



August 14, 2020

To whom it may concern:

The Christian Reformed Church in North America (CRCNA) will be holding its annual Chaplains Training *virtually* this year from September 24-26, due to Michigan's executive order and many employer travel restrictions. Our training enables chaplains to collaborate with their peers, be spiritually renewed, hone their skills, and implement best practices within their profession.

We know that most institutions are reeling from the financial, mental, and emotional effects of COVID-19. Chaplains have been on the front lines providing essential spiritual care, and we request they be granted paid time off to attend. We consider each chaplain's attendance at our annual Chaplains Training critical for effective ministry and for continued ecclesiastical endorsement. Chaplains' spouses are also welcome to attend.

The theme for Chaplains Training 2020 is "Come to Me: Sufficient Grace, Perfect Power, and Humanity." Chaplains provide adaptive, creative, and innovative pastoral care in the midst of an evolving ministry landscape. We will be led by author and conference speaker Rev. Mandy Smith. She will present two sessions: "Ministry on a Human Scale" and "Art as Prayer." We will deepen our understanding of spiritual care through the lens of Post-Traumatic Growth in a session led by Alida van Dijk, Ph.D., R.P. and Chaplain (Capt.) Joseph Kamphuis. Throughout our annual training, chaplains from across the globe and various institutions will learn from one another in breakout sessions to share resources and best practices with one another. On Saturday, our training will provide time and resources for further self-guided spiritual practice and continuing education. We are providing two books—*The Vulnerable Pastor* by Mandy Smith and *The early Beloved* by Cara Wall; links to various podcasts focusing on relevant issues and topics for chaplains; and a spiritual disciplines guide for spiritual renewal for continued learning and growth.

We are committed to ensuring that our training meets the spiritual needs of our chaplains and serves as an opportunity for professional development. By attending this training, participants will complete 11 hours of continuing education.

We thank you for your consideration and for allowing your chaplain to attend this important continuing education event. If you should have any questions, please feel free to call our office at (616) 224-0733; or visit our [event website](#) to learn more.

Sincerely,

Rev. Sarah Roelofs, Endorser

Director of Chaplaincy and Care Ministry for the Christian Reformed Church in North America

1700 28th Street SE
Grand Rapids MI 49508-1407
616-241-1691
616-224-5895 fax

3475 Mainway
PO Box 5070 STN LCD I
Burlington ON L7R 3Y8
905-336-2920
905-336-8344 fax

www.crcna.org