



**2020 ANNUAL MINISTRY REPORT**

# Ministry Reimagined



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**T**he COVID-19 pandemic has forced us all to question many things in our lives that we once took for granted—how and where we work, what school looks like, how we greet and talk to each other, even what we wear when we go into the grocery store.

The church is not exempt. In fact, I'd argue that churches have been affected by COVID-19 as much as, if not more than, anything else.

Before the pandemic, the core of most local church activity was the physical building. It was where services were held, where young people gathered for programming, and where community outreach began. When COVID-19 forced those buildings to close their doors, leaders and members had to rethink what their church was about and how to do ministry.

Was church limited to Sunday worship services? If so, could social media broadcasts or video recordings replace what physical gatherings could offer? And if church was about more than worship, how could we continue to be community and do mission when the pandemic prevented us from being together?

Similar questions emerged at the classis and denominational levels. What are the core things that we believe God has called us to do together, and how can we accomplish those things in new ways, given our current realities? In the midst of all

this, we've also been faced with numerous instances of racial injustice and an increased call to do something about it.

It has been a challenging year as we have navigated these difficult questions individually and corporately. We have faced grief and loss. There have been financial hardships. We have debated and argued with each other.

But we've also been reminded that church is much more than a building or a collection of buildings. The church of Jesus Christ is a group of redeemed people on mission with God in the world.

We have found new ways to tap into the Holy Spirit, to discern where God is calling us, and to creatively pursue this mission. On the following pages, you'll read reports from the ministries of the Christian Reformed Church in North America. I hope that as you read about ways that ministry has been reimagined in order to continue God's kingdom work, you'll see yourselves as key partners in all of it.



Colin Watson, Sr., is the executive director of the Christian Reformed Church in North America.

*Each photo in this annual ministry report represents a story of impact made possible through the power of the Holy Spirit and the work and support of people in the Christian Reformed Church in North America. Visit [crcna.org/MinistryReport](https://crcna.org/MinistryReport) to read those stories and to learn more.*

[crcna.org/MinistryReport](https://crcna.org/MinistryReport)



People in Indonesia are accessing gospel-based online programs during the pandemic.

## Back to God Ministries International (ReFrame Ministries)

Back to God Ministries International (BTGMI) is the worldwide media ministry of the CRCNA. (This year we also adopted a new name, ReFrame Ministries, that we will begin using in 2021.) Together with your church, we are spreading the gospel in ten of the world’s major languages—even in the midst of a pandemic.

Using technology and media, we carry out our mission to

- proclaim that Jesus Christ is Lord.
- help followers of Jesus grow in faith.
- strengthen the church.

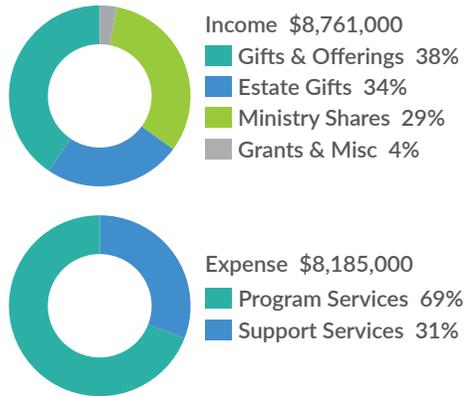
### Highlights

COVID-19 caused unprecedented economic disruption, but it also created many new opportunities for media ministry. Christian Reformed churches and members have shared the good news of the gospel with people who have been hearing nothing but bad news all year. In

2020 the CRC’s prayers, offerings, and ministry shares worked through BTGMI to

- reach 55 countries through radio, TV, and print and nearly every country online.
- send 233,000 devotional emails daily.
- reach about 502,511 people with online videos every month.
- cultivate a community of 7,000 prayer warriors.

### BackToGod.net



Called to be witnesses of Christ’s kingdom to the ends of the earth, we start and strengthen local churches and ministries in North America and around the world.



Lourdes, a pastor in Nicaragua, is one of many people worldwide who are supported by Resonate missionaries.

## Resonate Global Mission

Resonate Global Mission equips the Christian Reformed Church to reach out to their neighbors, around the corner and around the world. Although this year has brought unprecedented ministry challenges, we have hope as our staff and partners around the world respond, adapt, and continue to make God’s mission a priority.

Resonate partners with Christians in more than 40 countries who minister to people of different faiths and cultures. Thanks to your support, the good news of Jesus is going out like an expanding, amplifying sound around the world!

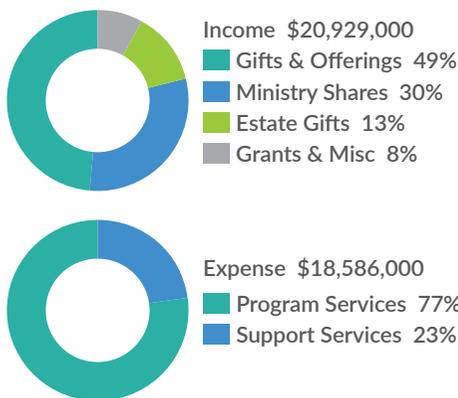
Here at home, we help our churches discover God’s plan for their communities and join in. Each congregation and each one of us has a role to play in God’s mission, and Resonate wants to help you respond to God’s call.

Although we do not yet know all the ways COVID-19 will affect the mission fields where your missionaries, church planters, campus ministers, and other mission workers are serving, what we do know is that we are making it a priority to keep them safe and keep them on the field. Gospel mission is essential, and together with you we will continue to build God’s church worldwide. Thank you for your prayers and support!

