REPORT OF THE GENERAL SYNOD COUNCIL ON 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 (GSC) fundraising efforts while striving to develop and strengthen relationships with donors, potential donors, church leaders, business allies, and others that will inspire financial partnerships, but also promote the mission and vision of the RCA.

Team members raise financial support through outright gifts, will bequests, life income plans, and grants. These funds are primarily given as a result of personal solicitation on the part of an Advancement staff member and/or member of the RCA Strategic Leadership Team (SLT) or via direct mail appeals. Any and every gift received by the RCA may be designated for a specific area of ministry or be left undesignated. All undesignated general gifts are typically assigned to the RCA On Mission Fund (formerly known as the RCA Ministry Fund). The RCA’s On Mission Fund supports:

- Global and local missions
- Church planting and multiplication
- Race relations and advocacy
- Leadership development
- Disability advocacy
- Women’s transformation and leadership
- Discipleship building
- Ministries of compassion
- Next generational engagement

All undesignated gifts for global mission 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.

The mission and ministry of the RCA is largely possible because of the generosity of God’s people. In fiscal year 2021, 52 percent of the RCA’s total income was received via voluntary support (contributions, grants, and Partnership-in-Mission shares), whereas 29 percent was received via assessment income. 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 2021 budget recap, please refer to the Ministry Impact Report, which is available at www.rca.org/ministryimpact. You may also request a Ministry Impact Report by calling 616-541-0881 or by emailing advancement@rca.org.

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 or 708-778-3780.

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 make a gift please visit www.rca.org/give or contact one of our team members:

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