



## 2024 ANNUAL MINISTRY REPORT

# Let Everything that Has Breath Praise the Lord!



## Dear Friend

**I**n 2023, synod instructed the Office of General Secretary to come up with a “plan to arrest and reverse the trend of [membership] decline and bring about a positive trend of membership growth to our denomination” (*Acts of Synod 2023*, p. 976). What a daunting task with serious ramifications!



As general secretary, I wasn't sure how to begin. But through discussions with various classes and congregational leaders, the Holy Spirit prompted us all in the same direction: to bring together church members and leaders from all of the classes in the CRCNA to witness how God is already working to renew our congregations. And that's just what we've been doing.

We've developed an initiative called “Gather” ([crcna.org/Gather](http://crcna.org/Gather)) in which a series of 10 such gatherings will take place in 2024 and early 2025 (see *Agenda for Synod 2024*, pp. 29, 61-62), and each event so far has testified to God's amazing work in our Christian Reformed congregations. While it might be easier for us to focus our attention on the challenges our churches are facing, as well as differences of opinion that some of us have, when we pause to reflect on our shared mission and callings, we can see God doing amazing things—and that gives us hope for renewal and for strengthening relationships. Whether it's feeding the homeless, welcoming the newcomer, sharing food at a community garden, or witnessing through Bible studies and more, our congregations are bustling with the work of the Holy Spirit and having real impacts on the people and communities around them.

If your classis has not yet been invited to Gather, I encourage you to visit [crcna.org/Gather](http://crcna.org/Gather) to learn more. When the series of 10 events has concluded, we will be collecting our shared learnings and developing a report to bring to the congregations.

In the meantime, I want to encourage you to join me in giving thanks to God for all his good work. I also want to share the following report with you as another opportunity to pause and give thanks for what God is doing with and through the Christian Reformed Church. I hope that as you read these pages you will be reminded that we serve an amazing God who is able to use our humble efforts for his glory.

Rev. Zachary King, Ph.D.  
General Secretary

Cover: *Members of Lee Street CRC (Grand Rapids, Mich.) led a Sunday evening worship service for Synod 2024.*  
Photo: *Steven Herppich*

## From Canada

I'm incredibly grateful to have a front-row seat to the amazing ministry unfolding in churches across Canada. This past year has been filled with moments of celebration—from churches marking milestone anniversaries to congregations becoming more vibrant and multicultural. We've gathered together, prayed together, and seen God's work in many powerful ways across diverse communities.



One of the highlights for me is getting to hear stories from churches of strength, growth, and challenge. Earlier this year we hosted a “Stories & Strategies” gathering, highlighting some of these experiences. It was a gift, especially in the midst of many denominational challenges. We keep seeing churches taking creative approaches to ministry in their context.

As your denominational ministries, we are here to support churches like yours to strengthen and expand your ministry. One key way of doing so is through our strategic plan known as *Our Journey*. We can't wait to see where cultivating practices of prayer and spiritual discipline, listening to the voices of every generation, growing in unity and diversity, and sharing the gospel will bring us next.

The CRC ministry in Canada also has strong binational collaboration and productive partnerships across the board. I regularly hear from pastors and ministry leaders who are energized by the work being done and optimistic about the future of our shared mission. Our ongoing commitment, as your denominational ministries, is to support churches to strengthen ministry in our local settings and to expand our ministry globally.

Rev. Albert Postma  
Executive Director-Canada



# From the United States

I have been serving as the U.S. director of ministry operations for a little over a year now. I have to admit that there have been times during this past year that have been a bit overwhelming as I've had to unravel and learn all the intricacies of the complex organization that is the Christian Reformed Church in North America.



At the same time, not a day has gone by in which I didn't also count this a blessing. To be able to see each day the work being accomplished by God through agencies such as Thrive, Resonate, and ReFrame has been awe inspiring. I count it an honor and a privilege to work with so many people who love Jesus and truly strive to further God's kingdom in all that they do.

As we enter a new ministry year, the U.S. staff anticipate moving into a new ministry support center in Grand Rapids. The building is leaner, more efficient, and better sized for the ministry that we are doing today. I'm sure the move and the transition will have its share of hurdles to overcome, but I'm excited to see how God will use this new site to continue the good work he's been doing through the CRCNA for nearly 170 years.

Please keep us in your prayers throughout this move and into the future as we strive to support churches like yours, helping to equip you in your local setting and to expand our shared ministry reach all over the world.

Dan DeKam  
Director of U.S. Ministry Operations



# Office of General Secretary

The Office of General Secretary encompasses all of the ecclesiastical elements of being a denomination together. This includes an annual general assembly known as synod, and coordinating Council of Delegates meetings to govern the denomination when synod is not in session. The Office of General Secretary builds bridges, maintaining strong ecumenical relationships with other denominations, and plays a crucial role in preparing our next generation of leaders by overseeing the candidacy process for new ministers of the Word. It also keeps churches informed and engaged with joint initiatives by serving as a communication hub for congregations and members.



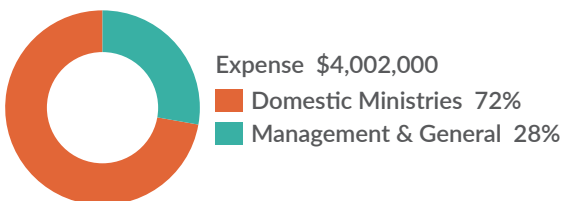
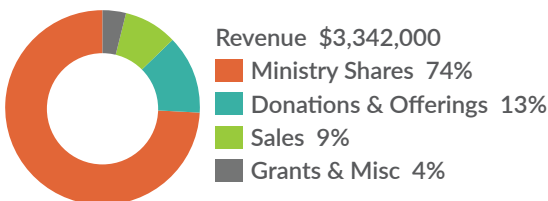
↑ Prayer—Prayer continues to be strongly emphasized through the Office of General Secretary. A denominational prayer shepherd leads regular prayer times for staff as well as for classes. A prayer gathering took place in January in California. Prayer was also intently focused upon at Synod 2024, undergirding the deliberations. (Photo credit: Steven Herppich, *The Banner*)