### Highlights

- More than 7,900 new believers coming to faith in Christ in the past year
- More than 125 missionaries and 160 volunteers serving in over 40 countries
- Partnering with 43 new churches in North America, 5 new partnerships in the past year
- Supporting 34 campus ministries that serve 42 different campuses
- Providing ministries and churches with training, coaching, resources, education, and funding

### [ResonateGlobalMission.org](https://ResonateGlobalMission.org)





As a community of believers, we seek to introduce people to Jesus Christ and to nurture their faith through all ages and stages of life.

## Calvin University

Founded by the Christian Reformed Church, Calvin University is a top-rated Christian liberal arts institution that equips and empowers its nearly 3,300 students and 65,000 alumni to pursue truth and inquire with intellect.

Through the integration of faith and rigorous academic study in more than 100 subject areas, students are equipped to think deeply, to act justly, and to live wholeheartedly as Christ’s agents of renewal in the world. That mission has stood the test of time, and Calvin’s exciting new vision is already extending the reach of that mission to new audiences through new programming.

Together with you, over the next decade Calvin aspires to expand its global influence and be seen as a trusted partner for learning across religious and cultural differences, and throughout the academy, the church, and the world. Discover more at [calvin.edu](http://calvin.edu).

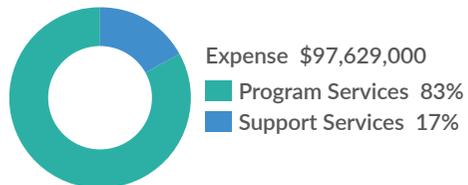
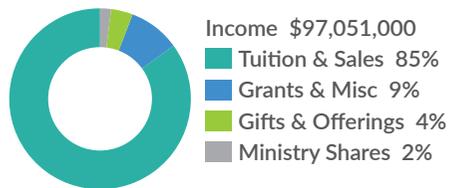
### Highlights

- Added new master of arts programs in media and strategic communication, as well as geographic information science
- Received a \$22.25 million gift to launch the Calvin University School of Business—the first school in the new university structure
- Received an \$11 million gift that will deepen the institution’s commitment

to teach from a Reformed Christian perspective and expand its ability to shape Reformed Christian thought and leadership around the world

- Partnered with Calvin Theological Seminary to offer a series of more than 20 three-week courses that helped participants ages 17-90 from all over the world to think about what it means to be “A Christian Witness in a COVID-Shaped World”
- More than 18,800 alumni, parents, friends, faculty, staff, and students financially contributed to the work of Calvin University throughout the 2020 fiscal year. Combined, their generosity resulted in a record-breaking \$64.3 million in gifts and new pledges to Calvin.

### Calvin.edu





Youth leaders at “Growing Young” workshop, Bethany CRC, Bellflower, California.

## Faith Formation Ministries

Faith Formation Ministries (FFM) encourages and equips local Christian Reformed ministry leaders in their calling to shape lifelong faith formation. Together we seek for all generations to have intentional and resilient faith. To do this, FFM forms partnerships with CRC pastors and ministry leaders, serving them by listening, developing relationships, and providing coaching and resources to help congregations build a framework for lifelong faith formation that fits their unique setting.

### Highlights

- Partnered with Disability Concerns to develop the *Third Third of Life Toolkit*, a collection of free online resources for ministry to and with people ages 55 and over
- Hosted or participated in 103 workshops and events, in which over 200 churches were represented
- Curated resource webpages to help families and church leaders adapt to new methods of church in a pandemic reality; began offering online workshops and webinars for CRC churches and small groups
- The family faith formation resource *Everyday Family Faith*, now also available

in Korean, passed the 5,000-copies-sold mark

- Created many new *Dwell at Home* resources for family faith formation, including *Jesse Tree: God’s Big Advent Story* and *God’s Big Easter Story: A Holy Week Journey for Families* to assist families in exploring the Advent and Holy Week stories at home, as well as a series of topical tip sheets for parents called *5 Ways*
- Made *Dwell Digital* free to CRCs, allowing leaders to share lessons with parents during COVID-19 closings
- Received over \$28,000 in funding for *Dwell Labs*, an online space where current *Dwell* users can try out new curriculum activities and share feedback and ideas

[crcna.org/FaithFormation](https://crcna.org/FaithFormation)

*Finances are included in the Congregational Services chart on page 22.*



Calvin Seminary Gathering: Our students represent 26 countries around the world.

## Calvin Theological Seminary

Since 1876, Calvin Theological Seminary has worked on your behalf to faithfully prepare leaders who can nurture disciples and serve the church. Calvin Seminary is a learning community in the Reformed Christian tradition.

Our desire is not just to train pastors but also to form church leaders who can cultivate communities of disciples for Jesus Christ.

Currently Calvin Seminary has around 300 students. In addition, the school hosts a number of classes, weekly community events, chapel services, conferences, lectures, and other learning opportunities.

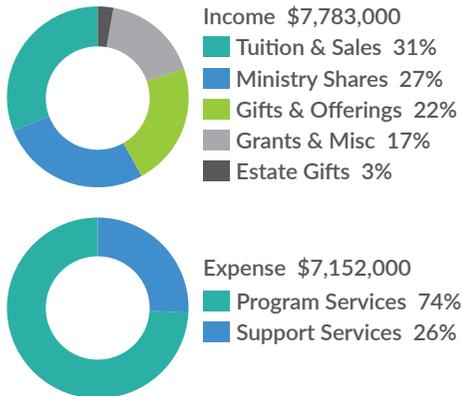
### Highlights

- May 23, 2020, marked the original Calvin Theological Seminary Commencement date. The COVID-19 pandemic may have caused us to change the format for this event, but it could not prevent us from celebrating 61 graduates who came from Brazil, Canada, China, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Kenya, South Korea, and the United States.
- Created the first-ever Virtual Celebration of Graduates Commencement video: [vimeo.com/420427114](https://vimeo.com/420427114)
- Held the third biennial Loving Your Neighbor Conference on July 6-7, 2020, focused on “Forming Citizens of God’s Kingdom in Prison and upon Reentry.” The conference became a virtual event,

and the proceedings can be found here: [vimeo.com/showcase/7340817](https://vimeo.com/showcase/7340817).

