2017 Day Of Encouragement: Classis Alberta North

Saturday November 4

Keynote by Steven Timmermans: A Seeking Shalom Lifestyle. There is room at the table for all. The DOE provides an opportunity for encouragement, inspiration, education and skill development for ministry leaders and people of the CRC church. Lunch feature with World Renew’s, Bob Laarman.

- Carmen Voogd
- Harold Roscher
- Mel Slomp
- Heather Looy
- Ron Vandenbrink
- Karin Linschoten
- Cindy Stover
- Mike Hogeterp
- Howard Lawrence
- Julianne Gilchrist
- Mark Stephenson
- Joyce Borger
- Jonathan Nicolai-deKoning

8:15—9:00 AM Registration
9:00—9:15 Opening & Songs
9:15—10:15 Keynote Address
10:15—10:45 Fellowship & Coffee
10:45—12:00 Workshops
12:15—1:30 PM DRS Lunch & InfoTables
1:45—3:00 Workshops
3:15—3:30 Fellowship & Coffee
3:30—3:45 Closing & wrap up

Register online at:
www.regonline.ca/
DOE2017Edmonton

Classis AB North: NADC Consultant
Jesse Edgington
Cell: 780-619-7488
Email: yournadc@gmail.com

Brochure and Registration info available at:
www.regonline.ca/DOE2017Edmonton,
www.diaconalministries.com
or on the NADC Facebook page.

Costs:
- Super Early Bird (month of Aug): $40
- After Aug 31: $50
- After October 6: $60
- Students and Under 30: $40
**About our presenters...**

**Rev. Joyce Borger** is an ordained minister in the Christian Reformed Church, is the director of Worship Ministries for the Christian Reformed Church and senior editor of the quarterly journal, Reformed Worship.

**Julianne Gilchrist** spent years in youth and campus ministry, and is now a blogger, speaker, and mom to three kids. She loves a good story and finds it hard to say “no” when her kids ask for one more chapter at bedtime. She is currently training to become a Spiritual Director, and considers it a privilege to listen to other people’s stories of faith, doubt, loss, and hope.

**Mike Hogeterp** is the Director of the Christian Reformed Centre for Public Dialogue. From an office, just blocks from Parliament Hill, Mike interacts regularly with policy makers and shapers on issues of justice and reconciliation. Mike believes deeply in the importance of thoughtful, constructive and non-partisan Christian engagement in Canadian public debates.

**Bob Laarman** started his ministry with World Renew in Central America in the 1980s. Upon returning home, he worked for a number of years with a non profit housing agency in Michigan. From there he moved to the Grand Rapids office of World Renew, in a Church Relations and then a Fund Raising role. He began his current role with Disaster Response Services in October of 2016.

**Howard Lawrence** is co-founder of the Asset Based Neighbourhood Organizing Association with John McKnight. He consults on neighbourhood health across North America and is currently developing and spearheading The Abundant Community Initiative (ACI) with The City of Edmonton. He has a passion for grassroots neighbourhood engagement and continues to work collaboratively with ABCD Institute, The City of Edmonton and others, to increase their collective capacity within their neighbourhoods.

**Karin Linschoten** came to Canada in 2001 and works with the Mennonite Centre for Newcomers, where she is Clinical Director for Health and Wellbeing Services, which provide counseling and trauma therapy services for Refugees and Immigrants. She is also involved at the Multicultural Health Brokers’ Coop, as Team lead for a Group of Therapists. She recently represented Canada on the International Council for Rehabilitation of Torture Victims (IRCT).

**Dr. Heather Looy’s** research interests, at The King’s University, relate to two basic elements of human experience: sex and food. She studies the biopsychology of human sexuality and gender as well as attitudes toward insects as human food. These topics are linked by her interest in emotions (especially disgust) and moral judgment. She is especially passionate about finding ways to help people understand the value and the limits of biopsychological research for dealing justly with real-life issues of sexuality and nutrition.

