

DIACONAL MINISTRIES CANADA **ANNUAL REPORT** **2019-2020**

DIACONALMINISTRIES.COM



DIACONAL MINISTRIES
C A N A D A

NATIONAL DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

The word I would chose to sum up this past year begins with a "C". Nope, it's not Covid.

It's Collaboration.

Since last fall, Diaconal Ministries has worked hard to deepen our relationships with a variety of CRC agencies in order to better serve and equip deacons all across Canada. Our Diaconal Coaches have also begun collaborating with one another and with local organizations to encourage and support deacons in their important work.

Even before Covid-19 hit this past March, several conversations were beginning with agencies like World Renew, the CRC Office of Social Justice, the Canadian Indigenous Ministries Committee (CIM-C) and the Northern Alberta Diaconal Conference to see where there was overlap and opportunity to work together. The fruit of these conversations can be found throughout this annual report. While Covid-19 presented several challenges for us (as well as churches like yours), we found new ways to move forward and grow, BECAUSE we had begun those crucial conversations and were leaning into where our Heavenly Father was already at work.

For us, GROWTH means to cultivate, develop, produce, and branch out - building on what we already have to extend our reach and deepen our impact. We've done this through Collaboration.

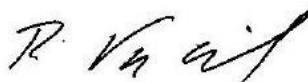
When we hear the word "GROW", we usually think 'bigger' and 'better' and sometimes 'more'. Most of the growth we're seeing here and around the world right now is pretty depressing: we are seeing an increase in loss (of profits and people), a rise in fear and anxiety, bigger lines at the food bank, and more and more political divide.

But the GROWTH we're talking about is different. For us, growth has meant to build, cultivate, develop, produce, and branch out. Over the past months and

year, this is how Diaconal Ministries has been growing. Not with bigger budgets or more staff or the latest, greatest technology, but by building on what we already have and branching out to extend our reach and deepen our impact. We've done this through COLLABORATION. We believe we are always better together.

None of this would be possible without your support, so thank you. May we continue to trust God and ask for His perfect wisdom as we all carry on, ever growing in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. (2 Peter 3:18)

"Grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and forever!" [2 Peter 3:18]



ron vandenbrink
National Director
Diaconal Ministries Canada



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I appreciate the opportunities to talk about and listen to the work other deacons are currently doing. The process of dialogue is very effective. It also reminds me of the supports already in place by Diaconal Ministries, which I definitely under-utilize. I appreciate the efforts and work they continue to do. Thank you Diaconal Ministries - for your hard work, friendly faces and diligence in God's work.

-Winnipeg Deacon

WHAT WE DO

Relying on the Holy Spirit, Diaconal Ministries Canada exists to inspire, empower, and equip deacons as they animate their churches to join in God's transforming work in communities across Canada.

Diaconal Ministries equips deacons in the following areas which are taken from their [Mandate](#):



ENGAGE COMMUNITIES

Engaging with your surrounding community requires years of building trust, getting to know your neighbourhood - its unique assets and needs - and most importantly, seeing where God is at work already!

LIVE STEWARDLY

Deacons encourage their congregations to live as God's stewards over everything we've been given. More practically, to ask the question: *"How can my whole life show that Jesus is my Lord?"*

