



DIACONAL MINISTRIES CANADA

# ANNUAL REPORT 2016-17

REVIEW OF THE FISCAL YEAR

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# NATIONAL DIRECTOR'S REVIEW

208  
CRCs

17  
DMDs

23 COS  
conversations

10 OM  
Partners

866  
Deacons  
at training  
events

Dear friends of Diaconal Ministries Canada,

Thank you for taking a few minutes to browse through this year's annual Diaconal Ministries Canada ("DMC") report. We're very excited to share this snap shot of what we have been doing on your behalf this year. Please pass this on to all the deacons in your church and encourage them to share this information with anyone else who may be interested.

DMC exists to inspire, empower and equip Deacons, as they animate congregations to join in God's transforming work in their communities across Canada. Therefore, while DMC primarily positions itself to assist ordained Deacons, we also work hard at assisting non-ordained deacons (all those involved in diakonia) and some of the information in this report reflects that fact.

While the roots of DMC date back to the late 1950's, its official beginning as a national organization came on May 25, 2001 when diaconal representatives from every classis in Canada met to form a Board of Directors and approved its structure. And we're proud to say that board members, approved by every classis in Canada, have continued to provide leadership to DMC ever since. So, if you have any questions after reading this report, please do not hesitate to contact your regional representative (see back cover for names).

As an organization we covet your prayers as we continue to engage in this work. And we sincerely thank you for your ongoing support – we definitely can't do what we do without you. As you read the numbers and the stories in this report, it is our prayer that you'll be inspired to create more community-transforming stories in the future.

