

Included on the back of the classical credentials of Community CRC, Kitchener, May 15, 2024:

(Items of Information and Requests for Advice or Help of Classis)

(CMC tabled this item to be included on the agenda for May 2025)

Could the following be a topic of discussion at some point at this Classis meeting?

Declaration of Readiness for a Distinct Christian Reformed Church of Canada

With gratitude to God and our U.S. siblings for the support and flourishing of our congregations over the last century, and having considered the various arguments, we declare that the time has come for the Christian Reformed churches of Canada to emerge as a distinct denomination, independent from the CRCNA.

In recent years, the cultural gap between our two countries has widened, and that widening is accelerating. This change reflects differing values that predominate in the two countries. While a majority of those in the U.S. have increasingly asserted the need for uniformity, clarity, and either/or decision making, Canadians have emphasized unity across differences, collaboration, and humility. Because our cultural contexts are the worlds within which we are called to witness to the gospel of Jesus Christ, self-directed ministry decision-making and governance is a required next step to be faithful in running the race God has set before us. As the Canada/U.S. cultural gap widens, the current binational structure hampers our ability to engage ministry opportunities.

Creating two new sister denominations will allow Canadian members and congregations of the CRC to fully collaborate together, reach across regional differences, and work at developing our collective voice from Terrace to Truro. Setting our own synodical agenda will allow us to address common challenges, pursue unique opportunities, and explore new initiatives that fit our unique national character. A Canadian synod would provide broad and deep direct oversight to the governance structures that guide our shared ministries, without the segregation that characterizes the division of our current Council of Delegates into two bodies, and the resulting arm's length supervision of Canadian ministry and denominational agency work by our binational synod.

Our emergence from within the CRCNA as a unique denomination need not mean we will no longer influence nor be influenced by our U.S. brothers and sisters in Christ. As a church fully able to develop our own approaches to working together across differences, we will have the prerogative to discern and articulate the Holy Spirit's guidance not only among ourselves, but as an equal partner with Reformed denominations at the global table.

As a church with a hopeful eye on the future, and hearts filled with faith in God's love and guidance, we call upon our sister Christian Reformed churches across the country to join us in this declaration, and lay claim to a new future together as one Canadian church.