



# MINISTRY IMPACT REPORT

OCT 2021 - SEP 2022



**A celebration of faithful  
partnership and Christ's  
transforming work**

The Reformed Church in America is a fellowship of congregations called by God and empowered by the Holy Spirit to be the very presence of Jesus Christ in the world.

Our shared task is to equip congregations for ministry—a thousand churches in a million ways doing one thing—following Christ in mission, in a lost and broken world so loved by God.

# A word from the general secretary



Dear friends,

I am always encouraged by stories of God at work in our midst. Hearing these stories of transformation through Jesus Christ is one of the blessings I receive as I serve the denomination. I hope that this year's Ministry Impact Report is such an encouragement for you, too.

God is certainly not done with the RCA! The stories captured here are just a taste of the amazing work God continues to do in and through our denomination. Missionaries and mission partners are the hands and feet of Jesus as they continue to faithfully serve the people and communities God has called them to. New believers are coming to know Jesus through the creative work of church planters, locally and around the globe. And our existing churches and ministry leaders are being trained and equipped to strengthen the church, to live into a Revelation 7:9 reality, and to bear witness to the awesome power of our God. Indeed, God is using the RCA as an instrument of discipleship, leadership, and mission on large and small scales.

These beautiful stories of individual and collective transformation are a testimony to God and to you, who faithfully support the work of the denomination through your prayers and financial support. None of this would be possible without you. Thank you!

Grace and peace,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which reads "Eddy Alemán". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Eddy Alemán  
General Secretary

# Ending ableism at church

In August, approximately 150 people gathered via Zoom for Disability Concerns' annual leadership training. The theme of the free, two-day conference was ending #AbleismAtChurch, a topic that is guiding the work of Disability Concerns this year. Presenters and panelists focused on the basics of ableism—discrimination in favor of nondisabled people—as well as ways participants can make churches more hospitable places where everybody belongs and everybody serves.

“It was such a compelling time of learning, sharing, lamenting, and dreaming together about [the] sort of communities we are called to be,” said Erik Carter, professor of special education at Vanderbilt University. “It offered so many rich insights into the postures and practices that are still needed in the church—and on the ways ableism stands in the way of faithful community.”

Not only did the training event create awareness of ableism and equip participants to combat it, but the event planning team modeled that very same equity-based hospitality in myriad ways.

“It was the most inclusive Zoom or in-person meeting I have ever attended. English, Spanish, Korean, ASL, written script, audio script, etc. Wow!” said Gloria McCanna, a retired minister in Poughkeepsie, New York. “This training was an excellent place for me to start unpacking [inaccessibility and exclusion as ableism]. ... I was challenged to think about my own theology of disability and healing.”

**Your support makes transformative training events like this possible.  
Thank you for your part in ending ableism at church!**



# A loving, forever family

Baby Bokamoso was brought to Setshabelo Family and Child Services (SFCS) in Botshabelo, South Africa, to escape an abusive birth father and to find a loving home. At SFCS, she received safety and shelter, and the search began for her new family. A few months later...

"I just witnessed a teary union," said Boniswa, an adoption specialist at SFCS. "Bokamoso has found a family!"

No longer a childless couple, Bokamoso's adoptive parents joyfully received her and promised to be a warm, loving, forever family. They gave her a new name, too: Owaratwa, meaning she is loved.

**Owaratwa is one of over 290 precious children who have been placed in loving, forever homes through SFCS adoption work in South Africa. Thank you for your generous support for missionary Denise Kingdom Grier and this amazing, life-giving ministry!**





## Living water along the Amazon

“It might sound controversial that thousands of families don’t have access to fresh water in the largest water basin in the world,” says RCA missionary Lia Dantas. “But it’s real.”

One woman prayed for a well for 20 years. When her prayers were answered and the boat ministry came to dedicate the well, the woman had tears in her eyes. She was grateful the people in her village wouldn’t get sick anymore.

“We talked about Jesus, the fountain of living water, and many of the others also cried,” says Lia. “Between tears and hugs, we felt that God was there—Emmanuel.”

