



2022 ANNUAL MINISTRY REPORT

Journeying Together



Dear Friend

Earlier this year I was appointed by Synod 2022 to the new position of General Secretary of the Christian Reformed Church in North America (CRCNA). It is an honor and a blessing to be asked to serve in this way, but it is also intimidating.

After two-plus years of dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic, many pastors and other leaders in our denomination are worn out. Congregations are asking difficult questions about what their role should be in their local context. Increased political polarization has made dialogue challenging, even with those we call brothers and sisters in Christ. And on top of all of that, our denomination is in the midst of transition. We have restructured to better reflect our identity as one church in two countries. We have also made some strong decisions at synod that have affirmed some people’s beliefs and values but have left others wondering if they still belong.

Being asked to take on a role as a shepherd of the church in this challenging time is not something I take lightly. And yet I truly believe that, like Esther, God has called me to this position “for such a time as this” (Esther 4:14).

As I look around, I see so much to celebrate in our denomination. We are about halfway through a five-year ministry plan called *Our Journey 2025*. While the challenges of the past few years may have forced us to adapt our original plans, I also see a lot of growth in all four milestone areas of this ministry plan.

As individuals, congregations, ministries, and communities, we are cultivating practices of prayer and spiritual disciplines. I see us doing a better job of listening to and incorporating the voices of every generation in how we do ministry. We have been growing in diversity and in unity as we welcome newcomers and immigrants in our midst. We have also been actively looking for ways to share the gospel, live it missionally, and plant new churches. These are things to celebrate.

The following pages share stories and highlights from the many ministries of the CRCNA. I hope that as you read them, you will be encouraged in your own local context. Whatever your challenges or unique situations may be, we are here to walk alongside and assist you. God loves his people, and he loves the Christian Reformed Church. He will continue to work in and through us if we continue to seek him and do his will.

Your partner in Christ,

Rev. Zachary King, Ph.D.
General Secretary



From the United States

In Luke 14 we read of Jesus going to eat at the home of a prominent Pharisee. Luke tells us that Jesus “was being carefully watched,” but he was also watching. Jesus observed how the guests jockeyed for the places of honor at the host’s table. He then gave his host some unsolicited advice:

When you give a luncheon or dinner, do not invite your friends, your brothers or sisters, your relatives, or your rich neighbors; if you do, they may invite you back and so you will be repaid. But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, and you will be blessed. (Luke 14:11-14)

Our Journey 2025, the denominational ministry plan, might be seen as a response to Jesus’ dinner instructions in Luke 14. Our sinful human tendency is to befriend those who bolster our fragile egos. We say that “birds of a feather flock together.” Even our faith communities may become gatherings of people that look alike and think alike. Like the guests at the Pharisee’s dinner party, we are drawn to relationships with people we think might make us feel good about ourselves and increase our honor quotient.

This is where *Our Journey 2025* challenges us. It calls us to invite our emerging adults to prominent places at our dinner table and to “build relationships with and honor the cultures of our neighbors and newcomers.” It calls us to share the gospel and “live it missionally” with neighbors who might be very different from us in the ways they look, think, and act.

It is tempting to think of Jesus’ dinner instructions as another “have to.” But what if we think of this as something we actually “get to” do? What if these dinner instructions are a joy-filled invitation to participate in the very life of God – who from the beginning has been choosing people from everywhere and even us “while we were still sinners” (Rom. 5:8)?!

This is the opportunity that I see all across the United States. I pray that as individuals, congregations, and ministries, we will continue to respond to this opportunity faithfully.

Sincerely,

Joel Huyser
Acting Director for Ministry Operations - U.S.



From Canada

The past few years have been a challenging season of growth and change for Canadian ministries. We experienced an overhaul of organizational governance, contextualized ministry planning, painful leadership transitions, and the ongoing development of a clear sense of what it means to have a distinct Canadian office. None of these changes has been easy.

The expectations around my appointment as transitional executive director-Canada reflect these challenges. In a very intentional way, I get to work with a talented and competent team toward reestablishing a solid foundation that can help us serve our churches effectively and contextually. I'm very hopeful.

I'm hopeful because ministry has not stopped throughout these times of organizational challenge. As you'll see in this report, our journey in serving Christ together continues to bear fruit in Canada and around the world.

Over the next few years, you will continue to see increased talk of *Our Journey 2025*. You might be interested to know that around the same time that *Our Journey 2025* was being developed, conversations were also happening directly within Canada for a specifically contextualized Canadian ministry plan. The results of those conversations actually mirrored very closely the milestones developed for *Our Journey 2025*. I see this as an affirmation that we've listened well; it's also a gift for binationality, as the core needs expressed by churches in both countries are similar. While the actual look and feel of the ministry we do will be different, having a common strategic direction gives us the ability to collaborate better and better.

You'll also see that we are leaning into justice and reconciliation in deeper ways. We've adjusted our staffing to better help us engage in our shared reconciliation journey and to grow in our intercultural competencies (one of the *Our Journey 2025* priorities!). Look forward to hearing more about that in the future.

In all this, I'm reminded of Paul's words that we are to be agents of reconciliation (2 Cor. 5:16-21). Whether this is related to our churches' relationships with Indigenous peoples, figuring out what it means to be a denomination together, or even the need for reconciling complicated organizational governance matters. We do so as God's agents, as he is the reconciler of all things in Christ. May we experience that as well in the Christian Reformed Church.

Rev. Albert Postma
Transitional Executive Director-Canada



Food insecurity increased around the world as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Russia/Ukraine crisis and climate change. World Renew is responding in several ways, including training farmers in improved agricultural practices.



Office of General Secretary

The Office of General Secretary was newly formed this year in the CRCNA. It encompasses all of the ecclesiastical elements of being a denomination together. This includes an annual general assembly, known as synod. It also includes coordinating Council of Delegates meetings to govern the denomination when synod is not in session, as well as maintaining our ecumenical relationships with other denominations. This past year, Inspire 2022 was another highlight that the general secretary's office was proud to be a part of.



↑ Twenty-three men and women were approved as candidates for ministry by Synod 2022. Calvin Theological Seminary president Jul Medenblik cited the words of Jesus in John 20:21 as he greeted the candidates on the synod floor. "As the Father has sent me, I am sending you," he said, adding that the task set before the candidates is "to encourage lives that respond to the Lord." This, he added, "is a hope that outlasts any pandemic."



