

Transforming Communities in Christ

Annual Report
2013-2014



DIACONAL MINISTRIES
CANADA

www.diaconalministries.com

Dear Friend,

What does transformation look like?

Transformation, for Diaconal Ministries Canada (DMC), looks like a community that is experiencing the love of Christ. Christ's love reconciles, harmonizes, and brings shalom –whether it's a neighbourhood community, a community of deacons, or a community that is created through ministry partnerships.

Christ's love is a powerful love that flows from the cross and into communities. It flows into communities because individuals, churches, and ministries are passionate about forming partnerships, walking with their neighbours and working together for development and growth.

By the grace of God and the power of the Holy Spirit, this is how transformation happens. It brings people together, heals brokenness, and imparts peace.

DMC is passionate about motivating and equipping deacons, churches and Christian ministries to work together to help realize a vision of communities experiencing and living in the transforming love of Christ.

So what does transformation look like?

It looks like 16 deacons from Classis Quinte, meeting and learning together.

It looks like Woody Nook Church in Lacombe, AB, hosting the artwork of Métis artist Ovide Bighetty.

It looks like East Hill Community Church in Vernon, BC, getting to know their neighbours through a Community Opportunity Scan.

It looks like all these things, and more.

So please share with us these glimpses, these celebrations of transformation that you will find on the pages of our annual report. It is our prayer that they may impassion you; and further, that you may use that passion as we work together to transform communities in Christ.

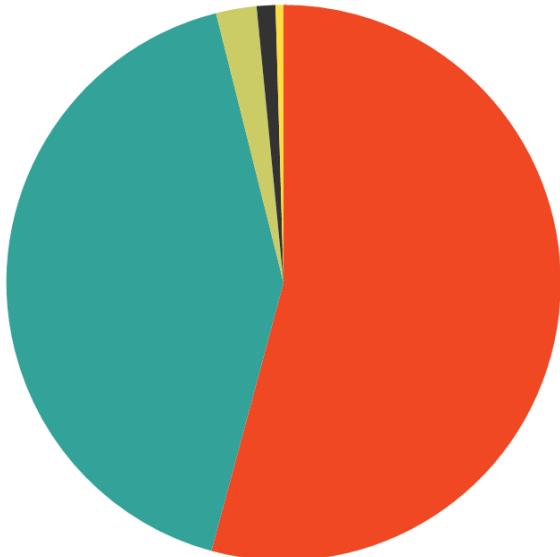
Shalom.



Hans Kater
Executive Director, Diaconal Ministries Canada

financial resources

Thank-you, deacons and churches, for your faithful support, and commitment to Diaconal Ministry Shares and the Operation Manna offering. We are blessed to partner with you.



Where DMC's Resources Come From

Diaconal Ministry Shares (54.2%)

Church Offerings for Operation Manna (41.9%)

Church Offerings for General Programs (2.4%)

Individual Donations (1.1%)

Other (0.5%)

Total Revenue (2013-2014): \$531,970



Where DMC's Resources Were Used

Diaconal Ministry Developer (DMD) Services (6%)

Operation Manna Development Services (13%)

Operation Manna Grants (20%)

Operation Manna Administration (8%)

Board & Committees (3%)

Services, Operation & General (6%)

DMC Management (42%)

DMC Promotion (1%)

Total Expenditures (2013-2014): \$509,809

equipping deacons

Highlights 2013-2014

- Currently, there are 18 Diaconal Ministry Developers (DMDs) across Canada, ready to serve, support, and bless deacons.
- Last year, approximately 55% of diaconates were contacted by DMDs.
- 25 churches held an offering for Diaconal Ministries Canada (DMC).
- 93% of the Diaconal Ministry Shares were collected. Thank-you! These shares enable DMC to equip deacons across Canada, and help churches do justice and engage their communities.



Over 700 people attended Days of Encouragement in

- Ancaster (ON)
- Edmonton (AB)
- Ottawa (ON)

Deacons Dialogue

What happens when a deacon has an idea?

She throws it on the table to see if anyone will bite. When the rookie Diaconal Ministries Developer (DMD) takes the bait, the two of them have a planning meeting and, presto, *Deacons Dialogue* is hatched.

On March 27, at Cephas CRC in Peterborough, 16 deacons representing 6 churches from Classis Quinte (West) gathered for some dialogue on what it means to be a deacon -including the challenges and the joys of the work they do in Christ's name.

Opening devotions from Acts focused on the apostles' criteria for choosing deacons. They didn't pick practical, "get-it-done" people. They wanted, first of all, those who were full of the Spirit and wisdom, like Stephen. Deacons need to nurture their spiritual life.

The first half hour was spent looking at the deacon's mandate in the Form for Ordination. The discussion then moved to the challenges of being deacons. Each deacon was asked to share in a small group. Each group was then asked to prioritize the top 2 or 3 challenges and share these with everyone. Some of the challenges included discernment, motivating congregations/deacons, understanding CRA regulations, managing change, and others.