**Your support of RCA Global Mission provides wells, medical boats, and transformation in Christ in the Amazon. Thank you!**



## #ShelsCalled leadership

In the spring of 2022, Devonna Cousins and Sharon Palms proudly posed with hard-earned certificates at New Brunswick Theological Seminary's commencement. They were the first two graduates of the She Is Called cohort of the certificate program in church leadership and theological studies. Women in the cohort explore their callings to become preaching elders or commissioned pastors, to go further in their seminary studies, or to become better equipped ministry leaders.

In addition, eight more women have been enrolled in the certificate program; half of all participants have already begun or are preparing to pursue master's degrees.

"They attribute much of this to their connection with Women's Transformation and Leadership and our equipping pathway, helping them stay the course, with obedience, to what God is calling them to," says Liz Testa, coordinator for Women's Transformation and Leadership and Equity-Based Hospitality. "It brings such joy to my heart to see these diverse, beautiful sisters embrace their gifts and bravely step into their next chapter of ministry leadership. **Thanks be to God!**"

**Your generosity helps make it possible for women to follow God's call to ministry and leadership.**



*At the Christians for Biblical Equality (CBE) International conference last summer, the RCA's Rev. Liz Testa received a lifetime achievement award in recognition of her vision, sacrifice, and courage in advancing the biblical basis for gender equality. Testa, who serves as coordinator for Women's Transformation and Leadership and Equity-Based Hospitality, considers the award as one shared with the denomination (and her guiding coalition and staff team)—an acknowledgment of how far the RCA has come in recent years in including and elevating women in leadership and building God's church together.*

# Going against the odds

Matthew Montanez, pastor of Mescalero Reformed Church in New Mexico, is big on outreach and wants to see more young men get involved in the church. He has an against-the-odds mentoring relationship with Tyrone Cervantes-Martinez, who leads the weekly men's group at Mescalero and helps with outreach. At first glance, it's a familiar pairing: a pastor and a rising leader.

But the original reason they have a close bond today is a little surprising: years before, Tyrone had children with the woman who would later become Matthew's wife. Seeing how Tyrone struggled with addiction, Matthew helped Tyrone to seek treatment so he could be there for his children, now their shared children.

"While I was in treatment, I told myself I would never go back to Mescalero; I had too much bad history there," Tyrone says. "But I felt God calling me to go back and make a change. I kind of grew into the church, and now I'm attending Western Theological Seminary with Matthew to get my master of divinity degree."

Tyrone is helping change the narrative of Native churches in the RCA being led by non-Native pastors. (Matthew jokingly describes himself as "Puerto Rican Mescalero.")

"I am a Native American and feel led to become a pastor on a reservation," says Tyrone. "I want to be a pastor to Native American people. We can do it."

*Your support of RCA Church Multiplication makes it possible to support and equip church planters for the work God has called them to. Revelation 7:9 is becoming a reality in the RCA!*



# Church plants take root and flourish

Every year at General Synod, the denomination recognizes and celebrates church plants and newly organized churches. See these growth updates and lively snapshots from two of them, planted in 2021 and organized last year:

**Iglesia Lugar Alto in Duluth, Georgia, has expanded to two services with a total of more than 300 people worshipping at the church.**

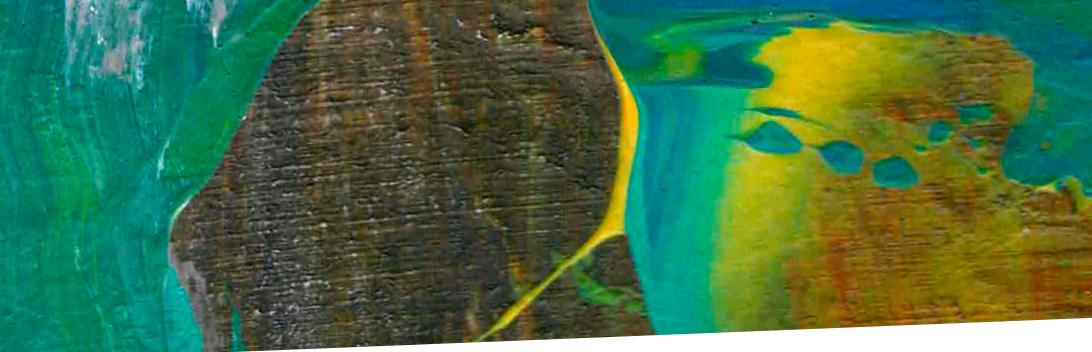


*"It's so encouraging to see what God can do with our hearts surrendered to him," says Pastor Alexis Principal. "We now are working to reach more souls for the Lord and, for that, we are reinforcing our evangelism and outreach."*

