

# Intercultural Learning Cohort



Christian Reformed Church  
**Intercultural  
Ministries**



# What's involved in participating in the Intercultural Learning Cohort?

## **Purpose**

Recognizing that a growing number of Canadian CRC churches are becoming intercultural, and that this shift requires a great deal of learning and discerning the Spirit's leading into uncharted territory, we will gather a number of such congregations to form a learning community from SEPT 2025 to MAY 2026. The cohort will serve Christian Reformed Churches from Thunder Bay to Vancouver Island (Canada West).

## **Schedule**

The cohort activities can be summarized as follows:

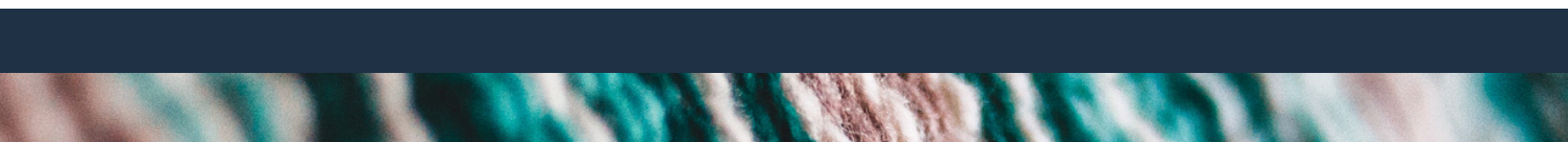
- Opening and closing retreat: SEPT and MAY.
- Bimonthly, full group 90 minute zoom calls in OCT, JAN, MARCH.
- Bimonthly conversations between each congregation and a cohort coach:  
• SEPT, NOV, FEB, APRIL

Not counting the two retreats, the commitment averages to about one hour a month

## **Activities**

1. Sharing the stories of what we are doing and what we are learning, celebrating what the Lord is doing.
2. Sharing the questions and challenges that arise from our ministries.
3. Learning from knowledge holders who have navigated these roads ahead of us.
4. Building a community together; finding within that community others whose experiences are similar to our own, and hosting ad hoc conversations with those churches to facilitate peer learning.
5. Other activities that emerge as the cohort develops.

This is a learning community in which we recognize that all participants share a common reality (becoming multicultural) while each church needs to address this common reality in its own unique ways.



# What is required to join this cohort?

1. There is no cost. All expenses are covered by a grant. Each participating congregation may apply for project funds up to \$1,000 USD (about \$1435 CAD).
2. Each church will form a team of 3-8 persons who will guide its participation in the cohort.
3. At least two members of this team will be present at all cohort activities as described above.
4. The council will be aware of the cohort's purpose and activities and will give their official endorsement.

## Our Commitment

The cohort leadership team will:

1. Organize all cohort activities.
2. Provide coaching.
3. Provide resources, including access to rich resource drive.
4. Serve as listeners, catalyzers and encouragers.
5. Be aware of common dynamics present in the participating congregations.

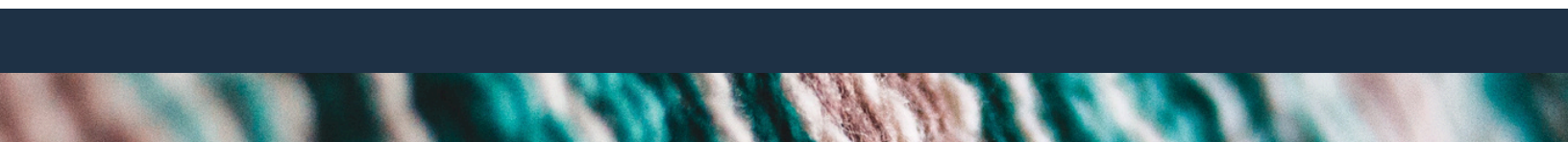
## Our Philosophy

The project seeks to honour these two realities:

1. Each congregation is unique.
2. There are identifiable patterns in intercultural ministry.

These two realities are honoured by recognizing that the presence of these identifiable patterns in each congregation are contextual, that is, they vary in strength and in the ways they intermingle with each other.

This project aspires to embody the reality that 14 congregations in the New Testament each receive a unique epistle – though there are common patterns present in all of them.



# Intercultural Ministry Patterns

Some patterns to observe:

1. The story of the beginnings of interculturality - the mysterious ways the Spirit moves
2. Engaging newer-comers in worship
3. Engaging newer-comers in leadership
4. How long-term members respond to the changing face of the congregation
5. Newer-comers and economic hardship and / or immigration hardship
6. Recognizing and working through differing cultural assumptions
7. The power of food and music to bridge cultural differences
8. Language / translation matters
9. Re-learning the dimensions of biblical hospitality
10. Routes to interculturality: refugee ministry, student ministry, diaconal ministry, more.

## Stories



*Intercultural Cohort Leaders Sharing the Growing Pains of Becoming Multicultural*

<https://www.crcna.org/do-justice/intercultural-cohort-leaders-sharing-growing-pains-becoming-multicultural>



*Canadian Multicultural Cohort Begins*

<https://www.crcna.org/news-and-events/news/canadian-multicultural-cohort-begins>



*Video Story: First Multicultural Cohort Wraps Up*

<https://www.crcna.org/news-and-events/news/video-story-first-multicultural-cohort-wraps>

## Contact



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