



REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT GUIDE



The Rural Church  Pastors Network

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The Rural Church Pastors Network (RCPN)

**Offering hope, encouragement and support to those
who serve in rural communities.**

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Regional Development Guide

The following guide provides information and context for those who are considering commencing a regional hub of the Rural Church Pastors Network – it is our prayer that as you read through the following information a passion will be birthed within your heart to offer support, encouragement and a sense of community to those who pastor in rural settings.

Our History

The Rural Church Pastor's Network was birthed in a prayer meeting in the basement of the Alliance Church in Hanna Alberta in 2011. Three rural pastors & their denominational 'church coach' gathered to seek God's wisdom in responding to a mutual felt need in support of those who ministered in rural communities throughout the province.

Since that time, the Lord has drawn over 200 rural pastors from 30 denominational to participate in semi annual events throughout Western Canada. The leadership of the RCPN has also developed a resource based website, developed rural resources for use in the local church, and continues to connect with rural pastors from across Canada and around the world through its Facebook page.

The leadership of the RCPN has also developed partnerships with bible colleges and theological institutions as a resource base for rural studies, and continues to research and explore avenues to promote the appreciation and uniqueness of those who serve in rural communities.

Currently the RCPN is actively seeking partners to expand across Canada in providing rural pastors places to gather for mutual support, encouragement and learning on a semi annual basis.

Our Values

- Rural ministry does not mean insignificant nor unimportant.
- Small churches can make a big difference.
- Serving one's whole ministry life in a rural community may be exactly where God wants you to be.
- Rural pastors have valuable and unique experience and insights
- By networking together, rural pastors gain strength and add value to each other...
"as iron sharpens iron".

Goals and Objectives

It is our goal to have local RCPN hubs develop their own local/regional leadership so that the ministry is meaningfully run within a local rural regional context. It is our long-term objective to have a network of RCPN hubs established across Canada so that every rural pastor will have access to a point of connection within a two hour drive of their ministry

Organizational Structure

The RCPN is a grassroots movement that finds rural pastors, committed to the cause of supporting and encouraging pastors, as the basic building block as the strength of our organization. The movement is interdenominational - our approach is to focus on practical matters in rural life and ministry, avoiding those that may be theological sensitive or controversial.

The various roles within the structure of the RCPN are described at the end of this guide. Full ministry descriptions are provided for the Regional Leader and Host positions. They include:

- Regional RCPN leader
- Regional RCPN host
- Regional RCPN Site Developer
- RCPN Leadership Team
- RCPN Ministry Advancement Developer

Funding Streams

To date, the RCPN has been underwritten to the most part by the Western Canadian District of The Christian & Missionary Alliance. Donations are also received from various churches, individuals and denominational offices. All donations are tax deductible. Make cheques payable to the RCPN – C&MA 333 – 30 Springborough Blvd. SW, Calgary Alberta T3H 0N9

A Personal Testimony... Connecting the Dots

Rev Dr. Tim Beadle – Founding Member RCPN Leadership

Over the past seven years I have had the privilege of participating in an exercise of ‘connecting the dots’ and, upon reflection, have found it a fulfilling activity I continue to invest my time in and energies towards. I have also found it to be an enriching spiritual experience of being reminded of God’s leading in my life, and the part He intends me to play in the lives of others in rural ministry. Let me explain...



In 2011 I took note of a re-occurring theme in the hearts and lives of three of my rural pastors. All of them felt the same leading of the Lord to do something for those in rural and isolated ministry settings. Their burdens caused mine to grow even deeper into considering a more focused ministry expression to ensure pastors in every community felt ‘noticed, needed and necessary’ in their Kingdom calling, and saw themselves as an important and central part of their denominational family.

The three pastors (Andy, Paul & Wayne) had no idea that God was laying on each other’s hearts the very same burden. I had the privilege of ‘connecting the dots’ in bringing these three pastors together and joining with them in prayerfully creating the Rural Church Pastors Network.

In a world that so easily finds us being pulled towards isolation from each other rather than leaning into association with those around us, it is through the discipline of living with eyes open and a heart ready to ‘connect the dots’ in the lives of those around us that I believe God has continued work for me to do.

The beauty of God’s design for ‘connecting the dots’ is that He continues to provides more dots to connect! In terms of the RCPN, twice a year rural pastors gather to spend time together in learning and laughter, warm fellowship and delicious food, seasoned with prayer! In total over 200 rural pastors from 30 denominations have been part of the RCPN experience... and the ministry continues to expand to the point it is now slowly spreading across Canada, with additional partnerships commencing with rural pastors overseas as well.

Eccl. 4:9-12 continually reminds me of the importance of connecting rural pastors with each other for the mutual benefits of their success, support, security and strength.

