REPORT OF THE OFFICE OF ADVANCEMENT

The Advancement team’s responsibility is to encourage churches and individuals to generously give of the financial resources God has entrusted to them to support the mission and ministry of the Reformed Church in America (RCA). The team coordinates all General Synod Council fundraising efforts including, but not limited to, financial support for RCA Global Mission, Transformed & Transforming, Church Multiplication, and the Church Growth Fund. The team strives to develop and strengthen relationships with donors, potential donors, church leaders, business allies, and others to inspire financial partnerships and also strives to promote the mission and vision of the RCA.

Team members raise financial support through outright gifts, will bequests, life income plans, and grants. Any gift received by the RCA may be designated for a specific area of ministry or may be left undesignated. All undesignated general gifts are typically assigned to the RCA On Mission Fund (formerly known as the RCA Ministry Fund), a fund that supports the operational aspects of Transformed & Transforming, Global Mission, and Church Multiplication. All Global Mission undesignated gifts are typically assigned to the RCA Global Mission Endowment. The Advancement team also assists with raising resources for and awareness of the RCA Church Growth Fund through savings certificates, estate planning, special project funding, or capital campaigns.

Every gift given to the Reformed Church in America enables and empowers ministry through the church, transforming lives both locally and globally. Thanks be to God!

The mission and ministry of the RCA is largely possible because of the generosity of God’s people. In fiscal year 2020, 54 percent of the RCA’s total income was received via voluntary support (contributions and PIM shares), whereas 27 percent was received via assessment income, and the remaining 19 percent was received via other sources of income (investment earnings and fee-for-services).

The ongoing funding structure of the denomination relies heavily on the generosity of individual donors, foundations, corporations, and churches who give above and beyond assessments. We remain truly grateful for all those who have chosen to invest in the mission and ministry of the RCA. For a brief synopsis of the 2020 budget, please refer to the 2020 Ministry Impact Report that is available by calling 708-778-3780 or by emailing advancement@rca.org.

It is no secret that this is a season of transition for the Reformed Church in America. As we approach a pivotal time in our history, a time when churches will make a difficult decision to leave the denomination or remain in the denomination, our donors are impacted and influenced by those church decisions. As the RCA leadership is coming to terms with “who is staying and who is leaving,” we also need to come to terms with “which donors are staying and which donors are leaving.” However, this season of transition is also giving us absolute cause for rejoicing and praise in the fact that so many new church plants are expressing the desire to be part of our rich history, heritage, and theology. There continues to be incredible excitement and momentum around areas other than Church Multiplication as well, such as mission and ministry with Global Mission, Next Generation Engagement, Discipleship, Local Missional Engagement, Disability Concerns, equity-based hospitality, and racial reconciliation, to name a few. God is good, and we are thankful!
The RCA continues to partner with Barnabas Foundation for resources around estate planning, planned giving, and planned gift management. The easiest gift, and oftentimes the gift with the most impact, is the gift that is made through an estate plan. For information about how you can include the RCA in your final estate plan, or how you can receive income for the remainder of your lifetime from a planned gift that will benefit the RCA at the time of your passing, please contact Larryl Humme at lhumme@rca.org.

The mission and ministry of the Reformed Church in America only happens because of the generosity of people like you throughout the denomination. Please consider including a gift to the RCA in your regular giving or in your estate plan. For more information on how to do this, please visit www.rca.org/give or contact one of the Advancement team members:

- Larryl Humme, director of Advancement, lhumme@rca.org or 708-778-3780
- Natalie Lopez, executive assistant, nlopez@rca.org or 616-541-0881