



## 2021 ANNUAL MINISTRY REPORT

# A Year Like No Other



## A Year Like No Other

Last January, as we rang in the new year 2021, many of us thought we would soon be leaving the COVID-19 pandemic behind. We had endured a year of lockdown, social distancing, masking, and more. Our congregations had adapted to offer online services and were looking forward to gathering in person again. And our ministries were eager to get back to personal connections, peer mentoring groups, one-on-one discipleship, energizing conferences, and much more.

Little did we know that the pandemic would drag on as long as it has, and that our need to be adaptable and flexible in ministry would continue to be a prime necessity for our congregations and programs.

Now, nearly two years after the start of COVID-19, ministry leaders are weary. From my vantage point as executive director of the CRCNA, I hear stories of pastors who are burned out, of congregations who are struggling financially, and of classes who are fraught with tension as they try to navigate several politically sensitive topics without the benefit of in-person fellowship and discernment together.

This is a difficult time, no doubt. And yet I'm also able to see how God has been faithful through all of these challenges. I've seen congregations and ministries finding ways to tap into the Holy Spirit and discern new areas in which God is calling them to work. I've seen creativity in how we can pursue mission in our new reality. I've seen people setting aside their personal agendas to truly try to listen to and understand one another. And I've heard many stories from around the world of how God is using the Christian Reformed Church for his glory.

On the following pages you'll read some of these stories and gain an overview of some ministry highlights in five key areas that we believe God has called the Christian Reformed Church to pursue: Global Mission, Gospel Proclamation and Worship, Faith Formation, Servant Leadership, and Justice and Mercy.

I hope that as you read about the many ways God is using our church for his purposes, you'll see yourselves as key partners in all of this. Your prayers, gifts, and ministry-share contributions have been an essential part of these stories of impact. Thank you.



Colin Watson, Sr., is the executive director of the Christian Reformed Church in North America.

## Global Mission at Work



### In India ↑

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, ReFrame Ministries' Hindi ministry has been hosting several discipleship groups online. One participant shared what he heard with a man named Anup. He gave Anup the phone number for Vidyut, who serves with ReFrame Ministries' partner in India (pictured). Anup texted Vidyut, asking him to pray for him. He is part of a non-Christian family and was very fearful because he was about to undergo dialysis in the overcrowded hospital three times per week. Vidyut called him and prayed with him. Today Anup is regularly in touch with Vidyut as well as some of the other prayer partners on the ministry team.



### In Uganda ↑

Gloria from Uganda received a Timothy Leadership Training course on WhatsApp. She said, "Before the course was introduced, I was going through a difficult time. I was spiritually down, and I could not bring myself to read the Word of God or even pray. I started the course, not knowing it would require me to read the Word of God more and to pray. I am blessed, even though I still have problems. I am now stronger."



### In the Philippines →

The CRC of the Philippines (CRCP) began exploring Global Coffee Break in 2019. Since then, leaders from 17 churches have attended training and launched groups. In 2021 the CRCP reported that 43 people became Christians through those groups. The CRCP have adopted Global Coffee Break as a strategy to support churches and church plants. One woman shared that she is hosting a group of professional women who are new to the Bible and very curious about studying God's Word.



### In Indonesia ↓

Eny is one of many viewers who enjoyed YouTube programs from ReFrame's Indonesian ministry during the pandemic. She says that she starts every morning with a short, five-minute devotional video. Rev. Arliyanus Larosa, ReFrame's Indonesian ministry leader, and other members of ReFrame's Indonesian ministry team have developed 19 different programs over the past two years. "The internet and social media are becoming the most important channel for communication here just as they are elsewhere in the world," said Larosa. "So we've started new programs using social media, especially short video content on YouTube."



### In Mexico ↑

For as long as Obed could remember, he had faith in Christ—but then the coronavirus pandemic turned his life upside down, and he started doubting his faith. "He felt he was drowning," said James Lee, your Resonate Global Mission missionary. "I said, 'Well, I'm swimming with you.'"

James met Obed through Compa, a campus ministry that James partners with in Querétaro, Mexico. As weeks—and then months—of the COVID pandemic passed, Obed spent less time reading the Bible and praying. He felt disconnected from the church, was isolated from his friends, and worried about his business. James helped Obed navigate the waves of doubt and keep his head above water. He checked in with Obed regularly through texts and phone calls, and they met every week over video call to talk, read the Bible, and pray together. Obed's confidence in God has been growing stronger again—stronger, even, than before the pandemic.



## Raise Up Global Ministries

Raise Up Global Ministries is committed to equipping Christian leaders in communities around the world. The three programs of Raise Up are Timothy Leadership Training (TLT), Global Coffee Break (GCB), and Educational Care (EC).

### Highlights

#### New materials

- *Discover Revelation*, a two-part GCB study
- *Fear Not: A Christian Attitude about Spiritual Powers*, a TLT course developed with a team of church leaders from around the world
- Revision of seven EC and seven TLT manuals with local stakeholder contributions
- Translation of 18 GCB Bible studies and 24 TLT training manuals

#### Workshops/trainings

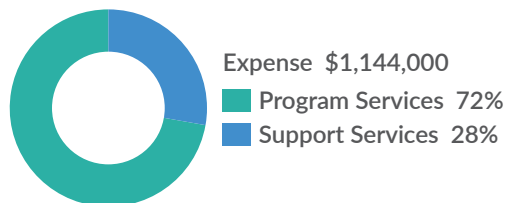
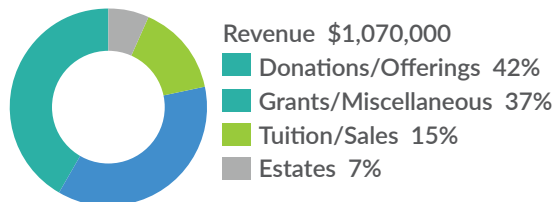
- Three virtual retreats/conferences reaching leaders from 17 countries
- Four virtual evangelism training workshops
- 190 TLT trainings with 2,720 participants across the globe
- 17 virtual GCB trainings with 655 participants

#### New partnerships

- The Relay Trust
- Calvin Institute of Christian Worship
- Crossroads Prison Ministry
- Enseignement Théologique Par Extension - RD Congo
- The Christian Reformed Church in Liberia
- Multiply 222

Raise Up Global Ministries does not receive ministry shares.

### RaiseUpGlobal.org



## ReFrame Ministries

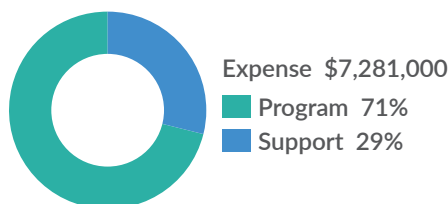
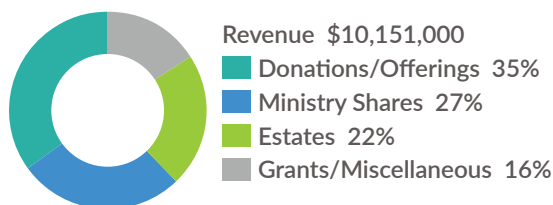
ReFrame Ministries is the global media ministry of the Christian Reformed Church in North America. We partner with individuals and Christian Reformed congregations to transform the lives and worldviews of all people around the globe with God's gospel message.