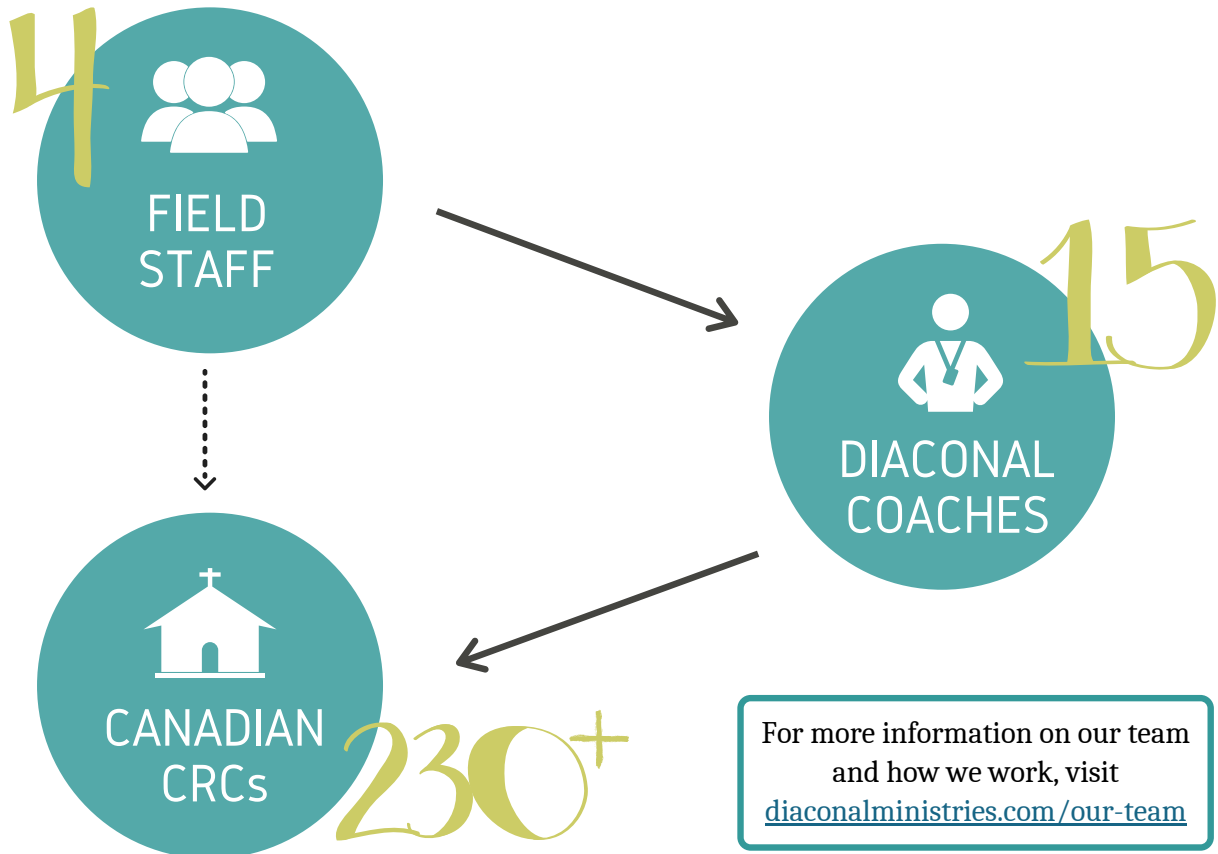


PROMOTE MERCY & JUSTICE

Justice is essentially about relationships: our relationships with God, with each other, with ourselves, and with creation. God calls each one of us to restore relationships by doing justice and loving mercy.

HOW WE WORK

The primary role of Diaconal Ministries' Staff is to train and support our network of Diaconal Coaches. Our coaches then equip and encourage deacons as they lead and animate their own congregations.



WE OUR COACHES

Our network of Diaconal Coaches are trained and experienced in diaconal work. They are ready and willing to guide deacons as they work out their calling in their church and community.

69

WORKSHOPS HELD

Our Coaches and Field Staff led helpful workshops like the Deacon 101 Workshop, Helping Without Harming, and were also part of some 'Days of Encouragement' across Canada.

ON TOP OF THIS, many coaches also attended Classis meetings to give reports and connect with deacons.

DEACONS TRAINED


Through our various workshops and webinars, deacons across Canada were equipped to lead and animate their congregations

500+

CHURCHES CONTACTED

While we aim to connect with each CRC in Canada each year, when the pandemic hit in March 2020, our Coaches and staff committed to reach out again to every single diaconate to offer support & encouragement.

98%



It makes me feel less alone, having a connection with my Diaconal Coach and with Diaconal Ministries. Also knowing that there are others out there in this role as deacons; you see you are part of a bigger body.

