



# COD Highlights

To: **CRC Council of Delegates Members and Directors**  
From: Kristen deRoo VanderBerg, Director of Communication & Marketing  
Date: October 15, 2018

---

## ***Highlights from meeting of Oct. 11-12, 2018***

**Elmhurst, Ill.** – The Council of Delegates of the Christian Reformed Church in North America met at Elmhurst Christian Reformed Church on October 11-12, 2018.

During this meeting the Council:

- Heard a presentation and spent time discussing several ways to Reimagine Ministry Shares. Ultimately, the COD decided to recommend to Synod 2019 that the planning for and commitments to ministry shares would begin differently. Responding to targets approved by synod, churches would identify what their ministry share contribution could be. From this suggested amount, beginning at the congregational level and then the classis level, a ministry share commitment would be determined that would become the basis for the program budgets of the denominational ministries. Because of the significance of the intended change, the COD will recommend to Synod 2019 that this change—and its many implications for budgeting, fiscal years, and the like—be presented to churches before final consideration at Synod 2020.
- Adopted a mandate, composition, and selection process for a U.S. committee for guidance and support to the Office of Social Justice and Hunger Action in response to Synod 2018 instructions.
- Approved several changes to staff compensation in response to the CRCNA staff salary review project. This included a discussion about equity of the current pay program. The COD discussion ultimately decided that the current system does fulfil the three equities contained within the Philosophy of Compensation of the CRCNA.
- Approved an addition to the mandate of Faith Formation Ministries to support children’s ministry in Reformed congregations through the regular refreshing of curricula; providing training, support, consultation to teachers; and providing guidance for assessing other curricula.
- Asked the executive director to appoint people to several committees, including a committee to explore how to respond to synodical instruction regarding approval of Bible translations for use in worship, a committee to review possibilities and challenges for bivocational pastors, and a steering committee to oversee the establishment and initial operations of the Reformed Partnership for Congregational Renewal.
- Adopted a mandate for an Abuse of Power committee and appointed several people to the committee. It also encouraged committee members to identify two or three additional nominees from multicultural communities of the CRC.
- Endorsed a report on Assisting Immigrant Churches.
- Recommended to synod, in response to synod’s instruction regarding the need for greater gender and ethnic diversity on the Judicial Code Committee, that synod adopt a change to Church Order Supplement, Article 30-c, section 8, to provide a goal of 25% ethnic diversity and an equal balance of men and women on the JCC.

- Adopted changes to the COD Governance Handbook, including asking COD members to refrain from approaching CRCNA staff for information or instruction and clarifying which parts of COD agendas, attachments and minutes are public information and which are confidential.
- Received an update on the progress of the *Our Journey 2020* Ministry Plan and adopted a policy to ensure continual evaluation of all agencies and ministries through the framework of the five ministry priorities.
- Received for information a list of reconciliation resources as a response to the instructions of Synod 2018 (see *Acts of Synod 2018*, p. 473).
- Received notice of the retirement of Dr. Gary Bekker from the position of director of Raise Up Global Ministries and thanked him for his service.
- Recommended that synod accept the invitation from Encounter Church in Grand Rapids, Mich. to serve as convening church for Synod 2020; and the invitation from First CRC in Orange City, Iowa to serve as host church for Synod 2021.
- Watched a video about Inspire 2019 and were encouraged to promote this event (taking place August 1-3, 2019 in Windsor, Ontario) to congregations in their region. Additional information is available at [crcna.org/Inspire](http://crcna.org/Inspire).
- Reviewed a list of churches that will be invited to participate in the 2019 denominational survey and were asked to actively encourage those congregations' participation.
- Appointed people to several positions, including synodical deputies and alternates, an interim COD delegate for Classis Quinte, and delegates to the Raise Up Global Ministries board, which oversees Educational Care, Global Coffee Break, and Timothy Leadership Training Institute.
- 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:
  - Hearing an update on the Canadian National Gathering to be held in Edmonton, Alberta in May 2019
  - Approving the year-end audited financial statements for CRCNA Canada and BTGMI Canada
  - Appointing Ms. Verney Kho as treasurer of CRCNA Canada Corp and BTGMI Canada for the coming year
  - Appointing BDO as the auditors for the current fiscal year
  - Approving bylaw changes for BTGMI U.S. regarding the partnership with the Presbyterian Agency of Evangelization and Communication
  - Approving signatory resolutions for BTGMI in the U.S. and Canada
  - Approving an address change for BTGMI U.S. from Palos Heights, Illinois to Grand Rapids, Michigan.

**For more information, please contact:**

Dr. Steven Timmermans, Executive Director  
[executive-director@crcna.org](mailto:executive-director@crcna.org)

**Upcoming meeting dates:**

- February 20-22, 2019, Grand Rapids, Michigan
- May 1-3, 2019, Grimsby, Ontario
- October 9-11, 2019, Grimsby, Ontario