



March 16, 2020

To whom it may concern:

The Christian Reformed Church in North America (CRCNA) will be holding its annual Chaplains Training at the Prince Conference Center in Grand Rapids, Michigan, from September 24-26, 2020. Our training enables chaplains to collaborate with their peers, receive spiritual renewal, hone their skills, and implement best practices within their profession. We consider each chaplain's attendance at Chaplains Training critical for effective ministry and for continued ecclesiastical endorsement.

The theme of Chaplains Training 2020 is "Gathered at the Table: Human Sexuality and Intimacy in light of God's Mercy. Working in an array of institutions, chaplains care for the abused, the traumatized, and the forgotten. They see broken relationships, loneliness, and loss. Chaplains engage in a constantly changing landscape of how we talk about sexual identity.

As we talk about intimacy, we will learn from chaplains who are leaders in their field as they share their experience with trauma and post-traumatic growth. Rev. Dr. Mary Hulst, Calvin University Chaplain and writer of *A Little Handbook for Preacher*, will preach at our opening gathering. We will examine our own narratives and deepen our identities through the lens of Post-Traumatic Growth led by Alida van Dijk, PhD, RP and Rev. Joseph Kamphuis. Attendees will also be able to engage spiritual care tools for a variety of situations to provide meaningful and restorative spiritual care.

Regarding human sexuality, several speakers will present on practical tools and best practices. Speaker and therapist Erin Poole will present on the language we use, and lawyers from both the U.S. and Canada will talk about sexuality and gender identity through the lens of religious liberty and constitutional law. These conversations will equip chaplains to better serve diverse groups of people.

We are committed to ensuring that our training meets the spiritual needs of our chaplains and serves as an opportunity for professional development. By attending this training, participants will complete 13 hours of continuing education. We thank you for your consideration and for allowing your chaplain to attend this important denominational function. If you have any questions, please feel free to call our office (616) 224-0733 or visit our [event website](#) to learn more.

Sincerely,

Rev. Sarah Roelofs, Endorser
Director of Chaplaincy and Care Ministry for the Christian Reformed Church

1700 28th Street SE
Grand Rapids MI 49508-1407
616-241-1691
616-224-5895 fax

3475 Mainway
PO Box 5070 STN LCD I
Burlington ON L7R 3Y8
905-336-2920
905-336-8344 fax