-Regina Deacon

WHAT MAKES US UNIQUE



Diaconal Ministries doesn't take the ministry **OUT** of the deacons' hands and put it into the hands of 'experts'; instead, we put the tools and resources **INTO** deacons' hands so that they can equip their churches to do God's work in their own contexts."

- Fred VanderSterre, Diaconal Coach, Classis Huron

Watch the whole interview [HERE](#)

In March and April, Diaconal Ministries' staff were meeting **weekly** with our Coaches via Zoom to check-in, offer support and hear what deacons needed in the uncertain times they were facing.

As a result, a [Covid Resource page](#) was created on our website with several curated resources added to it, including **nine (9)** brand new ones!

Coaches also held church and classis-wide Zoom meetings with deacons to check in and to have a time of sharing and support.



It was really great to use Zoom to hear how other churches in our Classis were reacting to and serving their communities during Covid. I appreciated the opportunity to be part of this discussion while staying at home. We feel very supported by our Coach!

-Ontario Deacon



OUR PARTNERSHIPS...

As ministry needs change and expand for Deacons, Diaconal Ministries understands that collaboration is key. We have worked even closer with our partners this past year to equip deacons in the areas of justice, stewardship and community engagement, knowing we are always better TOGETHER.

WORLD RENEW

FOUR (4) COVID-RELATED WEBINARS

Over 300 deacons and ministry leaders took part in these FREE webinars this past spring with topics including local & global engagement and mental health during the pandemic.

SEVENTEEN (17) COVID-19 GRANTS

Over \$50,000 was awarded to seventeen Canadian CRCs to assist them in Covid-related diaconal work to bless their community.

TWO (2) HELPING WITHOUT HARMING WORKSHOPS

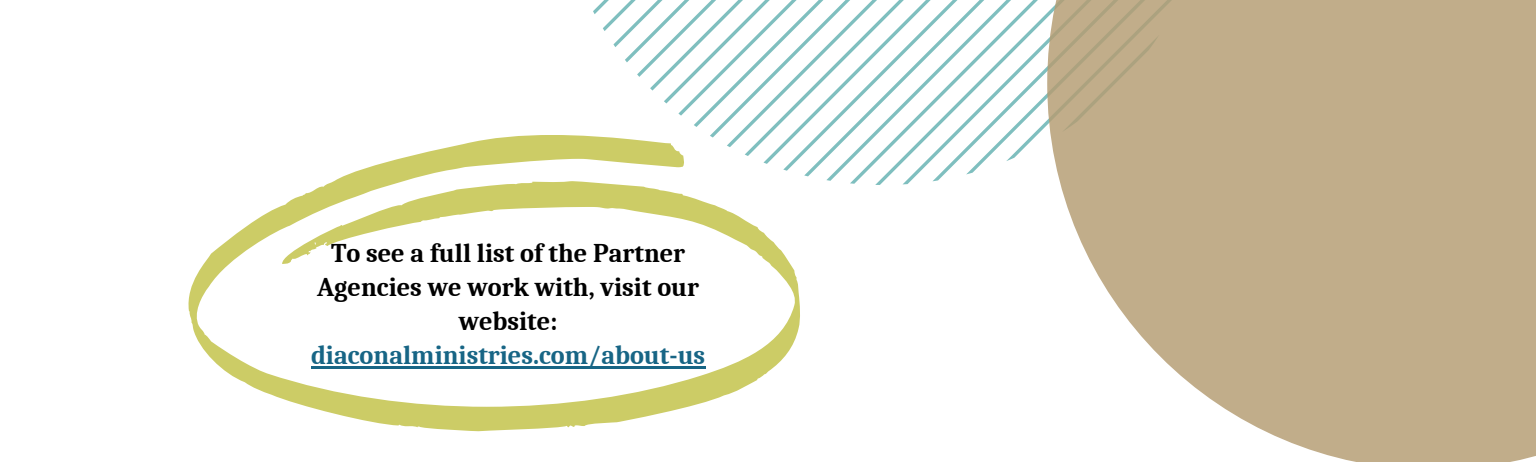
This workshop has continued to garner interest as deacons seek to engage in their communities in helpful, sustainable ways. Two (2) more were planned for the spring but were postponed due to Covid.

