



Ministry Shares, Ministers' Pension and Other Resources for 2018

Visit the [Church Administration & Finance](http://crcna.org/FinanceAdmin) website (crcna.org/FinanceAdmin) to find the following resources for financial and church administration information:

[Ministry Shares, Ministers' Pension and Other Resources for 2018](#)

This annual booklet is available each July with information on ministry share contributions, financial giving and approved agencies for support, as well as pension and benefits.

[Ministry Shares](#)

This website provides resources for churches including videos, promotional materials, the impact calculator, remittance, and allocation information.

[Ministers' Pension Plan](#)

Resources include highlights of the Plan, assessment cost information and long-term disability highlights.

[Ministers' Compensation Survey](#)

The annual survey of salaries for ministers of the Word.

[Benefits](#)

Includes information on the [Reformed Benefits Association \(RBA\)](#) and [Consolidated Group Insurance \(CGI\)](#), in Canada.

[Church Administration and Finance Tools](#)

Resources for churches in the areas of organization, communication, employment, facilities, finance and risk management.

[Deacons Network](#)

Resources available for Deacons including blog posts, articles, resources and websites.

[Offering Voucher Forms](#)

Information on maintaining individual tax records of charitable contributions to the church.

[Loan Fund](#)

Provides loans to organized Christian Reformed Churches and offers investors an opportunity to serve the church.

[Denominational Ministries](#)

A complete list with descriptions.

[Nondenominational Agencies Evaluated for Financial Support in 2018](#)

A complete list of recommended agencies.

[Model Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws](#)

A description can be found at the bottom of the Synod Resources page.

MINISTRY SHARES

The ministry shares system represents the mutual covenanting of our congregations to share financial resources and responsibilities for our unified ministry endeavors. The ministry shares amount is based on a comprehensive budgeting process that evaluates ministry objectives and resource needs. The process begins with agency staff, is evaluated and approved through agency boards and the Board of Trustees of the CRCNA, and is finally approved by synod. Ministry shares will remain the same unchanged for 2018. The ministry shares amount specified for Calvin College is used primarily for tuition grants for CRC students. The amounts vary based on number of students and region so that churches in some areas may give greater support to other local colleges.

One of the strengths of the ministry shares system is the simplicity of the allocation formula which spreads the opportunity to participate in giving across all members of the CRC. Further, our agencies expend a minimum amount of time, personnel, and money for fund-raising, thus reducing the overhead cost of our ministry.



See the 2018 ministry shares chart for allocations by area. For more information see crcna.org/ministryshares.

Example of ministry shares with net membership count of 185*

Total professing members age 18 and over		200
Less inactive members**		<u>15</u>
Active member count for ministry shares payment***		185
Ministry shares per member (rate for 2018 Calvin College Area 1)	x	\$397.86
Ministry shares amount before smaller church reduction		\$73,604.10
Smaller church percent, based on 185 members		96.69%
Net ministry shares amount due		\$71,167.81

Example of ministry shares with net membership count of 298*

Total professing members age 18 and over		313
Less inactive members**		<u>15</u>
Active member count for ministry shares payment***		298
Ministry shares per member (rate for 2018, Calvin College Area 1)	x	\$397.86
Ministry shares amount before smaller church reduction		\$118,562.28
Smaller church percent		N/A
Smaller church reduction applicable to churches with net membership of 192 or less		
Net ministry shares amount due		\$ 118,562.28

***Member count** is calculated on August 31 of each year and submitted for the following year on the Yearbook Questionnaire.

****Inactive members** are those baptized or confessing members who are declared by the consistory to have a relationship to the congregation which has ceased for one year or who for one year have not made faithful use of the means of grace, especially the hearing of the Word and the Lord's Supper, unless there are extenuating circumstances (e.g., military service, residence in a nursing home) that make such faithful use impossible.

***The small church ministry shares reduction amount is determined based on active member counts after reduction for "inactive" members. The percentage to be paid as indicated by the smaller church reduction table is applied to the dollar amount of ministry shares, not to the count of active members.

Small Church Ministry Shares Reduction

Synod 1987 approved "the concept of a [ministry shares] reduction for smaller churches (Acts of Synod 1987, p. 559) and adopted a formula for "[ministry shares] reduction... at a one percent increase/decrease per family beginning with thirty families paying 50 percent of the total [ministry shares]..." (Acts of Synod 1987, p. 560).