↑ Synod 2024—The Christian Reformed Church’s synod meeting took place on the campus of Calvin University in Grand Rapids, Mich., in June 2024 and included discussions on several weighty matters, including guidelines for discipline and alignment around the denomination’s stance on human sexuality, a report on a global vision for the CRCNA, and the launch of task forces to study virtual churches and multisite churches. (Photo: Steven Herppich, *The Banner*)



↑ Candidacy—Candidates for ministry in the Christian Reformed Church in North America stand before delegates at synod on June 18, 2024. These candidates for ministry are graduates of either the Master of Divinity program or the Ecclesiastical Program for Ministerial Candidacy (EPMC) at Calvin Theological Seminary. (Photo: Steven Herppich, *The Banner*)



[crcna.org](http://crcna.org)

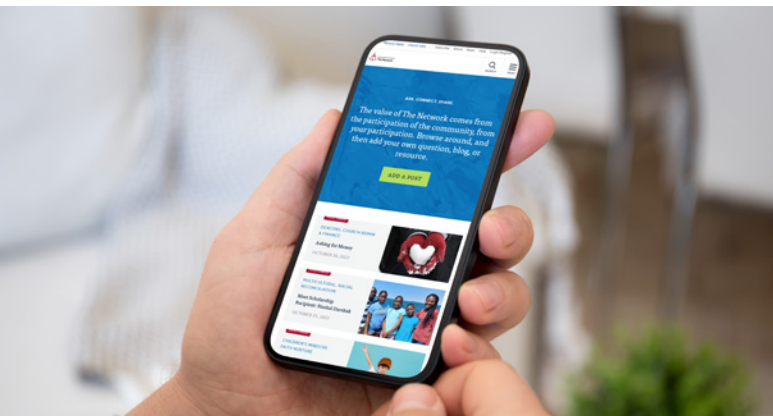
Note: Unless otherwise noted, the financial figures in this report are in U.S. dollars and represent consolidated amounts from both the United States and Canada.



# Are You Receiving the Updates That Matter to You?

The CRCNA provides various communication channels to serve you and keep you in the loop about what is happening across the denomination:

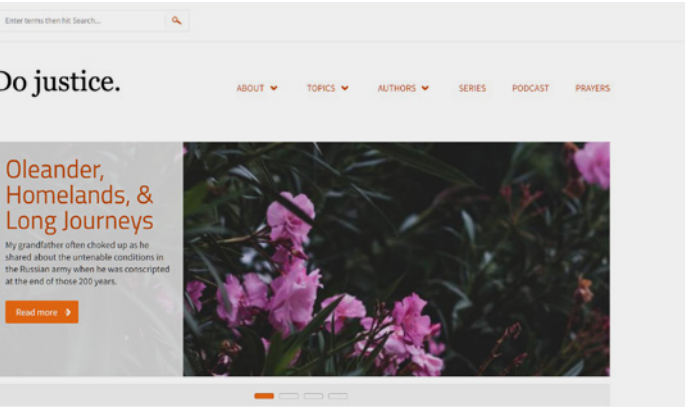
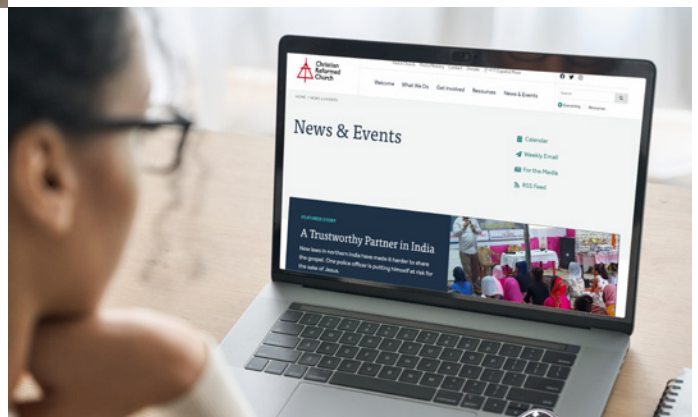
→ As the official magazine of the CRCNA, *The Banner* continues to enjoy a wide and diverse readership in print and online at [thebanner.org](http://thebanner.org). *The Banner* provides a forum for information, ideas, and fresh insights to equip readers young and old to be biblically rooted ambassadors of Christ's reconciliation in today's world.



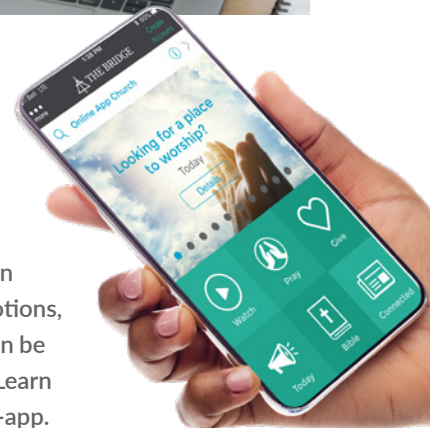
← The Network ([crcna.org/Network](http://crcna.org/Network)) launched in February 2010 as a gathering place for people across the CRC. The site is home to a growing collection of blogs, resources, and ministry questions. Content on the Network covers all areas of local church ministry (50+ topics), including pastors, elders, deacons, worship, finance, communications, justice, and much more. The site's value comes from the participation of its members, who are local church folks like you.

→ Stay up-to-date on the latest happenings in the Christian Reformed Church in North America by following us on Twitter, Facebook, or Instagram. You can also subscribe for a weekly e-newsletter at [crcna.org/subscribe](http://crcna.org/subscribe).

↓ The *Do Justice* blog is a conversation starter for justice in the Christian Reformed Church. Together we're finding new ideas and perspectives, sharing better ways to engage in justice work, remembering our motivation, and growing our faith. Join us! [dojustice.crcna.org](http://dojustice.crcna.org).



