



THE CONGREGATIONAL MINISTRIES OF THE CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH

Strengthening your church in its ministries



Christian
Reformed
Church

OVERVIEW

The Christian Reformed Church in North America has twelve ministries whose main purpose is to support the congregations of the denomination. This means they are fully aligned with your

congregation in its mission to serve and love, in Christ's name, everyone in your church and surrounding community.



Faith Formation

Faith Formation Ministries

Encouraging churches in their efforts to shape intentional, lifelong faith in people of all ages, Faith Formation Ministries serves pastors and church leaders by building relationships, providing coaching and workshops, and curating helpful resources.

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

Gospel Proclamation and Worship

Worship Ministries

Worship Ministries supports and strengthens biblically grounded and theologically Reformed worship in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.

crcna.org/Worship

Mercy and Justice

Disability Concerns

Striving to equip and serve every CRC congregation, Disability Concerns promotes and fosters relationships to break down barriers and build congregations in which *everybody belongs* and *everybody serves*.

crcna.org/Disability

Office of Social Justice

Prioritizing the perspectives of marginalized people, the Office of Social Justice (OSJ) seeks to help CRC members love all neighbors in tangible ways by raising awareness, providing education and worship resources, and prompting advocacy that calls on leaders in power to change policies that perpetuate injustice.

crcna.org/Justice

Race Relations

Equipping CRC congregations to live as God's diverse and unified family, Race Relations assists churches in dismantling racism within the Reformed community and throughout the world.

crcna.org/Race

Safe Church Ministry

Equipping congregations in abuse awareness, prevention, and response. Safe Church Ministry develops leaders who help build church communities where the value of each person is respected and protected, and where the response to abuse is compassion and justice, which foster healing.

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

Each of these ministries is tasked with addressing an important part of the ministry priorities that the churches of the CRC have identified together: **Faith Formation, Gospel Proclamation and Worship, Mercy and Justice**, and **Servant Leadership**.

These congregational ministries are committed to meeting the needs of church members doing local ministry in all of these areas:



Centre for Public Dialogue (Canada)

Promoting the flourishing of all people in Canada through constructive dialogue and advocacy, the Centre for Public Dialogue stands with vulnerable and marginalized people in our communities, working toward a just world in which structures and institutions give every person the opportunity to thrive.

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

Indigenous Ministries (Canada)

Supporting healing and reconciliation between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples in Canada, Indigenous Ministries sees its calling as rooted in the recognition of our Creator's love for all creation, including all peoples, and in the understanding that we all have gifts for serving God and one another.

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

Servant Leadership

Candidacy Committee

Providing guidance and resources for people interested in dedicating their lives to ministry, the Candidacy Committee connects CRC congregations with prospective pastors who share their calling and mission.

crcna.org/Candidacy

Chaplaincy and Care Ministry

Supporting chaplains through endorsement, training, and advocacy, Chaplaincy and Care Ministry enables chaplains to serve in a variety of institutions, sharing the love and grace of Christ in moments that matter.

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

Leadership Diversity

Affirming and supporting women and ethnic minorities at all levels of leadership, this ministry helps CRC churches and ministries create a culture for men and women to thrive together in pursuit of God's mission in the world.

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

Pastor Church Resources

Supporting and encouraging the well-being of congregations, pastors, and classes through seasons of growth, transition, and challenge.

crcna.org/PCR

FAITH FORMATION MINISTRIES



200 The number of congregations represented in workshops and events hosted by FFM last year.

Growing in faith is a lifelong process — one in which the local church plays a huge part. To support your congregation in this life-changing work, the Christian Reformed Church created Faith Formation Ministries (FFM) in 2014. FFM’s mission is to encourage and equip local CRC ministry leaders in their unique context so that people of all generations develop an intentional and resilient faith.

To that end, FFM provides Regional Catalyzers who offer consulting, coaching, and workshops to your congregation. FFM also curates and creates helpful resources (such as online toolkits) on a variety of faith formation topics and is responsible for the continual refreshing of the *Dwell* children’s ministry curriculum.

During one *Dwell* curriculum session that focused on God’s call to people in the Bible, an eight-year-old asked her leader, “What if God is calling ME?” That’s the type of question a church’s faith formation efforts should provoke in people of all ages. When adults and children learn, worship, grow, and serve together, we’re all strengthened!