Relying on the guidance of the Holy Spirit, we create contextual media resources that proclaim the gospel, disciple believers, and strengthen the church throughout the world in 10 major languages.

### Highlights

- 10 major language ministries
- Reaching 55 countries through radio, TV, and print—and nearly every country with the internet
- 45 video programs
- 28 ministry websites and 69 social media pages
- 48 audio programs
- 315,974 devotional emails sent daily
- 7,500 Prayer Team members

### ReFrameMinistries.org





# Resonate Global Mission

Resonate Global Mission is an extension of your own church: we exist to serve you and walk with you. We want to help congregations explore their communities, discover where God is moving, and join God on mission!

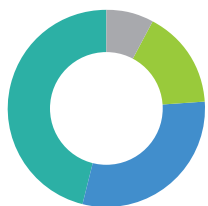
Together we help build God's church—planting churches and supporting ministry in North America as well as sending missionaries around the globe to share the good news of Jesus. Sending your congregation to share the gospel is part of God's plan for your church!

Resonate can help deepen your passion for mission, strengthen your capacity to follow God on mission, and amplify the impact you and your church have in your community and around the world. We can do more together than we can on our own! Thank you for your prayers and support.

## Highlights

- More than 7,900 new believers in Christ in the past year
- More than 125 missionaries and 160 volunteers serving in over 40 countries
- Partnering with 43 new churches in North America, five new partnerships in the past year
- Supporting 34 campus ministries that serve 42 different campuses
- Providing ministries and churches with training, coaching, resources, education, and funding

[ResonateGlobalMission.org](https://ResonateGlobalMission.org)



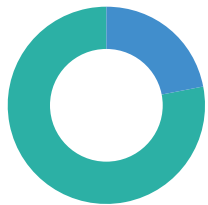
Revenue \$21,970,000

Donations/Offerings 46%

Ministry Shares 30%

Estates 16%

Grants/Miscellaneous 8%



Expense \$17,189,000

Program 78%

Support 22%

Campus ministries had to pivot during COVID, offering opportunities for online connection and mobile food pantries for international students.





## Faith Formation at Work



### ← River Terrace Church

Members at River Terrace Church in East Lansing, Mich., used God's Big Easter Story: A Holy Week Journey for Families to create a Holy Week walk as they marked Palm Sunday. Families and people of all ages moved from station to station, remembering various moments of the Holy Week and Easter story along the walk. Ministry leader Shalom Jaconette captured this photo of the station for the Last Supper.

### Michael Duthler →

Michael Duthler is a member of the first graduating class from the Calvin Prison Initiative program, a partnership between Calvin University, Calvin Theological Seminary, and the Michigan Department of Corrections. Duthler started attending Calvin at Handlon Correctional Facility in Ionia, Mich., where he was serving a life sentence. Three years into the program he was paroled and completed the final two years on Calvin's main campus. "My story is one of the power of community in shaping someone," said Duthler. "Whereas I was once an agent of destruction who didn't care about anyone but myself, now my education forms me as an agent of renewal."



### ← Ready for Life

For the first time in Calvin's history, students from the Ready for Life program were presented with four-year certificates. The Ready for Life Academy (RFLA) is a partnership between Calvin University and the Ready for Life organization. The RFLA offers postsecondary education certificate programs to students with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Students in the RFLA can now earn a Life and Career Studies or Comprehensive Postsecondary Education Certificate from Calvin University.



## Faith Formation Ministries

Faith Formation Ministries (FFM) encourages and equips local Christian Reformed ministry leaders in their calling to shape lifelong faith formation. Together we seek for all generations to grow intentional and resilient faith. To work toward this, FFM forms partnerships with CRC pastors and ministry leaders, serving them by listening, developing relationships, and providing coaching and resources to help congregations build a framework for lifelong faith formation that fits their unique setting.

### Highlights

- Launched the Faith Practices Project, a five-year initiative. Year 1 explored 12 Christian practices (spiritual disciplines) for individual, family, or group use.
- Released Dwell Flex, 36 stand-alone Dwell sessions for use in a variety of situations—whether virtual, in person, or at home—and across multiple age groups.
- Created several new Dwell at Home resources for family faith formation, including God's Big Pentecost Story and a series of "5 Ways" family faith formation tip sheets for parents that correspond to the Faith Practices Project.
- Celebrated the receipt of a \$1.3 million grant from Lilly Endowment Inc. to support the expansion and continuation of Generation Spark, a joint initiative of the RCA and CRCNA that strengthens intergenerational relationships in churches through mentoring.

[crcna.org/FaithFormation](https://crcna.org/FaithFormation)

*Finances are included in the Congregational Ministries chart on page 22.*

## Calvin University

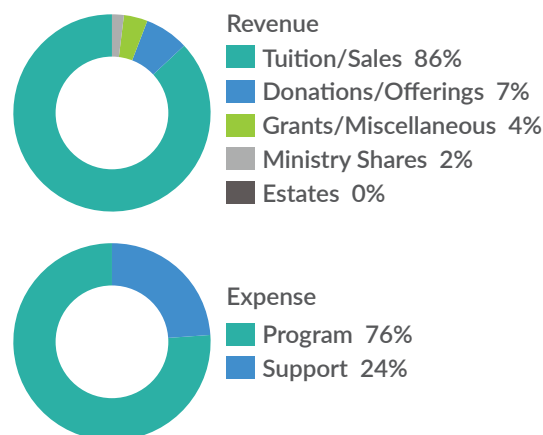
Founded by the CRCNA, Calvin University is a top-rated Christian liberal arts institution that equips and empowers nearly 3,300 students and 65,000 alumni to pursue truth and inquire with intellect. Through the integration of faith and rigorous academic study in more than 100 subject areas, students are equipped to think deeply, to act justly, and to live wholeheartedly as Christ's agents of renewal in the world.

That mission has stood the test of time, and Calvin's exciting new vision is already extending the reach of that mission to new audiences through new programming. Together with you, over the next decade Calvin aspires to expand its global influence and be seen as a trusted partner for learning across religious and cultural differences and throughout the academy, the church, and the world.

### Highlights

- Launched five new online graduate-level programs, with another four set to launch in the next year
- Broke ground on the new Calvin University School of Business—the first school in the new university structure—and welcomed Jim Ludema as the school's first dean.
- Honored the 2020 and 2021 graduating classes with a festive Commencement doubleheader at LMCU Ballpark in Grand Rapids, Mich.
- Celebrated the accomplishments of our students who earned Fulbright and Goldwater Scholarships, Lilly and Hertz Fellowships, and even helped develop a patent for Toyota.
- Rejoiced with our professors who received top honors in their fields, from being named a fellow of the American Academy of Nursing to receiving the rank of chevalier from the General Consul of France.