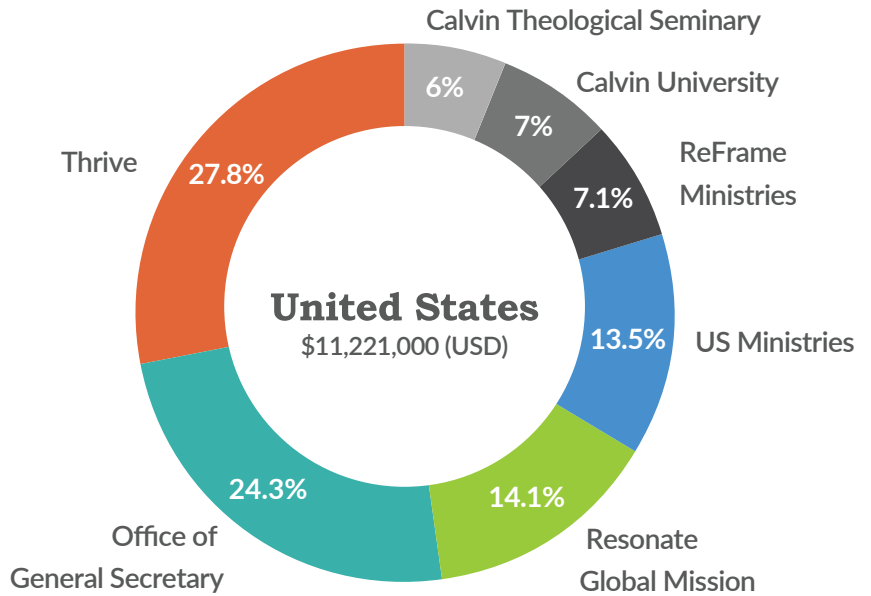
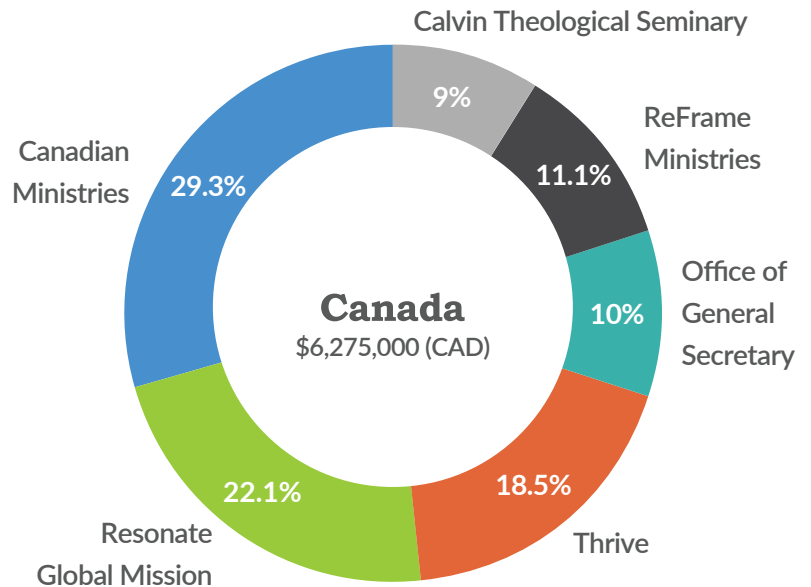
→ The Bridge App is a smartphone/tablet app that connects the local church to its members, and members to one another, through features such as a membership directory, announcements, prayers, donation portal, events calendar, daily devotions, and various other features that can be customized to serve local needs. Learn more at [crcna.org/canada/bridge-app](http://crcna.org/canada/bridge-app).



# Ministry Shares

The ministries of the Christian Reformed Church in North America listed in this report are made possible, in part, through an innovative system known as ministry shares. In 1862, Christian Reformed congregations recognized that many of the ministries Christ calls us to are challenging to tackle alone. So they made a covenant to pool their resources, allowing them to achieve more ministry together than they could do individually. This system, still thriving today, is very cost effective, and remains one of the key reasons why the CRC is able to support a range of ministry programs that is unparalleled for a denomination of its size.

Last year \$16.1 million was received through ministry shares. These funds were allocated to ministry using the following percentages:



Thank you for your donations, gifts, offerings, and ministry share donations. Your generosity is what makes our shared ministry possible.

[crcna.org/MinistryShares](http://crcna.org/MinistryShares)

# Canadian Justice Ministries

## Canadian Indigenous Ministries

The Indigenous Ministry is made up of a national committee (Canadian Indigenous Ministry Committee), three Urban Indigenous Ministries, and a senior leader for Indigenous justice and reconciliation, each using their strengths to support healing and reconciliation between Indigenous peoples and non-Indigenous people in Canada.

→ A Hearts Exchanged group gathers in Alberta for their final meeting of the year. Hearts Exchanged helps Christians live in reconciled relationship with Indigenous neighbours.



↑ Participants reflect on how to start doing justice in a complex and changing landscape using the Centre for Public Dialogue's workshop Justice: An Everyday Spiritual Journey.

→ Members of the Decolonization and Anti-Racism Collective gather together to discern where the Spirit is leading the denomination in ensuring belonging for all.

