



# COD Highlights

To: **CRC Councils and Classes**  
From: Steven R. Timmermans, Executive Director  
Date: October 21, 2019

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## *Highlights from meeting of Oct. 10-11, 2019*

**Grimsby, Ont.** – The Council of Delegates of the Christian Reformed Church in North America met in the CRCNA Burlington offices and at Mountainview Christian Reformed Church on October 10-11, 2019.

During this meeting the Council:

- Spent time in prayer for local congregations, classes, ministries, and the denomination.
- Participated in board development, exploring how spirituality and faith mix with governance practices.
- Acknowledged and celebrated the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the ministry of Johanna Veenstra, a missionary to Nigeria.
- Heard an update on ministry shares reimagined, and were pointed to several new resources at [crcna.org/ministryshares](http://crcna.org/ministryshares).
- Heard a report from the executive director, and received reports from the director of ministries and administration, director of Canadian ministries, director of Resonate Global Mission, director of Back to God Ministries International, and *Banner* editor.
- Approved a plan to proceed with a radical remodel and repurposing of the CRCNA's Grand Rapids offices and property with costs not to exceed \$11.7 million.
- Approved a protocol useful when the COD would wish to comment on matters going to synod.
- Heard an update on a task from Synod 2019 to define "heresy," and appointed a few additional people to offer critique on a draft response. An updated draft will come to the COD in February.
- Approved the mandate, composition, timeline, and suggested names for two committees related to the abuse of power per synod's instruction. One looking at developing a training program and code of conduct for all employed ministry staff within the CRC. The other will focus on studying the complaint mechanism and conflict of interest issues.
- Adopted a Policy for Program and Personnel Reduction to be used in times of significant economic downturns.
- Endorsed further study of a potential name change for Back to God Ministries International, with the goal of proposing a new name to the COD in February 2020.
- Reviewed a list of churches that will be invited to participate in the 2020 denominational survey, and COD members were asked to actively encourage those congregations' participation.
- Reviewed a list of immigration resources for pastors and churches (posted now on [crcna.org/resources/church-resources/immigration-resources](http://crcna.org/resources/church-resources/immigration-resources)) in response to Synod 2019's instruction.

- Asked the director of ministries and administration and the director of Worship Ministries to work with current Bible Translations Committee members to identify additional members.
- Endorsed the creation of an advisory team for Pastor Church Resources.
- Endorsed the church planting goals from the Collaborative Church Planting Team and asked delegates to solicit feedback on them by January 1.
- Endorsed changes to Resonate’s Reserve Fund Policy.
- Discussed outcomes of the *Our Journey 2020* ministry plan, and approved four denominational priorities that should be incorporated into the next ministry plan.
- Adopted a new protocol, rooted in Church Order, for joint supervision of ordained CRCNA Staff.
- Changed terminology for CRCNA partnerships, discontinuing use of the terms “affiliated non-denominational organizations” and “non-affiliated non-denominational organizations” and relying instead upon the use of these categories: (1) the accredited list of organizations approved for giving, (2) partners in the CRCNA’s many ministries, and (3) affiliated Reformed Colleges & Universities.
- Appointed several people to key roles including synodical deputies, alternate synodical deputies, the Consideration of Bivocationality Task Force, the Raise Up Global Ministries board, the Ecclesiastical Marriage Task Force, and the World Renew board.
- In the interim of synod, appointed a new member to the Judicial Code Committee, and appointed interim COD members for Canada at-large and Classis North Cascades—to be appointed by synod in June.
- Endorsed budget assumptions and a planning calendar for fiscal year 2021.
- As instructed by synod, agreed to a process of reviewing the Judicial Code Committee starting in 2022, with the intent of completing this review by 2024.
- Received a report on workplace culture and recent measurements taken of the culture in CRCNA offices.

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:

- Approval of the draft audited financial statements of the previous year and appointed auditors for 2019-2020
- A Canadian discussion about future partnership with the All Ontario Youth Convention
- A U.S. discussion about the first meeting of the U.S. Committee for Guidance and Support for the Office of Social Justice

**For more information, please contact:**

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**Upcoming meeting dates:**

- February 19-21, 2020, Grand Rapids, Michigan
- May 6-8, 2020, Minneapolis, Minnesota
- October 14-16, 2020, in Minneapolis, Minnesota
- February 17-19, 2021, Grand Rapids, Michigan
- May 5-7, 2021, Grand Rapids, Michigan