### Calvin.edu





## Worship at Work

### Art and Worship

Desiring to create a space of spiritual retreat for worship leaders and others in the midst of the pandemic, Worship Ministries worked with CRC artist Regina Jupp to create a virtual Moments Retreat. This photograph shows the result of one attendee's reflection during the retreat.





## Calvin Theological Seminary

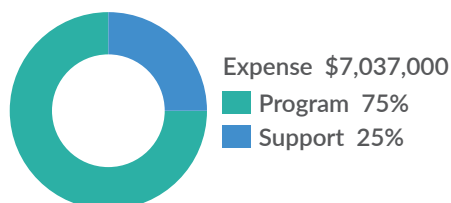
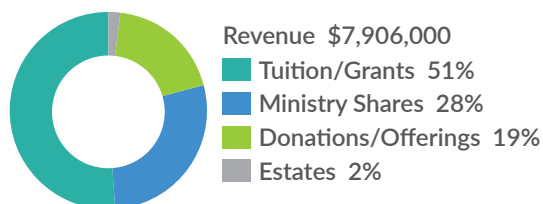
Since 1876, Calvin Theological Seminary has worked on your behalf to faithfully prepare leaders who can nurture disciples and serve the church. Currently Calvin Seminary has around 300 students. In addition, the school hosts a number of classes, weekly community events, chapel services, conferences, lectures, and other learning opportunities.

COVID-19 has had an impact on the ongoing formation and education programs at Calvin Theological Seminary. We are grateful for the investment made many years ago in an online delivery system of education. This allowed us to move back and forth between in-person and online instruction. We currently offer a “flex” model, offering in-person classes as well as online options.

### Highlights

- Conducted a Commencement Program to honor 61 graduates from 2020 and 89 graduates from 2021. The international reach and scope of the ministry of Calvin Theological Seminary was again illustrated by graduates from the following locales: Brazil, Canada, China, Egypt, El Salvador, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Kenya, Mexico, the Netherlands, Rwanda, South Korea, and the United States.
- Began a major renovation/remodeling project, which focuses on the classrooms, student center, and chapel for the purposes of upgrading technology, providing flexibility in use of space, and developing collaborative learning environments.
- Launched a new, fully online certificate program in cooperation with Christian Schools International (CSI) in Bible instruction. The 15-credit-hour program requires courses in “Integrating Faith and Teaching” and “Teaching Bible,” along with 11 hours of other seminary coursework.

[CalvinSeminary.edu](https://CalvinSeminary.edu)



## Worship Ministries

Enriched by a great diversity of ethnicities, communities, styles, and gifts, Worship Ministries supports and strengthens biblically grounded and theologically Reformed worship in the Christian Reformed Church in North America. The ministry is made up of seven volunteer regional and advisory team members; 15 endorsed coaches available for one-on-one coaching, church consultations, or workshops (in person or online); and four staff members (2.3 FTE) who are willing and ready to serve as needed.

### Highlights

- Hired two part-time worship catalyzers: Pastor Katie Roelofs and Pastor Jeremy Simpson
- Held weekly roundtables for mutual learning and support among CRC worship leaders
- Began a video-sermon library that churches can use when vacant or when pastors are away ([tinyurl.com/CRC-Worship](https://tinyurl.com/CRC-Worship))
- 89 individuals engaged with a free online Moments Retreat led by CRC artist Regina Jupp.
- 70 Peer Learning book group participants
- Nine certificates in Worship Leadership granted to CRC worship leaders
- 38 new Network posts
- Four new webinars presented with 174 live participants. A total of 28 webinars are available 24/7 on our YouTube channel (accessed 2,700 times).
- 537 members in the CRC Worship Ministries' Facebook group

*Reformed Worship:* Rich resources adaptable for your context

- 1,800 subscribers to RW's print and/or digital editions
- 10,609 monthly enews subscribers
- 5,430 Facebook followers from 45 countries
- 430,000 unique visitors to [ReformedWorship.org](https://ReformedWorship.org) from 224 countries

[crcna.org/Worship](https://crcna.org/Worship) [ReformedWorship.org](https://ReformedWorship.org)

*Finances are included in the Congregational Ministries chart on page 22.*

## Servant Leaders at Work



### ← Ashley Bonnes

Ashley Bonnes has been a pastor at Lafayette (Ind.) CRC since 2013 and has served on the Candidacy Committee since 2016. This year she invested herself even more deeply in service to our candidates by agreeing to serve on the Ecclesiastical Program for Ministerial Candidacy (EPMC) Facilitation Team. We want to celebrate Ashley's passion, commitment, and gifted leadership in the area of CRCNA candidacy.

### Pablo Kim Sun →

Pablo Kim Sun recently joined the CRCNA staff in Canada as the senior leader for antiracism and inclusion. In this role, Pablo works with leaders (within CRCNA ministries, classes, and congregations) to address problems in cultural identity, unearned privilege, unacknowledged supremacy thinking, tokenism, and invisible discrimination in our denominational structures. Pablo comes to the position with a wealth of knowledge and experience, and we look forward to his work in the future.



### ← Katie Venhuizen

Katie Venhuizen serves as the administrative coordinator at Bethel CRC in Sun Valley, Calif. For almost 20 years Katie has provided this small, established, and diverse congregation with steady support and leadership "from the back." Katie coordinates meetings, finds volunteers, keeps records, and publishes key information items. She works alongside a Filipino pastor of discipleship, a worship director who comes from Mexico, and, until recently, a Dutch-background lead pastor.

Pastor Church Resources recently engaged in conversations with Bethel's staff and council to help them with a number of important conversations related to their diversity, pandemic experiences, and communication practices. PCR's work with Bethel allowed us to see a number of servant leaders in action, including Katie. When PCR finds servant leaders like Katie, we thank God for what we see in the moment and for the faithfulness that we know they offer to their congregations over time.



## Candidacy Committee

The work of the Candidacy Committee is to oversee the nurture and training of people preparing for ordained ministry in the CRCNA. The Office of Candidacy works to maintain pathways to ministry that are accessible, accountable, and equitable.

### Highlights

- The formation of a new subcommittee called the EPMC Facilitation Team, which has begun to plan and implement changes to provide greater support and accountability to the Ecclesiastical Program for Ministerial Candidacy participants.
- David Koll retired after 13 years of servant-hearted leadership overseeing the candidacy process; Susan LaClear was appointed to take over this role.
- 31 candidates were approved by synod to become ordained ministers of the Word.
- The Spanish Language Institute in Ministry, a training program for Spanish-speaking leaders, trained 41 leaders through its programs hosted in Miami, Los Angeles, and Houston.
- The Korean Institute in Ministry, a training program for Korean-speaking pastors going through the Article 8 process, provided training for 22 pastors this year. Seven are Korean-Canadian pastors, and nine have come into the CRC with their congregations through the church affiliation process.

