



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: February 11, 2025

Highlights from meeting of February 5-7, 2025

The Council of Delegates (COD) of the Christian Reformed Church in North America met via video conferencing on February 5-7, 2025. During this meeting, the COD spent time in prayer, received reports, held discussions, and made decisions as follows:

- Heard an update from the General Secretary, Zachary King, noting recent work to review agency support of ethnic minority groups, and progress being made to review and evaluate the Our Journey ministry plan.
- Heard an update from the Chief Administrative Officer, Shirley DeVries, who plans to retire in January 2026. Shirley also mentions that day-to-day administrative duties of the CRC Pension Plan have been outsourced by the Pension trustees. Benefits and communication will continue unchanged.
- Heard an update on Gather (crcna.org/Gather). Seven events have been held to date with three more planned before the end of April. Some input gleaned from Gather events was reviewed and discussed by COD in breakout sessions.
- Received a presentation from Calvin University's newly inaugurated president, Greg Elzinga.
- Discussed the draft Exceptions policy to the COD statement of agreement with the beliefs of the CRCNA and remanded it back to the executive committee for additional revision.
- Approved updates to the nomination process for COD delegates.
- Adopted and discussed several changes to the *Church Order* including changes to supplement article 15, changes to the introduction recommended by synod, and updating to the names of the dissolved congregational ministries to Thrive.
- Recommended that synod adopt an addition to *Church Order* regarding the process for readmission of ministers after discipline.
- Approved proposed updates to the *Rules of Synodical Procedure*, and instructed the general secretary to arrange for a review of the *Rules* and propose additional updates to Synod 2026 following input from the COD.
- Appointed a task force to consider ways to reduce governance costs, fund synod, and use time wisely. This group will report back to the COD in May and again in October.
- Took note that the *Agenda* and *Acts of Synod* will only be provided to churches digitally going forward unless print copies are requested.
- Approved a policy on COD approval of senior positions.

- Approved updates to the Bible Translations Committee Charter, and received a report from the committee that does not recommend the Easy-to-Read Version for general worship, but can commend it with reservations for public reading of Scripture for new believers, children's worship, devotional reading, or for litanies, prayers and storytelling.
- Asked the Office of General Secretary to develop a proposal for an additional committee of the council of delegates that would function as a connection point for identified ethnic minority leaders of the CRC.
- Received the report from the Virtual Church Committee and referred it to Synod 2025.
- Modified a guideline for advertising in *The Banner* that would no longer prohibit *The Banner* from accepting ads from non-CRC ministries that do substantially similar work as denominational agencies, provided that there is a clear way to delineate which ads are from CRCNA entities.
- Approved Calvin University as the site for Synods 2027 and 2028.
- Heard or received updates from the directors of ecclesiastical governance, communications and marketing, Thrive, ReFrame, and Resonate.
- Appointed people to various roles and committees including interim COD appointments, the Judicial Code Committee, synodical deputies, alternate synodical deputies, young adult representatives to Synod 2025, ethnic advisers to Synod 2025, the Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations Committee, the Dignity Team
- Spent time in executive session.

For more information, please contact:

Rev. Zachary King, Ph. D.

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Upcoming meeting dates:

- 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: February 11, 2025

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 February 6 and reported the following:

CRCNA Canada Board

- Received a semi-annual report from the Joint Management Committee convener
- Heard from the Executive director and received reports from Canadian Justice Ministries (Centre for Public Dialogue, Intercultural Ministry, and Indigenous Ministries), Resonate, Thrive, and communications.
- Received an update from the Chief Administrative Officer on finance, advancement, and human resources.
- Shared highlights from various classis meetings and discussed strategies for communicating Canadian Ministry Board highlights back to classis.
- Debriefed the recently held Stories and Strategies event.
- Discussed the ecclesiastical gathering of Canadian churches hosted by Classis Quinte
- Noted that the Canadian National Gathering will be held in 2026, likely in May, with the date and location to be solidified.
- Discussed correspondence received from various sources.
- Heard an update on conversations held with the Towards CRC Canada group.
- Spent time in executive session.

ReFrame Ministries Canada Board

- Meeting scheduled for later date.

CRCNA U.S. Board

- Received a semi-annual report from the Joint Management Committee convener
- Heard from the Director of US Ministry Operations noting his thanks for the new ministry support center building.
- Discussed the best method for nominating and selecting executive committee members for the US ministry board.

- Received updates from Resonate and Thrive.
- Heard a financial update noting \$1.5 million in proceeds from the sale of the old building and the purchase of the new, cost savings from the smaller ministry support center building's maintenance, decreased ministry share giving, and the need for churches to complete their ministry share pledges for next year.
- Approved the auditor's report.
- Appointed an auditor for fiscal year 2024-2025.

ReFrame Ministries U.S. Board

- Received a semi-annual report from the Joint Management Committee convener
- Received a report from ReFrame director Kurt Selles including advancement and program updates.
- Welcomed Nellie Kooistra as the new Director of Administration for ReFrame Ministries. Appointed her to serve on the Joint Management Committee and as a registered agent for the corporation.
- Received six-month financial statements and the auditors report
- Appointed an auditor for fiscal year 2024-2025.

For more information, please contact:

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