

2018 Ministry Report

May It Be A Sweet, Sweet Sound



Christian
Reformed
Church

The Music of Denomination

While I do appreciate a good solo performance, I have to admit that I have a special love of choral music. There is something beautiful that happens when alto, soprano, tenor, and bass voices all blend and harmonize together. The resulting sound is much fuller and greater than if you hear each voice separately.

I think this is an apt metaphor for what I also appreciate about being part of a denomination. The Christian Reformed Church in North America (CRCNA) is made up of about 230,000 individuals who each have their unique gifts and experiences to offer.

When these individuals combine as a local congregation, the result is something powerful – a worship-filled community that fosters the faith of its members, reaches out into its surrounding community, and gives praise to God for his wonderful gifts.

When these local churches combine as regional classes, the impact is even greater. Together they can support campus ministry and church plants, provide guidance and assistance to congregations that are struggling, mentor new pastors, and work together on common goals.

And when classes combine across cities, states, provinces, and countries to be a binational denomination the result is a beautiful and powerful “choir” of witnesses doing kingdom work.

Consider, for example, the ministry-share system of the CRCNA. Ministry-share giving is powered by the simple commitment of every CRC member to be part of something bigger. Through churches and classes, each member contributes about eight dollars a week, enabling all of us to participate in life-changing ministries around the world. While eight dollars does not seem like much on its own, the sum total enables us to mentor church planters, fund missionary programs, train church leaders, support media outreach, and equip congregations in areas such as racial reconciliation, safe church policies, disability concerns, social justice, and chaplaincy.

The ministry plan of the CRCNA is another example of combined efforts. The goals of *Our Journey 2020*, were developed through conversations with individuals and congregations across North America. Together we decided on five “desired futures” that we jointly felt God calling our attention to: discipleship, leadership, Reformed identity, collaboration, and churches flowing into their communities.

Congregations committed themselves toward working on these goals, and CRCNA ministries have been using ministry shares to develop and share resources to equip congregations on this journey.

Together we are seeing many signs of progress. Congregations are finding new ways to do intergenerational worship that fosters faith formation in people of all ages. Churches are flowing into their communities with new efforts. Individuals are putting aside political differences to find unity in faith. You can read and watch videos of additional stories by visiting crcna.org/ourjourney.

On the following pages, you’ll see more examples of the “beautiful music” God is producing through the collaborative efforts of the Christian Reformed Church. The design of this report shows a visual rendering of soundwaves from music. When we sing, we aren’t always aware of the science behind what makes the sound so beautiful.

In the same way, while we are all involved in doing God’s work, we know we are seeing only the smallest glimpse of the grand plan God is working in and through us. Glory be to God, our creator, Savior, and master conductor. May our work as the church be a sweet, sweet sound in his ears.



Dr. Steven Timmermans
is the executive director
of the Christian Reformed
Church in North America

Back to God Ministries International

Back to God Ministries International is the worldwide media ministry of the CRCNA. Together with your church, we are spreading the gospel in ten of the world's major languages. Using technology and media, we carry out our mission to

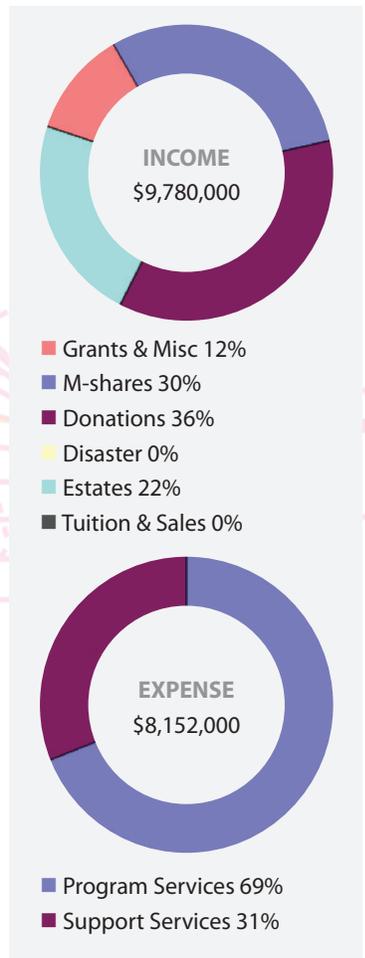
- proclaim that Jesus Christ is Lord.
- help followers of Jesus grow in their faith.
- strengthen the church.



HIGHLIGHTS

- We officially relaunched our Arabic-language ministry in partnership with the Evangelical Presbyterian Church of Egypt and Words of Hope.
- Our French-language ministry continues to see increased response, both face to face and through media contacts. The French ministry team also developed a new audio broadcast series to specifically address the needs of women and families.
- Our Japanese-language ministry team produced 16 videos of a new program, *The Church in My Town*, to help connect listeners and seekers to the local church and to remove barriers for those hesitant to attend church.
- Some more ministry details by the numbers:
 - 8,124 donors
 - 339 volunteers serving around the world, plus nearly 5,000 prayer
 - partners who pray faithfully for BTGMI followers and their needs
 - 89 countries reached through radio, TV, print, or discipleship centers
 - 57 audio programs and 20 video programs proclaiming the good news of Jesus
 - 33 ministry websites and 57 social media pages

Thank you so much for your partnership in the gospel. BTGMI couldn't do this work without the prayers and financial support of members of Christian Reformed churches across North America.



BackToGod.net

Called to be witnesses of Christ's kingdom to the ends of the earth, we start and strengthen local churches in North America and around the world.

