



**2023 ANNUAL MINISTRY REPORT**

# For Such a Time as This



## Dear Friend

**A**s general secretary of the Christian Reformed Church in North America, I have the privilege of being a pastor to our congregations. Often I learn about the challenges that our congregations are facing. Many churches seem to be struggling; our public voice as Christians seems to be weakening; the membership of many congregations is declining. People express their concerns for my having to shoulder this burden.



And yet, when this happens, I strive to respond with hope. I truly believe that God has a plan for our churches “for such a time as this.”

After all, the church was called and created by the Father, redeemed through Christ’s death and resurrection, and sent out on mission by the Spirit. We have a purpose. What’s more, the renewal of the Christian Reformed denomination and its congregations is fundamentally a work of God, not our own human efforts.

As general secretary, I’m privy to some of the challenges of our congregations, but I also hear about all of the wonderful and amazing things God is doing with and through us. I see thriving church plants, and I see established congregations finding new ways to serve their communities. I talk to pastoral candidates who see so much opportunity in our denomination. I have witnessed the resurgence of prayer and spiritual discernment as a priority not just for individuals but also for congregations, classes, and even our entire denomination. I also have the opportunity to see the wonderful things God is doing across the globe through our mission workers and our ecumenical partners.

We serve an amazing Father. I hope that as you read the stories and statistics in this annual ministry report, you are reminded, as I am, that when we humbly allow God to guide our steps, he is able to do more than we can ever ask or imagine.

Your partner in Christ,

Rev. Zachary King, Ph.D.  
General Secretary

*Cover: Women in Ka Chi, Laos talk about ways they are applying their training in maternal and child health from World Renew. The women are part of a community group that is learning about prenatal care, good nutrition for moms and babies, and the benefits of regularly monitoring their baby’s growth. These healthy, happy families are improving their lives.*

## From Canada

It has been a privilege over the past year to connect personally with many of you and hear where God is working in your communities. These conversations have helped to direct the work the staff is doing to serve the church effectively, and to build trust in the services we offer at the denominational level for collaboration with the work happening in your community.



I continue to be excited about the amazing ministry happening in Canada and beyond, which you see reflected throughout this report. This includes many meaningful conversations that have taken place when we’ve gathered together at events such as the Canadian National Gathering and regional Hearts Exchanged tables.

We are grateful to grow alongside you in the ministry priorities of Our Journey 2025, cultivating practices of prayer and spiritual discipline, listening to the voices of every generation, growing in unity and diversity, and sharing the gospel. I look forward to continuing to serve you in the coming year.

Rev. Albert Postma  
Transitional Executive Director-Canada

## From the United States

Since starting in my role in July 2023, I have been asked numerous times, “So, how’s the new job going?” I am actually grateful for this question as it gives me a chance to talk about the many positive things God is doing in and through the CRCNA and its various ministries.



I get to share about the many wonderful people I have met who are entirely dedicated to serving our Lord through the work of his church, and I have learned so much about all of the positive and powerful ways in which God has used this little denomination.

I also get to share how impressed I have been by the emphasis on prayer and worship as a part of the workday for our denominational ministries. Coming out of working for Christian schools, I was accustomed to beginning each meeting with prayer and was hoping for more of the same in this new role. I have not been disappointed.

I have been blessed to learn that the focus of the CRCNA and its ministries remains on how we can continue to be faithful servants. This is so well illustrated in the ministry plan priorities of Our Journey 2025: It has been a blessing to join God in what he is still doing in the CRC.

Dan DeKam  
Director of U.S. Ministry Operations





One of the milestones of Our Journey 2025 is to, "Listen to the voices of every generation, shaping us for ministry together." The CRCNA has received a \$1.248 million grant from Lilly Endowment Inc. to help parents and caregivers share their faith and values with their children.

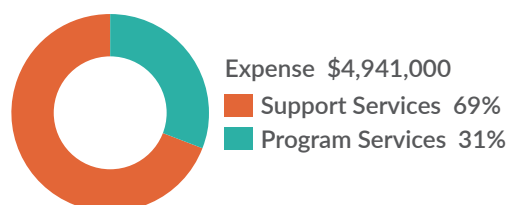
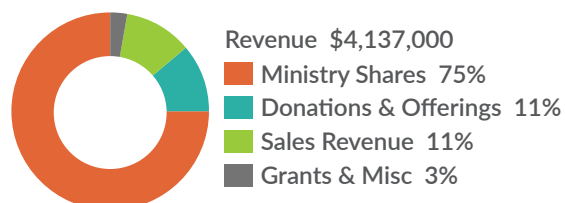


# Office of General Secretary

The Office of General Secretary encompasses all of the ecclesiastical elements of being a denomination together. This includes an annual general assembly, known as synod. It also includes coordinating Council of Delegates meetings to govern the denomination when synod is not in session, as well as maintaining ecumenical relationships with other denominations. The Office of General Secretary also oversees the candidacy process for new ministers of the Word and ensures good communication across the denomination so that churches and members stay informed about joint initiatives and programs.



