

## World Renew Supplement

### I. Board matters

#### A. Canadian Board of Delegates

The board reports the following additional members to the Canadian Board of Delegates:

##### Member at large

*Gordon Van Vliet* is a member of Emmanuel CRC, Calgary, Alberta (Classis Alberta South/Saskatchewan), where he served as a deacon for two terms, including on its executive committee. He works as a barrister and solicitor and has an interest in board governance. He loves the idea of expressing his faith, albeit indirectly, through the work of picking people up when their lives are upended by factors beyond human control, and to support communities who want to better their lives but may lack the skills or resources to put those desires into action.

##### Pastoral advisor

*Cari Fydirchuk* serves as a pastor of River Park Church in Calgary, Alberta (Classis Alberta South/Saskatchewan). She served on two church-plant leadership teams as a young adult and graduated from Calvin Theological Seminary as part of the first master of divinity distance-learning program cohort. She is the founder of Reclaim-App, a ministry that focuses on integrating Christian spirituality with mental health practices, sharing the love of God as she creates safe spaces of connection with God and her neighbors.

#### B. Canadian Board of Directors

Jeff Adams, president (Alberta South/Saskatchewan)

Harry Bergshoeff, vice president (Toronto)

Darryl Back, treasurer (Niagara)

Margaret Hoogland, secretary (Alberta North)

Cari Fydirchuk, pastoral advisor (Alberta South/Saskatchewan)

Gordon Van Vliet, board director (Alberta South/Saskatchewan)

Echo MacLeod, board director (Eastern Canada)

Andrew Geisterfer, emeritus (Alberta North)

#### C. U.S. Board of Delegates

The board reports that the following will serve as U.S. delegates for a first term of three years:

##### Member at large

*Donn Hansum* is an active member of Highlands Church in Denver, Colorado, where he and his family are deeply involved in ministry activities. As a devoted Christian, Donn is passionate about the mission of World Renew and is eager to leverage his professional experience and skills to support the organization in any way he can. Donn brings the

dedication of a seasoned professional who is committed to engaging, promoting, and fostering the goals, objectives, and mission of World Renew. With 33 years of experience as director of Volunteers in Action in Denver, Donn has extensive experience working with various boards, providing diaconal training, and fostering partnerships with other nonprofits, ministries, and government social service organizations. Donn's skills include developing strong working relationships, nonprofit management, leadership, training facilitation, and promoting asset-based community development. He is committed to justice, mercy, humility, and prayer, aligning closely with the values of World Renew.

#### Member at large

*Graham Seel* is a dedicated member of Creekside Church in Martinez, California, and is actively involved in ministry and a nonprofit youth program offering choral opportunities to low-income families. His connection with World Renew began at Walnut Creek (Calif.) CRC and through his daughter's attendance at Calvin University. With a former career at Bank of America, he has valuable experience in financial services and strategic planning. Over the past decade he has volunteered extensively in economic livelihoods, contributing to Baker Fund reports, research papers, partner evaluations, and training sessions in Kenya and Uganda. He has a rich background in worship leading, lay preaching, Bible teaching, and children's ministry. He served nine years on a local Christian school board, including four as president. Currently he substitute teaches, leads chapels, and accompanies choirs. He is also president of Cantare, an Oakland-based choral nonprofit focused on justice and equity in underserved schools. He is committed to serving in God's name, using his gifts and experiences to support World Renew's mission of justice, compassion, and hope.

#### Classis Central Plains

*Jason DeBruin* is a lifelong member of the CRC and currently resides in Urbandale, Iowa. He works for Pioneer Seeds in Des Moines, Iowa, and is passionate about serving through his work and supporting organizations focused on eliminating hunger. Jason and his wife, an educator, are committed to their community and church. He has connected with World Renew through volunteering with Disaster Response Services. Jason also serves as an elder at Crossroads Fellowship CRC. His dedication to ministry and his professional expertise make him a valuable addition to the board. Jason is eager to contribute to World Renew's mission and to support its goals with his skills and experience.

#### Classis Georgetown

*James Roskam* is an active member of Georgetown CRC and Classis Georgetown. He brings a wealth of experience from his career in man-

agement and administration. Now retired, he is passionate about helping “underdogs,” and he has strong gifts in discernment and leadership. Throughout his church and ministry experiences, he has chaired the council for two churches, served on the Calvin Theological Seminary Board, and served as a member of the Council of Delegates. He has also chaired several community organizations and served as a delegate to synod five times. He is eager to bring his skills in process management, collaboration, enthusiasm, and leadership to the World Renew Board of Delegates.