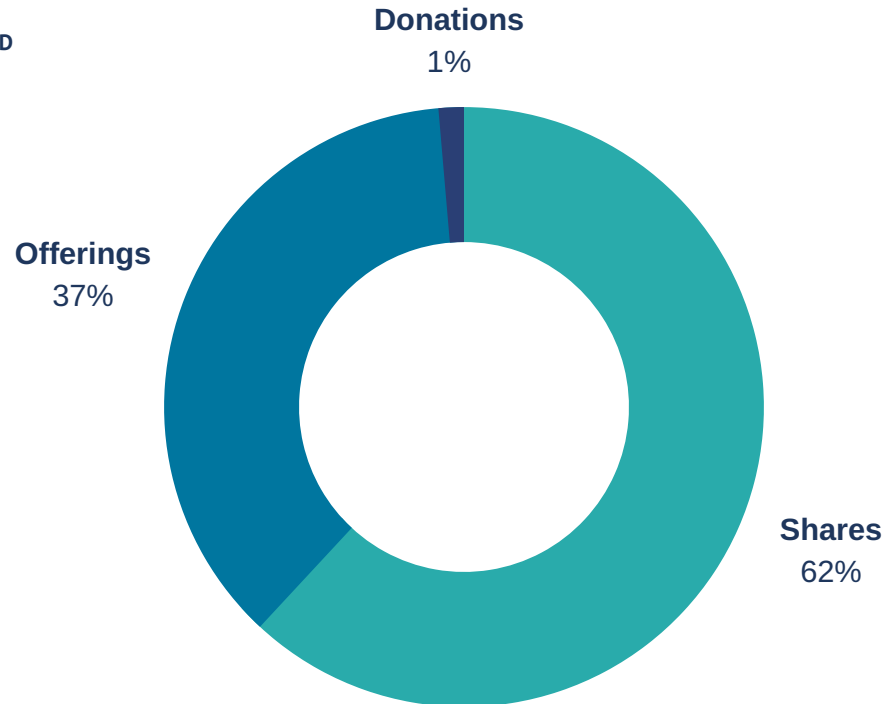
in HIS grip  
**Ron Vanden Brink**



\*ALL DOLLAR AMOUNTS ROUNDED TO NEAREST THOUSAND

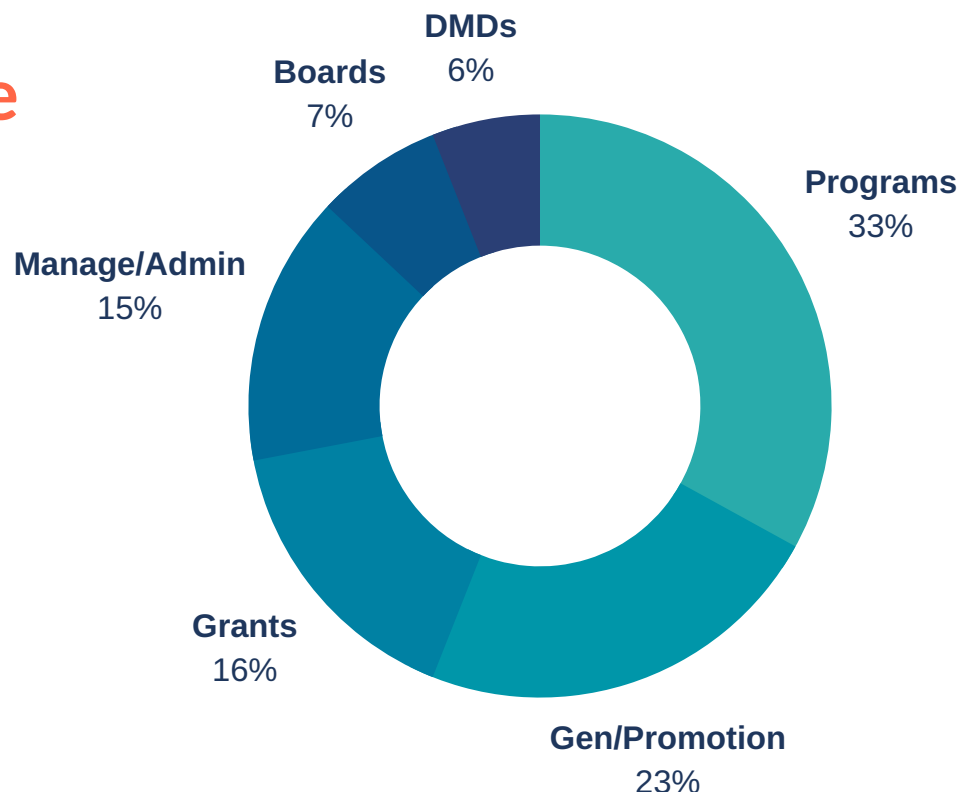
Thank-you,  
deacons and  
churches, for  
your faithful  
support and  
commitment to  
Diaconal  
Ministry  
Shares and the  
Operation  
Manna  
offering. We  
are blessed to  
partner with  
you.

## REVENUE



TOTAL REVENUE 2016-17: \$495,000\*

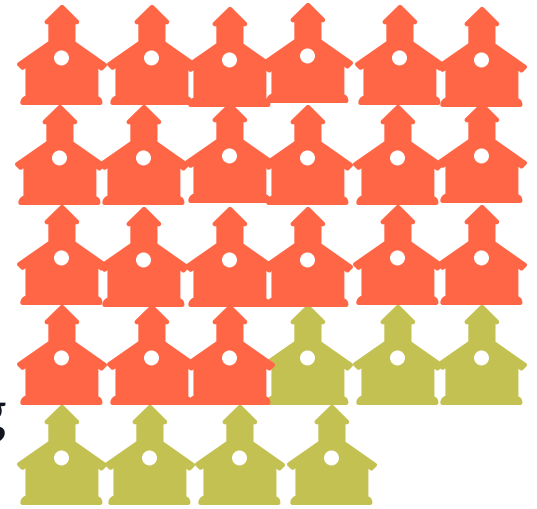
## EXPENSES



TOTAL EXPENSES 2016-17: \$489,000\*

## OUR REACH

Over 90% of churches across Canada were contacted by Diaconal Ministries Canada, of which **74%** interacted and received equipping and training of their deacons.



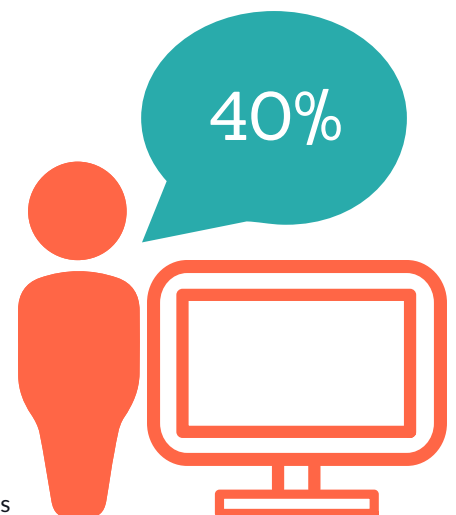
## OUR PEOPLE

**17** Diaconal Ministry Developers across Canada contacted over **208** churches and participated in many community engagements, deacon training, and diaconate gathering

## OUR STATS

Almost **1/2** of the users that visit the Diaconal Ministries Canada website are primarily accessing equipping resources and deacon devotionals.

Equipping resources for Deacons were accessed 7,400 times



## OUR PERFORMANCE

**400** Deacons were equipped across Christian Reformed Church Congregations in Canada through active coaching with diaconates by Diaconal Ministry Developers...



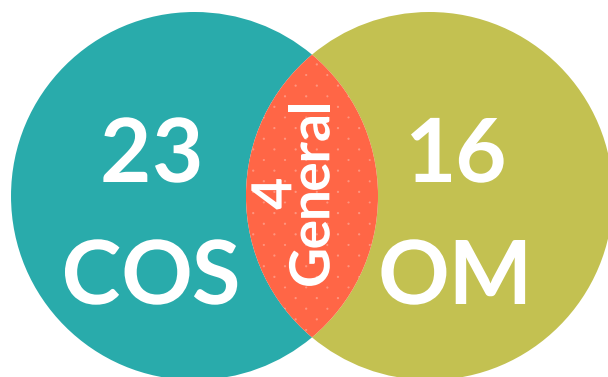
## OUR TRAININGS

... additionally, **466** Deacons participated in local DOEs, Diaconal Gatherings, Benevolence and Helping Without Hurting workshops across the country

\*149 at DOEs; 90 at local Gatherings; 48 at Benevolence Workshops; 179 at Helping without Hurting Workshops.

