

ON Broadway

Ann Arbor Christian Reformed Church Newsletter

August 2017

Fall Coming: Internationals Arriving

Norm Fichtenberg



We are experiencing a busy, exciting and very rewarding summer at AACRC with major church participation in the high impact youth Serve program. Just as summer is followed by fall, the youth of July will be followed by the August arrival of international visiting scholars, post-docs and students from all over world. At the AACRC, fall is the opening season for hospitality outreach to guests from other nations within our community.

More specifically, in September and October, we will once again welcome new arrivals from around the world by providing them with cross-cultural opportunities. Reprising the last two years, AACRC will undertake a Fall Tutoring Program consisting of weekly Conversational English Tutoring for adults, ESL for children and an American Culture class.

The goals of the program will be to: (1) extend hospitality; (2) provide a service of intrinsic value; and (3) create opportunities for internationals to meet and establish friendships with caring members of our community. Based upon previous experience, it is expected that connections will be made with internationals which will extend beyond October in the form of meaningful and fruitful relationships throughout the time our guests are in Ann Arbor.

Accordingly, subsequent to the Fall Tutoring Program, internationals will be offered a variety of additional opportunities to develop friendships with Americans, including: (1) dinner in an American home, (2) a conversation partnership, and (3) Bible tutoring.

During the Fall Tutoring Program, Conversational English tutors will be needed; a role that does not require any previous experience. Afterward, congregants will be needed for cross-cultural connections with internationals.

Opportunities to volunteer will be coming soon. During August, all previous Conversational English tutors will be contacted via email and there will be an Information and Sign-up table in Fellowship Hall.

(For more information: contact Barb/Norm Fichtenberg, Mary Staal or Priscilla/Jim Carlson.)

Loving God, Serving People

Building a community loved and changed by Jesus, loving and changing the world for him.

Joining World & Home Missions to What? Resonate Global Mission!

Missions Team

from The Banner's article "A New Name for a New Agency", written by Clayton Libolt, July 14, 2017

A new director. A new agency. A new—and surprising—name.

Synod 2017, the general assembly of the Christian Reformed Church, approved the authorizing language to make the new mission agency official, ending a process of combining what were historically two separate agencies, CRC World Missions and CRC Home Missions. The shift, two years in coming, brings to a close the histories of two of the longest-standing agencies of the CRC. World Missions, in particular, has been in existence for 137 years.

The new director was received enthusiastically.

But what to call it? In the end, it was the name that occasioned most of the discussion.

Amy Schenkel of Home Missions and Joel Huyser of World Missions presented some of the reasons for bringing the two agencies together. Huyser said that we live in a new world in which people we thought we would meet on the mission field have come to live next door to us. "The joining of Home Missions and World Missions is not first of all a structural change," he said. "It's about facing the challenge and also the opportunities of this new world."

Schenkel said that there is a one in four chance that the person living next door has no church experience at all. Churches, she said, are feeling disconnected. "Even though what we're doing on Sunday is good ... we need to learn missionary habits that help us to love our communities."

In order to meet the challenges of doing mission in this new context, Home Missions and World Missions were brought together into a single agency. But it couldn't continue to be called the "New Missions Agency."

The name that emerged from the combined boards' new mission agency board—after a lengthy branding discussion—was, well, surprising to many: Resonate Global Mission. A double tagline is added: "Engaging people, embracing Christ. A ministry of the Christian Reformed Church."

The co-chairs of the temporary board for the new missions agency, Joy Engelsman and Carel Geleynse, walked the synod through the process of selecting the

name. The board wanted the name to characterize an agency that would be "courageous, resourceful, and innovative." They wanted the name to be metaphorical, more like Apple than, say, General Motors. They wanted it to be the sort of name that led people to ask about it rather than a name that was explicit about what it named. They wanted it to translate well into other languages. They wanted it to be a name that would work in societies that are not open to the gospel. And they wanted it to have, well, resonance.

Home Missions and World Missions officially became Resonate Global Mission on July 1, 2017.



To the Homeland ...

This past Sunday Pastor John made an announcement that Kristi and I are going to the homeland. Of course he was referring to his homeland of Canada (I'm from MI and Kristi is from OH). I accepted a call to serve as minister of the Word at Trinity CRC in Edmonton, Alberta. I will be serving as a co-pastor alongside of Rev. Rich deLange at a vibrant church. We're aiming to be there by September 1st.

Even though it seems like much longer, early August will mark a year that we have been with you all. As Kristi and I prepare for our time in the "homeland" we reflect back on how well we've been cared for by Ann Arbor CRC. We have felt so supported and encouraged by the council, staff, and congregation. There was never a Sunday that passed where we weren't asked how we were doing. You gave us your kind words and spoke to us where you saw our gifts. You offered me a place to stay in Grand Rapids when I was taking classes at Calvin Seminary. You helped Kristi find work. You invited us into your homes and shared meals with us. We absorbed your excitement when we told you we were talking to churches, and then you offered us your connections. You helped guide us during the search process. You gave us much appreciated words of wisdom and resources for going into the ministry. You became our friends. Thank you! We are humbled by your hospitality and thankful that God gave us time at Ann Arbor CRC. May you continue to grow in the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and may God continue to do good work through his church in Ann Arbor.

With love,

Michael and Kristi McGowan

**All Women Invited to Join
Coffee Break Women's Bible Studies
this Fall!**

Katrina Brehob

Coffee Break is a wonderful opportunity for women of all backgrounds to get together and learn more about God by studying His words. It doesn't matter if you are new to the Bible or a mature Christian; new to English or have spoken it forever; new to Ann Arbor or a life-long townie; have little ones in tow or don't—everyone is welcome! We study and support each other in small groups with leaders who guide discussions.

Coffee Break meets on most Tuesdays beginning on Tuesday, Sep 12 and runs through the end of April. There are two times to choose from:

Morning session: 9:30 - 11:15 am

Afternoon session: 1:15 - 2:45 pm

Loving child care is provided during the morning Coffee Break meeting. Children under two play and cuddle with our veteran nursery staff. Older children can join

our Little Lambs (2-3 year olds) or Story Hour (4-5 year olds) programs where they will play, hear Bible stories, make crafts, sing songs and hear about Jesus' love for them.

For more information or to sign-up online, please go to:

www.aacrc.org/CoffeeBreak

Or contact Katrina at CoffeeBreak@aacrc.org



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Published by the
Church Office Staff
Deadline: the 18th of every month
Sunday Morning Worship
8:45 & 11:15 am
Memorial Day through Labor Day
10:00 am