

C - Care

Covenant Christian Reformed Church

a quarterly newsletter about Congregational Care in Covenant CRC

Winter, 2010

Welcome to the first issue of C-Care, the quarterly CCRC Congregational Care newsletter. In this way we'll keep you informed about the latest Care news in and around the Congregation.

What's with the Name?

The 'C' in the newsletter's name stands for 'Congregational', but could also be for a little or big 'C' Covenant Care, Community Care etc. Best would be 'C' for 'Christ's Care', to reflect our ultimate care giver! So pick your favourite 'C', but the newsletter name remains 'C-Care'. The intent is to promote and also 'see' plenty of care in and by the congregation.

Changing Care our traditional model is care by elder, deacon and pastor, particularly in spiritual matters. Many older members will recall the annual home visit ("huis bezoek"), ideally involving the whole family. Things have changed: lives are busier, more erratic and mobile. Hence, our approach to CC (congregational care) changes to fit the needs, as

described in this inaugural newsletter.

Pastoral Care changes:

Council accepted the Congregational (Pastoral) Care report of the Study Committee in November 2006. It decided that the Congregational Care Coordinator (CCC) would be held by a volunteer and that Congregational Care Associates (CCA's) ('elder helpers') would be appointed by Council and commissioned.

What are CCA's ?

Congregational Care Associates (CCA) are persons who have a compassion and ability to participate in the care of others. They may be former elders, deacons or others who already participate in care giving within or outside of the congregation. All CCA's are volunteers who work cooperatively with the pastors, elders, deacons and congregational care coordinator are accountable to the elders.

And the AD's? Council also appointed Associate

Deacons. Like the three installed deacons, they represent and administer the mercy of Christ to all people, especially to those who belong to the community of believers. AD's participate in all Deacon activities, attend Deacon but not Council meetings.

We've celebrated three commissioning services since the first one in Sept. 2008. Commissioned as CCA's were:

Judy Brinkman
Rena Kingma
Don and Eva Miedema*
Tina Offereins
Jane Postuma
Hennie Slikker
Richard Vanderhooft
Luke and Nellie Vannus*
John and Trudy Harris
Christie Ploegman

and as AD's:
Greg van Leeuwen
Lisa Ryzebol*
Joanne Bakker
Wilma Staska
Jeremy Bomhof
Sabina Wyenberg
Sharon Houle

** indicates term expired or has stepped down*

Also, the following were appointed by Council as

CCA without formal commissioning: Ray Postuma (as volunteer coordinator); Henk Meinders, John and Betty Zandstra for specific members; Tina Thorsteinson and Shirley Feenstra, offered to assist Hennie Slikker for specific needs.

Small Groups (SG) are an important part of Congregational Life. They offer mutual support for their participants. Hence, the seven SG's of the church are asked to function as the CCA for its members. The elder(s) will 'check in' with the SG leader/coordinator on a regular basis. SG members can 'opt out' of this arrangement and instead have an assigned CCA.

Invitation: members of CCRC, who have 'a heart' for visiting and caring for others are invited to consider becoming a CCA or AD. Please contact your elder if you wish to participate in these roles. Presently, about half the congregation has a CCA or SG; we'd like to have 100% 'coverage', so we need more CCAs. Also, if you need a visit or know of someone in need, let your

elder know or alert the Church office.

Changes in the Council Room!: in an effort to 'streamline', Council downsized, effective January 1, 2008, from 22 members (12 elders, 10 deacons) to 9 members (6 elders, 3 deacons) to govern the church and still provide congregational care supervision. Former council members are now freed up for congregational care work,



something some prefer anyway!

What else is new?: not surprisingly, with more people involved in Congregational Care, a Manual was developed. This is 'work in progress' and we invite your input. The Manual can be accessed along with other Care resources via the 'Congregational Care' link on www.covenantcrc.ca.

Lots of visits!: it's amazing how many visits and contacts happen in CCRC! How do we know? In Jan. 2009 we created a secure, on-line, reporting system for all visits and contacts made by elders, deacons, CCA's. Over 600 visits or significant contacts were recorded for 2009. When Pastor Peter's visits are included, this total exceeds 800! Of course, many repeat visits were needed for some members. And we also know more visits were made 'behind the scenes' by non-CCA's. Thank you all Congregational Care participants. God is good!!

More Information?: you can find more information about the Covenant CRC's Congregational Care Program via the church web site (www.covenantcrc.ca) or speak with your elder, deacon, church office (667.1116 . ccrc@mts.net) or the Congregational Care Coordinator, Ray Postuma (668.7498 or ccrcare@gmail.com)

Please look for the spring issue of 'C-Care' in April 2010 for more news. Already the issue is filling up with great stuff!

Soli Deo Gloria