**- Alexis Principal,**  
RCA church planter



**Regalo de Dios in Oviedo, Florida, baptized 80 new disciples in 2022, the same year they organized with the RCA.**



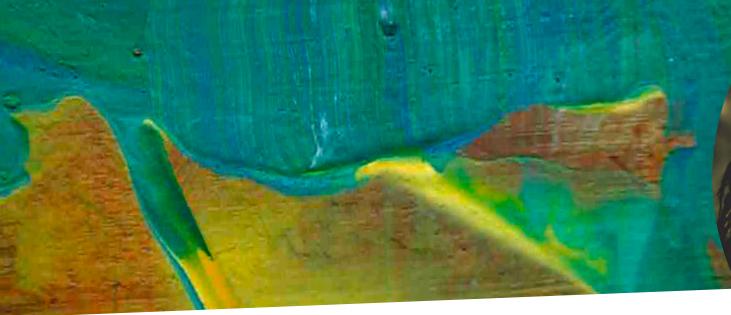
## “A godly, gracious space for all races”

In 2020, following the 1 Cor. 13 Project virtual series, Nancy Boote felt called to start a prayer movement to pray against the sin of racism. Without traction in her local ecumenical group, she brought the idea back to Women’s Transformation and Leadership. The rest is Holy Spirit-led history: the Dismantling Racism Prayer Movement is now in its third year.

Boote, co-chair Micheal Edwards, and the planning team create a sacred hospitable space where a diverse group of participants move toward transformation through prayer and to unearth the truth of bias and systemic racism. This bi-monthly virtual gathering centers Black people and other people of color; white people have space to learn, lament, and repent.

And transformation is happening! After two years of tilling the soil of hearts, the Dismantling Racism Prayer Movement is moving into advocacy, allyship, and action. The focus of this year’s gatherings is praying into the antiracism policy brought forth by the RCA’s Commission on Race and Ethnicity, which encourages everyone to practice antiracism in their contexts.

**Individuals and congregations alike are catching the Revelation 7:9 vision and living into its reality on earth.  
Thank you for your faithful support!**

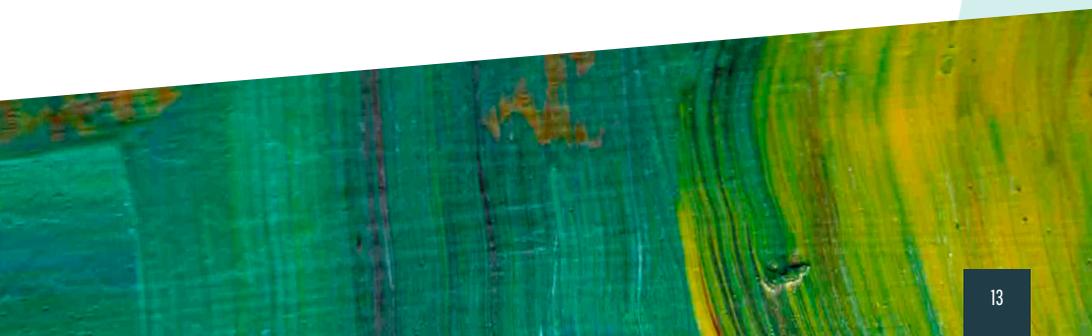


## Seeking racial justice and reconciliation through prayer

This year, for the second annual day of prayer and fasting for racial justice and reconciliation, the Office of Advocacy and Race Relations invited leaders and representatives from each of the RCA's racial/ethnic councils to share their reflections on the Lord's Prayer. These devotions, centered on each line of the prayer in Matthew 6:9-13, look at the Lord's Prayer with a lens of justice and reconciliation. This prayer journal for racial justice and beloved community was distributed in print (via the RCA store) and as an online devotional series on Faithward.org.

