



COD Highlights

A SUMMARY OF THE COUNCIL OF DELEGATES MEETING

Highlights from meeting of May 6–8, 2026

The Council of Delegates (COD) of the Christian Reformed Church in North America met in Grand Rapids, MI on May 6-8, 2026. During this meeting, the COD spent time in prayer, received reports, held discussions, and made decisions as follows:

- Heard an interview with Rev. Lora Copley, Banner Editor candidate, and recommended her appointment be ratified at Synod 2026.
- Heard an interview with Rev. Darrell Delaney, Director of ReFrame candidate, and recommended his appointment be ratified at Synod 2026.
- Heard an interview with Dr. Lee Carter, Director of Thrive candidate, and recommended his appointment be ratified at Synod 2026.
- Received a presentation on ministry shares from Jeff Bolt, Director of U.S. Advancement, and Roshani Morton, Director of Canadian Advancement, that could be replicated by delegates in their own churches.
- Heard updates from Thrive, Resonate Global Mission, ReFrame Ministries and The Banner.
- Heard from Calvin Seminary president Jul Medenblik, noting current joys and challenges.
- Heard from Zachary King, general secretary, about his recent work. He highlighted the collaborative work on both the Church Planting Plan and Church Renewal Pathway, and noted that he will be on sabbatical from June 24 - September 23, 2026.
- Heard from Roberta Vriesema, director of partnership administration, about the ministry shares allocation for 2026-27, and an explanation of governance, operations and program costs.
- Received a presentation on the ten year plan for church planting mandated by Synod 2025, and sent it to Synod 2026 for approval.
- Received a presentation on the strategy for church renewal that Thrive is using and it to Synod 2026 for approval. 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.
- Took note of the annual denominational diversity report. It also adopted changes that streamline the diversity reporting processes for the agencies and institutions, and make the fulsome data accessible to churches and agencies.
- Recommended that synod appoint people to various roles and committees including the Judicial Code Committee and the Council of Delegates.
- Received work done on the COD's rubrics document by the Governance Committee in fulfillment of synod's instruction, and also recommended that synod take note of the work done by the Office of General Secretary and of the various boards and committees of denominational organizations to fulfill the request of Synod 2025 regarding the creation and presentation of rubrics for board membership.

- Recommended that synod suspend the practice of holding a noon hour luncheon at synod to honor retirees, and instead direct the General Secretary to work with the officers of synod each year on a plan to accomplish these purposes.
- Recommended that synod no longer require the COD and General Secretary to ensure the physical publication of an annual Yearbook in its historical printed format. Instead, it recommended that synod instruct the Office of General Secretary to provide for the public distribution of denominational statistics formerly collected in the Yearbook.
- Approved comments from the COD regarding Overture 6 to be sent on to synod.
- Acknowledged with gratitude the twenty-seven years of work by Kristen VanderBerg for the denomination.
- Took note of the job description for Director of Communications and the hiring timeline (the final candidate will be approved by COD in October, 2026), and were encouraged to communicate about the opportunity within their networks.
- Elected COD officers for 2026-27: Chair: Andre Van Ryk; Vice-Chair: Chuck Adams; Treasurer: Peter Meerveld; and Secretary: Lloyd Hemstreet
- Recognized and thanked ten retiring delegates.
- Noted and expressed gratitude for retiring directors Rev. Kurt Selles (ReFrame) and Rev. Lesli van Miligen (Thrive).

For more information, please contact:

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Upcoming meeting dates:

- October 14-16, 2026, Grand Rapids, MI
- February 3-5, 2027, virtual
- May 5-7, 2027, Grand Rapids, MI
- October 13-15, 2027, Grand Rapids, MI



Ministry Board Meeting Highlights

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 May 7, 2026 and reported the following:

CRCNA Canada Board

- Received the denominational salary grid for information.
- Elected officers for 2026-27: Chair: Andre Van Ryk; Vice Chair: Joan DeVries; Treasurer: Henry Eygenraam; Secretary: Peter Meerveld.
- Received reports and approved policies from the Governance Committee.
- Appointed two new at-large directors.
- Heard an update from the ad hoc committee on Justice Ministries mandates and structures
- Heard an update from Al Postma, executive director, and received reports from Thrive, Resonate Global Mission, Canadian justice ministries, advancement and communications.
- Approved the ministry share allocation, Joint Ministry Agreements and proposed budget for CRCNA Canada.
- Heard an update on the Canadian National Gathering (see crcna.org/Canada for more information).
- Spent time in executive session.

ReFrame Ministries Canada Board

- Received a report from ReFrame director Kurt Selles including advancement and program updates.
- Received the financial statements through February 28, 2026 for information.
- Approved a proposed budget for 2026-2027.
- Received the Joint Ministry Convenor report and approved the Joint Ministry Approval Documents.

CRCNA U.S. Board

- Appointed a financial representative for the work in Nicaragua.
- Received a report from the Joint Ministry Committee convener.
- Approved joining ministry approval documents.
- Approved the budget as presented.
- Heard a report from Dan DeKam, director of US ministry operations.
- Received updates on ministry shares and advancement activities.

- Spent time in executive session.

ReFrame Ministries U.S. Board

- Elected officers for 2026-27: Chuck Adams (president), Eric Van Dyken (vice president), Lloyd Hemstreet (treasurer), and Christian Sebastia (secretary)
- Received a report from ReFrame director Kurt Selles including advancement and program updates.
- Received the eight month financial statements through February 28, 2026 for information.
- Approved a budget for the fiscal year 2026-2027.
- Received the Joint Management Convenor report as presented.
- Approved the 2026-27 Joint Ministry approval documents.

For more information, please contact:

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