



Dear people of God,

Our Journey 2020 is a visionary plan for the community of believers found in Christian Reformed churches all over the provinces, territories, states, and outposts of North America. Together, we seek to preserve the timeless core of our Reformed tradition, while at the same time striving to be “Reformed and always reforming.” We seek to answer God’s call by listening to the wisdom God has given all his people, and to care for the needs of all of Jesus’ vast and varied flock. You can [read more about Our Journey 2020 here](#).

While we travel this journey together, it is essential that we map our progress. Since 1987, the Christian Reformed Church in North America has surveyed members every five years in order to hear from them about their experiences. The last such survey was conducted in 2012. You can [see resources from the 2012 survey here](#).

As we continue to step into the Our Journey 2020 ministry plan, we would like to measure our pace more often. In 2017, we began a new system that would allow us to increase our efforts to listen actively and act more intentionally on information from churches and congregants. To do this, we are administering a survey every year in order to enrich the whole body’s understanding of our community, and to attend to Our Journey 2020 goals more regularly. [You can see results from the past two year here](#).

All CRC-affiliated adults and older youth are welcome to respond every year as they are led. At the same time, we know that your time is precious. In order to ensure a robust number of responses every year, we are randomly assigning every CRC church to one of five “cohorts.” Each cohort includes about 20 percent of all active congregations. Each congregation will be asked to engage in active recruitment of responses just once every five years, according to their cohort.

In this way, everyone at every church will have the opportunity to be heard every year, but everyone at every church will only be sought out and encouraged to be heard every five years. If your church is actively seeking your response this year, please participate now! Your journey is important to our journey.

We welcome your feedback about the survey. The last questions beg for your comments on the survey itself. We ask you not to fail to call out our failings. We also encourage you to look upon our work with kindness and generosity of spirit.

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Many survey takers assume that no one ever reads their comments. Your comments will be read by CRCNA staff and by Calvin College Center for Social Research staff and students, many of whom bear no responsibility for the things that might concern and anger you.

Together with you, we seek to conduct surveys not as the world might do, to exploit human weaknesses for worldly gain, but as heaven would, to learn together how to invite God to infuse His strength into our many shared weaknesses to minister to God's people, especially to the weak and vulnerable among us.

We are committed to share the survey findings with you online. We hope you will join us in using the data to serve God's people. We are committed not to use surveys to abuse power or invade your privacy. We are aware of these potential concerns, and we recognize that we must earn and keep your trust over and over again to be true leaders of the people of God on our journey together. Please help us do God's work well.

Thank you for joining our journey!

On behalf of the Denominational Survey Team, with deep faith in God's provision and sincere thanks for your attention and participation,



Steven Timmermans
Executive Director



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