

Navigating Change Together
All-Canada Leadership Event, April 2018

ALL-CANADA EVENT WORKSHOP DESCRIPTIONS (workshop leader bios below)

[A] CHURCH REVITALIZATION

Jill Ver Steeg and Andy Bossardet

An interactive seminar on church revitalization: moving from discernment to action. Participants will reflect on God's faithfulness in their congregations while also following the Spirit's leading toward the future. Topics will include: discerning vision as a group, spiritual disciplines to keep you grounded in the midst of change and starting teams to accomplish change.

[B] ELDER & DEACON TRAINING: THE INTERSECTION OF LEADERSHIP & MANAGEMENT

Eddy Aleman

Leadership is crucial for the effectiveness of ministry in every church and in every community. There is a difference when consistories function as management boards or as leadership teams. This workshop will focus on the importance of elders and deacons becoming leaders in the church. We will be looking at the biblical foundations for leadership found in the New Testament in relation to elders and deacons and their role as leaders working alongside with the pastor leading a thriving church.

[C] FROM FEAR TO HOPE: CONFLICT AS OPPORTUNITY FOR DISCIPLESHIP

Chris DeVos

Too often we struggle to find our way through complex issues and we end up fighting with or splitting apart from each other. The church seems to be as embattled as the culture around us. At the same time, these contentious issues offer an opportunity for Christian spiritual formation and discipleship. Could this moment actually be a time to grow our love for each other and for God, to move from fear to hope? This workshop will offer a framework and practice for Christians to do just that.

[D] SMALL CHURCHES WITH BIG HEARTS

Randy Weener

Join us to hear stories of small churches with big impact, discuss the vital future of small churches, learn sustainability strategies, and consider small church multiplication.

[E] CHURCHES PLANT CHURCHES

Tim Vink

This workshop will present a biblical theology of multiplication, as well as practical steps to share the gospel in your church's context and see the harvest come in through disciple-makers following Jesus example.

[F] NEXT GENERATION MINISTRIES

Bob Cleveringa

According to statistics, churches are losing both members and vitality as increasing numbers of young people disengage. This workshop will explore how churches can help their young people discover and love the church. We will hear first-hand stories, discuss best practices, and consider resources like *Growing Young*, which provides strategies any church can use to involve and retain teenagers and young adults. We will discuss innovative churches that are engaging 15- to 29-year-olds and as a result are growing -- spiritually, emotionally, missionally, and numerically.

[G] NEIGHBOURHOOD ENGAGEMENT

Eliza Bast

This workshop will focus on how churches can engage with their neighbourhoods: living the good news of the Gospel as individuals and families wherever we are. We will discuss the importance of orienting our lives and homes around being missional, with practical tips and resources on how to do that individually and collectively.

RCA STAFF, ECUMENICAL GUESTS AND WORKSHOP LEADERS



Don Poest
Interim General Secretary, Reformed Church in America

Don is the interim general secretary for the RCA (2017-2018). He previously served for 38 years as pastor of Brunswick Reformed Church in Brunswick, Ohio. Don was president of General Synod from 2010 to 2011 and GSC moderator in 2012. He also served as president of Lake Erie Classis, the Regional Synod of the Great Lakes, and Great Lakes City Classis. He has been active on numerous boards and committees. He is a graduate of Hope College and Western Theological Seminary.



Jill Ver Steeg
Director of Transformational Engagement, RCA

Jill Ver Steeg is the Director of Transformational Equipping at the Reformed Church in America. She is an ordained minister of Word and Sacrament in the RCA. She received her Master of Divinity from Western Theological Seminary. She has a DMin from Fuller Theological Seminary in Adaptive Leadership and Spiritual Formation. Jill is married to Shane Ver Steeg. They live in downtown Grand Rapids with their 4 boys.



Eliza Cortés Bast
Coordinator for Local Missional Engagement, RCA

As leader of the RCA local missional engagement team, Eliza Bast works to equip churches with resources and support as they seek to do creative ministry with their communities. She comes to the RCA from Centerpoint Church (RCA) in Kalamazoo, Michigan, where she served as pastor of outreach. She also launched and served as executive director of The Point Community Center in Kalamazoo.



Derrick Jones
Supervisor of RCA Mission in Africa, RCA

Derrick Jones is the supervisor of RCA mission programs in Africa. He has served in this role for over 12 years. Currently he is also serving as the co-interim director of RCA Global Mission.



Stephanie Soderstrom
Coordinator for Volunteer Engagement, RCA

Stephanie became a Christian because of a mission trip. Truly, she understands the impact of service on one's faith. Her desire to serve others has taken her around the globe, working with orphanages, nonprofits, and Youth With A Mission. She has a Masters of Divinity from Western Theological Seminary, and is passionate about connecting people with opportunities to serve God's world through mission.