Ministry Shares Reduction Table

<u>Number of Members</u>	<u>Ministry Shares % Expected</u>	<u>Number of Members</u>	<u>Ministry Shares % Expected</u>	<u>Number of Members</u>	<u>Ministry Shares % Expected</u>
193	100.00%	152	83.06%	111	66.12%
192	99.59%	151	82.64%	110	65.70%
191	99.17%	150	82.23%	109	65.29%
190	98.76%	149	81.82%	108	64.88%
189	98.35%	148	81.40%	107	64.46%
188	97.93%	147	80.99%	106	64.05%
187	97.52%	146	80.58%	105	63.64%
186	97.11%	145	80.17%	104	63.22%
185	96.69%	144	79.75%	103	62.81%
184	96.28%	143	79.34%	102	62.40%
183	95.87%	142	78.93%	101	61.98%
182	95.45%	141	78.51%	100	61.57%
181	95.04%	140	78.10%	99	61.16%
180	94.63%	139	77.69%	98	60.74%
179	94.21%	138	77.27%	97	60.33%
178	93.80%	137	76.86%	96	59.92%
177	93.39%	136	76.45%	95	59.50%
176	92.98%	135	76.03%	94	59.09%
175	92.56%	134	75.62%	93	58.68%
174	92.15%	133	75.21%	92	58.26%
173	91.74%	132	74.79%	91	57.85%
172	91.32%	131	74.38%	90	57.44%
171	90.91%	130	73.97%	89	57.02%
170	90.50%	129	73.55%	88	56.61%
169	90.08%	128	73.14%	87	56.20%
168	89.67%	127	72.73%	86	55.79%
167	89.26%	126	72.31%	85	55.37%
166	88.84%	125	71.90%	84	54.96%
165	88.43%	124	71.49%	83	54.55%
164	88.02%	123	71.07%	82	54.13%
163	87.60%	122	70.66%	81	53.72%
162	87.19%	121	70.25%	80	53.31%
161	86.78%	120	69.83%	79	52.89%
160	86.36%	119	69.42%	78	52.48%
159	85.95%	118	69.01%	77	52.07%
158	85.54%	117	68.60%	76	51.65%
157	85.12%	116	68.18%	75	51.24%
156	84.71%	115	67.77%	74	50.83%
155	84.30%	114	67.36%	73	50.41%
154	83.88%	113	66.94%	72	50.00%
153	83.47%	112	66.53%		

DENOMINATIONAL MINISTRY SHARES FOR 2018

<u>AGENCY</u>	<u>Area 1</u>	<u>Area 2</u>	<u>Area 3</u>	<u>Area 4</u>	<u>Area 5</u>	<u>Area 6</u>	<u>Area 7</u>	<u>Area 8</u>
Base amount per member	307.56	307.56	307.56	307.56	307.56	307.56	307.56	307.56
Calvin College*	90.30	59.50	26.70	7.20	52.30	15.30	4.40	3.00
Total ministry shares per member	<u>397.86</u>	<u>367.06</u>	<u>334.26</u>	<u>314.76</u>	<u>359.86</u>	<u>322.86</u>	<u>311.96</u>	<u>310.56</u>

*Areas which benefit from a ministry shares reduction should employ the following monies saved to finance their area colleges:
 Per professing member - 11.95 44.75 64.25 19.15 56.15 67.05 68.45

**Classis Area Table
 for Calvin College amount:**

- AREA 1** Grand Rapids East; Grand Rapids North; Grand Rapids South; Grandville; Thornapple Valley
- AREA 2** Georgetown; Holland; Kalamazoo; Lake Erie; Muskegon; Northern Michigan; Zeeland
- AREA 3** Chicago South; Illiana; Northern Illinois; Southeast U.S.; Wisconsin
- AREA 4** Central Plains; Heartland; Lakota; Lake Superior; Minnkota; Northcentral Iowa
- AREA 5** Atlantic Northeast; Hackensack; Hudson
- AREA 6** Arizona; Columbia; California South; Central California; Greater Los Angeles; Hanmi; Ko-Am; Pacific Northwest; Red Mesa; Rocky Mountain; Yellowstone
- AREA 7** Chatham; Eastern Canada; Hamilton; Huron; Niagara; Quinte; Toronto
- AREA 8** Alberta North; Alberta South/Saskatchewan; B.C. North-West; B.C. South-East

Denominational Ministry Shares Allocation

	2017 ministry shares allocation eff. 1/01/2017	2018 ministry shares allocation eff. 1/01/2018
BACK TO GOD MINISTRIES INTERNATIONAL	\$ 44.41	\$ 44.41
CALVIN COLLEGE*	31.92	31.92
CALVIN THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY	36.27	36.27
HOME MISSIONS	47.35	-
RESONATE GLOBAL MISSION	-	108.52
WORLD MISSIONS	61.17	-
WORLD RENEW	-	-
SYNODICAL ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES:	35.68	35.68
General Administration		
Synodical Services		
Council of Delegates		
CHURCH SUPPORT MINISTRIES:	78.95	78.95
Aboriginal Ministries (Canada)		
<i>The Banner</i>		
Centre for Public Dialogue		
Chaplaincy and Care Ministry		
Disability Concerns		
Faith Formation Ministries		
Pastor Church Resources		
Race Relations		
Safe Church Ministry		
ServiceLink		
Social Justice and Hunger Action		
Worship Ministries		
SPECIAL ASSISTANCE FUND	3.73	3.73
	<u>\$ 339.48</u>	<u>\$ 339.48</u>

*Represents the composite rate. Actual rate varies by area.

