

2019 ANNUAL MINISTRY REPORT

Powered by the Holy Spirit





1,072

3,200

YOU
ONIT
YOU
AFFIRM IT."

John MacArthur

Gal. 2:20

BY THE NUMBERS

2

1,072 congregations and ministries

- Includes 34 campus ministries serving 43 different colleges and universities
- Also includes 171 emerging churches or church plants

171,784 people (on average) worship in a CRC each Sunday in North America.

171,784

20

We worship in English and in 20 other languages.

Total CRCNA members: 222,156

These members and congregations are supported by the ministries in this booklet. For example . . .

- CRCNA employees answered CRC members' questions in more than 930 phone calls and 2,300 online chats in the past year, and responded to another 10,000 phone calls related to product information and orders.

2,300

0

- Over 3,200 resources are currently available at crcna.org/resources, including resources in Korean, Spanish, Chinese, and French.

- The gospel reached 89 countries through mission (missionaries, radio, tv, print, community development).

89

Of course, numbers tell only part of the story. Each photo in this annual ministry report represents a story of impact made possible through the power of the Holy Spirit and the work and support of people in the Christian Reformed Church in North America. Visit crcna.org/MinistryReport2019 to read those stories and to learn more.

crcna.org/MinistryReport



Powered by the Holy Spirit

In my work as executive director of the Christian Reformed Church in North America, I am blessed to have a front-row seat to much of what is happening in our congregations and through our ministries.

Almost daily I see and hear stories of people around the world coming to Christ; of individual men, women, and children growing and maturing in their faith; of congregations flowing like rivers of love and witness into their communities; and so much more.

As I think about these stories, I am reminded of two things. The first is that none of this is possible without the amazing and mysterious work of the Holy Spirit. The second is that no matter how large and daunting the tasks before us may seem, God is even larger and greater.

I think of Inspire 2019 as a great example. For two years a team of staff and volunteers worked to plan all of the details for this binational conference, held August 1-3 in Windsor, Ontario. While the task was huge, and it sometimes felt like we'd never pull everything together in time, Inspire 2019 ended up being a wonderful event with more than 720 people in attendance.

As we look back on those three days of workshops, worship, plenary speakers, and fellowship, we can see that God was at work in so many ways we hadn't even considered. For example, note the two young men on the previous two pages of this booklet: LeMarr Jackson and Scott Hofman. They blessed Inspire 2019 with their powerful spoken-word poetry. The Spirit was at work through their testimony. Glory be to God!

On the following pages you'll find more examples of what God has been doing with and through the Christian Reformed Church in North America. I hope that as you explore these, you will join me in thanking God for the power and gift of the Holy Spirit. I also hope you will see reflections and reminders of God's work in your life.

While these ministries are powered by the Holy Spirit, they are also supported by your prayers, ministry share gifts, and offerings. Thank you!

Before he ascended to heaven, Jesus told his disciples they would receive power when the Holy Spirit came on them. "And you," he said, "will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth" (Acts 1:8).

That promise and pledge is for us as well. We have been given the Great Commission to spread the gospel message, and God has not left us to our own devices to get this work done. The Holy Spirit opens our eyes to the opportunities in our midst, equips us for the task at hand, encourages us when we make mistakes, and sustains us all—together—for the long road of kingdom work.



Dr. Steven Timmermans is the executive director of the Christian Reformed Church in North America

62 gospel-centered programs are
broadcasted around the world each week.



Back to God Ministries International

Back to God Ministries International (BTGMI) is the worldwide media ministry of the CRCNA. Together with your church, we are spreading the gospel in ten of the world's major languages. Using technology and media, we carry out our mission to

- proclaim that Jesus Christ is Lord.
- help followers of Jesus grow in faith.
- strengthen the church.

As BTGMI celebrates its 80th anniversary this year, we remember that the CRC made a bold move by launching a radio broadcast ministry in 1939. The economies of the United States and Canada were just emerging from the decade-long Great Depression. Still, the CRC believed that the faithful Lord of the harvest would provide for this new ministry despite uncertain times.

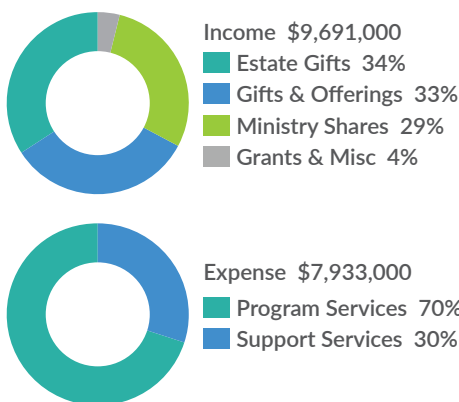
God has blessed this ministry over the past 80 years and has grown it into a multimedia ministry far beyond what its founders could have asked or imagined in 1939. Partners such as you and your church have prayed and have given support through good times and hard times. In 2019 we praise our faithful God for another strong year of giving, and we thank you for being a part of what God is doing through BTGMI.

May the words of Josué in Burkina Faso encourage you: "I am a Christian, but I had lost hope. Your program opened my eyes to the love of a God who does not get tired of forgiving. I found hope again!"

