



COD Highlights

A SUMMARY OF THE COUNCIL OF DELEGATES MEETING

To: **CRC Councils and Stated Clerks of Classes**
From: Zachary J. King, General Secretary of the CRCNA
Date: October 26, 2023

Highlights from meeting of Oct. 11-13, 2023

The Council of Delegates (COD) of the Christian Reformed Church in North America met in the denominational offices in Grand Rapids, Michigan on October 11-13, 2023.

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

- Welcomed new members. Received an orientation to the Council of Delegates as well as the CRCNA Canada and U.S. ministry boards. Reviewed the new committee structure.
- Heard from Zachary King, general secretary, about his recent work including the Global Vision team, and assignments from Synod 2023 related to human sexuality and membership decline.
- Heard from Shirley DeVries, chief administrative officer, noting several assignments from Synod 2023, the establishment of an Administrative Leadership Council to coordinate across agencies, and the work of the Finance department.
- Received reports from the director of ReFrame Ministries, the director of Resonate Global Mission, the directors of Thrive, the *Banner* Advisory committee, the directors of World Renew, and the president of Calvin University.
- Recommended to Synod 2024 that the *Our Journey 2025* ministry plan be extended to 2030 with appropriate evaluation and an updated communications strategy.
- Spent time in executive session hearing an update on the charges against Rev. David Zandstra and the response from the CRCNA. Spent time in a prayer about this matter.
- Heard that a report from the Church Order Review Task Force will be posted for churches to review in December or January.
- Approved that ReFrame Ministry's language ministries (including ministry leader and staff) should be located in a country or region where that language is significantly spoken and be done in partnership with a local denomination or other Christian organization.
- In the interim of synod, appointed people to serve with the COD, and to terms as synodical deputies and alternates.

For more information, please contact:

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Upcoming meeting dates:

- 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 October 12 and reported the following:

CRCNA Canada Board

- Welcomed and approved new members.
- Made plans for a Canada-wide conversation to take place in January 2024 on the theme of church planting and renewal.
- Discussed a letter from 56 Canadian CRC members and pastors promoting a separate Canadian CRC. The board will follow up with the signatories to listen to their concerns.
- Approved the audited financial statements and appointed BDO to be the auditor next year.
- Received reports from the joint management committee and approved the joint ministry approval documents between the CRCNA Canada Ministry Board and the CRCNA US Ministry Board.
- Received reports from the transitional executive director, the Canadian Chief Administrative Officer, Human Resources, Advancement, and Finance.

ReFrame Ministries Canada Board

- Welcomed and approved new members.
- Approved the audited financial statements and appointed BDO to be the auditor next year.

CRCNA U.S. Board

- Heard a report from Dan DeKam, the U.S. director of ministry operations, about his first three months in the position.
- Endorsed that US Ministry Board officers may accept an offer to purchase the Grand Rapids CRCNA building if one is made, and approved Dan DeKam to be a signatory on necessary paperwork.
- Endorsed that US Ministry Board officers may make an offer towards the purchase of a new property, and approved Dan DeKam to be a signatory on necessary paperwork.
- Designated \$2 million of expected revenue from the Employee Retention Credit be set aside for capital expenses and bridge financing related to the sale of the existing building and the purchase of a new one.
- Approved annual housing declarations for ordained CRCNA employees.
- Approved new joint ministry agreement document for Thrive.
- Received an update on the CRC Loan Fund.

ReFrame Ministries U.S. Board

- Received the joint management committee convener report and joint management approval documents for information.
- Received the twelve-month financial statements

For more information, please contact:

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