

GCRC Membership Category Clarification

Pastoral Elders are responsible for maintaining the GCRC membership list. This involves actively determining the proper membership status for our members and then adjusting the district lists to reflect this, as well as balancing the districts for a fairer balance of work for each elder.

GCRC Membership Categories Policy was generated by Council in 2018, but there have since been some questions raised about proper status for some members. CRCNA (Christian Reformed Church of North America) was contacted for clarification about membership status.

Though, in years past, there was no mechanism to remove baptized members from the church's membership list, that is not longer the case. Lapsing, resigning and deemed resigned now can proceed for all members, baptized and confessing as follows:

1. **Lapsing** should only occur where a member is a) worshipping elsewhere,
and b) professes faith in Christ,
and c) is not under discipline

So, lapsing is primarily for members who have moved to a church with whom the CRC does not have ecclesiastical fellowship. This includes lapsing family members who accompany their parents to a new church.

We are not required to send anything to the family's new place of worship but should issue to the member a Statement of Membership which will list the dates they became members – baptized and/or confessing.

Members who request to be lapsed should send this request to Council in writing (email or other).

2. **Resignations** can occur at the member's request and this is not based on any of the above conditions for lapsing members. Council can acquiesce in a member's request to resign or can deem a membership resigned if there is no evidence of participation or support in their home church, no response to repeated phone calls or emails and/or unable to contact.

Members who request resignation should do so in writing.

3. **Inactive Members** – This category is used generally for a period of at least one year prior to considering resigning or lapsing, unless a request for such comes from the member. It can be extended at the pastoral elder's discretion if circumstances suggest that active participation may still happen.

It is up to Council to determine whether notifications of membership status will be published.

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