HELPING WITHOUT HARMING WORKSHOP - INDIGENOUS FOCUS

Last fall Shannon Perez of the Canadian Indigenous Ministries Committee (CIM-C) partnered with Diaconal Ministries' Staff to equip deacons in the Thunder Bay area seeking to engage in their unique context.

CANADIAN INDIGENOUS MINISTRIES COMMITTEE





To see a full list of the Partner Agencies we work with, visit our website:

diaconalministries.com/about-us

STEWARDSHIP PILOT PROJECT (SPP)

The Stewardship Pilot Project was created to increase a church's awareness of the Biblical principles of stewardship and help them live those principles out in practical, measurable ways. After much research and vetting of stewardship resources and other preliminary work by Karla, the SPP Coordinator, eleven (11) churches across Canada expressed interest in being part of the pilot project. Preliminary "work" was to be done over the summer by each participating church with the program set to launch in the fall of 2020. **Then Covid hit.**

Karla respected the need for churches to press 'pause' and focus on their new reality amidst the pandemic. Karla put time and energy in creating some Covid-related resources in the areas of stewardship (giving) and benevolence, which were added to our [Covid Resource page](#).

Karla also put together some introductory documents for each of the 4 T's of stewardship (Time, Talents, Trees and Treasures) as well as guidelines for building a stewardship team which were shared on our website for all churches to see and use. These will eventually be part of a "toolkit" which is currently being worked on.

During the summer months, Karla reached out once again to the participating churches to offer a 5-week Stewardship Bible Study via Zoom to continue to engage them in the SPP. This study proved fruitful as one church is ready to move forward with building their stewardship team. While the SPP has had a slower start, Karla has felt God affirming her work; as good stewards must first be good disciples, time spent strengthening the project's spiritual grounding and building relationships has made it a much more sustainable endeavour.



CHRISTIAN
STEWARDSHIP
SERVICES

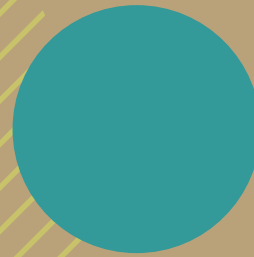


CRC
CANADIAN
MINISTRIES

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In my first few months as a deacon, I am impressed by how much support/on-line material is provided by Diaconal Ministries and Coach Karla - more than I have fully accessed! I found [this Zoom meeting] supportive and inspiring to hear from deacons in other churches. It can easily feel like we are "just hanging in" and it is tough to serve from that position.

*-Holly Bell, Deacon
All Nations CRC, Halifax, NS*



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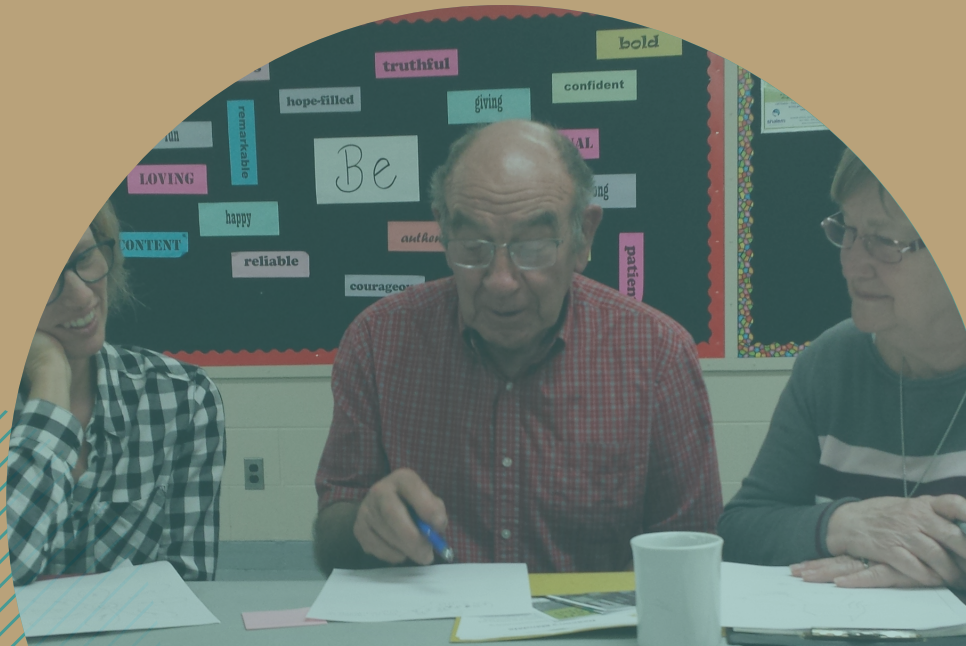
I appreciated the webinar on Saturday; I'm already tired of the experts summoning me to their webinar and offering things that 'I can't do without!' [during Covid]. The webinar on Saturday was nothing but gentle, encouraging and lots of humbly-offered, usable ideas. Thank you!

