

DIACONAL MINISTRIES CANADA

One-Year Ministry Plan

July 1, 2008 – June 30, 2009



www.diaconalministries.com

1. DMC Strategic Framework

a) Vision Statement

Transforming Communities in Christ

DMC's vision is anchored in II Corinthians 5:17-20

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: The old has gone, the new has come! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God. (TNIV-2002)

This passage reminds us that where there is reconciliation in Christ, there is transformation. The Apostle Paul describes how God has reconciled the world to himself in Christ, and urges every community of believers to participate in the task of reconciliation.

b) Mission Statement:

To inspire, equip and encourage deacons and their partners in transforming communities with the love of Christ.

In this mission, DMC understands prayer, celebration, collaboration, servant leadership, gift-based ministry, holistic ministry and justice to be important values.

c) Goals:

- Community Ministry:*** DMC will encourage diaconal ministry, in Christ's name, in the local community.
- Education/Training:*** DMC will stimulate vision for ministry and provide encouragement and opportunities for skill development in diaconal ministry.
- Justice/Advocacy:*** DMC will encourage deacons to be advocates *for* and *with* the voiceless ones in their own local communities.
- Partnerships:*** DMC will develop and grow partnerships that strengthen diaconal work.
- Promotion/Communication:*** DMC will share its vision, resources and services, with diaconates, churches and partner groups.

2. July 1, 2008 – June 30, 2009

Goal Area	Strategy Areas	Strategic Actions	Outcomes
<p>1) Community Ministry</p> <p>DMC will encourage diaconal ministry, in Christ's name, in the local community.</p> <p>~</p> <p><i>Colossians 4:3</i> <i>And pray for us too, that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ...</i></p>	<p>A) <u>Encourage Community Ministry:</u></p>	<p>Explore with pastors, deacons, local DMDs and other church leaders, as well as Home Missions staff, the readiness of churches to engage in community ministry.</p> <p>Encourage churches to partner in existing community ministries or start a new community ministry.</p>	<p>1-3 churches in each classis engage in further conversations about a COS.</p> <p>1-3 churches in each classis develop a new relationship with an existing community ministry or start a new community ministry.</p>
	<p>B) <u>Community Opportunity Scan:</u></p>	<p>Encourage churches and diaconates to engage in Community Opportunity Scans.</p> <p>Support the COS process and encourage the implementation of its outcomes.</p> <p>Reconnect and follow-up with churches that have done a COS in the past to explore how the COS has impacted their church and community.</p>	<p>5-8 churches complete a Community Opportunity Scan.</p> <p>3-5 post-COS churches apply to Operation Manna (OM) for funding and/or receive OM services.</p> <p>DMC assesses the effectiveness of the COS in churches and their communities that have completed a COS.</p>
	<p>C) <u>Operation Manna:</u></p>	<p>Provide support to current OM program partners.</p> <p>Review connection of OM partners and their supporting churches to explore ways of increasing a church's involvement in a project.</p> <p>Increase promotion of Operation Manna within isolated and uninvolved churches.</p>	<p>Funded ministries receive on-going support and development services.</p> <p>All projects supported by OM establish a healthy and long term relationship with their initial supporting church(s).</p> <p>Number of participating churches increase.</p>
	<p>D) <u>Christian Community Development Conferences:</u></p>	<p>Identify opportunities for DMC staff to attend or contribute to CCD related conferences.</p>	<p>DMC staff participate in two CCD conferences.</p>