By forming relationships with pastors and ministry leaders, FFM is helping to deepen the conversation about how faith grows in the CRC. To learn more about how FFM can serve your church, visit crcna.org/FaithFormation.

Helping
churches
grow faith
for life



GOSPEL PROCLAMATION AND WORSHIP



Supporting
biblically
grounded
and
Reformed
worship

WORSHIP MINISTRIES

Worship Ministries desires that every CRC congregation will experience vibrant gospel proclamation and worship, so we work to support worship leaders and planners through networking and equipping opportunities. By listening, coaching, connecting, and resourcing, Worship Ministries is able to assist congregations as they strive for Spirit-filled worship that is inclusive of all people.

We promote further learning for leaders through an online Certificate in Worship Leadership program. In-person and online peer learning groups are available for those who desire to reflect on worship-related books. Free training webinars covering a variety of worship subjects are found on the Worship Ministries' YouTube channel or the CRC Network website. And the quarterly *Reformed Worship* printed journal and website offer timely articles and practical resources for planning worship.

In addition to these resources, we can help connect a church with an Endorsed Worship Coach. Drawn from a growing number of gifted individuals, these coaches can help a congregation to assess and address worship needs through individual and group consultation and training.

Worship Ministries exists to serve your church and your worship pastors/planners/leaders. To learn more about Worship Ministries, visit crcna.org/Worship.



2,220

The number of subscribers to
the monthly e-newsletter of
Worship Ministries.

DISABILITY CONCERNS

2,000

The number of churches touched by Disability Concerns in the CRC and RCA in their 10-year partnership.

About 20 percent of people in North America live with a disability. They have the same spiritual longings as the rest of the population, yet as a group they attend worship less often — and those who do attend are often left on the margins of church life.

Created by the CRC in 1982, Disability Concerns helps churches become healthier communities that help to bring together the whole body of Christ so that *everybody belongs and everybody serves*. Since 2009 we have also championed this biblical vision with the Reformed Church in America's Disability Concerns ministry.

Disability Concerns strives to break down barriers in the church by providing resources and education to help churches identify and navigate accessibility issues. Churches flourish when people with disabilities can serve God fully and no one feels isolated from the community.

Does your church need help engaging people with disabilities and their families? Visit crcna.org/Disability to learn more about the resources and assistance Disability Concerns offers.



Equipping churches to engage people with disabilities





Responding
to God's call
for justice
in our world

OFFICE OF SOCIAL JUSTICE

Justice is a core value for Reformed Christians. OSJ works to educate and equip CRC churches to stand alongside people affected by unjust policies and practices, and to join them in seeking change. This work complements the evangelism, community development, and relational ministry work that the denomination has long invested in — serving to ensure that the CRC's love of neighbor spans Scripture's call, from charity to justice.

To live out this value, OSJ focuses on the sanctity of life, immigration and refugees, creation care, restorative justice, poverty and hunger, peacemaking, and Indigenous justice. These focus areas include campaigns such as advocating for the unborn, combating religious persecution, advocating for greater numbers of refugee admissions, and speaking up for just climate policies.

OSJ provides resources to support churches in their work to understand the root causes of poverty, hunger, and oppression; and we would like to partner with your church in the call to speak up for just policies by working alongside people burdened by injustice. OSJ will even provide trained staff to work with your church in its justice efforts.

To learn more about how OSJ can support your church's efforts in living out Christ's call to do justice, visit crcna.org/Justice.



10,000
The number of advocacy actions
taken up by OSJ last year.

RACE RELATIONS



The Office of Race Relations strongly believes and affirms that the gospel — the good news of Jesus and the kingdom of God — opposes racism in all its forms. Therefore, Race Relations works to resource Christian Reformed members and congregations as they dismantle the causes and effects of racism within the body of believers and throughout the world.

Some of the many ways Race Relations works with churches to dismantle racism are by providing workshops and training resources such as cultural intelligence building, the Art of Re-membering workshop, the Blanket Exercise, and Racism: Looking Back, Moving Forward. All of these workshops and resources are designed to educate and mobilize CRC members to engage with and dismantle racism.

Race Relations offers tools that equip churches to be culturally aware and effective in reaching their ethnically diverse communities. There is true kingdom value in an ethnically diverse group of believers worshiping together.