CRC MINISTRY SHARES AND OFFERINGS REMITTANCE STATEMENT - 2018

CHURCH NUMBER: _____ FOR PERIOD: _____

CHURCH NAME: _____ TODAY'S DATE: _____

	AMOUNT
MINISTRY SHARES CONTRIBUTION FOR THIS PERIOD	
Note: amount will be allocated to agencies based on approved budgets.	
Other Causes / Missionary Support:	
Note: please remit area college and other para-church ministries directly to the designated organization.	
TOTAL	

TREASURER NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

Please send one (1) copy of remittance statement to classis treasurer for information.

PLEASE MAKE ONE CHECK PAYABLE TO: CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH IN NORTH AMERICA

In the USA send to: **ATTN: ADVANCEMENT SERVICES**
 1700 28TH STREET SE
 GRAND RAPIDS, MI 49508-1407

In Canada send to: **ATTN: FINANCE DEPARTMENT**
 3475 MAINWAY, PO BOX 5070 STN LCD1
 BURLINGTON, ON L7R 3Y8

Classis Area Table	Annual amount per active member	
AREA 1	397.86	Grand Rapids East; Grand Rapids North; Grand Rapids South; Grandville; Thornapple Valley
AREA 2	367.06	Georgetown; Holland; Kalamazoo; Lake Erie; Muskegon; Northern Michigan; Zeeland
AREA 3	334.26	Chicago South; Illiana; Northern Illinois; Southeast U.S.; Wisconsin
AREA 4	314.76	Central Plains; Heartland; Lakota; Lake Superior; Minnkota; Northcentral Iowa
AREA 5	359.86	Atlantic Northeast; Hackensack; Hudson
AREA 6	322.86	Arizona; Columbia; California South; Central California; Greater Los Angeles; Hanmi; Ko-Am; Pacific Northwest; Red Mesa; Rocky Mountain; Yellowstone
AREA 7	311.96	Chatham; Eastern Canada; Hamilton; Huron; Niagara; Quinte; Toronto
AREA 8	310.56	Alberta North; Alberta South/Saskatchewan; B.C. North-West; B.C. South-East

MINISTERS' PENSION FUND

The CRCNA offers a defined benefit pension plan for ordained ministers of the Word serving in the United States and Canada. While the primary purpose of the plan is to provide retirement benefits, the plan also provides significant survivor and orphan benefits as well as long-term disability protection for active participants.

Organized churches are required to pay church assessments determined at an amount per active professing member age 18 and older, or, if greater, the direct cost of their "first or only" pastor's participation in the Ministers' Pension Plan. The number of members is the member count submitted on the annual Yearbook Questionnaire.

Pension costs associated with any additional ordained ministers of the Word employed by organized churches and for all ordained ministers of the Word in the employ of emerging churches are annually determined direct cost amounts. The direct cost amounts **remain the same in 2018**. These amounts will continue to be \$9,840 in Canada and \$7,704 in the United States, while the per-member amounts will be \$42.96 and \$37.20, respectively.

Example of ministers' pension fund payments

Canada		
	Annual cost for 2018	Annual cost for 2018
	229 members or less	More than 229 members
First pastor	\$ 9,840	# of members X \$ 42.96
Additional pastors	\$ 9,840 each	\$ 9,840 each
No pastor (vacant)	# of members X \$ 42.96	# of members X \$ 42.96

United States		
	Annual cost for 2018	Annual cost for 2018
	207 members or less	More than 207 members
First pastor	\$ 7,704	# of members X \$ 37.20
Additional pastors	\$ 7,704 each	\$ 7,704 each
No pastor (vacant)	# of members X \$ 37.20	# of members X \$ 37.20

Special Assistance Fund

The Special Assistance Fund provides assistance for retired ministers of the Word who find themselves in severe financial need and may also provide for the final retirement move of a minister of the Word.

More information is available at www.crcna.org/pension. Please feel free to contact the pension office with any questions at 616-224-0722 or by email at pension@crcna.org.



The following are Christian Reformed Church (CRC) ministries that are supported through denominational ministry shares and through other gifts and offerings from the churches and members of the CRC. As evidenced by these statements of purpose, they represent a diverse range of ministry in areas throughout Canada, the United States and around the world. In addition to ministry shares support, these agencies are recommended for support through one or more offerings to be scheduled in the churches throughout the year.