## Centre for Public Dialogue

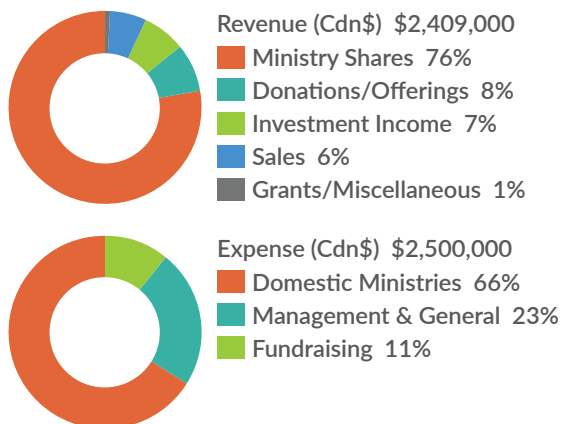
Directed by the Committee for Contact with Government, the Centre for Public Dialogue supports CRC communities in promoting the flourishing of all imagebearers of Creator God through faithful citizenship and advocacy in Canada. The Centre offers a variety of workshops on biblical justice and effective advocacy, moving toward justice and welcome in Canada's refugee systems, offering resources on faithful creation care, and upholding Indigenous rights through honouring the Calls to Action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada.



## Intercultural Ministry

Intercultural Ministry is made up of a national committee and two senior leaders of Intercultural Ministry. Their vision is for the CRC in Canada to be a holistic and reforming body of Christ in which people from diverse backgrounds experience belonging, unity, and flourishing through intercultural engagement.

According to Statistics Canada (2022), projections indicate that by 2041, one out of two Canadians will be a BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and People of Color). This ministry helps the church respond to this context.





# Calvin Theological Seminary

Founded in 1876, Calvin Theological Seminary has worked to form church leaders who cultivate communities of disciples of Christ. Calvin Theological Seminary offers a Reformed, theologically rich education that prepares students for biblically faithful, culturally mindful, and contextually effective ministry in the CRCNA and beyond. The education provided at Calvin Seminary aims to develop the whole person—in character, spiritual life, vocation, and academics—in order to prepare them for ministry wherever God calls them. This education is offered across nine degree programs and multiple delivery formats (residential, online, hybrid, competency-based), inviting students of all backgrounds, interests, and vocational aspirations to engage in the Reformed, theologically rich education offered, in addition to other enrichment activities including seminars, workshops, and January Term study tours.



**CALVIN**  
THEOLOGICAL  
SEMINARY

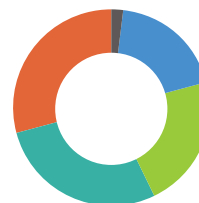
## Highlights

- In the 2023-2024 school year, Calvin Seminary welcomed its largest incoming class since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, with over 50 new students joining the student body. Our student body now represents over 25 countries, and we anticipate continued growth.
- In February 2024, Calvin Seminary received approval from the Association of Theological Schools to begin a partnership with Missional Training Center, located in Tempe, Arizona. Missional Training Center offers a master of arts degree in Missional Theology, and Calvin Seminary will be overseeing accreditation, assessments, faculty, and more. More than half of Missional Training Center's 2024 graduates joined us in Grand Rapids, Michigan, for commencement.
- The Institute for Mission, Church, and Culture (IMCC), led by Dr. Cory Willson, received a \$1.25 million grant from the Lilly Endowment. These grant funds are helping to establish IMCC's Ancient Practices for Missional Churches Initiative, which engages pastors and lay leaders, through seminars and retreats, to focus on worship, the Psalms, and the integration of faith and vocation.
- Calvin Theological Seminary's 2024 commencement celebrated 60 students from our degree programs, including



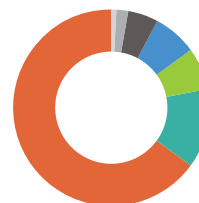
20 Missional Training Center graduates, two doctor of philosophy graduates, and our first doctor of ministry program graduate, Colin Watson. Join us on Saturday, May 17, 2025 as we celebrate the Class of 2025!

[CalvinSeminary.edu](http://CalvinSeminary.edu)



Revenue \$7,240,000

- Tuition & Sales 29%
- Grants & Misc 28%
- Donations & Offerings 27%
- Ministry Shares 19%
- Estate Gifts 2%



Expense \$7,380,000

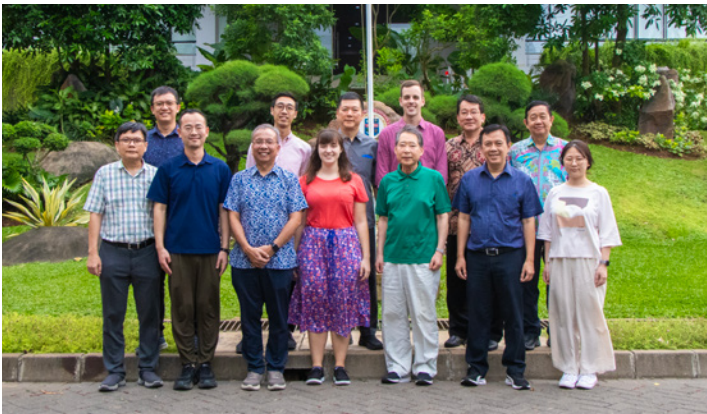
- Educational Programs 65%
- Management & General 7%
- Plant Operations 7%
- Fundraising 7%
- Other 5%



← Dr. Danjuma Gibson and Dr. Geoff Vandermolen completing Dr. Colin Watson's hooding. Colin is Calvin Seminary's first doctor of ministry program graduate.



↑ Dr. Jeff Weima is pictured with participants on the Turkey and Greece January Term trip in front of the Library of Celsus in Ephesus, Turkey. The Library of Celsus once was one of the largest libraries in the world, with over 12,000 scrolls. Ephesus was a key city in Paul's ministry (see Acts 19).



↑ Dr. Yudha Thianto is pictured with students from Calvin Seminary along with students and administrators from Sekolah Tinggi Teologi Amanat Agung during a January Term in Jakarta, Indonesia. Calvin Theological Seminary is grateful for international partnerships with seminaries and universities, which allow our students to engage in cross-cultural relationship building and ministry development.



↑ At Commencement 2024, Calvin Theological Seminary celebrated the accomplishments of sixty graduates, including members of its partner institution, Missional Training Center (Tempe, Arizona).

