



Agenda for the Meeting of

# Classis Alberta South & Saskatchewan

of the Christian Reformed Church in North America

March 14, 2025

Calgary, Alberta



# Classis Alberta South & Saskatchewan

of the Christian Reformed Church in North America

Agenda for the Meeting

March 14, 2025

## VISION STATEMENT

**Classis Alberta South & Saskatchewan is a regional group of Christian Reformed Churches dependant on the Holy Spirit, striving to function together as one body in Christ, share in worship, promote evangelism, diaconal ministries, and nurture through mutual accountability.**

**Chair:** Rev. Gary van Leeuwen

**Vice Chair:** Rev. Rev. Gerhardt Venter

**Clerk:** Nelly Eyk (Stated Clerk)

**LODGING:** Please see the attached 'Accommodation Policy' ([page 7](#))

**TRAVEL:** Please see the attached 'Travel Policy' ([page 6](#))

**DELEGATES:** Please read the **Covenant for Officebearers** prior to the meeting and be ready to sign it at the Meeting of Classis if this is your first time in attendance since the Christian Reformed Church Synod 2024. ([page 9](#))

**8:30 AM Delegates arrive, register, sign Covenant for Officebearers and share a time of fellowship**

**9:00 AM Classis is formally constituted in a time of worship.**

**1. Welcome to delegates and visitors by the Chair**

**2. Classis is called to Order:**

- 2.1. Credentials & Roll Call –Credentials will be confirmed, Stated Clerk will conduct Roll Call.
- 2.2. Classis is declared to be constituted.
- 2.3. Seating of advisors

One ordained Minister or Commissioned Pastor leading the work of Classis (currently Indigenous Christian Fellowship of Regina,) will be designated as an advisor to Classis. (Oct. 2008, Item 6); Treasurer, Peter VandenDool; Stated Clerk, Nelly Eyk; and Regional Pastor, Martin Boardman.
---

**3. Review/revise and approve the AGENDA**

#### 4. Time Schedule

##### March 14, 2025

Opening devotion and prayer 9:00

Classis 9:30 – 12:00

Lunch 12:00 – 1:00

Classis 1:00 – 6:00

Dinner 6:00 – 7:00

Classis 7:00 – 9:00

#### 5. Committee Appointments

5.1. Credentials Committee: **Maranatha (Calgary), Emmanuel, Calgary.**

5.2. Nominations Committee: **River Park CRC; First CRC, Taber.**

5.2.1 COD

5.2.2 Stated Clerk

5.2.3 CMLT Chair (Pastor)

5.2.4 Synod 2025 delegates.

5.3. Overtures and Communications committee: **Living Hope CRC, Sonlight, Regina CRC.**

5.3.1 Classis Visiting Team - Iron Springs CRC

5.3.2 Classis CIC/Chair rotation – Iron Springs CRC

5.4 Expense Vouchers: Peter VandenDool, [treasurer@classisabss.ca](mailto:treasurer@classisabss.ca) (page8)

#### 6. Classical Administrative Reports: Received for information unless noted otherwise.

6.1 **Classical Ministries Committee:** All meetings were Via Zoom . See minutes on website.

; **Motion to approve the work of the Classical Ministries Committee**

6.2 **Classis Stated Clerk Report:** report attached.

**Motion to approve the work of the Classical Stated Clerk**

6.3 **Classical Treasurer's Report Peter VandenDool**

6.3.1. Presentation of the 2024 Financial Report.

**Motion to approve the work of the Treasurer**

- 6.4 **Classical Ministerial Leadership Team: Gary van Leeuwen Reporting**
- 6.5 **Classical Safe Church Coordinator: Judy Heim** report attached
- 6.6 **Faith Formation: Chris Vanderberg** report attached.
- 6.7 **Medicine Hat College Chaplain : George Koopmans** report attached and reporting.
- 6.8 **Regional Pastor: Martin Boardman** (No Report)
- 6.9 **Classical Prayer Coordinator:** Allan Kirkpatrick (No report)
- 6.10 **Church Visitor team.**
  - 6.10.1 Team # 1 – Medicine Hat, Regina and Saskatoon
  - 6.10.2 Team # 2 – Covenant, The Road, River Park and The Lantern
  - 6.10.3 Team # 3 – Emmanuel, Maranatha (Calgary) and High River
  - 6.10.4 Team # 4 – Burdett, Iron Springs, Brooks Taber First
  - 6.10.5 Team # 5 – Granum, Maranatha (Lethbridge), and Nobleford
- 6.11 Oversight committee for Maranatha (Calgary) CRC (Paul Verhoef reporting) Report attached.
- 6.12 Oversight committee for Rev. Allan Kirkpatrick:
  - Motion to release the committee and thank them for the work that they have done to support Rev. Allan Kirkpatrick.

## 7 Denominational Agencies/Visitors Reports

- 7.1 Council of Delegates: **Debbie Karambowich** reporting
- 7.2 World Renew: **Canadian Food Grains: Don Clayton Reporting**
- 7.3 Resonate Global Missions:
- 7.4 CRCNA: Zach King, CRCNA General Secretary letter to Classis attached
- 7.5 Canadian Executive Director **Al Postma Reporting.**
- 7.6 Advancement Fall 2024 Classis Report attached
- 7.7 Diaconal Ministries Canada: report attached. Deacons Luncheon together
- 7.8 Indigenous Christian Fellowship: Bert Adema report attached.
- 7.9 The Ministry to Seafarers: report attached. Garry Reporting
- 7.10 Calvin University report attached.
- 7.11 The Kings University: report attached
- 7.12 Redeemer University: report attached

## 8 Reports from Advisory Committees

- 8.2 Credentials Committee
- 8.3 Nominations Committee
- 8.4 Overtures Committee

9. The Road CRC

Motion: That ABSS acquiesces in the decision of The Road CRC to disaffiliate from the CRCNA denomination.

10. Emmanuel CRC would like to have their limited suspension lifted:

Motion: Council will begin the process of aligning Emmanuel Christian Reformed Church with the CRCNA by repenting of actions and decisions related to human sexuality that contradict Synod's latest decisions. **Passed Unanimously.**

11. Emmanuel CRC Council presents:

Motion: to honorably release Dan Roukema under Article 14b, as moved and passed by Emmanuel CRC Full Council on January 23, 2025 by unanimous vote.

Article 14b:

A minister of the Word who resigns from the ministry in the Christian Reformed Church to enter a ministry outside the denomination shall be released from office by the classis with an appropriate declaration reflecting the resigned minister's status and with the concurring advice of the synodical deputies.

12. Canadian Gathering from Classis Quinte Attached report.

**13 Closing**

- a. Closing remarks by the chair, and vice-chair
- b. Motion to adjourn.
- c. Closing prayer and doxology

**14 Fall Classis meeting to be held at Iron Springs CRC October 31, 2025**

## 2025 TRAVEL POLICY

When travel is required for Classis business, the onus is on the individual to make a cost effective and practical choice when considering transportation.

The following options are available;

1. **Personal Vehicle:** With shorter trips, using your own vehicle is generally the best option. Classis pays mileage as established annually by the CRA. 2025 rates are \$0.72/km for the first 5000 km and \$0.66/km thereafter. (Rates are reviewed annually)
2. **Carpooling:** When possible and as with your personal vehicle, carpooling is often a logical, convenient and cost effective option. CRA rate apply
3. **Car Rental:** On longer trips (over 300km return) a car rental is best. Some rental firms will drop the vehicle at your home or pick you up. Review your insurance for proper coverage.
4. **Bus Charter:** At times the Classis will arrange for a bus charter to accommodate a larger number of travellers. When a charter is made available, the Classis will only pay mileage to and from the point of bus origin or stopover. Again the carpooling guideline applies.
5. **Air Travel:** When distances are excessive, such as for our churches in Saskatchewan, air travel is both a time saver with an often reasonable costs when considering the distance.

If there are questions as to what may or may not be reimbursed, contact the Classis Treasurer for preapproval at:

[treasurer@classisabss.ca](mailto:treasurer@classisabss.ca)

January 2025

## 2025 ACCOMODATIONS POLICY

When accommodations are required for Classis business, the policy of the Classis is to rent single room accommodations. It is expected the individual will make a cost effective and practical choice.

The Classis Interim Committee will ordinarily make accommodation arrangements when multiple rooms are required for a Classis meeting. When this is the case, details will be made available in advance of the meeting.

The following options are available;

1. Hotels. Single hotel rooms are the preferred choice of Classis
2. Shared hotel room Both parties must agree to shared accommodations. This is an acceptable option.
3. You are free to arrange your own accommodations at your own expense.