"When God's people commit to seek the face of God through prayer, change happens and we experience transformation," says Eddy Alemán, RCA general secretary. "We are working hard toward a future that resembles the kingdom of God, where multitudes from every nation, tribe, people, and language worship the Lamb together."

**Your support makes resources like this possible for individuals and congregations as they continue to seek the face of God and make Revelation 7:9 a reality.**





## Refugees from Ukraine receive shelter and resources

When war broke out in Ukraine, the people of the RCA wanted to respond. RCA Global Mission connected with their partners to best serve people being forcefully displaced from their homes. Initially, that included providing what people needed to live safely and securely as they left Ukraine and fled to Romania, Hungary, Germany, and the Netherlands.

This past year, RCA Global Mission has used the gifts of generous donors (over \$338,150) to help sponsor improvements and programming at the Dorcas Camp outside of Debrecen, Hungary, about 50 miles from the Ukrainian border. This camp is now home to about 200 refugees who are receiving shelter, job placement, training, counseling, spiritual support, and more.

On the horizon: a resettlement strategy.

**Thank you for providing a safe place of shelter, care, and resources for the people of Ukraine!**

# Finding Sabbath rest

After two tough pandemic years, Women's Transformation and Leadership, with support from Local Missional Engagement and Next Generation Engagement, identified a critical level of pastoral burnout and exhaustion, especially among women in church leadership on the U.S. East Coast. The needed balm was biblical, God-given Sabbath rest.

"Women of all generations need this," said the retreat planning team. "They're in the trenches."

The Regional Synods of the Mid-Atlantics and New York stepped into the partnership, as did the Warwick Conference Center, an RCA-owned camp in New York.

So, in April, 35 women with diverse backgrounds gathered at Warwick Conference Center for a weekend retreat. In a beautiful, serene setting, they learned about and engaged in Sabbath rest through group gatherings, teachings, worship, prayer, creative processes, and solitude.

By the end of the weekend, this year's retreat was already on the calendar.

**Through your support, burned out church leaders can experience much-needed restorative experiences like this and be renewed for continued faithful ministry.**

# New Church Plant Springs to Life in IA

In a small cafe in northwest Iowa, with wafting aromas of coffee and freshly baked bread, approximately 80 people gathered to worship, enjoy fellowship, and dig into the Bible. This “wonderfully crammed” gathering was the first of Maria Magdalena Reformed Church, a new, multicultural, bilingual (sometimes trilingual) church plant.

In an area known for its rich legacy of Reformed theology, this new ministry, led by Martha Draayer and Jason Lief (who both work for Northwestern College, one of the RCA’s three colleges), is springing up as an answer to prayer.

“Thank you, Christ, for this unforgettable moment, for the moments to come, and for everyone who is supporting us!” –Martha Draayer

**Thank you for supporting RCA church plants, through which new and more disciples come to know Jesus.**





# Community outreach blesses kids and families

The R.O.C.K. Church in Los Angeles has always been an urban, multi-ethnic, and multi-generational church that “embraces the ‘whosoever’s” and impacts its community. This year—the church’s 14th year of ministry—the congregation focused on outreach and discipleship. This is just some of the impact:

- 100 students each received a backpack and school supplies
- 1,000 people (youth and families) received a weekly food pack
- 100+ families positively impacted through 26 fulfilled requests from the Department of Children and Family Services

**With your faithful support, churches like the R.O.C.K. can flourish, grow, and bless their community!**



# Your partnership with **RCA Global Mission** is transforming the world!



**In Canada**, Restorations Second Stage Homes opened Nancy's House and welcomed its first resident. This ministry offers refuge, support, holistic care, and hope for survivors of sexual exploitation and human trafficking.

**In India**, 40 children who lost parents to COVID-19 had their school fees paid for one year, thanks to the generosity of donors like you.

**In Kenya**, 20 Christian women participated in a peer support group, led by RCA partners at the AI Amana Centre, as they prepared to enter the ministry.



