

Bios of DOE Workshop Leaders 2009

Al Bezuyen: Al is a present and long time deacon who loves his calling. As a Diaconal Ministry Developer, he enjoys sharing with less experienced deacons so they too will be blessed by the work of mercy.

Darrell Bierman: Darrell 's desire to become a better developer of future leaders in Christ's Church prompted him to complete a Doctor of Ministry degree with an emphasis on leadership development. Although he has leadership experience in both established and emerging church contexts, Darrell currently serves as lead pastor of River City Church, a six year old CRC church plant in Cambridge, ON.

Henry Bosch: Henry Bosch has worked with deacons and other church leaders for 21 years in Northern Alberta as diaconal conference staff. This includes eight years as Western Regional Diaconal Ministry Developer with Diaconal Ministries Canada.

Sue Carr: Rev. Sue Carr is the Chaplain at Mission Services of Hamilton. She is keen to see churches equipped to reach out beyond their comfort zone, and to take God's heart for the marginalized seriously.

Shiao Chong: Shiao Chong is the Christian Reformed Campus Minister at York University in Toronto since 2001. Chong also writes for The Banner magazine and is the volunteer Intercultural Specialist for the Home Missions Regional Team (Eastern Canada).

Michael Collins: Michael is pastor of The Village Church, a new church plant, in Thorold Ont. Mike is passionate about building relationships with people and utilizing small groups as a way to connect with the community. He has been developing small groups for over 20 years both within the traditional church and in a church plant setting.

Jessie Cooper: Jessie is married to Justin for 39 years, has two married sons and 7 grandchildren. She has worked as a marriage and family therapist for over 25 years. She has been involved with prayer for the church, the city, and our nation and loves to encourage all to pray!

Rose Dekker: Rose works as a spiritual director and is Refugee Coordinator with CRWRC. One of her roles as spiritual director is walking alongside individuals on their spiritual journeys, helping them to reflect on God's presence in all aspects of their lives.

Kevin DeRaaf: Kevin is pastor of Faith Christian Reformed Church in Burlington, where he has served for 10 years. He is currently enjoying a sabbatical for spiritual reflection and personal growth. He is also part of the leadership team for the Eastern Canada Leadership Development Network (www.ecldn.ca), a 3 year educational program to assist CRC members develop their leadership gifts within their local setting.

Elske de Visch Eybergen: Elske is an experienced facilitator/coach in the utilization of wraparound (10 years). She has over 30 years of work experience in social services

from child welfare, developmental services, children's and adult mental health, youth justice and as a child advocate with the Ministry of Community and Social Services.

Beatrice Ekwa Ekoko: Beatrice is the facilitator of the Greening Sacred Spaces program for the Hamilton area. She has been working with the Hamilton faith community for over two years on various projects that have as underlying themes conservation and sustainability in the place of worship and within the home.

Leanne Friesen: Leanne serves as Senior Pastor of Mount Hamilton Baptist Church, where she has worked with her husband Dallas for the past 4 years. She has an undergraduate degree in Child and Family Studies and a Master of Divinity degree from McMaster University. This background, combined with a passion for marriage ministry, has led her to a growing ministry in this area in recent years.

Leo Gatotos: Leo is the pastor and church planter for Living Mosaic Church in Burlington, Ontario. While the stated Core Value #2 for the church is Relying on the Spirit of God, Leo is the first to admit that it is not easy, but a must. Leo and his wife, Deb, have three wonderful children.”

Janet Goodhoofd: Janet is an individual, couple and family therapist and has a private practice in Oakville. She also teaches courses in two Master of Social Work programs. She has over 25 years of experience in the field of social work. Janet is married and has four children.

Wendy Gritter: Wendy Gritter, M.Div. serves as the Executive Director of New Direction Ministries and is a recognized contributor in the conversation on faith and sexuality. She is deeply committed to building bridges with those who feel alienated and marginalized by the church.

Tammy Heidbuurt: Tammy is one of the staff members of Diaconal Ministries Canada and is part of New Hope, a church plant in east Hamilton. Both experiences show her how God is moving in His church to bring about transformation in various communities.

Syd Hielema: Dr. Syd Hielema serves as chaplain and professor of youth ministry at Redeemer University. He is a member of the Christian Reformed Church Faith Formation Committee, and he teaches and speaks on issues related to spiritual formation all over North America.

Rob Hogendoorn: Rob Hogendoorn is the Senior Pastor of Forest City Community Church (FCCC). Beginning with a handful of people 16 years ago, Rob and his wife Coby, launched FCCC as an innovative church designed to reach non-believing people with the gospel. FCCC's ministry now encompasses over 2000 people. It constantly seeks better ways to introduce people to Jesus and grow toward Christian maturity.

Janet Johnson:

Ida Kaastra-Mutoigo: Ida Kaastra Mutoigo serves as Director for Christian Reformed World Relief Committee (CRWRC) in Canada (for 3 years) and worked for 15 years with

CRWRC in East Africa. She and her family (husband with 3 teenagers) live in Hamilton and attend Immanuel CRC where she serves as pastoral elder.

