Interdenominational and Financial Matters

Chair: Scott Vander Ploeg
Reporter: Drew Sweetman

Council of Delegates

I. Materials

A. Council of Delegates Report (section I, E), p. 33
B. Council of Delegates Report (section II, A, 6), p. 36
D. Council of Delegates Report (section II, C), including Appendix F, pp. 49-50 & 83-111

II. Privilege of the Floor

Andy de Ruyter, chair of the Council of Delegates; Michael L. Ten Haken, vice chair of the Council of Delegates; Zachary J. King, general secretary; and members of the executive staff as needed

III. Recommendations

A. That synod approve discontinuing the practice and policy of reviewing and recommending charitable organizations to CRC churches for offerings effective (II, A, 15; II, C, 2; see also Appendix E in COD Governance Handbook).

Ground:
1. The annual review process requires a significant amount of staff time and effort.
2. Information about charitable organizations is readily available online.
3. There is minimal anecdotal evidence that the list of organizations recommended for offerings is used by our churches.

B. That synod direct the Office of the General Secretary to provide the criteria currently used by CRCNA staff to the churches to assist in their vetting process of charitable organizations being considered for offerings.

Ground:
This is valuable information to retain and will be helpful to the churches, especially as they evaluate local ministries.

C. That synod ratify the following with regard to organizations requesting to be placed on the recommended-for-offerings list:

1. The list of above-ministry share and specially designated offerings for denominational agencies, institutions, and ministries of the CRC (COD Supplement section II, G, 2, a).
2. The list of nondenominational organizations, previously accredited, that have been approved for calendar year 2024 (COD Supplement section II, G, 2, b).
3. The inclusion of 222Disciple on the list of accredited organizations for offerings in the churches in the United States (COD Supplement section II, G, 2, c).
D. That synod direct the general secretary to do the following as recommended in the Review of Ministry Shares Reimagined (COD Supplement section II, G, 1, b; Appendix M):
   1. Provide greater flexibility in the pledge process cycle, allowing churches to determine their pledge cycle based on their fiscal year
   2. Suggest to the churches what would be a reasonable amount to cover basic/core denominational operational costs as part of their pledge
   3. Provide to the churches and classes more information on pledges and giving results, including what comprises the basic/core denominational costs

E. That synod direct the Council of Delegates to continue the Review of Ministry Shares Reimagined by doing the following:
   1. Conduct a survey or make personal contacts targeted to churches that are not currently participating in the ministry share program.
   2. Conduct a study of other similar denominations (e.g. RCA, PCA, ECO, EPC, Alliance of Reformed Churches) to compare quotas/ministry shares/askings to work toward a new vision for future ministry funding mechanisms.
   3. Make recommendations for further changes to the ministry share program based on the findings of the above.
      **Grounds:**
      a. The recent survey showed that 98.5% of respondents were from churches that were participating in the ministry share program.
      b. The evaluation of ministry shares reimagined did not consider what other denominations are doing to fund denominational ministry.
      c. A further reimagined ministry share system is needed to enable the CRCNA to perform essential functions and to engage in ministry in North America and around the world well into the future.

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**Christian Reformed Church Loan Fund, Inc., US**

**I. Materials:**
   B. Christian Reformed Church Loan Fund, Inc., U.S. Supplement Report, p. 808

**II. Privilege of the Floor**
   Brian Van Doeselaar, interim director of the CRC Loan Fund

**III. Recommendation**
   A. That synod appoint a board member from the slate of nominees provided to a first term of three years, effective July 1, 2023.