#### Classis Kalamazoo

*Bill Fernhout* is a pastor with a robust background in youth ministry and evangelism. For the past 35 years, he has dedicated his life to guiding and mentoring young people, spending 15 years as a volunteer and 20 years in vocational youth ministry. He also directed a drop-in center known as The DOCK Ministry, offering a safe haven for youth in need. Currently he serves as the lead pastor of The PIER, a dynamic church plant focused on community outreach and spiritual growth. Bill's personal journey is a testament to his resilience and faith. Born to a single mother and adopted at six weeks old, he was introduced to Jesus by his adoptive parents. However, he struggled with his identity and faced an 18-year addiction to pornography. At the age of 15, amidst a turbulent period marked by lust and drugs, Bill experienced a transformative encounter with the Lord, which set him on a path to recovery and spiritual renewal. Married at 21, he is now a proud father of three and a grandfather of 15. Bill is passionate about cold call work to network and develop relationships, leveraging his skills to engage and support ministry activities. His authenticity and openness about his past struggles highlight the strength found in vulnerability, making him relatable and inspiring. Bill's extensive experience and unwavering commitment to evangelism, youth, and education clearly contribute to fostering the mission and objectives of World Renew.

#### Classis Minnkota

*Rick Fey* is a lifelong member of the CRC, and he and his wife are deeply committed to their church and community. With a diverse career background, Rick transitioned from running his family's local newspaper business to working in computer sales and later in procurement within the food industry. He has five children and maintains a strong connection to global development work through his son, who lived in South Africa and now works for Business Connect, a ministry led by Lou Haveman. Rick utilizes his procurement skills as a volunteer with the American Red Cross, while his wife is active in the church's Hispanic ministry. He has also served on his CRC council and his city council,

bringing a wealth of experience and dedication to his community and beyond.

#### Classis Wisconsin

*Dr. Christine Jeske* is deeply engaged in exploring the moral and cultural questions behind economic development, especially what North Americans can learn from the global South regarding finance and well-being. Her research focuses on how people envision achieving a “good life,” particularly those who are unemployed or in low-wage jobs. She has extensive experience in microfinance, refugee resettlement, community development, and teaching, having lived and worked in Nicaragua, northwestern China, and South Africa. As an author of three books, including *The Laziness Myth*, she examines what makes work desirable, the impact of racism on work, and how people find hope in challenging working conditions. She combines research, teaching, hospitality, parenting, and farming in her own life, striving to live out a good life. She resides in an old Wisconsin farmhouse named the Sanctuary, complete with chickens, pigs, weeds, two children, and her wonderful husband. She admires the World Renew approach and has connected with their work through Wheaton's Humanitarian Disaster Institute. She is eager to contribute her insights and experiences to the board.

The board reports that the following will serve as U.S. directors for a first two-year term:

Bev Abma, Classis Grandville  
Graham Seel, member at large

The board reports that the following will serve as U.S. directors for an additional one-year term:

Bonny Mulder-Behnia, member at large  
Charles Udeh, member at large  
Jeff Banaszak, member at large  
Shanti Jost, Classis Hudson  
Thomas Christian, Classis Grand Rapids South

#### *D. U.S. Board of Directors*

Jeff Banaszak, president (Holland, Michigan)  
Shanti Jost, vice president (North Haledon, New Jersey)  
Ken MacBain, treasurer (Philadelphia, Pennsylvania)  
Rudy Gonzalez, secretary (Moreno Valley, California)  
Bonny Mulder-Behnia, pastoral advisor (Bellflower, California)  
Thomas Christian, board director (Grandville, Michigan)  
Bev Abma, board director (Byron Center, Michigan)  
Charles Udeh, board director (Kentwood, Michigan)  
Graham Seel, board director (Concord, California)

*E. U.S. Board members completing terms*

World Renew would like to recognize and thank the following board members for completing service on the board:

Rev. Carl Bergman (Classis Muskegon)  
Charles Adams, emeritus

**II. Recommendation**

That synod receive for information the list of new members of the Canadian and U.S. Boards of Delegates.

World Renew  
Carol Bremer-Bennett, executive director, World Renew-U.S.  
Jamie McIntosh, executive director, World Renew-Canada