↑ Synod 2023—The Christian Reformed Church’s synod meeting took place on the campus of Calvin University in Grand Rapids, Mich., in June 2023 and included discussions of several weighty items, including follow-up to last year’s decisions about human sexuality, a report on bivocational pastors, and a report on ecclesiastical marriage. (Photo credit: Steven Herppich, *The Banner*)



↑ Prayer—Prayer continues to be a large emphasis of the Office of General Secretary. A denominational prayer shepherd leads regular prayer times for staff as well as classes. A prayer gathering was held in January in California. And prayer was a central emphasis of Synod 2023, undergirding the deliberations. (Photo credit: Steven Herppich, *The Banner*)



↑ Candidacy—Candidates for ministry in the Christian Reformed Church in North America stand before delegates at synod on June 13, 2023. These candidates for ministry are graduates of either the Master of Divinity program or the Ecclesiastical Program for Ministerial Candidacy (EPMC) at Calvin Theological Seminary. (Photo credit: Steven Herppich, *The Banner*)

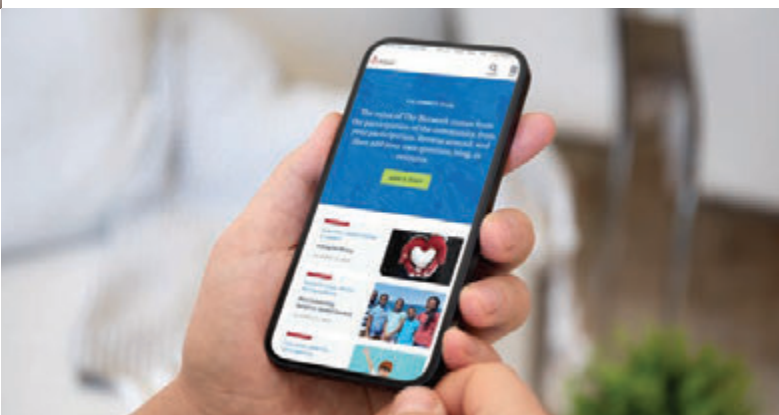
# Communications

The CRCNA provides various communication channels to serve you and keep you in the loop about what is happening across the denomination:

➔ As the official magazine of the CRCNA, *The Banner* continues to enjoy a wide and diverse readership in print and online at [thebanner.org](http://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.

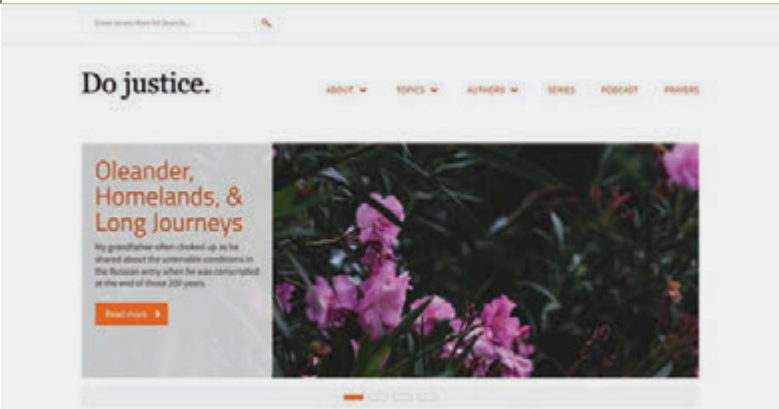


⬅ The Network ([crcna.org/Network](http://crcna.org/Network)) launched in February 2010 as a gathering place for people across the CRC. The site is home to a growing collection of blogs, resources, and ministry questions. Content on the Network covers all areas of local church ministry (50+ topics), including pastors, elders, deacons, worship, finance, communications, justice, and much more. The site's value comes from the participation of its members, who are local church folks like you.

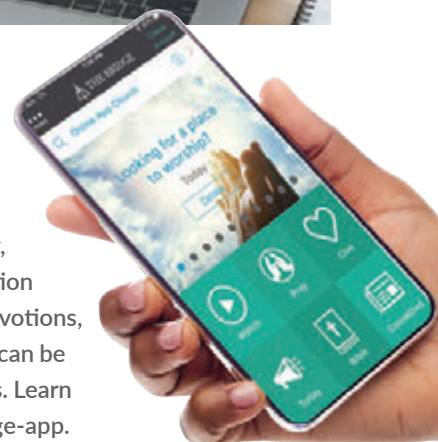


➔ Stay up-to-date on the latest happenings in the Christian Reformed Church in North America by following us on Twitter, Facebook, or Instagram. You can also subscribe for a weekly newsletter at [crcna.org/subscribe](http://crcna.org/subscribe).

