

Our Faith

We believe that the Old and New Testaments are the inspired Word of God, the only infallible rule for faith and life. We affirm three creeds — the Apostles' Creed, the Nicene Creed, and the Athanasian Creed — as ecumenical expressions of the Christian faith. We also affirm three confessions — the Belgic Confession, the Heidelberg Catechism, and the Canons of Dort — as historic Reformed expressions of the Christian faith, whose doctrines fully agree with the Word of God.

Along with these historic creeds and confessions, we recognize the witness of Our World Belongs to God and the Belhar Confession as contemporary testimonies to serve as dynamic statements of faith that speak to essential matters in our time.



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Desired Future 4

Identity

We will grasp—and be grasped by—a richly Reformed world and life view so that we are able and eager to express what it means to belong to God's diverse and unified family. Transformed by that story, we will learn to tell it so compellingly that people from many cultures and experiences are drawn to see and know themselves as God's beloved ones, entrusted to bring the good news to others.

Our Goals

Our congregations and ministries will

- learn to tell, in ways that are clear and compelling, the story of God's grace and restoring love, and of God's call to join him in renewing all creation.
- live out that story so that our churches radiate welcome and a sense of belonging to people of all ages, abilities, genders, and ethnicities.
- joyfully answer the call to do justice and walk humbly with our God (Mic. 6:8).
- see, affirm, and robustly carry out the unique role that God has called us to fulfill in his church worldwide.



Watch or download the *Identity* video at crcna.org/OurJourney

Desired Future 5

Collaboration

Our churches and ministries will work hand in hand with each other, and with partners in our own communities and around the world, to faithfully fulfill Jesus' command to make disciples of all people.

Our Goals

Our congregations and ministries will

- understand that we are uniquely gifted parts of one body, each doing what we do best but all working together for God's kingdom.
- connect with each other to discover the services, resources, and opportunities each one needs for the tasks, at home and around the world, to which God is calling them.

To learn more about *Our Journey 2020*, including stories of how God is already at work in and through the Christian Reformed Church, visit crcna.org/OurJourney.

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Christian
Reformed
Church

our journey
2020

The Ministry Plan of the Christian Reformed Church

There's something about a journey that's exciting and invigorating. A promise of new horizons; new possibilities; new challenges. We in the Christian Reformed Church are on such a journey. It's called *Our Journey 2020* — “*Our Journey*” because we're on it together; “*2020*” to remind us that this is just one stage of our journey.

Some of the most interesting journeys happen when you know where you are going, but not exactly how to get there. This is that kind of a trip. CRC members and leaders across Canada and the United States identified the challenges their churches are facing. These framed the goals, or “desired futures.”

The goals will enable us to assist each other in mapping out our unique routes, while drawing upon shared resources and expertise. But how to get there — and where to go first — will be different for each congregation.

It's a challenging undertaking, but our hopes are not tied to what we can do. Rather, in the words of 1 Thessalonians 5:24, “The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do it.” As we walk together into these desired futures, we will become the people that God is calling us to be. This is *Our Journey 2020*.

Desired Future 1

Church and Community

Our congregations will flow like streams into their communities. We will meet our neighbors at community events and gathering places, listening to each other, learning from each other, and serving each other. By our presence we will become channels for the love of Christ and the Holy Spirit's life-giving transformation.

Our Goals

Our congregations will

- explore their communities, learning from neighbors where a community's life is lively and fresh, and where it is parched and asking for help.
- discover where God's Spirit is moving, working through individuals, organizations, other churches, and businesses to meet needs and to bring health and freedom.
- joyfully join this work of transformation.
- discern, through community presence and partnerships, how lay and ordained leaders can offer the good news of faith in Christ in ways that connect to the needs our neighbors express, and to their cultures.
- as a result of listening and discernment, give birth to new churches and discipling communities.



Watch or download the *Church and Community* video at crcna.org/OurJourney

Desired Future 2

Discipleship

Our churches will be vibrant communities, radiating grace. As we preach, teach, and live out the gospel within and beyond our walls, we nurture people of all generations as they grow into the likeness of Christ Jesus.

Our Goals

Our congregations will

- speak mercy and offer hospitality to all.
- create a welcoming home where people of all ages, ethnicities, genders, and abilities learn to love and to help each other grow into the likeness of Christ.
- search out resources and model practices that nourish our members and ministries so that all may strengthen their bond of love to God, to each other, and to neighbors everywhere.
- put children, youth, and young adults at the heart of the church's life and value their contributions to church ministries.
- worship in ways that are both sensitive and stirring, encouraging people of all ages to participate.



Watch or download the *Discipleship* video at crcna.org/OurJourney

Desired Future 3

Leadership

Our churches and ministries will grow new leaders of many kinds. At all levels—local, regional, denominational—we discover the talents, skills, and strengths in our ordained and lay people. We cultivate those gifts through education, hands-on ministry opportunities, and guidance from mature leaders in order to raise new leaders who have deep roots and yield abundant fruit.

Our Goals

Our congregations and ministries will:

- discern the particular kinds of skilled leaders their people and neighborhoods need.
- choose as leaders men and women who are filled with the Spirit and who are skilled at bringing creativity to old problems, seeing conflict and change as opportunities, and empowering others to use their gifts.
- search out the gifts and skills in members of all genders, ages, abilities, and ethnicities, and help them grow and strengthen those gifts through education, ministry opportunities, and deep relationships with experienced leaders.
- join partners throughout the world to seek out and cultivate innovative local leaders who can bring effective and Spirit-filled responses to needs they know best.



Watch or download the *Leadership* video at crcna.org/OurJourney