Highlights

- Proclaiming God's Word in 55 countries through radio, tv, print, or discipleship centers and nearly every country through web interactions
- More than 2 million devotions and other gospel-centered materials mailed or handed out
- 28 ministry websites and 67 social media pages
- 54 audio programs and 24 video programs
- 193,096 devotional emails sent daily

BackToGod.net



Called to be witnesses of Christ's kingdom to the ends of the earth, we start and strengthen local churches and ministries in North America and around the world.



Through Kabala Christian School in Sierra Leone, Hauwa and her daughter came to Christ.

Resonate Global Mission

Resonate Global Mission equips the Christian Reformed Church to reach out to neighbors everywhere—around the corner and around the globe. We join in God's mission together by sending missionaries, church planters, and other ministry leaders—and by helping congregations discover God's plan for their communities.

In more than 40 countries Resonate is partnering with Christians who minister to people of different faiths and cultures. Thanks to your support, the good news of Jesus is going out like an expanding, amplifying sound!

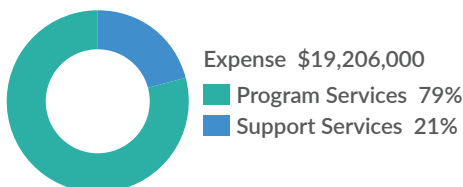
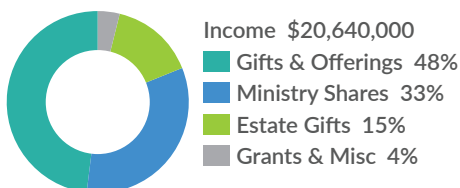
In North America we help our churches cross cultural barriers and show Christ's love to people who are different from us. Each congregation and each one of us has a role to play in God's mission, and Resonate wants to help you respond to God's call.

Together with you, we are continuing to build God's church—planting churches and supporting ministry in North America and around the globe. Thank you!

Highlights

- More than 3,500 new believers came to Christ in the past year.
- More than 360 new communities of faith formed around the world.
- More than 125 missionaries and 180 volunteers served in over 50 countries.
- We began 14 new partnerships with other churches in North America this year, among a total of 43 such partnerships begun in the past few years.
- We support 34 campus ministries that serve 43 different college and university campuses.
- We provide ministries and churches with training, coaching, resources, education, and funding.

ResonateGlobalMission.org





Calvin University

Founded by the Christian Reformed Church, Calvin University is a top-rated Christian liberal arts institution that equips and empowers its 3,600 students and 65,000 alumni to pursue truth and inquire with intellect. 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. That mission has stood the test of time, and Calvin's exciting new vision aims to extend the reach of that mission to new audiences through new programming.

Together with you, over the next decade Calvin aspires to expand its global influence and be seen as a trusted partner for learning across religious and cultural differences, and throughout the academy, the church, and the world.

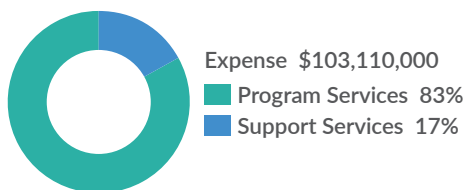
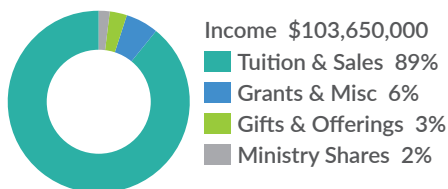
Highlights

- Changed its name from Calvin College to Calvin University as part of Vision 2030
- Received approval from the Higher Learning Commission in the United States and the Education Bureau in Hong Kong to offer a masters of education program through Lumina College in Hong Kong
- Launched the Calvin Institute of Christian Worship's Ministry Leadership Cohort—a two-year program available

to incoming Calvin students in any major or field of study who show potential for leadership in the local church

- Completed the Public Health Initiative, a four-year program that involved interdisciplinary collaboration in supporting projects such as The Fall Prevention program, local church congregational survey, H.E.A.L.T.H. Camp, Women Supporting Women, Rare Disease Symposium, and more
- Received admission to the Beckman Scholars Program, a prestigious and exclusive award program recognizing higher education institutions that excel at providing undergraduate research opportunities for students

Calvin.edu





Faith Formation Ministries

Faith Formation Ministries (FFM) encourages and equips local Christian Reformed ministry leaders in their calling to shape lifelong faith formation. Together we seek for all generations to have intentional and resilient faith. To do this, FFM forms partnerships with CRC pastors and ministry leaders, serving them by listening, developing relationships, and providing coaching and resources to help congregations build a framework for lifelong faith formation that fits their unique setting.