Resonate Global Mission

Resonate Global Mission works with you to help the good news of Jesus go out in all directions like an expanding, amplifying sound. Together we work to build up the global church in three main ways:

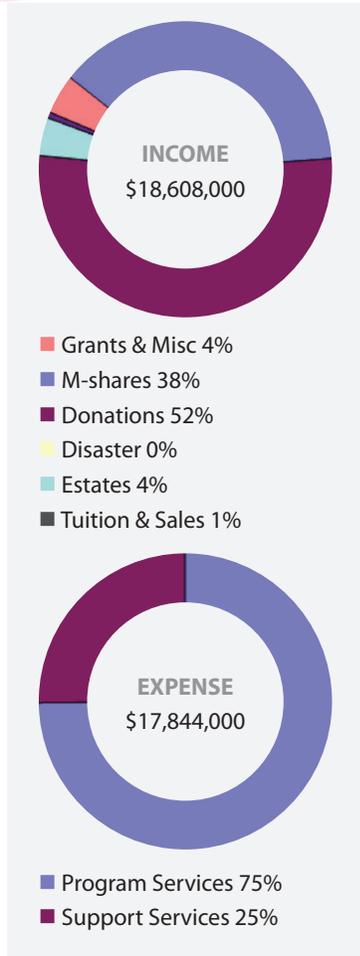
- **Mission-shaped congregations:** Together with you, Resonate plants new churches and walks alongside congregations that seek revitalization and renewal. Your support for Resonate means more churches that live out the gospel.
- **Missional leaders:** Now more than ever, our denomination needs people who can lead others on mission. Resonate helps leaders make God's mission their priority—and invite others to join. Your partnership with Resonate means leaders have access to the training and tools they will need to live out the gospel.
- **Holistic mission networks:** Joining with God's mission is hard work, and one individual or organization can't do it alone. Holistic mission networks are partnerships that connect what God is doing locally to God's mission worldwide. Networks multiply ministry work and unite churches.



Together with you, we are continuing to build God's church—planting churches and supporting ministry in North America as well as sending missionaries around the globe to share the good news. Thank you!

HIGHLIGHTS

- We serve the entire globe with 14 regional teams spread through their geographical areas.
- More than 6,500 new believers came to Christ in the past year.
- More than 200 new communities of faith formed around the world.
- We sponsor more than 120 missionaries and 280 volunteers serving around the world.
- Partnering with 36 new churches in North America, we added nine new partnerships in the past year.
- We support campus ministries on more than 37 different campuses.
- We provide ministries and churches with training, coaching, resources, education, and funding.



resonateglobalmission.org

Annual Leadership and Worship Conference Held in Haiti



Pastor Pierre Adelus Dossous may be in a part of the world that is much different from North America, but the problems he faces in his congregation are all too familiar.

Dossous leads worship for a congregation in Port-au-Prince, Haiti. In a time when hectic schedules and new technology compete for the attention of his congregants, Dossous often feels uncertain and underresourced as he seeks to proclaim the gospel in a way that engages his community.

To come alongside people like Dossous, Resonate Global Mission and Back to God Ministries International (BTGMI) collaborate to offer an annual leadership and worship conference for church leaders in Port-au-Prince. Inspired by Calvin College's annual Symposium on Worship, the conference provides opportunities for Dossous and other leaders to learn new ways to lead worship in their churches.

"The training equips me and my church leaders to lead a service of praise and worship," says Dossous.

At the most recent conference, Dossous began and ended both days in worship alongside nearly 100 other pastors and worship leaders. The group also took part in practical learning sessions that taught him new worship models and ways to effectively use media in worship services.

Like all leadership training events that BTGMI and Resonate host, the most important work comes after the tables are folded and chairs are stacked—when the event is over and participants implement what they have learned.

Dossous explained that he went back to his church feeling more confident in his own leadership skills as well as his ability to empower others. "Now I can even help other leaders at my church prepare a good worship service," he said.

Also in attendance, Pastor Exacier Anaud noted that the conference provided useful tools for him to use to teach others and to plan community evangelism tours with his church.

This conference illustrates just one way the Christian Reformed Church has served the global church in 2018. Thank you for equipping leaders like Dossous and Anaud with your ministry shares and offerings.

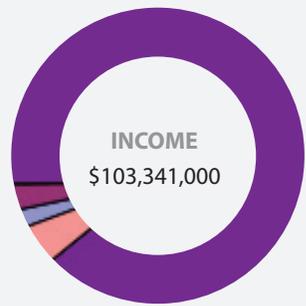
Faith Formation

Calvin College

Founded by the Christian Reformed Church, Calvin College is a world-class Christian liberal arts college that equips and empowers its 3,700 students and 65,000 alumni to pursue truth and to inquire with intellect. Through the integration of faith and rigorous academic study, students are equipped to think deeply, to act justly, and to live wholeheartedly as Christ's agents of renewal in the world.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Ranked number 1 among Midwest regional colleges by *U.S. News & World Report*.
- Announced the transition from Calvin College to Calvin University by 2020. The move is part of the college's Vision 2030 plan for fulfilling its mission over the next decade.
- Collaborated with Calvin Theological Seminary to establish the Kuyper Institute for Global Faculty Development. The institute, one of 12 centers and institutes at Calvin, enables Christian leaders and faculty to deepen their understanding of the Reformed tradition broadly, and Kuyperian thinking particularly.
- Awarded 15 inmates at the Richard A. Handlon Correctional Facility associate's degrees through the Calvin Prison Initiative. Seventy-five students at the prison are currently pursuing a bachelor's degree in ministry leadership through this program.
- Graduated nearly 900 students representing 60-plus majors in 2018. The most recent annual employment and grad school report shows that 99 percent of Calvin alumni are professionally employed or in graduate school within nine months of graduation.
- Collaborated with the Grand Rapids African American Health Institute and six West Michigan colleges and universities on "Pathways to Careers in Health Care," an initiative that has the goal of developing "college-specific" plans of action to engage students of color in reducing barriers to choosing study in health care professions.
- Claimed league titles in nine varsity sports, earning the league's all-sports award for a school-record fourth straight year. Calvin also matched a school record with 14 teams earning GPA awards for having a cumulative team GPA of 3.30 or above.



- Grants & Misc 5%
- M-shares 2%
- Donations 3%
- Disaster 0%
- Estates 0%
- Tuition & Sales 90%



- Program Services 83%
- Support Services 17%

Note: Full audited financial statements are available at calvin.edu



As a community of believers, we seek to introduce people to Jesus Christ and to nurture their faith through all ages and stages of life.