# Classis Alberta South And Saskatchewan

## 2025 EXPENSE VOUCHER

c/o Peter Vanden Dool  
 Box 576  
 Picture Butte, AB T0K1V0  
[treasurer@classisabss.ca](mailto:treasurer@classisabss.ca)

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Church & Person: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Cheque Made out to: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City / Town: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Details of Expense: \_\_\_\_\_

Expenses:	Travel: _____	KM's @	0.72	\$	-
	Other: _____			\$	-
	_____			\$	-
	_____			\$	-
		GST		\$	-
	( * KM rate effective Jan 1 '25 )	Total Expenses:		\$	-

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Please attach receipts when possible

Expense Approval: \_\_\_\_\_

Paid by Cheque # \_\_\_\_\_



# Covenant for Officebearers in the CRCNA

---

We, [the undersigned], believe the Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments to be the inspired Word of God, which proclaims the good news of God's creation and redemption through Jesus Christ. Acknowledging the authority of God's Word, we submit to it in all matters of life and faith.

We affirm three creeds—the Apostles' Creed, the Nicene Creed, and the Athanasian Creed—as ecumenical expressions of the Christian faith. In doing so, we confess our faith in unity with followers of Jesus Christ throughout all ages and among all nations.

We also affirm three confessions—the [Belgic Confession](#), the [Heidelberg Catechism](#), and the [Canons of Dort](#)—as historic Reformed expressions of the Christian faith, whose doctrines fully agree with the Word of God. These confessions continue to define the way we understand Scripture, direct the way we live in response to the gospel, and locate us within the larger body of Christ.

Grateful for these expressions of faith, we promise to be formed and governed by them. We heartily believe and will promote and defend their doctrines faithfully, conforming our preaching, teaching, writing, serving, and living to them.

Along with these historic creeds and confessions, we also recognize the witness of *Our World Belongs to God: A Contemporary Testimony* as a current Reformed expression of the Christian faith that forms and guides us in our present context.

We also promise to present or receive confessional difficulties in a spirit of love and fellowship with our brothers and sisters as together we seek a fuller understanding of the gospel. Should we come to believe that a teaching in the confessional documents is not the teaching of God's Word, we will communicate our views to the church, according to the procedures prescribed by the Church Order and its supplements. If the church asks, we will give a full explanation of our views. Further, we promise to submit to the church's judgment and authority.

We honor this covenant for the well-being of the church to the glory of God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

## Churches of Classis Alberta South/Saskatchewan

---

<b>Church</b>	<b>Pastor(s)</b>
Bethel CRC (Saskatoon)	Vacant - Jimmy Jo
Brooks CRC	Vacant <i>Credentials: Rev. Martin Boardman</i>
Burdett CRC	Rev. Rick Roeda <i>Credentials: Rev. J. Cameron Fraser</i>
Covenant CRC (Calgary)	Rev. Matt Vanden Heuvel
Emmanuel CRC (Calgary)	Rev. Dan Roukema; <i>Credentials: Rev. Case Vink; Rev. Pieter L. Hendriks, Rev. Martin Mobach</i>
Granum CRC	Rev. Henry Veldboom <i>Credentials: Rev. Leon Johnston.</i>
High River CRC	Rev. David Swinney <i>Credentials: Rev. Derek Van Dalen</i>
Iron Springs CRC	Rev. Paul Droogers
Lantern Community Church, The (Calgary)	Rev. Ed Top; <i>Credentials: Rev. Layne Kilbreath</i>
Maranatha CRC (Calgary)	Vacant:
Maranatha CRC (Lethbridge)	Vacant; Rev. Daniel Meinema <i>Credentials: Rev. James D. Zondervan</i>
Living Hope Church (Medicine Hat)	Vacant: Kevin VanderVeen <i>Credentials: Rev George Koopmans</i>
Nobleford CRC	Rev. Gary Van Leeuwen <i>Credentials: Rev. Frank Lanting</i>
River Park Church (Calgary)	Rev. Adrian de Lange; Pastor Harrison Cho <i>Credentials: Rev. Paul Verhoef; Rev. John VanSloten; Rev. Cari Fydirchuk; Rev. Allan Kirkpatrick</i>
Road Church, The (Calgary)	Rev. Rich Braaksma; Pastor Jacqui Mignault; Pastor Heather Cowie
Sonlight CRC (Regina)	Rev. Gerhard Venter <i>Credentials: Rev. Charles Kooger; Pastor Bert Adema</i>
Taber First CRC	Rev. Brian Kuyper

# Overture Classis Alberta south Saskatchewan

We overture that Classis Alberta south Saskatchewan create 2 church visiting teams, who are going to visit the church councils at least once a year and report to the classis.

Each team should be minimal 3 persons and max 4 persons one should be a Pastor, regional Pastor or retired Pastor.

A visit should be made by 2 persons unless a different request.

The people on these teams will be on a 3-year rotation.

The people on the team's should be elected by Classis and approved by their local church council and have experience as an office bearer in the CRCNA.

The teams should undergo some training by an experienced person preferred a Pastor outside our Classis.

Reasons:

To get visits done to the church councils.

To create unity in between the churches.

Regain trust in our classis so classis can start ministry together again.

# Overture to classis Alberta south and Saskatchewan

## 5.3.2 Classis CIC – Chair person Rotation

Motion:

That Classis ABSS adopt the following and make the appropriate changes to the Rules of Classis as necessary:

That the Classis Interim Committee consist of the following:

Members – Vice Chair, Chair, Past Chair

Ex Officio – Stated Clerk, Treasurer

Members of the CIC shall serve a three-year term and shall hold their position as follows:

First year – Vice Chair

Second year – Chair

Third year – Past Chair

An individual may serve a second three-year term but must be re-elected by classis and will serve in the rotation as described above.

Positions on the CIC can be alternate between a pastor and a lay person. Ordinarily the lay person shall have experience as an office bearer and must first receive the approval of their council to be nominated to the CIC.

The chair of the CIC shall serve as chair of all classis meetings that occur during his/her tenure. The chair of the CIC shall serve as chair of the CMC during his/her tenure.

Grounds:

1. The work of CIC is substantial, and another member would be beneficial.
2. The rotation of individuals would ensure that the work of classis is distributed and shared by more than just a few people.
3. Church Order allows for this arrangement: “The ministers shall preside in rotation, or a president may be elected from among the delegates; however, ordinarily the same person shall not preside twice in succession” (Church Order, Article 40c). The proposed changes are permitted by Church Order, even if they are by way of exception.
4. There are many gifted individuals, besides pastors, in Classis ABSS who would serve well in this capacity.
5. Many pastors prefer not to serve as chair of classis, thus putting a strain on those who do.
6. Having the chair of CIC serve as chair of classis would make preparation for classis meetings more efficient.
7. This arrangement has precedent. (e.g. Classis Toronto uses this method very successfully.)

## Music Overture

**We overture classis to overture Synod, to create and make available recorded accompaniments for psalms, hymns and Biblically-sound worship songs to be used by churches that do not have the resources of a band or pianist. The accompaniment should be easy to sing and lead the congregation to fully participate in the song, ideally supported by a singer or preferably, a choir.**

---

As we gather in our shared commitment to worship, we recognize the significant role that music plays in giving reverent honour to God, expressing our faith and uniting our community. Hymns, Psalms and spiritual songs have long been a vital part of our spiritual life, allowing us to lift our voices in praise and reflection.

- 1. Scriptural Integrity:** Our existing hymns are deeply rooted in Scripture, providing a foundation for our worship. In Ephesians 5:19, the Apostle Paul admonishes/encourages us to address one another in psalms, hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with our hearts. By enhancing these hymns with thoughtful musical and vocal accompaniment, we can ensure they continue to inspire and convey the truths of our faith. Many songs that are popular today are not Scripturally- and theologically-sound, and may bring a superficial dimension to worship.
- 2. Musical Variety:** Many of our beloved psalms and hymns can benefit from diverse musical styles. By developing various accompaniment options, we can breathe new life into familiar songs while respecting their original intent and message.

- 3. Spiritual Enrichment:** Quality musical accompaniment and vocals can deepen the worship experience, enhancing the lyrical messages of our psalms and hymns. This, in turn, can help congregants engage more fully with the words and themes being expressed.
  
- 4. Encourage the use of existing psalms and hymns:** Promoting the rich heritage of our current hymnal, ensuring that these songs continue to play a central role in our worship life.

## 6.2 Stated Clerk Report

Welcome to this Classis ABSS Spring Meeting. It has been my privilege to serve as stated clerk of Classis for four years. I am grateful for this opportunity, the support and wisdom of others within the classis and the denomination.

The following are some of the ways that I have been of service to the Classis:

- Sent and received numerous emails and phone calls.
- Prepared the agenda, minutes and attended the CIC and CMC meetings most on zoom and one in person.
- Prepared the minutes of the last classis meeting.
- Prepared the agenda, received reports and set up the details of this Classis meetings.
- Attended a stated clerks conference this January, in Florida. What a privilege to share with other stated clerks and denominational staff blessings of the work that is being done by so many.
- Attended a stated clerks meeting to discuss the letter from Classis Quinte and participated in email discussions on other items with the Canadian Stated clerks.
- Prepared Classical appointment schedule for the churches that we serve with pulpit supply.
- Maintain the Marriage Licenses for both Alberta and Saskatchewan.
- Maintain Webpage with updated reports.