Highlights

- Dr. Chris Schoon was appointed director of Faith Formation Ministries after Dr. Syd Hielema left to lead the denomination's Connections II initiative.
- Nine congregations from across North America explored how churches can support faith formation in the home. They used John Roberto's book *Families at the Center of Faith Formation* and FFM's *Family Faith Formation Toolkit* as foundations for their discussions while being coached by FFM Regional Catalyzers.
- FFM released *Everyday Family Faith* to help families build strong faith habits. For each day of the week this pocket-size resource provides families with creative ideas for exploring Bible verses, talking about faith in daily life, and praying together, including lots of fun activities.
- In partnership with Disability Concerns, FFM began work on a toolkit to help church communities celebrate and encourage the gifts of people in the "third third" of life (age 60 and beyond).
- FFM hosted or participated in 83 workshops and other events, in which more than 200 congregations were represented.
- FFM and the CRC's Ministry Support Services partnered to create *Dwell Digital*, part of the long-term update and refresh of the *Dwell* children's ministry curriculum. FFM also hired Jill Benson to serve as *Dwell* curriculum coordinator.

crcna.org/FaithFormation

Finances are included in the Congregational Services chart on page 22.



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 about 350 students. In addition, the school hosts a number of classes, weekly community events, chapel services, conferences, lectures, and other learning opportunities.

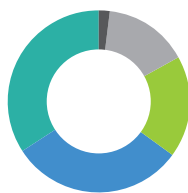
Highlights

- Graduated 121 students, the second highest in the school's history
- Launched two fully online master of arts programs: MA in Ministry Leadership, and MA in Bible and Theology. These join other Distance Learning options, which include Master of Divinity, Master of Theological Studies, and the same MA programs offered in the hybrid-distance format (requiring one week on campus each semester).
- Began a partnership with Christian Schools International to offer an online Certificate in Bible Instruction program for Bible teachers
- Received permission to begin offering a Doctor of Ministry (D.Min.) degree. While plans are still being developed,

this program will be for church leaders focused on the diversity of God's kingdom, on the complexities of life and ministry, and on relentlessly pursuing excellence in their ministry work.

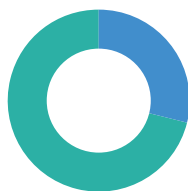
- Welcomed, with Calvin University, Dr. Willie Jennings, professor at Yale Divinity School, for the Stob Lecture Series in January 2019. As part of this event, the seminary hosted an afternoon colloquium, featuring Jennings and Dr. Danjuma Gibson, professor of pastoral care at Calvin Seminary.
- Hosted the first Van Zanten Lecture Series on Urban Ministry in April 2019. This event celebrated the work of Tony and Donna Van Zanten, recognizing the legacy of their work through a number of conversations and lectures.

CalvinSeminary.edu



Income \$7,431,000

- Tuition & Sales 34%
- Ministry Shares 31%
- Gifts & Offerings 18%
- Grants & Misc 15%
- Estate Gifts 2%



Expense \$7,262,000

- Program Services 71%
- Support Services 29%

Handmade stained glass cross by Ruth Kamps in Zuni, New Mexico.



Worship Ministries

Enriched by a great diversity of ethnicities, communities, styles, and gifts, Worship Ministries supports and strengthens biblically grounded and theologically Reformed worship in the Christian Reformed Church in North America. Worship Ministries does this by providing opportunities for networking among, and equipping of, people involved in worship leadership, planning, and support.

Highlights

- Served 2,227 subscribers receiving our monthly e-newsletters
- Launched a Worship Ministries YouTube channel (tinyurl.com/TrainCRCworship), including a library of 20 webinars and other video resources
- Provided seven new webinars covering topics such as mentoring, choosing music, liturgy, and fostering a healthy worship life as a worship leader. Sixty-seven people from 58 congregations attended these live, and hundreds more have watched the recordings available via the YouTube channel.
- Promoted 12 endorsed coaches who are available to support the local church
- Supported 90 people in peer-learning groups that meet in person or online to network and learn together
- Awarded 11 certificates in worship leadership to CRC-sponsored participants in a Samford University program
- Published *Reformed Worship*, a quarterly journal with an ecumenical audience. The magazine has 1,806 subscribers representing 15 denominations from nine countries. Reformed Worship's Facebook page reaches more than 5,500 followers from 45 countries.

crcna.org/Worship
ReformedWorship.org

Finances are included in the Congregational Services chart on page 22.



Candidacy Committee

The Candidacy Committee is charged with facilitating, coordinating, and offering leadership in the ordination processes for pastors in the Christian Reformed Church.

Highlights

- Endorsed 74 persons as eligible for call as candidates (including 42 first-time candidates)
- Drafted a proposal, approved by Synod 2019, that included significant reformatting of the Church Order guidance for the office of commissioned pastor.
- Continued ongoing development and orientation programs for pastors from an increasing variety of ethnic minority groups who wish to affiliate with the CRC. This work includes our Ethnic Leaders Institute in Ministry, our Korean Institute in Ministry, and a Spanish-language program led by Spanish-speaking pastors.

crcna.org/Candidacy

Finances are included in the Congregational Services chart on page 22.

Leadership Diversity

A new focus on leadership development started in 2017. It strives to support, encourage, and develop the leadership gifts in people who are underrepresented in the CRCNA. This includes women as well as leaders from Black, Chinese, Korean, Latino, Native American/First Nations, and Southeast Asian/Pacific Islander ethnic groups.