Faith Formation Ministries

Faith Formation Ministries (FFM) encourages and equips local Christian Reformed ministry leaders in their calling to shape lifelong faith formation in their context so that all generations may have an intentional and resilient faith.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Thirteen congregations were part of the Emerging Leaders and Seasoned Saints cohort that focused on the faith formation of emerging leaders (16 to 30 years old) and people in the “third third” of life (60+ years old).
- Around 25 congregations began their participation in the Family Faith Formation cohort, exploring creative ways to equip families to grow in faith at home, build on existing family patterns and strengths, and meaningfully connect home and church.
- FFM created two new toolkits: the Children’s Ministry toolkit and the Family Faith Formation toolkit. In partnership with Pastor Church Resources we also developed the Pastors’ Spiritual Vitality toolkit.
- Mimi Larson was appointed to serve as the CRC’s denomination-wide children’s ministry catalyzer.
- Half of all CRC classes have a youth ministry champion who works to empower and encourage leaders at the front lines of youth ministry by listening, praying, connecting, and serving as a voice on their behalf at classis.
- FFM regional catalyzers made presentations to more than 30 classes about FFM’s work and the many resources available to congregations. They also connected with over 400 churches and ministry leaders through email, phone, videoconferencing, and in-person coaching sessions to help strengthen faith formation efforts in local contexts.
- More than 12 Faith Formation workshops took place in churches from Vancouver to Iowa on topics from faith at home to understanding congregational culture.

Finances are included in the Congregational Services chart on page 22.

Radical Hope at Handlon

In 2018, Calvin College had two commencement ceremonies: one an annual tradition at which 900 students graduated on the college's main campus, and the other—a first of many to come—30 miles east, inside prison walls.

The Calvin Prison Initiative (CPI), a program begun in 2016 through a collaboration of Calvin College, Calvin Theological Seminary, and the Michigan Department of Corrections, allows 20 inmates each year an opportunity to pursue a bachelor's degree in ministry leadership. In May 2018, 15 students from the first group celebrated earning their associate's degrees.

"Remember, when we started this program, there was no manual to refer to. Basically you [graduates] helped us develop a blueprint for how to run a college program inside a prison," said DeWayne Burton, warden at the Richard A. Handlon Correctional Facility in Ionia, Mich.

That blueprint has unleashed a powerful vision, replacing despair with hope . . . radical hope.

"We humans are sustained by hope. It is the link between our past and our future, and when there is no future, there is no hope," said Cheryl Brandsen, provost of Calvin College, during her 2018 commencement address at Handlon.

After sharing her reflection on a passage in the book of Jeremiah about a despairing people who had lost hope, Brandsen shared a poignant line from Calvin's new vision statement, which intentionally echoes that passage: "Calvin University will be animated by a Reformed Christian faith that seeks understanding and promotes the welfare of the city and the healing of the world."

The inmates in the CPI program—many of whom are serving life sentences—have found purpose through a Christ-centered education.

"I was arrested eight months after graduating from high school," said Michael Duthler. "I had an idea of what education was, but I didn't connect it to vocation, this idea of being a prime citizen. The two ideas were as far apart as heaven was from earth, but now are very much a part of how I understand my role on earth on my way to heaven."



And when students like Duthler understand that God's kingdom is not confined by anything, that all square inches of creation are in play, it opens doors that aren't limited by physical space.

"What began for me with an acceptance letter to CPI has formed me into the man who I am today and is inextricably bound with how I see myself in the future, someone who desires to bring in God's kingdom, to be that agent of renewal, to restore shalom, by sharing my education with others, by living out my vocation in a way that glorifies and magnifies God and allows his presence to be known in whatever sphere I touch," said Duthler.

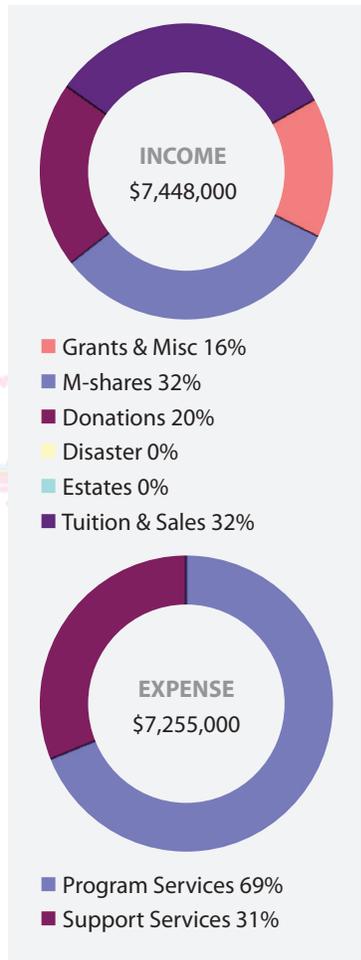
Gospel Proclamation and Worship

Calvin Theological Seminary

Calvin Theological Seminary is about preparing faithful, creative, compassionate leaders who will nurture disciples, renew churches, and be bearers of shalom to a world in turmoil. Its Reformed approach to theological education uniquely equips students to face the complexities of ministry in this rapidly changing world. All of this happens through an experience that joins head, heart, and hands together in joyful response to God's sovereign claim over all creation.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Online seminary courses in Spanish: Beginning in the fall of 2018, Calvin Seminary launched a series of fully online courses taught entirely in Spanish. With the purpose of more fully equipping church leaders in North America and around the world, these classes are shaped by the on-campus certificate program supporting Latino/a brothers and sisters in their ministry.
- Dig 2018: The DIG program is a three-week, hands-on experience for high school students exploring God's call on their life. Formerly known as Facing Your Future, the goal of the Dig program aims to encourage students to "uncover their future as they explore how a calling to ministry can be lived out in any vocation."
- Newly designed MA in ministry leadership: This recently redesigned degree program has been streamlined for student success in key areas of church ministry.
- Graduation: In late May, Calvin Theological Seminary celebrated the graduation of 60 students from a variety of degree and certificate programs during the annual commencement ceremony. This year's graduation season had an additional reason for celebration with the graduation of 15 students through the Calvin Prison Initiative at the Handlon Correctional Facility in Ionia, Mich.



calvinseminary.edu

Worship Ministries

There is great beauty in the diversity of the churches making up the Christian Reformed Church in North America. The challenge for denominational ministry leaders is in how to support such diversity and help each congregation sing its own part of the "sweet, sweet, song." One way Worship Ministries aims to do that is through its new Endorsed Coaches program. Worship Ministries endorsed coaches are individuals with proven worship-related gifts with whom folks can contract for mentoring, coaching, and/or workshops.