# Calvin University

Founded by the CRCNA, Calvin University is a top-rated Christian liberal arts institution that welcomes and empowers its 3,600 students from 48 U.S. states, five Canadian provinces, and 60 countries, along with 65,000 alumni worldwide, to pursue truth with curiosity and conviction. Through integrating faith and rigorous academic study in more than 100 subject areas, Calvin's world-class, Christ-centered faculty push students to go beyond what they think is possible. The university continues to live out its mission of equipping students to think deeply, act justly, and live wholeheartedly as Christ's agents of renewal in the world. The university is also pressing toward its vision of living into what it means to be a Christian liberal arts university and a trusted global partner.



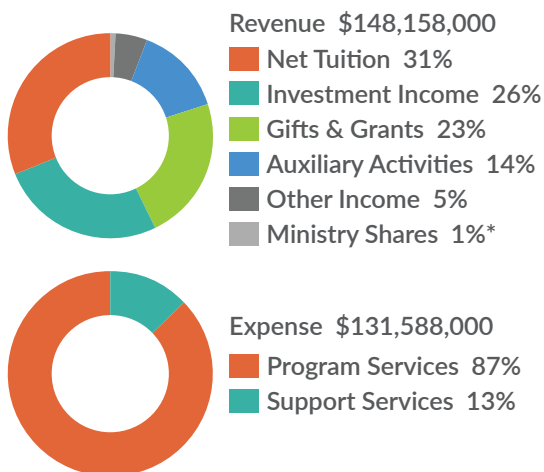
## Highlights

- Calvin welcomed 1,200 new students in the past academic year, marking the largest incoming class in the past decade.
- As part of the 49507 Initiative, Calvin University launched the Wayfinder Program, Michigan's first Clemente Course in the Humanities. This transformative educational opportunity is tailored for adults facing economic and social barriers to higher education.
- U.S. News & World Report released its Best Colleges 2025 Guidebook and lists Calvin University as the best university for undergraduate teaching and as the second most innovative school in its Regional Universities Midwest category.



## ↑ Growing Environment

This fall, Calvin welcomed its largest incoming class in the past decade. This includes the largest first-year cohort in seven years and the second-largest group of transfer students in nine years. Notably, nearly 20 percent of first-year students hailed from outside the U.S., and nearly 20 percent are first-generation college students. Calvin has seen significant growth in students from Michigan, the Great Lakes region, and nationwide. Alongside first-year students, Calvin is excited to welcome a growing number of dually enrolled students and a vibrant community of new and returning graduate students across 12 master's programs.



[Calvin.edu](http://Calvin.edu)

\*Note that Calvin University's ministry support comes from U.S. congregations only.





### ← Opening New and Reimagined Spaces

Several construction projects were recently completed that enhance the student experience. These include a significant redesign of the first three floors of Hekman Library, the creation of new outdoor athletic facilities—including a track, turf field, soccer stadium, and football building—and significant upgrades in the new School of Health. The health-focused improvements include a new cadaver lab, a simulation lab, and an expanded speech pathology and audiology clinic.

### → Reinvesting in the Arts

In fall 2024 the university reinstated its theater minor and its music education major, reaffirming its dedication to a well-rounded liberal arts education. These initiatives follow the 2021 reorganization of the music and theater departments under the School of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences, driving consecutive years of enrollment growth. At Calvin, the belief remains firm: "You can't have liberal arts without the arts."



### ← Kicking Off New Sports

As part of the university's strategic plan, men's football, women's acrobatics and tumbling, and men's volleyball were added as NCAA Division III offerings. This brings the university's varsity sports portfolio to 25 teams, reflecting Calvin's commitment to expanding student-athlete opportunities and enhancing the campus experience. This fall, the football team played their inaugural season at Grand Rapids Christian High School in front of sold-out crowds. Calvin also launched its first-ever marching band program under the leadership of seasoned band director Dr. Steve Sudduth.



# ReFrame Ministries

ReFrame Ministries is the global media ministry of the Christian Reformed Church in North America. Relying on the guidance of the Holy Spirit, we create contextual media resources that proclaim the gospel, disciple believers, and strengthen the church worldwide in 10 major languages. This work takes place through four strategic anchors:

1. **Church Rooted:** We believe the Holy Spirit works through the church, so we partner with churches to build and strengthen the body of Christ.
2. **Major Languages:** We strive to reach the widest possible audience, so we create content in the world's most spoken languages.
3. **Context Driven:** We work with local partners who faithfully contextualize the gospel message and use the most effective media for connecting with diverse audiences.
4. **Relationship Focused:** Following the example of Christ, we seek to build long-term, discipling relationships with individual members of our mass audiences.



## Highlights

- ReFrame's Chinese ministry celebrated 50 years of reaching Chinese speakers. Newly printed books and online components—when available to publish safely—offer theological leaders an opportunity to dig deeply into what it means to be a Christian in today's world. They help Chinese speakers answer tough questions about their faith, and they offer biblical responses to current events in China and the greater world.
- Due to the war in Ukraine, our Russian ministry partners launched a new online chat and phone call-in ministry hotline that is operated by Christian psychologists.
- Arabic-speaking Sunday school teachers and church leaders have a new curriculum developed by ReFrame's partners to use for vacation Bible school-like events that are held throughout Egypt.
- As people in Burkina Faso (Western Africa) suffer from violence and displacement, they look for answers to why they are suffering. With help from ReFrame's French ministry partners, many are finding the good news of Jesus through new radio programs produced with the help of CRC support.

[ReFrameMinistries.org](https://ReFrameMinistries.org)



↑ ReFrame is exhibiting 20 Christian posters at colleges and seminaries across North America. The posters were discovered during the 50th anniversary year of ReFrame's Chinese language ministry.

"We have spent so much time in the past few months thinking about and learning from our heritage," said Jerry An, ReFrame's Chinese ministry leader. That heritage includes both the 50 years of Chinese media ministry that started as a radio broadcast and the rich legacy of teaching and evangelism using media that these posters represent.