**Jonathan Nicolai-deKoning** journeys with men and women leaving prison and resettling in the Edmonton area as a chaplain at The Mustard Seed’s Open Door program. He has provided accompaniment, practical support, accountability and countless cups of coffee to folks leaving prison since 2010, and empowers others to do the same in their own community. He lives in Edmonton with his wife and 3 kids.

**Harold Roscher** is the chaplain and director of the Edmonton Native healing Centre. Harold started full time work in 2002 after the Creator challenged him to go back to school and prepare his heart to work with aboriginal people. At age thirty-five he became a registered Indian with the government—talk about a transition from being a little dark-haired Dutch boy! In recognizing himself as a Cree man, God launched him on this fantastic journey of discovery about self, culture and the Gospel.

**Mel Slomp** is a health care executive in Alberta’s provincial health system. His career includes over 20 years in the addiction and mental health field, primarily in research, evaluation and administrative roles. He is passionate about promoting overall well being in all areas of health, including mental health ...at individual, organization and community levels. Mel is a member of West End CRC in Edmonton.

**Rev. Mark Stephenson** has served the CRC as Director of Disability Concerns since 2006. Before that, he served as a pastor at two Christian Reformed Congregations. He and his wife Bev have a family that is growing again, with children, in-laws, and grandchildren now totaling 7 people with more on the way. Their oldest daughter Nicole has been teaching everyone how to live joyfully with multiple disabilities for 30 years.

**Cindy Stover** is the Justice Mobilizer for the Christian Reformed Church in Canada, a role which allows her to connect with Churches across the country to engage with the justice initiatives happening in local congregations, and to offer training and resources where needed. Cindy is interested in seeing people realize God’s call to enact justice and mercy in every area of our lives, from how we shop, to how we talk to our neighbours, to how our churches respond to the most vulnerable.

**Dr. Steven Timmermans** is the Executive Director of the Christian Reformed Church in North America. Previously he served as President of Trinity Christian College in the Chicago area and in a variety of administrative and teaching roles at Calvin College in Grand Rapids, Michigan. He has also served as a special education teacher-principal and as a pediatric psychologist. Common themes throughout all of his experiences are community engagement and service, foci also evident in his publications and grants received. He is married to Dr. Barbara Timmermans, a nursing professor; together they have seven adult children, three of whom are Ethiopian.

**Ron Vanden Brink** grew up in Edmonton where he worked for nine years as an electrician. He then attended The King’s University in Edmonton, and later graduated from Calvin Theological Seminary in Grand Rapids, Michigan. Ron has served in ministry for over 20 years as a pastor and church planter. On August 1st, 2016 he joined Diaconal Ministries Canada as their National Director. With an excitement for the future of deacons in the CRC, a heart for diaconal ministry and a desire to see communities transformed in Christ, Ron is looking forward to meeting with you.

**Carmen Voogd** is a member of the Classis Alberta North Safe Church Team, is a Certified Trainer from Plan to Protect and member of Advisory Panel for CRC North America Safe Church Ministry.
### AM #1
**Standing Stones Ceremony:**

Travis Enright and Harold Roscher were exploring the meaning of Christian Indigenous worship and struggled to find a satisfactory answer. Eventually they settled on a format that can be used by anyone. Standing Stones comes from the perspective of a Christian Aboriginal ceremony that is rooted in Aboriginal values of inclusiveness around the circle of relationship.

We will hold a time of worship in a circle and in the centre is the altar where we display various symbols of our native culture and Christian tradition. Within this circle we have four stations; confession, wisdom, healing and thanksgiving.

- With Harold Roscher

### AM #2
**Why is Sex Such a Big (Moral) Deal?**

Conversations about sexual and gender diversity in our churches and families are often difficult and divisive. Understanding some of the psychological roots of our attitudes and fears may help people stay at the table in order to move forward, together.

