

Ministry Plan: Our Journey 2025

There's something about a journey that's exciting and invigorating. A promise of new horizons, new possibilities, new challenges. The Christian Reformed Church in North America is on such a journey.

It's called Our Journey 2025. Our because we are on it together as CRC people from congregations across the United States and Canada. Journey because we are moving ahead in our shared mission to express the good news of God's kingdom that transforms lives and communities worldwide, while also striving toward specific goals that our congregations and leaders have identified. And 2025 to remind us that this is just one stage of a journey that will see us living and growing together in new ways and in new places by the year 2025.

You may recall that we are nearing the conclusion of the ministry plan Our Journey 2020. During the time of this ministry plan, individuals, congregations, and ministries have specifically aimed to improve in the areas of discipleship, leadership, collaboration, Reformed identity, and community engagement, while also continuing to preach the gospel and seek out people who are lost.

We are pleased with the efforts and success stories that have been shared in the past five-year period. Churches have begun to flow like streams into their communities, meeting their neighbors and becoming channels for the love of Christ. New leaders have been identified, trained, and mentored to help bear fruit in local congregations. And CRC members of all ages have been nurtured in their faith to grow more and more into the likeness of Christ.

As we look toward 2025, it has become clear that there are four key aspects to this journey we are on. We are traveling with God, with each other, with our neighbors, and for mission.

Through conversations with Christian Reformed congregations, pastors, and leaders across North America, we have identified specific milestones toward which we believe God is calling us to strive in each of these areas in the next five years.

These are not the only purposes God is calling us to, but we believe that a denomination-wide emphasis on these milestones for the next five years will help us all move forward in appropriate and healthy ways in obedience to the Word of God.

In our journey with God, with each other, with our neighbors, and for mission, we desire to be congregations/communities that:

- cultivate practices of prayer and spiritual discipline, transforming our lives and communities by the power of the Holy Spirit.
- listen to the voices of every generation, shaping us for ministry together.
- grow in diversity and unity by seeking justice, reconciliation, and welcome, sharing our faith as we build relationships with and honor the cultures of our neighbors and newcomers.

- Share the gospel, live it missionally, and plant new churches in our neighborhoods, as we discover how to connect with our local and global ministry contexts.

Undergirding the journey toward these four milestones is a denomination-wide commitment to leadership development and renewal.

To assist leaders and congregations on this journey, the ministries of the Christian Reformed Church in North America have committed to provide resources, training, and support for each of these milestone areas. We will measure the success of this journey by reporting on the use of ministry resources by congregations, telling stories of church engagement and learnings along the way, and seeing congregations report about progress on the journey. An annual denominational survey will also help us assess whether congregations and members sense that they are moving forward in these areas.

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