↑ For the first time in three years, the Christian Reformed Church's synod was finally able to meet in person. The meeting took place on the campus of Calvin University and included discussions of several weighty items including a report about human sexuality.



↑ Nearly 420 people from across North America gathered in Tinley Park, Ill., Aug. 4-6, 2022, for the third Inspire event. Inspire 2022 followed similar events in Detroit, Mich. (2017), and Windsor, Ont. (2019). Intended for anyone who serves a local congregation in the Christian Reformed Church in North America, Inspire 2022 offered attendees energizing worship, thought-provoking plenary speakers, and workshops on nearly 80 ministry topics.





↑ Prayer is one of the focal points of the denominational ministry plan, *Our Journey 2025*. It has also been a central tenet of the CRCNA throughout the pandemic and during this past year. A prayer shepherd position was created to help provide meaningful opportunities for prayer. Prayer requests are sent out via email to subscribers. And prayer teams supported and surrounded Synod 2022 and Inspire 2022.



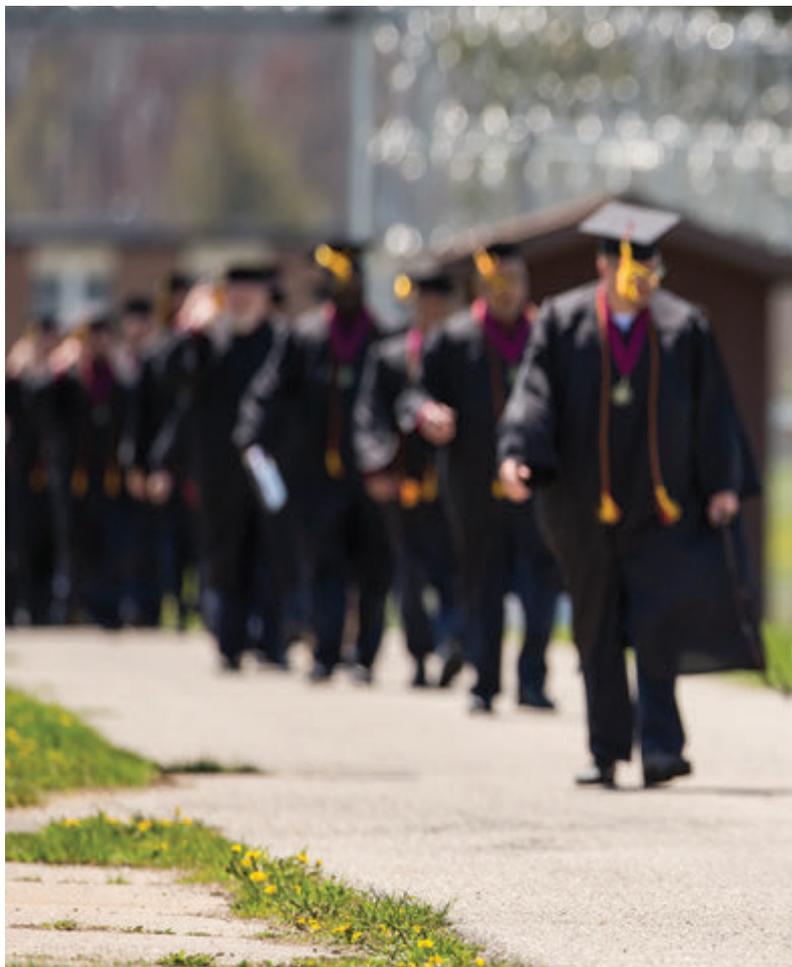
Liturgical dance at the 2022 Calvin Symposium on Worship.

Calvin Theological Seminary

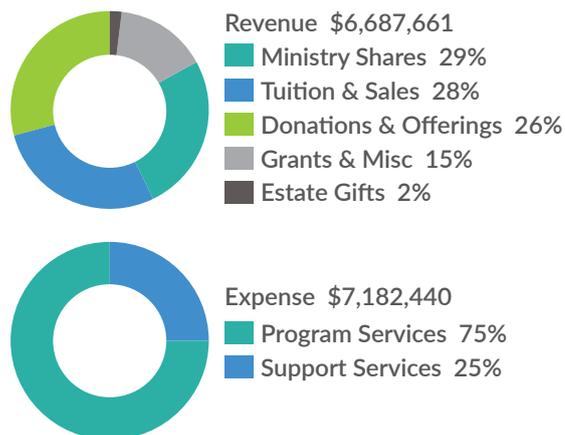
Since 1876, Calvin Theological Seminary has worked on your behalf to faithfully prepare leaders who can nurture disciples and serve the church. Calvin Seminary is a learning community in the Reformed Christian tradition. Our desire is not just to train pastors but also to form church leaders who can cultivate communities of disciples for Jesus Christ. Currently Calvin Seminary has around 300 students. In addition, the school hosts a number of classes, weekly community events, chapel services, conferences, lectures, and other learning opportunities.

Highlights

- Presented two faculty candidates to synod for successful interviews. Dr. Wilson Cunha is our new professor of Old Testament. Dr. Yudha Thianto is our new professor of history of Christianity and Reformed theology. Dr. Cunha is originally from Brazil, and Dr. Thianto is originally from Indonesia. Their journey to Calvin Theological Seminary illustrates the global impact and reach of Calvin Seminary and Reformed theology.
- Calvin Theological Seminary was recognized by Lilly Endowment Inc. and received a million-dollar grant in their Pathways for Tomorrow program. Calvin Seminary plans on using this resource in the areas of continuing education, Latino(a) ministry, and competency-based theological education as a way to come around and raise up more church leaders. The goal is to provide theological formation and education in keeping with values of collaboration, flexibility, accessibility, and practicality.
- New curricula in the M.A. and M.Div. degree programs, in an ongoing effort to respond to the needs of the church, were approved by the Calvin Seminary Board of Trustees in May. This revision will allow for more elective space and the opportunity for students to concentrate in various areas of calling. In addition, this allows the current completion time of the distance-learning format for the M.Div. degree to be reduced from five years to four years.



CalvinSeminary.edu





Calvin University and Calvin Seminary held their first official graduation inside prison walls on May 9, 2022. The Detroit Free Press said that this was the first bachelor's degree ceremony inside an active prison in modern history.

← A Partnership That's Shaping Lives and Reforming Prisons

On Monday, May 9, 2022, 45 men received their bachelor's degrees, while another 31 men were awarded associate degrees during an event dubbed by the Detroit Free Press as "a first of its kind in modern history."