⬇ The Do Justice blog is a conversation starter for justice in the Christian Reformed Church. Together we're finding new ideas and perspectives, sharing better ways to engage in justice work, remembering our motivation, and growing our faith. Join us! [dojustice.crcna.org](http://dojustice.crcna.org)



➔ The Bridge App is a smart-phone/tablet app that connects the local church to its members, and members to one another, through features such as a membership directory, announcements, prayers, donation portal, events calendar, daily devotions, and various other features that can be customized to serve local needs. Learn more at [crcna.org/canada/bridge-app](http://crcna.org/canada/bridge-app).





# Canadian National Gathering

“To meet on the level of exchanging hearts is where the gospel lives,” said Rev. Dr. Raymond Aldred during the May 25-28, 2023, Canadian National Gathering. “This is where Jesus is found. Not on the level of the mind or of religious institutional purity, but on the level where humans live their real lives.”

Reconciliation with and justice for Canada’s Indigenous people was the heart of the agenda for this event, which took place on the campus of Algonquin College in Ottawa, Ont. It was attended by approximately 160 Christian Reformed people from across Canada, who committed to taking their learning back to their home churches and classes to continue the conversation.



↑ A variety of hands-on workshops, including some held outdoors, connected participants to Indigenous traditions and provided meaningful learning encounters.



↑ Speakers, including the directors of the three Urban Indigenous Ministry Centres, inspired participants to better understand Indigenous stories and to consider how they can work toward reconciliation in their own lives.



↔ ↑ Creativity became a powerful tool for expression and reflection during art workshops and studio sessions. Participants engaged in graphic arts and beading. Two artists, one Indigenous and one Anglo, also captured the themes of the weekend in a shared mural (see [crcna.org/Indigenous/ArtInstallation](http://crcna.org/Indigenous/ArtInstallation)).



# Canadian Justice Ministries

## Canadian Indigenous Ministries

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



↑ A group from Waterloo (Ont.) CRC completed the Faith in Action workshop together in preparation to meet with their local Member of Parliament.

## Decolonization and Anti-Racism Collective

→ The Decolonization and Antiracism Collective began its work by creating terms of reference that include a mission statement. Looking forward, this committee aims to inform ministry in Canada as follows: Rooted in biblical foundations, shaped by Reformed theologies, informed by BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and people of color) experiences, and driven by qualitative and quantitative data, we seek to reimagine, advise, equip, and empower CRC churches in Canada on the collective action and embodiment of a vision of the intercultural kingdom of God.

## Centre for Public Dialogue

Directed by the Committee for Contact with the Government, the Centre for Public Dialogue (CPD) supports CRC communities in promoting the flourishing of all imagebearers of Creator God through faithful citizenship and advocacy in Canada. The CPD offers a variety of workshops on biblical justice and effective advocacy, moving toward justice and welcome in Canada's refugee systems and upholding Indigenous rights through honoring the Calls to Action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.



Currently, we have been engaging directly and indirectly with BIPOC CRC leaders and members to hear their experiences of belonging and unbelonging within the CRCNA. As we actively listen to their experiences, we hope to propose a mandate that would assist the Canadian ministry to better serve the minoritized but growing community.



# Calvin Theological Seminary

Since 1876, Calvin Theological Seminary has worked on your behalf in forming church leaders who cultivate communities of disciples of Jesus Christ. Calvin Theological Seminary is a Reformed seminary that is globally recognized for its theological richness. We embrace a holistic form of education that attends to the character, spiritual, and vocational formation of students. Our desire is to train not only pastors but the priesthood of all believers for biblically faithful and contextually effective ministry and worship for whatever field they find themselves in. All are invited to engage in our degrees, courses, seminars, and other opportunities for Reformed theological scholarship and counsel.

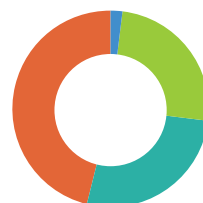


**CALVIN**  
THEOLOGICAL  
SEMINARY

## Highlights

- The Master of Arts in Clinical Mental Health Counseling (MCMHC) program was approved by the seminary board of trustees, generating widespread interest from prospective students. This program, combining theological grounding and best practices in the field, launched in Fall 2023 under the leadership of Dr. Danjuma Gibson.
- Our Latino Ministry 1.0 program successfully completed its last cohort May 2023 with 16 graduates. Our new, revamped Latino Ministries program 2.0 launched in Fall 2023 with an online, stackable curriculum that can lead to a full master's degree taught in Spanish. New faculty member and program director, Dr. Gabriela Tijerina-Pike, is poised to lead the program into new initiatives and continued ministry impact.
- The Center for Excellence in Preaching (CEP) continues to provide resources on their website (CEPreaching.org) designed to help pastors write fresh, vibrant sermons. The CEP recently received a grant of almost a million dollars from Lilly Endowment Inc. through the endowment's Compelling Preaching Initiative.
- The Doctor of Ministry (D.Min.) program launched three new concentrations, in addition to its existing general track. D.Min. students can choose from rich new concentrations in homiletics, urban ministry and prophetic method, and spiritual formation and missional leadership.

