



COD Highlights

A SUMMARY OF THE COUNCIL OF DELEGATES MEETING

To: **CRC Leaders and Members**

From: Kristen deRoo VanderBerg, Director of Communications & Marketing

Date: February 9, 2026

Highlights from meeting of February 4-6, 2026

The Council of Delegates (COD) of the Christian Reformed Church in North America met via video conference on February 4-6, 2026. During this meeting, the COD spent time in prayer, received reports, held discussions, and made decisions as follows:

- Heard from Zachary King, general secretary, about his recent work. He noted a biblical model for church renewal rooted in repentance, prayer, and dependence on the Spirit. He also reported on two major initiatives: a church renewal pathway, and a 10-year plan for church planting. Both will be reported to Synod 2026.
- Heard from Roberta Vriesema, director of partnership administration, about her recent onboarding to the position. She shared a metaphor of a community garden to explain how the CRCNA ministries work together, and reviews past and projected data about ministry shares.
- Received a presentation on the strategy for church renewal that Thrive is using and that will go to Synod 2026 for endorsement. This strategy encourages churches to start with participating in the *Thriving Essentials* course, focused on mission, discipleship, discernment and leadership. From there, unique next steps will be identified.
- Heard an update on the new Diaspora and Ethnic Ministry advisory committee, and agreed that reports from CRCNA's diverse ethnic groups will report to synod via this committee.
- Received a review report on the Dignity Team and recommended that synod endorse its work for another three years.
- Heard updates from Thrive, Resonate Global Mission, ReFrame Ministries and *The Banner*.
- Heard from Calvin University president Greg Elzinga, noting current joys and challenges.
- Adopted several changes to the *COD Governance Handbook* including a name change to *CRC Governance Handbook*. These changes reflect structural changes of recent years.
- Recommended to synod several changes to the *Rules for Synodical Procedure* including the discontinuation of having a parliamentarian at synod, changing the deadline for distribution of study committee reports, and getting rid of the distinction between a study committee and a taskforce.
- Recommended that synod approve a change in meeting schedule for future synods from a Thursday to Thursday schedule, to a Saturday to Saturday one.
- Recommended to synod several updates to the *Church Order Supplement*.
- Requested that the Office of General Secretary work on a termination policy for COD members.

- Endorsed an approach to ministry shares allocations that will be used to bring specific numbers back to the May COD meeting and synod.
- Delegated the U.S. ministry board to coordinate with and ensure financial integrity of the CRC Loan Fund. This will allow the Loan Fund to report to synod.
- Recommended that synod declare some synodical tasks complete such as providing resources to help churches and classes navigate the process of limited suspension, and providing resources to commemorate the 1700th anniversary of the Nicene Creed.
- Appointed an interim COD member to be ratified by synod. Appointed people to the Dignity Team. Ratified synodical deputy and alternate synodical deputy appointments. Appointed young adult representatives to synod 2026.
- Heard that the annual denominational survey is now open, and encouraged this year's cohort of churches to promote it.
- Recommended to synod that Cascade Fellowship CRC be the convening church for Synod 2027.
- Approved a schedule for future COD meetings.

For more information, please contact:

Rev. Zachary King, Ph. D.

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Upcoming meeting dates:

- May 6-8, 2026, Grand Rapids, Mich.
- October 14-16, 2026, Grand Rapids, Mich.
- February 3-5, 2027, virtual
- May 5-7, 2027, Grand Rapids, Mich.
- October 13-15, 2027, Grand Rapids, Mich.



Ministry Board Meeting Highlights

To: **CRCNA Ministry Board Members and Staff**

From: Kristen deRoo VanderBerg, Director of Communications & Marketing

Date: February 9, 2026

Ministry Board Meetings – U.S. and Canada

In addition to the meeting of the COD, the boards of other CRC corporate entities met separately on February 5 and reported the following:

CRCNA Canada Board

- Heard an update from Al Postma, executive director, and received reports from Thrive, Resonate Global Mission, Canadian justice ministries, advancement and communications.
- Discussed the history and structure of the Canadian justice ministries (Indigenous ministry, Intercultural ministry, Centre for Public Dialogue). Asked the Executive Committee to create an ad hoc committee (3-4 persons) to review and suggest an updated and clarified reporting structure for these ministries.
- Approved a mandate for the Finance Committee.
- Received reports from the Governance Committee, Finance Committee and the Joint Ministry Committee Convenor for information.
- Heard a report from the Chief Administrative Officer on finance, human resources and IT.
- Heard an update on the Canadian National Gathering (see crcna.org/Canada for more information)

ReFrame Ministries Canada Board

- Received a report from ReFrame director Kurt Selles including advancement and program updates
- Received the financial statements through December 31, 2025 for information

CRCNA U.S. Board

- Heard a report from Dan DeKam, director of US ministry operations, noting cost savings related to maintenance in the new building.
- Received a report from the Joint Ministry Committee convener.
- Received updates on ministry shares and advancement activities.
- Heard that a recent audit is complete and showed no issues. Appointed BDO to be the auditor for the next fiscal year.

- Received reports from Thrive and Resonate Global Mission.
- Elected new officers: Chuck Adams (president), Eric Van Dyken (vice president), Lloyd Hemstreet (treasurer), and Christian Sebastia (secretary)

ReFrame Ministries U.S. Board

- Received a report from ReFrame director Kurt Selles including advancement and program updates
- Received the five-month financial statements through November 30, 2025 for information.
- Received the consolidated audit report and financial statements from last fiscal year
- Appointed BDO as the auditor for this fiscal year

For more information, please contact:

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