Steve Kabetu: Steve is the Coordinator of Race Relations for the CRC in Canada. He has worked in intercultural ministry across Canada, and was helped to design and develop the curricula for two racial reconciliation resources over the last 10 years, WTC (Widening the Circle), and DORR (Dance of Racial Reconciliation).

Raymond Louter: Raymond has been professor of Theatre Arts at Redeemer University College for 23 years, and during that time he has come to see how vital the Psalms are to the vitality of our faith. He is an actor, director, dramaturg, and writer.

Rick Nanninga: Rick is the Senior Pastor of the Brighton Fellowship Christian Reformed Church and has over 20 years of experience in intentional discipleship in the local church context.'

Judah Oudshoorn: Judah is a Service Coordinator at a restorative justice agency – Community Justice Initiatives – working with men on probation and supporting people impacted by sexual trauma. As well, he is a Lecturer at the University of Waterloo and a Serious Crime Mediator with Correctional Services of Canada.

Chandra Pasma: Chandra is a policy analyst with Citizens for Public Justice. This is a national organization of members inspired by faith to act for justice in Canadian public policy. Chandra has worked on diverse issues including poverty and income security, electoral reform, immigration and diversity issues, and human trafficking. Chandra infuses all her work with a faith-based commitment to justice.

Chris Pullenayegem: Chris works as a ministry specialist with Home Missions Canada (Eastern region) and works alongside churches in finding pathways to missional living (i.e. being agents of Gods Kingdom in their communities). He brings experience and strategic insight to ministry, especially in dealing with the changing demographic landscape of North America.

Carlo Raponi: Carlo is the Director of Peterborough Youth for Christ and has been working with youth and partnering with church leaders for the past 10 years. His desire is one: to see the Kingdom of God expressed by the simplest of people in the simplest of situations. 'Missional Lifestyle Rhythms' can be the framework to help this materialize.

Erick Schuringa: Erick is a pastor in Brampton Ontario who is passionate about developing leaders and churches that can thrive in the messy context in which we often find ourselves. He has led his congregation on a journey of renewal that included relocating and rebuilding after the church building burned down all under the motto "the church that burned becoming the church on fire."

Peter Schuurman: Peter was a chaplain at Brock University for eight years after which he worked as coordinator of the Christian Reformed Church's campus ministry movement in North America. Currently he is working on a PhD in Religious Studies while teaching World Religions part-time at Redeemer University College. His

research is in the area of “Faith and Humour” with his best material coming from his wife, Joy, and two children.

Peter Slofstra: Peter is the lead pastor of Hope Fellowship Church in Courtice. Peter and his wife Marja are parents of six adopted children. One of their most treasured memories is cycling across Canada on their tandem bike, Big Blue, in the original 2005 Sea to Sea Bicycle Tour. He co-authored two books (‘Pumped!’ and ‘Follow Me’) and also wrote ‘In Tandem: a sea to sea cycling odyssey’.

Jack Tacoma: Jack is a Ministry Specialist with Christian Reformed Church Home Missions where he heads the Mission-Focused Churches Team. His area of specialty is leadership. Jack is a member of New Life Christian Reformed Church in Guelph.

Norm Thomasma: Norm is a pastor in the Christian Reformed Church and Director of the office of Pastor-Church Relations. He began as a church planter, transitioned to an established church and has been working with Pastor-Church Relations for 7 years. He lives with his wife, Ellen, in Stevensville, MI. Norm and Ellen have three adult children.

Ida Tigchelaar: Ida is a Registered Nurse and a Certified Hospice Palliative Care nurse. She works as a Palliative Care Consultant/Educator in the hospitals, community and long term care homes of Elgin and Oxford Counties. She is one of the authors of the current hospice palliative care education courses in Southwest Ontario.

Hilda Vander Klippe: Hilda works for Christian Reformed Home Missions in the area of Evangelism and Prayer. She is available to churches and groups who would like to become more focused in reaching their communities. Hilda lives with her family in the Niagara Peninsula and they are involved in establishing a new church community in Thorold.

John Vander Stoep: John serves as pastor in Cambridge at Maranatha Christian Reformed Church where he trains and works alongside the elders who are helping him experience Christ through their serving and leading. His experience of being an elder (one term, 15 years ago) has helped him know just enough to know that he doesn’t know much. This helps him rely on God!

Adrian Van Giessen: Adrian is the lead pastor at The Journey which is an emerging church located in Kitchener/Waterloo. He is also the Regional Team Leader for Christian Reformed Home Missions in Eastern Canada.

Barb Van Giessen: Barb is from Kitchener/Waterloo and is a wife, a mom and a mentor. She has worked for the Eastern Canada Leadership Development Network as a recruiter and trainer of mentors for the last 5 years. She also mentors people in her church, The Journey, in spiritual formation.

Cecil Van Nijenhuis: Cecil has been a Christian Reformed pastor in Canada for 28 years, and presently serves as a consultant for the office of Pastor-Church Relations. He and his wife Karen winter in Edmonton all year long.

Al Wolters: Al Wolters is a retired professor of theology at Redeemer University College. He is the author of *Creation Regained: Biblical Basics for a Reformational Worldview*, and was chairman of the study committee on "Third Wave Pentecostalism" which reported to the Christian Reformed Church Synod in June 2009.