Highlights

- Hosted the third annual Women in Leadership Dinner during synod, and the Black and Reformed Leadership Network Vision-Focused Gathering
- Facilitated a workshop at Inspire 2019 called “Rediscovering Servant Leadership”
- Created a resource on the Network titled “Suggestions for Individuals and Churches to Consider for Family Leave”
- Piloted a five-month Women’s Leadership Learning Cluster via video-conferencing
- Partnered with the Student Advocacy Association of Calvin Theological Seminary

crcna.org/WomensMinistry

Finances are included in the Congregational Services chart on page 22.



Chaplains create “healing hand prints” at Chaplains Training 2019.

Chaplaincy and Care Ministry

Chaplaincy and Care Ministry endorses 144 chaplains throughout the United States and Canada—in the military, health care, workplaces, and many other areas—serving people in crisis or in spiritual distress. Through training, support, and advocacy, Chaplaincy and Care Ministry empowers chaplains to extend the love of Christ to broken places, encouraging the lonely, listening to the unheard, and comforting the grieving. Chaplains make up 10 percent of CRC ordained clergy, serving in 34 states and provinces, providing ministry to an estimated 2 million people annually.

Highlights

- **Training**—Supported CRC chaplains through the annual Chaplains Training Conference, regional events, and pastoral care. Enabled chaplains to achieve a combined 9,959 hours of specialized training. Provided \$30,863 in training grants for 29 chaplains and students. On our \$300k budget we were able to support over \$10 million in ministry.
- **Endorsement**—Endorsed eight new chaplains and renewed the endorsements of 23 active chaplains. Worked alongside many classes and churches in the endorsement and joint supervision of chaplains.

- **Recruiting and orientation**—Recruited and advised 254 students, pastors, and applicants for chaplain ministry, including six college and seminary visits and 66 personal meetings. Developed materials for inquiring individuals, including information on how to become a chaplain and a Clinical Pastoral Education guide.
- **Advocacy, promotion, support**—Advocated for CRCNA chaplains by participating in seven professional chaplaincy organizations throughout the United States and Canada. Met with the U.S. military chief of chaplains and the chaplain general for the Canadian Armed Forces, to voice the needs of our faith group and to promote professional standards. Connected with 164 individual churches and 21 classes regarding the endorsement, support, and joint supervision of chaplains.

crcna.org/Chaplaincy

Finances are included in the Congregational Services chart on page 22.



Pastor Church Resources

Pastor Church Resources serves pastors, churches, and classes as they seek to promote healthy relationships, encourage one another in ministry, and discern next steps in seasons of growth, transition, or challenge.

Highlights

- Assisted search committees in navigating the PastorSearch process
- Participated in over 350 consultations, ranging from continuing education seminars to in-depth conversations about challenging situations
- Hosted over 50 pastors at a Pastors Conference in Calgary, Alberta, where they rested in God's care and learned how to pay attention to their well-being
- Provided The Pastor's Spiritual Vitality Toolkit in Korean and Spanish on the Pastor Church Resources website
- Engaged 100 pastors and ministry leaders in a vocational ministry assessment
- Created resources for elders and councils
- Supported classes and their work through direct consultation and support of key personnel
- Held three gatherings and formed six mentoring groups as part of the Thriving in Ministry project, focusing on "invisible transitions" in pastors' ministry

crcna.org/PCR

Finances are included in the Congregational Services chart on page 22.

Raise Up Global Ministries

Investigate, discuss, think, learn, act—these words describe Raise Up's strategy to develop and support the global church and its leaders through interactive training and Bible-centered materials. Raise Up Global Ministries is a partnership of Coffee Break, Timothy Leadership Training (TLT) and Educational Care—all developed by CRC leaders.

Coffee Break and the *Discover Your Bible* study series invite people with all levels of Bible experience to interactively discover Jesus through his Word. Timothy Leadership Training uses seven core manuals to equip pastors and key church leaders. Educational Care uses skill-based interactive learning to equip teachers with a biblical worldview framework.

Highlights

- 1,286 people attend Coffee Break/ Discover Your Bible workshops in three language in North America and other countries.
- Launched new website in Spanish, English and Korean: DiscoverYourBible.org
- 3,095 participants trained to equip others in Timothy Leadership Training.
- 1,047 people attended 51 Educational Care trainings.

RaiseUpGlobal.org



Centre for Public Dialogue (Canada)

This year marked the 50th anniversary of the Committee for Contact with the Government, the steering group of the Centre for Public Dialogue. As Reformed Christians, we believe that every person is created in the image of the Creator God. From this foundation, we work to promote the flourishing of all people through constructive dialogue and advocacy in Canada. We do careful research and engage in conversation with church members and politicians to formulate constructive ideas and to advocate for policies that promote the good of all people.

We speak into three primary issues: refugee justice, Indigenous justice, and climate change. This work involves meeting with members of government, partnering with other justice organizations, facilitating educational church workshops, and equipping church members to work with their elected representatives.