"Posters were the social media of the time," An added. "As a media ministry, we can learn from them."





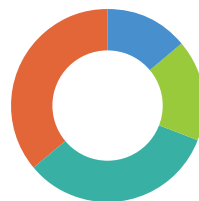
↑ The CRC's support for its media ministry has helped to establish a thriving church in Kaya, Burkina Faso, where more than 100 individuals—mainly from Muslim backgrounds—have listened to radio broadcasts for internally displaced people, embraced the Christian faith, and joined a church in a land filled with turmoil.

"My soul was longing for God," shared one listener named Bazie who visited ReFrame's discipleship staff. "I did not know what to do; the sermon on the radio enlightened me, so I decided to give myself to him."



Revenue \$7,559,000

- Donations & Offerings 39%
- Estate & Other 25%
- Ministry Shares 20%
- Investment Income 15%
- Grants & Misc 1%



Expense \$7,027,000

- International Ministries 36%
- Domestic Ministries 33%
- Fundraising 17%
- Management & General 14%



# Resonate Global Mission

Resonate Global Mission exists to walk alongside Christian Reformed churches as they join God on mission in their own neighborhoods and around the world. Under the leadership of director Kevin DeRaaf, Resonate is focused on working together with churches as a denomination to extend the light of Christ to the ends of the earth!

We can accomplish more for God's kingdom together than we can on our own. At home in North America and overseas, Resonate amplifies your church's global impact, strengthens your capacity to follow God on mission, and supports your missionaries, church planters, and other ministry leaders in more than 40 countries—all of them raised, trained, supported, and sent by you.

Resonate equips the Christian Reformed Church to live out and share the good news so that it goes out in every direction like an expanding, amplifying sound.

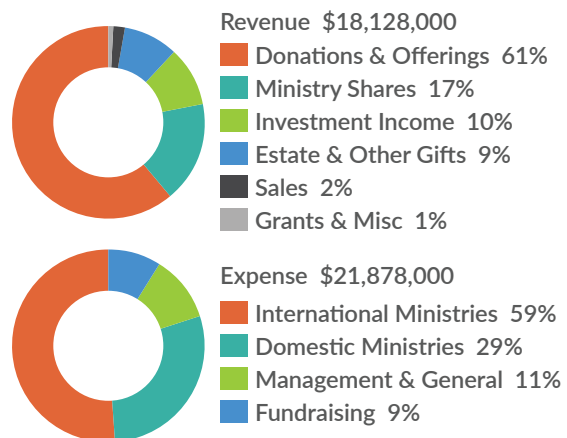
Thank you for partnering with Resonate—and for using your gifts to shine the light of Christ to people all over the world!



## Highlights

- More than 3,200 young adult leaders participating in mission with Resonate
- More than 7,100 lay leaders participating in mission with Resonate
- More than 140 missionaries serving in 43 countries
- More than 250 individual and group volunteers
- Partnering with 60 churches in North America, including three new ones in the past year
- Supporting 55 campus ministers and 33 campus ministries across 42 college and university campuses
- Countless stories of new life in Christ!

[ResonateGlobalMission.org](https://ResonateGlobalMission.org)







### ↑ **‘God Led Us Out’**

People throughout Canada and the United States are being served by Resonate partner church plants you've helped to start, like Manhattan Vertical Church in New York City.

When Manhattan Vertical Church wanted to connect with their community, they began with prayer. Pastor Kwon Do Lee and his members gathered to pray—and they felt the Holy Spirit guiding them out of the church and into the streets (pictured).

They began praying in busy areas, striking up conversations with people. “The power of the Holy Spirit is that he leads us to where God's heart is. We wanted to bring people into the church, but God led us out,” said Lee.





### ↑ Fishers of People

Resonate is partnering with you to help raise up a new generation of believers like David. As one of the few Christians on his university campus in Queretaro, Mexico, David felt alone—until he spotted a flyer with the Christian fish symbol on it.

He called the phone number on the flyer and connected with your Resonate missionary James Lee, who invited him to participate in a weekly Bible study.

“Connecting with other people who are also followers of Christ . . . makes me feel like I belong to something. I have a family I didn’t even know was my family,” said David.

Together with you, Resonate is helping young people like David around the world find community and share their faith!



# Thrive

Thrive equips churches and ministry leaders with the encouragement, connections, and tools they need to flourish.

As the congregational support agency of the Christian Reformed Church, Thrive serves by listening to your needs as church staff, volunteers, and members as you seek to cultivate a flourishing congregation in your local context.

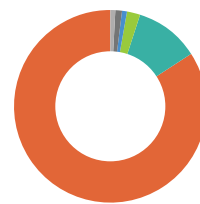
Thrive staff are practitioners in abuse prevention, disability access, justice, pastoral support, spiritual formation, chaplaincy, and congregational health and renewal. Driven by the hope of the gospel, these experts are dedicated to holistic and whole-hearted excellence and eager to help your congregation thrive.



## Highlights

- Provided over **350** unique consultations to churches in the areas of abuse prevention, disability access, conflict resolution, justice, worship, and more
- Celebrated **30 years** of abuse awareness, prevention, and response work in the CRCNA

- Gathered churches for **10** “Thrivversations” (roundtable listening sessions) on church administration, children’s ministry, pastoral vacancy, and regional focus groups
- Launched a 28-chapter digital resource titled *Retirement from Pastoral Ministry: Guidance for a Healthy Transition*
- Trained **557** leaders from **65** churches in the *Thriving Essentials* course



|                       |             |
|-----------------------|-------------|
| Revenue               | \$5,068,000 |
| Ministry Shares       | 84%         |
| Donations & Offerings | 11%         |
| Estate & Other Gifts  | 2%          |
| Sales                 | 1%          |
| Investment Income     | 1%          |
| Estates               | 1%          |



|                      |             |
|----------------------|-------------|
| Expense              | \$3,656,000 |
| Domestic Ministries  | 73%         |
| Management & General | 27%         |



## → Pastoral Support, Diversity, and Church Renewal

In April, over 40 pastors gathered in Anaheim, Calif., for the Revelation 7 Pastors Retreat. This gathering centered on four themes found in Revelation 7: Christ-focused discipleship, Christlike leadership, Spirit-empowered life balance, and multiethnic community. Attendee Rev. Ahnna Cho said that the conference was a rare opportunity for her to know that she can be fully accepted as an Asian American woman in ministry. “At the retreat I found myself surrounded by other pastors and leaders who also ached for a truly global expression of the gospel of Jesus,” she said. “There I realized I have peers who also are humbly invested in the vision of the eschatological church. It was a space where we could celebrate one another – a rare gift.” Thrive cosponsored the event in alignment with its focus on pastoral support, diversity, and church renewal.