Thank you for trusting me to serve you in this position. It has been my honour and privilege.

**CLASSIS ALBERTA SOUTH & SASKATCHEWAN  
CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCHES**

**BALANCE SHEET  
December 31, 2024**

<b>ASSETS</b>	<u><b>2024</b></u>	<u><b>2023</b></u>
<b>ASSETS</b>		
Bank Current Account (Chequing)	43,696.44	10,051.76
Term Deposit (Non-Redeemable)	0.00	62,418.79
Term Deposit (Non-Redeemable)		
Term Deposit (Redeemable)		
Common Share Account	670.73	644.34
Cash in Transit	0.00	31,544.60
GST Receivable	<u>259.82</u>	<u>638.01</u>
<b>Total Assets</b>	<u><b>44,626.99</b></u>	<u><b>105,297.50</b></u>
 <b>LIABILITIES</b>		
Withholding Tax Payable	0.00	0.00
E.I. / C.P.P. Tax Payable	0.00	0.00
GST Payable	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<u><b>0.00</b></u>	<u><b>0.00</b></u>
 <b>EQUITY</b>		
Classical General Fund Balance	105,297.50	165,420.19
Youth Committee Fund	649.74	
Current Earnings	<u>-61,320.25</u>	<u>-60,122.69</u>
Total Capital (Equity)	<u>44,626.99</u>	<u>105,297.50</u>
<b>Total Liabilities and Equity</b>	<u><b>44,626.99</b></u>	<u><b>105,297.50</b></u>

.....1



**CLASSIS ALBERTA SOUTH & SASKATCHEWAN  
CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCHES**

**2024 INCOME & EXPENSE STATEMENT**

<b>INCOME</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
Classical Ministry Share	149,221.18	160,206.86
Interest & Other Income	2,051.02	233.14
Campus Ministry Donations	<b>Note # 1</b> 20,079.61	20,041.28
<b>Total income</b>	<b><u>171,351.81</u></b>	<b><u>180,481.28</u></b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
Travelling Expenses	8,012.10	12,183.67
Telephone & Office	1,099.58	1,242.74
Catering Services	3,298.09	8,198.04
Professional Fees		
Books & Supplies		
Insurance	901.00	885.00
Interest & Service Charges	103.50	145.00
Honorarium	20,250.00	19,500.00
Conferences & Speakers	500.00	5,155.00
GST Exp.	692.18	1,153.77
Prayer Co-ordinator	0.00	0.00
Calvin Seminary		
Ambrose University	0.00	0.00
Knox College	CMLT	
CPE Clinical Pastoral Edu		
Youth Conferences & Speakers	0.00	0.00
Faith Formation	0.00	0.00
Classical Safe Church Ministry	0.00	0.00
Miscellaneous Expense	0.00	800.00
Medicine Hat Campus Ministry	20,000.00	20,000.00
Campus Ministry Expenses	<b>Note # 2</b> 163,459.06	161,340.75
Pledge to Support Calgary Campus Ministry	14,356.55	
<b>Expenses Total</b>	<b><u>232,672.06</u></b>	<b><u>230,603.97</u></b>
Qualified Donee's	<b>Note # 3</b> 0.00	10,000.00
<b>Qualified Donee's Total</b>	<b><u>0.00</u></b>	<b><u>10,000.00</u></b>
<b>Total Disbursements</b>	<b><u>232,672.06</u></b>	<b><u>240,603.97</u></b>
<b>Income or Loss</b>	<b><u>-61,320.25</u></b>	<b><u>-60,122.69</u></b>

**CLASSIS ALBERTA SOUTH & SASKATCHEWAN  
CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCHES**

**(Notes to Financial Statements)**

**INCOME**

<b>University of Calgary Campus Ministry</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
Campus Ministry Classis Support	143,379.45	141,299.47
Campus Ministry Donations	9,095.23	10,160.03
Campus Ministry - Resonate Global	10,984.38	9,881.25
<b>Note # 1 Total Income</b>	<b><u>163,459.06</u></b>	<b><u>161,340.75</u></b>

**DISBURSEMENTS**

<b>University of Calgary Campus Ministry</b>			
Chaplain Salary / Housing Allowance / Benefits	113,055.34		107,546.87
Pension / C.P.P. / E.I.			
Leader Grants	26,555.04		30,207.00
Campus Ministry Programming	7,728.37		7,518.84
Conferences & Training	4,808.16		6,883.77
Campus Miscellaneous	85.95		1,099.99
Telephone & Office	852.74		1,030.99
Book Allowance	545.56		724.56
Mileage	3,795.40		2,099.65
Hospitality	4,032.50		3,229.08
Campus Committee Expense			
Emerging/Student Leader Grants	2,000.00		1,000.00
<b>Note # 2 Total Disbursements</b>	<b><u>163,459.06</u></b>		<b><u>161,340.75</u></b>
<b>Income or Loss</b>	<b><u>0.00</u></b>		<b><u>0.00</u></b>

**Qualified Donee's**

CRWM Canada Salaam Project	0.00	10,000.00
<b>Note # 3 Disbursements</b>	<b><u>0.00</u></b>	<b><u>10,000.00</u></b>

.....3

## CLASSIS ALBERTA SOUTH & SASKATCHEWAN CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCHES

### Budgeted Expenses for 2024

	Budget 2024	Actual	difference
Classis Ministry Shares Income	196,236.00	149,221.18	47,014.82
<b>1 Campus Ministry</b>			
Calgary Campus Ministry	141,736.00	143,379.45	1,643.45
Medicine Hat Campus Ministry	20,000.00	20,000.00	0.00
<b>2 Demomination</b>			
Stated Clerks Gathering ( January )	0.00	0.00	0.00
National Gathering ( Spring )	0.00	0.00	0.00
New Pastor's Gathering	0.00	500.00	500.00
Youth Ministry Champions Retreat	1,000.00	0.00	-1,000.00
<b>4 CMLT</b>			
Student Support	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>5 Classis Expenses</b>			
Classis Meetings - March & October	10,000.00	9,587.43	-412.57
Classis Committee Expenses	1,250.00	1,099.58	-150.42
Safe Church Coordinator	500.00		-500.00
Regional Pastor	1,500.00	1,722.76	222.76
Prayer Co-ordinator	0.00		0.00
Interest/GST/Insurance/Miscellaneous	0.00	1,696.18	1,696.18
<b>6 Honorariums</b>			
Regional Pastor	6,750.00	6,750.00	0.00
Classis Clerk	6,750.00	6,750.00	0.00
Classis Treasurer	6,750.00	6,750.00	0.00
<b>Total Classical Expense:</b>	<b>196,236.00</b>	<b>198,235.40</b>	<b>1,999.40</b>
income	149,221.18		
actual expenses	198,235.40		
amount spent above income	49,014.22		

## 2024 Classis Alberta South & Saskatchewan - Amounts Received

		BUDGET	\$ 196,236.00	\$ 100.43
CHURCH & LOCATION		Received in 2024	BUDGET	% Received
1	Brooks	\$ 6,628.24	\$ 6,628.24	100.00%
2	Burdett	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 4,017.11	49.79%
3	Calgary Covenant	\$ -	\$ 7,732.94	0.00%
4	Calgary Emmanuel	\$ 34,050.00	\$ 34,748.03	97.99%
5	Calgary Lantern	\$ -	\$ 602.57	0.00%
6	Calgary Maranatha	\$ 5,609.37	\$ 9,440.22	59.42%
7	Calgary River Park	\$ 15,666.74	\$ 15,666.74	100.00%
8	Granum	\$ 10,037.82	\$ 10,243.64	97.99%
9	High River	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 6,929.52	28.86%
10	Iron Springs	\$ 15,867.60	\$ 15,867.60	100.00%
11	Lethbridge Maranatha	\$ 16,771.00	\$ 16,771.45	100.00%
12	Medicine Hat	\$ 12,500.00	\$ 10,143.21	123.24%
13	Nobleford	\$ 16,172.50	\$ 21,290.70	75.96%
14	Regina Sonlight	\$ 3,196.37	\$ 3,715.83	86.02%
15	Saskatoon Bethel	\$ 6,527.95	\$ 9,942.36	65.66%
16	Taber	\$ 10,026.96	\$ 22,495.84	44.57%
<b>TOTALS</b>		\$ 157,054.55	\$ 196,236.00	80.03%

## 6.5 Safe Church

### **Safe Church Coordinator Report Classis Southern Alberta/Saskatchewan March 2025 Classis**

Greetings once again to the churches of Classis Alberta South Saskatchewan,

The past several months have been a bit quiet due to the Christmas season and some unknown situations as there are churches in the Classis who are in flux. My plan in the coming months is to reach out to each church and make arrangements to visit the various Safe Church leaders to review policies and make some personal connections. It would be helpful to me if the Council Clerks could forward contact information of Safe Church leaders to my email address included at the end of this report.

In my last report I highlighted the first portion of the Code of Conduct and this time I will jump to the 3<sup>rd</sup> section titled “Pastoral Leadership”. (As per the Code of Conduct CRCNA website).