[CalvinSeminary.edu](https://CalvinSeminary.edu)



Revenue \$6,480,000

- Tuition & Sales 46%
- Donations & Offerings 27%
- Ministry Shares 25%
- Estate Gifts 2%



Expense \$7,464,000

- Support Services 56%
- Program Services 44%





↑ Since 1876, Calvin Theological Seminary (CTS) has faithfully prepared leaders who nurture disciples and serve the church. Graduates of CTS can expect to be ready for effective ministry in a rapidly-changing multicultural world.

At commencement in 2023, CTS honored 46 graduates from 12 different nations: Brazil, Canada, Chile, China, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Japan, Kenya, Mexico, Myanmar, South Korea, and the United States. The event on Saturday, May 20, served as a culmination of ministry training and dedication for graduating students across the seminary's six degree programs and additional certificate options. Ministry shares supported the equipping of each of these graduates for kingdom impact.

Sixteen of these graduates were in the hallmark Latino/a Ministries program, which started in 2013-14. Since that

### At Commencement 2023, CTS honored 46 graduates from 12 different nations.

time five cohorts have participated, and 134 graduates have been awarded 24 master of arts degrees in family care, 95 certificates in Hispanic/Latino ministry, and 75 certificates in family care. CTS thanks Dr. Mariano-Avila and Rosy Avila for their long-standing directorship and leadership of the program, and we welcome Dr. Gabriela Tijerina-Pike to lead the program into its next phase.

# Calvin University

Founded by the CRCNA, Calvin University is a top-rated Christian liberal arts institution that welcomes and empowers its 3,300 students from 48 U.S. states, five Canadian provinces, and 51 countries, along with 65,000 alumni around the world, to pursue truth with curiosity and conviction. Through the integration of faith and rigorous academic study in more than 100 subject areas, Calvin's world-class, Christ-centered faculty push students to go beyond what they think is possible.

The university continues to live out its mission of equipping students to think deeply, to act justly, and to live wholeheartedly as Christ's agents of renewal in the world. The university is also pressing toward its vision of living into what it means to be a Christian liberal arts university and a trusted global partner.



## Highlights

- In 2023-24, total enrollment at Calvin University exceeded 3,300, with more than 1,100 students joining Calvin in its incoming class. This represents nearly a 15 percent increase year-on-year and includes growth in various student populations, including first-generation, BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and People of Color), international, and athletic students as well as those from the CRCNA and from the state of Michigan.
- Received applications for the 2023-24 academic year from students from more than 90 countries. This level of interest, which represents nearly half the countries in the world, is an institutional record and signals the growing global demand for a Calvin education.
- Added depth to one of the country's best Division III athletic programs. In 2022, Calvin added men's varsity football, men's volleyball, and women's acrobatics and tumbling. Calvin now offers 23 NCAA Division III varsity sports.
- Celebrated significant faculty and student achievements—for example, emeritus professor Corwin Smidt received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the American Political Science Association, and Emily Steen ('23) and Professor Mark Mulder earned the prestigious Hatfield Prize from the Center for Public Justice.

[Calvin.edu](https://calvin.edu)



## ↑ Going Beyond

When Emily Steen ('23) came to Calvin's campus and began the work of a sociology major, she took classes with students who were finishing the degree they started inside Handlon Correctional Facility through the Calvin Prison Initiative program. She learned about her peers' struggles to reenter society, and she knew she had to do something about it.

Steen designed a research project with the help of her professor to dig deeper into understanding the problem of reentry and exploring what policies and procedures could be formed to make the transition smoother for returning citizens. Her groundbreaking project was one of just three nationwide to receive the prestigious Hatfield Prize.

**She knew  
she had to do  
something  
about it.**



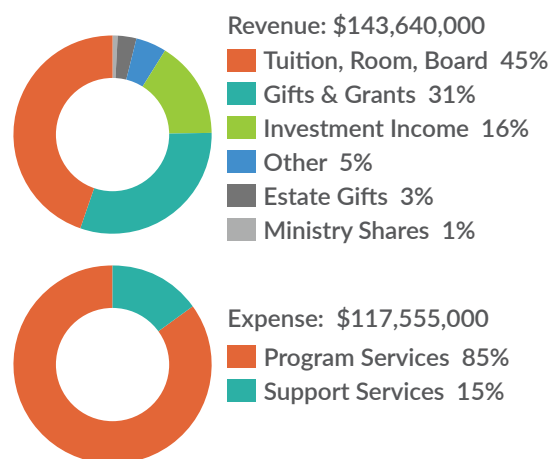


## ↑ Aiming Higher

For Professor David Smith, learning to tolerate one another isn't good enough. Yet, that is the bar that has been set for K-12 civics education. Until now.