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<p>2) Education and Training</p> <p>DMC will stimulate vision for ministry and provide encouragement and opportunities for skill development in diaconal ministry.</p> <p>~</p> <p><i>Ephesians 4:11-13</i> <i>It was Christ who gave some to be... to <u>prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up.</u></i></p>	<p>A) <u>Diaconal Ministry Developers:</u></p>	<p>Identify, equip and support DMDs in each classis.</p>	<p>DMDs are actively promoting DMC's resources and empowering and equipping local diaconates.</p>
	<p>B) <u>Deacons:</u></p>	<p>Provide appropriate resources, training and encouragement to deacons.</p> <p>Cultivate a spiritual vitality in diaconal ministry.</p> <p>Identify, develop and provide relevant resources in response to "loving our neighbour."</p>	<p>Diaconates access DMC resources and training that provide clarity and skills for their calling and strengthen their leadership capacity.</p> <p>Deacons model and implement gift-based ministry.</p> <p>Deacons demonstrate a higher level of spiritual vitality.</p> <p>Diaconates and other ministry leaders receive training, resources and encouragement in community ministry.</p>
	<p>C) <u>Educational Resources:</u></p>	<p>Identify and develop timely, relevant educational resources for diaconal ministry.</p>	<p>Diaconates are using DMC educational resources for personal and ministry development.</p>
	<p>D) <u>Training Events (DOEs):</u></p>	<p>Support events that equip leaders for ministry (ex. DOE), with helpful resources and staff support.</p>	<p>Regional events to equip leaders are regularly scheduled throughout Canada.</p>

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<p>3) Justice and Advocacy</p> <p>DMC will encourage deacons to be advocates <i>for</i> and <i>with</i> the voiceless ones in their own local communities.</p> <p>~</p> <p><i>Micah 6:8</i> <i>And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.</i></p>	<p>A) <u>Justice and Advocacy:</u></p>	<p>In collaboration with Karen Bokma of the Office of Social Justice (OSJ) and Mike Hogeterp of the Committee for Contact with the Government (CCG), continue the development of strategies that mobilize deacons and churches to respond to specific justice issues within their communities.</p>	<p>Summary learnings for the justice issues identified by DMC staff will be posted to DMC's website.</p> <p>Strategic communication and educational tools are identified and distributed that highlight the call of the deacon and churches to "act justly."</p>

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<p>4) Partnerships</p> <p>DMC will develop and enhance partnerships that strengthen diaconal work.</p> <p>~</p>	<p>A) <u>Christian Stewardship Services:</u></p>	<p>Implement the 2006 agreement between DMC and CSS.</p> <p>Review the 2006 agreement.</p>	<p>Diaconates/churches use resources to inspire stewardship among its members.</p> <p>Deacons are inspired to model stewardship.</p>
	<p>B) <u>Christian Reformed World Relief Committee:</u></p>	<p>Implement the 2006 agreement with the refugee sponsorship program.</p> <p>Review the 2006 agreement.</p> <p>Engage in mutual capacity building opportunities.</p>	<p>More diaconates/churches are involved with refugee sponsorship and support the resettlement.</p>

<p>Ecclesiastes 4:16 <i>Though one can be overpowered, two can defend themselves. A cord of three strands is not easily broken.</i></p>	<p>C) <u>Christian Reformed Home Missions:</u></p>	<p>Implement the 2007 agreement with Christian Reformed Home Missions (CRHM) in Eastern Canada.</p> <p>Continue collaboration with CRHM in the West.</p>	<p>DMC and CRHM work collaboratively.</p>
	<p>D) <u>Race Relations</u></p>	<p>Explore opportunities with Steve Kabetu of Race Relations for meaningful collaboration.</p>	<p>DMC becomes more knowledgeable about race relations in Canada.</p> <p>DMC equips church leaders in ethnic inclusiveness.</p>
	<p>E) <u>Networking & Collaboration:</u></p>	<p>Encourage networking/collaborating with community organizations and churches.</p> <p>Explore opportunities for new partnerships.</p>	<p>DMC networks/collaborates with community organizations for mutual learning and capacity building opportunities.</p> <p>DMC's ministry capacity increases.</p>

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<p>5) Promotion & Communication</p> <p>DMC will share its vision, resources and services with diaconates, churches and partner groups.</p> <p>~</p>	<p>A) <u>Promotion & Communication:</u></p>	<p>Continue to implement Promotion and Communications Plan.</p> <p>Maximize opportunities to promote and distribute DMC's resources.</p>	<p>Promotion and communication goals are prioritized and strategically realized.</p> <p>Resources are utilized.</p>