- Launched two fully online master of arts programs: MA in Ministry Leadership and MA in Bible and Theology. These join other Distance Learning options, which include Master of Divinity, Master of Theological Studies, and the same MA programs offered in the hybrid-distance format (usually requiring one week on campus each semester).
- Welcomed the first cohort of students to be accepted into the new Doctor of Ministry (D.Min.) degree program, led by Dr. Danjuma Gibson and Dr. Geoff Vandermolen.
- Welcomed the first two students to an expanded Ph.D. degree program for New Testament and saw Dr. Jeffrey A.D. Weima Identified as the Deppe Family Doctoral Chair in New Testament.

### CalvinSeminary.edu



Believing that faith comes through the hearing of God’s Word, we proclaim the saving message of Jesus Christ and seek to worship him in all that we do.



Praying for the Zuni nation and God's mission there.

## Worship Ministries

Enriched by a great diversity of ethnicities, communities, styles, and gifts, Worship Ministries supports and strengthens biblically grounded and theologically Reformed worship in the Christian Reformed Church in North America. This work depends on the vital efforts of the following:

- 7 volunteer regional and advisory team members
- 14 endorsed coaches available for one-on-one coaching, church consultations, or workshops, in person or online
- 2.3 full-time equivalent staff members, willing and ready to serve however we can

### Highlights

- 157 attendees at the Church Sound Bootcamp, held in Byron Center, Mich.
- 82 attendees at Telling God's Story: A Day of Learning and Inspiration for Worshipers, Leaders, Musicians, and Preachers, held in Hamilton, Ont., and co-sponsored by Worship Ministries and the Presbyterian Church of Canada
- 58 peer-learning book group participants
- 11 certificates in Worship Leadership granted to CRC worship leaders
- 44 new Network posts

- 10 new webinars presented, with 136 live participants and accessed an additional 2,400 times. A total of 27 webinars are available 24/7 on our YouTube channel: [tinyurl.com/TrainCRCworship](https://tinyurl.com/TrainCRCworship)
- 510 members in the CRC Worship Ministries' Facebook group
- 1,815 subscribers to Reformed Worship's print and/or digital edition. 517 subscribers indicate they are members of the CRCNA. The remaining subscribers come from a diversity of denominations from 13 different countries.
- 8,877 monthly Reformed Worship enews subscribers
- 5,490 Reformed Worship Facebook followers from 45 different countries
- 455,959 unique visitors to [ReformedWorship.org](https://ReformedWorship.org) from over 140 countries

[crcna.org/Worship](https://crcna.org/Worship)  
[ReformedWorship.org](https://ReformedWorship.org)

*Finances are included in the Congregational Services chart on page 22.*



## Candidacy Committee

The Candidacy Committee is charged with facilitating, coordinating, and offering leadership in the ordination processes for pastors in the Christian Reformed Church.

### Highlights

- Endorsed 60 persons as eligible for call as candidates (including 36 first-time candidates)
- Consulted and partnered with ministries and regional leaders in facilitating the ordination transfer of fifteen persons who were previously ordained in other settings, and in the ordination of over 40 persons beginning work as commissioned pastors.
- Working in partnership with Calvin Theological Seminary to refine the program toward candidacy in the CRC for those who attend seminaries other than Calvin Seminary. Descriptions of these developments are offered in the Agenda for Synod 2020.
- Continued and ongoing development of orientation programs for an increasing variety of ethnic minority groups and leaders affiliating with the CRC.

[crcna.org/Candidacy](https://crcna.org/Candidacy)

*Finances are included in the Congregational Services chart on page 22.*

## Diversity

This has been an interesting year, to say the least. Yet we have continued the work of supporting, encouraging, and developing the gifts of people of the CRC among African American, First Nations, Chinese, Korean, Latino, and Southeast Asian/Pacific Islander ethnic groups.

We acknowledge the leadership of Rev. Denise Posie, who began this ministry. She retired from this ministry work in June.

### Highlights

- Southeast Asian/Pacific Islander leaders held a conference in Chicago to hear visitation reports of the various churches in North America and to develop ministries toward young people and home countries.
- Praying together over Zoom with ethnic leaders for encouragement during the COVID-19 pandemic
- Many ethnic-minority churches received assistance from the Church Engagement Fund to help bivocational pastors hit hard by the pandemic-induced closings of in-person Sunday services
- Working with Resonate Global Mission to align goals to assist ethnic-minority and diaspora ministries and leaders in North America

[crcna.org/Diversity](https://crcna.org/Diversity)

*Finances are included in the Congregational Services chart on page 22.*

Understanding that the lifelong equipping of leaders is essential for churches and ministries to flourish, we identify, recruit, and train leaders to be servants in the kingdom of God.



Since March, chaplains are gathering together each week to provide prayer, support and resources.

## Chaplaincy and Care Ministry

Chaplaincy and Care Ministry endorses 153 chaplains throughout the United States and Canada—in the military, health care, workplaces, and many other areas—serving people in crisis or in spiritual distress. Through training, support, and advocacy, Chaplaincy and Care Ministry empowers chaplains to extend the love of Christ to broken places, encouraging the lonely, listening to the unheard, and comforting the grieving.

