



# 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: October 14, 2025

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## ***Highlights from meeting of October 8-10, 2025***

The Council of Delegates (COD) of the Christian Reformed Church in North America met at Cascade Fellowship Christian Reformed Church in Grand Rapids, Mich. on October 8-10, 2025. During this meeting, the COD spent time in prayer, received reports, held discussions, and made decisions as follows:

- Interviewed and appointed Ms. Roberta Vriesema for the position of director of partnership administration. Roberta will begin in November.
- Heard from Zachary King, general secretary, about his recent work noting his main message to staff and churches is to “Be strong and work, for the Lord your God is with you” (Haggai 2:4). He says that priorities for the coming year are church renewal, church planting, ecumenical tasks, and a revamping of how the directors of CRCNA ministries work together.
- Heard from Shirley DeVries, chief administrative officer, about her recent work including her upcoming retirement and the overlap with Roberta Vriesema in taking over much of this job. She notes that the majority of emerging churches in the CRCNA represent ethnicities that are not Anglo. She encourages COD and classes to consider how we can best respond to, and welcome this change in our make-up.
- Received a presentation on the annual denominational survey, highlighting some notable differences in the 2025 data from previous years. These will be things to watch in the future. The next cohort will be invited to participate in the survey in January.
- Received a presentation on Resonate’s framework for developing a 10-year church planting strategic plan. This framework includes a call to prayer and fasting as well as clearly identifying the roles and responsibilities for congregations, classes, Resonate Global Mission, and other stakeholders.
- Received an update from the team tasked with considering recommendations to reduce governance costs for the CRCNA. In addition to the items recommended to synod during a special September COD meeting, the COD agreed to draw attention to the operational costs of synod and COD meetings and encourage classes to consider giving a special donation to help offset these costs.
- Welcomed new COD members and appointed a new interim member for Classis Southeast US.
- Approved a theme of “Founded on God’s Faithfulness” for Synod 2026
- Received a report from Mike White, interim co-director of World Renew, noting the appointment of a new World Renew-Canada director, Peter Timmerman.

- Took note of the 150th anniversary of Calvin University and Calvin Theological Seminary, highlighting several upcoming events as part of the celebration.
- Received a report from *Banner* staff and were updated on the search for a new, interim editor.
- Heard from the directors of Resonate Global Mission, ReFrame Ministries, and Thrive noting many good initiatives and requesting ongoing prayers and financial support from churches. Of special note is the upcoming retirement of ReFrame's director, Kurt Selles, and the search for his replacement.
- Appointed six people to serve on a new Diaspora and Ethnic Ministries committee of the COD. This committee will help the COD better hear from some of our diverse churches, and will provide a conduit for sharing concerns and agenda items from these churches with synod.
- Endorsed a request that synod add a paragraph to the Guide for Conducting Church Visiting that would better explain the role of church visitors. It also took note of work done in response to Synod 2024's request to develop materials to support churches and classes going through ministerial releases, as well as work to update the Church Order Supplement. The COD also asked synod to take note that a published index of synodical decisions will no longer be made available since these decisions are easily searched online.
- Approved amended articles of incorporation from the CRC Loan Fund which allow the lending of funds to CRC-related organizations. Recommended these amendments to synod for ratification.
- Appointed people to interim roles as at-large trustees for the Calvin University board, synodical deputies, and alternate synodical deputies. Appointed someone to the Banner Advisory Committee. Took note of the need for someone trained in law to join the Judicial Code Committee. Encouraged people to fill out [this form](#) if they may have interest in serving in the future.
- Spent time in executive session.

**For more information, please contact:**

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**Upcoming meeting dates:**

- February 4-6, 2026, via video conference
- May 6-8, 2026, Grand Rapids, Mich.
- October 7-9, 2026, Grand Rapids, Mich.



# Ministry Board Meeting Highlights

To: **CRCNA Ministry Board Members and Staff**  
From: Kristen deRoo VanderBerg, Director of Communications & Marketing  
Date: October 14, 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 October 9 and reported the following:

### CRCNA Canada Board

- Welcomed five new members: Wendy Werkman, Lee Himbeault, Mike Bekendam, Linda VanSligtenhorst, and Gregg Lawson
- Approved the audit report and financial statements for the year ending June 30, 2025 & appointed BDO to conduct the audit for Fiscal Year 2026
- Received a report from the Joint Management Committee convener.
- Heard an update from the executive director, Al Postma, as well as the Chief Administrative Officer, and Canadian ministry directors.
- Discussed the agency & ministry relationships with non-CRC churches.
- Discussed the upcoming Canadian National Gathering (May 28-31, 2026 at Redeemer University)
- Heard that a post-Board meeting zoom call will be held November 3 for any Canadian CRC members who are interested in learning more.
- Reviewed recent correspondence and determined a response.

### ReFrame Ministries Canada Board

- Approved the audit report and financial statements for the year ending June 30, 2025.
- Received a report from the Joint Management Committee convener
- Noted the upcoming retirement of Kurt Selles and the search for a new director.

### CRCNA U.S. Board

- Approved annual housing declarations for ordained staff.
- Received a report from the Joint Management Committee convener, and progress reports from Thrive, Resonate Global Mission, the Office of General Secretary, and shared services.

- Appointed Mark VanDyke to serve as an at-large member of the executive committee, noting that three of the four current executive committee members will be finished with their terms this year.
- Received a report from Dan DeKam, director of US ministry operations, noting that staff are settling in well at the new building, and that there is good progress between Canada and the US at defining standards for "operational excellence" that will be shared going forward.
- Heard an overview of the budget process and discussed the ministry shares pledging system.
- Authorized David Morgan to act as an agent on behalf of Resonate Global Mission in the sale of six duplexes in Grand Rapids, Mich. These homes were underutilized by missionary staff who were in North America on home service. Resonate hopes to sell them to a non-profit that provides subsidized housing, and to use the proceeds from the sale to support new missionaries with their fundraising efforts.

#### **ReFrame Ministries U.S. Board**

- Received a report from ReFrame director Kurt Selles including an update on their new strategy.
- Received financial statements for information.
- Received a report from the joint management committee convener.
- Approved joint management approval documents.

#### **For more information, please contact:**

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