[crcna.org/Candidacy](https://crcna.org/Candidacy)

*Finances are included in the Congregational Ministries chart on page 22.*

## Chaplaincy and Care Ministry

There are 154 CRCNA-endorsed chaplains who serve in hospitals, hospices, long-term care settings, correctional institutions, the military, and workplaces. These chaplains provide pastoral care in five provinces and 28 states, as well as Belgium, Germany, Japan, and the Sinai Peninsula.

Chaplaincy and Care Ministry helps provide endorsement, training, and supervision to these men and women. We also assist seminary students and pastors in their discernment process. In addition, Chaplaincy and Care represented the church to other organizations and institutions to include the National Conference on the Ministry of the Armed Forces, the Canadian Association of Spiritual Care, the Evangelical Fellowship of Canada, the Association of Professional Chaplains, the Association of Clinical Pastoral Education, and the Department of Defense.

### Highlights

- This past fiscal year, 10 new chaplains were endorsed for this specialized ministry.
- Currently 10 percent of CRC ordained clergy serve as chaplains.
- The Annual Chaplains Training met virtually instead of in person, with 105 chaplains and others interested in chaplaincy participating from their homes and workplaces throughout North America.
- Seven chaplains were assisted with \$11,701 in training grants for Clinical Pastoral Education for a total of 700 hours of specialized chaplaincy training.
- 52 weekly Zoom gatherings were held, averaging 10-15 chaplains in each meeting, for support and mutual encouragement through times of devotions and prayer.

[crcna.org/Chaplaincy](https://crcna.org/Chaplaincy)

*Finances are included in the Congregational Ministries chart on page 22.*

## Office of Diversity

The Christian Reformed Church in North America values biblical diversity and the variety of gifts given to the body of Christ for God's mission in the church and the world. These values guide the work of the CRCNA and help us to work toward a future in which our congregations, leadership, and entire denomination will better reflect the full diversity of the body of Christ.

With this in mind, the Office of Diversity identifies, affirms, and supports church leaders and emerging leaders in their callings and giftedness while recognizing gender and ethnic challenges in Christian leadership. We welcome and support gatherings for building relationships, vibrant worship, and celebration.

### Highlights

- Three listening sessions with Korean leaders, church planters, and young leaders provided stories of amazing missional work across North America that showed deep love for God and the sharing of his contagious story with others.
- African American leaders spent time online praying and supporting each other during the pandemic. In addition, leaders were thinking and praying to develop new leaders and strategize new promptings of the Spirit for church planting and church revitalization.
- First Nations pastors and leaders managed heavy loads of pastoral and community needs during the pandemic, which affected many Navajo and Zuni people. These leaders attracted new listeners through Zoom and livestream worship services.
- Latino leaders, through Consejo Latino and other leadership hubs, taught and led new leaders through the Spanish Language Institute in Ministry in various locations across the United States. Praise God for their unlimited energy and drive in preparing leaders for ordained and lay ministry.
- Southeast Asian and Pacific Islander (SEAPI) leaders encouraged ministry leaders through Zoom and online platforms during the pandemic. While restricted from travel, leaders adapted to the new ways of staying connected.
- Chinese ministry leaders built and strengthened their ties for missional direction and encouragement.

[crcna.org/Diversity](https://crcna.org/Diversity)

*Finances are included in the Congregational Ministries chart on page 22.*

## Pastor Church Resources

Pastor Church Resources (PCR) serves pastors, churches, and classes as they seek to promote healthy relationships, encourage one another in ministry, and discern next steps in seasons of growth, transition, or challenge. PCR's efforts are directed toward the well-being of pastors and churches and provide the context for individual programs, personal interactions, resources, and consultations offered by PCR staff. More recently, staff have also attended to the systemic health of classes and the resourcing of classis functionaries, as well as emphasizing vocational assessment. PCR's desire to resource pastors, churches, and classes is an attempt to reflect God's resourcing of the church with the gifts necessary for flourishing.

### Highlights

- Over 120 churches accessed *PastorSearch*—a process that helps churches find pastors.
- About 1,400 interactions (not including thousands of emails) with churches, pastors, and ministry and classis leaders took place in the past year.
- Almost 50 chairs of classis engaged in training on how to lead a classis meeting.
- Over 90 pastors and ministry leaders benefited from a vocational ministry assessment during 2021.
- 50 pastors and churches were supported by Financial Shalom through grants for COVID-19 relief.
- The 25th anniversary of women's ordination in the CRCNA has been recognized in a number of ways.
- Almost 90 church visitors and classis leaders attended an Article 17 Workshop. (Article 17 denotes processes to facilitate the end of a pastor's call to a church.)
- Almost 20 churches worked with a specialized transition minister as they determined next steps for their congregation.
- Over 280 *Challenging Conversation Toolkit* facilitators have been trained to lead more than 100 small groups in engaging and responding to the Human Sexuality Report to synod.

[crcna.org/PCR](https://crcna.org/PCR)

*Finances are included in the Congregational Ministries chart on page 22.*

31 candidates for ministry were approved by the Council of Delegates at a video meeting held in lieu of Synod 2021 (which did not meet due to COVID). The candidates were also prayed for at the conclusion of the presentation.





Paul Delvin, Thomaston Valley	Wayne Brower, Holland
Susan LaClear, Staff	Tom Byma, Greater Los Angeles
Wendie Jong, Nijmegen	Kathy Smith, advisor
Long, Rocky, Red Mesa	Gary Bos, Columbia
Lee Van Harten, Staff	Andy deBijster, BCNW
Ali Medinjak, CTS	David Droyk, Grand Rapids South
	Colin Watson, staff

## Justice and Mercy at Work



### ← Hearts Exchanged

This year has included many reconciliation reckonings for Canadian Christians. And people across the country responded by digging deeply into reconciliation journeys. Many people advocated for the passage of Bill C-15 to implement the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. The passage of this bill was a significant step in Canadian legislation. People across the country also participated in Hearts Exchanged, a learning and action journey designed to equip Reformed Christians to engage with Indigenous people as neighbors and fellow imagebearers of God.

### 40 Years of Disability Ministry →

Next year Disability Concerns will celebrate 40 years in ministry. This year we had the pleasure of hearing from John Brouwer's mom as she shared her son's progress in response to a Breaking Barriers issue focused on creativity ([bit.ly/bbsummer2021](https://bit.ly/bbsummer2021)). John first appeared in our newsletter in 1996 when he was a little toddler full of energy; the article featured excerpts from his mother Grace's diary about raising him. Now John focuses his energy on painting. We are so thankful for families that share their lives with us and continue to encourage us in the work we do as a ministry.