Chaplains make up 10 percent of CRC ordained clergy, serving in 34 states and provinces and on five overseas military bases, providing ministry to an estimated 2 million people annually.

This past fiscal year, Chaplaincy and Care Ministry recruited and advised 275 students, pastors, and applicants for chaplaincy ministry, making six college and seminary visits and arranging 66 personal meetings.

Chaplains are specially trained, called, and ordained by the church, and they are sent by Jesus Christ to provide spiritual care to people in pain or spiritual distress beyond the walls of the church. Chaplaincy and Care Ministry supports these special people and their families in the following ways:

- Assisting candidates through their education and/or specialized training

- Providing continuing education through conferences, ministry updates, and shared information
- Promoting chaplaincy and educating the church about institutional ministry
- Administering the Chaplain Development Fund, which assists current and aspiring chaplains as they meet educational needs
- Much more

### Highlights

- Endorsed 12 new chaplains for ministry in institutions and organizations
- Assisted 275 students, pastors, and lay leaders discerning a call into chaplaincy ministry
- Provided \$15,861 in chaplaincy training grants, enabling nine chaplains to complete 3,600 hours of specialized chaplaincy training
- Hosted 137 chaplains and students at the three-day Annual Chaplains Training event
- Organized over 25 weekly video meetings, where 15-30 chaplains gathered at a time for prayer, support, and resource sharing

[crcna.org/Chaplaincy](https://crcna.org/Chaplaincy)

*Finances are included in the Congregational Services chart on page 22.*



During COVID-19, churches used denominational support in life-giving ways, such as providing food ministries in their communities.

## Pastor Church Resources

Pastor Church Resources (PCR) serves pastors, churches, and classes as they seek to promote healthy relationships, encourage one another in ministry, and discern next steps in seasons of growth, transition, or challenge.

PCR also promotes healthy ministry, especially in seasons of transition or challenge. During the COVID-19 pandemic, it has offered guidance and resources to congregations navigating difficult times. It has also provided churches direct assistance through the Financial Shalom program, which alleviates financial challenges facing CRCNA congregations and pastors. The CRCNA's COVID-19 Church Engagement Fund, created in response to the pandemic, has sent grants to around 140 churches struggling to pay their bills.

### Highlights

- Almost 100 churches accessed PastorSearch—a process that helps churches find pastors.
- Over 375 consultations, ranging from continuing education seminars to in-depth conversations about challenging situations, have taken place this year.
- The Crossroads Discernment Toolkit is a new resource available on the PCR website. This user-friendly resource can also be used by churches in any season of critical discernment.
- About 85 pastors and ministry leaders benefited from a vocational ministry assessment.
- 123 pastors and churches were supported by the Financial Shalom program through grants to pastors for salary supplements and to churches for COVID-19 relief.
- A church visitor cohort, with 13 participants from nine different classes, gathered to engage in fresh ways of supporting the churches in their region.
- Thriving Together has launched individual mentoring relationships for pastors in transition.
- Over 15 churches worked with a Specialized Transitional Minister as they determined next steps for their congregation.
- Plans for recognizing the 25th anniversary of women's ordination in the CRCNA were set in motion.

[crcna.org/PCR](https://crcna.org/PCR)

*Finances are included in the Congregational Services chart on page 22.*



TLT's COVID manual is explored and implemented in SE Asia.

## Raise Up Global Ministries

People change and transform when learning opportunities are personalized and practical. The programs of Raise Up—a partnership of Global Coffee Break, Timothy Leadership Training, and Educational Care—equip global church and school leaders with tools for effective learning and life change through Bible discovery, action plans for kingdom-oriented change, and hands-on learning.

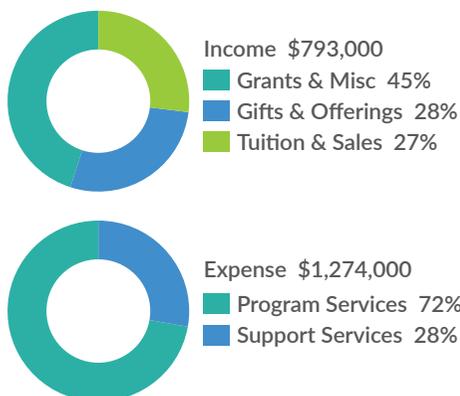
These well-loved programs equip small groups, pastors, and educators with interactive materials and training to adapt and facilitate effective learning and Christ-focused transformation.

### Highlights

- Hired Juan Sierra as Coffee Break program manager
- Translated *Loving Your Neighbor in the COVID-19 Pandemic* into 23 languages and distributed this study to over 200 partner organizations so that thousands of people could safely put their faith into action

- Korean Coffee Break helped 8 groups move to Zoom-based training online during the COVID-19 pandemic. English and Spanish workshops followed their lead and have planned monthly online workshops.
- Provided 269 Timothy Leadership trainings to 3,272 people in 36 countries
- Provided 35 Educational Care trainings to 713 teachers in 12 countries

### [RaiseUpGlobal.org](https://RaiseUpGlobal.org)



*Note: Raise Up relies on gifts and offerings to support its work and does not receive ministry shares.*



Participants in a Faith In Action advocacy workshop.

## Centre for Public Dialogue (Canada)

Directed by the Committee for Contact with the Government, the Centre for Public Dialogue has entered its 51st year. We are Reformed Christians who believe that every person is created in the image of Creator God. From this foundation, we work to promote the flourishing of all people through dialogue and advocacy in Canada. We do careful research and engage in conversation with affected communities, church members, and politicians to formulate constructive ideas and advocate for policies that promote the good of all people.

