



CHRISTIAN
REFORMED
CHURCH
IN
NORTH
AMERICA

Rev. Gerard Dykstra
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

2850 Kalamazoo Ave. SE
Grand Rapids, MI 49560

executive-director@crcna.org
(616)224-0832
Fax: (616)224-5895

April 7, 2009

CRC Congregations

Dear partners in ministry:

Thank you for the helpful comments and reflections I received following my recent letters about the ongoing financial challenges we all face. I want to continue our dialogue by sharing an update about what we are doing at the denominational and agency level.

Through the end of March, ministry share receipts are running at 90 percent of the 2009 budget. You may recall that in February the total projected shortfall of the agencies and denominational offices for FY2009 was \$6 million. Through a variety of measures, including reductions to employee benefits and compensation, we reduced expenditures by \$2.5 million. We plan to meet the balance of the shortfall by using our limited reserves.

We continue to monitor our financial situation carefully and expect to have further discussions about the ministry budgets for 2009-2010 with the Board of Trustees when they meet April 30 - May 1.

Our ministries have been significantly impacted by the present economic conditions. As you well know from your own experience, when resources are reduced, ministry changes. Like you, agency staff and boards are carefully and painfully dealing with the need to reduce our ministries, both in North America and worldwide.

As we in the Christian Reformed Church in North America have worked together obediently and faithfully to nurture our ministries, we have done so in complete dependence on God and his provision. Now as we experience the present global economic downturn, we ask you to join us as we

- 1. Pray that God will give local church leaders, such as yourself as well as the agency and denominational leaders, wisdom and discernment as we seek to follow his plans for ministry. As we decide how and where to reduce and realign our ministries, we do so trusting that God will provide new challenges and opportunities. As Isaiah 43:19 says, "See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?"**
- 2. Encourage your congregation to give generously during the coming months. Your support through ministry shares and offerings are important to the work of the ministries of the**

CRCNA. During April and May, four of the Christian Reformed mission agencies are scheduled to receive offerings. We ask that you support these mission efforts, as well as our other agencies and institutions, as they appear on the CRCNA Deacons' Offering Calendar. Your financial gifts will help to support current ministries and grow the new ministries that God calls us to do.

Following are suggested offering dates from the 2009 Deacons' Offering Calendar:

April 12	Easter Sunday - Home Missions
May 10	CRWRC - offering for Embrace AIDS Campaign
May 24	Back to God Ministries International
May 31	Pentecost - World Missions

I am deeply grateful for the way in which God has blessed our congregational and denominational ministries, and I know he will be faithful in guiding us to do the work that brings about his kingdom. Once again, please feel free to offer me your perspective and advice. Visit www.crcna.org/letter0904 to add comments or read comments that others have posted.

Together with you in the cause of Jesus Christ,



Jerry Dykstra
Executive Director

P.S. Please consider sharing this letter with your members through your bulletin or church newsletter.