



Dear CRCNA Classis Leaders:

Greetings in the name of Jesus Christ.

We have been praying for you as you begin this new year of ministry and continue faithfully serving the churches within your classis.

Many of you know the story of Antioch in the book of Acts. Born amid conflict and uncertainty, the church at Antioch became a powerful center of discipleship, mission, and sending. While there is much we can learn from its journey, we see four pivotal movements that shaped Antioch's witness and now invite us to consider how God is shaping our own community of churches within the CRCNA.

During Synod 2026, the theme "Our Antioch Moment" emerged. We now ask what it means for every congregation to embrace God's calling within its own context. Throughout the week, four invitations were made to our denomination:

- God is calling us to embrace communal prayer and spiritual practices for communal transformation.
- God is calling CRC congregations to embrace intergenerational discipleship that equips and multiplies leaders.
- God is calling the CRC to embrace a biblical vision of diversity that shapes our identity.
- God is calling the CRC toward a holistic mission that proclaims and demonstrates the gospel.

These movements are not simply ideas discussed at synod. They are invitations for all of us to discern together how God is leading the CRCNA in this season.

While this letter briefly introduces these themes, we encourage you to view the [general secretary's Synod 2026 address](#) to hear the broader vision. As you do, we invite you to prayerfully consider how your classis and the congregations you serve might participate in this shared calling.

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Church Planting

In response to Synod 2025, the agencies and institutions of the CRCNA collaborated to develop a comprehensive ten-year church planting strategy. Between June 2025 and April 2026, leaders from across the denomination worked together on this effort, culminating in the presentation of the plan by Resonate's Director of Church Planting, Tim Sheridan. Synod 2026 adopted the plan with unanimous support.

The strategy begins with a foundation of prayer and fasting. From that foundation flow five additional areas of focus: discipleship multiplication, leadership development, church planting pathways, legacy (or closing church) pathways, and funding and capacity development.

For this vision to become sustainable and fruitful, every congregation and every classis has a role to play. Together, we are invited to:

- Commit to prayer and fasting, asking God to raise up leaders and church planters throughout the CRCNA.
- Invest intentionally in discipleship that multiplies mature followers of Christ.
- Identify, equip, and encourage emerging leaders.
- Participate in church planter pathways as they are developed within your classis, supporting new church plants where possible.
- Continue faithfully participating in the ministry share covenant that enables this shared work.

Church Renewal

Synod also emphasized that church planting and church renewal are denominational efforts. They are opportunities for the whole church—not only congregations currently experiencing growth.

As you discern your classis' next steps, we encourage you to consider how renewal may become part of your shared ministry. Thrive invites congregations to begin exploring [Thriving Congregations](#), with the flagship Thriving Essentials course serving as a helpful starting point. From there, churches may continue through additional Essentials courses or participate in one of Thrive's year-long discernment processes.

Discipleship remains foundational throughout this work. As disciples are formed and multiplied, God raises up future elders, deacons, pastors, church planters, and leaders who will serve both renewal and mission.

Moving Forward Together

As classis leaders, you play an important role in helping congregations discern God's leading. We encourage you to share this vision with the churches in your classis and invite them into prayerful participation in this season of church planting, renewal, and discipleship.

To support that work, we encourage you to review the [Synod 2026 FAQ](#) and [Acts of Synod](#). We also invite you to watch for future updates from the church planting implementation team throughout the coming year.

Church, this is our Antioch Moment. It is a unique opportunity for our denomination to step together into a season of renewed discipleship, faithful mission, and Spirit-led multiplication.

May God grant you wisdom, discernment, and courage as you lead the churches entrusted to your care.

In Christ,

Zach King, Al Postma, Dan DeKam



Zach King
General Secretary



Al Postma
Executive Director, Canada



Dan DeKam
U.S. Director of Ministry Operations

Note: [Here is a video](#) for your fall classis meeting.