Family and friends joined together with Calvin University and Calvin Theological Seminary faculty, staff, and administrators, state legislators, and staff of the Michigan Department of Corrections to witness the first time that bachelor's degrees were awarded behind bars in the state of Michigan. It was a grand celebration at the Handlon Correctional Facility in Ionia, Mich., sparing none of the pomp and circumstance of a traditional graduation ceremony.

"CPI, in my view, has always been God's idea and God's work."

For many of the graduates, the last time their family members had heard their names read was at their sentencing. The emotions at that time were likely disappointment, anger, sadness, shame, guilt, and regret.

But on this day, the men dressed in black caps and gowns walked one by one past faculty decorated in full academic regalia and received their diplomas with handshakes from Calvin University and Calvin Theological Seminary leaders.

The reading of their names was symbolic. It reminded the graduates that they are more than a number. It symbolized a restored dignity. The transformation of these 76 men showed that their education through the Calvin Prison Initiative (CPI) program has been formative.

The CPI has developed over the past seven years with a community committed to doing the work required. It will continue to bring about reform and renewal in the hearts of these men and in the communities they serve because, in the words of Calvin Theological Seminary's John Rottman, who taught the first course at Handlon, "CPI, in my view, has always been God's idea and God's work."

Calvin University

Founded by the CRCNA, Calvin University is a top-rated Christian liberal arts institution that welcomes and empowers 3,200 students from 48 U.S. states, five Canadian provinces, and 55 countries, along with 65,000 alumni around the world, to pursue truth with curiosity and conviction. Through the integration of faith and rigorous academic study in more than 100 subject areas, students are equipped to think deeply, to act justly, and to live wholeheartedly as Christ's agents of renewal in the world.

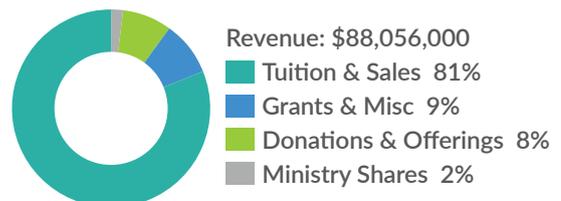
Calvin's mission has stood the test of time, being stewarded by eleven presidents. Dr. Wiebe Boer began his tenure as Calvin's twelfth president this past summer. Together with you, he hopes to inspire Calvin to renew its call to global good and to live out what the writer of Proverbs instructs: "Do not withhold good from those to whom it is due, when it is in your power to act" (Prov. 3:27).

Highlights

- Appointed Dr. Adejoke Ayoola as the inaugural dean and an accomplished advisory board to lead the School of Health, which was established with a \$15 million gift. New partnerships, such as the Pine Rest Academy, are already being established through the new school.
- Awarded degrees to 76 inmates in a grand celebration, marking the first time in the state of Michigan that bachelor's degrees were awarded behind bars.
- Celebrated the accomplishments of our students who were named Fulbright, Goldwater, and Beckman scholars and who became published authors, business owners, and chemical compound discoverers.
- Rejoiced with professors who advanced scholarship and received top honors in their fields—being selected to advise the U.S. Department of State, contributing to a major international report on the future of education, authoring a diversity playbook for Christian organizations, and winning the Lilly Fellows Program's Book Award.



Calvin.edu





Michelle Loyd-Paige, Ph.D. (right) received the Dante Venegas award in recognition of her work in racial reconciliation. She is shown here with new Calvin University president, Wiebe Boer.

← Calvin University Diversity Trailblazer Wins Prestigious Award

Rev. Dr. Michelle Loyd-Paige, executive associate to the president for diversity and inclusion at Calvin University, was named one of two recipients of the Dante Venegas Award. The award is the CRC Race Relations ministry's method for calling out distinguished leadership in diversity and racial justice work in the Christian Reformed Church. Loyd-Paige was recognized for her work in a community setting.

For 37 years, Loyd-Paige has served Calvin University as a professor and administrator, most recently for nearly a decade in a cabinet-level position created to advance the university's commitment to diversity and inclusion.

This is significant, considering that LinkedIn research shows the average turnover rate for a chief diversity officer is just three years, with many leaving because of a lack of resources, unrealistic expectations, and inadequate support from senior executives.

"Calvin's aspirational mission and my personal mission are in alignment," said Loyd-Paige, explaining a key reason why she has stayed at Calvin for so long. She notes a felt obligation to continue in this work both to honor those who came before her and to serve the generations that will call Calvin home in the future.

Loyd-Paige announced this past summer that the 2022-23 academic year will be her final season at Calvin. She leaves confident in the future of the institution she has served for nearly four decades.

"When I'm talking with Dr. Boer [Calvin University president], I hear the energy he has around diversity, equity, and inclusion," said Loyd-Paige, who also served on the presidential search committee who recommended Boer. "He has a desire to see Calvin be more diverse — not just U.S. diverse, but globally diverse."

"Our focus as an institution to diversity and inclusion will grow stronger and be accelerated because of the foundation Rev. Dr. Loyd-Paige has laid for us," said Boer. "This is my personal commitment to honor her legacy."

"Our focus as an institution to diversity and inclusion will grow stronger and be accelerated because of the foundation Rev. Dr. Loyd-Paige has laid for us,"

Congregational Ministries

Congregational Ministries serve churches and ministry leaders in a variety of areas, including Worship, Safe Church, Disability Concerns, Race Relations, Pastor Church Resources, and more. Synod launched some of these ministries more than 80 years ago; others are less than 10 years old. Together, these ministries are committed to encouraging churches to thrive as locally gathered communities of God's people as they participate in the global witness of Jesus' disciples.