### ← Gender Equality in Uganda

Gladys Afoyorwoth is a wife and mother of six children in northern Uganda. When World Renew began working in Gladys's community through the Pentecostal Assemblies of God Church (PAG), 80 percent of household work in homes like Gladys's was done by women. Half of all couples reported inequitable, sometimes violent, relationships. World Renew and PAG focused on food security, savings groups, and gender equality by developing a church-based curriculum called "Going Deeper for Gender Equity." Gladys and her husband joined in. When the COVID-19 pandemic hit, Uganda locked down, and food became more scarce than before. In northern Uganda, World Renew distributed 11,000 kg of bean and maize seeds to help families grow food. Despite COVID-19 setbacks, Gladys reports that today she and her husband are sharing the work and decision-making in their household. They improved their farming methods and qualified for small loans to build a sturdy home. Gladys is a gender champion, and together the couple counsels others in their church in developing good communication and relationships.







### ← Political Meetings

This year has been filled with meetings for justice! The Centre for Public Dialogue team met with Canada's Minister of Immigration, Refugees, and Citizenship to advocate for refugees approved to come to Canada whose arrival was delayed by travel restrictions. We joined with the Canadian Council of Churches in a conversation with Prime Minister Justin Trudeau about the contributions the faith community has made during the pandemic. Also, significant meetings were held with the Truth and Reconciliation Commissioners to push for the finalization of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples legislation, which passed, thanks in part to your advocacy with us!

### Advocacy during an Election →

The U.S. election provided a moment for each of us to show our commitment to justice! In particular, the Office of Social Justice encouraged the church to consider how to speak in ways that reflect the economic, social, and spiritual blessings that immigrants bring to the U.S. As rhetoric can get heated especially around elections, the Office of Social Justice encouraged people to share the message "Immigrants are a Blessing, not a Burden." Many church members took the step of setting up a yard sign, wearing a fair-trade t-shirt, and taking up advocacy opportunities for immigration reform.



### ← Safer Churches

Safe Church policies play an important role in abuse prevention and response. They communicate the commitments that staff, volunteers, and church leaders make to provide a safe and healthy environment free from abuse for those who participate in the ministries of the church. Policies work best when they are living documents, reviewed and updated regularly. In response to the many revelations of abuse in recent years in the larger Christian community, a growing number of CRC congregations are revisiting their policies to include stipulations for staff and volunteers around the use of social media, the use of technology, and provisions to be followed when meeting alone with children, youth, or adults. In this photo, Safe Church Ministry Consultant Rev. Eric Kas is meeting with Pastor James Jones and youth director Sammy Beuker of Oakdale Park Christian Reformed Church, discussing ways to strengthen their policy in abuse prevention and response.

## Indigenous Ministry (Canada)

The CRCNA's Indigenous Ministry is made up of a national committee (Canadian Indigenous Ministry Committee), three Urban Indigenous Ministries, and a Justice and Reconciliation Mobilizer, each using their strengths to support healing and reconciliation between Indigenous peoples and non-Indigenous people in Canada.

The Canadian Indigenous Ministry Committee (CIMC) works with CRC members and congregations to respond to God's call to live in reconciled relationships as covenant (treaty) people before our Creator. CIMC provides leadership and support for learning about Indigenous justice and reconciliation. The Justice and Reconciliation Mobilizer provides staff support for this committee and facilitates communication within the Indigenous Ministry, with congregations, and with other agencies where common justice concerns are shared. The urban ministries Indigenous Family Centre (Winnipeg, Man.), Indigenous Christian Fellowship (Regina, Sask.) and Edmonton (Alta.) Native Healing Centre each create a space where Indigenous people can feel safe, valued, and respected to use their gifts and to grow in the grace and knowledge of Christ through an Indigenous cultural lens.

### Highlights

- Work progressed on Hearts Exchanged, a learning and reconciliation journey for congregants in Canada. Two pilot cohorts were active in eastern and western Canada and included a total of 30 participants from Christian Reformed churches.
- The Youth Ambassador of Reconciliation program hosted seven participants online. Participants met with various speakers and decided on projects to continue their growth in their local community ministry.
- Programming at the three urban Indigenous ministry centers adapted to follow health and safety guidelines. Staff and volunteers continued to support and foster creative learning opportunities, food packages, and community spaces while following COVID-19 protocols.
- The Edmonton Native Healing Centre is celebrating its 30th year of providing a safe space for the most vulnerable to find grace, mercy, and peace.

[crcna.org/Indigenous](https://crcna.org/Indigenous)

*Finances are included in the Congregational Ministries chart on page 22.*

## Centre for Public Dialogue (Canada)

Directed by the Committee for Contact with the Government, the Centre for Public Dialogue is a group of Reformed Christians who work to promote the flourishing of all imagebearers of Creator God through dialogue and advocacy in Canada. We do careful research and engage in conversation with affected communities, church members, and politicians to formulate constructive ideas and advocate for policies that promote the good of all people.

Practically we speak into three primary issues: refugee justice, Indigenous justice, and climate change. This involves meeting with members of government, partnering with other justice and reconciliation organizations, facilitating educational church workshops, and equipping church members to work with their elected representatives. Our main office sits around the corner from Parliament Hill in Ottawa on unceded Algonquin territory.

### Highlights

- Justice mobilizer Cindy Stover met with over 300 people during the past year for a variety of justice-based workshops.
- We welcomed two interns from the Laurentian Leadership Centre of Trinity Western University.
- This year saw the passage of legislation to implement the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People in Canada. We are grateful for the advocacy of over 900 people on this topic.

[crcna.org/PublicDialogue](https://crcna.org/PublicDialogue)

*Finances are included in the Congregational Ministries chart on page 22.*



## Disability Concerns

With your support and on your behalf, Disability Concerns collaborates with the Reformed Church in America (RCA) Disability Concerns ministry toward a shared goal: helping CRC and RCA churches grow as communities where everybody belongs and everybody serves. We work with churches, classes, and denominational ministries to help them create spaces that are designed with full inclusion in mind, not only looking at ways to create a physical space that is accessible but also eliminating communication and attitudinal barriers.

### Highlights

- The third edition of the *Inclusion Handbook* was released and renamed *Everybody Belongs, Serving Together*. This resulted from a collaboration between CRC and RCA Disability Concerns ministries, Elim Christian Services, and Christian Horizons. Full of insights, tips, and stories from people with lived experiences of disabilities, this book will help churches engage with people who have disabilities as partners in ministry.
- Hosted two training events online. In August, our Leadership Training focused on youth and disability. In October, we featured highlights from *Everybody Belongs, Serving Together*.
- Facilitated two book clubs. The first one delved into caregiving through conversations around Henri Nouwen's *Courage for Caregivers: Sustenance for the Journey*. The second one, on *Finding Jesus in the Storm: The Spiritual Lives of Christians with Mental Health Challenges*, included a conversation with the author, John Swinton, who also contributed to *Everybody Belongs, Serving Together*.