1. I will promote truthfulness, transparency, and honesty in all of my work.
2. I will use my power, authority and position to build up the community of believers and seek first the kingdom of God.
3. I will work within my trained competence, especially in counseling situations, and I will refer individuals to other professionals as appropriate.
4. I will preach, teach, admonish, or discipline in ways that are biblical and Christlike, promoting the shalom and flourishing of those to whom I am ministering (2Timothy 3:16).
5. I will refrain in my pastoral care and counseling from using references to Scripture or God to manipulate, coerce, or threaten another person.
6. I will disclose any perceived or actual conflict of interest.

The Code of Conduct and the FAQ via the link here [Code of Conduct for Ministry Leaders | CRC Network \(crcna.org\)](#) .

There is a new(er) resource available from Thrive to help councils work through the various sections of the Code of Conduct which is linked below.

[Leading With Integrity: A Guide to the Code of Conduct | Thrive | Christian Reformed Church](#)

As always, I am available to discuss, support and encourage your church in the effort to provide safer spaces for all. My email address [safechurch@classisabss.ca](mailto:safechurch@classisabss.ca)

Judy Heim

\*CRCNA.org

Liz Tolkamp, Canada West

Winter 2025



800-272-5125 Ext 5111 

ltolkamp@crcna 

crcna.org/thrive 

5793 211 St. Langley, BC V3A 2L7 

## MULTICULTURAL LEARNING COMMUNITY

Across Canada there is a literal "Pentecost explosion" of CRC churches becoming intercultural. In 2024, in response to this explosion, 17 CRC congregations formed a 10 month learning cohort to help each other navigate this new reality. This year again, Thrive is inviting churches into a multicultural learning community (Sept 2025 - June 2026). The intent of the cohort is for congregations to be more informed concerning multicultural wisdom, develop fresh practices that encourage multicultural hospitality and community and share learnings from various experiments. If you wonder if your church might join this cohort or want more information, contact Liz Tolkamp ([ltolkamp@crcna.org](mailto:ltolkamp@crcna.org)). Participation in this cohort is funded through a grant.

## LEADING WITH INTEGRITY: A GUIDE TO THE CODE OF CONDUCT

Serving as a ministry leader is a significant responsibility. In order to encourage ministry leaders to be intentional in using their influence for good, and to clarify expectations for Christlike behavior, the Synod of the CRCNA adopted the Code of Conduct for ministry leaders. This resource was designed to orient ministry leaders to the Code of Conduct by inviting participants to reflect on the Code in light of Scripture, and how best to live out the Code in the context of their own ministry. We hope it serves you well!

<https://www.crcna.org/thrive/code-of-conduct>

## ACCESSIBLE WORSHIP ROUNDTABLES

Have you had a chance to view the Accessible Worship Roundtable series? In this 3 part series, disability consultant, Lindsay Wieland Capel, invites us to think through accessible worship spaces, Dwell children's ministry curriculum developer, Jill Benson, invites us to think about how to welcome children of all abilities in our children's ministry space and worship consultant, Katie Roelofs, invites us to think through how our worship practices can be more accessible and inclusive for all. Why not make it a viewing party with your leadership team at church!

<https://network.crcna.org/topic/worship/general-worship/accessible-worship-accessible-churches-notes-and-recordings>

## FAITH FORMATION BULLETIN TIPS

Every week Thrive offers a Faith Formation Tip for your congregation. You can access it through the weekly tip sent along with other announcements to your church office every Wednesday. However, you can also access it through our Faith Formation Tips document. This document is a great resource as it includes tips from the past 4 years! We have also been working on translating all our 2024 Faith Formation Tips into Spanish and Korean - currently you can access half a year of translated tips - with more to come very soon!

Spanish translation can be found [here](#) / Korean translation can be found [here](#).

<https://www.crcna.org/resources/church-resources/bulletin-announcements>



## **6.6 Faith Formation Update – ABSS March 14, 2025**

Faith Formation is one of nine CRCNA ministries which operate under the umbrella of THRIVE, whose mandate is to equip church and ministry leaders with the encouragement, connections, and tools they may need to encourage and practice lifelong faith and missional discipleship for their members and within their communities.

Faith Formation has many [resources](#) to assist churches with their calling. Thrive ministries has trained and faithful facilitators or [Regional Connectors](#) to support your congregations and ministry leaders so you can thrive in the ministry God has given you.

A support available to congregations is [Thriving Essentials](#), a course on effective church leadership, including elders, deacons, church staff, and volunteer ministry leaders and is “a way churches can get all their volunteer ministry leaders and staff on the same page about key concepts of church ministry.” If this interests you as a leader in your congregation, more information on this course, which is free of charge, can be found at [crcna.org/thrive](http://crcna.org/thrive).

Your connection to Thrive and to the resources offered is Liz Tolkamp, regional connector for Canada West. Liz lives in Langley, BC with her husband, Tim, and attends Willoughby CRC. She’s passionate about nurturing and supporting healthy relationships within congregations. Attached to this report is her most recent newsletter (Playlist) with information on various Thrive and Faith Formation resources. Other [faith nurture](#) resources which include faith formation tips, the faith practices project and faith/discipleship points are also offered. Be sure to scroll to the end of the page! 😊

The CRC is at a crossroads but our call to continue to do justice, love kindness and walk humbly with God in all we say and do transcends any differences. God bless each of your congregations in ministry to each other, your communities and the world.

In Christ,

Chris Vanderberg



Medicine Hat Campus Ministry Newsletter  
January 2025

Sometimes God just works things out in amazing ways! We decided to feature Ukrainian cuisine for our January 14 Community Cooking Event. As it turned out, January 14 was Ukrainian "Old New Years Day." In addition to our usual number of close to 20 attendees, we were blessed to welcome 6 guests from the Ukrainian community who are connected to the LINC (Language Instruction for Newcomers to Canada) program at the college. As we interacted over borscht, perogies and sausage, and Korolevsky (King's Cake),



new friendships were formed and a group of people displaced from their homeland under tragic circumstances were enfolded into a new community. Students lingered well into the evening!

The 2024 Fall Semester at MHC ended, at least from a campus ministry perspective, in typical fashion with the snack cart being wheeled throughout campus a couple times per day during the exam period. Students are always so grateful for a piece of fruit, a granola bar or

other snack, and fruit juice as they are studying for exams.



*In addition to snacks, and with the help of a few friends, we served 30 students a Mashed Potato, Meatball and Vegetable Dinner during exams.*

And then, the College was closed. From December 24<sup>th</sup> – January 1<sup>st</sup> the College closes for the semester and Christmas break. However, our family was blessed during this time to welcome a few students who don't have family in Canada to join us as we

celebrated the birth of our Savior.



***Christmas Eve Worship followed by dinner at our house!***

And then a new semester began! On January 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> we welcomed the winter 2025 intake of students to MHC with a number of New Student Orientation events. Over the past couple of weeks we have been getting to know our new students, and have also said goodbye to some who have completed their studies. One of the students who has now completed her studies brought her mother to the Interfaith Center and said “Mom, this is the place I was telling you about.”

With the start of the new semester, the rhythm of campus ministry gets re-established. Noon Huddles on Monday. Lunch Hour Prayer and Community Cooking on Tuesday. Chaplain’s Coffee, Free Soup Lunch and Bible Study on Wednesday, the monthly trip to Brooks Campus on Thursday, and Talk-O-Friday. All this, in addition to countless prayers and conversations which take place every day.

To all the supporters of Medicine Hat Ecumenical Campus Ministry, a huge Thank You for your vital role in Sharing the Love of Jesus

with the MHC community and rich Blessings in the New Year!

George

And, lest we forget, Thank You Trevis for the amazing fundraiser concert!!!



***Trevis De Silva is an MHC Alumni and a huge fan of Campus Ministry!!!***

## 6.11 Maranatha Oversight Committee Report.

Dear Classis,

At the October 27 2023 meeting of Classis ABSS, an Oversight Committee was formed for Maranatha CRC (Calgary) in response to their Article 17 with Rev. Allan Kirkpatrick. As that committee, our mandate was to "see to it that their Council fulfills the recommendations of the PCR (ie. Invite Vibrant Congregations to assist Maranatha in discerning its vision, mission, and future)." While we are aware that Maranatha CRC still has some of this work to do (namely, discerning its future together), we are recommending that Classis adopt a motion to consider this mandate sufficiently fulfilled, and dissolve our committee.

### BACKGROUND

As the Oversight Committee, we have provided updates to classis regularly since October 2023. We have shared that Maranatha CRC entered into 40 days of prayer together before they met with Rev. Elaine May (staffperson of Thrive) in December 2023, and again in 2024. These meetings were intended to produce the good fruit of wise discernment for their vision and mission. As an Oversight Committee, we have heard about that good fruit, and want to thank God that Maranatha CRC's "fractional pastor plan" has been a part of that work. We are thankful that in this interim time, Rev. Ed Jager has been able to regularly lead Sunday morning worship, Pastor Heather Cowie has provided pastoral care support through Spiritual Direction, silent retreats, and other means, and Rev. Ken Demaere has followed up on the work of Rev. Elaine May as Ken supports conversation about leadership, vision, mission and discerning their future.