Highlights

- **Chaplaincy** (crcna.org/Chaplaincy) celebrated 80 years with over 140 chaplains serving in North America and throughout the world. In the past year, military chaplains provided ministry in Antarctica, the Sinai peninsula, Germany, Belgium, Japan, and Poland. From healthcare to prisons, chaplains brought God's grace to people in distress.
- Celebrating 40 years, **Disability Concerns** (crcna.org/Disability) welcomed a new leader, Lindsay Wieland Capel; recruited and trained emerging adults as new Disability Advocates; and engaged new leaders through a two-day training on ableism. Disability Concerns also updated the language of their mission statement to emphasize mutuality and the barriers that keep people with disabilities from full belonging.
- **Diversity** (crcna.org/Diversity) isn't a forced program from the government or a feel-good slogan from enlightened people; it's a result of the Holy Spirit-driven, Jesus-infused growth by which God has brought the nations to the Christian Reformed Church. This year Latino churches are continuing to join through the efforts of Consejo Latino, and Korean congregations are leading the denomination in missions and innovation.
- **Faith Formation** (crcna.org/FaithFormation) attends to engaging believers of all ages as they grow in their faith. Efforts this past year included partnering with the Reformed Church in America on Generation Spark—a faith-based intergenerational mentoring paradigm—and investing in a team of emerging young leaders who attended synod and Inspire.
- This year **Pastor Church Resources** (crcna.org/PCR) celebrated 40 years of caring for the well-being of congregations, pastors, and ministry leaders. Some new resources include Quick to Listen (having better discussions), Wisdom for Pastors in Transition, Challenging Conversations: Next Steps Discernment (regarding Synod 2022's decision on the human sexuality report), and Full Strength (counseling for pastors and ministry staff).
- **Race Relations** (crcna.org/Race) continued in consultation work and in developing resources that help eliminate racism within the body of Christ and society. We joyfully provided six scholarships to empower students and to build up multiracial leadership in the CRCNA. We celebrated the retirement of Rudy Gonzalez after 27 years of service in the CRCNA, and the retirement of Rev. Mark Stephenson, who had served for the past two year as interim director.
- The theme for the work of **Safe Church** (crcna.org/SafeChurch) this past year has been "Safe Church Basics: 5 Steps to a Safer Church." To support churches in this endeavor, staff have created a host of tools and resources such as the Safe Church Assessment tool, a model safe church policy template, a webinar with tips and tricks for safe church training of volunteers, and opportunities to be trained in restorative practices.
- In the work of **Social Justice** (crcna.org/SocialJustice) this year, we connected with many people caring for God's creation through events including green investing and meeting Christian scientist Katharine Hayhoe. People across the CRC continue to advocate for legislation that recognizes immigrants are a blessing, including a request to ask members of Congress to support an Afghan Adjustment Act.
- **Worship** (crcna.org/Worship) staff attended to congregations and worship leaders this year by continuing to offer opportunities for mutual support and continuing education, encouraging the use of endorsed coaches, expanding their video library, and offering resources for the enhancement of worship. While every church's worship is unique, we sought to emphasize unity in the denomination centered on the weekly gathering of God's people for worship through the project #ThisIsCRCWorship.

→ Worship - Worship leaders from Classis Hackensack spent time in a pastor's renewal retreat. Pictured left to right: Katie Ritsema-Roelofs (worship leader at Washington D.C. CRC), Michael and Amanda Adams (Spirit and Truth Fellowship, Philadelphia, PA).

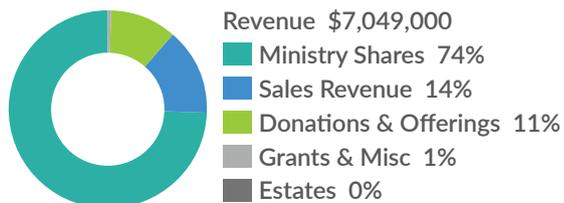


← Race Relations - On August 3, 2022, more than 70 people gathered to commemorate the work of, and blessings of God through, Race Relations in the Christian Reformed Church over the past five decades.

→ Inspire Expo - Congregational Ministries leaders shared dozens of resources and had hundreds of conversations with those who attended Inspire 2022.



crcna.org/Congregational-Ministries



→ Kindergarteners learned how they can care for creation with the CRCNA's Andrew Oppong and the Climate Witness Project. They then wrote letters to ask legislators to make decisions that care for the earth as part of loving their neighbors.



← Several Congregational Ministries representatives attended a conference for Korean pastors and ministry leaders in May 2022.



→ A church leader talks with Faith Formation staff after a workshop on children's ministry curriculum at Inspire 2022.



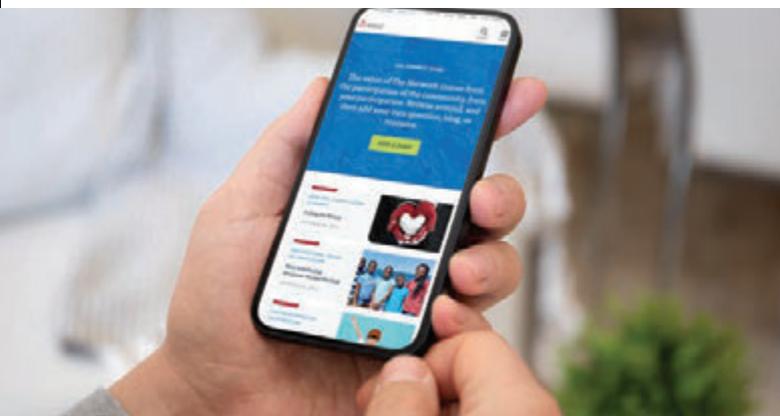
← Active, retired, and veteran military chaplains gather with CRCNA chaplaincy staff during an annual chaplain training at the Prince Conference Center in Grand Rapids, Mich.



Communications

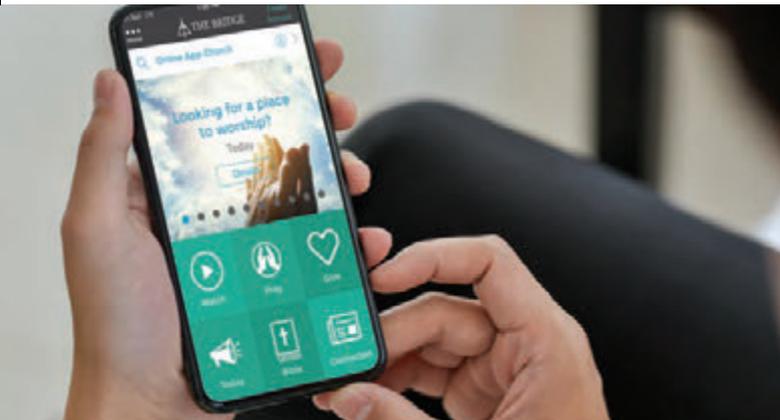
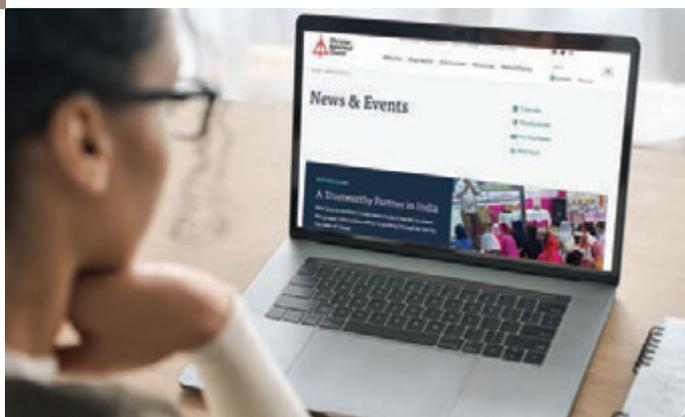
The CRCNA provides various communications channels to serve you and keep you in the loop about what is happening across the denomination:

