not, you can look to celebrate or inspire those around you by planning for this coming year's events. The date falls on October 6, 2019 and there are many resources to get you started from the CRC denominational website. Check out www.crcna.org/race/all-nations-heritage-week
- ⇒ **DOE 2019 Hospitality in Welcome - Celebrating 40 years of Refugee Sponsorship:** When we think of hospitality there are many factors to consider. Who is the host, who is the guest? How long should it stay that way or should roles change and shift? As an early announcement, to get you excited, we are excited to introduce Jennifer Henry and Lewis Cardinal as two of our speakers that will be featured in November. There will be stories from churches, refugee families, World Renew and more so make sure to put November 2nd on your calendar. 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.
- ⇒ **Kenosis Community Groups:** I have not experienced this kind of a small group but am curious if anyone from our Alberta area churches has? I have read a couple of articles about it but would love to hear if anyone has been a part of one of these groups or is planning to form one. See two key articles about it here... <https://network.crcna.org/biblical-justice/canada-anti-racism-learning-opportunity-kenosis-community-groups> and here... <http://dojustice.crcna.org/article/i-have-confession-make>
- ⇒ **Quest Mexico:** Learning and immersion tours are one way to get a taste of another culture and do some intensive learning from another context. When we step outside of our comfort zone we are often faced with new realities and greater understanding of larger systems of influence. This can happen in your own neighborhood, town, city or country. To get a bigger global picture, it is often helpful to go to another country or continent and that is what Quest Mexico offers. Learning from the people and living in the diverse Mexican culture will give you a whole new picture of the dynamics we face as a North, Central and South American continent. We are way more connected in ways that I did not realize or imagine. To learn more, check out www.quest-mexico.org.

EYE ON IT

Current events in Classis AB North:

CRCNA and CAN - May 4/19 - Fellowship CRC refugee fundraiser, May 23-25 - Canadian Gathering, June 14- 21 CRCNA Synod.

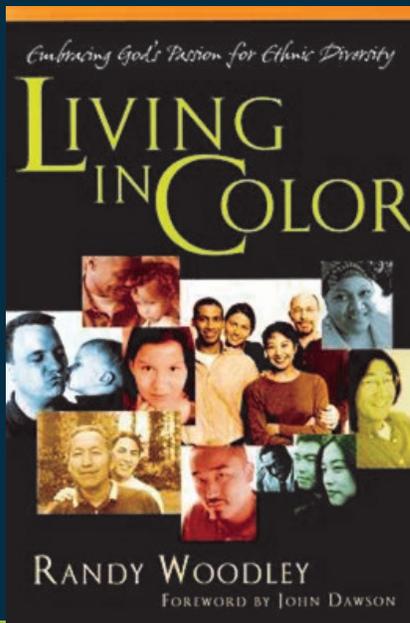
Creators Sacrifice: Contact journadc@gmail.com for details. This art exhibit resource is one way for your community to continue to respond to the TRC calls to action.

Links: www.partnersworldwide.ca. Businesspeople faithfully pursuing a world without poverty.

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: Dr. Randy Woodley is an Indigenous theologian and also has experience in pastoral ministry, community leadership and bridging the experiences between First Nations and other faith communities. He has many wonderful insights about how he has experienced and come to know the passion of God for diversity as seen in His Creation! See page 82 & 83 for a list of Bible passages that show God works, even in the hearts & lives of people outside the household of faith.



Cultural Theology - J.O.Y. Mante

The NADC executive committee has been studying the devotional called Live Just.Ly, by World Renew & Micah Challenge, and one of the recent chapters features some thoughts from an African professor and theologian named J.O.Y. Mante. Mante suggests that western theology often neglects to look at physical, creational aspects of Shalom and for that is ecologically bankrupt. When we leave out doctrines connected to living life (ones that connect us to creation), the result is that we live an existence that is gradually destroying both human and non-human life.

There are many people around the world for whom creation care is not a luxury, it is a matter of existence. We would do well to hear their stories, see them in the larger global picture and let them help us to uncover our blind spots about connecting to creation. We serve a God who is renewing and reconciling all things unto Himself through the sacrifice of Jesus and the power of the Holy Spirit. Everything needs reconciling, holistic shalom means restoring the relationships with God, others and our world. As we embrace other people and cultures, we too can learn from a wider lens of theology that includes African, Indigenous and Liberation theology (to name only a few).

See Colossians 1:15 - 23, as a passage that describes the who and how of perfect reconciliation. A New Testament passage pointing to what we just reflected on and celebrated in this Easter season.

Global Ministry Feature: Partners Worldwide

David Palmer Boyd is the Canadian Director of PWW and actively works to connect with churches and business people in order to enfold them into their global network of entrepreneurs. If your vocation and/or passion is in business, you should check out this organization. See the link in the side bar on this page or email David at davidb@partnersworldwide.org. A good book that tells about this ministry in action is From Aid To Trade, by Daniel Jean-Louis and Jackie Klamer. It is the story of how organizations like PWW and World Renew were, and are, effective relief and development lights in the dark world of disaster and harm. You will read about the positive role they played in Haiti after a major earthquake. See stories from both World Renew and Partners Worldwide to get a taste of what you will learn in the book. <https://worldrenew.net/our-stories/aid-trade-haiti> and <https://www.partnersworldwide.org/2016/11/14/good-harm-haiti/> Partners Worldwide founder Doug Seebeck also has a good book, that will inspire the business community, called My Business, My Mission.

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 **John A. Swanson**. John is a painter who uses oil, watercolor, acrylic and mixed media. He is a master printmaker of serigraphs, lithographs and etchings. Richard and Helen DeVos have a collection of Swanson's art that they have exhibited all across the USA. Included amongst most of his spiritually themed work, this collection of serigraphs celebrate the Gospel story and are a visual testimony to its message of grace, hope and forgiveness. www.johnaugustswanson.com or follow him on Facebook.