**In Colombia**, 36 students at the Biblical Seminary of Colombia, where Andrew and Amy Fields serve, received scholarships from RCA individuals and congregations. Praise God for these generous donations that help students offset costs in a time when church finances are tight.



**In Portugal**, Short-Term Mission and Global Mission volunteers and staff—many of them high school students—helped facilitate English Camp for youth and families. At camp, community is grown, the love of Jesus is shared, and language skills are expanded.

**In Tanzania**, a group of women and men meet to combat gender-based violence. They meet monthly to share experiences and learn from each other.



**In Brazil**, a large number of new students brought new life to the missionary training center (a partnership with the Presbyterian Church of Manaus). They are helping the church with discipleship, evangelism, and outreach.

**In Syria**, through the work of partners at the Al Amana Centre, 20 refugee women (Muslim and Christian) met to learn from and understand each other across boundaries that are often divisive.

*Thank you for sharing the love of God with people, both near and far!*



## Not just a game, but the gospel

Last fall, Joy Church in Hamilton, Ontario, began a soccer ministry with 26 participants. They meet to play soccer every Monday, beginning with a short devotion and prayer.

“More than half [of the participants] are not disciples of Jesus,” says Gildo Vieira, an elder at Igreja Vida Nova in Toronto, who is involved in the church plant. “Being closer to those who don’t know the gospel is a dream come true.”

**Thank you for reaching people with the gospel of Jesus Christ in myriad ways!**

# Thousands of military personnel and their families blessed by RCA chaplaincy

“Being part of the Reformed Church in America (RCA) has always been my theological pride to my chaplain colleagues. My preaching based on the [five points of Calvinism] became refreshing messages to most of those new generations in the Army. ... My approach with the RCA made many young, as well as some old, generations in the Army curious about understanding the gospel.” –Col. Mike Kim, U.S. army chaplain, Fort Jackson, South Carolina

**Your support of RCA chaplains brings the gospel outside of church settings, reaching people of all ages and in many diverse contexts. Thank you!**

## Equipping leaders to adapt

The past few years in ministry have elevated the need for adaptive leadership. Through RCA Leadership Development, pastors and other church leaders received training, support, and equipping through:

- Online training for hybrid ministry, digital ministry, and a post-COVID landscape
- A nine-month cohort for solo pastors
- A nine-month cohort for senior pastors
- A six-month cohort for church leaders centered around “Flourishing through Change and Disruption”

**Thank you for providing care and growth opportunities for pastors and church leaders!**

# Fostering conversations and relationships that matter

Next Generation Engagement is working to equip all generations with intergenerational ministry strategies. Through Faithward, awareness and equipping resources are available online for individuals and churches, young and old. Topics center around values and priorities of young people, in part so that churches can also have honest conversations around these topics and invite a posture of authenticity that young people long for in Christian communities.

Last year, one such resource was the Honoring Indigenous/ Native American Voices Thanksgiving toolkit, which centers the voices of Indigenous people so that others may listen and learn. The toolkit also includes resources for practicing respect for Native American people, culture, and traditions.

Now, one of the key contributors to the toolkit, Bizzy Feekes, from the Winnebago tribe and the Ho-Chunk people, is pursuing a degree for ministry among Indigenous people, a call she discerned through the RCA's Robben Island learning journey a few years ago.

**Your support helps center the voices of people who have historically been marginalized and equips them for leadership in church, ministry, and beyond.**



Art by Bizzy Feekes

# Cohort supports second generation church planters

Many second generation Americans have witnessed the deep sacrifices and the hard work of their parents in making a new, better life for their family in a new country. A similar desire—to give others a new, better life in Jesus—is what spurs on a new cohort of second generation church planters to work hard and make sacrifices. They are intentional about sharing the gospel and raising up new believers through Hispanic, multi-ethnic, and Anglo church plants that reach people who, like them, are second generation.

The planters in this cohort are racially and ethnically diverse, male and female, and they come from California to Iowa and everywhere in between. Led by Rodrigo Cano, an RCA church multiplication catalyst, they join together for prayer, support, and training.

