



Synod Decision: Reimagining Ministry Shares

Synod 2019 adopted, in principle, a Reimagining Ministry Shares report that lays out a significantly revised ministry-share process. It is the intent of Synod 2019 that this report be distributed to the churches to consider and comment upon during the next twelve months, with the hope that Synod 2020 will approve the system. A summary of the proposed revisions appears below.

Please note that until Synod 2020 takes action, the system will remain as it has been. As has been the practice for many years, you should receive information soon about the 2020 ministry share requested amounts for your congregation. Later this summer, you will also be receiving information about the ministry shares “reimagined” system to share with your congregation.

What Changes Are Being Proposed in the “Reimagined” Program?

- Synod will no longer set a per-member allocation amount.
- Instead, as part of their budgeting process, each congregation will be asked to prayerfully consider how much they can covenant to contribute to ministry shares each year. General guidance for making this decision will be developed by denominational staff, endorsed by the Council of Delegates (COD), and sent to the churches and classis treasurers in July of each year.
- Congregational commitments will be gathered by each classis and discussed at the fall classis meeting. This will allow classes to be aware of contribution pledges coming from their region. It will also allow churches to discuss how the overall pledge amount from the classis can be maximized.
- Each classis will decide if emerging churches should be encouraged to pledge a contribution to ministry shares.
- Each classis will forward their member congregations’ pledges to the denominational offices. A preliminary budget for the institutions, agencies, and ministries will be set based on what is pledged. This budget will be finalized at the May Council of Delegates meeting each year.

What Isn’t Changing?

- Ministry shares serve as a covenant commitment between all members of the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
- Ministry shares allow every CRC member and every CRC congregation—no matter what their size or financial ability—to be a part of shared ministry around the world.
- The ministries funded by ministry shares were created by CRC members through actions of synod to meet various CRC needs and concerns, including global and local mission, Christian media outreach, abuse prevention, faith formation, racial reconciliation, and much more.
- Ministry shares are also used to fund Calvin College. In some regions, a reduction of this portion of ministry shares is recommended so that some of those monies can be allocated to Reformed educational institutions in the area. Guidance for recommended contributions will continue to be provided.
- CRCNA ministries will continue to be stewardly with all donations received and will use them to fulfil the core mandates assigned by synod.
- Ministry shares will continue to be an efficient and cost-effective way of doing ministry together.

If you have comments or feedback about this potential change coming to Synod 2020, please email the executive director at executive-director@crcna.org. For more substantial responses, consider submitting an overture or communication through your classis to synod by the March 15 deadline (see [Rules for Synodical Procedure](#)).

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