

Chaplaincy and Care Ministry (Rev. Sarah Roelofs, Director)
“Being there in Moments that Matter”

1) Introduction

- a) Chaplaincy and Care Ministry (CCM) endorses 148 CRC ministers and pastors (10% of all clergy) to serve in institutions such as prisons, hospitals, hospice, long-term care, counseling centers, workplaces and military installations. Chaplaincy is a healing, reconciling ministry of God, an expression and extension of God’s activity and mission in the world to those who are hurting or in crisis, uprooted or dislocated.
- b) CCM’s mission is to implement, regulate, and develop the denomination’s commitment to chaplaincy through: overseeing the denominational endorsement process, providing pastoral support and advocacy for endorsed chaplains, facilitating the shared supervision with chaplains’ calling churches, informing and educating the CRCNA on chaplaincy and related ministries, administering training grants, recruiting chaplains, conducting training, promoting the development of chaplaincy, and participating in national endorsement-related organizations.
- c) Our chaplains are equipped by our churches to serve as frontline workers and minister to those who are isolated, feel abandoned, are in crisis and pain, and have experienced overwhelming loss and grief. Their education, specialized vocational training, and unique gifts have prepared them to serve to “be there in Moments that Matter” in their local communities and institutions.

2) Staffing Updates

- a) Chaplaincy welcomes [Carol Vander Ark Champion](#) and says goodbye to Matt Hubers in May. Carol will providing 24 hours per week of administrative support. Matt Hubers had worked full time as a communication specialist until February. We look forward to becoming fully staffed by adding a 20 hour per week part-time chaplain this fall to aid in resource development and ministry program support.

3) Ministry Highlights

a) **Endorsement**

- i) Supervise the endorsement of 24 CRC Canadian Chaplains, process endorsement application profiles (currently 4 Canadian application out of 14), and complete five year endorsement renewals.
 - (1) We endorsed 4 new Canadian Chaplains (12 total from the last year)
 - (a) Rev. John Luth works at the Salvation Army in Edmonton, AB
 - (b) Rev. Derrick Lee works as a hospital chaplain and is applying for the Canadian Armed Forces at a base in Alberta.
 - (c) Ms. Chantal Huinink lives in Waterloo, ON and has a variety of volunteer roles. She is seeking a chaplain position that utilizes her many gifts and specialized training.
 - (d) Rev. Peter Janssens works in long-term care and lives in Burlington, ON
- ii) Assist 40+ churches and 8 classes as they call, jointly supervise, and support chaplains

- iii) Raise up chaplain leaders by assisting 20+ students and 50+ pastor/discerning individuals seeking information about the profession of chaplaincy and endorsement in the CRCNA
- iv) Plan and arrange for 1-2 presentations to meet with groups Canadian students discerning their call and preparing for ordained ministry in the CRCNA

b) Training

- i) Canadian chaplains will be empowered and equipped for their work in Canada through our training grants (provided \$8,523 in Canadian grants out of \$22,244 in total grants), training events (including our Annual Training/Conference and monthly virtual continuing education meetings), and chaplaincy resources shared on a variety of social media platforms and CRC publications.
- ii) Provide newsletter every two months with specialized information on training, important legislation, resources, prayer requests, and updates specific to Canadian ministry

c) Pastoral Care

- i) Canadian chaplains will be supported as they continue to work in various institutions and in their communities through over 26 weekly zoom prayer meetings (13 of the 24 chaplains have joined), emails, phone calls, in-person/video meetings, 1-2 regional gatherings(dependent on CRCNA travel policy), and fostering virtual support networks.
- ii) Empower regional groups of chaplains and our CCM Advisory Council throughout Canada through the 350+ interactions with our Canadian chaplains and advisory council throughout the year.
- iii) Maintain networks to promote community, mentoring relationships, sharing of resources, and provide timely feedback for questions and concerns regarding CRCNA.

(1) We recognize the movement of the Holy Spirit in our ministry. In last year's ministry plan, we dedicated ourselves to fostering virtual community. We've increased our postings on the Network, revamped our newsletter, and bolstered our Facebook group.

(a) In the last year, our members have grown from 74 to 109! We had 244 posts in the last year, and 75 of our FB members are active and commenting—a 294% increase! From March 13-June 30, 2020 we've had 135 posts which is a 229% increase from last March-June 2019.

(2) We began meeting monthly in October 2019 to learn about a certain topic relevant to chaplain (MAID, Pastoral Response to Crisis and Trauma, Ministry in Pluralistic Settings, etc.), so in March it was an easy transition to meet together weekly for prayer. We normally have 12-20 chaplains joining our video call each week.

- iv) Provided [Chaplain Sunday Resources](#) (Bulletin insert, video, PowerPoint slides, request letters, etc.) so churches and chaplains could celebrate and pray for chaplain ministry

d) Advocacy

- i) Share with Canadian churches the work of Canadian chaplains through highlighting their work in written/visual stories and promotional material that is posted in the Banner, The Network, on social media, and ministry material sent directly to churches and individuals.
 - ii) Highlight the work of chaplains through sharing of their stories and ministry in the Banner, Network, and on our social media platforms.
 - (1) Check out a couple of stories about the work of our chaplains as they serve in the midst of COVID restrictions. [Rev. Karen Norris](#), [Femke Visser-Elenbaas](#), and [Rev. Timothy De Jong](#).
 - iii) Attend Canadian Association for Spiritual Care -- the only certifying Canadian organization for chaplains -- annual conference and/or regional training event
- 4) Action Requests
- a) Please continue to pray for our chaplains who are providing essential ministry to folks that have been isolated from their families and churches. Specifically please pray for our chaplains who are serving in long-term care and nursing homes as they feel the added organizational stress of implementing additional government policies and bearing the weight of governmental oversight.
 - b) Ask your church to celebrate [Chaplain Sunday](#) on November 15 and advocate for your church to continue to pray and support chaplains who extend the ministry of the church into their communities.
 - c) Seeking partnerships and collaboration opportunities to utilize our chaplains' gifting and skills to bless the church and care for our communities in Canada.