Lives and communities are changed when we strive for diversity and confront racism, both past and present, directly. To learn about workshops or other ways Race Relations can serve your church, visit crcna.org/Race.

97 The number of church engagements attended by congregations in 2019.

Helping the church to engage in the ministry of racial reconciliation



MERCY AND JUSTICE



SAFE CHURCH MINISTRY

God calls us to be a blessed community bearing his name and sharing his love. Safe Church helps equip congregations to live into this calling, building communities where the value of each person is respected and protected, and where the response to abuse is compassion and justice, which foster healing.

Abuse is a pervasive darkness; it stands in direct opposition to the gospel of Christ. We hope in God, who has overcome darkness and dwells with his people. Safe Church works to provide tools, resources, and support for safe church leaders in each congregation and in every classis. These leaders can assist in creating prevention policies, offering training, and walking alongside in situations of abuse.

Safe Church promotes programs such as *Circle of Grace*, giving children and youth tools to participate in a safe environment. We sponsor training in restorative practices, which provide a way to respond to harm, as well as a way to live with one another in healthy relationships. Safe Church helps your congregation take a stand against abuse and become more effectively the church we are called to be.

To learn more about the opportunities and resources offered by Safe Church Ministry, visit crcna.org/SafeChurch.

36,976

The number of bulletin inserts about *Circle of Grace*, a safe-environment program for children, requested by congregations in 2019.



Equipping
congregations
in abuse
awareness,
prevention,
and response

CENTRE FOR PUBLIC DIALOGUE (CANADA)



**Developed Faith in Action:
Practicing Biblical Advocacy,
a workshop designed to help
church members navigate the
political system and have their
voice heard on justice issues.**

Every person is created in the image of God. This is the foundation of the Centre for Public Dialogue's work. Partnering with public leaders to walk alongside people who are vulnerable and marginalized in Canada, we believe that justice seeking and citizenship are an important Christian calling.

It's our goal to present a positive voice of faith in Canadian public life, and to live out the biblical call to do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly. We dig deeply into issues to offer constructive, hopeful solutions to systemic problems of injustice. We seek to encourage faithful citizenship by providing support to church members as they advocate for policies that honor the image of God in every person.

Believing that the best policy solutions result from respectful, principled dialogue between marginalized people, politicians, civil society, churches and faith groups, and citizens, this ministry is able to listen deeply, present a hope-filled Christian voice in public life, and join in a faithful journey of justice and reconciliation.

To learn more about how you can support the ministry work of the Centre for Public Dialogue, visit crcna.org/PublicDialogue.

Presenting
a positive
voice of faith
in Canadian
public life





Supporting
healing,
reconciliation,
and relationship
building between
Indigenous and
non-Indigenous
peoples in
Canada

INDIGENOUS MINISTRIES (CANADA)

The work of Indigenous Ministries is rooted in the recognition of the Creator's love for all creation, including all peoples, and in the understanding that we all have gifts for serving God and one another. By responding to God's call to live in reconciled relationships as a covenant people, Indigenous Ministries is able to partner with Canadian CRC members and congregations to learn and share about our identities as treaty people and celebrate Indigenous cultures.

Indigenous Ministries is made up of a national committee, three urban Indigenous ministry centers, and a justice and reconciliation mobilizer — all using their gifts to support healing reconciliation between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples in Canada.

One of the ways Indigenous Ministries is able to support congregations in their work with reconciliation and justice is by creating spaces where Indigenous people can feel safe, valued, and respected to use their gifts and grow.

If you would like to get involved in the work of Indigenous Ministries or are eager to learn how they can support your church, visit crcna.org/Indigenous.

9,875

The number of visits the Edmonton Native Healing Center received last year, including 480 counseling sessions and 636 food bank requests.



CANDIDACY COMMITTEE



74 The number of persons endorsed by the Candidacy Committee in 2019 as eligible for calling.

The Candidacy Committee represents the future of the CRC. When people are called to become pastors, they dedicate their lives to the ministry of the Word, to shepherding believers, and to caring for their community. So it's incredibly important that they, and their potential congregation, are supported in finding the right ministry fit for their calling.

The Candidacy Committee supports and assists persons who seek to be called into ordained pastoral ministry. Providing resources and the opportunity for ordination, the Candidacy Committee brings newly ordained pastors, commissioned pastors, and pastors from other churches into the CRC.