Denominational Agencies

Back To God Ministries International (BTGMI) - Proclaims the Gospel of Jesus Christ worldwide through the strategic use of media that effectively communicates Christ within international cultures. Thanks to your partnership, Back to God Ministries International continues our mission to reach people in ten major languages: Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Hindi, Indonesian, Japanese, Portuguese, Russian, and Spanish. BTGMI is active in more than 100 countries through ministry opportunities such as radio and TV broadcasts, resource distribution and discipleship centers. In addition, BTGMI produces more than 25 websites in 9 languages, plus 42 social media ministry sites. Our web content has been viewed by millions of people across the world. God is using our international evangelism and discipleship ministries to share the gospel, disciple believers, and to strengthen Christ's church around the world.

Calvin College is a top-ranked liberal arts college that prepares students to be Christ's agents of renewal in the world. Through rigorous academic study and intentional Christian community, students learn to think deeply, act justly and live wholeheartedly. At Calvin we believe that no one major has the upper hand in uncovering truths about God and the world—all are invited into the discovery. With a multi-faceted core curriculum, today's Calvin students are free to explore the wonderings of philosophy, the intricacies of languages foreign and familiar, and the beauty of the world at a molecular level. Students can choose from 100+ majors, minors and programs, uncovering the depth of God's world while discerning their role in its renewal. All Calvin ministry shares are used for tuition grants for students who are members of the CRCNA.

Calvin Theological Seminary (CTS) – Provides biblically-based, confessionally-rooted, and contextually-sensitive training to form ordained ministers and other leaders for the Christian Reformed Church in North America and for Christian churches around the world; aids in the development of candidates for ministry in the CRCNA; offers continuing education and other resources for ministers and other church leaders; advises the synod of the Christian Reformed Church; and serves as a theological resource for all denominational agencies and churches.

Christian Reformed Church In North America Foundation – The CRCNA Foundation serves the denomination by funding innovative and collaborative projects led by Christian Reformed churches, agencies, and ministries. The CRCNA Foundation accomplishes this primarily through the Ignite Funding Ministry Innovation program. Ignite allows the CRC to explore new ministry ideas and initiatives that advance God's Kingdom and equip churches to do ministry effectively, bridging ministry today with ministry tomorrow. The CRCNA Foundation and the Ignite Fund are donor-driven funding programs that:

1. Encourage innovative thinking in the area of ministry.
2. Expand collaboration among the denomination, churches, agencies and ministries.
3. Reduce the need for ministries to sacrifice current ministry budgets to explore new ministry ideas.

In this mission, the Foundation seeks to provide CRCNA leaders the gift of flexibility—in developing, timing, and funding new efforts that help the whole denomination. The CRCNA Foundation is legally established in Canada and the United States. crcna.org/foundation; crcna.org/ignite

Resonate Global Mission - This new agency, formed by the joining of Christian Reformed Home Missions and Christian Reformed World Missions, continues the mission work of both agencies in North America and around the world. Additionally, we connect people, congregations, and communities to be the gospel in new ways. Together, we seek to proclaim and live out the good news of Jesus worldwide.

World Renew – serves worldwide as the development, disaster response, and justice arm of the Christian Reformed Church in North America. By serving in some of the world's poorest countries, World Renew aims to develop resilience through programs in health and nutrition, agriculture, literacy, income-earning, disaster response and much more. World Renew's work depends on regular financial contributions and offerings from God's people and does not receive Ministry Shares from the CRCNA. Synod suggests that all Christian Reformed Churches schedule at least four offerings per year to support this ministry. World Renew's focus on development, disaster response, and justice is changing the story of people living in poverty into testimonies of hope.

