



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: May 16, 2025

Highlights from meeting of May 7-9, 2025

The Council of Delegates (COD) of the Christian Reformed Church in North America met at Cascade Fellowship Christian Reformed Church (Grand Rapids, Mich.) on May 7-9, 2025. During this meeting, the COD spent time in prayer, received reports, held discussions, and made decisions as follows:

- Approved the personal reservations procedure as a document to replace the exceptions policy for COD members.
- Created a new COD committee focused on diaspora and ethnic ministry. This advisory committee will meet twice in the coming year and will bring a proposal to the May 2026 meeting regarding its future.
- Endorsed three right of comment documents to be shared with Synod 2025 including ones related to overture 7 (creation of a committee to vet board nominations), to overtures 5 and 6 (regarding the Banner mandate), and overture 29 (prioritizing church planting).
- Heard an update from the General Secretary, Zachary King, noting a recent trip to Paterson, New Jersey and the lessons he learned from Madison Ave. CRC while there. He also outlined the work to review diaspora and ethnic ministry, and the first meeting of the Global Vision implementation team.
- Heard an update from the Chief Administrative Officer, Shirley DeVries, noting challenges with the current financial picture if current ministry share giving trends continue. Shirley will retire in January and recruitment will begin shortly for a new director of partnership administration to replace her.
- Spent time in board development learning about the role of being a council of delegates member and addressing the challenges faced in carrying out these responsibilities.
- Received a report on the Our Journey ministry plan review and forwarded to Synod 2025 in response to Synod 2024's assignment. They also recommended that denominational communications focus on the Our Journey milestones rather than the five denominational calling areas.
- Recommended that Synod 2025 adopt a new, rotating schedule of agency review and reporting to synod.
- Agreed to print an appeal and related response to decision of Classis Toronto at its February meeting as part of the Synod 2025 material. While appeals are normally kept confidential, this is a procedural rather than a personal appeal, and it raises issues which may have significant applications beyond the classis from which it came.

- Heard an update on Gather (crcna.org/Gather) including data on attendees, and some highlights from contributions. A full report will be shared at a later date, but gratitude was expressed for all 10 events and for those who participated.
- Received an interim report from the COD taskforce assigned to reduce and fund governance of the CRCNA. Spent time discussing potential cost cutting measures and provided feedback.
- Received a presentation from Calvin Theological Seminary's president, Jul Medenblik, noting their 150th anniversary, new branding, and current strategic plan.
- Noted the completion of Synod 2023's assignment to develop assessment resources for bi-vocational pastors.
- Received several financial reports to be shared with Synod 2025 including guidance for ministers compensation, a report on non-retirement employee benefits, and salary disclosures.
- Endorsed ReFrame Ministries' five-year strategic plan.
- Received a report from the Dignity team and thanked outgoing members for their service.
- Heard or received updates from the directors of ecclesiastical governance, communications and marketing, Thrive, ReFrame, and Resonate.
- Elected COD executives for the coming ministry year. Michael Ten Haken will continue as chair, Andre Van Ryk as vice chair, Drew Sweetman as treasurer, and Peter Meerveld as secretary.
- Celebrated the contributions of six out-going council of delegates members.
- Updated the charters for the Thrive, Resonate, ReFrame, and Bible Translations committee.
- Appointed people to various roles and committees including synodical deputies and alternates, the dignity team, and the Resonate committee.
- Recommended that synod appoint people to various roles and committees including the judicial code committee, and the council of delegates.
- Received a presentation about Elevar/Galana Coffee, a ministry of the Northeast Action Community Network in classes Hudson and Hackensack.
- Spent time in executive session.

For more information, please contact:

Rev. Zachary King, Ph. D.

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Upcoming meeting dates:

- October 8-10, 2025, Grand Rapids, Mich.
- 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: May 16, 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 May 8 and reported the following:

CRCNA Canada Board

- Elected officers
- Thanked Al Postma for his leadership
- Noted that the next Canadian National Gathering will take place on May 28-31, 2026 at Redeemer University in Ancaster, Ont. More details to follow.
- Discussed the lament and sadness felt by many in their classes around the disaffiliation of churches, struggles of ordained women, and more. An open letter from the Canadian Ministry Board to Canadian churches will be written and shared in response.
- Approved two new policies: Termination of a Board Member, and Interim CMB Finance Committee Mandate, to become part of the CRCNA Canada Corporation's official documents.
- Sent a draft policy on the Termination of the Executive Director back to the governance committee to ensure joint supervision of ordained staff is included.
- Approved the budget as presented.
- Approved joint ministry agreement documents.
- Spent time in executive session.

ReFrame Ministries Canada Board

- Received the joint ministry convener report and approved the joint ministry approval documents.
- Approved the budget as presented.
- Welcomed Nellie Kooistra as the new director of administration.

CRCNA U.S. Board

- Developed a statement of appreciation for the binationality of the CRCNA, which was read to the full COD.

- Elected officers
- Appointed a financial representative for the work in Nicaragua
- Took care of some legal and administrative matters regarding the property of Faith Presbyterian Christian Reformed Church Guam.
- Approved a decision to carry out a full financial audit
- Received the joint ministry convener report
- Approved joint ministry approval documents
- Approved the budget as presented
- Heard from the director of U.S. ministry operations
- Spent time in executive session

ReFrame Ministries U.S. Board

- Approved the budget as presented
- Endorsed the five-year strategic plan
- Received the joint ministry convener report
- Approved the joint ministry approval documents

For more information, please contact:

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