## OUR COMMUNITIES

In every classis across Canada, churches engaged with DMC Diaconal Ministry Developers and Regional Ministry Developers in conducting Community Opportunity Scan conversations and Operation Manna\* partnership inquiries.

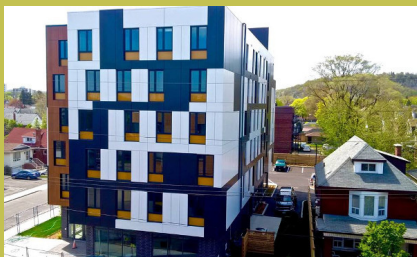


\*DMC has 10 active Operation Manna Partners for the 2017 year



# SMALL TOWN, BIG CITY

## THE WOVEN WORK OF GOD THROUGH DMC



In 2011 Immanuel CRC in Simcoe (ON) was supported by DMC staff through their COS process which led to the strengthening of relationships not only among the Simcoe churches but also with community leaders. Through their COS they identified key areas that as a community they could address, one of those being the development of affordable housing.

This past spring Indwell asked DMC to assist them in gathering information for their strategic plan. Along with helping to create surveys, DMC interviewed a number of staff and residents at various Indwell housing sites, including their new site in Simcoe (Hambleton Hall). Through the stories shared in the interviews, God revealed how he continues to use DMC in these 2 communities to bring about a masterpiece. God brought together the journeys of Hamilton and Simcoe in a way that demonstrates the beauty that comes when a church is willing to listen to, partner with, and serve in a way that supports those who are vulnerable in our communities.

If this past ministry year could be reflected in a piece of art, I think Van Gogh would have been the artist to have captured it well. Van Gogh said, “great things are done by a series of small things brought together”. This year we have witnessed how God has woven together the work that Diaconal Ministries Canada (DMC) has done in two CRC communities over the past several years; weaving the stories of a small town CRC and a big city CRC together through their Community Opportunity Scans – and what they discovered God was calling them to through that listening process.

In 2005 Hamilton First CRC (ON) was supported by DMC staff as they went through the Community Opportunity Scan (COS) process, listening and learning from their community about opportunities for meaningful ministry. In 2007 they supported an application to DMC for funding through the Operation Manna program to develop a ministry focused on tenants of an affordable housing called Indwell (at that time known as Homestead Christian Care).



# BENEVOLENCE AT RIVER PARK

## CHALLENGING THE BOUNDARIES OF ASSISTANCE

River Park Church is a congregation in inner city Calgary. As deacons, we have been very involved in community ministries, refugee sponsorships and stewardship, but the area that we have found most challenging year after year has been benevolence. Our diaconate receives requests for benevolence assistance from many parts of the city and we have helped individuals and families with everything from food, rent and utility bills to counselling, legal fees and funeral expenses. Many of our requests have been one-time occurrences, while others have evolved into long term assistance lasting months or even years. As deacons, we have frequently struggled with the questions: Whom do we want to help?

Should we have geographical boundaries for assistance? How often should we help someone? How can we offer assistance that does not build dependency, but offers hope and empowers people to make positive changes in their lives? It became clear to our diaconate that we needed to develop some benevolence guidelines that would offer more than just band-aid relief. Our plan included contacting Rachel Vroege, the Western Canada Diaconal Ministry Consultant, who met with our deacons and offered education and valuable resources.



We accessed many helpful tools on the Diaconal Ministry Canada website, including the Deacon Fund Benevolence Policy Template. Some of us read the book “Helping Without Hurting in Church Benevolence” by Steve Corbett and Brian Fikkert. We then held a special brainstorming meeting where we used the tools and resources that we had gathered and integrated them into a benevolence policy that was personalized to our congregation and the community in which we are located.

We now have a River Park Church Deacon’s Benevolence Policy that helps us provide consistent, respectful and compassionate assistance that facilitates growth rather than dependency. The policy answers the questions of who we want to help, the geographical areas in which we will provide assistance, as well as guidelines and procedures for the disbursement of funds. It also includes a Plan of Action that encourages us, as deacons, to discuss goals, priorities and solutions with the people with whom we are helping. Our prayer is that our policy will help us become more effective in our work because it establishes a framework for helping individuals grow through meaningful relationships. It is only through relationships that we can effectively show Christ’s love to others.



## Board of Directors

Alberta North	Norm Haayema
Alberta South/SK	John Knibbe
British Columbia S/E	Michael Prins
British Columbia N/W	Melissa Van Dyk
Chatham	Jane Adema
Eastern Canada	Ineke Neutel
Hamilton	Scott Plante
Huron	Mechele teBrake
Lake Superior	Erika Snippe-Juurakko
Niagara	Peter Kralt
Quinte	Coby Suurdt
Toronto	Martin Slofstra

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