

GLOBAL MISSION AND MINISTRY

Chair: Rev. Chad M. Vandervalk
Reporter: Rev. Douglas E. Fakkema

I. Back to God Ministries International

- A. *Materials:* Back to God Ministries International Report, pp. 179-86
- B. *Privilege of the floor:* Rev. Kurt Selles, director of Back to God Ministries International
- C. *Recommendations*
 1. That synod celebrate Back to God Ministries International's (BTGMI) eighty years of faithfully reaching the world with the gospel, discipling believers, and strengthening the churches.
 2. That synod encourage congregations to use BTGMI resources in conjunction with their ministries, especially the rebranded resources of the ReFrame Media family: *Family Fire*, *Think Christian*, *Groundwork*, *Today*, *Church Juice*, and *Kids Corner*.
 3. That synod pray for the BTGMI transitions in Arabic and Spanish ministries as they build relationships with the Evangelical Presbyterian Church in Egypt and the National Presbyterian Church in Mexico.

II. Raise Up Global Ministries

- A. *Materials:* Raise Up Global Ministries Report, pp. 177-78
- B. *Recommendations*
 1. That synod celebrate the leadership of Gary Bekker in light of his retirement in the coming months and the appointment of Ms. Sam Huizenga as the new Raise Up Global Ministries director.
 2. That synod commend the ministry of Raise Up Global Ministries (Timothy Leadership Training, Global Coffee Break, and Educational Care) in expanding the worldwide impact of the CRCNA as they leverage an "action, reflection, learning" model of adult education developed in these ministries.
 3. That synod take a moment to pray for a blessing on Ms. Sam Huizenga's leadership, and for the Lord's financial provisions as Raise Up Global Ministries faces a \$500,000 deficit for 2020.

III. Resonate Global Mission

- A. *Materials*: Resonate Global Mission Report, pp. 187-94
- B. *Privilege of the floor*: Rev. Zachary King, director of Resonate Global Mission
- C. *Recommendations*
1. That synod commend the work of Resonate Global Mission as they steward the vision for missions in the CRCNA and highlight their “Go Local” journey as a process to help congregations discern how to engage their communities.
 2. That synod encourage the churches to consider Resonate Global Mission as a key partner in fulfilling the following calling: “Each of us has a vital role to play in God’s mission! Resonate seeks to equip each church and each member for that role, for living and sharing the good news. Mission work is not only for an elite squad of missionaries or church planters – our prayer for the future of mission work is that each Christian will be emboldened in living out the good news!” (*Agenda for Synod 2019*, p. 187).
 3. That synod call churches to examine and repent of anything that hinders our full participation in personal evangelism and discipleship.
 4. That synod encourage CRCNA congregations to instill, foster, and celebrate a missional culture that raises up leaders who are called to local and global gospel witness. This includes formal roles such as cross-cultural missionaries, church planters, campus pastors, and teachers. It also includes parents, lay leaders, and others.
 5. That synod encourage all Christian Reformed congregations to recognize the following Sundays as significant opportunities to pray for and to receive an offering for Resonate Global Mission: Easter, Pentecost, the third Sunday in September, and Reformation Day Sunday.

IV. World Renew

- A. *Materials*
1. World Renew Report, pp. 213-35
 2. World Renew Supplement
- B. *Privilege of the floor*: Mr. Charles Adams, president of World Renew-U.S.; Mr. Raymond Prins, president of World Renew-Canada; Ms. Carol Bremer-Bennett, director of World Renew-U.S.; and Ms. Ida Kaastra-Mutoigo, director of World Renew-Canada
- C. *Recommendation*

That synod celebrate World Renew as global leaders in mercy and justice ministry. World Renew should be congratulated for holding ministry in word and deed together with integrity, enabling churches around the world to make lasting impacts in their own communities, and multiplying their influence through partnerships with governments and other institutions. As they work with people around the world to connect churches to their neighbors, proactively address

injustices, and build community resilience, World Renew brings glory to God and recognition to the CRCNA.

V. Communities First Association

A. *Materials*: Communities First Association Report, pp. 391-92

B. *Recommendations*

1. That synod express appreciation for Communities First Association's partnership with Calvin Theological Seminary's Dig program for high school students.
2. That synod request Communities First Association to provide more tangible information about their work with CRCNA congregations and agencies in future reports. For example, provide information regarding how many students they have worked with, the outcomes used to evaluate their work, and how many congregations they have partnered with in a given period of time.

VI. Diaconal Ministries Canada

A. *Materials*: Diaconal Ministries Canada Report, pp. 393-94

B. *Recommendation*

That synod commend the work of Diaconal Ministries Canada and its director Rev. Ron Vanden Brink for their work of inspiring, empowering and equipping deacons, and encourage the churches and classes in the United States to learn from the good work of Diaconal Ministries Canada.

VII. Partners Worldwide

A. *Materials*: Christian Reformed Partners Worldwide Report, p. 400

B. *Recommendation*

That synod commend the ministry of Partners Worldwide in connecting persons in the spheres of business and economic development with opportunities to serve around the world, and particularly in the ways Partners Worldwide connects economic development with global mission.

VIII. Assisting Immigrant Churches and Response to Overture 10: Provide Legal Counsel to Assist Congregations with Immigration

A. *Materials*

1. Overture 10, pp. 513-14
2. Council of Delegates Report, section II, B, 8, including Appendix I (pp. 44-45, 101-110)

3. Council of Delegates Supplement, section I, F, 1

B. Recommendations

1. That synod recognize the ongoing work in response to synod's instruction related to enfolding immigrant churches and commend the Assisting Immigrant Churches document (COD Report, Appendix I) to the classes and churches (II, B, 8).
2. That synod instruct the Executive Director, in consultation with the appropriate CRC agencies, to identify and communicate appropriate legal and financial resources to assist churches and classes with pastor's immigration.
3. That synod declare this as its response to Overture 10.

IX. Response to Overture 11: Provide Funding, Support, and Care for Resonate Global Mission Missionaries through Individual Classes

A. Materials

1. Overture 11, p. 514
2. Council of Delegates Supplement, section I, F, 2

B. Recommendations

1. That synod commend Classis Iakota for its sensitivity and concern for our Resonate Global Mission missionaries.
2. That synod encourage classes to take a larger, more proactive role in supporting new and current missionaries, particularly missionaries who do not have significant long-term connections to individual congregations in the CRCNA.
3. That synod declare this as its response to Overture 11.