Smith is a leading voice in K-12 education. Under his leadership, the Kuyers Institute has become a leading center of innovative thinking around Christian education over the past 15 years. The institute's latest endeavor is the Civic Hospitality Project, a partnership with Calvin's Henry Institute for the Study of Christianity and Politics. The project gives K-12 educators many curricular tools and exercises they can draw from in putting together their civics lesson plans. The goal? For civics education to aspire to higher aims.

"Students don't just need the right answers or an understanding of how systems work; they need to cultivate character qualities that will enable them to interact with people with whom they disagree," said Smith.



# ReFrame Ministries

ReFrame Ministries—formerly known as Back to God Ministries International—is the global media ministry of the Christian Reformed Church in North America. Relying on the guidance of the Holy Spirit, ReFrame creates contextual media resources that proclaim the gospel, disciple believers, and strengthen the church throughout the world in 10 major languages.



## Highlights

- ReFrame appointed Rev. Youseff Adel Hanna as its Arabic ministry leader. Rev. Youseff's experience in the Egyptian church will prove valuable in this new role as he makes ministry connections and builds an Arabic media ministry presence.
- ReFrame's English ministry team began developing a smart-phone application that will help more children and young families access devotions and other children's ministry material in a new way.
- Due to the war in Ukraine, our Russian ministry partners offered internally displaced people and refugees biblical messages of hope and online events.
- ReFrame's Chinese-language ministry partners have published several new books for church leaders in China and for other Chinese speakers.
- ReFrame's partners in Indonesia are equipping church leaders with new video programs—offering Sunday school teachers, church leaders, and music directors resources for biblical worship.

ReFrame Ministries continues to be blessed by faithful, generous supporters who sustain ministry around the world. Though one challenge continues to be the decline in ministry shares as a source of funding, legacy gifts continue to exceed expectations, providing a long-term source of funds for the ministry.

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



↑ In June 2023's *Today* devotional series, "Walking through the Bible," Kurt Selles shared meditations about his journey on the Appalachian Trail. Because of our partners across North America, these devotions reached hundreds of thousands of online subscribers and print devotional readers. Many of them, like Maurice and Nell Veenstra, found the devotions to be a helpful reminder of the goodness we find in God's creation.

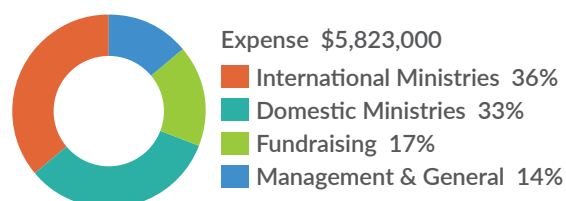
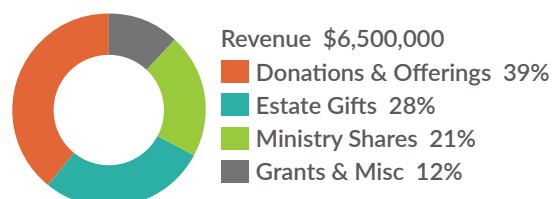
"We sat outside this morning and enjoyed the fresh air while we read *Today*, about Abraham's commitment to God's promises," Maurice shared. "The Lord will provide. A great thing to remember."





↑ Newly appointed Arabic ministry leader Rev. Youssef Adel Hanna has a vision for making the gospel more accessible to people in Egypt and the wider Arabic-speaking world. He will also use media to bring the gospel to the younger generation. With a recently published curriculum for children, we plan to network with pastors and youth leaders who can share the new resource with others. Please pray for Rev. Youssef and his team as they build the ministry on a solid footing and proclaim the good news in Arabic.

↗ ReFrame's Portuguese ministry partners in Brazil hosted a conference for young couples and families. "God has done great wonders in our midst," shared Rev. Hernandes Dias Lopes, ReFrame's Portuguese ministry leader, "restoring marriages and encouraging so many. We thank God for the privilege of doing God's work and reaching families together!"



# Resonate Global Mission

Resonate Global Mission is an extension of your own church: we exist to serve you and walk with you on mission in your own community and around the world. In 2023, synod appointed Kevin DeRaaf as the new director of Resonate, and under his leadership we're bringing fresh energy and a hopeful spirit to the mission work of our denomination.

