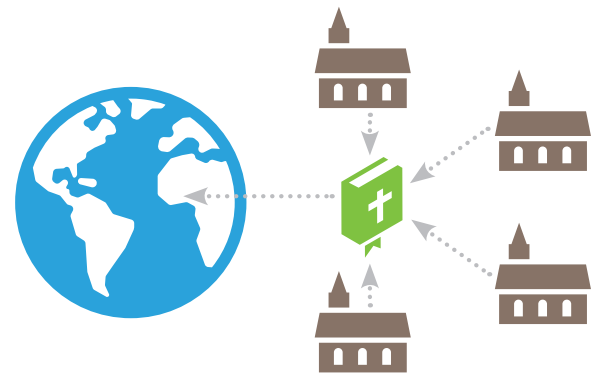


# A COVENANT OF SHARED MINISTRY

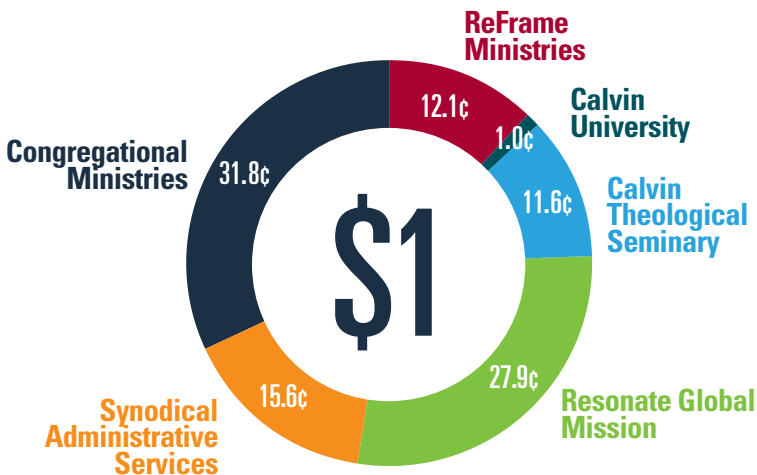
## What are ministry shares?

In 1862, Christian Reformed congregations recognized that some of the ministries to which Christ calls us can be difficult to do on our own. They covenanted to pool their resources in order to do more and greater ministry together.

This system, still implemented today, is very cost-effective and is a big reason why the CRC is able to support a range of ministry programs that is unparalleled for a denomination of our size.



## Where does the money go?



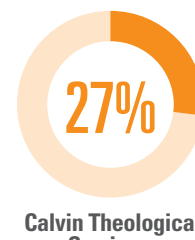
The Christian Reformed Church uses ministry shares to fund a variety of requested ministries both within North America and around the world. The vast majority of every dollar of ministry shares goes directly to ministry programs that start new churches, train servant leaders, support chaplains, resource congregations, and reach out to our neighbors through media and evangelism.

## Do ministry shares cover the whole cost of everything our denomination does?

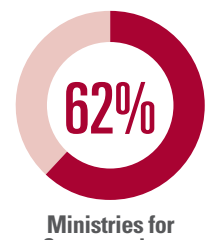
**NO,** but they are the foundation for much of it. Ministry shares provide about 29% of the budget for mission agencies (excluding World Renew), 27% for Calvin Theological Seminary, and an average of 62% for various ministries that support CRC congregations. World Renew does not receive ministry shares.



Mission Agencies



Calvin Theological Seminary



Ministries for Congregations

## How much should my congregation give?

Ministry shares are given as a faith promise pledge that is determined by each individual congregation. As an average, in order to maintain current levels of ministry, congregations should give approximately \$7 per active member per week.

**\$7 =  /wk**



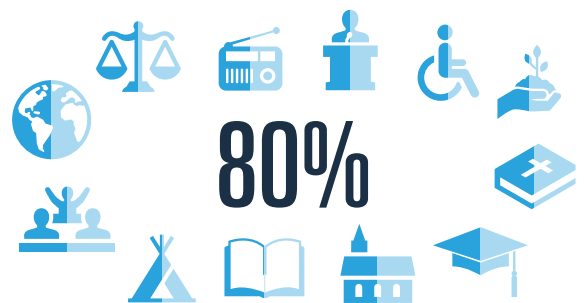
To determine their pledge, some congregations consider ministry shares as a tithe of their overall budget. Others look at how much they have given in the past and attempt to increase it modestly each year. Currently, the combined pledges of all congregations add up to \$18.4 million for ministry.

## What happens if my church doesn't give?

Over **80%** of CRCNA congregations are contributing to ministry shares in some way. This includes many of our emerging congregations and church plants. Please encourage your church to join them.

If churches don't participate, it means fewer funds are available for:

- Supporting new church plants
- Producing new resources for children's ministry
- Training new pastors and supporting those already in ministry
- Resourcing chaplains as they serve populations in crisis
- Producing resources to revitalize worship in congregations
- Equipping churches in abuse prevention, disability awareness, and racial reconciliation
- Sharing the gospel in new ministry fields



Ask your deacon, elder, or treasurer  
if your church is participating in shared ministry  
through the ministry shares program.