Practically, we speak into three primary issues: refugee justice, Indigenous justice, and climate change. This involves meeting with members of government, partnerships with other justice organizations, educational church workshops, and equipping church members to work with their representatives.

Our main office sits around the corner from Parliament Hill in Ottawa, Ont., on unceded Algonquin territory.

### Highlights

- To encourage engaged citizenship during the national election, we put together a question series to help folks play an

active role in the election. Over 5,000 people accessed our election resources.

- Do Justice readers connected with us from every Canadian province and territory, including 6 readers from Nunavut.
- Cindy Stover, justice mobilizer, met with over 60 churches through workshops and presentations across Canada and has continued to connect with churches digitally during the pandemic.
- Over the course of this year we've interacted with more than 40 Members of Parliament in meetings, public events, and correspondence.
- We cohosted a climate-awareness lecture series titled Understanding Our Climate Crisis. The lectures were livestreamed so that people across the country could participate.
- We resourced churches to respond to legislative changes to Medical Assistance in Dying in collaboration with Disability Concerns.

[crcna.org/PublicDialogue](https://crcna.org/PublicDialogue)

*Finances are included in the Congregational Services chart on page 22.*

Hearing the cries of the oppressed, forsaken, and disadvantaged, we seek to act justly and love mercy as we walk humbly with our God.



Phillip and his late sister Sheryl, attending Chelwood CRC, Albuquerque, NM.

## Disability Concerns

With your support and on your behalf, Disability Concerns collaborates with the Reformed Church in America (RCA) Disability Concerns ministry toward a shared goal: helping CRC and RCA churches deepen as communities in which everybody belongs and everybody serves. We work with churches, classes, and denominational ministries to help them create spaces designed with full inclusion in mind, not only looking at ways to create a physical space that is accessible but also eliminating communication and attitudinal barriers.

### Highlights

- In response to the global pandemic, our annual leadership training for volunteers and church leaders shifted online this year. This agile response to the pandemic offered some wonderful benefits. Cost to attend was free and open to our entire disability community. We praise God that 89 people from Canada, United States, Hungary, and Kenya attended in August, and many more continue to have access to the recordings and other resources online.
- Disability Concerns continues to support our volunteer network of nearly 450 Church and Regional Disability Advocates as they work within their communities and congregations to create more accessible spaces - both attitudinally and physically.
- With the significant shift to online platforms to connect and communicate, especially now during the pandemic, Disability Concerns continues to build our social media presence to expand and strengthen our network of advocates and provide current information from the disability community.
- Disability Concerns worked with CRC and RCA people who have no/low vision to develop resources to encourage others to create more welcoming and accessible spaces and events.

[crcna.org/Disability](https://crcna.org/Disability)  
[rca.org/Disability](https://rca.org/Disability)

*Finances are included in the Congregational Services chart on page 22.*



Charles Muting'a, recipient of a Race Relations scholarship (with wife, Eunice).

## Office of Race Relations

The Office of Race Relations advocates for leadership in CRC congregations, classes, and denominational agencies to eliminate systemic and individual racism within the body of Christ and society. Race Relations seeks the kingdom of God, which laments over the injustices of racism, celebrates the diversity of God's family, and advances the biblical vision of beloved community that is central to our denominational vision.

Nearing its 50th year, the ministry facilitates leadership planning, training, workshops, and resources to increase the missional effectiveness of congregations in numerous ways, including All Nations Heritage Week celebration services; the *RACISM: Looking Back, Moving Forward* workshop (U.S.); *The Art of Re-membering* workshop (Canada); partnership with Congregations Organizing for Racial Reconciliation (CORR); and the *History of Whiteness* workshop.

### Highlights

- Consulted with 25 congregations seeking anti-racism assistance
- Worked with seven classis leadership teams to increase awareness of and commitment to integrate race relations work in church mission
- Expanded readership of the Race Relations newsletter
- Restructured the Race Relations newsletter to provide most articles in Spanish and English
- Cosponsored a Stand against Racism online event, attended by 122 participants
- Awarded Race Relations scholarships totaling \$14,000 to seven students from Calvin University, Calvin Theological Seminary, and Trinity Christian College

[crcna.org/Race](http://crcna.org/Race)

*Finances are included in the Congregational Services chart on page 22.*



Sharing smiles and bikes at the Indigenous Christian Fellowship.

## Indigenous Ministry (Canada)

The CRCNA's Indigenous Ministry is made up of a national committee (Canadian Indigenous Ministry Committee), three Urban Indigenous Ministries, and a justice and reconciliation mobilizer, each using their strengths to support healing and reconciliation between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples in Canada.

The Canadian Indigenous Ministry Committee (CIMC) works with CRC members and congregations to respond to God's call to live in reconciled relationships as covenant (treaty) people before our Creator. CIMC provides leadership and support for learning about Indigenous justice and reconciliation. The justice and reconciliation mobilizer, Shannon Perez, provides staff support for this committee and facilitates communication within the Indigenous Ministry, congregations, and other agencies where common justice concerns are shared.

The urban ministries—Indigenous Family Centre (Winnipeg, Man.), Indigenous Christian Fellowship (Regina, Sask.), and Edmonton (Alta.) Native Healing Centre—each strive to create a space where Indigenous peoples can feel safe, valued, and respected to use their gifts and to grow in the grace and knowledge of Christ through an Indigenous cultural lens.