Worship Ministries recently found that since we began as a ministry office in 2015, we have connected with 68 percent of U.S. churches and 72 percent of Canadian churches through:

- Peer learning groups—over 100 participants involved with worship read and discuss books in small groups either in person or online.
- Webinars—each year we offer 9-10 different webinars on various worship-related topics. All of these webinars are recorded and available on the CRCNA Network.
- Workshops—we continue to respond to requests from classes and individual churches to provide training as well as to offer workshops at various conferences.
- *Reformed Worship*—this quarterly worship journal continues to provide helpful resources and compelling articles for worshipping communities. (*ReformedWorship.org*)

Finances are included in the Congregational Services chart on page 22.

crcna.org/Worship

Candidacy

The Candidacy Committee is charged with facilitating, coordinating, and offering leadership in the ordination processes for pastors in the Christian Reformed Church.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Endorsement of 43 individuals for approval by Synod 2018 as first-time candidates for the office of minister of the Word.
- Approval by Synod 2018 of various proposals regarding the oversight of the process of ordaining commissioned pastors.
- Addition of a second offering of the new English-language orientation program for affiliating pastors, called Ethnic Leaders Institute in Ministry, similar to the established program Korean Institute in Ministry. Attendance in this program is increasing, as are the number of ethnic-minority pastors who are affiliating with the CRCNA.
- Facilitation of retreats and events to orient, welcome, and assimilate current and future pastoral leaders into the denominational family.

Finances are included in the Congregational Services chart on page 22.

crcna.org/Candidacy

Chaplaincy and Care Ministry

Chaplaincy and Care Ministry endorses 142 active chaplains throughout the United States and Canada—in the military, hospitals, behavioral health, disaster relief, and many other areas—as they serve millions of people in crisis or spiritual distress. Through training, support, and advocacy, Chaplaincy and Care empowers chaplains to extend the love of Christ in broken places, encouraging the lonely, listening to the unheard, and comforting people who grieve.



Kent Sanders (right) reconnects with his mentor, Eric Evenhuis (left), at Chaplains Training.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Hosted 138 people at our annual Chaplains Training Conference, which provided continuing education, fellowship, and opportunities for networking
- Endorsed eight new chaplains and recommended two students for military chaplain programs
- Renewed the endorsements of 25 active chaplains
- Educated 101 pastors and students interested in careers in chaplaincy
- Provided \$15,533 in funding for the education and training of 14 endorsed and prospective chaplains
- Participated in seven national chaplaincy organizations (in the U.S. and Canada) to advocate for the needs of chaplains and to promote diversity
- Enabled chaplains to minister to over 2 million people, providing an estimated \$10 million in ministry service (based on ministry reports and average compensation)
- Hired a full-time communications specialist, who started in January 2018
- Updated chaplain resources, streamlined the endorsement process, and developed new marketing materials

Finances are included in the Congregational Services chart on page 22.

Understanding that the lifelong equipping of leaders is essential for churches and ministries to flourish, we identify, recruit, and train leaders to be servants in the kingdom of God.

Pastor Church Resources

Pastor Church Resources (PCR) serves pastors, churches, and classes as they seek to promote healthy relationships, encourage one another in ministry, and discern next steps in seasons of growth, transition, or challenge.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Many are using PastorSearch, which helps churches find pastors and pastors find churches. PCR staff assist search committees and pastors in navigating this process.
- Over 300 consultations, ranging from continuing education seminars to in-depth conversations about challenging situations, have taken place this year.
- Over 80 women attended the Pastors' Wives' Conference in Calgary, Alta., in September.
- In the near future a Korean-language version of the Pastor's Spiritual Vitality Toolkit will be available on the PCR website.
- Seventy-five pastors and ministry leaders engaged in a ministry fit assessment in 2018.
- Resources for church councils are being created in partnership with Faith Formation Ministries.
- After 11 years the Sustaining Congregational Excellence program ended in June. During this program's existence, 502 congregations participated and 60 percent of the CRCNA's smaller congregations were awarded a total of over \$2 million in grants.
- More than 150 pastors are currently in a Sustaining Pastoral Excellence (SPE) peer-learning group. Almost 900 CRC pastors have been in an SPE group in the past 15 years.
- We've supplied stronger support for the work of classes through direct consultation and through support of key personnel, including 65 regional pastors and almost 200 mentors of newly ordained pastors.
- PCR received a \$1 million grant from Lilly Endowment Inc. to pursue a five-year project, Thriving Together, focusing on "invisible transitions" in pastoral ministry.



Blerta Rizallaraj from Bryon Center, Mich. was one of 78 women who attended the Pastors' Wives conference in Calgary, Alta in September.

Finances are included in the Congregational Services chart on page 22.

Raise Up Global Ministries

Through partners these three ministries train, equip, and raise up Christian leaders to nurture and grow their congregations and communities in Christ through programs and key resources that are biblically grounded, gospel-driven, Spirit-led, relationally focused, and accessibly delivered.

Coffee Break



Coffee Break supports and develops Christians to organize and lead small group evangelistic Bible studies.



EDUCATIONAL CARE

Faith-based strategies for educators

Educational Care encourages and assists educators to develop instructional skills, curricular strategies, and administrative capacities that honor each person as created in the image of God.



TIMOTHY

LEADERSHIP TRAINING INSTITUTE

Timothy Leadership Training equips people in ministry with essential knowledge and skills to nurture healthy congregations and transform their communities for Christ.

HIGHLIGHTS

- **Coffee Break:** New books, new small groups, and new partners—Coffee Break has seen doors continue to open for small-group ministry and for leadership development to flourish. Growth in Spanish-language groups and partnerships with Crossroads Prison Ministries have been significant areas of focus in the past year.
- **Educational Care:** Key areas for growth for Educational Care has been continued training in Korea and Egypt and the exploration of several new training locations. It has been encouraging to see Korean leaders begin on their own to make plans to bring Educational Care to new locations.
- **Timothy Leadership Training:** For the first time, a conference of certified TLT trainers was held in South America, bringing together leaders from four Andean countries to share best practices, encourage one another, and make plans for training more leaders in their countries and beyond. It is exciting to see how God is using TLT to train pastors in urban Lima and in remote jungle locations along the Amazon River and elsewhere in between.