→ As the official magazine of the CRCNA, *The Banner* continues to enjoy a wide and diverse readership in print and online at thebanner.org. *The Banner* provides a forum for information, ideas, and fresh insights to equip readers young and old to be biblically rooted ambassadors of Christ's reconciliation in today's world.



← The Network (crcna.org/Network) launched in February 2010 as a gathering place for people across the CRC. The site is home to a growing collection of blogs, resources, and ministry questions. Content on the Network covers all areas of local church ministry (50+ topics), including pastors, elders, deacons, worship, finance, communications, justice, and much more. The site's value comes from the participation of its members, who are local church folks like you.

→ Stay up-to-date on the latest happenings in the Christian Reformed Church in North America by following us on Twitter, Facebook, or Instagram. You can also subscribe for a weekly e-newsletter at crcna.org/subscribe.



← The Bridge App is a smartphone/tablet app that connects the local church to its members, and members to one another, through features such as a membership directory, announcements, prayers, donation portal, events calendar, daily devotions, and various other features that can be customized to serve local needs. Learn more at crcna.org/canada/bridge-app.

Raise Up Global Ministries

All three programs of Raise Up Global Ministries equip global church leaders by developing interactive, biblically based resources and equipping leaders to facilitate learning and kingdom change. Global Coffee Break provides Bible studies and training for small group leaders and groups around the world. Timothy Leadership Training equips pastors and church leaders who have little or no access to ministry training. Educational Care provides useful tools so that teachers and school leaders can develop God's children to be salt and light in their communities.

Highlights

Global Coffee Break

- 8,750 leaders used small group Discover Your Bible studies, uniquely designed for evangelism and discipleship (70% increase)
- Mission organizations and churches in 28 countries utilize Coffee Break methods to equip leaders to help groups discover together

Timothy Leadership Training

- 5,621 participants attended TLT trainings (20% increase)
- 34 countries reported in fiscal 2022

Educational Care

- 293 teachers and school administrators attended one module (632% increase), and 40 people completed a five-module training process
- 8 countries reported training events

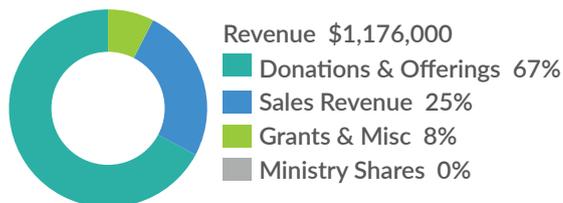


↑ Learning English

Jen invited her friend Gloria, who had recently immigrated from the Congo, to attend a Coffee Break group. At first, Gloria needed a French translator to help her participate with the group. The simple methods of Bible discovery worked for her to join the conversation. Even though she was new to English, she understood that she was loved. Week by week, her Bible experience and English skills grew.

Now, four years later, Gloria joins with the group to read Bible passages and pray out loud in English. The Holy Spirit used Jen's simple invitation to help Gloria gain a community, deepen her relationship with God, and learn a new language!

RaiseUpGlobal.org





↑ **‘From Harm to Harmony’**

A young man, Jerome, from Syanamu, Kenya, ran away from home because he felt he was not valued and honored by his father.

Jerome’s grandmother, Sabina, attended a TLT training at her church titled “From Harm to Harmony.” She learned the importance of valuing every person, wherever they are on their spiritual journey. As Sabina created her action plan, God put Jerome on her heart. Her plan involved searching for Jerome, and she eventually connected with him on the phone. During their conversation, Sabina practiced listening attentively, then prayed for her grandson, and, with joy, taught him about how to forgive.

One Saturday evening, Sabina was expecting a visit from Jerome. She asked God to soften his heart and allow open conversation. God answered Sabina’s prayer! Not only was Jerome willing to listen, but he also accepted Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior!

The following day, Jerome called his parents with the support of his grandmother, Sabina. The family was reconciled and reunited. They are living in harmony today.



↑ **Head Teachers Change**

The Municipal Primary School in Moroto, Uganda, hosted Educational Care training for teachers early in 2022, but many teachers were not able to come. Despite significant travel and security challenges, Barbara Nagunda, Educational Care Specialist for Uganda, traveled out to the Karamoja Regions to ensure that all teachers were able to complete Module 2, Corrective Discipline for Discipleship. Twenty-two participants welcomed her. Barbara’s biggest surprise was that 10 were school administrators - head teachers or deputy head teachers.

The head teachers were thankful for training on discipline. They told Barbara that discipline is their greatest challenge. In the Karamoja Regions almost 75 percent of students drop out before graduation. Several head teachers confessed that they had given up on discipline in the schools and had let the children do as they pleased. After going through this module, they regained their hope and wanted all of their teachers to go through this training!

ReFrame Ministries

What does God's kingdom look like? As the worldwide media ministry of the CRC, ReFrame has learned that the answer to this question changes every year. This past year was no different.

Highlights

- As war began in Ukraine, one of ReFrame's Russian-language ministry partners, Lika, had to flee her home in Kyiv. But she continued sharing the good news, ministering to fellow refugees and to those who remained in Ukraine.

"I was invited to serve at a meeting with Ukrainian women and children who fled the war," Lika shared. "The kids made little paper hearts and wrote a prayer to God on them. They sang a song of prayer for Ukraine and went outside, tied these prayers to balloons, and released them into the sky with words of gratitude to Jesus."

- ReFrame continued responding to people affected by the pandemic by offering new and relevant biblical content over the internet and on radio and television.

In Brazil, Alexandre took part in an online discipleship class created by ReFrame's Portuguese ministry in order to continue discipling leaders during the pandemic. Alexandre shared his gratitude for your financial support that made this class possible. "This course arrived at the exact right time," Alexandre wrote. "Thank you so much for letting yourself be used by the Lord for this time of new learning and spiritual awakening."

