



What Has CiRCLe M Been Up To?

2015 - Looking Back Over the Last 5+ Years...

CiRCLe M has been busy these last number of years. The board and staff are grateful for the wonderful support from donors, funders and volunteers.

What We Said We Would Do	What We Have Done
<p>Hold rural ministry conferences that provide training in a range of rural church and community issues, drawing from across the country and a variety of faith groups.</p>	<p>Since CiRCLe M's conception (2009), three conferences have been held, all in Alberta (once every two years). The turnouts have been diverse with about a dozen different Christian denominational groups participating. Attendances have ranged between 60 and 80 people.</p>
<p>Create a strong base of church leaders who are well-educated in church and community development who can train other leaders.</p>	<p>Recruit DMin Cohorts CiRCLe M has been a leader in helping the Saskatoon Theological Union (STU) to develop and recruit for, a fully accredited Doctor of Ministry program in Rural Ministry and Community Development (DMin). Three cohorts have been recruited. Seven students have graduated. Students enrolled represent seven different denominations including both mainline and evangelical traditions.</p> <p>Lay Training Lay training has occurred in the rural conferences and webinars.</p>
<p>Develop a Resource Centre of materials for rural ministry appropriate to rural contexts.</p>	<p>An on-line and hardcopy resource centre has been developed. The on-line resources are being used, but the hardcopy resources are not being borrowed. It appears that we began the process of collecting the 'lending' library just as rural Canada got high speed internet and switched to on-line information gathering. Steps are underway to incorporate the materials in the Resource Centre into the STU library at the Lutheran Seminary site, University of Saskatchewan.</p>
<p>Support the development of friendship-building between rural settler communities and adjacent First Nations.</p>	<p>Catalyzing conversations between first nations and adjacent rural communities CiRCLe M initiated the building of an on-going friendship between the Ahtahkakoop First Nation and Shell Lake, SK.</p> <p>CiRCLe M helped to plan and host a public event in Wetaskiwin, AB to raise awareness and understanding about the history and legacies of Indian residential schools in Canada. In May 2013,</p>

What We Said We Would Do	What We Have Done
	<p>over 400 people participated in the event - young and old, representing a fairly even mix of First Nation and settler communities. Our host group, called "Building Bridges", was featured at the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) gathering in Edmonton in 2014.</p> <p>Indigenous members on the CiRCLe M board Bernice Saulteaux from Kerry the Kettle First Nation graciously agreed to join our CiRCLe M board. She has extensive experience in seminary training and indigenous and rural church and community development.</p>
<p>Offer training to help churches be more effectively involved in community crisis preparation and relief.</p>	<p>Two rounds of <i>church and community crisis response</i> training webinars have been held involving 15 communities (from AB, SK, MB). Specialists in rural community crisis taught into the webinars. They dealt with climate disasters, major crimes, economic crises and their physical, social, psychological and spiritual components.</p> <p>The webinar information is available on DVD and on-line. A companion handbook is also available, providing highlights from the presentations as well as additional resource materials. CiRCLe M is sharing materials with those communities that participated in the webinars and with several new communities.</p>
<p>Publish a regular newsletter in cooperation with the Canadian Rural Church Network (CRCN)</p>	<p>A newsletter has been published several times each year since CiRCLe M's inception. Joyce Sasse (CRCN) and Colleen Rickard (CiRCLe M) edit the newsletter. Many rural ministry stories have been gathered and shared; there are always lots more to share.</p>
<p>Fund-raising</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>
<p>Support rural research</p>	<p>The Davidson (SK) research project is investigating how community "spirit" is developed in rural communities.</p>
<p>Raise awareness on rural issues</p>	<p>This has been an ongoing process through conferences, workshops, focus groups, our website, newsletters, email notifications and public presentations.</p>
<p>Support rural clinical pastoral education (CPE)</p>	<p>CiRCLe M has helped to support and encourage the startup of a Clinical Pastoral Education site in Swan River, MB. The site was established and accredited and several units have been run.</p>
<p>Support interdisciplinary rural internships</p>	<p>Much work was done in cooperation with the Alberta Rural Development Network (ARDN), along with various disciplines from the U of Calgary, U of Alberta and U of Sask/STU to create a website and approach to coordinating rural internship interactions (ministerial, medical etc). Leadership changes however, left the initiative hanging. It could still be re-activated as long as the ARDN exists.</p>