### Highlights

- Indigenous Ministry Sunday was celebrated by approximately 150 churches across Canada. Prayers, liturgies, and song lists compiled by the committee supported these congregations.
- Justice and Reconciliation Mobilizer Shannon Perez facilitated 11 KAIROS Blanket Exercises and other workshops.
- At the Indigenous Family Centre, rich relationships are being developed, with kids attending camps both after school and during the summer. Other relationships have flourished through approximately 142 craft circles.
- Mental-health counselors at the Edmonton Native Healing Centre met with 576 people. Food distributions included the provision of 484 food hampers and 2,016 bowls of soup on Wednesdays.
- During the three months of April, May, and June, the Indigenous Christian Fellowship provided coffee and snacks to 2,183 visitors; soup and bannock each Wednesday noon to 576 people; and family breakfasts for 689 people. Additionally, ICF volunteers prepared around 5,000 sandwiches to be included in daily food bags distributed in downtown Regina.

[crcna.org/Indigenous](https://crcna.org/Indigenous)

*Finances are included in the Congregational Services chart on page 22.*



Screenshots from screenings of *The Story of Plastic* held across the country.

## Office of Social Justice

The Office of Social Justice (OSJ) works to educate and equip congregations to be advocates—standing alongside people hindered and oppressed by unjust policies and practices and joining with them in seeking change. This work complements the evangelism, development, and relational ministry work that the denomination has long invested in, giving us a way to ensure that the CRC's love of neighbor spans the breadth of Scripture's call, from charity to justice.

OSJ focuses on changing systems that are critical to the wider ministries of the church (such as helping churches speak up for just policies that mitigate the moral crisis of climate change, or helping churches advocate for criminal justice reform as they assist people reintegrating to society after prison) and to our Christian witness amid current events (such as advocating for the admission of greater numbers of refugees to the U.S. and Canada).

Since OSJ's beginning, this has meant working on issues connected to hunger and poverty and, more recently, attending to issues assigned by synod.

### Highlights

- Over 11,000 advocacy actions taken
- 42 workshops in congregations on U.S. immigration
- 290 Climate Witness Partner churches addressing climate change and living by example as stewards of creation
- Over 70,000 visits to our Do Justice blog, up from 44,000 in 2019
- 317 churches supported with resources for their Sanctity of Human Life Sunday worship services
- Over 3,700 subscribers to justice-themed Advent Devotions, up from 3,500 in 2019
- Over 3,000 subscribers interceding for people facing injustice through our weekly prayer prompts

[crcna.org/Justice](https://crcna.org/Justice)

*Finances are included in the Congregational Services chart on page 22.*



## Safe Church Ministry

Safe Church Ministry equips congregations in abuse awareness, prevention, and response. We work with Safe Church Coordinators and leaders within churches, providing training and resources for them to carry out the work of safe church ministry, which looks different in different contexts.

Our goal is to build faith-nurturing communities where the value of each person is protected and respected. This means actively working to eliminate all forms of abuse. We provide consultation and support in abuse prevention and response at all levels and encourage ongoing growth of our ministry within the denomination.

### Highlights

- Offered a Safe Church 2020 Webinar Series, called *Connect, Collaborate and Coordinate to End Abuse*. We increased the frequency of our webinars in response to the isolation caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. Several were recorded to use as future resources.
- Offered online book studies on Ruth Everhart's *The #MeToo Reckoning* and Chuck DeGroat's *When Narcissism Comes to Church*
- Helped to implement recommendations adopted by Synod 2019 regarding

Addressing Abuse of Power in the CRC. Safe Church Ministry, Pastor Church Resources, Candidacy, Calvin Theological Seminary, and Calvin University worked together to develop a code of conduct and online training for pastors. This training will be piloted as a requirement for new pastors entering into ordained ministry. The code of conduct will apply to ordained pastors, elders, and deacons. Work continues on other recommendations.

- Sponsored a one-day training for about 40 denominational employees in Grand Rapids, Mich., as well as a two-day training with a local church on restorative practices. The principles and framework of Restorative practices apply equally well to the office environment and to congregations. Safe Church is working collaboratively with others in developing an initiative to increase the use of restorative practices, which have so much potential to deepen relationships and repair harm in a variety of contexts within the CRC.

[crcna.org/SafeChurch](https://crcna.org/SafeChurch)

*Finances are included in the Congregational Services chart on page 22.*



## World Renew

Because of your involvement, prayers, and financial support, World Renew walked alongside Christian leaders from 76 denominations and Christian outreach organizations in 2020. To respond quickly and effectively to the coronavirus pandemic, World Renew shifted its focus to assist people who are most affected, and we continue to prayerfully adjust our interventions as the COVID-19 outbreak unfolds.

World Renew offered opportunities of hope to people in developing countries who participated in long-term community development programs, making positive, permanent changes in community health, food security, economic opportunity, and peace and justice.

We also assisted people in distress from disasters, including those caused by war, drought, famine, hurricanes, earthquakes, and COVID-19. This support consisted of emergency food assistance, shelter, seeds and tools, economic recovery, sanitation and hygiene supplies, and clean water.

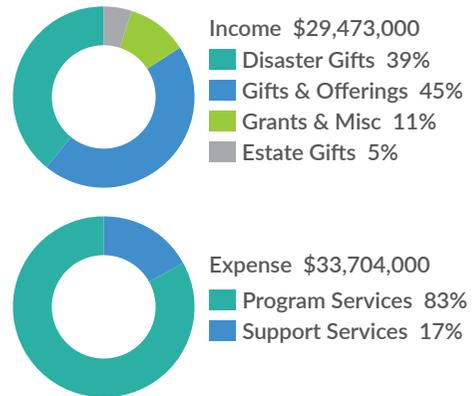
### Highlights

- 274,495 participants improved their lives through community development programs supported by 76 denominational and Christian partners in 1,226 communities and 21 countries worldwide.
- 1,132,433 survivors of violence, drought, flooding, and storms benefited

from disaster-response programs in 29 countries.