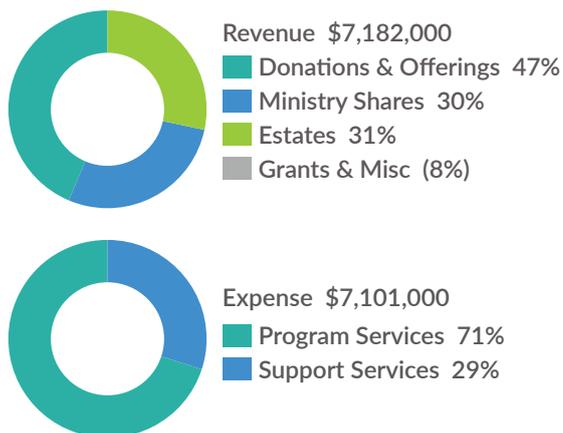
- Laws across China made it more challenging to openly share the gospel on the internet, so ReFrame's Chinese ministry had to pivot to publishing printed materials. Still, they are reaching people like Chuang, who recently read one of ReFrame's new books. "Thank you, Lord—I was spiritually awakened immediately when I read this," he wrote. "God is so great and wonderful! Amen!"

All of these situations represent the work of God's kingdom, even in challenging times.

As churches and individuals in the CRC, you play a vital role in God's kingdom and the work of ReFrame. Your prayers and your generosity truly reach people all around God's world. ReFrame and your partners in each of our 10 language ministries are so grateful for your partnership in this ministry.



ReFrameMinistries.org





Lika (back row, third from left) is ReFrame's Russian-language ministry partner who spent most of 2022 serving fellow Ukrainian refugees after fleeing her home in Ukraine's capital, Kyiv.

← Offering Russian Speakers Strength in Desperate Times

ReFrame Ministries' partners around the world often receive messages from people who are lonely and exhausted.

As one of ReFrame's longest-serving ministry leaders, Sergei Sosedkin has been responding to messages like these for 20 years. Yet he says he has seen more messages than ever during the pandemic and during the war in Ukraine.

Recently Sergei received one such message from a woman named Nina, who lives in Siberia.

"Nina said she is married with two children, and she has a supportive church family," said Sosedkin. "But that didn't stop her from being lonely."

Nina shared that both of her parents had died from COVID-19. And soon afterward, her grieving had spiraled into depression.

"I don't have any emotional strength left," Nina wrote. "I recently spent an entire day in bed, depressed, wearing one of my late father's shirts. Please help me."

In Sergei's response, he told Nina that Jesus, too, knew this feeling of being alone, despite being surrounded by people. Referencing Mark 3, Sergei shared the story of how Jesus found himself surrounded by a crowd of people who believed he was out of his mind and possessed. In the end, Jesus took comfort in his closest friends, his disciples, who believed in his words and that he is God.

"In him we find friends everywhere," Sergei said. "ReFrame connects with believers in Burkina Faso, Mexico, and Japan, among other places, and in Jesus' name we have friends in all of these places."

Nina was grateful for Sergei's thoughtful and biblical response. She said she would continue to seek comfort in the words of Christ and in the community she has in him, through both her church and ReFrame's Russian media ministry programs.

Thank you for encouraging hurting people like Nina, praying for them as they look to Scripture as a source of strength in times of crisis.

Resonate Global Mission

Resonate Global Mission is an extension of your own church: we exist to serve you and walk with you. We want to help congregations explore their communities, discover where God is moving, and join God on mission! We exist to give leadership to the denomination in its task of living and sharing the gospel, both in our own neighborhoods and around the world.

Christ calls all of his followers to be his witnesses. Mission is not just something for which congregational or denominational leaders are responsible. It's not something for only a select group of missionaries and pastors to do. We all have the privilege to join God's mission as Jesus' "witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth" (Acts 1:8)!

Resonate can help deepen your passion for mission, strengthen your capacity to follow God on mission, and amplify the impact you and your church have in your community and around the world. We can do more together than we can on our own! Thank you for your prayers and support.

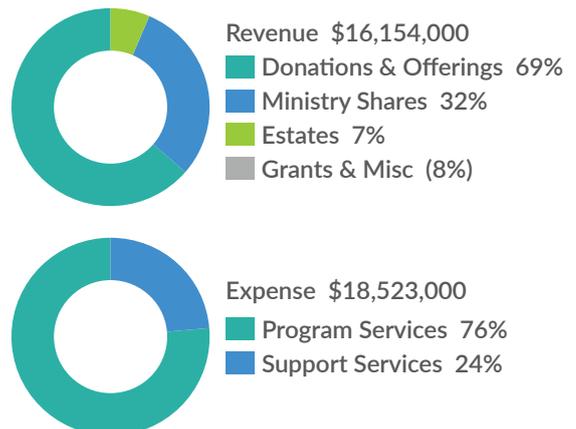
Highlights

- More than 3,500 young adult leaders participating in mission with Resonate
- More than 2,300 lay leaders participating in mission with Resonate
- More than 140 missionaries serving in over 40 countries
- Partnering with 56 new churches in North America, 11 new starts in the past year
- Supporting over 35 campus ministries
- Providing ministries and churches with training, coaching, resources, education, and funding
- Celebrating countless stories of new life in Christ!



Resonate missionaries are seeing God's guiding hand in their work as they step up to meet the needs of refugees fleeing Ukraine. (right) Volunteers from Faith CRC in Sioux Center, Iowa, travelled to the Dominican Republic to help build a church.