Highlights

- Provided resources and support to churches in light of news regarding eligibility changes to the Canada Summer Jobs program
- Developed *Faith in Action: Practicing Biblical Advocacy*, a workshop designed

to help church members navigate the political system and have their voice heard on justice issues

- Relaunched *Journey with Me*, a workshop to help Canadians build empathy for the refugee experience and work alongside new neighbors for justice
- Released a statement in support of Bill C-262, which would adopt the United Nations Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples
- Developed a World Refugee Day toolkit in partnership with the Office of Social Justice and World Renew to encourage churches to develop a biblical mindset and to advocate for refugees around the globe

crcna.org/PublicDialogue

Finances are included in the Congregational Services chart on page 22.



Disability Concerns

In North America over 17 percent of people live with disabilities, including age-related challenges, Down syndrome and autism, mental illnesses, cerebral palsy, and dementia. With your support and on your behalf, Disability Concerns collaborates with the Reformed Church in America (RCA) Disability Concerns ministry toward a shared goal: helping CRC and RCA churches deepen as communities where everybody belongs and everybody serves.

Highlights

- Supported a network of volunteer disability advocates
- Created resources for churches to use in worship, discipleship, and care
- Began our fourth year of working with a combined CRC/RCA advisory team (pictured)
- Worked closely with Friendship Ministries, including development of Bible study materials for small groups of people with and without intellectual disability
- Celebrated 10 years of working together with the RCA to assist the 2,000 churches in our two denominations

crcna.org/Disability
rca.org/Disability

Finances are included in the Congregational Services chart on page 22.

Office of Race Relations

The Office of Race Relations is a ministry by which the Christian Reformed Church provides leadership, assistance, and resources to the denomination, congregations, and members of the CRC to help eliminate racism and its effects within the body of Christ and around the world. Diversity of God's family is central to our kingdom vision.

Together with you, Race Relations provides resources to help churches and individuals in this work. This includes All Nations Heritage Week celebration services, the *Looking Back, Moving Forward* antiracism workshop (U.S), *The Art of Re-membering* workshop (Canada), partnership with Congregations for Racial Reconciliation, *The Idea of Whiteness* workshop, and Race Relations scholarships for college and seminary students.

Highlights

- Assisted Synod 2019 in declaring kinism a theological heresy
- Collaborated with Glocal Conference in Los Angeles

crcna.org/Race

Finances are included in the Congregational Services chart on page 22.



The Blanket Exercise is an experiential way to understand First Nations history.

Indigenous Ministry (Canada)

The CRC's Indigenous Ministry is made up of a national committee (Canadian Indigenous Ministry Committee), three urban Indigenous ministries, and a Justice and Reconciliation Mobilizer, all using their strengths to support healing and reconciliation between Indigenous peoples and non-Indigenous peoples in Canada.

The Canadian Indigenous Ministry Committee (CIMC) provides leadership and support to CRC members and congregations to help them learn about Indigenous justice and respond to God's call to live in reconciled relationships as covenant (treaty) people. The Justice and Reconciliation Mobilizer, Shannon Perez, provides staff support for this committee and facilitates communication among the Urban Indigenous Ministries, congregations, and other agencies sharing common justice concerns.

The urban Indigenous ministries—Indigenous Family Centre (Winnipeg, Man.), Indigenous Christian Fellowship (Regina, Sask.), and Edmonton Native Healing Centre (Edmonton, Alta.)—strive to create a space where Indigenous people can feel safe, valued, and respected to use their gifts and to grow in their knowledge of a relationship with Christ through an Indigenous cultural lens.

Highlights

- In 2019 we adjusted the language in our ministry names from “Aboriginal” to the more gracious and commonly accepted term “Indigenous.”
- CIMC attended the Canadian National Gathering and engaged with attendees who wanted to learn more.
- Many churches across Canada celebrated Indigenous Ministry Sunday. Prayers, liturgies, and song lists were made available for this event.
- Indigenous Christian Fellowship (Regina) celebrated its 40th anniversary.
- The Edmonton Native Healing Center saw a total of 9,875 visits, including 480 counseling sessions, 2,000 clinic visits, and 636 fulfilled requests via the food bank.
- The Indigenous Family Center (Winnipeg) continues to serve a community in desperate need as evidenced by break-ins, destruction of property, and interactions with people experiencing crystal meth addiction.

crcna.org/Indigenous

Finances are included in the Congregational Services chart on page 22.



Office of Social Justice

The Office of Social Justice (OSJ) works to educate and equip congregations to be advocates—to stand alongside people affected by unjust policies and practices, and to join them in seeking change. This work complements the evangelism, development, and relational ministry work in which the denomination has long invested—aiming to ensure that the CRC’s love of neighbor spans the breadth of Scripture’s call, from charity to justice.

OSJ focuses on changing systems that are critical to the wider ministries of the church and to our Christian witness amid current events. For example, we help churches speak up for just policies that mitigate the moral crisis of climate change; we help churches advocate for criminal justice reform while they also help people reintegrate into society after prison; we advocate for greater numbers of refugees admitted to the U.S. and Canada; and we help churches promote and celebrate the sanctity of human life. Since OSJ’s beginning, this focus has meant working on issues connected to hunger and poverty, and more recently CRC synods have identified related systemic issues and added those to our work.