Equipped with resources like the *Journey Toward Ordination* booklet and the *Commissioned Pastor Handbook*, the Candidacy Committee works with the 49 regional classes to serve pastors and congregations, connecting the two when their calling is shared.

To explore the different routes to ordained ministry and discover the tools available for this journey, visit crcna.org/Candidacy.

Encouraging
people to
enter ordained
ministry in
the CRC





Supporting and developing chaplaincy

CHAPLAINCY AND CARE MINISTRY

Chaplaincy is a healing, reconciling ministry of God, an expression and extension of God's activity and mission in the world. Chaplains provide pastoral ministry in specialized settings to people who are hurting or in crisis.

The Chaplaincy and Care Ministry recruits, trains, and endorses chaplains to serve in settings such as prisons, hospitals, hospice, counseling centers, workplaces, and the military, enabling them to extend Christ's light into the darkest places.

In a Minnesota hospital, a CRC chaplain visited a young family. The mother had just had a baby and, due to complications, had nearly lost her life. Over the course of two weeks, the chaplain took time to understand the family's spiritual needs. They were Coptic Christians from Egypt who spoke only Arabic and were completely alone in a new city. With the help of an interpreter, the chaplain prayed with them and listened to their joys and fears. She connected them with others who shared their faith tradition and language. The moment the mother first started speaking with others in her own language, her face lit up and tears streamed down her cheeks. Through this chaplain, she experienced Christ's grace, peace, and healing.

To learn how your church can help serve with Chaplaincy and Care Ministry, visit crcna.org/Chaplaincy.

146 The number of chaplains endorsed and supported by Chaplaincy and Care Ministry, enabling them to serve 2 million people in local communities.



LEADERSHIP DIVERSITY



The newest ministry in the CRC, Leadership Diversity was created to support, encourage, and develop the leadership gifts in people who are underrepresented in our churches. The ministry groups that Leadership Diversity focuses on are Women's Ministry, Native American/First Nations, Latino, Korean, South East Asia Pacific Islander (SEAPI), Chinese, and Black and African American.

Through these unique ministry groups, we recognize and respond to gender and ethnic leadership challenges. We welcome and support gatherings for building relationships, encouragement, training, and celebration. Women's Ministry, for example, strives to stay connected with women in the CRC to affirm their callings and gifts. As one woman leader stated, "It continues to be important for women to feel supported in leadership, in the CRC, and at synod. You are helping with this."

Likewise, Leadership Diversity looks to support and affirm congregations as they work toward becoming more inclusive environments, welcoming the gifts of women and men of various ethnicities in all levels of leadership.

To learn more about how Leadership Diversity can serve your church, visit crcna.org/LeadershipDiversity.

260 The number of attendees at recent conferences and learning events related to Leadership Diversity.

Affirming
and
supporting
diversity in
all levels of
leadership





PASTOR CHURCH RESOURCES

Pastors play a vital role in our congregations, and the well-being of congregations and pastors is at the heart of our work. Pastor Church Resources (PCR) serves pastors and congregations with resources for assessing a congregation's health, providing opportunities for pastors to connect, training for elders and councils, and recommending tools for churches seeking new pastors.

PCR supports and equips pastors as they seek to foster healthy congregations. One way of doing this is through the funding of peer-learning groups. A peer-learning group pastor explained the importance of their group as follows:

“In a time when many pastors and churches are going through an Article 17 process [addressing discord or conflict within a ministry or congregation], the fact that the six of us are thriving in ministry and enjoying good relationships with our congregations is due in large part to our peer group.”

To learn more about the resources PCR offers, visit crcna.org/PCR.



350 The number of seminars and consultations in which PCR participated in 2019.

Supporting congregations, ministry leaders, pastors, pastors' spouses, and classes

How Can We Help?

You and your church now have three options for easier access to CRC ministries and resources.



Click

Search hundreds of resources from CRC ministries and churches.

Try it out at
crcna.org/Resources



Call

Got a ministry question but not sure who to call? We can help.

Give us a shout at
[800-272-5125](tel:800-272-5125)



Chat

Oh yeah, we chat too. Type and we'll type back.

Chat from any page at
crcna.org

If you have a ministry need and wonder if your denomination can help, just click, call, or chat.

We're here to serve.



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