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crcna.org/Thrive



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GATHER EVENT

Last year, Zach King, as General Secretary of the CRCNA, was tasked with the job “to arrest and reverse the trend of [membership] decline and bring about a positive trend of membership growth to our denomination.” Out of this was birthed *Gather*, a year long series of events focused on the process to help churches learn from one another, and decide how to move faithfully into the future. The first event took place in Minneapolis, Minn. Additional events will be scheduled in fall 2024 and in the winter and spring of 2025. Each classis will be invited to participate over the course of the following year. [Learn more: http://crcna.org/Gather](http://crcna.org/Gather)

NEXT STEPS

Thrive continues to help churches in one of four ways:

- To learn about the HSR
- To Discern and decide how to proceed in light of Synod's decisions (we have some discernment retreat models that have been used to good effect by churches and classes)
- To Engage their congregations constructively while moving toward particular policies, positions, or postures relative to the HSR
- leadership discernment retreats for councils or classes. [Learn more: crcna.org/NextSteps](http://crcna.org/NextSteps)

NEW! RETIREMENT RESOURCES FOR PASTORS

Did you know that Thrive has a dedicated resource page for pastors and church support? (<https://www.crcna.org/pcr>)

Our team is pleased to announce that we have just released the retirement resources section

(<https://www.crcna.org/PastoralRetirementRoadmap>) on the website! This space is designed to support pastors as they retire from Pastoral Ministry. It is designed to help both monovocational or multi vocational pastors who are navigating the challenges and opportunities related to retirement.

DEACON ESSENTIALS BETA TESTING

We are excited to announce that our Deacon Essentials course is ready for beta testing! Deacon Essentials is a leadership development course designed to equip those who are preparing to serve as a deacon or those who are deacons in the Christian Reformed Church. The course will orient one to the teachings about deacons in the Bible, in our confessions, and in ordination form for deacons. By the end of this course, those who participate in the course will have a deeper understanding of their role as a deacon and how they can participate in God's mission as it is uniquely embodied by your church. Would your church like to participate in the beta testing phase of this course?

[Learn more: contact Amanda Benckhuysen \(Abenckhuysen@crcna.org or thrive@crcna.org\)](mailto:Abenckhuysen@crcna.org)

