



Dear deacon chair,

For most of us in North America, our current COVID-19 related situation is unprecedented. We feel surrounded by uncertainty, by deep concern and, with social distancing, a sense of isolation. All of that can cause fear in our hearts: we don't know when this will be over.

It's at times like this when God and His church speak with grace and care. It's during times like these that God and His church can carry vulnerable people. It's about times like these that it is said that God is the ruler yet.

As we work through our fears and find rest in God's love and strength, we also have the opportunity to share the love and grace of His church with others nearby and far away. There are vulnerable people and communities who are greatly affected by Covid-19: older folks around the corner who can't get out, and folks on other continents who simply have no access to any health care.

Deacons particularly have the opportunity to be Christ's hands, feet and heart during this time. Various churches have already taken some steps to live out their call to be salt and light.

On *THE NETWORK*, the CRCNA has posted a number of articles, ideas and resources online for the churches, and for deacons to use. Check them out [here](#).

This email is meant to be an encouragement for you to take a look around: what is God calling you to put the work into? Around the corner? Around the world? **Diaconal Ministries Canada** and **World Renew** together want you to know that we are available for any questions, ideas, thoughts, you might have. As you know, it's always better to work together, than apart....that's where God gives wisdom and strength. You are most welcome to connect with either Ron or Peter.

World Renew and Diaconal Ministries Canada also want you to know that if you have an idea for diaconal work connected with COVID-19, but feel hampered by lack of resources, **World Renew is making grants up to \$5000 available to diaconates**. The idea here is that as you deacons grapple with what to do, lack of funds ought not to be the roadblock.

This is a pilot project, in which Diaconal Ministries Canada and World Renew are working with Canadian CRCs at the moment. Depending on the response, it may be broadened to include CRCs in the US.

We welcome your response to this. Should you want to apply for such a grant, please reply to this email, and we'll set the wheels in motion.

God bless you as you work out what and where God is calling you.

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