



COD Highlights

A SUMMARY OF THE COUNCIL OF DELEGATES MEETING

To: **CRCNA members**

From: Kristen deRoo VanderBerg, Director of Communications & Marketing

Date: May 11, 2023

Highlights from meeting of May 3-5, 2023

The Council of Delegates (COD) of the Christian Reformed Church in North America met in the denominational offices in Grand Rapids, Michigan on May 3-5, 2023.

During this meeting, the COD spent time in prayer, received reports, held discussions, and made decisions as follows:

- Took note of the new name and tagline for congregational ministries – *Thrive: Equipping and Encouraging Congregations*. Recommended that Synod 2023 also take note of this new name.
- Endorsed several communications from CRCNA staff that will be passed along to Synod 2023 in response to various overtures. These communications follow the “Right of Comment” procedures outlined in CRCNA polity, and were in response to overtures 3, 12, 50, 51, 54, 55, 57, 64, 72. Took note of Calvin University's response to overtures 9, 17, 32, 35, and 71.
- Elected officers for the CRCNA Canada ministry board, CRCNA U.S ministry board, and Council of Delegates executive committee.
- Adopted a revised church membership and confessional conformity policy for the COD handbook.
- Heard from Zachary King, general secretary, about recent work including preparations for Synod 2023, the members named to serve on the global visioning team, and an update on the “one family” conversation.
- Heard from Shirley DeVries, chief administrative officer, noting that ecclesiastical mandate letters from World Renew US and Canada have been received, a review of the office of the general secretary is realigning work for staff efficiency, and good communication and collaboration is happening across agencies.
- Reviewed the revised Council of Delegates handbook, noting updates to several areas and providing feedback. This is a working document, but the COD recommended that synod ratify the organizational concept and structure in the document and receive the draft as information.
- Dissolved the collaborative church planting team with thanks, and noted that this work is now being championed by congregational ministries (Thrive) and Resonate Global Mission.
- Honored and gave thanks for COD members who are concluding their terms of service.
- Took note of bylaw changes made by the World Renew U.S. and World Renew Canada boards, and endorsed ecclesiastical mandate letters that clarify the continuing relationship between World Renew and the CRCNA.

- Heard a presentation on ministry shares and took note of the findings from a recent review of the ministry shares reimagined program. The recommendations from this review were forwarded to Synod 2023 for information.
- Took note of the Ministers Pension Fund contribution rates for calendar year 2024 in the U.S. and Canada. In both countries, the per-member assessment remains \$37.20 and the per-participant assessment remains \$7,704.
- Received audits from World Renew, Calvin University, Calvin Theological Seminary and the Pension Fund and forwarded them to synod for information.
- Endorsed the list of organizations for support and forwarded it to Synod 2023 for approval.
- Heard an update on the work done to provide information to churches regarding short term disability needs. This will be shared with Synod 2023.
- Heard an update on the work done to respond to Synod 2022's directive regarding teaching against white supremacy. This report will be shared with Synod 2023.
- Endorsed (again) the Culture of Civility task force report, reengaged the report and its recommendations, and encouraged the executive committee of the COD and staff to develop an implementation plan by May 2025.
- Received reports from the director of ReFrame Ministries, the director of Resonate Global Mission, the *Banner* Advisory committee, the president of Calvin Theological Seminary, the president of Calvin University, and the Bible Translations committee,. Received updates about the prayer initiatives for Synod 2023, the synodical assignment to facilitate conversations about unity, a report on the 2023 denominational survey, the work being done to address abuses of power
- Spent time in conversation with Jamie McIntosh, the newly appointed Canadian director of World Renew.
- In the interim of synod, appointed people to serve with the Judicial Code Committee, the COD, and to terms as synodical deputies and alternates.

For more information, please contact:

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Upcoming meeting dates:

- October 11-13, 2023 in Grand Rapids, Mich.
- February 14-16, 2024, *virtual* meeting
- May 1-3, 2024, in Grand Rapids, Mich.
- October 16-18, 2024, in Grand Rapids, Mich.

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 Feb. 16 and reported the following:

CRCNA Canada Board

- Reviewed a report from the convener of the joint ministry agreement committee, and approved joint ministry approval documents from the Office of the General Secretary, Congregational Ministries (Thrive), Information Technology, and Resonate Global Mission.
- Approved the proposed budget and ministry share allocations for 2023-2024.
- Approved the proposed compensation adjustment program for 2023-2024.
- Met Roshani Morton, the new Advancement director for the CRCNA in Canada.
- Received reports from the transitional executive director, Human Resources, Communications, Congregational Ministries, Finance, Resonate Global Mission, the justice and reconciliation committee, the governance committee, the ad hoc Canada-wide Conversation Organizing committee.

ReFrame Ministries Canada Board

- Reviewed a report from the convener of the joint ministry agreement committee, and approved joint ministry approval documents.
- Approved the proposed budget for 2023-2024.
- Approved the proposed compensation adjustment program for 2023-2024.

CRCNA U.S. Board

- Heard reports from the interim director of ministry operations and the director of administrative operations.
- Interviewed and approved Dan DeKam as the U.S. director of ministry operations.
- Agreed that for legal purposes, the U.S. director of ministry operations may use the title of “executive director” when necessary.
- Endorsed the direction of the 1700 building taskforce with regard to the future of the CRCNA building in Grand Rapids, Michigan.
- Approved three new members for the committee for guidance and support of the Office of Social Justice.
- Received financial reports for information.
- Approved BDO to audit the finances of CRCNA, the CRC employees savings plan, the CRC loan fund, and MPF SAF 2021.
- Approved the proposed budget and ministry share allocations for 2023-2024.
- Approved the proposed compensation adjustment program for 2023-2024.
- Approved joint ministry approval documents.

ReFrame Ministries U.S. Board

- Elected officers for the Reframe U.S. ministry board.
- Approved the use of reserve funds for grants from the Church Juice program, and for the purchase of new computers.
- Approved the proposed budget for 2023-2024.

- Reviewed a report from the convener of the joint ministry agreement committee, and approved joint ministry approval documents.
- Received the financial statements from the past nine months.
- Approved the audit results.

For more information, please contact:

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