



COD Highlights

A SUMMARY OF THE COUNCIL OF DELEGATES MEETING

To: **CRC Councils and Stated Clerks of Classes**
From: Colin P. Watson, Executive Director of the CRCNA
Date: February 22, 2022

Highlights from meeting of Feb. 16-18, 2022

The Council of Delegates of the Christian Reformed Church in North America met via zoom conference call on February 16-18, 2022.

During this meeting, the Council:

- Approved the nomination of Rev. Dr. Zachary J. King, recommended him to Synod 2022 for the position of General Secretary, and expressed gratitude to those on the search team.
- Heard updates on the search processes for a Chief Administrative Officer and a Canadian Transitional Executive Director. Adopted a compensation proposal for senior leadership positions.
- Endorsed the direction of a proposal to separate the Office of the General Secretary from the CRCNA U.S. and CRCNA Canada corporations, and see it instead as a separated ecclesiastical entity. This proposal also suggests that a senior U.S. "point of contact" be identified for the CRCNA U.S. Corporation.
- Approved and recommended to Synod 2022 for adoption an Ecclesiastical Mandate Letter that would give the CRCNA Canada Corporation necessary permissions to perform its ecclesiastical obligations and responsibilities alongside its legal and programmatic ones.
- Revised an earlier decision regarding COVID-19 protocols (e.g., vaccination and masking) for synod. The new decision lessens restrictions and asks that delegates abide by travel protocols and local health guidelines in the place where meetings will be held.
- Rejected a proposal for presenting the voices of LGBTQ+ people via video at listening sessions in the lead-up to Synod 2022. Instead, the COD encouraged synodical delegates to read the Human Sexuality Report, engage with local LGBTQ+ voices in their communities, and pay humble attention to Scripture throughout this process. They also asked that the executive director provide a written appendix of diverse LGBTQ+ voices to all delegates in advance of Synod 2022.
- Appointed ethnic advisers and young adult representatives to Synod 2022.
- Recommended nominees to Synod 2022 for appointment to the Council of Delegates and the Judicial Code Committee. Approved interim appointments of synodical deputies and alternates.
- Took several actions related to the ongoing work of addressing the abuse of power. This included endorsing a Dignity Team proposal, adopting a CRCNA Child Safeguarding Policy, receiving an annual report from Safe Church ministries, adopting a process for allegations of COD Code of Conduct violations, and endorsing a proposal for the implementation of the [CRC Code of Conduct for Ministry Leaders](#).

- Received a denominational diversity report, and endorsed a program evaluation report from the mercy and justice ministries, which will be forwarded to Synod 2022 for approval.
- Took note of revised budget assumptions for fiscal year 2023, taking inflation into account.
- Received a report on the plan for allocating ministry shares during 2022-2023.
- Heard reports from the executive director, the acting Canadian ministries director, Resonate Global Missions director, and ReFrame Ministries director.
- Received reports on the 2022 Denominational Survey, Inspire 2022, and Calvin University's presidential search. Received six-month metrics related to the *Our Journey 2025* ministry plan.
- Spent time in a board development session reviewing who we are as a CRCNA, our ecclesial and ministry structures, and the functions of governance and management.
- Received guidelines for when correspondence is addressed to the COD or to synod, and adopted guidelines for announcing COD voting counts.
- Endorsed a proposal to review the Global Missions Ministries Committee governance structure and consider revisions.

In addition to the meeting of the COD, this meeting also included the meeting of four corporate entities: CRCNA Canada, CRCNA U.S., ReFrame Ministries Canada, and ReFrame Ministries U.S. Here are highlights.

CRCNA Canada Corporation:

- Approved annual work plans for the Canadian Indigenous Ministries Committee and the Committee for Contact with the Government.
- Appointed several people to the Committee for Contact with the Government.
- Received a report from the Antiracism and Intercultural Conciliation Advisory Committee.
- Debriefed the January 29 Canadian Catalytic Conversation and committed to holding a special meeting on April 9 to carry the conversation forward and discuss the future of the CRC in Canada.
- Affirmed work being done to establish the Canadian office of the CRCNA.
- Appointed Chris Schoon to be the convener of the Joint Ministry Agreement (JMA) Management Committee.

ReFrame Ministries Canada Corporation:

- Heard an update on various ministry activities.

CRCNA U.S. Corporation:

- Heard an update from the Committee to Provide Guidance and Support to OSJ.
- Appointed Chris Schoon to be the convener of the JMA Management Committee.

ReFrame Ministries U.S. Corporation:

- Received an audit report.
- Approved the movement of \$1.7 million from the General Board Designated Fund, and \$3.3 million from undesignated operating reserves to a Stewardship Fund.

For more information, please contact:

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Upcoming meeting dates:

- May 4-6, 2022, in Grand Rapids, MI
- October 12-14, 2022, in Grand Rapids, MI
- February 15-17, 2023, virtually
- May 3-5, 2023, in Minneapolis, MN
- October 11-13, 2023 in Toronto, ON