Highlights

- Over 10,000 advocacy actions taken
- 50 workshops on U.S. immigration held in congregations
- 113 Climate Witness Partner churches have begun addressing climate change and are living by example as stewards of creation.
- Nearly 45,000 people read the Do Justice blog.
- 272 churches supported with resources for their Sanctity of Human Life Sunday worship services, and 226 churches supported with resources for the International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church
- Over 3,500 people subscribed to our justice-themed Advent Devotions.
- Through our weekly prayer prompts, nearly 4,000 subscribers interceded for people facing injustice.

crcna.org/Justice

Finances are included in the Congregational Services chart on page 22.



Safe Church Ministry

Safe Church Ministry equips congregations in abuse awareness, prevention, and response. We help build healthy communities that honor the value of each person by preventing abuse and by responding to it with understanding, compassion, and justice. It takes all of us working together to end abuse.

Highlights

- Created a policy toolkit (crcna.org/SafeChurch/safe-church-policy) to help answer questions that arise as churches develop policies to protect the vulnerable and keep healthy ministry boundaries
- Saw an increase in the number of classis safe church coordinators, along with the number of those receiving a stipend for their work. A designated fund offers a one-time grant to assist classes in offering compensation for this important position.
- Offered workshops at Inspire 2019 about building a safe church team, using restorative practices, protecting children on the Internet, and using the Circle of Grace program
- Awarded several mini-grants to safe church coordinators and leaders to fund training events in Ontario, Illinois, British

Columbia, and Michigan. Safe Church staff and volunteers facilitated many local gatherings and educational opportunities across North America.

- Distributed the bimonthly Safe Church Newsletter to over 500 subscribers so that they can stay “in the know” about Safe Church issues, events, and resources
- Consulted with churches and individuals in over 70 different situations involving abuse in 2018, and are on track for a similar number in 2019

crcna.org/SafeChurch

Finances are included in the Congregational Services chart on page 22.



World Renew

Because of your involvement, prayers, and financial support, World Renew walked alongside Christian leaders from 80 denominations and Christian outreach organizations in 2019.

We offered the light of hope to 241,154 people in 21 developing countries who participated in World Renew's long-term community development programs, making positive, permanent changes in their health, agriculture skills, literacy abilities, income earnings, and leadership capacity.

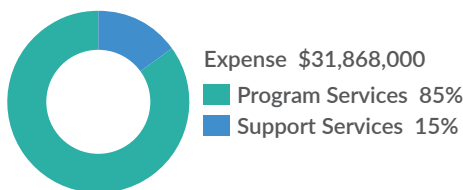
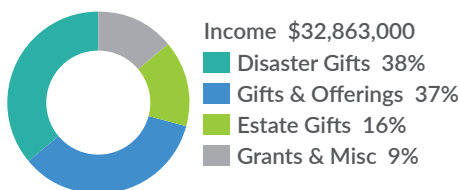
World Renew assisted 677,509 people in distress from disasters in 22 countries in the past year, including those caused by war, drought, famine, hurricanes, earthquakes, and typhoons. This support consisted of emergency food assistance, shelter, seeds and tools, long-term economic recovery, sanitation and hygiene supplies, and clean water.

Highlights

- World Renew served people in a total of 31 countries in 2019, responding to disasters and providing long-term community-based programs that helped 919,993 participants change their lives for the better.
- World Renew's ministry was supported by 2,784 volunteers who donated 243,196 hours of their time, equivalent to the work of 121 full-time employees for a year.

- Through World Renew, 258 Christian Reformed congregations in the U.S. and Canada engaged in biblical justice and advocacy action.
- World Renew Disaster Response Services (DRS) volunteers contacted 2,300 disaster-affected households to assess their needs, and repaired or rebuilt 290 damaged homes.
- With your support, World Renew helped 206 refugees resettle in Canada, and 44 sponsoring groups submitted new sponsorship applications for 171 refugees.

WorldRenew.net



World Renew does not receive ministry shares.



Faith Alive Christian Resources

Under the Faith Alive Christian Resources imprint, the CRC offers quality resources that engage learners in ways that are relevant and Reformed. These include *Dwell* and *Kid Connection* Sunday school curricula, *God Loves Me* storybooks, *Discover Your Bible* and *Infuse* Bible studies, handbooks for elders and deacons, the *Lift Up Your Hearts* hymnal, and hundreds of other resources for congregational and community ministry.

In the past year, Faith Alive added a new *Dwell Digital* resource that makes all of the *Dwell* curriculum leader resources available online to multiple users in your congregation on a subscription basis.

