

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 1, 2018

ANCASTER DAY OF ENCOURAGEMENT RETIRED

Burlington, ON/August 1, 2018 — In its early days, the Day of Encouragement (DOE) hosted by Diaconal Ministries Canada (DMC) each fall in Ancaster, ON, was designed with deacons in mind: a time to gather for worship, learning, and sharing best practices. It was also an opportune time to hold DMC's Annual General Meeting in order that deacons from across Canada could own and affirm the work of DMC.

Over the years, the annual Ancaster DOE evolved, offering a variety of themes and workshops to equip not only deacons, but other church and parachurch leaders as well. However, in recent years, the numbers had begun to wane significantly. Across Canada "mini DOEs" were initiated, usually within a particular Classis, in order to gather more local diaconates for a day of learning and networking. DMC Staff and partners typically became involved in these smaller gatherings in order to help train and resource deacons. All in all, it felt as though the time had come to re-evaluate the Ancaster DOE: to affirm its purpose and determine its significance to deacons across Canada.

After a year of careful evaluation and review involving DMC partners, stakeholders, staff and beyond, the decision has been made to no longer offer the annual Ancaster DOE.

Moving Forward

Please know that DMC remains committed to its mandate to inspire, empower and equip deacons as they animate their churches to join in God's transforming work in communities across Canada. For churches and Classes who wish to hold a local DOE, resources are available on the DMC website, and our staff is ready and eager to help you plan and prepare timely and relevant events. Some exciting new plans are being developed as well – please stay tuned for more information! In all of this, as always, we

covet your prayers and support as we continue to build God's Kingdom together with all of you!

For more information, please contact:

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For more information on holding your own DOE, visit:

<https://diaconalministries.com/engaging-communities/days-of-encouragement/>

For more information on other training events or seminars, visit:

<https://diaconalministries.com/training-events-seminars/>