ResonateGlobalMission.org





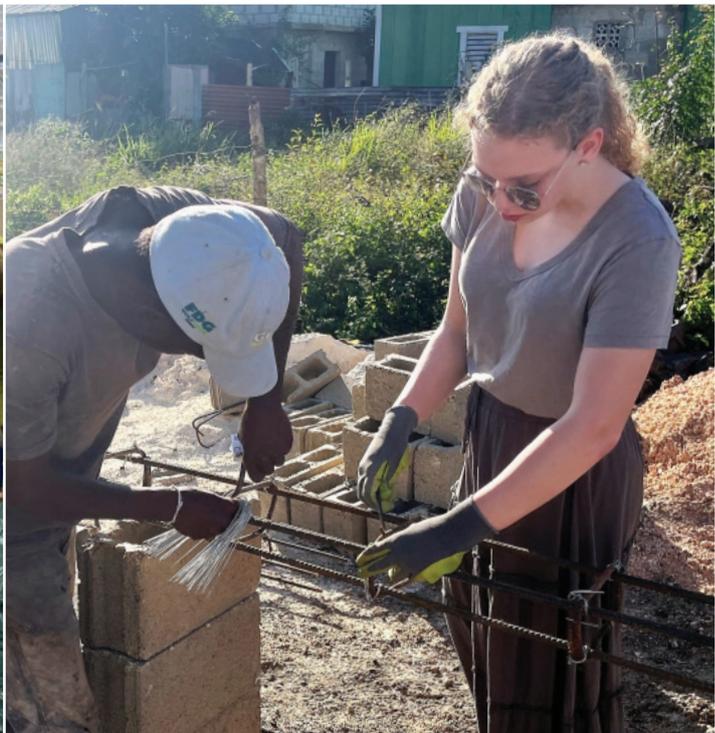
↑ Resonate Missionaries Care for Refugees Fleeing Ukraine

Resonate missionary Jeff Bouman rushed to the Budapest Nyugati train station in Hungary. That morning, Jeff and his colleagues had learned of a family with a newborn baby who had just arrived from Ukraine. They were huddled in a bus, trying to stay warm.

Among the millions who have fled Ukraine are people who have been living there as immigrants from countries around the world. These refugees face unique challenges—in addition to meeting basic needs, they also wrestle with their future and with questions about what will become of the hard work they’ve poured into their careers and schooling.

“The people our church is serving—mostly university and graduate students who are third-country nationals—are facing very difficult decisions and legal questions about their status as students,” said Jeff. “Imagine being in your sixth year of medical school, just about to take your final exams and planning to graduate in May, and having this happen.”

Thank you for your support of Resonate and for helping us to live and share the gospel through this important work!



↑ First Volunteer Group Serves in the Dominican Republic Since Start of COVID-19

An ox-drawn cart stood in the middle of a sugarcane field in the Dominican Republic. Haitian workers were loading piles of stalks into the cart when members from Faith Christian Reformed Church, Sioux Center, Iowa, walked up to lend a hand.

It was the first time since the COVID-19 pandemic began that Resonate Global Mission was able to send a service and learning team to volunteer in the field.

“It was very good to go back this year,” said Duane Postma, who led the 10-person group from Faith CRC. They not only helped build a new church building—they also cemented new friendships and learned how to live out their faith across cultural barriers.”

“Short-term volunteer experiences like this are such a valuable opportunity for all involved—the sending church, the volunteers, the host community, and our staff—to participate in God’s ongoing work of building his church,” said Gillian Bruce, Resonate Volunteer Ministries program manager.

With thanks to our volunteers and to you, we celebrate the work of the Faith CRC team and look forward to working with more volunteers in the coming year!

World Renew

World Renew is compelled by the love of Christ to reach out to people who experience poverty, disaster, and injustice so that all people can live together in hope in beloved community.

With your support, prayer, and involvement, World Renew walked alongside leaders from 72 denominations and outreach organizations last year. We offered opportunities for renewed hope to 261,033 participants in 19 developing countries through ongoing community development programs. As a result, people made remarkable changes to their health, nutrition, income, and security.

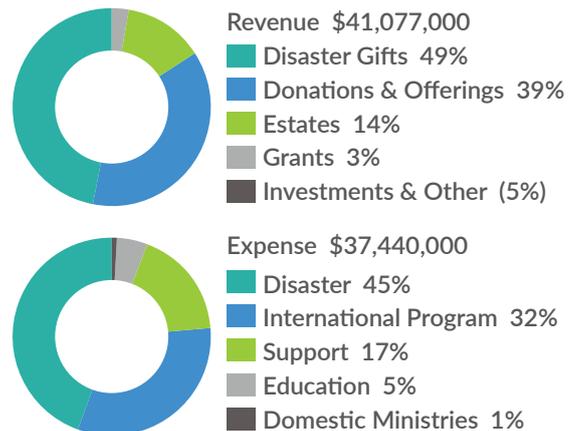
World Renew assisted 388,634 people who experienced a disaster — including war, drought, famine, hurricanes, earthquakes, and COVID-19 — in 25 countries in 2022. This included emergency food, water, shelter, sanitation, economic, and rehabilitation assistance.

Highlights

- World Renew served people in 30 countries in 2022, responding to disasters and providing community programs that helped 649,667 participants in 1,339 communities improve their lives.
- Last year 604 volunteers donated 48,009 hours of their time to help people in need worldwide. That is the equivalent of about 20 full-time employees for a year.
- World Renew Disaster Response Services volunteers repaired and rebuilt 107 houses damaged by disasters.
- With your support, World Renew helped 155 refugees arrive and resettle in Canada, and 32 sponsoring groups submitted new sponsorship applications for 120 refugees.
- World Renew does not receive ministry shares.



WorldRenew.net | WorldRenew.ca





With training and opportunities from World Renew, Maureen and her neighbors in Malawi are earning a more diverse, stable income throughout the year.

← Maureen Gets Sunny Results

When World Renew offered a village savings and loan association (VSLA) program in her small Malawian village, Maureen was one of 60 people who signed up for training. The project started early in the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020.

Many local families like Maureen's were already struggling to make ends meet by working at home businesses or subsistence farming. During the pandemic, they suddenly had no way to earn income due to travel and social distancing restrictions. Local markets were closed, and people were limited to leaving home only for essentials.

"After the initial VSLA training from World Renew, adjusted for the pandemic, we started to meet each week to save money as a group," Maureen said. "I also continued to learn about topics like small business management, conservation agriculture, good health and hygiene, and nutrition."

When she had built up equity by saving regularly for a year, Maureen and other group members were able to apply for low-interest loans from their savings pool to pay off debts or to invest in their farms and small businesses.

"At first I borrowed some money from the VSLA to buy piglets," Maureen said, "and when I sold them, I built an electricity generator for my home. I contributed to the savings pool for a year, and withdrew \$110 USD to buy solar panels, a battery, and a generator. Now I earn additional income by asking a small fee for people to charge their cell phones."

With training and opportunities from World Renew, Maureen and her neighbors are earning a more diverse, stable income throughout the year. If her income from raising pigs decreases, Maureen can still earn income from her solar charging business—and that will generate income to feed and care for her family as long as the sun is shining.