[crcna.org/Disability](https://crcna.org/Disability) [rca.org/Disability](https://rca.org/Disability)

Finances are included in the *Congregational Ministries* chart on page 22.

## Office of Social Justice

The Office of Social Justice (OSJ) works to educate and equip congregations to be advocates—to stand alongside people affected by unjust policies and practices and to join them in seeking change. This work complements the evangelism, development, and relational ministry work the denomination has long invested in, serving as a way to ensure that the CRC's love of neighbor spans the breadth of Scripture's call, from charity to justice.

OSJ focuses on changing systems that are critical to the wider ministries of the church and to our Christian witness amid current events. Since OSJ's beginning, this has meant working on issues connected to hunger and poverty and, more recently, attending to issues assigned by synod.

### Highlights

- Our office facilitated workshops including the brand-new Immigration Is our Story workshop, we partnered with the Office of Race Relations to offer webinars, and we facilitated meetings with electoral candidates from across the country to find out their approach to climate policy.
- We exceeded our commitment that 25 percent of writers on the Do Justice blog be persons of color. Over the past year that percentage reached approximately 36 percent. The Do Justice podcast also went live!
- 21,200 emails and phone calls went to legislators, asking for just policies on a variety of justice topics.
- People have appreciated our weekly *Do Justice* prayers, with over 3,000 subscribers receiving them weekly. We also saw great appreciation for special prayer videos released via our YouTube channel.
- 331 Climate Witness Partner churches are addressing climate change and living by example as stewards of creation and advocating for just climate policies.

[crcna.org/Justice](https://crcna.org/Justice)

Finances are included in the *Congregational Ministries* chart on page 22.

## Office of Race Relations

Celebrating 50 years of service in the CRCNA this year, the Office of Race Relations seeks the kingdom of God, which laments over the injustices of racism, celebrates the diversity of God's family, and advances the biblical vision of beloved community that is central to our denominational vision.

We do this by sharing diverse stories, championing antiracism activities, and promoting personal and congregational faith practices that dismantle racism within and beyond the CRC. Staff members provide collaborative training programs and facilitate actions with congregational, classical, synodical, and agency leaders.

### Highlights

- Experienced a dramatic increase in requests for Race Relations resources and consultations.
- Launched monthly "Living Room Conversations" for CRCNA staff to engage in facilitated small group conversations on racism.
- Launched Race Relations "Roundtables" to lead public conversations on race and racism including "White Work" and "White Work 2.0" conversations, which engaged 250 to 300 people.
- Subscriptions to our bilingual Race Relations newsletter more than doubled.
- Awarded Race Relations scholarships totaling \$16,000 to eight students to develop multiracial congregational leaders in the CRC. This year all scholarship recipients are of Korean descent.

[crcna.org/Race](https://crcna.org/Race)

*Finances are included in the Congregational Ministries chart on page 22.*

## World Renew

World Renew's mission is to serve Christ by reaching out to people who experience poverty, disaster, and injustice, offering dignity and compassion so that all can live together in hope as one community.

Through your support, World Renew walked alongside Christian leaders from 73 denominations and Christian outreach organizations in the past year. We offered renewed hope to 263,943 participants in 19 developing countries, making remarkable changes in healthcare, food security, economic activities, and peace and justice.

World Renew assisted 864,945 people who experienced a disaster in 25 countries last year. This support included emergency food, water, shelter, sanitation, economic assistance, and rehabilitation.

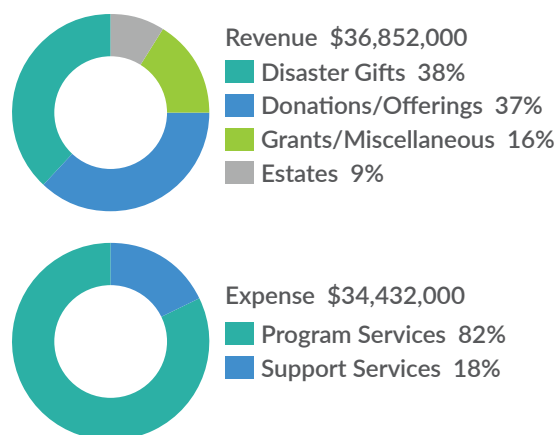
### Highlights

- Served people in 31 countries in 2021, responding to disasters and providing community-based programs that helped 1,128,888 participants improve their lives.
- Last year 184 volunteers donated 8,218 hours of their time to help people in need worldwide.\*
- World Renew DRS Rapid Response volunteers cleaned up 39 homes, and DRS construction estimators completed 32 estimates.\*
- In North America, 202 Christian Reformed churches engaged in justice and advocacy action.
- With your support, World Renew helped 65 refugees resettle in Canada, and 38 sponsoring groups submitted new sponsorship applications\* for 181 refugees.

World Renew does not receive ministry shares. Facts, figures, and financial data are preliminary.

\*These totals were affected by COVID-19 travel restrictions and/or health and safety guidelines.

[WorldRenew.net](https://WorldRenew.net) [WorldRenew.ca](https://WorldRenew.ca)





## Safe Church Ministry

Safe Church Ministry equips congregations in abuse awareness, prevention, and response. We work with Safe Church Coordinators and leaders within churches, providing training and resources for them to carry out the work of safe church ministry. We also provide consultation and support to congregations in abuse prevention and response. Our goal is to build faith-nurturing communities where the value of each person is protected and respected. This means actively working to eliminate all forms of abuse.

### Highlights

- Bonnie Nicholas retired as director of Safe Church Ministry in fall 2020 after eight years of service. In January 2021, Dr. Amanda Benchkhuisen stepped into the role of Safe Church Ministry director. ([bit.ly/SCBenckhuysen](https://bit.ly/SCBenckhuysen))
- Webinar series: To stay connected during the pandemic, our ministry shifted to engaging online through monthly webinars. This initiative has provided an excellent way to engage in meaningful conversations with key leaders in our community and will continue as a standard education program for our ministry.
  - 2020: Connect, Collaborate, and Coordinate to End Abuse ([bit.ly/sc2020webinars](https://bit.ly/sc2020webinars))
  - 2021: On Being a Safe Church ([bit.ly/sc2021webinars](https://bit.ly/sc2021webinars))
- Abuse of Power Training: This past year, all candidates for ministry went through abuse of power training, which includes discussions on pastoral authority, pastoral boundaries, institutional patterns that contribute to abuse, and strategies for ensuring the healthy exercise of power in our church communities. In the coming year, Safe Church will make a revised version of the program available for ministry leaders across the denomination.
- Restorative Practices/Congregations ([bit.ly/screstorativecongregations](https://bit.ly/screstorativecongregations)): Safe Church began a new initiative of supporting congregations through restorative practices. This includes (1) training in restorative practices and providing coaching for churches to become restorative and (2) facilitating circles when appropriate and catalyzing networks of facilitators.