## → Worship

As one agency supporting many aspects of church ministry, Thrive staff are able to collaborate across their areas of expertise in order to provide holistic responses to needs or questions. During a panel discussion, when Pastor Katie Roelofs, Thrive worship consultant, received a question about trauma-informed worship practices, she was able to reference resources from Thrive’s abuse awareness and prevention focus area as part of her response. A few months later, Roelofs collaborated with Lindsay Wieland Capel, Thrive disability consultant, to host a listening session that invited churches to discuss ways of engaging in worship without relying on words.



## → Accessibility

Greg Yoder has been a **regional disability advocate** for just over a year, and his passion for the role has been evident since he started. Currently half of the churches in Yoder’s classis have a disability advocate, and his goal is for every congregation in the classis to have someone in this role. He said, “Being the body of Christ means thinking creatively to ensure that everyone feels welcome to participate in the community life of the church.”







*Participants share stories of God at work in their congregations during a Gather event.*



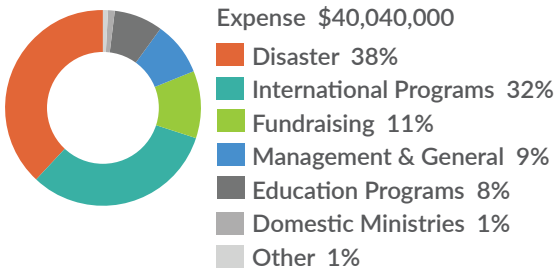
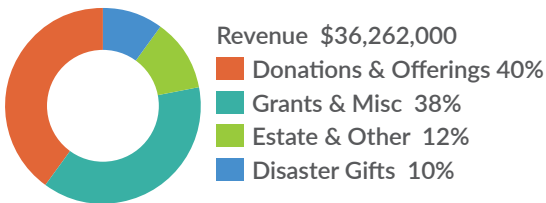
# World Renew

World Renew is your outreach ministry to people around the world who are hungry, poor, oppressed, and coping with disaster. More than 60 years ago, World Renew began with requests from churches like yours for a corporate benevolence ministry to specifically help people in material need.

Through your prayers and involvement, World Renew has grown into a global development and disaster response organization, working through churches and Christian partners to walk alongside families and community members as they recover dignity and hope while improving their lives and livelihoods.

World Renew focuses on integrated programs that depend on input from community members and help to build the capacity of our partner groups. We organize our work in five program areas: Food Security, Community Health, Economic Opportunity, Peace and Justice, and Disaster Response.

With your support World Renew offered opportunities for positive, permanent change to nearly 560,000 participants in 29 countries in 2024. Thank you for making this work possible. We are privileged and committed to reaching out with bold hope, because of God's unrelenting love for all people, to those who are living in dire circumstances.



[WorldRenew.net](http://WorldRenew.net) | [WorldRenew.ca](http://WorldRenew.ca)



## Highlights

- World Renew partnered with church and community leaders in global development programs, offering bold hope for a better future to 254,769 participants in 19 countries.
- World Renew assisted 305,218 participants in domestic and international disaster response last year. With our partners we provided emergency food, water, shelter, sanitation, economic assistance, and livelihood rehabilitation in 21 countries.
- 1,246 volunteers donated 87,503 hours of their time to World Renew last year to help people around the world. That is the equivalent of about 36 full-time employees for a year.
- World Renew Disaster Response Services volunteers repaired and rebuilt 159 homes damaged by disasters in North America.
- With your support, World Renew helped 148 refugees arrive and resettle in Canada, and 47 sponsoring groups submitted new sponsorship applications for 204 refugees.
- World Renew does not receive ministry shares.





### ↳ Prenatal Care makes Childbirth Easier

Nenpin and her husband live with their four children in Gochem, Nigeria. Although they have little formal education, the couple survives by subsistence farming.

Nenpin had serious health problems when carrying her first three children. But during her fourth pregnancy, she attended a maternal health program that World Renew started in Gochem. She learned to care for herself and her baby by avoiding strenuous tasks, taking prenatal vitamins, and getting ultrasounds when needed.

Nenpin delivered her baby at a nearby health facility, a totally new experience for her and her husband. “My baby is three months old, healthy, and up to date on immunizations,” Nenpin said. “I’m thankful to God for World Renew and the maternal health program.”

### ↑ Margarita and her Shell

Margarita Méndez lives in Barranco Bayo, Nicaragua, a village located on a river. During the rainy season the river can rise quickly, and flash flooding is a danger for people who are washing clothes or bathing in the river.

World Renew helps communities like Barranco Bayo develop emergency plans that reduce risk from a disaster. We include people with disabilities like Margarita, who is hearing impaired, because we value their unique approaches to planning and decision making.

Margarita’s home is about a mile (2 km) from the flood area. When she sees the water surge, she blows a conch shell that sends a loud noise down the river, giving families precious seconds to get out of the way of the flood. Everyone, regardless of age, knows that the conch sound signals immediate evacuation from the river and its banks.

Thank you for your support for World Renew, which creates opportunities for all people to contribute to their communities and feel included and valued.