Through our reporting, Maranatha CRC has shared how they have been through a "Triple Whammy" of challenges: navigating COVID-19, Article 17, and recent decisions of Synod. Throughout these challenges, they have committed to focusing on building a healthy church and refining their vision **before** they communally discern their future together.

In addition, Maranatha CRC has also shared that they have felt sustained by God and are grateful for financial stability.

It is our sense that Maranatha CRC is in a significantly healthy place, with good temporary leadership, and on a good trajectory to continue on without our committee's oversight. When an oversight committee is dissolved, most congregations move fairly quickly to calling a new full-time pastor. We do not anticipate Maranatha CRC will follow this trajectory — as they are still discerning their future together following a wise and deliberate process. We ask that Classis ABSS trust them to continue in this work of discerning their future without our oversight, and that Classis ABSS not force them to rush into any decisions or actions that they are not yet ready to make together.

We will meet with the Council of Maranatha CRC on the evening of February 26 to verify this information and these convictions.

**RECOMMENDED MOTION**

Following a brief verbal report from the Oversight Committee summarizing their meeting with the Council of Maranatha CRC (Calgary) on February 26, and given that the Oversight Committee — after that meeting — still discerns the following to be an appropriate motion for Classis ABSS, the Oversight Committee recommends this motion to Classis ABSS:

**Motion** - That Classis ABSS consider the mandate of the Oversight Committee for Maranatha CRC (Calgary) to be sufficiently fulfilled, dismiss the committee with gratitude for their service, and pray for Maranatha CRC (Calgary) as they continue to discern their future together.

Respectfully submitted,  
The Oversight Committee for Maranatha CRC (Calgary)  
Rev. Paul Verhoef (chair), Judy Heim, and Gys Van den Pol

## 7.1 Council of Delegates and Canada Ministry Board Report to Classis Winter 2025

I would like to take the opportunity to share the following highlights from the Council of Delegates and the Canadian Ministry Board with you, the classis representatives.

1. I encourage you to keep up with what's happening in the Canadian CRC:

a. The Postma Post – you can subscribe to a new, bi-weekly newsletter from the Canadian Executive Director.

b. Canadian Justice Ministries – you can subscribe to a new monthly newsletter with stories from Canadian Indigenous Ministry, Intercultural Ministry, and the Centre for Public Dialogue. This newsletter will also include stories from CRCs across Canada.

c. Canada website - visit for regular updates related to governance, upcoming events and Canadian ministries.

d. Facebook and/or Instagram Profiles – become a follower of

i. Christian Reformed Church in North America (Facebook | Instagram)

ii. The Banner Magazine

iii. Resonate Global Mission

iv. ReFrame Ministries

v. CRC Canadian Indigenous Ministry Committee

vi. CRC Do Justice e. Diaconal Ministries Canada also has a website which may be helpful and informative

f. CRCNA website - under 'Resources' subscribe to regular email updates like CRC Communications and CRC Network.

2. Inform yourself of the latest news:

a. Intercultural Ministry - we have newly hired Sebastian Maldonado and Jeremiah Basuric to co-lead the Canadian Intercultural Ministry (see news story). Sebastian and Jeremiah started in late 2024.

b. Toward CRC Canada, the Executive Committee of the Canada Ministry Board and the Executive Director are in ongoing discussions and have been since the inception of this

group. We encourage their leadership to be clear in their direction and expectation of our board and Canadian churches. Prayers for God's will to be done are appreciated and comments / advice for the board are always welcome.

Chat with me, your delegate, today.

c. Synod 2025 is planned to be held at Redeemer University in Ancaster Ontario. The COD and Canada Ministry Board encourage prayerful consideration by each classis as you choose your Synodical delegates.

3. I encourage you to ask me your questions - I serve on classis' behalf on the Council of Delegates, a COD Committee, as well as the Canada Ministry Board. I am very aware of much of what is happening and the resources that are available to classes and churches. If someone asks me a question I can't answer, I can find out or point you in the direction where you can find the correct information.

Finally, I would like to note that my term on the COD is ending on June 30, 2025. It has been a joy, privilege and challenge to serve the Lord, Classis ABSS and the CRCNA denomination for the past three years. I have learned a great deal, read both soaring and stark reports. I have had the fun of meeting many other members of our vast and diverse denomination. This has given me a beautiful glimpse into the breadth and depth of the Kingdom of God. I am thankful to ABSS for putting my name forward and for this opportunity. Now it is time to pass this on to someone else. Please prayerfully consider people you might know who would be a good nominee for this position. I have included my contact information at the end of this report and would be more than happy to discuss this role with anyone who is interested but wants to know more. The COD is always seeking people from diverse backgrounds and points of view so please keep your horizons wide open. I am also praying for the next person who is called into this role.

Gratefully Submitted by Debbie Karambowich

Council of Delegates ABSS

Call: 403-606-3086

Email: [debbiekarambowich@riverparkchurch.com](mailto:debbiekarambowich@riverparkchurch.com)



## 7.4 Winter 2025 Letter to CRCNA Classes

December 17, 2024

Dear Classes of the Christian Reformed Church:

Greetings. At the beginning of 2025, my heart turns to the image of journeying. Psalm 126 is a “song of ascents,” or a pilgrimage song, associated with Judah’s exile. Even while Jerusalem and its temple were in a state of disruption and rebuilding, many Jews held fast to their ancient practices of pilgrimage and festivals (e.g., Ezra 3). Pilgrims “going up” to Jerusalem sang Psalm 126, giving voice to both heaviness of the exile and joyful gratitude for God’s continued faithfulness. While their “mouths were filled with laughter” and their “tongues with songs of joy,” many were also “sowing with tears” and “going out weeping, caring seeds to sow.” And yet, in this space of mixed emotions, the pilgrims’ shared a confession, “The Lord has done great things for us.”

As churches and classes, we too are on a journey together. We confess God’s sovereign and gracious rule over our lives and ministry. Though many of us journey with lament of some kind, we also look forward with expectation. The Lord has done great things for us, and we can support each other on this pilgrim journey. Sharing the journey as a community of churches is one way God meets us on the road. Wherever you are on the journey at the beginning of this new year, CRCNA staff members want to walk with you as we “go up” together to serve and worship our God in 2025.

With thankfulness we want to [announce](#) that the Council of Delegates (our CRCNA ecclesiastical board) approved the appointment of Rev. Joel Vande Werken as the CRC’s Director of Ecclesiastical Governance in October 2024. This role succeeds the Director of Synodical Services position, filled by Rev. Scott DeVries until his death in April 2024. Joel’s focus in this role has shifted from logistical support for synod to a greater emphasis on providing resourcing for all of our church assemblies, in order to promote spiritual discernment in the church’s mission and ministry. Joel comes into this role with eighteen years of pastoral ministry experience in New Jersey and Massachusetts, and brings with him a strong desire to promote collaborative ministry which utilizes the CRC’s polity to support good conversation about the work God has called us to do together. Please feel free to reach out to Joel and his team with your governance questions or concerns at [synod@crcna.org](mailto:synod@crcna.org).

**Rev. Zachary King, Ph.D.**  
General Secretary  
616-224-0832  
[general-secretary@crcna.org](mailto:general-secretary@crcna.org)

1700 28th Street SE  
Grand Rapids MI 49508-1407  
616-241-1691

3475 Mainway  
PO Box 5070 STN LCD I  
Burlington ON L7R 3Y8  
905-336-2920

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

We would also like to remind the classes about the coming Gather events this winter and spring. Gather is an initiative to bring together congregations from all 49 CRCNA classes for a prayerful, worshipful discussion about how God is renewing the churches for mission and ministry. Classes Arizona, California South, Central Plains, Chicago South, Grand Rapids East, Grand Rapids South, Grandville, Hamilton, Hanmi, Hudson, Illiana, Minnkota, North Central Iowa, Northern Illinois, Northern Michigan, Ontario SW, Red Mesa, Rocky Mountain, Southeast US, Thornapple Valley, Toronto, Wisconsin, Yellowstone, and Zeeland are invited to Gather this winter and spring. More information, including an FAQ document, can be found at [crcna.org/gather](http://crcna.org/gather). A report on what we have learned from Gather will be shared with classes, the Council of Delegates, and synod in 2025 in response to synod's directions.

We would like to share a few other reminders and information with you as well:

Information regarding Synod 2025:

- January-March: Classes appoint four delegates and alternates to synod during their winter meetings. We remind classes to attend to the diversity of their delegate slates
- March 15: Synod credentials, delegate information forms, and all *Agenda for Synod* items due to the Synodical Services office
- May 28: Synod convenes virtually for its opening session at 7:00 p.m.
- June 13-19: Synod meets in person at Redeemer University (Ancaster, Ontario)

Other reminders:

- The Office of General Secretary is [soliciting feedback](#) from the classes about their connections to churches outside North America as part of the implementation of [the CRCNA's global vision](#) approved at Synod 2024.
- Important documents and resources for classis leaders have been available to Stated Clerks on the [Stated Clerks site](#).