- 338 Christian Reformed congregations in the U.S. and Canada engaged in biblical justice and advocacy action.
- World Renew DRS contacted 994 disaster-affected households to assess their needs and repaired or rebuilt 214 damaged homes.
- With your support, World Renew helped 147 refugees resettle in Canada, and 42 sponsoring groups submitted new sponsorship applications for 178 refugees.

### WorldRenew.net



*Note: World Renew relies on gifts and offerings to support its work and does not receive ministry shares. Facts, figures, and financial data are preliminary. To find out more, please visit [worldrenew.net](http://worldrenew.net) in the U.S. or [worldrenew.ca](http://worldrenew.ca) in Canada.*



## Faith Alive Christian Resources

Under the Faith Alive Christian Resources imprint, the CRC offers quality resources that engage learners in ways that are relevant and Reformed.

In the past year, Faith Alive saw the providential timing of the launch of *Dwell Digital*, which provides convenient online access to all of the *Dwell* curriculum leader resources for multiple users in congregations, which proved helpful during COVID-19.

Faith Alive also added a new children's curriculum segment, *Dwell Flex*, to specifically respond to the needs of children's ministries amid the complex times of COVID-19 imposed restrictions. The simple one-page lessons are flexible and work across a wide range of ages and within a variety of settings: over video, online, at church, and in homes. Thanks to ministry shares, *Dwell Flex* and *Dwell Digital* are free for CRCs.

### Highlights

- 52 percent of Faith Alive curriculum sales came from outside of the CRC.
- 173 churches subscribed to *Dwell Digital* in its first year.
- 3,152 subscribers now receive our *Dwelling* newsletter.
- 7,694 subscribers receive Faith Alive News.

[FaithAliveResources.org](https://FaithAliveResources.org)

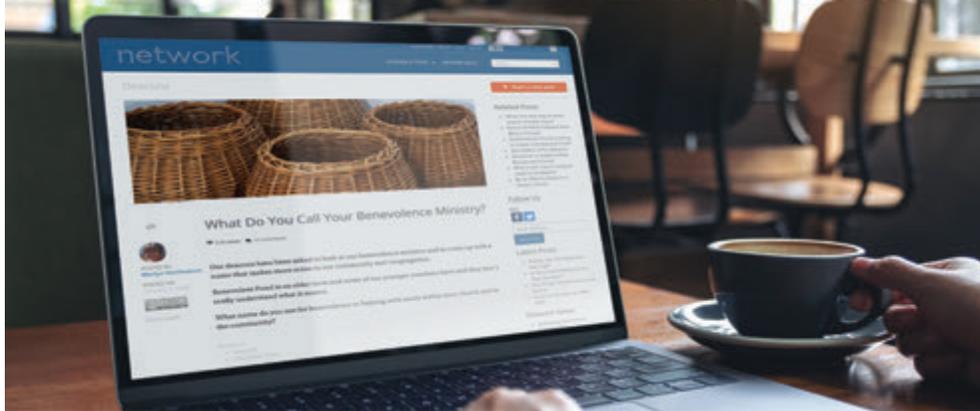
## The Banner

As the official magazine of the CRCNA, *The Banner* continues to enjoy a wide and diverse readership in print and online at [thebanner.org](https://thebanner.org). *The Banner* provides a forum for information, ideas, and fresh insights to equip readers young and old to be biblically rooted ambassadors of Christ's reconciliation in today's world.

### Highlights

- Received 5 awards from the Evangelical Press Association and 10 awards from the Associated Church Press
- Partnered with the Center for Public Justice for a six-part online series, "Hope for the Politically Homeless," exploring the topic of political divisiveness in North America
- Nearly 3,500 people have downloaded the free *Banner* app for mobile devices, which allows readers easy and instant access to *Banner* content, including online-only content, and more.
- Posted Spanish and Korean translations of *The Banner's* editorials and "The View from Here" column online
- Distributed more than 75,000 print copies, had 4,500 weekly email subscribers, and saw a monthly average of more than 50,000 unique online website visitors

[TheBanner.org](https://TheBanner.org)



## The Network

*The Network* celebrated a milestone this year—its 10th birthday!

Launched on February 8, 2010, *The Network* has grown to become one of the CRC's most-visited and most-interacted-with websites. We are excited to see more and more church members coming to the site to find practical help and encouragement.

Here are some of the top ways people are engaging:

- asking and responding to questions on children's ministry, worship, deacons, and more
- sharing resources such as books, websites, activities, sample policies, and more
- browsing and sharing church positions (no charge to post and tons of visibility)

*Network* usage has jumped up this year as churches have relied heavily on the site during COVID-19 imposed closings and restrictions. Pageviews are up 44 percent, averaging around 120,000 views each month. In addition, comments are up nearly 50 percent, and ministry questions are up 35 percent.

It's been encouraging to see churches come together in creative ways—sharing tips on streaming worship, electronic giving, navigating difficult conversations, connecting with youth, and so much more.

*The Network* is also a place to share and compare notes on topics such as racial reconciliation, safe church policies, disability concerns, and faith nurture. You'll find resource roundups and opportunities for discussion by ministry leaders and local church folks.

[crcna.org/Network](https://crcna.org/Network)



Worship Ministries Advisory and guests praying for Red Mesa classis.