Together with you, we continue to build on more than a century of Spirit-inspired and theologically grounded passion for ministry. As your Christian Reformed mission agency, we support missionaries, church planters, and other ministry leaders in more than 40 countries—all of them raised, trained, supported, and sent by you.

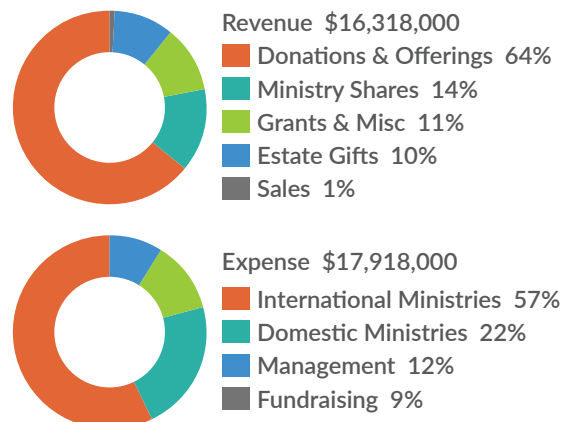
Our global focus and Reformed approach make Resonate and the Christian Reformed Church unique among the organizations we partner with. We do our work as a denomination—and we can do more together than we can on our own. Thank you for your prayers and support that are making an impact worldwide!



## Highlights

- More than 3,300 young adult leaders participating in mission with Resonate
- More than 9,800 lay leaders participating in mission with Resonate
- More than 150 missionaries serving in over 40 countries
- Partnering with 58 new churches in North America, 11 new ones in the past year
- Supporting campus ministries on 38 college and university campuses
- Countless stories of new life in Christ!

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







### ↑ A Fuller Witness

People throughout Canada and the United States are finding a home at Resonate partner church plants that you've helped to start, like King's Covenant Church in Bridgewater Township, N.J. (pictured).

As people move throughout the world, communities across Canada and the United States are becoming more ethnically diverse. Within the span of a few miles or kilometers, you might hear different languages spoken or see different styles of clothing representing dozens of cultures.

"There's a fullness to our witness to the gospel that's only possible as a diverse people," explained Tim Sheridan, your church planting leader for Resonate Global Mission.

Your support of church plants through Resonate is so important! Read about King's Covenant and other partners at [resonateglobalmission.org/fullerwitness](https://resonateglobalmission.org/fullerwitness).





### ↑ Celebrating 41 Baptisms in Cambodia

“Who is getting baptized today?” asked Pastor Neang. Forty-one people raised their hands, including Chenda, Sophea, and Sytha—three teenagers (pictured).

Pastor Neang is one of the local pastors you support in a rural area of Cambodia. Where he and his community live, the landscape is beautiful.

“It’s beautiful, but life for people is very hard here,” said Navy Chann-Chhay, one of your Resonate missionaries.

God is at work in this community. Through Timothy Leadership Training that you help make possible, Navy and her husband, Ly Chhay, are equipping and training local pastors like Pastor Neang. Read more about how your support has helped grow his church at [resonateglobalmission.org/baptisms!](https://resonateglobalmission.org/baptisms/)



# Thrive

Thrive launched as an official agency of the CRCNA in July 2023. The CRC's nine, previously named "Congregational Ministries" united together under this new name to better encourage and equip the churches of the CRCNA. Thrive advises and resources churches in the areas of faith formation, abuse prevention, disability inclusion, racial reconciliation and diversity, pastors and church support, chaplaincy, justice, and worship. The mandate from synod asks Thrive "to provide expertise, wisdom, and compassionate support to congregations while remaining attentive to a wide range of opportunities and challenges facing the church today." The consolidation of the nine ministries into one agency allows us to be more accessible, more integrated, and more responsive in our engagement with Christian Reformed congregations and ministry leaders.



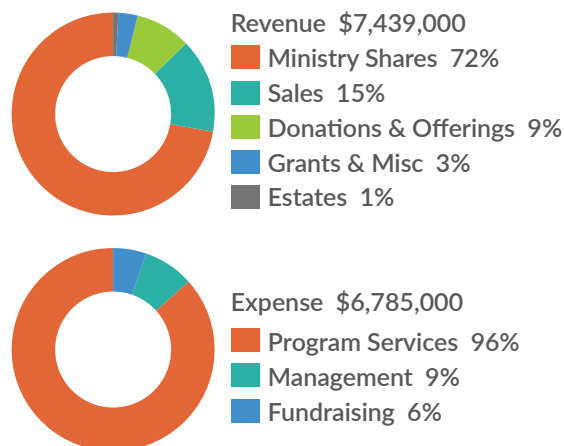
## Highlights

- Thrive received two grants totaling \$1.7 million from Lilly Endowment Inc.
- \$1.2 million in funding for a five-year initiative to equip children's ministry leaders, parents, and caregivers with diverse resources to invest in the faith of the next generation.
- \$500,000 in funding for phase two of the Thriving Together in Ministry initiative designed to create a stronger, more vital culture of mentoring and support for pastors in seasons of transition and discernment.
- Facilitated the Next Steps discernment process with 40 churches
- Hosted *Dwell* curriculum training courses in August for Sunday school teachers.
- Sent over 4,500 people the first Thrive monthly newsletter (sign up at [crcna.org/Thrive](https://crcna.org/Thrive))