Church Support Ministries

- **The Banner** – The official magazine of the Christian Reformed Church in North America, available in print and online, enjoys a wide and diverse readership. Because of this diversity, as a denomination we sometimes have our differences. The Banner provides a place to keep in touch with each other and where we seek to “speak the truth in love” (Eph. 4:15). In “Together Doing More,” The Banner provides ongoing monthly updates on the ministries that we engage in together as a denomination. Feature articles, news, and a variety of columns such as "Faith Matters" and "The Other 6" round out the synodical mandate to inform, inspire, educate, and challenge readers. Readers contribute through “Letters to the Editor”, “Vantage Point”, and comments online and on social media. Look for the redesigned print and web versions of The Banner beginning in January 2018. Follow us on Facebook, Twitter, or by our new mobile app.
- **Centre for Public Dialogue** – Seeking Justice, Speaking Hope by empowering CRC and RCA members in acts of hopeful citizenship; and in research and advocacy on justice issues on the public agenda, from a biblical, Reformed perspective. Currently we are mobilizing congregations for: the reform of Indigenous education, a reconciliation priority emphasized by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission; and refugee rights, based on our communities' long-standing work with refugee resettlement. We are also working with partners to draw attention to issues of Climate Justice and Human Trafficking.
- **Chaplaincy and Care Ministry** – Our office "enlists, endorses, encourages, and enfold" chaplains are ministers and pastors called by the church to extend the ministry of Christ to persons in institutional and specialized settings. We also work with local churches to call, pray for, and utilize the special gifts and training of these ministry servants. Our 150-plus endorsed chaplains serve in hospitals, prisons, the military and many other special population settings. They have daily opportunities to represent God's grace to countless individuals and families in situations of crisis or potential crisis. Chaplains are granted special access to provide ministry in restricted areas that many other community religious leaders cannot readily access. Since most chaplains serve at the expense of the institution in which they work, this is a very cost-effective extension of the mission of God's church that requires the church to continue to support this important and vital ministry. Your gifts help to recruit, train, and support these men and women in ministry.
- **Disability Concerns** – We help congregations move toward the biblical ideal: "Everybody belongs. Everybody serves." We work closely with the Reformed Church in America Disability Concerns ministry to equip hundreds of disability advocates for ministry in congregations and to provide resources and training for churches to engage people with disabilities in all aspects of church life and ministry.

- **Faith Formation Ministries (FFM)** – Faith Formation Ministries encourages and equips local Christian Reformed ministry leaders in their calling to shape intentional, lifelong faith formation in their context. Our vision is to deepen church culture and faith formation practices so that all generations have an intentional and resilient faith. FFM walks with pastors and ministry leaders (paid or unpaid) who are responsible for setting direction in faith formation. We serve them by developing relationships and providing resources to design and build a framework for lifelong faith formation that fits their setting. You can find us at <https://www.crcna.org/FaithFormation> or contact us at faithformation@crcna.org.
- **Pastor Church Resources (PCR)** – equipping, discerning, collaborating – Advocates for healthy relationships between congregations, pastors and staff. Facilitates educational events, retreats and seminars to increase the health and resilience of pastors and congregations. Manages profiles in the Pastor Search process and endorsement of Specialized Transitional Ministers. Provides direct consultation in times of crisis. Administers and awards Continuing Education grants for pastors and church staff. Distributes educational and resource materials for congregational leadership. Works with and through Church Councils, Pastoral Mentors, Regional Pastors, Classis Counselors and Church Visitors to provide support, encouragement, and counsel to congregational leadership. Engages with Classes to nourish organizational health at the classis level, and foster the flourishing of classis functionaries. Sustaining Pastoral Excellence supports, strengthens and encourages pastors and pastors' spouses through grants and conferences. Sustaining Congregational Excellence promotes healthy congregations through grants for health and renewal. The Healthy Church Survey Process enables congregations to develop a richer understanding of who they are. PCR also facilitates experiments such as the Connections Project—a three year Lilly Endowment Inc. funded initiative developing models for contextualized, regional resourcing in three regions in the denomination. Vocational Ministry Assessments help pastors and ministry leaders find and take vocational assessments to better understand their call and fit in ministry.
- **Race Relations** – Promotes anti-racism and racial reconciliation within our congregations, our institutions of higher learning, and our denominational agencies by offering workshops such as Dance of Racial Reconciliation (United States), Widening the Circle (Canada), Cultural Intelligence and the Blanket Exercise. These workshops seek to call attention to the sin of racism and the need for reconciliation so that we may become God's diverse and unified family. The Office of Race Relations also encourages congregations to celebrate All Nations Heritage (ANH) Sunday each year on the first Sunday of October. We provide free bulletin covers and inserts as well as other material for the occasion (www.faihaliveresources.org). All offerings designated for the ministry of Race Relations on ANH Sunday go toward scholarships for students who plan to minister in the area of racial reconciliation. Ministry shares provide the funds to hold Regional Gathering events such as The Engage Conference, A Multiethnic Gathering. In addition, other resources for small groups are offered. To learn more, please visit the website or Facebook page.
- **Safe Church Ministry** – Equips congregations in abuse awareness, prevention and response. We offer training and support to volunteer team members so that they can offer resources, learning opportunities, consultation, and support in their own congregations and classes. Safe Church helps build communities where the value of each person is honored; where people are free to worship and grow free from abuse; and where abuse has occurred, the response is compassion and justice that foster healing.
- **ServiceLink** – Serves local congregations through the promotion of volunteer opportunities, providing training and resources in volunteer ministry development, and is the resourcing bridge between the agencies and ministries of the CRC and local Canadian churches to bolster local ministry.

