



COD Highlights

To: **CRC Council of Delegates Members and Directors**
From: Kristen deRoo VanderBerg, Director of Communication & Marketing
Date: February 28, 2018

Highlights from meeting of February 22-23, 2018

Grand Rapids, Mich. – The Council of Delegates of the Christian Reformed Church in North America met at Cascade Fellowship Christian Reformed Church on February 22-24, 2018.

During this meeting the Council:

- Participated in diversity awareness training.
- Heard reports from the executive director, director of ministries and administration, Canadian ministries director, director of BTGMI, and the director of Resonate Global Mission. Members spent time in corporate prayer for the work and ministry of these leaders.
- Endorsed a response to Synod 2017's request for a list of resources regarding church renewal, church planting and evangelism.
- Approved the discontinuance of the Sustaining Congregational Excellence program and thanked staff for all their work on this program over the years. Grants for similar congregational efforts will be available through the Ignite program of the CRC Foundation.
- Approved the discontinuance of ServiceLink in order to recreate a binational ministry strategy that focuses on supporting and serving local churches. This binational ministry will operate under the name "Connections."
- Endorsed the direction of a holistic, integrated approach towards diversity ministry
- Received an update on the Our Journey 2020 ministry plan, including results from the first six months of the second year of the plan. Approved a timetable for soliciting input and developing the strategy for the next ministry plan.
- Received an update on the newly redesigned *Banner*, including the addition of Korean and Spanish translations of specific editorials.
- Heard an update on tasks assigned to staff by synod including the completion of footnotes for the Belhar confession.
- Endorsed a report on ministry Prioritization and Evaluation that will be forwarded to synod 2018.
- Spent time reviewing Classis Renewal efforts and recommended that synod take note of a new Classis Renewal Advisory Team and request that all classes develop and share their ministry plan (see Church Order Article 75) with this team. A change to Church Order Article 39 that will provide a more complete definition of "classis" is being proposed to synod for adoption.
- Discussed the role of Regional Pastors and recommended a proposal and accompanying change to Church Order Article 42 to synod.
- Were reminded of Synod 2017's approval of an annual Day of Justice to be held beginning August 18, 2018. More details are available at crcna.org/DayOfJustice.

- Heard preliminary findings of an analysis of comparable salaries and wages to those of CRCNA denominational employees and recommended that a full report be brought to the May meeting.
- Recommended to synod that Faith Community CRC in Wyoming, Mich be the convening church for Synod 2019.
- Ratified the appointment of Rev. George G. Vink, Rev. Randall D. Engle and Rev. Adam M. Barton as synodical deputies. Rev. Christopher B. Lanham, Rev. Gregory J. Kett, and Rev. Roger De Young were ratified as alternate synodical deputies.
- Appointed seven young adult representatives to Synod 2018 as well as two alternates.
- Were reminded about the need for new COD nominees from some classes.
- Received audited financial reports from Calvin College, Calvin Theological Seminary and the CRCNA. Decided that the COD will no longer routinely meet with the independent auditors and financial staff of Calvin College and Calvin Theological Seminary unless there is a need.
- In addition to changes to the ecclesiastical meeting of the COD, this meeting also included the meeting of four corporate entities: CRCNA Canada, CRCNA US, BTGMI Canada, and BTGMI US. Highlights from these meetings include:
 - BTGMI US and BTGMI Canada approved a way to observe requirements of their joint ministries agreements in conjunction with COD actions; BTGMI Canada also approved a revised privacy policy.
 - CRCNA Canada and CRCNA US also approved a similar way to observe their joint ministry agreements.
 - CRCNA Canada also heard an update on the building renovation happening in Burlington, Ontario; received reports from the Canadian Ministries Director and Resonate Global Mission's Canadian team; and adopted the Canadian Personal Information Privacy Policy.

For more information, please contact:

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Upcoming meeting dates:

- May 2-4, 2018, in Elmhurst, Illinois
- October 10-12, 2018, in Elmhurst, Illinois
- February 20-22, 2019, location TBD
- May 1-3, 2019, location TBD
- October 9-11, 2019, location TBD