Two are better than one for they have a good return for their labour.

*If either of them falls down, one can help the other up,
but pity anyone who falls and has no one to help them up.*

Also, if two lay down together, they will keep warm.

But how can one keep warm alone?

Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves.

A cord of three strands is not quickly broken.



Getting Started

Regardless on your location, a member of the RCPN leadership team will work directly in you in your desire to commence a regional hub of the RCPN.

Intended support will include (but not be limited to):

- Regular contact through phone/email or Skype
- Rural resource and promotional information
- Ongoing friendship, encouragement and prayer.
- Depending on your location, a member of the RCPN leadership team will consider travelling to be on hand at your initial gathering of pastors.
- Financial support in underwriting a portion of your initial start up costs.

Contact Information

For more information, or to discuss your plans to explore commencing a Rural Church Pastors Network hub in your region, please contact Rev. Tim Beadle at tbeadle@transformcma.ca , cell 403-999-4746.



RCPN Position Descriptions

The following pages provide information and/or ministry descriptions for:

- **Regional RCPN leader** – the one who leads the regional hub in a specific geographical region on behalf of the RCPN leadership team. (ministry description provided)
- **Regional RCPN host** – the one who hosts the regional hub in their rural church in support of the regional RCPN leader. (ministry description provided)
- **Regional RCPN Site Developer*** - entrusted with developing new hubs in a province or region in consultation with the RCPN leadership team.
- **RCPN Executive Leadership Team*** – serves to oversee the RCPN movement across Canada.
- **RCPN Ministry Advancement Developer*** – works national wide to develop contact and explore new areas of ministry for the RCPN’s development.

* For these positions please contact Tim Beadle for more information



Ministry Description: Regional RCPN Leader

Position Objective:

The RCPN Regional Leader (RL) works in conjunction with the RCPN Leadership team in offering leadership oversight to a regional RCPN site in the geographic area entrusted to them.

Ministry Specifics:

- 1 The RL is accountable to the leadership team of the RCPN
- 2 The RL will act on behalf of the ministry of the RCPN and do so in such a manner as to uphold the values, ministry principles and practices established by the leadership team of the RCPN
- 3 The RL will work directly with the RCPN leadership team member appointed to act as a liaison related to the ongoing ministry of the RCPN in their specific region. The leadership team member will offer communication, encouragement and ongoing strategic planning in supporting the RL in carrying out ministry responsibilities.
- 4 With the assistance of the RCPN leadership team, The RL will develop their regional leadership into a 'team' of at least two members to share in the responsibility of the regional RCPN ministry.
- 5 The RL will be provided with RCPN business cards for the purposes of communication and networking.
- 6 The RL will submit expense requisition forms related to any approved expenses incurred in the outworking of their RCPN site ministry.
- 7 On an annual basis, dialogue will be initiated by the RCPN leadership team as to the commitment of the RL to continue in their position for an additional year of ministry.
- 8 The RL will take responsibility for the promotion, hosting and leadership of the RCPN event in their region. Promotion and training material support will be offered by the RCPN leadership team.
- 9 The RL will develop an up to date database of contacts in conjunction with the RCPN leadership team, for the purpose of publicity and networking.
- 10 The RL will attend an annual leadership retreat as planned by the RCPN leadership team.



Ministry Description: Regional RCPN Host

Position Objective:

The Regional RCPN Host works in conjunction with Regional RCPN Leader in hosting a regional RCPN event in the geographic area surrounding them.

Ministry Specifics:

- 1 The Host is accountable to and works in conjunction with the Regional Leader of the RCPN in providing a venue for an RCPN event.
- 2 The Host will prepare a warm and inviting environment that will enable the goals of the RCPN to be accomplished during the gathering of pastors.
- 3 The Host will collect and forward to the Regional RCPN Leaders original receipts related to expenses incurred in hosting the RCPN event for reimbursement in due course.
- 4 Specifically, the Host will provide the follows practical preparations for the RCPN event...
 - a. Coffee, Water and Snacks (Muffins/baking) ready at 9:30 am in preparation for the 10 am start time. (Coffee to be restocked throughout the day)
 - b. Set up a meeting room with enough seating for pastors who will attend the event. Desired seating would (5-6) people per table. Hosts will be informed of anticipated numbers in the days prior to the gathering.
 - c. Ensure the room is attractively presented, with an acceptable temperature setting for the comfort of those attending the event.
 - d. Lunch will be provided – Lunch can either be provided by a ministry of the church, or through bringing food in from a local restaurant. Historically, meals have included a combination of soup / salad / sandwiches / lasagna / casseroles / dessert, etc.



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