- **Office of Social Justice (OSJ)** – The Office of Social Justice helps CRC members love our neighbors in tangible ways. We provide resources to learn about the root causes of poverty, hunger, and oppression, and we empower the church to call on those in power to improve systems and enact just public policy. Our work flows from our mandate to integrate justice advocacy into CRC ministries with the poor, as well as from synodical recommendations on key social justice issues. Our current focus areas are immigration, creation care, religious persecution, abortion, refugees, and Indigenous justice. We would be happy to work with your church to deepen your response to the call to do justice!
- **Urban Aboriginal Ministry** – Urban centres changing the lives of Indigenous peoples in Regina, Edmonton and Winnipeg. They are busy doing contextualized ministry by serving the Aboriginal community in areas of faith, social, familial and practical needs. The three centres in Canada focus on being Christ to a distinct part of the Canadian community that finds itself suffering for a variety of reasons. These centres serve diaconally and pastorally through Christian community development and social/economic strategies in an effort to bring vibrancy into the life of urban communities. This is typical behavior for international mission work but done within our own borders of Canada.
- **Worship Ministries** - Gleaning from a great diversity of styles and gifts, Worship Ministries seeks to support and strengthen biblically grounded and Reformed worship. We encourage creativity, discernment, spiritual vitality, and the faith formation of worshipers of all ages and abilities, spurring them on to a life of holy living. Worship Ministries desires to create a space where we can listen and learn from each other, form networks for peer learning, and develop resources to nurture faithful worship. More about Worship Ministries and available worship resources for the CRC can be found at crcna.org/worship.



Christian
Reformed
Church

Nondenominational Agencies Evaluated for Support 2018

The following organizations have been evaluated for accreditation as agencies to be included for possible support through church offerings in the Christian Reformed Church. Each agency provided financial statements and identified program changes (as requested when reviewing for the first year of a three-year process).

The evaluation followed procedures and guidelines generally defined by synod in past years and modified in 2002 as follows:

Accreditation, once granted, shall be in effect for three years with updated information regarding financial and any significant program changes to be submitted in the second and third years . . .
(*Acts of Synod 2002*, p. 407)

Note should be taken of the following action of Synod 1992 regarding the financial support provided by Christian Reformed churches relative to these agencies:

. . . in light of the growing number of agencies seeking recommendation for financial support, [synod] remind[s] the congregations of the synodical decision of 1970 wherein
. . . synod urge[d] all the classes to request their churches to pay denominational causes before making gifts to nondenominational causes on the synod-approved accredited list.

Grounds:

a. Our denominational causes should have priority in our giving. . . .

(*Acts of Synod 1970*, p. 81)

(*Acts of Synod 1992*, p. 748)

Thus, the accredited list of nondenominational agencies approved by Synod 2014 is meant to provide guidance to the churches in selecting organizations for support. However, this accreditation is not meant to be an obligation of the churches to designate one or more offerings, nor does it exclude other organizations that your church may wish to support.

A brief description of the ministry of each of the accredited agencies follows. Financial data about these ministries is on file in the Finance Office or can be obtained by contacting the agency directly.

Denominationally Related or Affiliated Agencies

Communities First Association - A professional association of Intermediary Christian Community Developers who will provide a supportive learning environment, resources, and tools to those who transform communities; one that gives people a chance to step up, to be engaged in their own community's story.

Diaconal Ministries Canada (DMC) - Works to inspire, equip, and encourage deacons in Canada as they work to transform communities with the love of God.

Dynamic Youth Ministries - Provides Bible study and recreation programs for children and young people via the organization's Calvinist Cadet Corps, GEMS and Youth Unlimited.

Friendship Ministries - Shares God's love with people who have cognitive impairments and enables them to become an active part of God's family.

Partners Worldwide - Encourages and equips Christian business people to help the poor and each other.

Nondenominational Agencies

United States

Benevolent Agencies

Bethany Christian Services - Manifests the love and compassion of Jesus Christ by protecting and enhancing the lives of children and families through quality social services.

Hope Haven - Assists persons with mental and/or physical disabilities locally, nationally, and abroad to reach their potential through vocational evaluation, training and support as well as through independent living evaluation, training, and support.

The Luke Society - Committed to the initiation and development of health programs with a holistic approach, viewing man as both a physical and spiritual being made in the image of God.

Pine Rest Christian Mental Health Services - Expresses the healing ministry of Jesus Christ by providing behavioral health services with professional excellence, Christian integrity and compassion.

Quiet Waters Ministries - Focuses on the spiritual, emotional and physical health of the Christian leader, dedicated to facilitating and encouraging transformational change at the core of the Christian leader's life. Its call and desire is to see men and women strengthened in their families, life, work, leisure and in all of their relationships.

Educational Agencies

Ascending Leaders - Creates and sells leadership formation materials and provides leadership training and coaching. They also facilitate and/or lead one hour talks, partial day workshops and multi-day retreats on various topics of leadership development.