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



↑ Nine ministries, each established by synod with their own staff and mandates, joined together in July to become Thrive. Staff (pictured here) are united in their commitment to "provide expertise, wisdom, and compassionate support to congregations while remaining attentive to a wide range of opportunities and challenges facing the church today."





↑ The staff of Thrive believe that in order for pastors to thrive in ministry, they need relationships in which they can explore and develop their sense of vocation. The staff recently wrapped up a five-year “Thriving Together” project designed to walk alongside pastors who were considering a second call, approaching retirement, or thinking about leaving ministry altogether. It is now launching phase 2 of this program.

→ In October, 82 participants from across the U.S. and Canada and as far away as Nicaragua, Kenya, and Ireland, gathered online for a Thrive training focused on nurturing belonging for all people of all abilities in and around faith communities.







# World Renew

World Renew is a Christian ministry that embraces a family-centered approach to alleviating poverty, hunger, and injustice in local communities worldwide. The global food crisis has doubled since 2020, placing an estimated 345 million people at risk. Seventy percent of these people live in areas of war and violence. Through your prayers, support, and involvement, World Renew focuses on a holistic mission in community development, emergency and long-term disaster response, and peace and justice work. By partnering with 66 churches and Christian organizations in 2023, World Renew equipped a total of 477,888 participants in 1,200 communities for a hopeful future in 29 developing countries around the globe.



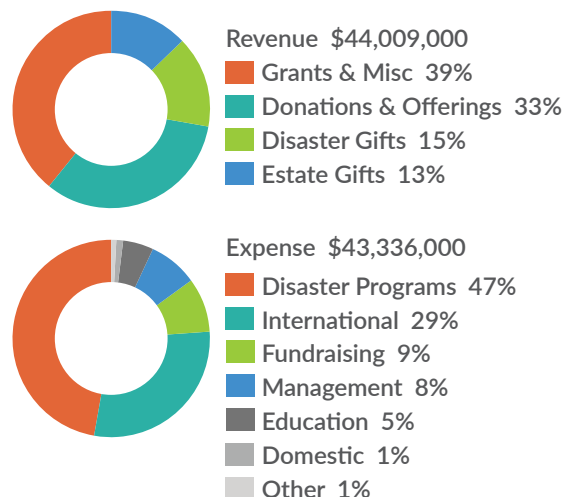
## Highlights

- In development, we walked alongside faith and community leaders who offered opportunities for renewed hope to 221,652 participants in 19 developing countries.
- In disaster response, we assisted 256,852 participants who experienced war, drought, famine, hurricanes, earthquakes, or tornadoes—in 21 countries last year. This includes emergency food, water, shelter, sanitation, and economic assistance as well as livelihood rehabilitation.
- 1,201 volunteers donated 93,390 hours of their time to help people in need worldwide. That is the equivalent of about 39 full-time employees for a year.
- World Renew Disaster Response Services volunteers repaired and rebuilt 195 houses damaged by disasters.
- With your support, World Renew helped 173 refugees arrive and resettle in Canada, and 42 sponsoring groups submitted new sponsorship applications for 206 refugees.
- World Renew does not receive ministry shares.

[WorldRenew.net](https://WorldRenew.net) | [WorldRenew.ca](https://WorldRenew.ca)



↑ The women in Herencia Maya, Guatemala, felt hopeless and overwhelmed as more men in their community left to search for employment opportunities abroad. Through God's grace, and with the support of World Renew, the women formed a group to work together on a community vegetable garden and poultry raising. This work is making it possible for them to generate enough income to help meet their families' needs—and they've created a strong bond with one another. "Pray that blessings like this continue to come to our community," they said, "and to the lives of other women."








↑ Nine-year-old Za za (left) is already an agent of change. She is the first in her family to attend school in her village in Laos. World Renew made this possible by supporting local schools, but her parents are also committed to funding her education. Za za's mother grows rice and collects bamboo to earn extra income. Her father says, "I'm hoping to see a change in my family," explaining that he is trying to kick his opium addiction. "If there is a high school here in the future, even though we don't have much money, I want my children to attend."