Canadian Justice Ministries

Centre for Public Dialogue

Directed by the Committee for Contact with Government, the Centre for Public Dialogue is a group of Reformed Christians who work to promote the flourishing of all imagebearers of Creator God through dialogue and advocacy in Canada. This year we engaged with legislators in the lead-up to the election by encouraging CRC members to ask good questions of candidates. The Centre has continued to offer a variety of workshops on effective advocacy and to work toward better policy in Canada's refugee system and for equity in Indigenous education.

Canadian Indigenous Ministry Committee

The Indigenous Ministry is made up of a national committee (Canadian Indigenous Ministry Committee), three Urban Indigenous Ministries, and a Justice and Reconciliation Mobilizer, each using their strengths to support healing and reconciliation between Indigenous peoples and non-Indigenous people in Canada.

Thanks to the ongoing support of the CRC, this ministry continues to provide resources to individuals and churches. Many people over the past year have listened to a podcast on reconciliation, participated in a book club, or listened to Indigenous-Christian worship music.

Hearts Exchanged

Hearts Exchanged is a learning and action journey designed to prepare Christians to build reconciling relationships alongside Indigenous people as mutual imagebearers in Christ.

Over 250 people from every Canadian classis have participated in this journey over the past two years.

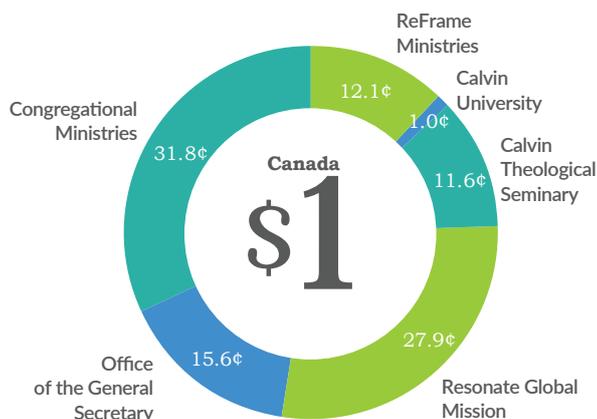
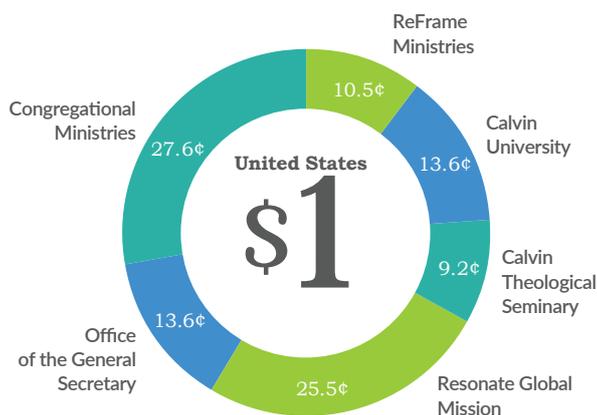
Elder Clayton Sandy commissioned the Indigenous Family Center to create this blanket to facilitate teachings of Indigenous history and resilience in Canada.



Financial Information

The ministries of the Christian Reformed Church in North America that you've read about in this report are made possible, in part, through an innovative system known as ministry shares. In 1862, Christian Reformed congregations recognized that some of the ministries to which Christ calls us can be difficult to do on our own. They covenanted to pool their resources in order to do more and greater ministry together. This system, still implemented today, is very cost effective and is a big reason why the CRC is able to support a range of ministry programs that is unparalleled for a denomination of its size.

Last year \$18.9 million was given to ministry shares. For every dollar given, the following was directed to these ministries:



Thank you for your donations, gifts, offerings, and ministry share donations. Your generosity is what makes ministry possible.

	2021	2022
Reframe Ministries		
Ministry Shares	2,709,000	2,182,000
Donatons & Offerings	3,598,000	3,388,000
Estate Gifts	2,188,000	2,226,000
Grants & Misc	1,656,000	(614,000)
Total	10,151,000	7,182,000
Calvin University		
Ministry Shares	2,102,000	\$1,801,000
Donatons & Offerings	5,825,000	\$7,052,000
Estate Gifts	0	0
Tuition & Grants	81,568,000	\$71,455,000
Total	89,495,000	\$88,056,000
Calvin Theological Seminary		
Ministry Shares	2,208,000	1,821,679
Donatons & Offerings	1,502,000	1,847,683
Estate Gifts	185,000	98,848
Tuition & Grants	4,015,000	2,919,451
Total	7,910,000	6,687,661
Resonate Global Mission		
Ministry Shares	6,606,000	5,229,000
Donatons & Offerings	10,184,000	11,071,000
Estate Gifts	1,727,000	1,124,000
Grants & Misc	3,453,000	(1,270,000)
Total	21,970,000	16,154,000
Raise Up Global Ministries		
Donatons & Offerings	446,000	788,000
Estates	77,000	0
Tuition & Sales	156,000	297,000
Grants & Misc	391,000	91,000
Total	1,070,000	1,176,000
World Renew		
Disaster Gifts	13,918,000	20,122,000
Donatons & Offerings	13,588,000	15,941,000
Estate Gifts	3,480,000	5,650,000
Grants	1,632,000	1,231,000
Investment & Other	4,234,000	(1,867,000)
Total	36,852,000	41,077,000
Congregational Ministries		
Ministry Shares	4,926,000	5,228,000
Donatons & Offerings	885,000	766,000
Estate Gifts	20,000	0
Sales	873,000	1,010,000
Grants & Misc	1,745,000	45,000
Total	8,449,000	7,049,000
Office of the General Secretary		
Ministry Shares	2,694,000	2,658,000
Donatons & Offerings	150,000	595,000
Estate Gifts	3,000	0
Sales & Revenue	0	460,000
Grants & Misc	3,181,000	136,000
Total	6,028,000	3,849,000



Stay Informed

Thank you for your partnership with the Christian Reformed Church in North America as together we strive to carry out the kingdom work to which God has called us. Over the next few years, we believe that God is specifically calling us to grow in four key areas—namely, to become congregations and communities that

- **cultivate** practices of prayer and spiritual discipline.
- **listen** to the voices of every generation.
- **grow** in diversity and unity by seeking justice, reconciliation, and welcome.
- **share** the gospel, live it missionally, and plant new churches.

To learn more, or to take initial steps in your congregation, visit crcna.org/OurJourney.



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