

DIACONAL MINISTRIES CANADA

One-Year Ministry Plan

July 1, 2009 – June 30, 2010



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* marginalized people in their 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, 2009 – June 30, 2010

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>With pastors, deacons, local DMDs and other church leaders, as well as Home Missions staff, explore 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 their communities by using the Community Opportunity Scan.</p> <p>Support the COS process and encourage the implementation of its outcomes.</p> <p>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 impact of the COS in churches and their communities and uses this learning to further refine this tool.</p>
	<p>C) <u>Operation Manna:</u></p>	<p>Provide support to current OM program partners.</p> <p>Implement the OM-CRC connection tool to encourage churches to evaluate and strengthen their relationship with their local OM ministry.</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>

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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></p> <p><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, encourage and support DMDs in each classis.</p>	<p>DMDs are actively promoting DMC's resources, as they connect with and empower 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 to "love our neighbour."</p>	<p>Diaconates and deacons access DMC resources and training to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increase the knowledge of and clarity for their calling - Develop their skills and leadership capacity - Implement gift-based ministry. <p>Deacons model spiritual vitality in their ministry</p> <p>Deacons 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 to stimulate diaconal ministry.</p>	<p>Diaconates and churches are using DMC 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> marginalized people in their local communities.</p> <p>~</p> <p>Micah 6:8 <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 Harry Kits and others, staff will continue researching areas of injustice to mobilize deacons and churches to respond to specific people groups within their communities.</p> <p>Strategic communication and educational tools are identified and distributed that highlight the call of the deacon and churches to “act justly.”</p>	<p>Additional summary learnings for the justice issues identified by DMC staff will be posted to DMC’s website and current content maintained and updated as necessary.</p> <p>Churches and deacons will use these resources and have a deeper understanding of their call to do biblical justice.</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>Cooperate with CRCNA and CSS to explore new opportunities to stimulate stewardship development among the CRC congregations in Canada.</p>	<p>The development of a new stewardship program.</p>
	<p>B) <u>Christian Reformed World Relief Committee:</u></p>	<p>Implement the September 2008 agreement with the refugee sponsorship program.</p> <p>Engage with CRWRC in mutual capacity building opportunities.</p>	<p>More diaconates/churches are involved with refugee sponsorship and support resettlement.</p> <p>Enriched partnership.</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>Continue collaboration with CRHM by participation in each other's learning and planning events.</p>	<p>DMC and CRHM work collaboratively regionally and classically.</p>
	<p>D) <u>Race Relations</u></p>	<p>Explore opportunities with Steve Kabetu of Race Relations for meaningful collaboration.</p>	<p>DMC collaborates with Steve Kabetu for mutual learning.</p>
	<p>E) <u>CDN Collaboration Task Force</u></p>	<p>Participate in the task force meetings to keep all agencies current with DMC's activities in community ministry.</p>	<p>Regular information-sharing with all CRC agencies in Canada takes place.</p>
	<p>F) <u>Networking & Collaboration:</u></p>	<p>Encourage networking/collaborating with community organizations, youth networks and churches.</p> <p>Explore opportunities for new and meaningful 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>Revise and continue to implement the Promotion and Communications Plan.</p> <p>Maximize use of DMC’s human, web and printed resources.</p> <p>Revise the website to align with DMC’s priorities and goal areas.</p> <p>Develop a web-based survey to measure website use.</p> <p>Investigate innovative and versatile uses of the internet to connect deacons and ministry leaders with DMC resources.</p> <p>Increase the profile of DMC’s justice initiatives through resources like Partners, bulletin announcements etc. and channels like DMDs.</p>	<p>Promotion and communication goals are prioritized and strategically realized.</p> <p>Resources are utilized.</p> <p>Justice will be given more visibility and other areas will be re-organized to accommodate this revision.</p> <p>Survey data will be collected and analyzed to provide an overview of website users and resource use.</p> <p>Where applicable, web based innovations will be implemented to enhance deacon and ministry leaders’ connectivity to DMC resources.</p> <p>Justice profile is increased.</p>