[crcna.org/SafeChurch](https://crcna.org/SafeChurch)

*Finances are included in the Congregational Ministries chart on page 22.*

Young girls in Bangladesh have greater hope for the future thanks to World Renew programs in their community.



## The Network

The Network ([crcna.org/Network](http://crcna.org/Network)) launched in February 2010 as a gathering place for people across the CRC. The site is home to a growing collection of blogs, resources, and ministry questions. To date, over 95 percent of ministry questions have been answered.

Content on the Network covers all areas of local church ministry (50+ topics), including pastors, elders, deacons, worship, finance, communications, justice, and much more. The site's value comes from the participation of its members, who are local church folks like you. We need your experience, your questions, and your unique voice.

- Subscribe to the weekly Network newsletter ([network.crcna.org/get-email](mailto:network.crcna.org/get-email))
- Share a helpful resource
- Ask a question
- Browse (or post) church and ministry jobs
- Be encouraged by the back-and-forth sharing of best practices

[crcna.org/Network](http://crcna.org/Network)

In the past year, you have had opportunities to support CRCNA ministry through Ministry Shares, offerings, and appeals mailed directly to your home. If, as you read this Ministry Report, you would like to keep our momentum going by supporting us financially, please use the envelope found in the middle of this report—or go to [crcna.org/give](http://crcna.org/give).

## The Banner

As the official magazine of the CRCNA, *The Banner* continues to enjoy a wide and diverse readership in print and online at [thebanner.org](http://thebanner.org). *The Banner* provides a forum for information, ideas, and fresh insights to equip readers young and old to be biblically rooted ambassadors of Christ's reconciliation in today's world.

### Highlights

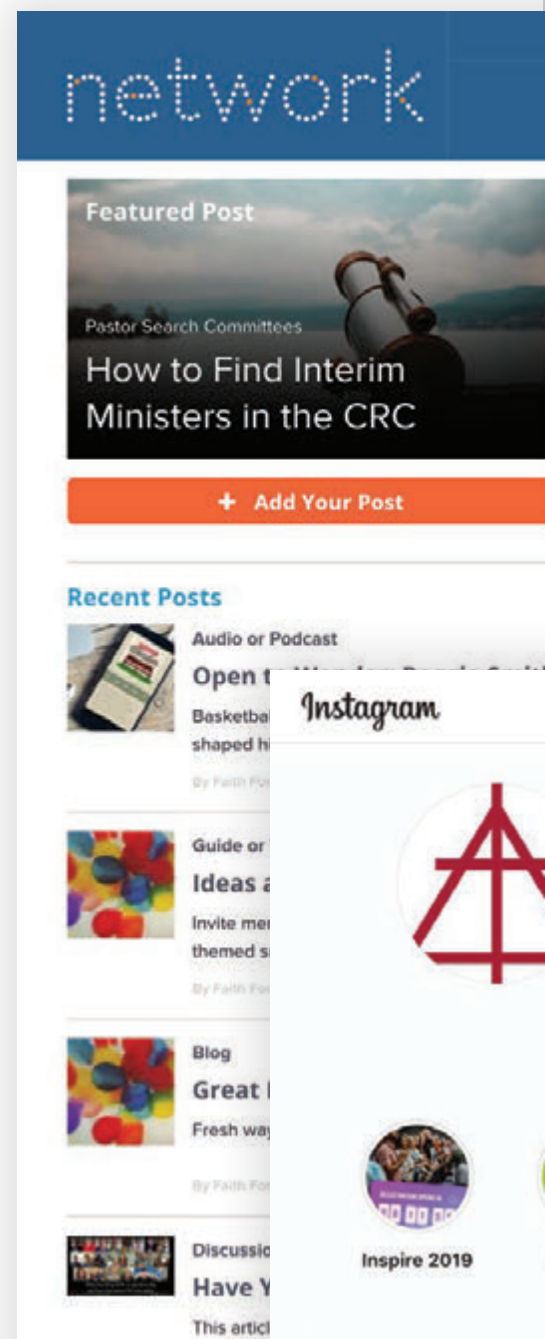
- Received seven awards from the Evangelical Press Association and six awards from the Associated Church Press, including an "Award of Excellence" from each.
- Partnered with William Katerberg of Heritage Hall for a six-part online series, "Past Controversies, Present Insights," exploring past controversies within the CRC and how we look at them now.
- Nearly 3,800 people have downloaded the free *Banner* app for mobile devices, which allows readers easy and instant access to *Banner* content, including online-only content, and more.
- Posted Spanish and Korean translations of *The Banner's* editorials and "The View from Here" column online.
- Distributed almost 75,000 print copies, had 6,000 weekly email subscribers, and saw a monthly average of more than 80,000 unique online website visitors.

[TheBanner.org](http://TheBanner.org)

## CRC Communications

Stay up-to-date on the latest happenings in the Christian Reformed Church in North America by following us on Twitter, Facebook, or Instagram. You can also subscribe for a weekly e-newsletter at [crcna.org](http://crcna.org).

- [crcna.org](http://crcna.org)
- [crcna.org/network](http://crcna.org/network)
- [twitter.com/crcna](https://twitter.com/crcna)
- [instagram.com/crcna](https://instagram.com/crcna)







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# News

## New Director Appointed for Disability Concerns

The Council of Delegates approved Lindsay Wieland Capel as the new director of Disability Concerns.

OCTOBER 15, 2021



## Canadian Advisory Committee on Antiracism

At its October meeting, the CRCNA Canada Corporation appointed seven people to a new committee focused on antiracism and intercultural conciliation in Canada.

OCTOBER 14, 2021



## Addressing the Pain from Domestic Abuse

Michael Ten Haken had no idea he was getting into when he joined a group seeking to set up a domestic abuse court in his community.

OCTOBER 13, 2021

## Planting Multiethnic Church in the U.S. East Coast

Marco Avila learned many lessons from a church planter that he now serves as a regional leader for Resonant Mission.

OCTOBER 13, 2021

Get our weekly email newsletter

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CRCNA

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The Christian Reformed Church in North America (CRCNA) has about 275,000 members in more than 1,000 churches.

North America [crcna.org](https://crcna.org) Joined December 2013

105 Following 3,977 Followers

Followed by Center for Excellence in Preaching, See 192 others you follow

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Tweets & replies

Must-read articles:

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[Grief and Anger in the Church](#)

[A Leader for Indigenous](#)

[Issue »](#)

Michael

Is It Right to Cremate?