Each diaconate was also asked to share about its work. This is where the deacon's heart really shone through. It was soon obvious that the deacons in Classis Quinte are empowering their congregations to share Jesus' love among their members and in their communities.

What will the next *Deacon's Dialogue* look like? There will be more time to discuss the common issues that deacons face. And there will certainly be much more to discuss.

—Bill Groot-Nibbelink, Diaconal Ministry Developer

doing justice

reForming Relationships

For the month of April, Woody Nook Church was privileged to host the artwork of Métis artist Ovide Bighetty: "The Creator's Sacrifice - Kisemanito Pakitinasuwin." The artist used intense colors of acrylic paint and traditional First Nations teachings and symbolism to portray images of the Last Supper and events leading to Jesus' resurrection.



To prepare for the three events surrounding the artwork, Woody Nook Church hosted an evening with Maskwacis couple Roy and Judy Louis. They talked about the history of Maskwacis First Nations People, Native spirituality, and some traditions and customs.

On opening night, after blessings and a smudge ceremony, the Red Deer Aboriginal Dance Troupe performed for over 100 adults and children. Art Historian Marie Peron then introduced the artwork of Bighetty.



The intent of the travelling art exhibit, called "reForming Relationships," was to draw communities together. The brochure invites participants to "re-imagine how we think about and live out the relationships between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal peoples."

Many of us also attended the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) hearings in Edmonton shortly before the art tour. The greatest thing we learned from all these events is how to be beside each other with respect. It is not our job to say, "What can we do for you?" or vice versa, but it is our responsibility to listen and walk together.

-written by a member of the Woody Nook CRC congregation (Alberta)

Highlights 2013-2014

- Diaconal Ministries Canada (DMC) continues to work with partners (Office of Social Justice, Race Relations, the Institute for Christian Studies, and others) on the Justice and Faith Project.
- New materials were produced for the website on issues such as Creation Care and Restorative Justice. These resources will help deacons and congregations navigate the extensive resources available from many different ministries.
- DMC continues to hear stories of churches "doing justice" in their communities through refugee resettlement, Aboriginal reconciliation and more!

engaging communities



Above: photos from *Mission Possible*, an Operation Manna Partner

"Ready to Make A Difference"



East Hill Community

East Hill Community Church, in Vernon, British Columbia, is part of a community experiencing what transformation looks like. The congregation identifies itself as "a thriving church placed in a growing neighbourhood" – a church that is "ready to make a difference" in its community. And it stepped out in faith to do just that.

In the Spring of 2012, the deacons requested that the church undertake a Community Opportunity Scan (COS). The COS is a tool created by Diaconal Ministries Canada. It is a comprehensive process of discovery which will help a church get to know the people and organizations in the community -not only to identify needs in the community, but also to affirm the unique gifts and assets in the community and the church.

After creating a team, East Hill defined the physical parameters of their target community,

Highlights 2013-2014

Community Opportunity Scan (COS):

- 7 churches considered a COS
- 4 churches are completing a COS
- 4 churches completed a COS in the past year
- To date, 70 churches have completed a COS

and, by necessity, limited it to the area immediately around the church. At this point, the team applied for an Operation Manna grant from Diaconal Ministries Canada -specifically for churches undertaking a COS.

They received the funding and continued to interview community leaders, accumulate census projections, and survey the neighbourhood door-to-door. After sharing the results of the survey through "A Community Conversation" public meeting, the team reported that they were "blown away by the excitement of the residents to make a difference in their community."

In their report, the team noted that "through these efforts and connections, we are starting to see East Hill Community Church become a central hub in East Hill...and through this [COS] we have identified a number of opportunities for ministry."

As the church maintains connections with organizations and the community, the team writes that "opportunities to provide support should arise naturally" and that they "can work together to build a stronger community in East Hill." They are "looking forward to seeing how God will use [the] church to bless East Hill in the coming months."

—excerpts from the *East Hill Community Church Final COS Report*

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Operation Manna



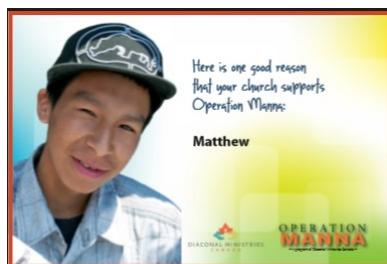
Operation Manna Partners
across Canada



Highlights 2013-2014

Operation Manna (OM):

- Thank-you to the deacons who promoted the OM offering, and to all the churches who gave generously.
- The offering totalled \$206,570 (slightly less than last year).
- 183 CRCs across Canada participated in the offering; 2 were new.
- Because of your generosity and support, Diaconal Ministries Canada was able to provide grants, coaching and expertise to 17 community ministries across Canada (see map above). 6 of those 17 ministries are new.



