

Christ's Community Church

Email: Summary of Admin Team RCA Recommendation

Dear CCC Partner Family,

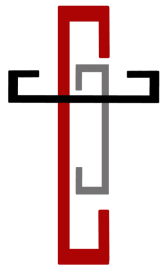
Recently, you received a “Save the Date” email for a meeting on Sunday, September 18, following that morning’s service. CCC’s Admin Team will present its recommendation regarding the church’s future relationship with the Reformed Church in America (RCA) and our next steps. Please make attending this important meeting a priority.

Previously, an informational meeting (April 24) and roundtable (May 15) were conducted to discuss the current state and future of the RCA and how it impacts Christ’s Community Church. Many of you attended and we are grateful for your questions, shared concerns and ongoing prayers for our church and denomination; these have helped to guide our process.

During May, June and July, the Admin Team, Staff and key pastoral resources surveyed, researched and met with potential denominational partners. An initial slate of seven organizations was reduced to four, and interviews were conducted with two of those four. Following much prayer and deliberation, on July 30 a unanimous consensus was reached that the **Alliance of Reformed Churches** represents the best denominational partnership fit for CCC. You can find information about the Alliance and several useful resources at their website: <https://arc21.org/>.

As previously noted, this has become an urgent issue during already challenging times for our church. Our pastoral search process has reached a key juncture, as we will shortly be receiving inquiries and considering Lead Pastor candidates.

To be clear, the CCC Admin Team believes God is leading Christ’s Community Church to leave the RCA and to unite with the Alliance of Reformed Churches. This is the recommendation CCC Partners will be asked to affirm in our Sunday, September 18 meeting.



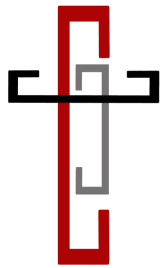
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Here are several important points to consider:

- **The RCA is falling apart. Controversies over human sexuality and other issues have been going on for decades and have damaged the denomination irreparably:**
 - Many churches and classes in the RCA have forsaken the authority and proper interpretation of God's word in diverse matters, including human sexuality.
 - The RCA has proven it is unable to bring its churches and ministers into alignment with its Biblical teachings, including those on human sexuality.
 - The exodus of many churches is forcing us to decide on this issue now, and any pastor we call will need to know CCC's intentions about denominational partnership.
- **CCC needs to set our own direction and future based on a sound understanding of scripture and the mission God has given us:**
 - We have a bright future and see God moving us forward together in ministry impact in our community, reaching His children of all races, economic classes, gender identities and sexual orientations with the truth and love of the gospel.
 - Future RCA battles over this and other issues are inevitable, and will consume resources of time, talent and treasure - particularly if CCC were forced into positions with which we disagree and had to defend.
- **There is a limited window to leave the RCA peacefully:**
 - The October, 2021 General Synod opened the door for a "gracious separation" of churches, and can just as easily close it at any time.
 - Time is of the essence, as this arrangement protects our building, property and other assets by allowing us to leave the RCA with them intact.

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- **The Alliance of Reformed Churches meets CCC's key criteria for denominational partnership:**
 - Holds God's word, the Bible, as the centerpiece of preaching, teaching, and discipleship, interpreting the scriptures according to Reformed confessional theology and standard exegetical principles.
 - Honors the Reformed Standards of Unity, giving them proper place in understanding and teaching the scriptures and declaring the gospel.
 - Affirms and promotes the church, founded and inspired by the Holy Spirit, as the heart of God's mission for the world and called to multiply as its core mission.
 - Has established and promotes guiding principles, structures and resources for spiritual accountability, practical ministry and missional partnerships that bear fruit.

We understand there is much to read and process before then, so we ask that you set aside an extra measure of time in the coming days to do so. **If you have questions or concerns you'd like additional clarity or information on, please share them ahead of time with us via email at adminteam@cccw.org, and then plan to join us on Sunday, September 18. Please note that the RCA's polity requires CCC partners to be physically present to participate and vote; remote or proxy voting cannot be accommodated.** Masks, sanitizer and spread seating will be available to accommodate health concerns.

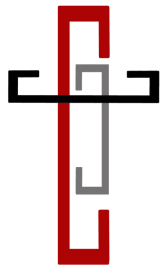
Lunch will be served and childcare will be provided. We hope you will make it a priority to attend this important meeting. Your questions, concerns and voice matter as we seek the preferable future for our church.

And please PRAY! Pray for your own discernment and the discernment of all CCC partners, staff and leadership. Jesus Christ is the Head of our church and we pray for His wisdom in all He would have us do.

Your Admin Team,

Adam, Barry, Les and Lonnie

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p.s. - The informational resources below were provided at the roundtable earlier this year, and are listed here again for your convenience:

Please visit CCCAZ.ORG/MemberHub to find the links for:
Centerforfaith.com & the RCA Timeline