To: **Classis Huron**

From: **Peter Meerveld (Delegate)**

**Winter 2023-24 Report**

***Summary of Council of Delegates (COD) - Fall 2024 Meeting***

The Council of Delegates of the Christian Reformed Church in North America met in the

denominational offices in Grand Rapids, Michigan on October 11-13, 2023.

For those of you new to Classis, the COD is the ecclesiastical board of the CRCNA that acts on behalf of Synod in matters which cannot await action by Synod. It also acts on matters assigned to it by Synod. COD members have two roles: ecclesiastical oversight and organizational oversight. Ecclesiastical oversight and governance are the influences exercised by church bodies such as CRC councils, classes, and synod to shape our beliefs, values, and ministry commitments according to Scripture, our creeds and confessions, and the Spirit's leading.

The highlights of the meeting were as follows:

* New delegates were welcomed. All delegates were assigned their committees for the coming year
* Heard from **Zachary King**, general secretary, about his recent work including the Global Vision team, and assignments from Synod 2023 related to human sexuality and membership decline
* **Shirley DeVries**, the chief administrative officer talked about the establishment of an
*Administrative Leadership Council* to coordinate across agencies, and the work of the Finance department
* Received reports from the directors of ReFrame Ministries, Resonate Global Mission, Thrive, the *Banner* Advisory committee World Renew and the president of Calvin University
* We recommended to Synod 2024 that the *Our Journey 202*5 ministry plan be extended to 2030 with an updated communication strategy
* Heard that a report from the *Church Order Review Task Force* will be posted for churches to review in December or January
* Approved that ReFrame Ministry’s language ministries (including ministry leader and staff) should be located in a country or region where that language is significantly spoken and be done in partnership with a local denomination or other Christian organization
* Next Council of Delegates meeting – February 14-16, 2024

***Summary of CRCNA Canada Ministry Board Meeting – Oct 12, 2023***

The *Canada Ministry Board* meets separately from the Council of Delegates to discuss matters pertaining to Ministries in Canada. **Greta Luimes** is currently the President and Chair of the Board - replacing Andy DeRuyter. The Board is comprised of the Canadian delegates from the Council of Delegates. They reported the following:

* Welcomed and approved new members
* Made plans for a Canada-wide conversation to take place in January 2024 on the theme of

‘church planting and renewal’

* Discussed a letter from 56 Canadian CRC members and pastors promoting a separate

 Canadian CRC. The board will follow up with the signatories to listen to their concerns.

* Approved the audited financial statements and appointed BDO to be the auditor next year
* Received reports from the *Joint Management Committee* and approved the joint ministry

Agreements between the Canada Ministry Board and the US Ministry Board.

* Received reports from the transitional executive director, the Canadian Chief Administrative

 Officer, Human Resources, Advancement, and Finance

* Discussed the recruitment of a permanent Executive Director for Canada. Rev. Al Postma is currently the transitional ED. His term in the position ends in May, 2024. The Board has put together a search committee

In other news:

1. The *Canadian Indigenous Ministries Committee* (CIMC) is working with Calvin Theological Seminary in preparing a new course on indigenous people. Its aim is to help prepare ministers in the CRC to participate more fully in the journey of reconciliation with

 indigenous people.

1. *Thrive* was launched as an official agency of the CRCNA in July 2023. Nine ministries were united together under this new name to better encourage and equip the churches of the CRCNA. *Thrive* advises and resources churches in the areas of faith formation, abuse

 prevention, disability inclusion, racial reconciliation and diversity, pastors and church
 support, chaplaincy, justice, and worship. The consolidation of the nine ministries into
 this one agency allows it to be more accessible, more integrated, and more responsive in
 our engagement with Christian Reformed congregations and ministry leaders. Its vision is
 to "Equip and Encourage Congregations."

1. The U.S. Denominational Office (1700 28th Street, Grand Rapids) has been put up for sale to allow for relocation to a smaller office.

For more information about this report, please contact:

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