FaithAliveResources.org

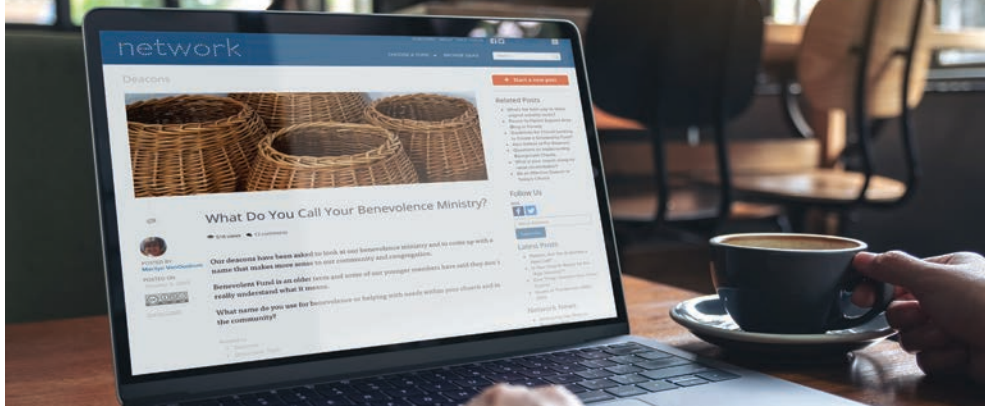
The Banner

As the official magazine of the CRCNA, *The Banner* continues to enjoy a wide and diverse readership. *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.

Highlights

- *The Banner* received nine awards from the Evangelical Press Association, including Awards of Merit for print and digital versions of a denominational magazine, and six awards from the Associated Church Press.
- "As I Was Saying," our exclusively online blog, which won an Award of Excellence from the Associated Church Press in 2019, features a diverse group of writers commenting on issues of importance.
- A free *Banner* app for mobile devices allows readers easy and instant access to *Banner* content, including online-only content, and more.
- Spanish and Korean translations of *Banner* editorials and "The View from Here" column are available online.
- *The Banner* by the numbers: more than 75,000 print copies; 3,500 weekly email subscribers; monthly average of more than 45,000 unique online website visitors

TheBanner.org



The Network

It's been almost 10 years since The Network set out to answer a simple question: What would happen if we created a space for people across the CRC to connect?

What if a deacon in Toronto could compare notes with a deacon in San Diego? What if worship planners, Sunday school teachers, and pastors could ask questions and share resources? What if all of us had a place to discuss ministry questions—both practical and complex?

If The Network is a tapestry, these questions are the first threads. Since the site first began, thousands of colorful threads have been added. Today there are over 60 different ministry topics on the site—topics that get at the wide variety of roles and passions God has equipped us with.

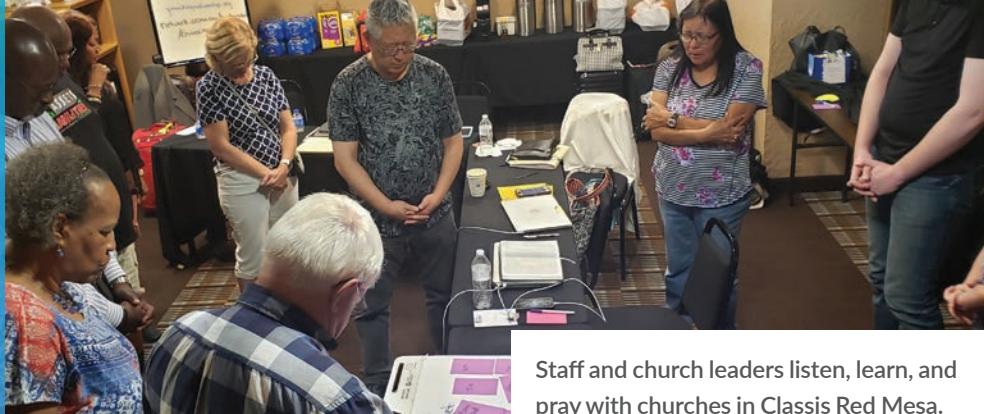
As we serve, we are asking questions, discovering great tools, and learning as we go. The impact of this sharing can be seen, in part, in the numbers:

- Nearly 600 ministry questions have been posted, and over 95 percent have been answered.
- Each month dozens of new church and ministry positions are shared on the site.

- Monthly pageviews this past year averaged 86,000 (an increase of 30 percent over the past couple years).

These numbers tell of a community that is active and growing. They are stories of individuals but also of the whole. And when we step back, we see questions and stories and resources coming together to create a vibrant tapestry. Like ministry, it can be messy. But it's also beautiful because God is working in it and through it.

crcna.org/Network



Staff and church leaders listen, learn, and pray with churches in Classis Red Mesa.