-Curtis, Webinar Participant

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As a first time deacon, I have learned there is a lot more to being a deacon than collecting the offerings.

-Ontario Deacon





NewGround

Churches loving communities

NewGround partners with deacons and churches to break new missional ground, nurturing Spirit-led ideas that bear everlasting fruit.

4

COMMUNITY MINISTRY PARTNERS

We are excited to support the following churches and their ministries:

- Mission Hills CRC, BC;
MyHouse Youth Centre
- New Hope Church, ON;
Open Homes Hamilton
- Crosspoint CRC, ON;
CAP Debt Centre
- Simcoe CRC, ON;
Norfolk Pregnancy Centre

2

COMMUNITY OPPORTUNITY SCANS

Two churches began the COS journey to discover where God was already at work in their city.

- Prince George CRC, BC
- Bethany CRC, ON

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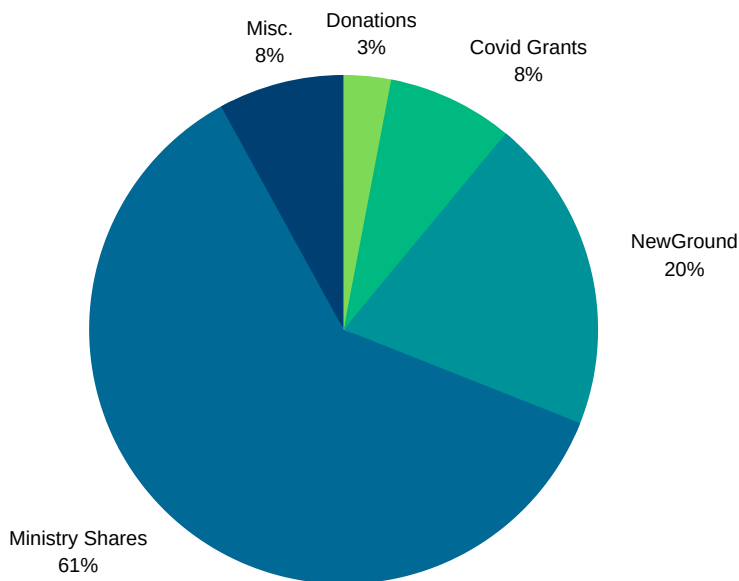
YOUTH JUSTICE PARTNER

We were excited to support Unity Christian School in Chilliwack, BC, who wanted to do justice by caring for creation.

Read these stories on our blog!

diaconalministries.com/the-e-quip-blog

THE MONEY STUFF



OUR REVENUE

\$514,722

Diaconal Ministry Shares continue to be our primary funding source. We are pleased that approximately 75% of churches gave 100% of their shares. We also received a wage subsidy grant from the federal government as part of Canada's Covid-19 Economic Plan.