Here is one good reason
that your church supports
Operation Manna:

Matthew

DIACONAL MINISTRIES
CANADA

OPERATION
MANNA

A screenshot of the Diaconal Ministries Canada website. The header features the organization's name and a tagline: "Breathe new life into your Diaconal ministry." Below the header is a large image of two hands, one red and one white, reaching towards each other. The main content area includes sections for "WHAT IS THE DIACONAL MINISTRY?", "OUR MISSION", "OUR VISION", and "OUR VALUES". There are also links for "CONTACT US", "DONATE", and "SUBSCRIBE". The footer contains copyright information and links to social media.

More than just a new look...

Diaconal Ministries Canada (DMC) launched a new communication strategy to better serve the deacons and churches in Canada. The website and logo were redesigned, and DMC began a new blog to share stories, events, and information across Canada with deacons, churches, and other supporters. Check us out: www.diaconalministries.com

DMC's Board of Directors 2014-2015

Classis:

Alberta North:
Alberta South/SK:
British Columbia S/E:
British Columbia N/W:
Chatham:
Eastern Canada:
Hamilton:
Huron:
Lake Superior
Niagara:
Quinte:
Toronto:

Name:

Norm Haayema
John Knibbe
Michael Prins
Melissa Van Dyk
Jane Adema
Ineke Neutel
Arlene Bennink
Mary Blydorp
Paul Voortman
Peter Kraft
Coby Suurd
Lesley Millar Toussaint

Staff:

Hans Kater, **National Director**

hkater@crcna.org

Madeline Robins, **Executive Assistant**

mrobins@crcna.org

Katie Karsten, **Justice Mobilizer**

kkarsten@crcna.org

Tammy Heidbuurt, **Regional Ministry Developer, East**

theidbuurt@crcna.org

Rachel Vroege, **Regional Ministry Developer, West** rvroege@crcna.org

Marcia Mantel, **Communications Coordinator** mmantel@crcna.org

Diakonal Ministry Developers (DMDs):

Classis:

Alberta North:
Alberta North:
Alberta North:
Alberta South/SK:
Alberta South/SK:
British Columbia S/E:
British Columbia S/E:
British Columbia N/W:
British Columbia N/W:
Chatham:
Chatham:
Eastern Canada (Maritimes):
Eastern Canada (Ontario):
Hamilton:
Huron:
Huron:
Quinte:
Toronto:

Name:

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Harvey Buit
Henry Bosch
Kari DeRaaf
Jean deBeer
Gary Veeneman
Ron Vanden Brink
Bart Plugboer
Gordon Pierik
John Klein-Geltink
Ron DeSmit
Maarten van Oord
Anita Hogeweene
Dorothy Heidbuurt
Fred VanderSterre
Len Bakelaar
Bill Groot Nibbelink
Theody Corton

Email:

lklapwyk@yahoo.ca
hdbuit@gmail.com
henry.bosch@gmail.com
kderaaft@yahoo.ca
jeandb3@gmail.com
gtveeneman@shaw.ca
ron@thewellkelowna.com
bartplugboer@hotmail.com
gpierik@shaw.ca
john.kleinengeltink@gmail.com
rdesmit@live.com
mvanoord@aernet.ca
anitahogeweene@gmail.com
dheidbuurt@yahoo.ca
fvandersterre@hurontel.on.ca
rlbakelaar@hotmail.com
bill.grootnibbelink@gmail.com
cortontm@gmail.com

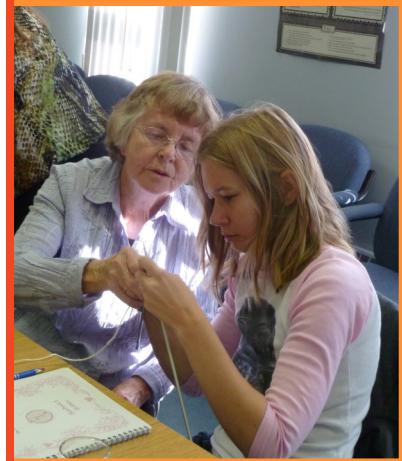


Photo Credits

Front Page (top-bottom, left-right)

- From Operation Manna (OM) partner, *The Mess* (Kingston, ON): sharing at DMC's Ministry Networking Day
- Ed Top, member of the OM committee –sharing at the Ministry Networking Day
- From OM partner, Mish Adventures Camp (Mishkeegogamang, ON)
- From OM partner, Mosaic House (Edmonton, AB)

Page 4: Diakonal Ministry Developers (DMDs) gathering

Page 5: Photos from Woody Nook Church

Page 7 (top-bottom): Operation Manna Partners:

- Barrie Pregnancy Centre
- Home with a Heart (Hamilton, ON)
- Families Living Well Society (Edmonton, AB)
- Mish Adventures Camp (Mishkeegogamang, ON)
- Indigenous Family Centre (Winnipeg)
- Hope Centre Ministries (Winnipeg)

Above: Operation Manna Partner: Home With a Heart (Hamilton, ON)



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