

**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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**NEXT NADC Full
Board Meeting: 2021**
February 11, 2021
online via Zoom.

Don't Pandemic: Was it intentional that the word panic is part of pandemic and is it a coincidence that dem is the other part of it? No let's not go there, we can stay one step removed from American politics, we have enough fun with our own. Maybe I will reverse what is left of the word and examine med. A stretch, I know, but at least that gives me something to look forward to and some hope for an end to a global pandemic not seen in a hundred years. I don't pretend to add any new commentary of what is happening in the world and the absence of this newsletter for a while, has largely been because there has been an overwhelming swell of activity and information that has gone to email, online and on digital platforms. Within some of the tragedy, pain and trauma, we have witnessed gaps in our larger systems that once again raise questions of justice, peace and equity. People who are struggling with health, isolation, purpose, oppression and more; are struggling to be seen and heard. They are crying out to be recognized as fully human, in the depth and complexity of diverse cultures, backgrounds, sexualities, economic statuses and community values. One big question that has emerged even stronger is that of human hierarchy and how that has been imbedded into the political and corporate halls of power. I hope and pray that as this season moves on, we as Church, can administer the med of love, compassion and equality for all.

- ⇒ **Deacons following other ministries?** Do you have someone in your group who follows other CRCNA ministries to glean resources and blessings from them? For example, Faith Formation ministries has put together some resources to encourage generosity. This could be a great thing to know about, check out yourself, or be able to point other congregation members towards. Take a moment to find it here... <https://www2.crcna.org/FaithFormation/practices/faith-practices-project-generosity>
- ⇒ **News and study committee reports:** Do you have thoughts about the news coming out of Neland Avenue CRC about the ordination of a new deacon who is part of a same sex marriage? Or related, have you read the study committee report on The Biblical Theology of Sexuality that has come out and will be discussed at the upcoming Synod? A topic like this is packed with challenge and emotion but what do we do with it as deacons? I'm not sure there is, or ever will be, a right "answer" but maybe with further education, empathy and experience, we can move more towards loving and compassionate practices. I am not sure where this will go within our churches, classis and denomination, but if you would like to reach out to me with an open heart and mind, I would be willing to listen. The denomination also recommends this resource to guide conversation... <https://www2.crcna.org/pcr/challenging-conversations-toolkit>
- ⇒ **NADC board meeting:** Will be in February 2021, on zoom again, and we will be looking to hear more from World Renew partners about how this pandemic has affected them, how they have steadied the boat that is swirling in the storm and meet a new face from our region, Chris Artola. He works in the fundraising and finance area with World Renew and can bring us updates about his work and connections. Have you been a part of any donor appreciation zoom events? Chris can give us an idea of what that is and how you could be a part. And did you know they are involved in selling lights... let's ask him about Park and Cartwright.
- ⇒ **Day of Encouragement 2020:** This one was done online via zoom, for the first time ever. We were blessed with 10 great speakers, 4 different sessions, of which one included a choice of one of three breakout rooms. Three of the sessions were recorded and can be viewed on YouTube by anyone interested by getting the link. Email yournadc@gmail.com and I will send you those 3 links. It was an encouraging time with John Van Sloten, a group of front line workers and a panel of passionate chaplains.
- ⇒ **What's coming up?** Many seasonal and advent activities are available through various ministries such as World Renew, Resonate, OSJ and more. Watch CRC emails or check out their websites. Also, justice conversations with The Micah Centre will be happening weekly in the new year so watch for that announcement from King's University.

EYE ON IT

Current events in Classis AB North:

CRCNA and CAN - Classis by zoom. Watch for details in the new year.

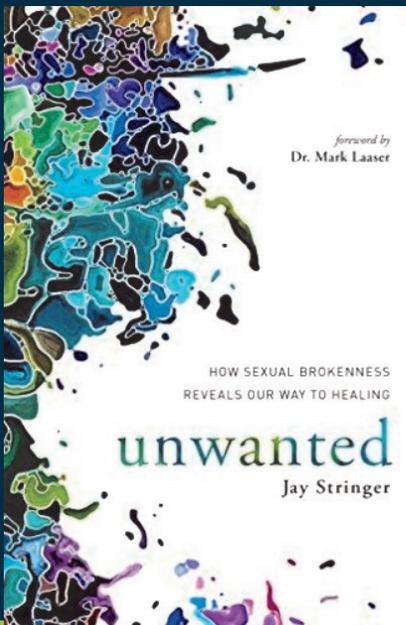
Creators Sacrifice: Contact journadc@gmail.com for details. This art exhibit resource is one way for your community to continue to respond to the TRC calls to action.

Links: www.freedomroad.us
Explore decolonizing the Bible.

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: Jay Stringer brought a review of his book to a webinar put on by Safe Church and it was very informative. Backed by extensive clinical research, Stringer explains that much of societies unwanted sexual behavior has roots in personal trauma, brokenness, anger and stress. It is only when self realization of these factors occurs, that someone can start the journey to deeper healing. This is one of the best books I have read on the subject and part of a conversation that should happen on many levels within the church.



Action and Contemplation: Have you ever watched a group of ducklings with their mother swimming around in a pond? When they are resting, eating, quiet and content, they just mill around scattered here and there in a close proximal group. When it comes time to move for whatever reason, they line up and go together. Other groups in nature do similar things, geese flying, elephants traveling, ants foraging... you get the picture. I have been reflecting on that and how it relates to humans living in community. Do we think about our individual lives and how they connect to those around us? Maybe we are just milling about, settled, safe and secure, which isn't a bad thing, but I hope we are also alert and ready for that call to go; that call to action from a parent or leader. Maybe someone nearby needs you, or maybe there is a voice (physical or spiritual) that is calling you to follow. Are you willing to swim or walk down a path with an other? I've recently read about the spiritual journey of Richard Rohr and how he started The Centre for **Action and Contemplation**. He has expressed that he was very intentional about putting the word action first because he believes we and our societies grow more when action comes first. He stresses that for sure we need both but in our action of service, we are fed, we gain new insights and then we use contemplation for reflection, grounding and renewing of our energy. I have experienced personal renewing with contemplative practices lately and it has been the greatest thing that has kept me going. With those two important words, we sometimes forget the third, but I think as reformed people we have to never forget the **AND**.

“Do all the good you can,
By all the means you can,
In all the ways you can,
In all the places you can,
At all the times you can,
To all the people you can,
As long as ever you can.”
—John Wesley

Your NADC pick for this editions “Artist Feature” is **Padraig O’Tuama**. Padraig is a poet and theologian, of Irish origins, who brings interests in language, violence and religion to his work. He presents Poetry Unbound with On Being Studios and also has responsibilities in theology for On Being, bringing art and theology into public and civic life. I have found his poetry readings, with insightful analysis, very refreshing and grounding in this season of life. Even if you have never really been into reading poetry, having it read to you with his soothing voice, is well worth the experience. Check it out now at <http://www.padraigotuama.com> or search for his podcasts on the various podcast providers.

