



Ignite Updates

First Grant Application

We have received our first grant application! The CRC's Office of Social Justice is working with Classis Red Mesa on an energy stewardship program. OSJ wants to provide resources to the churches to upgrade lighting to LED, install programmable thermostats, and install motion sensors in hallways to control lights. The idea is to help churches that struggle with expenses reduce their energy costs and use those resources for ministry instead. This program has the potential to be expanded to urban churches, emerging churches, and other churches that find it difficult to do ministry and maintain a church building.

Website Development and Promotion Plan

By December we plan to have a website and promotion plan in place. Please watch for a December *Banner* article about Ignite and articles in other publications of the CRC. We plan to have our social media outlets share the idea at the same time. If you receive information please share it with as many people as you can so others have the opportunity to support new ministry ideas.

Application Process

The application process includes something we call the "4+1 Questions." They're designed to make the process simple and to help us be good stewards of Ignite resources. The 4 +1 Questions are:

1. What is the idea?
2. Why is it important?
3. Who will champion this project?
4. How will this grant ignite ministry?
- +1. How much do you need?

Advisory Team

We are in the process of assembling an advisory team for Ignite. This group will review the grant applications and make recommendations to the foundation board. If you are interested in being a part of the advisory team, please contact Jeffrey Bolt at 616-224-0817. The plan is for the team to include Ignite investors, ministry directors, and board members.

Ministry Updates

Reformed Leadership Initiative

The CRCNA and RCA recognize the need for leaders at all levels to be grounded in a biblical vision of church and kingdom, formed and growing in the image of Christ, and competent to lead thriving congregations in their ministry context. RLI has created and is supporting six Congregational Leadership Learning Networks (CLLN) in diverse geographical and ministry contexts in North America, consistent with the two denominations' shared vision for leadership development and focus on mission. The purpose of a CLLN is to create space for congregations participating in these CLLN cohorts to learn from and with one another, to share tools and models for leadership development, to implement and reflect on what they learn, to encourage fidelity to the Reformed tradition, and to do this all in relationships of high accountability, creativity, and innovation.

(over, please)

All the networks have been through the Taste and See Event, a time to get together meet each other, learn about what will be happening and identify leaders from the churches that will participate. Some are scheduled for the second meeting. The networks are located in Central Iowa; New Jersey; Central California; and Hamilton, Ontario; and two national networks focused on Latino churches and Korean churches.

The coaches of the networks are noting that the groups are identifying a variety of local challenges and needs. Solutions vary and are specific to the local issues. The important part is that the solutions and ideas for problem solving are coming from within the groups rather than from a denominational agency or ministry.

The Canadian Youth Ministry Pilot Project Expands to the U.S.

Through Faith Formation Ministries, Syd Hielema and Ron DeVries have been leading the Canadian Youth Ministry Project. The project, piloted in Classis Alberta North, is developing networks of youth ministry champions to support congregational youth ministry leaders and provide a coherent vision for youth ministry. It is also providing tools and resources, encouraging collaboration and educational opportunities, and assisting and enhancing youth events.

Because of the Canadian Youth Ministry Project's success, the stage is now set for expanding this initiative into the United States. Recently Syd shared this update:

Ron and/or I have had initial "seed-sowing" conversations with U.S. youth ministry leaders in Denver, South Dakota/Iowa, Massachusetts, Michigan, and California.

Our tentative plan is to write a letter to every U.S. classis, give them a "win-stories" overview of the Canadian project, and invite them to send two people to a 48-hour consultation retreat in Chicago April 19-21, 2017. We will offer to cover half of their expenses through the Ignite fund, and ask each classis to cover the other half. Ron and I will offer to be available for consultation during any classis meeting or classis ministries team meeting where this invitation is discussed to answer questions. In our view, if half of the U.S. classes participate, that would be a huge win.

Our Journey Video Series

This video series shares stories and explains Our Journey 20/20 and the desired futures Church and Community, Identity, Discipleship, and Leadership. The CRCNA is moving forward with promoting the videos to our churches, classes, and congregations. You can watch these videos at crcna.org/ourjourney. You can also learn more about Our Journey 20/20 and our calling to faith formation, servant leadership, global mission, mercy and justice, and gospel proclamation and worship.

How Can You Invest in New Ministry Innovation?

- Give online at crcna.org/Foundation to give a gift to Ignite | Funding Ministry Innovation.
- Give by mail using the enclosed envelope. (Please make checks payable to "CRCNA Ignite Fund.")
- If you prefer, you may make a gift to Ignite through the Barnabas Foundation.

If you have questions about Ignite giving opportunities, please call us toll free at 1-877-272-6204.