CLC Network (Christian Learning Center) - Promotes the development of people with a variety of abilities to live as active, integrated members of their communities.

Christian Schools International - Advances Christian education and supports schools in their task of teaching students to know God and his world and glorify him through obedient service.

Christian Schools International Foundation (for textbook development) - Raises money each year to build a trust fund, the proceeds of which go to Christian Schools International for funding its various programs, including the development of Christian learning materials and leadership training.

Dordt College - Seeks to provide Christian higher education that is in conformity with the Christian faith as expressed in the Reformed confessions.

Elim Christian Services - Provides a Christian education, training in vocational and life skills, and social nurture to those with special needs in order to equip them to achieve their highest God-given potential.

Friends of ICS (U.S. Foundation of Institute for Christian Studies) - Organizes activities to increase interest in the Institute for Christian Studies (ICS), recruits members and supporters of ICS and raises and receives funds in support of ICS.

Kid's Hope USA - Partners with local elementary schools to provide mentors, sourced from local Christian churches for at-risk students.

The King's University College (through the U.S. Foundation) - Provides a university education in the arts, sciences and selected professional areas, from a biblical perspective, and strives to be an academic community which integrates the Christian faith with teaching, learning, research, and college life in an environment characterized by academic excellence and personal approach to students.

Kuyper College - Equips students with a biblical, Reformed worldview to serve effectively Christ's church and his world.

Langham Partnership (formerly John Stott Ministries) - Because of its fundamental conviction that the preaching and teaching of God's Word is vital to the life and healthy growth of the church, the ministry works to strengthen the global church for mission and growth in biblical maturity by equipping local Christian pastors and church leaders with books, training and scholarship.

Redeemer University College (through the U.S. Foundation) - Offers a university-level liberal arts and sciences education which is scripturally directed and explores the relation of faith, learning, and living from a Reformed Christian perspective; supports research and creative endeavor in this context.

Rehoboth Christian School - Challenges students to know the Triune God and equips them to love, serve and transform the world in his name.

Tent Schools (formerly known as Worldwide Christian Schools) - Fosters the development and growth of lasting indigenous led schools whose student body mirrors the racial, religious and income mix of the local community

Trinity Christian College - Provides a biblically informed liberal arts education at the undergraduate level in the Reformed tradition.

Zuni Christian Mission School - Through Christian mission education, Zuni children will be planted in Biblical Truth and surrounded by God's grace.

Miscellaneous Agencies

Association for a More Just Society - Dedicated to promoting justice in Honduras and inspiring North Americans to follow God's call to do justice.

Audio Scripture Ministries - Committed to providing the translated Scriptures in audio that all may hear in their own language.

Bible League International - Provides scriptures and training worldwide so that people prepared by the Holy Spirit will be brought into the fellowship of Christ and his Church.

Care of Creation - Care of Creation, founded in 2005, was formed for the promotion of environmental stewardship by various means in the United States and other countries. Its primary project is focused on the restoration of the indigenous forest in Kenya, research and training events related to conservation agriculture in Kenya, and to a limited goal of mobilizing the church in Kenya to respond to the ongoing environmental challenges in that country. Care of Creation is beginning a similar program in Tanzania. Also, offers *Ours Father's World* weekend seminars for churches.

Center for Public Justice - Serves God by obeying his call to do justice; aspires to a United States and a world in which citizens—particularly Christians—take their civic responsibility seriously as a service to God, where governments perform their high calling to do justice and where citizens and leaders work together to shape the public life for the good of all until God's kingdom comes in its fullness.

Crossroads Prison Ministries (Formerly Crossroad Bible Institute) - Equips the church to disciple people in prison with the Word of God, free of charge wherever they are incarcerated. It is a personal, in-depth and long-term program, uniquely designed to help incarcerated persons grow dramatically in life-transforming relationship with Jesus Christ, preparing them for and assisting them in successful reentry upon release.

InterVarsity Christian Fellowship (endorsed for specified staff support only) - Establishes and advances, at colleges and universities, witnessing communities of students and faculty who follow Jesus as Savior and Lord; growing in love for God, God's Word, God's people of every ethnicity and culture and God's purposes in the world.

Mission India - Assists Indian churches and indigenous mission agencies in planting/reproducing churches in a systematic and measurable way.

Mississippi Christian Family Services (MCFS) - Serves individuals, families, and groups with needs because of mental, physical, and environmental limitations. Provides services to meet the spiritual and other unmet needs which are barriers to the persons overcoming their limitations.

Talking Bibles - Serves the Lord Jesus Christ by producing audio recordings of translated Scriptures in hundreds of languages and sharing these recordings around the world with millions of people who cannot read.

The Tract League – Most of our tracts are designed to encourage the reader to fall into the loving arms of Jesus either for the first time or again and again as they walk through life that is often very difficult.

