



To: **CRCNA members**

From: Kristen deRoo VanderBerg, Director of Communications & Marketing

Date: October 18, 2022

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## *Highlights from meeting of Oct. 12-14, 2022*

The Council of Delegates (COD) of the Christian Reformed Church in North America met at the CRCNA offices in Grand Rapids, Mich. on October 12-14, 2022.

During this meeting, the COD received reports, held discussions and made decisions as follows. They:

- Heard from Zachary King about his first few months as general secretary.
- Heard from Lloyd VanderKwaak about his accomplishments thus far and his goals for the remainder of his tenure as interim chief administrative officer.
- Discussed membership trends within the CRCNA, paying specific attention to which congregations are seeing increased numbers and why. A summary of the discussion will be presented to the COD in February for consideration of forwarding to Synod 2023.
- Discussed and approved a process for filing an exception to the *COD Statement of Agreement with the Beliefs of the CRCNA*.
- Endorsed the consolidation of ministry operations of Raise Up Global Ministries (e.g., Timothy Leadership Training, Global Coffee Break, and Educational Care) under Resonate Global Mission branding, which will be completed by January 1.
- Heard a report from the newly established Dignity Team of the CRCNA and the ongoing work to address the abuse of power.
- Recommended that Synod 2023 approve the discontinuation of the current practice of providing an annual list of organizations accredited and recommended for support by CRC congregations.
- Discussed ministry shares and spent time addressing questions about how effective the current system is for our congregations – and if it could be improved. Additional responses from classes will be collated over the coming months and presented to the COD in February.
- Discussed and endorsed a proposal to further delineate *organizational* from *synodical* governance. The proposal included new committee structures for the COD based on the agencies, and new ways of connecting with the Calvin Theological Seminary, Calvin University, and World Renew boards. Input from COD members was gathered and will be integrated into a revised COD Governance Handbook to be presented to the COD in February 2023 for consideration of forwarding to Synod 2023.
- Heard an update on Inspire 2022 and asked staff to explore the feasibility of holding a similar event in 2024. A report on this will be brought back to the February COD meeting.

- Heard an update on the search for a chief administrative officer for the CRCNA. It is hoped that a name will be presented to the COD for appointment at a special virtual meeting on November 16. At this meeting, the appointment of a new director of Synodical Services will also be ratified.
- Appointed people to a search team for a new director of Resonate Global Mission.
- Endorsed a co-director model for Congregational Ministries and acknowledged the appointment of Lesli Van Milligen (Canada) and Chris Schoon (U.S) to the co-director positions. Lesli has already begun this role, Chris will begin in January 2023.
- Appointed people to plan an antiracism training for the COD at the February 2023 meeting.
- Received the denominational survey summary report for 2022.
- Received metrics from *Our Journey 2025* for the 2021-2022 ministry year.
- Instructed the Office of General Secretary to appoint a team to review the Judicial Code and bring a final report to the COD by February 2024.
- Noted the upcoming retirements of Dee Recker (director of Synodical Services) and Lis Van Harten (director of Congregational Ministries) in 2023.
- Appointed people to various roles including to the Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations Committee, interim roles on the COD, the Church Order Review Task Force, as synodical deputy, and alternate synodical deputy.

In addition to the meeting of the COD, this meeting also included the meeting of four corporate entities: CRCNA Canada, CRCNA U.S., ReFrame Ministries Canada, and ReFrame Ministries U.S.

**CRCNA Canada Board:** Approved 2021-22 year-end joint ministry agreement reports; appointed an auditor; heard from Al Postma, the transitional executive director for Canada.

**ReFrame Ministries Canada Board:** Appointed an auditor.

**CRCNA U.S. Board:** Appointed an auditor; appointed people to the joint management agreement committee; approved salary increases for the human resource director and U.S. controller; took note of Shirley DeVries' appointment to the position of director of administrative operations; approved the housing exemption for ordained staff; approved the benefit program and premiums for employees in the coming year; approved changes to the joint ministry agreements; affirmed the appointment of Chris Schoon to the role of U.S. Director of Congregational Ministries.

**ReFrame Ministries U.S. Board:** Appointed an auditor; appointed people to the joint ministry agreement committee; approved joint ministry agreements and joint ministry agreement reports.

**For more information, please contact:**

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**Upcoming meeting dates:**

- November 16, 2022, (special meeting) *virtual* meeting
- February 15-17, 2023, *virtual* meeting
- May 3-5, 2023, in Grand Rapids, Mich.
- 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.