

**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
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**NEXT NADC Full
Board Meeting: 2022**
February: online via
Zoom. Watch for
agenda coming soon.

Twenty twenty two: It does not seem like very long ago I was writing metaphors around 2020 and eye sight. Now two years have flown by and our new reality has made it very challenging to look ahead and know very much with any certainty. But that is why God calls us to faithful service and why we are taught by Jesus; to love unconditionally. We have faced many challenges but have also been learning to see differently and continue to live justly. 2021 brought us glimpses into ministry partners like World Renew, The Broom Tree Foundation, Hope Mission and North America Indigenous Ministries (NAIM). We continue to wrestle with racial reconciliation, saw the implementation of a new national holiday, walked the path of Hearts Exchanged and ended the year learning about peacemaking and pro-testifying. See more about these, as well as full DOE recaps, on blogs and videos found at (www.classisalbertanorth.ca/nadc). In this edition of NADC news, we will do some looking back, some looking ahead and try not to feel like we are caught pulling a wagon with blinders on!

⇒ **Hearts Exchanged:** The last newsletter featured many topics around Indigenous ministry and those seeds planted continue to take root in various ways around our Classis. With members involved in Hearts Exchanged, Friendship centers, on reserves and building true relationships to examine ways of reparation and continued reconciliation. Find more here or contact me to be involved... <https://www.crcna.org/hearts-exchanged>

One of the current growing movements across Canada is around the topic of land back. General knowledge about it can be found here, David Suzuki land back: <https://david Suzuki.org/what-you-can-do/what-is-land-back/> There is also a growing idea, of faith communities living into sacred land covenants with Indigenous nations, that I am pursuing and would love to have others join with me along that journey. If this very brief description intrigues you, be in touch.

Peacemaking: While a term like this can cause the heart to flutter, good or bad, there are many dynamic layers to what it can mean and what you can do. We learned about the spectrum of writing letters, to talking with family members, to raising our voices in protest on the streets. The Christian Peacemaker Teams organization was going to come for a non-violent training workshop but due to circumstances beyond their control, had to postpone and will join us in the spring. News from CPT in early 2022 is that they have changed their name but are still found at www.cpt.org. I really enjoyed their advent peacemaker series and highlights were: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=loHz2oQhLEI&t=206s> – Spoken word
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TMhzgpOONc8> – Justice as dance
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qxr0lohnnh4> – Spanish song
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xBXkSnDIHpY> – Keep Moving Forward song

⇒ **Diaconal Ministries Canada:** Our friends and ministry partners at Diaconal Ministries have forged ahead through these challenging pandemic times with continued passion and support for deacons. Their website contains great new devotionals to help deacons reflect on spiritual challenges within the current context, new stewardship resources to help with financial challenges and continued access to coaching, resources and new ways to be a part of growing God's kingdom. For example, see the exciting opportunities available through the most recent NewGround campaign at: [Annual NewGround Campaign – Diaconal Ministries Canada](#)

⇒ **Association for a More Just Society :** ASJ had a wonderful end to 2021 with a surprisingly peaceful election. In their words... On election day most Hondurans, woke up feeling anxious. The Honduran and international media had predicted for weeks that the government would steal the elections, which would provoke wide-spread violence. But, it turns out God had other plans. Hondurans went peacefully to the polls and in a landslide, chose opposition candidate Xiomara (pronounced Sio-mara) Castro to be Honduras' next President. Record-breaking voter turnout sent a clear message—we have lost patience, but we have not lost hope. The incumbent candidate graciously conceded and Hondurans around the country quietly celebrated the surprisingly peaceful election process and what Castro's win might mean for the country's struggles.

EYE ON IT

Current events in Classis AB North:

CRCNA and CAN - Special classis meeting Feb.5 to address the overtures about the human sexuality report. Please be in prayer for the delegates. Regular classis meetings March 11 & 12.

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. It will be featured at Fort McMurray and Star of the North this year.

Links: www.waybase.com

[WayBase](http://www.waybase.com) : networking website to bring churches together around shared ministry.

Coffee with DMC:

Connect with your local coaches to get one on one advice, encouragement and support. Diaconalministries.com

Books: While not technically a book, this study series includes six videos, all about 30 minutes each in length. It includes posters to hang in your church and a study guide to follow along with the videos. It is available for free to stream or download from www.povology.com. It will help your deacons explore the intersection of poverty, the church and your community. Deacons from Bethel Lacombe have checked it out and you could too!

POV.OLOGY
poverty theology church. you.

A Six Week Study on Poverty

What: A Six Week Study on Poverty
Where:
When:
Contact:

Big news from World Renew: You may have heard the announcement on social media or in your churches but if you have not, the Canadian director who we have been honored to host and work with, Ida Kaastra-Mutoigo, has taken a new job in New York and is leaving World Renew. She has been a wonderful leader for many years and will be dearly missed. [Kaastra-Mutoigo to Leave World Renew | Christian Reformed Church \(crcna.org\)](https://www.crcna.org/news-and-events/news/world-renew-share-75-million-grant)

A couple of highlights of work done by World Renew and their partners are from the Disaster Response branch and partners Canadian Foodgrains Bank.

B.C. experienced unusual storms on Nov. 14-15, and vast areas of the lower Fraser River flooded; the rebuild will likely be measured in years. Gateway CRC sprang into action to support flood victims and also helped to form the Abbotsford Disaster Response Coalition. This group is partnering with World Renew's DRS to make a long-term impact on flood-ravaged lives. Donations can be made to the work of this coalition through World Renew (send a cheque with Abbotsford Disaster Response Coalition in the memo line or donate online).

CFGB announced the Canadian Government will give a \$75 million grant to them and their partners to help with emergency response projects around the world over the next three years. What an amazing response to the faithful work done by these organizations and the faith communities that support them. <https://www.crcna.org/news-and-events/news/world-renew-share-75-million-grant>

Your NADC pick for this editions "Artist Feature" is **The Mustard Seed**. I am taking a little liberty at calling a social agency an artist, but what they did for an online fundraiser is nothing short of creative. In the midst of covid restrictions, The Mustard Seed held its first-ever Esports tournament/charity live stream. Gamers signed up to play, others logged on to watch and there was raffles and fun prizes up for grabs. While it is all out of my depth of knowledge or skill, many young people tell me the making and playing in the video game world is an art unto itself. It was great to hear that it was a success and if you are into this sort of thing, or you know of young people in your churches who art, be sure to watch for it again in 2022. [Hope 2 Game | Mustard Seed \(theseed.ca\)](https://www.theseed.ca)

HOPE 2 GAME

THANKS FOR WATCHING!

YOUR DONATIONS WILL MAKE A BIG IMPACT TO OUR GUESTS IN NEED

Presented by:

The BRICK

THE MUSTARD SEED