RaiseUpGlobal.org

CRC Celebrates First Female Military Chaplain's Retirement

In June, CRC chaplains presented Major InSoon Gho Hoagland with an American flag. She was the first woman, first person of color, and first female military chaplain ordained by the CRC. In June she retired after 20 years serving as a chaplain in the United States Army.

During her time in the Army, Rev. Hoagland was deployed twice to Iraq.

"My first deployment in 2003 was physically challenging," she remembers, "because we had to live minimally. My second deployment, however, was the most challenging time spiritually."

In 2016 Rev. Hoagland was part of the 3rd Heavy Combat Brigade, 1CAV Division, stationed in Baqubah, Diyala province, Iraq—and that year 181 soldiers were killed and over 500 were wounded in action.

"Spiritually, I became a casualty of war. However, God's grace sustained me, and he helped me become a wounded healer just as our Lord has been for us."

Rev. Hoagland touched the lives of countless soldiers and their families by providing extensive pastoral care and counseling. After retiring, she began her own private practice, Sunflower Counseling Center, in Leavenworth, Kan., where she can use her military experience and background in counseling to help veterans and families in need.

Rev. Hoagland attributes her ministry career to her calling church, Eastern Avenue CRC in Grand Rapids, Mich.

"They have been very faithful," she says, "to support my ministry in the military. My ministry was their ministry, and we did well."

When an Army soldier retires from active duty, they are presented with an American flag as a reminder of the lasting impact of their service. We in the CRC recognize Rev. Hoagland's service as well. Her faith, perseverance, and humility have brought the presence of Christ to the battlefield and beyond. We look forward to seeing what her next twenty years of ministry will bring.



Chaplain (LTC) Scott Koeman presents an American flag to Chaplain (MAJ) InSoon Hoagland at the 2018 Chaplains Training Conference in recognition of her 20 years of service in the United States Army.

Aboriginal Ministry

The Canadian Aboriginal Ministry Committee (CAMC) has the specific role of educating and mobilizing CRC members and congregations to live in reconciled relationships as covenant (treaty) people before our Creator. The committee includes the directors of three Urban Aboriginal Ministries, a justice and reconciliation mobilizer, and volunteers from across Canada. CAMC fulfills its mandate by working toward three goals:

- Awareness and education of CRC members and communities about our shared history of the present lived reality and of the need for reconciliation and renewed relationships
- Engaging and building relationships to better understand each other
- Advocacy and seeking justice with Aboriginal peoples

During this past year, CAMC celebrated with Indigenous Christian Fellowship, an urban aboriginal ministry in Regina, Sask., as it commemorated its fortieth year of ministry.

Through your support, the Canadian Aboriginal Ministry Committee also continued its work on raising awareness of the necessity of reconciliation and creating resources that help to educate and engage members of the CRCNA.

This includes exercises and prayers on the themes in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. It also includes a guide for the practice of acknowledging the territory you live on or practice your faith in.

Finances are included in the Congregational Services chart on page 22.

crcna.org/Aboriginal

Centre for Public Dialogue

The Christian Reformed Centre for Public Dialogue helps Canadian congregations do justice so that each of God's image-bearers has the opportunity to thrive. Its current focus areas are Indigenous justice, human trafficking, refugee justice, religious persecution, and climate change.

HIGHLIGHTS

In the past year, the Centre for Public Dialogue

- Launched the first Justice and Hope Sunday, with participation from more than 20 churches across Canada.
- Together with World Renew and the Office of Social Justice, updated a toolkit to help congregations mark World Refugee Day.
- Provided online advocacy opportunities and education opportunities about online pornography, Indigenous child welfare, clean energy policies, Canada Summer

Jobs, climate change, Indigenous education funding, and refugee resettlement.

- Partnered with World Renew, Citizens for Public Justice, and Mennonite Central Committee in advocacy in support of refugee sponsorship system policy changes.
- Together with Worship Ministries and the Institute for Christian Studies, welcomed 75 participants to the *For Such a Time as This* conference resources at the intersection of justice and worship.
- Worked with CRC Justice Mobilizer Cindy Stover to train people across Canada for effective advocacy using our new workshop *Faith in Action: Practicing Biblical Advocacy*.

Finances are included in the Congregational Services chart on page 26.

crcna.ca/PublicDialogue; crcna.org/DoJustice

Hearing the cries of the oppressed, forsaken, and disadvantaged, we seek to act justly and love mercy as we walk humbly with our God.

Disability Concerns

In North America 17-20 percent of people live with a disability. Disability Concerns collaborates with the Reformed Church in America (RCA) Disability Concerns ministry toward a shared goal: helping CRC and RCA churches deepen as communities where everybody belongs and everybody serves. With your support and on your behalf these ministries

- support a network of volunteer disability advocates who help regions and classes live out our mission for everybody to belong and serve in congregations and their surrounding communities.
- create resources for churches to use in worship, discipleship, and care.
- consult with churches and ministries.

HIGHLIGHTS

- In the past year Disability Concerns has focused significantly on ministry with older people. In Woodstock, Ont., nearly 150 people gathered for a day-long conference on the challenges and opportunities of aging.
- Disability Concerns also provides assistance to Friendship Ministries in a variety of ways, including development of new Bible study materials called Together (togethersmallgroups.org) for groups of people with and without intellectual disability.

Finances are included in the Congregational Services chart on page 22.

crcna.org/Disability

Office of Social Justice

The Office of Social Justice works with congregations and individuals to develop a deeper understanding of and obedient response to God's call to let justice flow like a river in our personal and communal lives, as well as in the structures of our societies.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Every action alert now includes a background document providing the context, impact on marginalized people, relevance to the CRCNA and its ministries, and overview of how Scripture, Reformed theology, and synodical decisions shape engagement on the issue.
- Over 700 CRC members are Climate Witness Partners in more than 100 congregations/organizations. Through energy stewardship projects, advocacy, education, and the incorporation of

creation care into worship, they help congregations address climate change and learn to be good stewards of God's creation.