**Your support of RCA Church Multiplication makes it possible to support and equip church planters for the work God has called them to. Revelation 7:9 is becoming a reality in the RCA!**

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# Churches and ministries grow young

In a landscape of aging congregations, Next Generation Engagement works to help the church “grow young.” That means building intergenerational relationships in congregations and ensuring that young people are raised up and given the keys to leadership.

Next Gen is helping other Transformed & Transforming ministry initiatives grow young as well. This past year, Disability Concerns aimed to grow young, in part, through the recruitment of new disability advocates under the age of 30. In addition, they consulted with Next Gen to implement a growing young process for all RCA disability advocates, too.

In continued collaboration, Next Gen and Disability Concerns facilitated the Disability Advocacy Journey this year, welcoming a small group cohort of young people to explore disability advocacy. Participants learned about the history of disability advocacy and applied their findings to a contextualized capstone project. One participant is now a member of the Disability Concerns’ guiding coalition and has begun serving as a regional disability advocate.

**Thank you for supporting the work of Next Generation Engagement, which helps churches and ministries include and equip young leaders as full participants in the church today.**



# A note from **JILLISA TEITSM**, THE RCA'S CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

I am hopeful for the future of the Reformed Church in America because you, our faithful donors and RCA churches, continue to support the mission and ministry of the RCA. In 2022, your gifts provided 98 percent of our total fundraising budget. In addition to supporting the budget, you and granting organizations donated more than \$3.3 million toward specific designated purposes, including funds that enabled our partners on the ground in Europe to provide humanitarian aid to Ukrainian people who were forced to flee their homes.

I am hopeful because we are in a healthy financial position to face our future. I am not concerned that we reported a net loss in fiscal year 2022 because this loss is due to significant losses in the financial markets. This is a short-term reflection of market changes; over the long-term, our investment returns remain positive. Due to our prudent investment policies, the temporary decline in value will not impact our budget.

It is truly a blessing and an honor to steward the funds you have so generously given to the RCA. Thank you for the hope you have inspired through your faithful support of the RCA!

## FINANCIAL RESULTS

### REVENUE

	Fiscal Year 2022		Fiscal Year 2021	
Contributions and Grants	\$8,467,716	77%	\$10,331,918	52%
Assessments	\$5,542,829	50%	\$5,916,752	29%
Other Income	\$(2,961,609)	-27%	\$4,086,167	19%
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$11,048,936</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>\$20,334,837</b>	<b>100%</b>

### EXPENDITURES

Church Multiplication	\$1,040,000	7%	\$912,461	5%
Global Missions	\$7,125,653	46%	\$6,898,917	42%
Transformed & Transforming	\$2,396,559	16%	\$2,738,290	17%
Work of General Synod	\$2,573,032	17%	\$3,822,841	22%
General Operations	\$2,149,776	14%	\$2,218,170	14%
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$15,285,020</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>\$16,590,679</b>	<b>100%</b>

### NET INCOME

**\$(4,236,084)**

**\$3,744,158**

*These figures represent unaudited financial results. The RCA's 2022 financial statements will be audited by Plante Moran, PC.*

Thank you for your support! The mission and ministry of the RCA cannot be done without you. There has never been a more important time than now for the life-transforming work of the RCA. We invite you to continue this journey of making a difference.

Please use the provided envelope to send your gift via mail.

**To donate online** visit  
[www.rca.org/ministryimpact](http://www.rca.org/ministryimpact).

**By phone (U.S. only):** Call Terri Boven at 616-541-0835.

**By mail:** Please send your check, made out to “Reformed Church in America” and designated “RCA On Mission Fund” or “RCA Global Mission” to:

**U.S.**

Reformed Church in America Attn:  
Finance Dept.  
4500 60th St. SE  
Grand Rapids, MI 49512

**Canada**

Regional Synod of Canada  
PO Box 5070 STN LCD 1 Burlington,  
ON L7R 3Y8

To designate your gift toward the RCA On Mission Fund or RCA Global Mission, please check the appropriate box on the envelope. If you don't designate your gift, we will apply it toward the greatest need.

Gifts may also be given online at

[www.rca.org/ministryimpact](http://www.rca.org/ministryimpact).



This impact report is also available online and in Spanish. Visit [www.rca.org/ministryimpact](http://www.rca.org/ministryimpact) for either version.