This past spring, our NewGround Offerings were down as churches were not gathering in their usual ways due to Covid. Yet, as some costs of running the program were less than usual, and with the receipt of some government grants, we will still be able to fund our NewGround partners for the coming year!

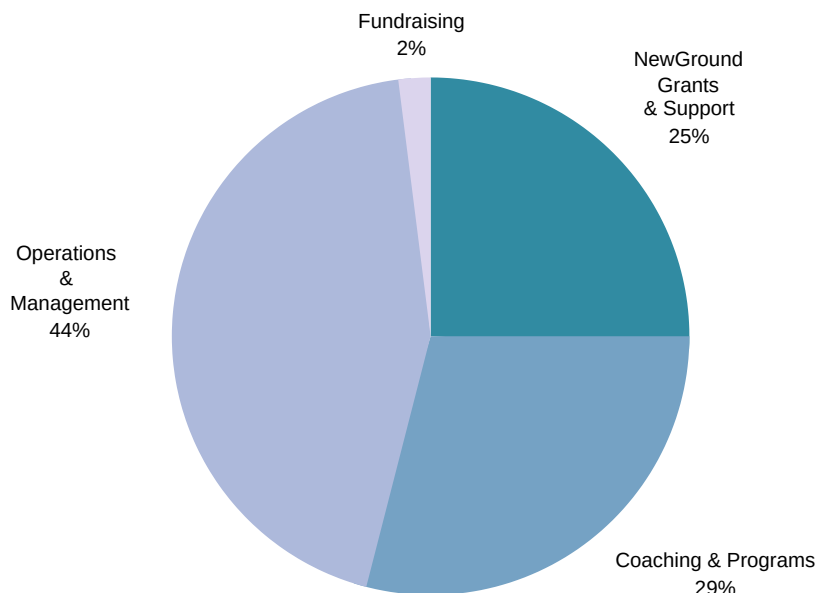


"Something I've learned in my role is that Diaconal Ministries Canada is a small but mighty agency of the CRC and swings way above its weight! I believe the church exists to love and serve its neighbours and Diaconal Ministries offers deacons and churches tangible ways to be better at being the church." -Mike Prins, Board Member

OUR EXPENSES

\$452,452

We continue to thank God for His provision and for the churches who support us regularly SO THAT we can support each and every CRC across Canada. Over this past year we have continued to ask deacons what they need and we have responded with an up-to-date, user-friendly website, brand new resources including a Covid-specific webpage and an increased focus on Stewardship, and practical and relevant workshops to help deacons love and serve their churches and communities.



"The concepts I learned in the Helping Without Harming (HWH) Workshop will inform my work in food security and poverty reduction in the future. I am avidly reading "When Helping Hurts" to learn more. I would recommend this workshop to others!"

-HWH Workshop participant

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***Cindy Stover**, Justice Mobilizer, cstover@crcna.org

**This position is funded in partnership with World Renew Canada, CRC Canadian Ministries and the CRC Centre for Public Dialogue.*

View our full list of Diaconal
Coaches on our website:

diaconalministries.com/diaconal-coaches

OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Classis BCNW - Cindy Verbeek

Classis BCSE - Michael Prins

Classis Alberta North - Norm Haayema

Classis Alberta South/Sask. - Don Miedema

Classis Lake Superior - Erica Snippe-Juurakko (Chair)

Classis Chatham - Jeff Robinson

Classis Huron - Mechele TeBrake

Classis Hamilton - Steve Dykstra

Classis Niagara - vacant

Classis Toronto - Martin Slofstra

Classis Quinte - Rose Saller

Classis Eastern Canada - Peter VanHarmelen

PHOTO CREDITS



Pg. 6; Helping Without Harming (HWH) workshop in Georgetown, ON led by Tammy Heidbuurt

Pg. 7; Our team of Diaconal Coaches at one of their weekly Zoom Calls

Pg. 8; Shannon Perez of CIM-C, co-leading a HWH Workshop in Thunder Bay, ON, November 9/19

Pg. 10; Coach Len Baakelaar training deacons @ Cambridge CRC, October 24, 2019