- Over 250 congregations used our worship materials for the International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church or for Sanctity of Human Life Sunday.
- Seven new *Do Justice* columnists write on issues including restorative justice, religious persecution, climate change, poverty and hunger, abortion, refugee sponsorship, and theology.
- We partner with the Reformed Church in America to contract immigration regional organizers in several states to help congregations in the U.S. deepen their understanding of immigration and refugee issues.

Finances are included in the Congregational Services chart on page 22.

crcna.org/Justice or crcna.org/DoJustice

Office of Race Relations

The Office of Race Relations resources Christian Reformed members and congregations as they dismantle the causes and effects of racism within the body of believers and throughout the world. Race Relations helps the CRC live as God's diverse and unified family. Our mission: "To be in Christ is to be reconciled with one another as a community of racially and ethnically diverse people of God" (*God's Diverse and Unified Family*, CRC Synod 1992).

HIGHLIGHTS

- Launched two new workshops to assist in the church's efforts to move closer to God's idea of biblical diversity and reconciliation:
 - *Racism: Looking Back, Moving Forward (U.S.)*
 - *An Act of Re-membering (Canada)*
- Supported regional racial reconcilers across the U.S. and Canada through three regional bi-monthly newsletters (bit.ly/racerelationsnews).
- Granted college scholarships to four racial reconcilers to support their learning and growth.
- Mentored a group of CRC young adults as they participated in a week-long immersion experience in a local Indigenous community.

Finances are included in the Congregational Services chart on page 22.

crcna.org/Race

Safe Church Ministry

Safe Church helps build communities that honor the value of each person. In this #MeToo moment people are emboldened to speak out about their experiences of abuse. Safe Church equips churches to respond with understanding, compassion, and justice that foster healing and prevent future harm.

HIGHLIGHTS

- **Equipped in our #MeToo World:** This binational conference took place Sept. 21-22, 2018, in Grand Rapids, Mich. with representatives from 26 classes.
- **New resources:**
 - Responding to Abuse: A Toolkit for Churches answers frequently asked questions that arise in abuse situations.
 - S.O.S.—Sharing our Stories provides opportunity to listen to and learn from people who have experienced abuse.
- **New classis coordinator fund:** This designated fund offers grants for classes to establish a Safe Church Coordinator position with an annual stipend.
- **Training events:** Staff and volunteers have led training events, team meetings, workshops, and classis presentations in Classes Huron, Yellowstone, Hamilton, Eastern Canada, Grand Rapids North, Muskegon, Toronto, Pacific Northwest, and many other places.
- **Confidential consultations:** For churches and safe church team members dealing with various situations of abuse.

Finances are included in the Congregational Services chart on page 22.

crcna.org/SafeChurch

World Renew

Your involvement with World Renew in 2018 created the opportunity for us to walk together alongside Christian leaders from 84 churches and community organizations in 1,061 of the world's poorest communities. Nearly 388,425 people in 21 developing countries participated in World Renew's long-term community programs, making positive, permanent changes to their health, farming skills, literacy abilities, income, and leadership capacity.

World Renew assisted more than 536,723 people affected by disasters in 17 countries, including those affected by war, drought, famine, hurricanes, earthquakes, and typhoons. This support took many forms, such as life-saving food assistance, shelter reconstruction, agriculture training, long-term economic recovery, new and repaired latrines, and clean drinking water.

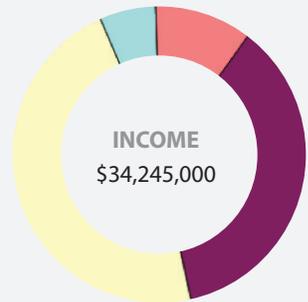
HIGHLIGHTS

- World Renew served people in 38 countries in 2018, responding to disasters and providing long-term community-based programs that helped 925,148 individuals change their story.
- World Renew's ministry was supported by 2,958 volunteers who donated 255,460 hours—equivalent to the work of 128 full-time employees for a year.
- Through World Renew, 135 North American congregations engaged in biblical justice and advocacy action around such issues as the environment, immigration, and refugee policies.
- World Renew Disaster Response Services volunteers contacted 2,512 disaster-affected households to assess their needs, and repaired or rebuilt 368 damaged homes.
- World Renew's refugee program helped 158 people begin a new life in Canada last year.
- World Renew relies on gifts and offerings to support its work and does not receive ministry shares. To learn how you can get involved, please visit worldrenew.net.

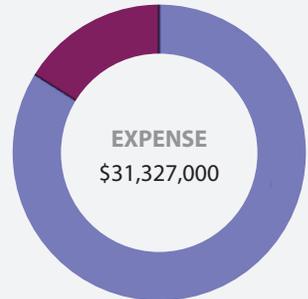
Facts, figures, and financial data are preliminary. The World Renew Ministry Report for 2018 will be available in February 2019. Look for it in your church, or visit worldrenew.net/about for the online version.



World Renew works with out-of-school youth in Senegal, providing health information, education, and leadership training to help young adults avoid early marriage, early pregnancy, and early death.



- Grants & Misc 11%
- M-shares 0%
- Donations 37%
- Disaster 47%
- Estates 5%
- Tuition & Sales 0%



- Program Services 84%
- Support Services 16%

Putting Faith Into Action in Senegal

Through the Lutheran Church in Senegal (SLDS), World Renew serves people living with HIV and AIDS, teenagers, orphans, and vulnerable children. So when a local medical doctor referred newborn twins to SLDS recently, their grandmother sought immediate assistance.

“My daughter died in childbirth,” the grandmother said. “She was married at 12 years old, had her first child when she was 14, and then delivered twins at 16. She was in labor at home, but there were problems, and she didn’t make it.”

World Renew’s adolescent health program in Senegal focuses on young girls in urban slums who are vulnerable to early marriage, sexual exploitation, and abuse. By educating and empowering young people in health, education, and leadership, World Renew and SLDS are equipping teenagers to create a culture of communication, peacemaking, and civic responsibility in the wider community.

