



COD Highlights

A SUMMARY OF THE COUNCIL OF DELEGATES MEETING

To: **CRC Council of Delegates Members and Staff**
From: Kristen deRoo VanderBerg, Director of Communications & Marketing
Date: February 20, 2024

Highlights from meeting of Feb. 14-16, 2024

The Council of Delegates (COD) of the Christian Reformed Church in North America met via video conference on February 14-16, 2024. During this meeting, the COD spent time in prayer, received reports, held discussions, and made decisions as follows:

- Spent time in board development discussing spiritual practices in board governance. This session was led by Sean Baker and Jon Hoekema, and focused on seeking God's will, remaining in Christ, and loving one another.
- Approved several items related to future synods including adopting a new reporting schedule for agencies and institutions, designating Redeemer University (Ancaster, Ont.) as the location for Synod 2025 and Calvin University (Grand Rapids, Mich.) as the location for Synod 2026, and selecting a new convening church for 2025.
- Approved several items related to Synod 2024 including naming ethnic advisors and young adult representatives, approving a theme of "God With Us", approving a virtual convening session and initial online advisory committee meetings to create greater efficiency for delegates time together, passing along recommendations for the officers regarding how to manage plenary times, and making recommendations for classes about how to reduce and streamline the workload of synod.
- Heard about and endorsed *Gather* - a new initiative to bring together five classes at a time to help address membership decline in our churches in response to Synod 2023. Events will be spread out across North America over the next 18 months. More information is available at crcna.org/Gather.
- Received a report from the Global Vision Team and gave provisional affirmation for a framework that would strengthen connections between the CRCNA and international churches (such as those that have affiliated with Classis California South). Classes will periodically share challenges and opportunities related to this effort with the Office of General Secretary. Also gave provisional affirmation to develop a global vision implementation team that would converse with CRCNA-affiliated churches outside North America and interested international denominational partners to develop a CRC Global Ecclesiastical body.
- Heard from Zachary King, general secretary, about his recent work including the distribution of [pastoral statement and recommended resources](#) for ministry with LGBTQ+ people, work with the Global Vision Team, work on the One Family Conversation, and materials in process to support bivocational pastors.

- Heard from Shirley DeVries, chief administrative officer.
- Received reports from the Team on Alliance of Reformed Church Matters, the Church Order Review Taskforce, the Virtual Church Team, the Dignity Team, the Bible Translations Committee, Calvin University.
- Appointed members to various roles and committees including the Assisted Suicide Taskforce, the Judicial Code Committee, synodical deputies and alternate, and interim appointments to the COD.
- Were introduced to [a new form](#) that is being used to collect names and information of CRC members who may be interested in serving on a synodical taskforce or study committee. COD members are asked to share the form with people in their region.
- Accepted the condensed financial report from CRCNA ministries and forwarded it to Synod 2024, and endorsed a plan for the distribution of ministry shares in the preparation of budgets for 2024-2025
- Formed a taskforce to create updated pastor compensation guidelines for churches. This committee will report to the COD in October 2024 and complete their work by June 2025.
- Adopted updates to several financial policies including a financial reserve policy, a cash handling policy, a fundraising ethical guidelines policy, and investment policy.
- Adopted changes to COD governance including tweaks to committee mandates, a process for handling post-meeting feedback, and changes to the COD Code of Conduct to bring it into alignment with the one approved by Synod 2023.
- Approved a board development session for the May COD meeting that will focus on evangelism.
- Spent time in executive session.

For more information, please contact:

Rev. Zachary King, Ph. D.

general-secretary@crcna.org

Upcoming meeting dates:

- May 1-3, 2024, in Grand Rapids, Mich.
- October 16-18, 2024, in Grand Rapids, Mich.



Ministry Board Meeting Highlights

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

From: Kristen deRoo VanderBerg, Director of Communications & Marketing

Date: February 20, 2024

Ministry Board Meetings – U.S. and Canada

In addition to the meeting of the COD, the boards of several CRC corporate entities met separately on February 15 and reported the following:

CRCNA Canada Board

- Welcomed and approved new members.
- Received the Joint Management Convenor's Semi-Annual Report
- Received report from the transitional executive director, including updates on Resonate, Thrive, Canadian justice ministries, and Canadian Indigenous ministries
- Discussed the recent Stories and Strategies event, the establishment of a Canadian governance committee, and conversations with Towards a CRC Canada group.

ReFrame Ministries Canada Board

- Did not meet

CRCNA U.S. Board

- Heard a report from Dan DeKam, the U.S. director of ministry operations, on his first 6 months in the position.
- Heard an update on the Grand Rapids building, noting that there is an interested buyer and progress is being made in securing a new location.
- Received the Joint Management Convenor's Semi-Annual Report
- Received reports from Resonate Global Mission and Thrive
- Approved audits for the CRCNA Funds, Employee Savings Plan, CRC Loan Fund, Special Assistance Fund, and the Consolidated Financial Statements.
- Appointed BDO as auditor for the fiscal year.
- Discussed a policy to allow one to three additional members to the executive committee.

ReFrame Ministries U.S. Board

- Approved a motion to have the Director of ReFrame Ministries report to the U.S. Director of Ministry Operations.

- Received the joint management approval documents and semi-annual reports
- Received the six-month financial statements, and consolidated audit reports.
- Appointed BDO as auditor for the fiscal year.

For more information, please contact:

Rev. Al Postma (CRCNA Canada and ReFrame Canada)

apostma@crcna.org

DanDan DeKam (CRCNA U.S.)

ddekam@crcna.org

Rev. Kurt Selles (ReFrame U.S.)

kselfselles@crcna.org