



May 3, 2022

Re: Letter to the Council of Delegates and CRC Canada Corporation dated March 1, 2022
To: Fred Vander Sterre, Stated Clerk of Classis Huron

Dear Fred,

Thank you for your letter of March 1, 2022, commending the work of the Council of Delegates (COD), and also expressing concerns with a number of matters. We appreciate your continuing engagement in this matter, and welcome the opportunity to provide you with some factual updates.

First, at this time the Council of Delegates, the CRCNA Canada Corporation, and the CRCNA U.S. Corporation, have made very significant decisions with regard to structure that are being implemented—subject to ratification by synod—and all are fully cognizant of, and supportive of the Structure and Leadership Task Force (SALT) report. I'm pleased to note that the appropriate decisions are being made by the governance bodies with the authority to make such decisions. The COD is making decisions on behalf of synod that impact the Office of General Secretary, and the corporation boards are making decisions on behalf of the ministry corporations that they govern.

These decisions include the following:

COD Decisions

- The General Secretary and the Office of General Secretary need to be clearly identifiable as a denominational entity responsible for executing the will of synod on behalf of the entire denomination—Canada, the U.S., and worldwide. This entity will not be a part of either the CRCNA Canada Corporation or the CRCNA U.S. Corporation. The contours of this arrangement are being discussed at the COD meeting in May 2022.
- The General Secretary's office will be governed by synod—and the COD as its interim—not by any corporation boards in the U.S. or Canada.
- The General Secretary's role is not limited to coordination of the CRCNA U.S. and CRCNA Canada Corporations, but extends to the entire CRC network, including other ministry agencies and the institutions, as well as ensuring that synod's wishes for our worldwide ministry are implemented.

CRCNA U.S. Corporation Decisions

- Recognizing the U.S. context, the CRCNA U.S. Corporation will be primarily known through its major ministry brands (i.e., Resonate Global Mission, Congregational Ministries, and Raise Up Global Ministries).
- There will be one U.S. ministry director designated by the CRCNA U.S. board as the executive lead of ministries (i.e., the chief executive of the CRCNA U.S. Corporation). This

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designation is necessary for corporate matters, but will not be an outward facing brand (see bullet point above).

CRCNA Canada Corporation Decisions

- As you are no doubt already aware, the CRCNA Canada Corporation has named a Transitional Executive Director for Canada. Rev. Al Postma, the designee, will serve as the chief executive for the CRCNA Canada Corporation and therefore lead the CRCNA Canada office.
- The CRCNA Canada Corporation and the CRCNA U.S. Corporation are both engaged in working together on Joint Ministry Agreements, and have established a Joint Management Committee to manage these agreements and their results.

You noted in your letter the following:

We are concerned that the original model to have two national directors has been replaced by a model without a US Director. The absence of a distinct US office, effectively makes the denominational head office also function as the US office creating an unequal power dynamic structurally and a culture that is blind by design to the uniqueness of contextual Canadian ministry. Rather than naming and addressing our cultural challenges and structural imbalances, this model, which our Canada Corporation asked the Council of Delegates to pause on, exacerbates both the structural imbalance and the cultural blindness, doing serious harm to the binationality of our denomination.

With the COD and corporation decisions referenced above, we believe that the concerns you reference have been appropriately mitigated and will not materialize. Further, it is not the role of the Council of Delegates to dictate to either the CRCNA Canada Corporation or the CRCNA U.S. Corporation how they should be structured or managed; however, we believe that all of these are being integrated well as we implement the SALT plan and its implications.

You further mention the following:

In fact, we would suggest that the Council of Delegates not pausing but overruling our Canada Corporation request to pause is exhibit "A" of our argument. We admit our limits of perspective. The SALT report is a complex document and implementation of its recommendations has many implications that are not clearly understood by us at this time. Yet, Canada Corps request to allow time for input from Canadian stakeholders was out-voted at the COD, with Canadian members having a minority vote.

Much has transpired since the original acceptance of the SALT report by the COD. The various corporations have all proceeded with plans that are appropriate for their own contexts—both in

Canada and in the U.S. The significant structural change in Canada, of which the decisions above represent a small part, is evidence of this fact.

We believe that the time has come to allow the changes made, and the structures implemented, to proceed with a view toward ensuring that ministries in both countries can be executed contextually, and that both continue to be a part of the CRC network, contributing to God's mission worldwide.

We trust that this has been helpful. Blessings as we continue to serve the Lord together.

In His service,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'A. de Ruyter', is positioned above the typed name.

Andy de Ruyter, COD Chair; CRCNA Canada Corporation President

Attachment

Executive Committee minutes – meeting of April 8, 2022

EC 22-038 Correspondence received

A. Classis Huron Communique of 2022-03-01 re proposed model of leadership

The new ecclesiastical corporation proposal coming to the COD in May by the ED is helpful information to share with Classis Huron. Colin is asked to send a letter of response.

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Original Letter from Classis Huron

CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH
CLASSIS HURON - OFFICE OF THE STATED CLERK
Mr. Fred Vander Sterre 41493 Cranbrook Road Brussels ON N0G 1H0
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March 1, 2022.

To: Council of Delegates of the CRCNA and CRC Canada Corp.
Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

We give thanks for your love for Jesus and the church, demonstrated by the countless hours of diligent and faithful work on both the Council of Delegates and the Canada Corporation Board. We recognize that you do your work under difficult circumstances: Covid-19 which restricts our ability to meet in person, a shrinking denomination and shrinking ministry share giving, and significantly, long-standing under-addressed cultural and structural binational challenges. Before listing a number of concerns and questions we would like to see addressed and get answers to, we do have two significant items of appreciation: the establishment of the Canadian Office of the CRC and the Joint Ministry Agreements now being implemented as part of the Structure and Leadership Task Force Report implementation. These two realities, if empowered and enacted as we understand them, will go a long way toward truly being a binational denomination.

Joining you in your love for Jesus and the church, we recognize that part of our contribution to our shared work is to name remaining concerns that we ask you to address so that your work can be thorough and strengthen the church. We are concerned that the original model to have two national directors has been replaced by a model without a US Director. The absence of a distinct US office, effectively makes the denominational head office also function as the US office creating an unequal power dynamic structurally and a culture that is blind by design to the uniqueness of contextual Canadian ministry. Rather than naming and addressing our cultural challenges and structural imbalances, this model, which our Canada Corporation asked the Council of Delegates to pause on, exacerbates both the structural imbalance and the cultural blindness, doing serious harm to the

binationality of our denomination. In fact, we would suggest that the Council of Delegates not pausing but overruling our Canada Corporation request to pause is exhibit "A" of our argument. We admit our limits of perspective. The SALT report is a complex document and implementation of its recommendations has many implications that are not clearly understood by us at this time. Yet, Canada Corp's request to allow time for input from Canadian stakeholders was out-voted at the COD, with Canadian members having a minority vote. While certain recommendations have been put into action already, we respectfully submit that it is not too late to slow down, and reconsider the request of the Canada Corp.

Again, know that we are with you in prayer as you do your work. Please demonstrate that you are with us and respond favourably to our request to reconsider the request of Canada Corp for more time before fully implementing the SALT report.

In Christ Alone, on mission together,

Fred Vander Sterre,
Clerk of Classis Huron