



COD Highlights

To: **CRC Councils and Classes**
From: Steve Timmermans, Executive Director
Date: February 28, 2018

Highlights from meeting of Feb. 21-22, 2019

Grand Rapids, Mich. – The Council of Delegates of the Christian Reformed Church in North America met at Brookside Christian Reformed Church on February 21-22, 2019.

During this meeting the Council:

- Spent time discussing *Our Journey 2020* as well as initial steps at developing the next ministry plan.
- Reviewed a draft of the Abuse of Power Committee Report. A final version will go to the May COD meeting for review and recommendation to Synod 2019.
- Instructed the executive committee of the COD to appoint an *ad hoc* group to review the CRCNA's progress toward the goals of the 2013 Cultivating Binationality report. A report of this review is due to the October 2019 COD meeting.
- Recommended to Synod 2019 that it create a standing committee of the COD to review Bible translations for potential uses in the CRCNA.
- Reviewed a revised version of the Ministry Share Reimagined Report and recommended it to Synod 2019 for adoption.
- Heard an appeal, in the interim of synod, regarding a decision of Classis Chicago South relating to a multi-site church congregation that is affiliated with both the CRCNA and the Reformed Church in America. The COD decided not to sustain the appeal. This decision will go to Synod 2019 for approval.
- Spent time discussing salary ranges for staff in the Michigan and Ontario offices of the CRCNA. Approved a 1.5% increase in targets for the Canadian positions to bring them up to 99.5% of the national average, which is similar to U.S. positions and their national average. Endorsed a new policy of using the larger of the two differentials to national averages for the two main work locations when conducting future salary reviews.
- Heard an update on the work being done to discern how to do appropriate and effective Indigenous ministry in North America. This work will continue with a unique approach in both the United States and Canada, and lessons learned will be shared across the border.
- Endorsed approaches that Resonate Global Mission has taken for enfolding immigrant churches into the Christian Reformed Church, and their goal of 50 new ethnic or multi-ethnic church plants in the next five years and 40 new ethnic or multi-ethnic affiliations in the next five years.
- Endorsed the direction of the new Reformed Partnership for Congregational Renewal as a joint effort of the CRCNA and the RCA to promote renewal for all churches.
- Took action on several synodical assignments. This included voting to discontinue annual reporting by the executive director on the use of the "five streams" (now known as the "five callings"). It also included hearing an update on terminology for talking about diversity, forwarding proposed Church Order changes from Synod 2018 to

Synod 2019 for adoption, and reviewing a preliminary report from the Classis Renewal Advisory Team regarding the name for *classis*.

- Proposed revisions to Church Order Supplement, Article 30-c related to the Judicial Code Committee. This proposal will go to Synod 2019 for consideration and action.
- Endorsed evaluation reports for Worship Ministries, Faith Formation Ministries, and Calvin College. These evaluations will now go to Synod 2019.
- Endorsed the direction towards regionally resourcing congregations, and the creation of a director position to oversee this work.
- Spent time in committee looking at the proposed budget direction for CRCNA ministries. Two COD members will work with senior management to review 2019-2020 budgets and will provide a summary to the May meeting for approval.
- Approved pay ranges for senior positions.
- Approved, on behalf of synod, revisions to the Calvin College Articles of Incorporation as part of the change in name to *Calvin University*.
- Encouraged a communication to U.S. stated clerks to provide nominations for a new committee to provide guidance and advice to the Office of Social Justice.
- Appointed seven young people plus two alternates as young adult representatives to Synod 2019.
- Appointed two people plus one alternate to the role of synodical deputies.
- Agreed to forward the names of several people to Synod 2019 for appointment to the Council of Delegates, and two people for appointment to the Judicial Code Committee.
- In addition to the ecclesiastical meeting of the COD, this meeting also included the meeting of four corporate entities: CRCNA Canada, CRCNA U.S., BTGMI Canada, and BTGMI U.S. Highlights from these meetings include:
 - Receiving audit results for BTGMI and the CRCNA
 - Noting the work being done to solicit nominees for the U.S. Committee for Guidance and Advice to the Office of Social Justice
 - Approving a change in name from Canadian Aboriginal Ministries Committee to Canadian Indigenous Ministries Committee, and endorsing a switch to the term “Indigenous” more broadly in CRCNA materials
 - Approving the work plan for the Centre for Public Dialogue
 - Approving the appointments of three people one to the Canadian Indigenous Ministries Committee and the other two to the Committee for Contact with the Government

For more information, please contact:

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Upcoming meeting dates:

- May 1-3, 2019, Grimsby, Ontario
- October 9-11, 2019, Grimsby, Ontario
- February 19-21, 2020, Grand Rapids, Michigan
- May 6-8, 2020, Minneapolis, Minnesota
- October 14-16, 2020, in Minneapolis, Minnesota