- With Heather Looy

### AM #3
**Supporting the Mental Health of Our Pastors:**

This session will provide a brief overview of recent materials created by the CRC, and the Reformed Church of America (RCA), related to supporting clergy during mental health challenges. Attendees will then participate in a discussion on how to be part of a community that supports pastors by taking a proactive look at mental health and related supports.

- With Mel Slomp

### AM #4
**The Influence of Pre-migration Experiences in Refugee Families Lives:**

This workshop gives a view into the lives of refugees before their arrival in Canada, what the environment of a refugee camp is like and how these experiences impact peoples lives and wellbeing.

We will also discuss the influence of trauma, culture and role changes on the daily lives of refugees in Canada.

- With Karin Linschoten

### AM #5
**S-A-F-E-T-Y In Numbers:**

How does abuse prevention and safe church policy impact you? Come and learn ways safe church can be an important building block for ministries in your church.

- With Carmen Voogd

### AM #6
**Diaconal Ministries Canada (DMC) - Annual General Meeting:**

For the first time in its history, DMC will hold its Annual General Meeting in western Canada. Come and hear a little about the history of DMC, a story or two about some of the work it’s involved in, and (if you’re an ordained deacon) cast your vote on its 2017/18 budget and work plan! Copies of the annual report, the budget, and the work plan will be mailed to all deaconates – and will also be available at this meeting.

- With Ron Vandenbrink
**PM #1**

**Salt and Light in a Time of Division:**
(Round Table Discussion) God’s call to justice, and our walk as faithful citizens in this world, tends to inspire passionate debate. But recently, in politics across North America, there is tension and polarization that sounds like: “It’s Us vs. Them... and they are no-good-evildoers.” This political tension touches families and churches. The church is one place in which people of differing viewpoints share some profound beliefs and connections in common. In learning to talk together about difficult things, the church can be salt and light and demonstrate mutual respect and active citizenship.

- With Cindy Stover & Mike Hogeterp

**PM #2**

**Becoming an Inclusive Church:**
It's easy, and feels natural, to gravitate toward people who are most like ourselves. But when we do what feels most comfortable, many people will not feel welcome at our churches even when we put an "Everyone Welcome" sign out front. This workshop will zero in on becoming more welcoming to people in our neighborhoods who have various disabilities, and the principles expressed will apply much more broadly to becoming a welcoming congregation.

- With Mark Stephenson

**PM #3**

**Connected and Capable Neighborhoods - The Abundant Community Initiative:**
Every city is concerned with health, children, seniors, safety, care of land, the local economy and those on the margins. Government policies and social services are at their limits. The next wave of impact will come from citizens connected to their neighbors and engaged in bringing their gifts and humanity to each other. The Abundant Community Initiative is part of a large movement that is neighborhood focused, citizen centered and gift based. It advances household connection and belonging within each block and within neighborhoods, as a whole. It helps to shape neighborhood life according to residents vision and facilitates neighborliness by linking residents to groups, existing and newly formed.

- With Howard Lawrence

**PM #4**

**Becoming Second Chance People:**
Eating Birthday Cake with Drug Dealers, Praying through Plastic Walls, and Other Lessons in Belonging and Hope.

Jonathan will draw on stories from his work with those leaving prison to ask what it might mean for our churches and neighbourhoods to become ‘second chance communities’, and what that might mean for our commitments to welcome, reconciliation, and justice.

- With Jonathan Nicolai-deKoning

**PM #5**

**The Oral and Written Tradition of Storytelling:**
We are story people. What does it look like to understand our lives as stories within the God Story? How can we tell our stories and the Story better? This workshop will explore those ideas as we listen to each other's stories.

- With Julianne Gilchrist

**PM #6**

**Is Someone Missing?**
When your congregation gathers for corporate worship is there a demographic from your community that is missing or underrepresented? This workshop will take a beginning look at practices from churches intentionally including children through older adults, individuals with disabilities, and folks of different backgrounds to better represent the body of Christ in full, active, and conscious participation. Come prepared to share your congregation’s best practices as well so we can learn from each other.

- With Joyce Borger