Because less than four percent of Senegal’s citizens are Christians, World Renew also coordinates with Resonate Global Mission to provide Timothy Leadership Training for SLDS and other pastors, deacons, and lay leaders in preaching, teaching, leadership, and biblical justice. By strengthening the church and community, World Renew’s ministry of justice and mercy supports local institutions and helps people who are at risk build more resilience and address injustice.

SLDS provided milk and clean water for the twins and showed their grandmother how to supplement the babies’ feedings safely. After addressing the hungry babies’ needs, the staff explained the risks of early marriage, early pregnancy, and multiple delivery. They talked about referring complicated labor and delivery cases like her daughter’s to a qualified medical facility for intervention and care. The grandmother was motivated by a new understanding of the risks her daughter had suffered.



“Giving birth is dangerous in Senegal,” said Esther Kuhn, World Renew program consultant in Dakar. “Life is dangerous.”

“Today my eyes were opened,” she said. “I learned that my daughter’s death could have been prevented if she had married later and received the medical care she needed. I will warn my neighbors about this danger. Without help from World Renew and SLDS today, my daughter’s children would have joined their mother in the grave because I don’t have a way to care for them.”

The twins and their grandmother not only received lifesaving help and hope for their future, they also encountered the tangible love of Jesus Christ displayed by putting faith into action. Your support for World Renew makes abundant life available through everyday miracles of justice and mercy like this. Thank you.

Faith Alive

Under the Faith Alive Christian Resources imprint, the CRC offers quality resources that engage learners in ways that are relevant and Reformed. These include Sunday school curricula, storybooks, Bible studies, handbooks for elders and deacons, hymnals, and hundreds of other resources for congregational and community ministry.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Faith Alive continues to offer two lines of Sunday school curriculum, *Dwell* and *Kid Connection*. The *Dwell* and *Kid Connection* websites (DwellCurriculum.org and KidConnectionOnline.org) provide coordinators and leaders with the support resources they need, and Faith Alive's curriculum consultant is available to help churches.
- *Discover Your Bible* is now available in Korean. In the 1990s, *Discover Your Bible*, the popular *Coffee Break* small group series, was translated into Korean for use in North America. From that beginning, Korean translations of *Discover Your Bible* are now used extensively in North America, Korea, and many other countries around the world.
- About 75 percent of CRCs have people using the Digital Library (crcna.org/Library), a free source for hundreds of digital titles. CRC churches and members also receive a 15 percent discount on print-copy purchases of most Faith Alive titles.
- Faith Alive offers Print-on-Demand (POD) books in order to make available titles that would otherwise be difficult or impossible to find.

Finances are included in the Congregational Services chart on page 22.

Websites:

FaithAliveResources.org, DwellCurriculum.org, LibrosDesafio.org

The Network

Living in the digital age, we are more connected than ever before. Even so, social media, technology, and online forums often leave us feeling increasingly anxious and isolated. In stark contrast to many online communities, The Network (crcna.org/network) is a safe place to connect with others around a shared passion—the local church.

When the site launched in 2010, the dream was to create a place where people involved in local church ministry (children's ministry leaders, deacons, worship leaders, pastors, and more) could compare notes, share resources, and ask questions. God has taken this humble start and has used the site in ways we never imagined!

HIGHLIGHTS

- Monthly pageviews averaging 80,000+ (up 30% from last year)
- Hundreds of church positions posted this year (one of our most popular sections)
- Nearly 40 CRCNA ministries featuring resources on the site (making for easy searches)
- Hundreds of ministry questions posted, with over 95 percent answered.

Behind these numbers are countless stories—stories of real people who desire to love God and serve their churches and communities well. We'd love to help you get involved today!

Finances are included in the Congregational Services chart on page 22.

crcna.org/Network

The Banner

As the official magazine of the Christian Reformed Church in North America, *The Banner* continues to enjoy a wide and diverse readership both in print and online. *The Banner* provides a forum for information, ideas, and fresh insights to equip readers young and old to be biblically rooted ambassadors of Christ's reconciliation in today's world.

HIGHLIGHTS

- In 2018, *The Banner* revamped its print and online versions, including a fresh new look as well as new columns to appeal to readers of all ages.
- A free *Banner* app for mobile devices allows readers easy access to *Banner* content, including online-only content, and more.
- Two collections are available in the *Banner* Study Series—free online resources with questions for discussion: *Reformed Basics* and *Reformation Themes* (thebanner.org/study-series).
- *The Banner's* "Our Shared Ministry" section, with content provided by CRC Communications, provides ongoing updates on the ministries we engage in together as a denomination.
- Spanish and Korean translations of the editorials and "The View from Here" column are now available online.
- *The Banner* online blog "As I Was Saying" includes a diverse group of regular contributors as well as guest contributors commenting on issues of importance.
- Feature articles, news, and a variety of columns online and in print round out the synodical mandate to inform, inspire, educate, and challenge readers.
- *The Banner* was honored this past year with six awards from the Evangelical Press Association and seven from the Associated Church Press.
- *Banner* by the numbers: more than 80,000 print copies; 3,400 weekly email subscribers; monthly average of 26,000 unique online visitors to the website.

Finances are included in the Congregational Services chart on page 22.

Congregational Services

We live in an age where information is instantly available at the push of a button or by a word spoken into your favorite electronic device. In a time when any question can be answered online from any location, we might wonder about the need for denominational ministry resources and people to support local ministry efforts.

It's a good question, since many elements of our ministry support infrastructure have been in place since before information processing became what it is today. In recognition of this reality the Christian Reformed Church in North America has been adapting a number of its ministries to live into a new promise under the term "Congregational Services."

