

Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.

—Galatians 6:9-10



Christian Reformed Church

**Financial
Shalom**

shalom@crcna.org

1-616-224-5877 Ext. 2877

crcna.org/FinancialShalom

Financial Shalom

Supporting and Sustaining Pastors
in Ministry

Shalom means universal flourishing, wholeness and delight—a rich state of affairs in which natural needs are satisfied and natural gifts are fruitfully employed, a state of affairs that inspires joyful wonder as its Creator and Savior opens doors and welcomes the creatures in whom he delights. Shalom, in other words, is ***the way things ought to be.***

—Cornelius Plantinga, Jr.

What is Financial Shalom?

As a covenant family, the Christian Reformed Church in North America (CRCNA) desires that all of our pastors be kept in good health. This includes emotional, physical, mental, spiritual, and *financial* health.

Financial Shalom aims to help improve the financial well-being of *all* our pastors. The program provides grants to help pastors meet immediate needs and training, tools, and resources to strengthen the financial education of pastors and congregations.

The program is made possible through a \$1 million grant from Lilly Endowment Inc.'s National Initiative to Address Economic Challenges Facing Pastoral Leaders.

**We all need support
sometimes. This
program is not
reserved for someone
who “might need it
more”—if finances
weigh you down,
Financial Shalom is
for YOU.**

How will Financial Shalom *support* me as a pastor?

Financial Shalom provides assistance to Ministers of the Word and Commissioned Pastors within the CRCNA who face financial challenges that impede their wellbeing and their ministry. The goal is to help alleviate financial barriers so our pastors experience a renewed sense of shalom that will help foster excellence in ministry.

1. STUDENT LOAN RELIEF

Pastors with significant student loan debt may apply for a grant.

2. CRITICAL FINANCIAL NEEDS

Pastors with specific financial burdens such as health bills, medical emergencies, mortgage payments, debts, or other financial crises may apply for a grant.

3. RETIREMENT PLANNING

The CRCNA created a 403(b)(9) retirement plan that U.S. churches can make available to Commissioned Pastors and other church staff. Financial Shalom will cover the set up fees and the first year's administrative cost for each participating congregation. To learn more, visit crcna.org/retirement.

4. BIVOCATIONAL MINISTRY SUPPORT

Bivocational pastors, or pastors transitioning to a bivocational arrangement with their church, often face specific financial challenges. Qualified pastors may apply for specific grants and resources.

Applications and instructions are available on [our website](#). If any of these grants would offer you support and relief, we encourage you to apply.

How will Financial Shalom *sustain* me and my church?

Financial Shalom aims to strengthen the long-term financial education and management skills of pastors and congregations by offering the following:

TRAINING

- Free Financial Counseling: ordained CRCNA pastors and seminarians can receive free sessions with a trained financial counselor through our partner [LSS Financial Counseling](#).
- Church Stewardship Training: offered by [Barnabas Foundation](#) at no cost to your church.
- Online Finance Study: Crown Financial's [Moneylife Personal Finance](#) is available for free to all CRC pastors and congregations.

RESOURCES

- In addition to training programs, Financial Shalom's website catalogs a wide variety of tools and articles related to financial topics for pastors and churches. Please visit crcna.org/FinancialShalom or email shalom@crcna.org.

To apply or for more information, please visit:

crcna.org/FinancialShalom