Bob Cleveringa
Director of Youth Ministries, Synod of the Heartland / Youth Discipleship Coordinator, RCA

Bob has served in youth ministry professionally for 33 years, including 3 RCA churches as youth pastor. In his current position he provides support & resources for volunteer-led youth ministries and youth pastors throughout the Heartland region. Through the Office of Youth Ministries he plans large events like high school and middle school work camps, middle school retreats, Power Connection for 1,000+ youth and adults, and Rocky Mountain High for 3,000+ high school students and leaders. Bob and his wife Dee Ann have 7 children and are expecting their 20th

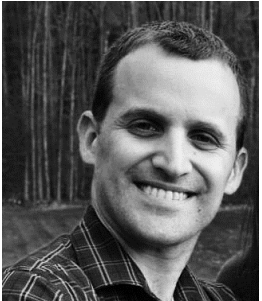
grandchild in June. Bob's passion is for the Next Generation and the development of leaders willing to impact the world.



Tim Vink

Senior Church Multiplication Catalyst, RCA

Tim has served for 13 years as the RCA's Senior Catalyst for Church Multiplication. He has partnered with God and many others to see over 300 churches start in North America through the Lord's call of church planters to the harvest fields. Tim also works with his former church in Tulare California, where they are planting their 39th church in 19 years. He is a Fuller Seminary graduate and has served churches in Iowa, Michigan and California. He has been engaged in equipping the saints under the empowerment of the Holy Spirit for 32 years. Tim has 3 strong daughters in the Lord all in their 20's, 2 great son-in-laws, and 2 grandchildren.



Andrew Bossardet

Coordinator for Equipping Thriving Congregations, RCA

Andy has no problem laughing at life's oddities or finding the perfect internet meme. He also craves authenticity. As an experienced coach, mentor, and pastor, he fundamentally believes that ministry is about staying with people through their dark times (including his own). He's driven by discovery—the "what's next?" conversations that often happen in coaching—and lives to interrupt daily routines in order to inspire growth.



Annalise Radcliffe

Coordinator to General Secretary's Office, and Associate for Transformational Equipping, RCA

Anna Radcliffe is the Associate for Transformational Equipping. She is ordained in the RCA. She holds a master of divinity from Western Theological Seminary. She is a graduate of Hope College. She and her husband Ron Radcliffe are planting a dual affiliated congregation between the CRCNA and the RCA called City Chapel. They live in downtown Grand Rapids.



Liz Testa

Coordinator for Women's Transformation and Leadership, RCA

Liz has served as coordinator for Women's Transformation & Leadership since 2014. Her focus is to help facilitate the full inclusion of women's gifts and influence in the life of the church. Liz and her team do this through equipping and empowering women in their lives and callings, and helping churches to create healthy ministry environments in which women and men work together, grow and thrive. Liz served a multi-cultural church in NYC for 12 years prior to joining RCA staff. She loves biblical hospitality, spiritual growth, leadership development, worship arts, media ministry and ministry revitalization. Liz holds a BFA from Syracuse University and an MDiv from the Drew Theological School, Madison, NJ.



Eddy Almán

Director of Strategic Leadership Development & Hispanic Ministries

Eddy Alemán was born in Nicaragua. At age 16, he became a Christian and moved to Canada as a refugee fleeing civil war. When he was 21, he joined the Toronto La Senda del Amor RCA church plant with his wife, Daysi, and two children. Alemán's experience at La Senda led him to plant several churches, first in Canada and then in California. Eddy served Emmanuel Church in Paramount, California, as pastor of Hispanic ministries and church planting. He joined denominational staff in 2014. He has an M.Div. from Western Seminary, an M.A. in New Testament from Fresno Pacific Seminary, and is currently pursuing a Ph.D. in New Testament studies at University of Wales Trinity St. David. Eddy is the candidate for General Secretary of the RCA.



Randy Weener

Coordinator of Church Multiplication, RCA

In addition to his role with RCA church multiplication, Randy is also the classis leader for the Great Lakes City Classis where he hosts a monthly small church forum. Previously he has been a camp counselor, church planter, youth leader, and revitalization pastor.



Chris DeVos

Manager of Church Partnerships & Care, The Colossian Forum

Chris DeVos has served as a pastor for more than 30 years, most recently a joint RCA/CRC church in Holland, Michigan. For six years he served a church in Kingston, Ontario. In 2015 he joined the staff of Western Seminary to oversee the Ridder Church Renewal project which focused on adaptive leadership development for pastors and church leaders. That work led to his current position at the Colossian Forum. The Colossian Forum exists to help the church transform conflict into opportunity for spiritual formation and discipleship. Chris is a dual US and Canadian citizen and is proud to have grandchildren on both sides of the border.