The CRCNA's 11 Congregational Services ministries exist as an extension of the ministries of the local church:

Faith Formation

Faith Formation Ministries

Gospel Proclamation and Worship

Worship Ministries

Mercy and Justice

Disability Concerns

Office of Social Justice

Race Relations

Safe Church Ministry

Aboriginal Ministries (Canada)

Centre for Public Dialogue (Canada)

Servant Leadership

Candidacy Committee

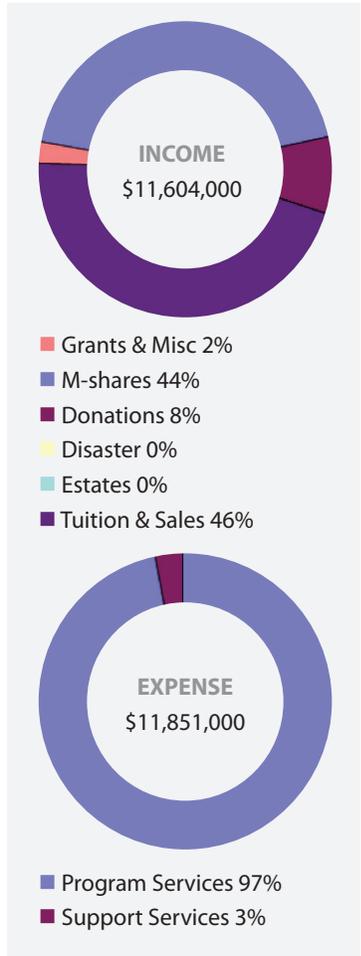
Chaplaincy and Care Ministry

Pastor Church Resources

The umbrella of "congregational services" also includes various communication tools such as *The Network* and *The Banner*.

Our purpose is to be a resource to local congregations as we jointly pursue the great commandments and the Great Commission (Matt. 22:37-40; 28:19-20). We aim to develop, curate, and share processes, resources, and approaches consistent with our Reformed Christian accent in a way that is easily accessible, responsive, and in line with what local congregations are requesting.

As you interact with these services, we trust you will experience each of them as fully committed to your success in local ministry. We are committed to working as a team in providing this support. Regardless of which team member you call, with whatever issue, it is our goal that we fully understand the capabilities of each other so that we can walk alongside you as you discern and discover the most effective path for your need.



Ministry Share Receipts and Gift Income

Gifts Summary 2018

	2017	2018
Back to God Ministries International		
Ministry Shares	2,963,000	2,918,000
Gift and offerings	3,576,000	3,522,000
Estate Gifts	1,161,000	2,207,000
Grants/Miscellaneous	529,000	1,133,000
Total	8,229,000	9,780,000
Calvin College		
Ministry Shares	2,324,000	2,349,000
Gift and offerings	3,518,000	3,258,000
Estate Gifts	0	0
Tuition/Grants	99,799,000	97,734,000
Total	105,641,000	103,341,000
Calvin Seminary		
Ministry Shares	2,378,000	2,405,000
Gift and offerings	1,261,000	1,505,000
Estate Gifts	198,000	0
Tuition/Grants	3,528,000	3,538,000
Total	7,365,000	7,448,000
Resonate Global Mission		
Ministry Shares	7,215,000	7,116,000
Gift and offerings	10,046,000	9,807,000
Estate Gifts	1,429,000	766,000
Grants/Miscellaneous	2,674,000	919,000
Total	21,364,000	18,608,000
World Renew		
Gift and offerings	13,657,000	12,511,000
Disaster Gifts	6,119,000	16,254,000
Grants	13,385,000	3,621,000
Estate gifts	2,662,000	1,859,000
Total	35,823,000	34,245,000
Congregational Services		
Ministry Shares	5,395,000	5,088,000
Gift and offerings	929,000	970,000
Estate Gifts	0	0
Sales/Miscellaneous	6,568,000	5,546,000
Total	12,892,000	11,604,000
Denominational Services		
Ministry Shares	2,355,000	2,561,000
Gift and offerings	85,000	322,000
Estate Gifts	0	0
Grants/Miscellaneous	1,868,000	594,000
Total	4,308,000	3,477,000
Foundation		
Gift and offerings	220,000	212,000
Estate Gifts	0	0
Grants/Miscellaneous	8,000	6,000
Total	228,000	218,000
Special Assistance Fund		
Ministry Shares	250,000	244,000
Gift and offerings	0	0
Grants/Miscellaneous	3,000	5,000
Total	253,000	249,000

Thank you for joining the “choir” of CRCNA ministry through your support. The money you give for ministry shares provides about \$23 million each year to support programs that enable your church to send missionaries around the world, advocate on behalf of people with disabilities, foster faith formation in persons of all ages, train chaplains, use media to spread the gospel, and much more.

The ministry-share program costs very little to administer and enables everyone in your congregation to participate in our shared ministry. Whether you have substantial assets or a fixed income, your gifts to ministry shares allow church members to work together to have a lasting impact around the world.

This past year, ministry-share gifts were down nearly \$200,000 in comparison to the previous year but still generated \$22.7 million in revenue. This was about \$500,000 more than was anticipated in the annual budget. Thank you. And thank you to all the churches, large and small, that continue to help provide this vital base of revenue.

In addition to ministry-share support, special church offerings and individual gifts (not including support for disaster response projects) generated \$57 million for Christian Reformed Church ministries. This was up \$1.7 million from the prior year.

Gifts in response to emergency and disaster situations also increased over previous years. In the wake of wars, food shortages, earthquakes, and hurricanes, World Renew received \$8.3 million in designated disaster relief funding.

In addition, we are grateful for all who continue their commitment to ministry through bequests through their will or trust. In the past year, estate gifts provided \$5.9 million of generous support to our shared ministry.

Stay Informed

You are an essential part of the “choir” of the Christian Reformed Church in North America. To learn more about the collaborative ministry of which you are a part, please visit crcna.org, sign up for our weekly email newsletters, or follow us on Twitter, Facebook, or Instagram.

We’ve also made it easier for you and your church to access the denominational resources you need.



How Can We Help?

You and your church now have three options for easier access to CRC ministries and resources.



Click

Search hundreds of resources from CRC ministries and churches.

Try it out at
cncna.org/Resources



Call

Got a ministry question but not sure who to call? We can help.

Give us a shout at
800-272-5125



Chat

Oh yeah, we chat too. Type and we’ll type back.

Chat from any page at
cncna.org

If you have a ministry need and wonder if your denomination can help, just click, call, or chat.

We’re here to serve.



**Christian
Reformed
Church**