World Communion of Reformed Churches (WCRC) - Resulted from a unification of the member churches of the Reformed Ecumenical Council and the World Alliance of Reformed Churches.

The WCRC is a communion of churches that

- fosters church unity and interfaith dialogue
- helps churches act for social and economic rights
- facilitates mission renewal and empowerment

Wycliffe Bible Translators, Inc. - To see God's Word accessible to all people in a language that speaks to their heart.

Canada

Benevolent Agencies

Beginnings Family Services (formerly Beginnings Counseling & Adoption Services of Ontario Inc.) - In conviction that life is a gift from God, provides services related to pregnancy and adoption.

Indwell (formerly Homestead Christian Care) - Provides affordable housing options to persons with disabilities living in poverty. It's primarily focused on helping those with mental illness.

Educational Agencies

Dordt College - Seeks to provide Christian higher education that is in conformity with the Christian faith as expressed in the Reformed confessions.

EduDeo Ministries - A Canadian, Christian, mission organization serving children in developing countries with quality education rooted in a Biblical worldview.

Institute for Christian Studies - An interdisciplinary graduate school where the gospel's message of renewal shapes our pursuit of wisdom and where scholars focus on the intersection of Reformational philosophy, contemporary scholarship and society.

The King's University - Provides university education that inspires and equips learners to bring renewal and reconciliation to every walk of life as followers of Jesus Christ, the Servant-King.

Kuyper College - Equips students with a biblical, Reformed worldview to serve effectively Christ's church and his world.

Redeemer University College - Offers a university-level liberal arts and sciences education which is scripturally directed and explores the relation of faith, learning and living from a Reformed Christian perspective; supports research and creative endeavor in this context.

Trinity Christian College - Provides biblically informed liberal arts education at the undergraduate level in the Reformed tradition.

Miscellaneous Agencies

A Rocha (Canada) - An international Christian organization which, inspired by God's love, engages in scientific research, environmental education, and community-based conservation projects.

Bible League of Canada - Provides scriptures and training worldwide so that people prepared by the Holy Spirit will be brought into the fellowship of Christ and his Church.

Canadian Council of Churches - The largest ecumenical body in Canada, now representing 25 churches of Anglican, Eastern and Oriental Orthodox, Protestant and Roman Catholic traditions. Members seek to fulfill together their common calling to the glory of one God, Son and Holy Spirit.

Cardus (Work Research Foundation o/a Cardus) - Seeks to influence people toward a Christian view of work, as it explores and unfolds the dignity of work, the meaning of economics and the structures of civil society in the context of underlying creational patterns.

Citizens for Public Justice (CJL Foundation) - Promotes public justice in Canada by shaping key public policy debates through research, analysis, publishing and public dialogue. Citizens for Public Justice encourages citizens, leaders in society, and governments to support policies and practices which reflect God's call for love, justice and stewardship.

Dunamis Fellowship Canada - Helps equip people to experience and live in the reality of Jesus' promise by providing biblical teaching on the Holy Spirit, and practical applications of the teaching. It also provides a community of Spirit-empowered believers who support each other in their spiritual development. Although the fellowship's historic roots are in the Presbyterian and Reformed stream of the Christian Faith, it serves people from many denominations.

Evangelical Fellowship of Canada (EFC) - A national movement that purposes to engage an increasingly inclusive participation of evangelicals or Kingdom influence, impact and identity.

Gideons International – Canada (dba ShareWord Global) - Exists to win men, women, boys and girls to Jesus Christ through the association of Christian business and professional lay people for service in our communities; through personal witness as individuals where we live, work, and serve; through placing copies of scriptures in places where people of the world can access them; and through distribution of the scriptures for personal, individual use.

Inter-Varsity Christian Fellowship of Canada (IVCF) - Being shaped by God's Word and led by the Holy Spirit, the purpose of IVCF Canada is the transformation of youth, students, and graduates into fully committed followers of Jesus Christ.

OneBook (Global PartnerLink) - To creatively link Canadians to the task of equipping nationals to lead life-changing Bible translation and literacy programs with a vision of a world where everyone has direct access to God's Word in their native language.

Shalem Mental Health Network - Supplies mental health service to individuals, communities, and churches. Consultation is also provided on abuse, mental illness, and conflict management. This organization works across Canada, with some programs in the U.S.

World Communion of Reformed Churches (WCRC) - Resulted from a unification of the member churches of the Reformed Ecumenical Council and the World Alliance of Reformed Churches, the WCRC is a communion of churches that fosters church unity and interfaith dialogue, helps churches act for social and economic rights, and facilitates mission renewal and empowerment.

Wycliffe Bible Translators of Canada, Inc. - To see God's Word accessible to all people in a language that speaks to their heart.