



# 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: October 22, 2024

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## ***Highlights from meeting of October 16-18, 2024***

The Council of Delegates (COD) of the Christian Reformed Church in North America met at Cascade Fellowship Christian Reformed Church in Grand Rapids, Mich. on October 16-18, 2024. During this meeting, the COD spent time in prayer, received reports, held discussions, and made decisions as follows:

- Interviewed and appointed Rev. Joel Vande Werken as the director of ecclesiastical governance. He will begin this role in mid-November.
- Heard from Zachary King, general secretary, about his recent work including an evaluation and refresh of the Our Journey ministry plan, a review of CRCNA agency support for ethnic minority churches, work with the Global Vision implementation team, follow up on various synodical assignments, and that the office of general secretary is running at/over capacity with regards to taskforces and teams.
- Heard from Shirley DeVries, chief administrative officer, about her recent work including the hire of a new director of Information Technology, an ongoing evaluation of the metrics of the Our Journey ministry plan, a commitment to better communication about the pension plan, and a review of church giving.
- Heard that the sale of the Grand Rapids denominational office building at 1700 28th Street SE is complete and renovations are underway at 300 East Beltline NE in Grand Rapids to turn it into a new ministry support center by December. Net profit from the sale will be put in a fund for ongoing maintenance of the new building.
- Heard an update about *Gather* events in Minneapolis, Vancouver, Calgary, and Boston.
- Heard an update from Jamie McIntosh about the work of World Renew.
- Participated in a board development presentation by Thrive staff on diversity in our churches and the One Family Conversation.
- Received a presentation on the annual denominational survey, highlighting some key trends from the past 10 years. The next cohort will be invited to participate in the survey in January.
- Approved Second CRC of Grand Haven, Mich. as the convening church for synod 2026. Also approved a theme of "Journey with Jesus" for Synod 2025 and agreed to have a virtual convening sessions for synod in 2025 and the years following.
- Took note of the work of the Virtual Church team and the direction they are taking as they prepare to report to Synod 2025.
- Took note of an updated process to handle interim appointments of COD members between meetings.

- Voted to forego the creation of a separate legal entity to house the Office of General Secretary.
- Approved a charter for the Dignity Team and agreed to review this charter regularly starting in October 2026.
- Approved an updated version of the Policy for Reduction of Program and Staff.
- Considered updates to the mandate for the oversight of finances in the advisory committee of synod and sent these changes to Synod 2025.
- Received a report from the *Banner* editor and adopted a change to the advertising guidelines.
- Heard from the Bible Translations Committee and appointed Susan Medendorp to the committee as an English Language Stylist. A report on the Easy-to-Read version will be available for the February COD meeting.
- Heard from the directors of Resonate Global Mission, ReFrame Ministries, and Thrive noting many good initiatives and requesting ongoing prayers and financial support from churches.
- Provisionally approved Joan DeVries for COD membership and recommended that Synod 2025 appoint her to the role.
- Appointed people to interim roles as synodical deputies, alternate synodical deputies, and as members of the judicial code committee.
- Spent time in executive session.

**For more information, please contact:**

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**Upcoming meeting dates:**

- February 5-7, 2025, via videoconference
- May 7-9, 2025, Grand Rapids, Mich.
- October 8-10, 2025, location TBA
- February 4-6, 2026, via video conference
- May 6-8, 2026, location TBA
- October 7-9, 2026, location TBA



# Ministry Board Meeting Highlights

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

From: Kristen deRoo VanderBerg, Director of Communications & Marketing

Date: October 22, 2024

## 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 October 17 and reported the following:

### CRCNA Canada Board

- Welcomed three new members: Ron VanAuken, Philip Apoll, and Joan DeVries.
- Approved a revised mandate for the governance committee.
- Received an annual report from the joint management committee for information and approved the joint ministry approval documents.
- Heard an update from the executive director, Al Postma, as well as the Canadian ministry directors.
- Received the audit review committee minutes and approved audited financial statements.
- Received reports from finance and human resources.
- Discussed a proposal from Classis Quinte requesting an ecclesiastical gathering for Canadian CRCs.
- Approved scheduling a stories and strategies event for early 2025.
- Received correspondence from various CRC members and spent time discussing them.

### ReFrame Ministries Canada Board

- Meeting scheduled for later date.

### CRCNA U.S. Board

- Approved annual housing declarations for ordained staff.
- Approved the establishment of a building maintenance fund into which proceeds from the sale of the building at 1700 28th Street SE in Grand Rapids and any funds received from the employee retention credit will be deposited and used for ongoing maintenance of the new ministry support center at 300 East Beltline NE.
- Established a \$2 million line of credit in order to be prepared to sustain ministry should there be an unexpected drop in financial support.
- Appointed Dan DeKam to fill a vacant position on the joint management committee.

- Received a joint ministry agreement report and addendum for information.
- Spent time discussing the financial report and trends in U.S. giving.

**ReFrame Ministries U.S. Board**

- Received a report from ReFrame director Kurt Selles including an update on a new strategy.
- Received financial statements for information.
- Received a report from the joint management committee.
- Approved joint management approval documents.

**For more information, please contact:**

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