

Workshops

The Poor Serving the Poor - Diaconal Work in Cuba

This workshop will give insight into the joys and challenges a small reformed denomination in Cuba faces. We will talk about Cuba and how the churches in Cuba meet the challenges of working with the vulnerable in society to build capacity. We will touch on our work with seniors, handicapped people, alcoholics, and housing.

Led by Pastor Jesus Rivero Rivero who is married with one daughter. He has been a teacher and is a pastor. He serves as the director of finance for the Iglesia Cristiana en Cuba. (CRC in Cuba)

Also led by Pastor Enrique Manuel Alvarez Cepero who is also married and has one daughter. He has a B.Ed and a theological degree. He was elected President of the CRC in Cuba last July. He has been the director of the diaconal department and serves as vice president of the Cuba Council of Churches.

Diversity in the Family

The members of the Christian Reformed Church are no longer of only one ethnic community, but are increasingly diverse and multi-cultural. This inspiring and challenging workshop will help us look at our attitudes towards other people and discover how we can act and combat racism and develop healthy intercultural relationships.

Led by Steve Kabetu. Steve has been the Coordinator of Race Relations in Canada (CRC) since December 2005. Steve has always been dedicated to the work of combating racism and its effects. Prior to becoming the Coordinator for Race Relations, he served on the Race Relations committee of Classis Toronto through which he was one of the key participants in developing an anti-racism curriculum for congregations called "Widening the Circle." Steve is a member of the CRC Intercultural Coaching Team.

CRWRC: Accomplishing Community Transformation by Being Community

This workshop looks at the fundamentals of poverty alleviation from a Christian perspective, including the role that the Canadian church and individuals play. The principles that work in a community of poverty internationally can also be applied to community outreach in our own church community.

Led by Andy Ryskamp. Andy has been the Director of CRWRC-US since 1998. He has been involved in diaconal ministries and community development for many years. He is married to Kris, and has two sons, Jonathan and Michael.

She/He Ain't Heavy, He/She's my Brother / Sister: Enfolding Refugees into the Family

In a culture of individualism, the concept of humankind and our particular moral obligations to the weakest people is struggling. This is especially evident in relation to refugees where both public policy and community practice are increasingly hostile. This workshop will explore a more holistic perspective on how we can be part of safer, happier lives for those who have lost their homes.

Led by Jim Gurnett. Jim is the Executive Director of Edmonton Mennonite Centre for Newcomers and has worked with civil society organizations focused on justice, human rights, and democracy for many years. He is chair of the Canadian Immigrant Settlement Sector Alliance and enjoyed a previous career as a school teacher and principal.

Spiritually Healthy Families - Healthy Churches

Churches are not buildings or institutions; they are people connected to God and one another. Healthy churches require spiritually healthy people. What does healthy spirituality look like? How does it come about? What is spiritual illness?

How is it different from spiritual woundedness? How do these impact the church? How does the church - especially its leaders - respond?

Led by Walt Brouwer. Walt is pastor at Bethel Community Reformed Church in Edmonton. He has a lifelong interest in what spiritual health looks like and how God cultivates it in believers. He completed a Doctor of Ministry Degree of Fuller Theological Seminary. He and his wife Grace have two sons, Mike and Geoff.

The Family Unit - Ministering to Our Youth

An interactive workshop looking at the spiritual development of our youth and the relevance to the family unit.

Led by Ron Devries. Ron is the Youth Ministry Consultant for Classis Alberta North, and lives in Devon. He has been involved in Youth Ministry for the better part of 15 years while also serving his then local congregation in Ontario as elder, clerk, worship leader, Sunday school teacher and mentor. Ron and his wife Monique have a daughter Amanda, son Shawn and son-in-law Matt.

In Peace and Friendship; A New Relationship with Aboriginal Peoples

Learn how the Gospel can become alive in a native context. We will be exploring covenant as the backdrop to the conversation of Christianity and Native Spirituality.

Led by Harold Roscher. Harold is the Director and Chaplain of the Edmonton Native Healing Centre. He is married to Christine, and they have three children. They attend the Inglewood CRC in Edmonton.

Deacon Sharing Circle

An opportunity for deacons to explore a number of topics in a conversational, interactive setting. We will learn from one another in the following areas: what makes your diaconate vibrant - share stories of what's been working; what makes for a good meeting; what is the relationship between your diaconate and the community.

Led by Helen van Loo. Helen is a Diaconal Ministry Developer with Diaconal Ministries Canada. She has worked at the NADC office for many years, and has served several terms as a deacon in her home church, Ottewell CRC.

Family Mediation - From Anger To Acceptance

Experiencing conflict is part of being human. How we manage conflict can make the difference between a growing feud that leads to great stress and positive resolution. This workshop will explore ways of developing communication and listening skills that de-escalate conflict and lead to more harmonious relationships.

Led by Melle Huizinga. Melle is a retired teacher and principal who completed the course of study in mediation and arbitration. He works part-time as a family mediator with Catholic Social Services, specializing in parent-teen conflict resolution. He is involved in the civil claims mediation project for Alberta Justice.

It's a Deacon's Life

The work of a deacon is very demanding, and very rewarding. You have been called to this wonderful work; how do you prepare yourself, what does it all mean, where do you find your job description? What image emerges as you think about a deacon? We'll explore the answers to these and other questions. Newer and experienced deacons are welcome.

Led by Louisa Vande Bunte. Louisa is a Diaconal Ministry Developer with Diaconal Ministries Canada. She resides in Lacombe with her husband Gert and attends Wolf Creek Community Church. She has several certificates in the human (social) sciences, and together with Gert have worked for CRWRC in various overseas locations.

A
CO
S
als
o
in-
vol
ves
ide
ntif
yin
g
the
uni
que
gift
s,
re-
sou
rce
s
and
pur
pos
e of
you
r
chu
rch.
Ho
w
is
Go
d
call
ing
you
r
chu
rch
to
lov
e

A
CO
S
als
o
in-
vol
ves
ide
ntif
yin
g
the
uni
que
gift
s,
re-
sou
rce
s
and
pur
pos
e of
you
r
chu
rch.
Ho
w
is
Go
d
call
ing
you
r
chu
rch
to
lov
e