May God bless you in 2025 as we journey together in the power of our faithful God.

Yours in Christ,



Zachary King  
General Secretary

P.S. As you have the opportunity, please share [this video](#) during your classis meeting.



## Advancing God's Kingdom Through Your Ministry Shares

Dear Canadian Churches,

Thank YOU! Seriously, you have no idea the incredible stories you're a part of. Because of your faithfulness and generosity through Ministry Shares, amazing things are happening: missionaries are proclaiming Christ in new regions, kids are discovering their faith through Dwell, and Canadian church communities are finding healing and hope through ministries like Thrive. Ministry Shares connect us all to something so much bigger than ourselves—each contribution adds another layer to this beautiful story of God's kingdom at work.

Take a moment to look at the smiling faces in the photo here. You helped make those smiles possible. This group is from Indigenous Christian Fellowship. Every Tuesday to Friday morning, they gather in a circle to read one of Jesus' parables, share their thoughts, pray together, and then roll up their sleeves to serve their community. They feed the hungry, provide bikes and mattresses, meet basic needs, and welcome volunteers—even those fulfilling community service hours—with the love and kindness of Christ.



Your church's Ministry Shares make frontline ministry like this happen. You're amplifying the love and goodness of Jesus in tangible, life-changing ways. Thank you for carrying this vision to your councils and for inspiring others to see the incredible opportunities we have to advance God's kingdom together. Your voice matters. Your gifts matter. And the impact of your ministry is felt far and wide.



With Gratitude,

*Roshani Morton*

Roshani Morton  
Director of Advancement (Canada)  
Direct Line: (289) 252-2773  
rmorton@crcna.org

## You Keep This Going!

Did you know that our Denominational Ministry Shares represent a covenant between all 238 Canadian churches and 743 USA churches? That's right—we're in this together, supporting incredible shared ministries that are changing lives around the globe. But what exactly are you supporting? Well, get ready to find out in the most exciting way possible...

### COMING SOON: CRCNA Airlines!

Pack your imagination and join us for an unforgettable 1.5 hour interactive experience! "CRCNA Airlines" is ready for takeoff, and Chief Flight Attendant Roshani Morton (your friendly Director of Advancement, Canada) will guide you on an inspiring journey.



#### What's the destination?

A front-row seat to the incredible global impact of Ministry Shares! Together, we'll "travel" to Cambodia, Uganda, Canada, the USA, and Urban Indigenous Ministries. This isn't just a presentation—it's an adventure filled with stories, treasures, and tangible examples of how your church's Ministry Shares are making a difference.

Here's what to expect:

- **An immersive experience:** Explore the reach of Ministry Shares in a fun and interactive format.
- **Carry-on keepsakes:** Collect treasures and stories from each "stop," symbolizing the lives touched by your support.
- **Global flavors and fellowship:** Enjoy a taste of community and connection as we travel together.
- **A clear vision:** Walk away inspired, knowing how every dollar contributes to kingdom work.

We're hosting this event in **BC** and **Alberta**, with details to come soon. Mark your calendars and spread the word—this is an event your council members won't want to miss.

**EVENT:** CRCNA Airlines: **Surrey**  
**DATE:** Saturday, April 5, 2025  
**LOCATION:** TBD  
**TIME:** TBD

**EVENT:** CRCNA Airlines:  
**Abbotsford**  
**DATE:** Sunday April 6, 2025  
**LOCATION:** New Life Christian  
Reformed Church (35270 Delair Rd,  
Abbotsford, BC V3G 2E2)  
**TIME:** 6:30pm - 8pm

**EVENT:** CRCNA Airlines: **Edmonton**  
**DATE:** Saturday, May 24, 2025  
**LOCATION:** West End Christian  
Reformed Church (10015 149 St,  
Edmonton, AB T5P 4Y4)  
**TIME:** TBD

## *Thank You for Welcoming the Extraordinary Octopus!*

A huge thank you to the many churches across Canada who have invited us to share the story of the “Extraordinary Octopus”! This fun and memorable 10-minute presentation has been a hit during offering time and at congregational meetings, helping “the people in the pews” better understand the incredible reach of their Ministry Share dollars.

Why an octopus? It’s the perfect metaphor to illustrate the many arms of Ministry Shares, each extending to support life-changing ministries around the world and right here at home. Along with this playful analogy, we share a heartfelt story that brings it all closer to home, showing the real and local impact of your generosity.

Pictured below are the deacons of Classis learning about how they “feed” the Extraordinary Octopus with their Ministry Shares—and seeing firsthand how those contributions make a meaningful difference. If your church would like to join in on the fun and host the Extraordinary Octopus, email **Rebecca Reeve at [reeve@crcna.org](mailto:reeve@crcna.org) to schedule a presentation.**



## *Meet Your Advancement Team — Here to Champion Your Church!*

We're more than just a team delivering updates—we're your partners in making Ministry Shares as impactful and meaningful as possible. **Our mission?** To help every dollar go further in advancing God's kingdom while supporting your church's unique goals.



### **Roshani Morton, Director of Advancement (Canada)**

With a passion for showing how Ministry Shares benefit your local church and spread the gospel globally, Roshani helps councils connect the dots between giving and impact. She also offers practical fundraising tips tailored to churches facing low-tithe situations and can guide councils on how to support denominational ministries while growing your local mission. Need fundraising guidance or have questions about Ministry Shares? Reach out to Roshani at [rmorton@crcna.org](mailto:rmorton@crcna.org)



### **Cathy Fraser, Advancement Administrator**

Cathy is the glue that keeps our team running smoothly. Whether it's pledge season, finances, or helping church treasurers and admins navigate Ministry Shares, Cathy's your behind-the-scenes expert. Her attention to detail and knack for anticipating needs make working with Ministry Shares a breeze for churches. Got administrative or financial questions? Cathy's got your back at [cfraser@crcna.org](mailto:cfraser@crcna.org).



### **Rebecca Reeve, Advancement Church Engagement Coordinator**

Rebecca is the storyteller of the team, bringing the impact of Ministry Shares to life. She loves visiting churches—whether it's on a Sunday morning or at a congregational meeting—to share inspiring stories of lives changed by your support. From global missions to local ministries, Rebecca helps you see the difference your generosity makes. Want to schedule a Ministry Shares presentation? Email Rebecca at [reeve@crcna.org](mailto:reeve@crcna.org).

# TOP REASONS WHY

Deacons are Needed  
at Classis & Synod

To compile our list of reasons, we've used the Bible, the Form for the Ordination of Elders and Deacons (2016), the Church Order, and our own experience.

**1** **Deacons Are Equals** God provides the unique gifts and abilities required for each role on Council and none are greater, or more important, than another. We call this "Parity between Church Offices".

- A whole new set of spiritual and practical gifts are represented when deacons are present.
- Given the different gifts, responsibilities and mandates of Deacons, Elders and Pastors, it seems clear that all three ought to be represented at Classis and Synod meetings in order to listen, pray and assist in the hearing of God's voice.
- *Deacons serve by leading and equipping the church to minister to its members and the world in a rich diversity of ministries... The deacons and elders, together with the ministers, are responsible for the general administration of the church. As well, Church Order Article 75 states that each classis shall ensure that deacons and elders are incorporated into the structure and plans for ministry in a manner consistent with their respective mandates.*

**2** **Deacons Add Value** It's important to note that the areas of **Service, Justice, Stewardship, Compassion and Prophetic Criticism** are specifically described as the work of Deacons. In order to carry out this part of their calling it is very important that Deacons are well represented at the meetings of Classis and Synod.

- **Service** – Deacons are called not only to serve, but to *inspire faithful ministries of service to one another, to the larger community, and to the world.*
- **Justice** – Deacons are charged with the responsibility of reminding the church *that the Lord requires us to act justly and to love mercy and walk humbly with [our] God (Micah 6:8).* They are to do this by offering *holistic responses that respect the dignity of all people, working to change exploitative structures and systems, equipping the church for ministries of reconciliation and peacemaking, and seeking opportunities for advocacy.*
- **Stewardship** (of Time, Trees, Talents & Treasures) – Deacons are called to prompt the church *to seize new opportunities to love God, our neighbours, and the creation, with acts of generous sharing, joyful hospitality, thoughtful care for the poor, and wise stewardship of all of God's gifts.*

- **Compassion** – The Charge to the Deacons reminds us that, *with respectful compassion for the needy and awareness of the often hidden needs of the wealthy, the Deacons are to teach us to minister to rich and poor alike, both within and outside the church. And Deacons are to encourage with words that create hope in hearts and with deeds that bring joy into lives.*
- **Prophetic Criticism** – Deacons are also entrusted with the responsibility of being *prophetic critics of the waste, injustice, and selfishness in our society, and [are to] be sensitive counselors to the victims of such evils.*

3

**Deacons Add Diversity** Since diaconates are often more diversified in age and gender than the offices of Elder and Minister, having Deacons “at the table” will help to diversify these denominational gatherings.