➤ Silton Chishimba (age 31) is the father of a five-year-old boy named Patrick. Silton is studying agriculture, thanks to a scholarship for unwed parents, available through his local church in Zambia. He learned about the program from his sister, who completed it earlier. "It's a privilege for me to study agriculture because, as the saying goes, 'Without the farmer, there is no food,'" he said. "I've learned to raise pigs, goats, cattle, and fish. My family benefits because they get knowledge from what I've learned. With other people as well, especially in my community, we are able to support one another to make change for the better."





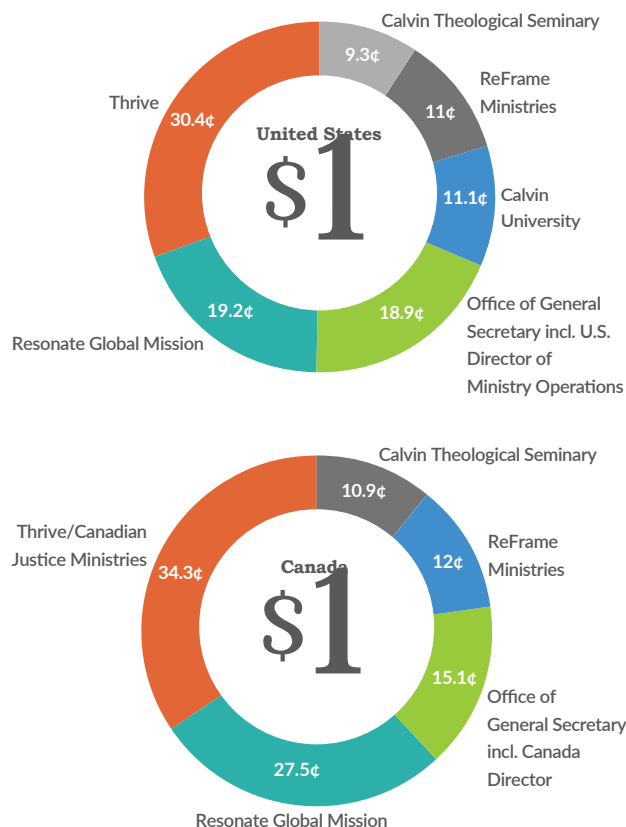
*As Christian Reformed people,  
we proclaim the saving  
message of Jesus Christ and  
seek to worship him in all that  
we do. Calvin University and  
the Institute for Christian  
Worship held a worship  
symposium in January 2023.*



# Financial Information

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. 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 its size.

Last year \$17.1 million was received through ministry shares. For every dollar given, the following was directed to these ministries:



Thank you for your donations, gifts, offerings, and ministry share donations. Your generosity is what makes ministry possible.

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

	2022	2023
<b>Reframe Ministries</b>		
Ministry Shares	2,182,000	1,392,000
Donatons & Offerings	3,388,000	2,518,000
Estate Gifts	2,226,000	1,815,000
Grants & Misc	(614,000)	775,000
Total	7,182,000	6,500,000
<b>Calvin University</b>		
Ministry Shares	1,801,000	1,442,000
Gifts & Grants	41,022,000	44,919,000
Estate Gifts	4,540,000	3,483,000
Tuition, Room & Board	67,884,000	64,475,000
Other	6,982,000	6,982,000
Investment income	(14,361,000)	22,339,000
Total	107,453,000	143,640,000
<b>Calvin Theological Seminary</b>		
Ministry Shares	1,921,000	1,603,000
Donatons & Offerings	1,690,000	1,753,000
Estate Gifts	158,000	128,000
Tuition & Grants	2,920,000	2,996,000
Total	6,688,000	6,480,000
<b>Resonate Global Mission</b>		
Ministry Shares	5,229,000	2,385,000
Donatons & Offerings	11,071,000	10,367,000
Estate Gifts	1,124,000	1,582,000
Grants & Misc	(1,270,000)	1,984,000
Total	16,154,000	16,318,000
<b>World Renew</b>		
Disaster Gifts	20,122,000	6,486,000
Donatons & Offerings	15,941,000	14,581,000
Estate Gifts	5,650,000	5,690,000
Grants	(636,000)	17,252,000
Total	41,077,000	44,009,000
<b>Thrive</b>		
Ministry Shares	5,228,000	5,383,000
Donatons & Offerings	766,000	682,000
Estate Gifts	0	56,000
Sales	1,010,000	1,122,000
Grants & Misc	45,000	196,000
Total	7,049,000	7,439,000
<b>Office of the General Secretary</b>		
Ministry Shares	2,658,000	3,107,000
Donatons & Offerings	595,000	463,000
Estate Gifts	0	0
Sales & Revenue	460,000	435,000
Grants & Misc	136,000	132,000
Total	3,849,000	4,137,000



## Stay Informed

Thank you for your partnership with the Christian Reformed Church in North America as together we strive to carry out the kingdom work to which God has called us. Over the next few 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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