

**Council of Delegates  
of the  
Christian Reformed Church in North America**

The **purpose of the Council of Delegates** (COD) is to govern entities and activities of the Christian Reformed Church in North America (CRCNA). In fulfilling this responsibility, the COD shall

- Transact all matters assigned to it by synod and serve in the interim of synod with matters which cannot await action by the assemblies themselves . . . and submit all such actions to the next meeting of the assembly for approval.
- Lead the integrative ministries of the CRC in light of the Mission, Vision, and Callings established by synod, providing recommendations to synod when the Missions, Vision, and or Callings need to be reconsidered.
- Cooperate with the educational institutions affiliated with the denomination and World Renew as well as other CRCNA boards toward integrating the respective missions of those institutions and functions into the denominational ministry program.
- Provide an intermediary role that serves three purposes: (1) To receive and understand input from congregations and their members (constituents), (2) bring the work and excitement of ministry to congregations and their members, and (3) understand the church—its various contexts and times—to such a degree that the COD assists in casting an appropriate vision for the future growth of the church.

The **mandate** requires the following policy development responsibilities for the COD. The COD shall

- Provide appropriate financial management and advance policy guidelines and limits within which personnel function, thereby ensuring the financial integrity of the denomination's agencies and ministries.
- Identify when necessary, evaluate regularly, and support constructively administrative leaders of the denomination within the scope of policies.
- Provide the criteria (goals) and evaluation of progress toward goals for the unified ministry of the CRC while establishing the contours (policies) within which personnel pursue such goals.
- Attend to the organizational structure and health of the denomination by developing policies of assessment (e.g., Ministry Plan counts and measures; personnel surveys, etc.), reviewing outcomes, and addressing goals and policies as needed.

Because of the significant size in its membership (52 total), the COD will require the work of committees. The current plan is for the appointment the following seven committees: Executive, Congregational Ministries, Global Missions Ministries, Mercy and Justice Ministries, Support Services (Finance and Facilities), Ministry Plan and Communication Services, and Nominating Services. Each delegate will serve on at least one committee. Committee membership will be based on fit between the delegate's experience and interests and the mandate of the committee.

**Responsibilities** of individual COD members include the following:

- Attend all COD meetings in order to carry out required duties; attend committee meetings, and other special functions and events as appropriate; contribute to and review the agenda and supporting materials prior to board and committee meetings.
- Attend classis meetings, listening to the concerns and desires of the classis on behalf of the COD, and bringing reports to the classis of the work of the CRCNA's agencies and ministries.

- Pray for the CRCNA—its leaders, agencies, and ministries—on a regular basis and challenge others to pray as well.
- Give to the work of the CRCNA according to how God has blessed, and challenge God's people also to give.
- Support and encourage CRCNA personnel with words of appreciation.
- Participate in the assignments of the Nominating Committee (especially by assisting the classis to identify nominees when COD member's term is nearing completion).