OCTOBER

COLUMNS

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## Congregational Ministries

The CRCNA's Congregational Ministries exist as an extension of the ministries of the local church:

### Faith Formation

- Faith Formation Ministries

### Gospel Proclamation and Worship

- Worship Ministries

### Mercy and Justice

- Disability Concerns
- Office of Social Justice
- Office of Race Relations
- Safe Church Ministry
- Indigenous Ministries (Canada)
- Centre for Public Dialogue (Canada)

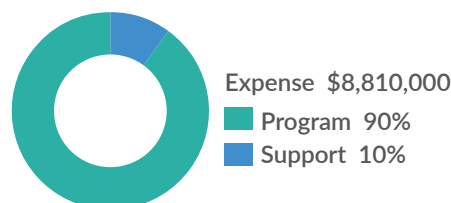
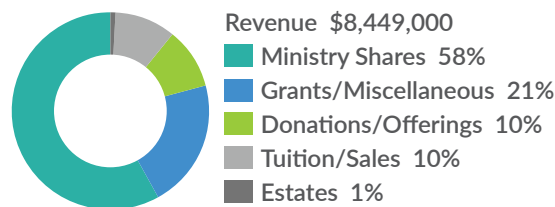
### Servant Leadership

- Candidacy Committee
- Chaplaincy and Care Ministry
- Office of Diversity
- Pastor Church Resources

Our purpose is to be a resource to local congregations as we jointly pursue the great commandments and the Great Commission (Matt. 22:37-40; 28:19-20).

As you interact with these services, we trust you will experience each of them as fully committed to your success in local ministry. We are committed to working as a team in providing this support. Regardless of which team member you call, with whatever issue, it is our goal that we fully understand the capabilities of each other so that we can walk alongside you as you discern and discover the most effective path for your need.

[crcna.org/Services](https://crcna.org/Services)



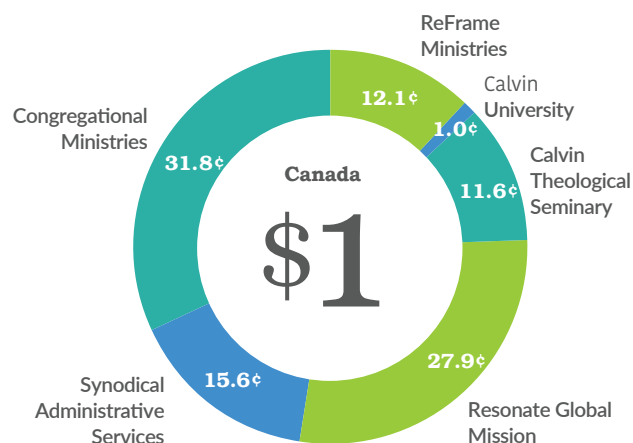
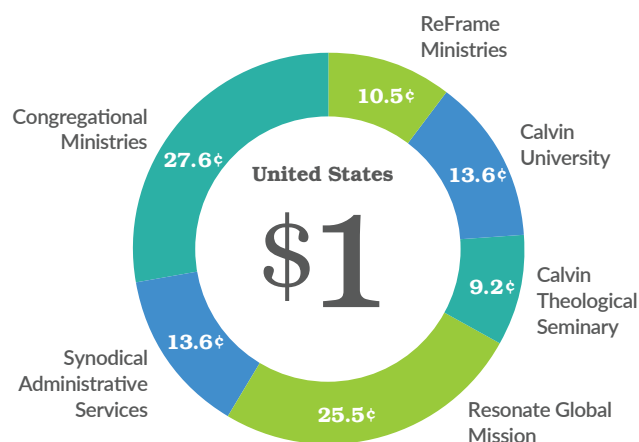
Outdoor services, such as this one at City Chapel (a RCA and CRCNA joint church plant in Grand Rapids, Mich.), became the norm for many congregations during COVID. Congregational Ministries assisted congregations through this and other pandemic transitions.



# Financial Information

The ministries of the Christian Reformed Church in North America that you've read about in this report are made possible, in part, through an innovative system known as ministry shares. In 1862, Christian Reformed congregations recognized that some of the ministries to which Christ calls us can be difficult to do on our own. They covenanted to pool their resources in order to do more and greater ministry together. This system, still implemented today, is very cost-effective and is a big reason why the CRC is able to support a range of ministry programs that is unparalleled for a denomination of our size.

Last year, \$18.4 million was given to ministry shares. For every dollar given, the following was directed to these ministries:



Thank you for your donations, gifts, offerings and ministry share donations. Your generosity is what makes ministry possible.

	2020	2021
<b>Reframe Ministries</b>		
Ministry Shares	2,611,000	2,709,000
Gifts & Offerings	3,365,000	3,598,000
Estate Gifts	2,035,000	2,188,000
Grants/Misc.	750,000	1,656,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>8,761,000</b>	<b>10,151,000</b>
<b>Calvin Theological Seminary</b>		
Ministry Shares	2,143,000	2,208,000
Gifts & Offerings	1,330,000	1,502,000
Estate Gifts	198,000	185,000
Tuition/Grants	4,112,000	4,011,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>7,783,000</b>	<b>7,906,000</b>
<b>Resonate Global Mission</b>		
Ministry Shares	6,343,000	6,606,000
Gifts & Offerings	10,196,000	10,184,000
Estate Gifts	2,701,000	1,727,000
Grants/Misc.	1,689,000	3,453,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>20,929,000</b>	<b>21,970,000</b>
<b>Raise Up Global Ministries</b>		
Gifts & Offerings	223,000	446,000
Estates	0	77,000
Tuition / Sales	211,000	156,000
Grants / Misc.	359,000	391,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>793,000</b>	<b>1,070,000</b>
<b>World Renew</b>		
Gifts & Offerings	12,093,000	13,588,000
Disaster Gifts	12,318,000	13,918,000
Grants/Misc	3,035,000	5,866,000
Estate Gifts	5,397,000	3,480,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>32,843,000</b>	<b>36,852,000</b>
<b>Congregational Ministries</b>		
Ministry Shares	4,812,000	4,926,000
Gifts & Offerings	2,105,000	885,000
Estate Gifts	0	20,000
Sales	3,525,000	873,000
Grants/Misc.		1,745,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>10,442,000</b>	<b>8,449,000</b>
<b>Denominational Services</b>		
Ministry Shares	2,283,000	2,694,000
Gifts & Offerings	0	150,000
Estate Gifts	0	3,000
Grants/Misc.	4,411,000	3,181,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,694,000</b>	<b>6,028,000</b>
<b>Special Assistance Fund</b>		
Ministry Shares	218,000	229,000
Gifts & Offerings	0	0
Grants/Misc.	6,000	37,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>224,000</b>	<b>266,000</b>



## Stay Informed

Thank you for your partnership with the Christian Reformed Church in North America as together we strive to carry out the kingdom work to which God has called us. Over the next few years, we believe that God is specifically calling us to grow in four key areas—namely, to become congregations and communities that

- **cultivate** practices of prayer and spiritual discipline.
- **listen** to the voices of every generation.
- **grow** in diversity and unity by seeking justice, reconciliation, and welcome.
- **share** the gospel, live it missionally, and plant new churches.

To learn more, or to take initial steps in your congregation, visit [crcna.org/OurJourney](https://crcna.org/OurJourney).



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