## **New Farming Methods Yield More Food**

Al Mamun lives in a rural village in Bangladesh where he learned traditional farming methods, but he struggled to manage crop diseases, insect attacks, and poor yields. Despite his hard work, he could not produce enough rice to support his family adequately.

Through a World Renew agriculture project, Al Mamun learned about SRI (System of Rice Intensification), a cultivation technique that improves crop yields. He also planted a new variety of rice that is rich in zinc, protein, and iron. When the crop was ready, Al Mamun harvested 520 kg (1,146 lbs) of rice, more than ever before.

"I do not worry about hunger anymore," Al Mamun said. "If other farmers use these methods, there will be enough food for all of our families."





# Financial Information

The ministries of the Christian Reformed Church in North America are made possible, in part, through an innovative system known as ministry shares. The money you give for ministry shares provides essential funding each year to support programs that enable your church to send missionaries around the world, advocate on behalf of people with disabilities, foster faith formation in persons of all ages, train chaplains, and much more.

This past year, ministry shares generated \$16.1 million in revenue. Thank you to all the churches, large and small, that continue to help provide this vital base of revenue.

In addition to ministry-share support, designated church offerings and individual gifts this year generated \$31.3 million for Christian Reformed Church ministries. This does not include Calvin University. Some agencies, such as World Renew, do not receive ministry shares funding. For them, and for all CRC ministries, church offerings and individual gifts are essential. Thank you.

We are also grateful for all who have continued their commitment to ministry through bequests through a will or trust.

[crcna.org/MinistryShares](https://crcna.org/MinistryShares)

\*In 2023, the revenues associated with the Canada/US Ministries are included within Thrive and the Office of General Secretary.

|  | 2023               | 2024               |
|--|--------------------|--------------------|
| <b>Calvin Theological Seminary</b>     |                    |                    |
| Ministry Shares                        | 1,603,000          | 1,374,000          |
| Gifts & Offerings                      | 1,753,000          | 1,615,000          |
| Estate Gifts                           | 128,000            | 150,000            |
| Tuition & Grants                       | 2,996,000          | 4,101,000          |
| <b>Total</b>                           | <b>6,480,000</b>   | <b>7,240,000</b>   |
| <b>Calvin University</b>               |                    |                    |
| Ministry Shares                        | 1,442,000          | 914,000            |
| Gifts & Grants                         | 41,022,000         | 33,373,000         |
| Tuition, Room & Board                  | 64,475,000         | 67,324,000         |
| Other                                  | 10,465,000         | 8,439,000          |
| Investment Income                      | 22,339,000         | 38,108,000         |
| <b>Total</b>                           | <b>143,640,000</b> | <b>148,158,000</b> |
| <b>Ministry Board*</b>                 |                    |                    |
| Ministry Shares                        | 0                  | 2,367,000          |
| Gifts & Offerings                      | 0                  | 173,000            |
| Estate Gifts                           | 0                  | 39,000             |
| Sales                                  | 0                  | 678,000            |
| Grants & Misc                          | 0                  | 149,000            |
| <b>Total</b>                           | <b>0</b>           | <b>3,406,000</b>   |
| <b>Office of the General Secretary</b> |                    |                    |
| Ministry Shares                        | 3,107,000          | 2,454,000          |
| Gifts & Offerings                      | 463,000            | 448,000            |
| Estate Gifts                           | 0                  | 1,000              |
| Sales                                  | 435,000            | 299,000            |
| Grants & Misc                          | 132,000            | 140,000            |
| <b>Total</b>                           | <b>4,137,000</b>   | <b>3,342,000</b>   |
| <b>ReFrame Ministries</b>              |                    |                    |
| Ministry Shares                        | 1,969,000          | 1,552,000          |
| Gifts & Offerings                      | 3,399,000          | 2,980,000          |
| Estate Gifts                           | 2,203,000          | 1,870,000          |
| Grants & Misc                          | 125,000            | 1,157,000          |
| <b>Total</b>                           | <b>8,295,000</b>   | <b>7,559,000</b>   |
| <b>Resonate Global Mission</b>         |                    |                    |
| Ministry Shares                        | 3,748,000          | 3,152,000          |
| Gifts & Offerings                      | 12,719,000         | 11,091,000         |
| Estate Gifts                           | 1,982,000          | 1,651,000          |
| Grants & Misc                          | 2,181,000          | 2,234,000          |
| <b>Total</b>                           | <b>20,600,000</b>  | <b>18,128,000</b>  |
| <b>Thrive</b>                          |                    |                    |
| Ministry Shares                        | 5,383,000          | 4,237,000          |
| Gifts & Offerings                      | 681,000            | 554,000            |
| Estate Gifts                           | 56,000             | 107,000            |
| Sales                                  | 878,000            | 68,000             |
| Grants & Misc                          | 440,000            | 102,000            |
| <b>Total</b>                           | <b>7,438,000</b>   | <b>5,068,000</b>   |
| <b>World Renew</b>                     |                    |                    |
| Gifts & Offerings                      | 14,581,000         | 14,405,000         |
| Disaster Gifts                         | 6,486,000          | 3,507,000          |
| Grants & Misc                          | 17,252,000         | 13,881,000         |
| Estate Gifts                           | 5,690,000          | 4,469,000          |
| <b>Total</b>                           | <b>44,009,000</b>  | <b>36,262,000</b>  |





## Stay Informed

Thank you for your partnership with the Christian Reformed Church in North America as together we strive to carry out the kingdom work to which God has called us. Over the next few years, we believe that God is specifically calling us to grow in four key areas—namely, to become congregations and communities that

- **cultivate** practices of prayer and spiritual discipline.
- **listen** to the voices of every generation.
- **grow** in diversity and unity by seeking justice, reconciliation, and welcome.
- **share** the gospel, live it missionally, and plant new churches.

To learn more, or to take initial steps in your congregation, visit [crcna.org/OurJourney](https://crcna.org/OurJourney).



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