4

**Deacons Remind the Church to Live into its Missional Calling**

Throughout the history of the church, the areas of Justice, Stewardship, Compassion, and Ministries of Service have always had a rich connection to mission.

- For the Church to live into its missional calling, both as individual congregations and as a denomination, decisions that are made in these areas need to involve the people ordained to live into that calling, namely Deacons.

5

**Deacons Hold the Church Accountable** Given the gravity of the Deacons’ Mandate and their responsibility to animate congregations to live into it, it seems prudent to have them hold the church accountable in these areas.

- For example, if Deacons see the church allowing its most vulnerable members to languish alone, or if they notice apathy within the church for those outside of the church, it is important for them to raise these issues at every assembly of the church, calling it back to its responsibilities.

6

**Deacons ~ It’s Not Just Another Meeting** Since Deacons are seen as the “doers” of the church, it can seem counterproductive to attend another meeting!

- Without Deacons at the table of the major assemblies of the church, some of the conversations we *must* be having may never be had. Classis and Synod meetings are places where all office-bearers can hear and share stories concerning where God is at work locally and internationally. Being in these meetings allows Deacons to learn from these stories and helps them establish best practices.

7

**We are ALWAYS Better Together** Seating Deacons at Classis and Synod meetings strengthens God’s Church, the body of Christ.

- “[Christ] makes the whole body fit together perfectly. As each part does its own special work, it helps the other parts grow, so that the whole body is healthy and growing and full of love.” Ephesians 4:16 (NLT)

DMC—June 2018

Diaconal Ministries Canada exists to inspire, equip and encourage deacons, churches and their partners as they join in God’s transforming work in communities.

diaconalministries.com | 1-800-730-3490 | dmc@crcna.org



DIACONAL MINISTRIES  
CANADA



# Annual Report about 2024

*to our*

## Supporting Churches & Friends

**Annual Report to our Friends and Supporters**

Winter 2025

During the past year (2024) ICF continued to serve in North Central Regina.

Through the collaboration of volunteers from the community, supporting churches, and staff the ministry continued to provide these services:

- Morning Prayer ceremonies from Tuesday through Friday
- Coffee, tea and snack after the morning Prayer Ceremony (about 20,000 visits)
- Preparation of 120 sandwiches for distribution at Trinity Lutheran Church from Tuesday through Friday with volunteers from Bread of Life Lutheran, Sonlight CRC, Our Savior's Lutheran, Eastside United, and Christ Lutheran.
- A soup and bannock meal each Wednesday (almost 5,000 including more than 600 deliveries)
- A selection of clothing, furniture, household appliances, and more through the Community Sharing Time each Thursday afternoon
- Bedding supplies (Mattresses, box springs, bed frames) on Fridays
- A Family Breakfast each Saturday morning (@ 6,000 meals including @ 600 deliveries)

Additionally, the ministry provided space and support for various groups, including:

- An AA (Alcoholics Anonymous meeting) each Tuesday evening
- A monthly meeting of the Indigenous Grandmother Support Network on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday
- A monthly meeting of the Intercultural Grandmothers Uniting on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday

The ministry was pleased to host a Christian Indigenous music concert in July 2024 featuring Falynn Baptiste and Jonathan Maracle with his group Broken Walls.

The Ceremonial Garden also provided a venue for an inaugural Prayer Service on the evening of the national Day for Truth and Reconciliation (Orange Shirt Day).

Looking forward to 2025, Indigenous Christian Fellowship hopes:

- to host the premier exhibit of the art series "Home Fires Teachings"
- continue development of the Ceremonial Garden and completion of repairs to the roof
- review and revision of the ministry's bylaws
- recruitment of a new Executive Director to replace Bert Adema

The Council and staff of Indigenous Christian Fellowship thank our friends and supporters for your continued support through another year.

Bert Adema, ICF Executive Director



# Photos of life at ICF in 2024

## Serving Food – Family Breakfast and a Winter Time BBQ



*Grill Masters: Sean & Richard*



*Food Prep: Doug & Art*



*BBQ Boss: Jeff*

## ICF Parking Lot: Setting Up for Sharing Food, Furniture, and Clothing & more



*Lunch Break for Everyone!*

### *Future Supervisor In training*



*Sewing: Gwen, Maddy, Glenda, Emily*



*Back to School BBQ*



*Garden Shed Being Built*



*New Harvest*



*New Art!*

Everyone is invited to pray for the ministry of ICF. Financial support for ICF can be done through cheques mailed to the ministry (3131 Dewdney Avenue, Regina, SK S4T 0Y5) or by e-transfers sent to [support@icfregina.ca](mailto:support@icfregina.ca) (Please include your email address in the comment section!) Thank you for your prayers and support!



## 7.10 Calvin University Classis Letter

December 2025

Greetings Classis,

1. At our last board meeting, the Calvin University board of trustees voted unanimously to approve Greg Elzinga as Calvin's 13<sup>th</sup> president. Mr. Elzinga is a gifted man who lives for the Lord and whose goal it is to encourage students "to think deeply, to act justly, and to live wholeheartedly as Christ's agents of renewal in the world". He has been a Calvin student, parent, and staff member, and administrator. More information on President Elzinga can be found at [calvin.edu/president](http://calvin.edu/president) and in the October 2024 issue of the Banner.
2. In the meeting, we also:
  - i. Held discussions on how best to respond to Synod 2024. A select committee has been struck and is presently doing the work of continuing these discussions and crafting a response to be presented at Synod 2025.
  - ii. Heard reports of how enrollment is increasing at Calvin. The total enrollment at Calvin now exceeds 3600 – a mark it hasn't hit since 2018. And Calvin continues to grow in diversity, both ethnically and geographically (for example, this year more than 18% of Calvin's student body is BIPOC – Black, Indigenous, People of Colour). To see more, please see the Dec. 2024 issue of the Calvin Spark (alumni newspaper), page 6.

Of particular interest to me was the fact sheet on Canadian students attending Calvin. It shows the costs, as well as grants available to students from Canada. For more, please go to:

[https://issuu.com/jhv3/docs/canada\\_factsheet\\_2024-issuu](https://issuu.com/jhv3/docs/canada_factsheet_2024-issuu)

I very much covet your prayers for Calvin – thanks to God for the momentum it enjoys, for even more increase in student numbers, and for continued faithfulness to God's call.

If you have questions or comments about Calvin, please either contact Calvin directly or else contact me at [jackbeek2@gmail.com](mailto:jackbeek2@gmail.com)

Blessings,

Jack Beeksmā, your rep. to the Calvin University Board of Trustees

## 7.11 Report to Classis Alberta South/Saskatchewan of the Christian Reformed Church: Winter 2025

Greetings from The King's University! We once again experienced an increase in our student enrolment for the 2024/25 academic year. We had a 2% increase in the total number of students this year compared to last year. We are grateful for the 835 students who studied at King's this fall.

To start the academic year, the Fall retreat was a big success and saw a record turnout of over 170 students, staff, and faculty who gathered at Camp Nakamun for two nights. Chaplain Harold Roscher of the Edmonton Native Healing Centre shared stories of reconciliation from his own life, and our Network for Vocation in Undergraduate Education (NetVUE) team led a session on vocation and calling. Students also enjoyed ziplining, boating, and beach volleyball! Fall Retreat is a wonderful long-standing tradition at King's that continues to grow each year.

We are pleased to announce that chemistry professor Dr. Peter Mahaffy is the 2025 recipient of the George C. Pimentel Award in Chemical Education. The award, granted by the [American Chemical Society \(ACS\)](#), recognizes two key areas of Mahaffy's teaching and research: understanding and relating to chemistry as a human activity and reimagining the teaching and learning of chemistry by using "systems thinking" tools. Mahaffy's innovative work as the director of [King's Centre for Visualization in Science \(KCVS\)](#) is at the forefront of systems thinking. In collaboration with a team of undergraduate student researchers and a network of international and Edmonton-based experts, KCVS has developed an extensive range of digital resources that teach students to consider how chemical systems connect the world. Educators and students can access these interactive models, visualizations, and curriculum materials for free at [kcv.s.ca](#).

[King's Centre for Visualization in Science \(KCVS\)](#) has received a \$15,000 grant from ATCO. The grant will fund the development of an interactive learning tool to explore the impacts of various forms of hydrogen as they pertain to Alberta's energy future. Once developed, this free digital learning resource will demonstrate how the introduction of mass hydrogen production will impact Alberta's energy infrastructure. Explaining hydrogen in an interactive and easy-to-use format will help the public better understand the factors that impact our energy future. The grant will also supplement funds for a student research position as well as professional development sessions for high school and university teachers.

