Thrive Equipping and Encouraging Congregations

Canada East Region
Fall 2026 Report

Dear Classis Eastern Canada,

At Thrive, we hold a clear and joyful vision of what a healthy, flourishing congregation can be: a community gathered under the loving reign of Christ, shaped by His Word, nourished by His Spirit, and sent into the world to bear witness to His reconciling mission. We see congregations as spiritual households rooted in worship, growing in lifelong discipleship, ordered for mutual care, marked by holiness, and engaging their neighbors compassionately with the good news of Jesus Christ. Thrive's calling is to journey alongside congregations as a humble companion, strengthening their worship, leadership, community life, embodied hospitality, and mission so that they may embody the good news of Jesus Christ faithfully and fruitfully in their particular contexts.

We're excited to play a role in the CRCNA's renewal and church planting efforts over the next several years through Thriving Congregations, an initiative designed to help your church leaders connect - with each other, with your local community, and with other congregations who share your ministry passions. By joining this renewal journey, your church will learn to refresh your vision, understand your mission, deepen your discipleship, and develop practical steps to live into the ways God has uniquely gifted your congregation. Thriving Congregations is about meaningful conversations and flourishing as you discern where God is leading you next. Our team is eager to journey alongside you in this renewal journey!

Thrive remains committed to our mission to equip and encourage congregations with the tools you need to flourish. Our hope is that you will be quick to approach us with questions, requests for support or resources, and stories of how God is working in your local context.

May God bless you richly as you continue to follow His leading in your ministry.

Peace to you,

Dr. Lee Carter
Director, Thrive

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Elder Essentials

Elder Essentials is now available! This course closely follows ordination forms to equip new and experienced Elders to embrace their missional call. Participants will be equipped to have a deeper understanding of the unique role of Elders, gain tools to nurture a healthy, thriving congregation through preaching, sacraments, fellowship, faith formation, and gospel witness, and articulate how to participate in God's mission as it is embodied in your local church. Thrive will make one free copy available to every congregation this fall. To order additional workbooks, talk to your Regional Connector or visit crcna.org/elder-essentials

Thriving Essentials

Thriving Essentials is an interactive course that is renewing congregations and reenergizing engaged members across our denomination. Hosted in your own church and led by a qualified Thrive facilitator, participants will explore four core concepts of a healthy ministry: Mission, Discipleship, Discernment, and Leadership. Alignment and clarity on these key foundations can bring renewed energy to a church's ministry. Inquire at crcna.org/ThrivingCongregations/thriving-essentials

Support for Vacant Congregations

Is your church in the middle of a vacancy or looking ahead to one? We can help! In transitional seasons such as vacancy, Thrive is able to come alongside congregations to help you be aware of unique needs that may arise, understand what may be going on in the hearts and minds of church members, and support wise decision-making for next steps. Talk to your Regional Connector or email thrive@crcna.org.

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