Congregational Services

These 12 congregational services offer support and resources for the ministry staff and volunteers in your church:

Faith Formation

- Faith Formation Ministries

Gospel Proclamation and Worship

- Worship Ministries

Mercy and Justice

- Disability Concerns
- Office of Social Justice
- Race Relations
- Safe Church Ministry
- Indigenous Ministries (Canada)
- Centre for Public Dialogue (Canada)

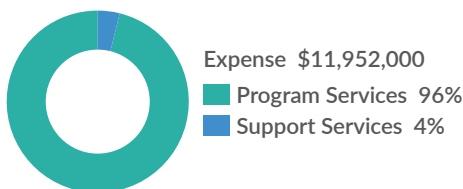
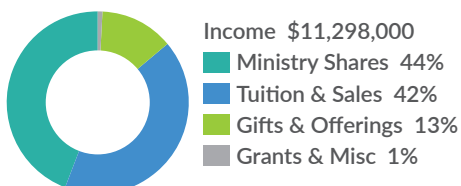
Servant Leadership

- Candidacy Committee
- Chaplaincy and Care Ministry
- Leadership Diversity
- Pastor Church Resources

Our purpose is to be a resource to local congregations as we jointly pursue the great commandments and the Great Commission (Matt. 22:37-40; 28:19-20). We aim to develop, curate, and share processes, resources, and approaches consistent with our Reformed Christian accent in a way that is easily accessible, responsive, and in line with what local congregations are requesting.

As you interact with these services, we trust you will experience each of them as fully committed to your success in local ministry. We are committed to working as a team in providing this support. Regardless of which team member you call, with whatever issue, it is our goal that we fully understand the capabilities of each other so that we can walk alongside you as you discern and discover the most effective path for your need.

crcna.org/Services



Ministry Shares and Other Gift Income

The ministries of the Christian Reformed Church in North America are made possible, in part, through an innovative system known as ministry shares. The money you give for ministry shares provides nearly \$22 million each year to support programs that enable your church to send missionaries around the world, advocate on behalf of people with disabilities, foster faith formation in persons of all ages, train chaplains, and much more.

This past year, ministry-share gifts were down over \$1 million in comparison to the previous year and about \$400,000 less than was anticipated in the annual budget. Despite this decrease, ministry shares still generated \$21.6 million in revenue. Thank you. And thank you to all the churches, large and small, that continue to help provide this vital base of revenue.

In addition to ministry-share support, special church offerings and individual gifts (not including support for disaster-response projects) generated \$32.9 million for Christian Reformed Church ministries. This was up about \$400,000 from the prior year.

We are also grateful for all who have continued their commitment to ministry through bequests through their will or trust. In the past year, estate gifts provided \$10.8 million of generous support to our shared ministry.

Gifts in response to emergency and disaster situations increased over previous years. In the wake of wars, refugee crises, food shortages, earthquakes, and hurricanes, World Renew received \$12.3 million in designated relief funding from churches, members, and donor organizations. In addition, World Renew received \$3.0 million in grants for their development work.

	2018	2019
Back to God Ministries International		
Ministry Shares	2,918,000	2,795,000
Gifts & Offerings	3,522,000	3,259,000
Estate Gifts	2,207,000	3,280,000
Grants/Misc	1,133,000	357,000
Total	9,780,000	9,691,000
Calvin University		
Ministry Shares	2,349,000	2,221,000
Gifts & Offerings	3,258,000	3,451,000
Tuition/Grants	97,734,000	97,978,000
Total	103,341,000	103,650,000
Calvin Theological Seminary		
Ministry Shares	2,405,000	2,277,000
Gifts & Offerings	1,505,000	1,365,000
Estate Gifts	0	171,000
Tuition/Grants	3,538,000	3,618,000
Total	7,448,000	7,431,000
Resonate Global Mission		
Ministry Shares	7,116,000	6,792,000
Gifts & Offerings	9,807,000	9,923,000
Estate Gifts	766,000	3,135,000
Grants/Misc	919,000	790,000
Total	18,608,000	20,640,000
World Renew		
Gifts & Offerings	12,511,000	12,093,000
Disaster Gifts	16,254,000	12,318,000
Grants	3,621,000	3,055,000
Estate Gifts	1,859,000	5,397,000
Total	34,245,000	32,863,000
Congregational Services		
Ministry Shares	5,088,000	4,960,000
Gifts & Offerings	970,000	1,442,000
Estate Gifts	0	2,000
Sales/Misc	5,546,000	4,894,000
Total	11,604,000	11,298,000
Denominational Services		
Ministry Shares	2,561,000	2,300,000
Gifts & Offerings	322,000	306,000
Grants/Misc	594,000	1,617,000
Total	3,477,000	4,223,000
Special Assistance Fund		
Ministry Shares	244,000	233,000
Grants/Miscellaneous	5,000	8,000
Total	249,000	241,000

Stay Informed

You, too, are powered by the Holy Spirit to do the things that God has called you to do. Thank you for choosing to live out part of that calling with and through the Christian Reformed Church in North America. To learn more about the collaborative ministry of which you are a part, please visit crcna.org, sign up for our weekly email newsletters, or follow us on Twitter, Facebook, or Instagram.

We've also made it easier for you and your congregation to access the denominational resources you need.



HOW CAN WE HELP?

You and your church have three options for easier access to CRC ministries and resources.



Click

Search hundreds of resources from CRC ministries and churches.

Visit
crcna.org/Resources



Call

If you have a ministry question and aren't sure who to ask, we can help.

Dial
[800-272-5125](tel:800-272-5125)



Chat

Use the chat feature on any page to type your questions. We'll chat you back. Try it out.

crcna.org

If you have a ministry need and wonder if your denomination can help, just click, call, or chat.

[We're here to serve.](#)