Chemistry students Dominic Pfeifer and Rio Bouwers received second and third place awards for their research presentations at the Canadian Society for Chemistry Conference in Winnipeg. Their research is part of two larger grant projects led by King's professor, Dr. Cassidy VanderSchee. The first studies the chemical interactions of oilsands contaminants; the second, the impact of tungsten metal in bone implants. Both projects are uncovering the important chemical stories at play in the environment and our own bodies and will ultimately help chemists work towards safer solutions to some of these issues. You can read more about both projects [here](#).

On March 6, 2025, we are welcoming all parents of prospective students to uncover how King's empowers students to grow spiritually, strengthen their faith, excel academically, and achieve their career aspirations. Join us for an exclusive Parents' Night event where you'll gain insights from our admissions team, learn about our unique academic programs, understand comprehensive financial support, and connect with other parents and current faculty. We're offering a unique opportunity for attending parents: a free application for your child and complimentary refreshments. This no-cost, no-obligation information session could be the first step toward your child's brightest future.

We have an upcoming Open House on March 22, 2025. It's a perfect opportunity to discover the unique and highly recognized programs that set King's graduates apart. Take a tour of campus, talk with an admissions counsellor, and meet faculty and staff who are ready to answer your questions. If you won't be in Edmonton on the 22<sup>nd</sup> to look around, we welcome visitors to campus at any time. Whether you are a prospective student, an alum who wants to see what's changed, or a supporter who is curious about what's happening on campus, you are always welcome. Contact [admissions@kingsu.ca](mailto:admissions@kingsu.ca) to arrange your visit.

Thank you for the continued prayers and support that we receive from the churches in Classis AB South/Saskatchewan. We are grateful for your continued partnership. So much of what we are doing with our students at The King's University is only possible with the continued support from our community.

In His service,

Melanie Humphreys, PhD  
President

## **7.12 Greetings from Classis Quinte,**

Coming in the next 18 months, under church order article 44a, Classis Quinte is organizing an assembly of Canadian Classes to discuss Canadian CRC ministry. The aim of this gathering is to give voice to the local churches and regional classes all across Canada. The specific proposal that Classis Quinte adopted is found below.

As we plan for this gathering, we need help from each Canadian Classis. We believe that it is important that the agenda for this gathering to be established by the Canadian church. We also believe that it is important that this meeting works harmoniously with the Canada Corp of the CRCNA. Currently, we need to build a steering team that represents Canada from East to West. We request that each classis submit the name of one office bearer who can join our steering team for planning this gathering. We are planning our first steering team meeting on Zoom for February 27<sup>th</sup> @ 12:00 PM Central.

As the steering team does the work of planning this gathering, when we get closer to the gathering we will be requesting each classis to nominate 4 delegates to this gathering.

We also would like to hear from you. We are eager to hear your thoughts about this gathering. We want to know what potential agenda items we should consider. We would love to answer any questions that you may have. Communication is vital to the health of CRCNA, please reach out and get the conversation started.

In summary, Classis Quinte requests all Canadian Classes to:

- Pray for the planning of this gathering
- Recommend an office bearer for the steering team
- Send communication about potential agenda items
- Be prepared to nominate 4 delegates, later this year

Please send all communications to [pastor@brightoncrc.ca](mailto:pastor@brightoncrc.ca)

In Christ's service

Rev. Ryan Braam

## **Ecclesiastical gathering of Canadian Churches Background**

We have long struggled as a Canadian church to find an appropriate venue through which we can discuss matters particular to our national context. A history of this struggle is well articulated in Gayla Postma's *The CRC in Canada: A Field Guide* (Postma,

2023). Our place within the Christian Reformed Church of North America has been good and fruitful but there are places where we have experienced pain and brokenness in our attempt to find our voice.

There have been movements and attempts to address these challenges. Regional Synods have been proposed. Boards, committees, and corporations have been formed. Governance structures included an equal percentage of Canadian and US representatives and then diminished that voice as the Council of Delegates was formed. Distinctive Canadian ministries have developed. Joint ministry agreements have been entered into.

Our current system leaves us in the following place: we exist within a binational institutional framework where our ministries are under the direction and control of national corporations in order to satisfy the requirements of the Canada Revenue Agency. Discussion of our ministries and the joint ministry agreements fall under the purview of the Canada Corporation and are led by our executive director.

We also exist within a binational ecclesiastical framework of Synod and the Council of Delegates. The local churches delegate to the Classes who then delegate to Synod which then empowers the Council of Delegates for service between the Synods.

These frameworks work, for the most part, and are constantly evolving to meet the needs of our churches. They do not, however, address a specific gap within our church polity and order that has persisted through the decades. There exists no place within our order for the Canadian churches to discuss ecclesiastical matters around mission, ministry and theology that are particular to our national context.

Synods are binational and Canadian questions are taken up by a majority with little to no understanding of our dynamics. The Council of Delegates is binational and institutional: ecclesiastical questions are generally reserved for Synod and again fall into an “outside of the culture” decision-making frame. The Canada Corporation exists to oversee the operations of the distinct Canadian ministries. They are not an ecclesiastical body outside of the Council of Delegates and do not represent the churches in that fashion nor are they directly accountable to the Canadian churches through their relationship to the Synod.

This has created significant challenges for our mission and ministry. A couple of examples from recent history though there are many more to be found through the decades.

- The Doctrine of Discovery discussions were initiated as a Canadian contextual conversation. Our ecclesiastical structure enveloped the conversation into a binational task force that quickly took on a defensive posture for US history and ministry that diminished our own needs within the Truth and Reconciliation

process. It led to hurts within our ministries and our leadership because our agency was diminished.

- The implementation of the SALT recommendations to satisfy Canadian requirements that were voted against by the Canadian delegates to the Council of Delegates and implemented by a binational Synod despite a process and report for restructuring being completed in consultation with the Canadian churches.

The answer may seem simple: that the Christian Reformed Church in North America revisit the idea of regional synods or that the Canadian churches simply move out of the attic to become a distinct, but closely and institutionally related, denomination.

The purpose of this proposal is not either of these.

Historically our binationality has yielded rich fruit and our relationships are mutually beneficial, synods have resisted regional synods to encourage our churches to continue to work together, there are many relationships that are already strained by a thickening border and a climate of division and while good order may find itself best preserved within cleaner structures, there is something beautiful in manifesting, at least in part, a church of all nations.

We are also seeing a time of change within our denomination that will require us to prepare for our ecclesiastical future. The denomination is moving from a Christian Reformed Church in North America framework to the newly constituted “Christian Reformed Church Worldwide” that will be moving to expand our focus beyond binationality. We are beginning to see this expansion with the welcome of brothers and sisters from the Venezuelan churches and should expect to see more. <https://www.thebanner.org/news/2022/10/venezuelan-churches-affiliate-through-california-classis> It is certainly prudent for us to plan for that future by building healthy structures of dialogue between our churches.

How do we address the gap? How do we retain what is good? How do we overcome what is not?

## **The Proposal**

Church order allows for groups of classes to work together on issues of mutual concern:

### ***Article 44***

***a. A classis may take counsel or joint action with its neighboring classis or classes in matters of mutual concern.***

***b. Classes engaging in matters of mutual concern may organize themselves into***

***an ecclesiastical assembly that will function on the level of classis, with freedom to determine the delegation from the constituent classes and the frequency of meetings. Such an assembly's authority, jurisdiction, and mandate shall be approved by synod. It shall have direct access to synod in all matters pertaining to its mandate.***

We have used this mechanism as the basis for Canadian Catalytic Conversations. A note that only Article 44a has been invoked as these measures have not risen to the level of an ecclesiastical assembly in form and function as described in section b. These have been held in response to acute symptoms within our binational relationship but more is needed in order to address both the gaps and the opportunities that our current structures are unable to meet.

We propose that Classis Quinte host an ecclesiastical gathering of the Canadian Classes. This would be an in-person meeting of 4 officebearers representing each Canadian Classis to be held in 2025.

The purpose of this initial meeting would be to pray for the Canadian churches and worship together, to discuss matters of mutual ecclesial interest (via agenda items submitted by the various Classes), perhaps create partnerships around these discussions between Classes to take up certain matters in common with respect to Synod, determine the need for future meetings and if desirable to determine the structure for regular ecclesiastical gatherings of the Canadian churches, whether simply meeting together under Church Order article 44a is sufficient or whether a more formal structure under 44b would be advantageous and if so to determine a process to arrive at that place, and establish a committee to operate between meetings to facilitate agenda and logistics.

This meeting would require the following from Classis Quinte:

- A lead team to communicate with the Canadian Classes, to establish an agenda, to coordinate worship, and to provide leadership for the meeting.
- The formation of a logistics committee to handle issues of location, accommodation, hospitality and travel.
- A budget amount to accommodate initial deposits and expenses for the meeting. Each Classis ought be asked to contribute to the overall costs of the meeting at an equal share to ensure no Classis is burdened by travel expenses.

**Motion: That Classis Quinte work together with the Canada Corporation to call together an ecclesiastical meeting of the Canadian churches represented by 4 officebearer representatives from each classis under Church Order Article 44a for the above purposes and with the above structure.**