## Congregational Services

The CRCNA's 12 Congregational Services ministries exist as an extension of the ministries of the local church:

### Faith Formation

- Faith Formation Ministries

### Gospel Proclamation and Worship

- Worship Ministries

### Mercy and Justice

- Disability Concerns
- Office of Social Justice
- Race Relations
- Safe Church Ministry
- Indigenous Ministries (Canada)
- Centre for Public Dialogue (Canada)

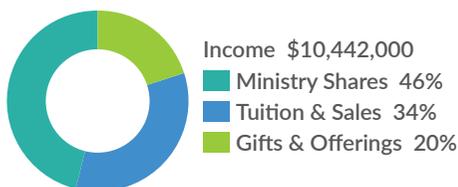
### Servant Leadership

- Candidacy Committee
- Chaplaincy and Care Ministry
- Diversity
- Pastor Church Resources

Our purpose is to be a resource to local congregations as we jointly pursue the great commandments and the Great Commission (Matt. 22:37-40; 28:19-20). We aim to develop, curate, and share processes, resources, and approaches consistent with our Reformed Christian accent in a way that is easily accessible, responsive, and in line with what local congregations are requesting.

As you interact with these services, we trust you will experience each of them as fully committed to your success in local ministry. We are committed to working as a team in providing this support. Regardless of which team member you call, with whatever issue, it is our goal that we fully understand the capabilities of each other so that we can walk alongside you as you discern and discover the most effective path for your need.

[crcna.org/Services](http://crcna.org/Services)



# Ministry Shares and Other Gift Income

The ministries of the Christian Reformed Church in North America that you've read about in this report are made possible, in part, through an innovative system known as ministry shares. The money you give for ministry shares provides over \$21 million each year to support programs that enable your church to send missionaries around the world, advocate on behalf of people with disabilities, foster faith formation in persons of all ages, train chaplains, use media to spread the gospel, and much more.

This past year, ministry-share gifts were down over \$1 million in comparison to the previous year and about \$1.4 million from anticipated receipts in the annual budget. Despite this decrease, ministry shares still generated \$20.3 million in revenue. Thank you. And thank you to all the churches, large and small, who continue to help provide this vital base of revenue.

In addition to ministry-share support, special church offerings and individual gifts (not including support for disaster-response projects) generated \$32.6 million for Christian Reformed Church ministries. This was down about \$300,000 from the prior year.

We are also grateful for all who have continued their commitment to ministry through bequests through their will or trust. In the past year, estate gifts provided \$7.4 million of generous support to our shared ministry.

In the wake of wars, refugee crises, food shortages, earthquakes, and hurricanes, World Renew received \$3.8 million in designated disaster-response funding from churches, members, and other supporters. In addition, World Renew received \$10.1 million in grants for their disaster-relief work.

	2019	2020
<b>Back to God Ministries Intl. (Reframe Ministries)</b>		
Ministry Shares	2,795,000	2,611,000
Gifts & Offerings	3,259,000	3,365,000
Estate Gifts	3,280,000	2,035,000
Grants/Misc	357,000	750,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>9,691,000</b>	<b>8,761,000</b>
<b>Calvin University</b>		
Ministry Shares	2,221,000	2,075,000
Gifts & Offerings	3,451,000	3,678,000
Tuition/Grants	97,978,000	91,298,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>103,650,000</b>	<b>97,051,000</b>
<b>Calvin Theological Seminary</b>		
Ministry Shares	2,277,000	2,143,000
Gifts & Offerings	1,365,000	1,330,000
Estate Gifts	171,000	198,000
Tuition/Grants	3,618,000	4,112,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>7,431,000</b>	<b>7,783,000</b>
<b>Resonate Global Mission</b>		
Ministry Shares	6,792,000	6,343,000
Gifts & Offerings	9,923,000	10,196,000
Estate Gifts	3,135,000	2,701,000
Grants/Misc	790,000	1,689,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>20,640,000</b>	<b>20,929,000</b>
<b>Raise Up Global Ministries</b>		
Gifts & Offerings	326,000	223,000
Tuition & Sales	474,000	211,000
Grants	294,000	359,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,094,000</b>	<b>793,000</b>
<b>World Renew</b>		
Gifts & Offerings	12,093,000	13,241,000
Disaster Gifts	12,318,000	11,503,000
Grants/Misc	3,035,000	3,208,000
Estate Gifts	5,397,000	1,521,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>32,843,000</b>	<b>29,473,000</b>
<b>Congregational Services</b>		
Ministry Shares	4,960,000	4,812,000
Gifts & Offerings	1,442,000	2,105,000
Estate Gifts	2,000	0
Sales/Misc	4,894,000	3,525,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>11,298,000</b>	<b>10,442,000</b>
<b>Denominational Services</b>		
Ministry Shares	2,300,000	2,283,000
Gifts & Offerings	306,000	0
Grants/Misc	1,617,000	4,411,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,223,000</b>	<b>6,694,000</b>
<b>Special Assistance Fund</b>		
Ministry Shares	233,000	218,000
Grants/Miscellaneous	8,000	6,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>241,000</b>	<b>224,000</b>



## Our Journey Continues

Thank you for your partnership with the Christian Reformed Church in North America as together we strive to reimagine ministry and carry out the kingdom work to which God has called us. In the next five years, we believe that God is specifically calling us to grow in four key areas—namely, to become congregations and communities that

- **cultivate** practices of prayer and spiritual discipline.
- **listen** to the voices of every generation.
- **grow** in diversity and unity by seeking justice, reconciliation, and welcome.
- **share** the gospel, live it missionally, and plant new churches.

To learn more, or to take initial steps in your congregation, visit [crcna.org/OurJourney](https://crcna.org/OurJourney).



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Church

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