

Readington Reformed Church

124 Readington Road

PO Box 1

Readington, NJ, 08870

Classis: Delaware Raritan

Phone: 908-534-2077

Email: office@readingtonreformed.org



CHURCH PROFILE FORM

Reformed Church in America

Position to be filled

Minister of Word and Sacrament

Classis Supervisor

Reverend Becky Pratt

Mailing Address:

P.O. Box 114

Stanton, NJ 08885

Telephone: 908- 236-2381

Email address: pratt.becky@gmail.com

Chair of Search Committee

Karen Weber

Mailing Address:

Readington Reformed Church

Attention: Karen Weber

124 Readington Road

PO Box 1

Readington, NJ 08870

Telephone: 908-534-2077

Email address: rcsearch2017@gmail.com

MEMBERSHIP

	<u>Five years ago</u>	<u>Today</u>
<u>Active Confessing Members</u>	84	72
<u>Inactive Confessing Members</u>	123	133

Explain significant changes:

The decrease in the membership of our church is due to a variety of reasons. The most significant include: the age of the congregation and passing of members, active family lifestyles where families have to balance competing activities, the lack of new members, and the competition of larger, more community involved local churches. Also of note, our church is one of 7 Reformed churches within a 10-mile radius, which provides options for those seeking our denomination.

Age of all active members (baptized and confessing)

5% 0-20 **5%** 20-34 **20%** 35-49 **50%** 50-64 **20%** 65+

Racial/ethnic composition of congregation:

5 % African American **90 %** Caucasian
5 % Asian **0 %** Hispanic
0 % Other (please specify): _____

WORSHIP/EDUCATION INFORMATION

Worship schedule

<u>Time</u>	<u>Average Attendance 5 yrs ago</u> <u>(adults and children)</u>	<u>Average Attendance today</u> <u>(adults and children)</u>
10 AM	75	50

Comments on significant changes:

Significant decreases in the average attendance of our church are due to a variety of reasons. We feel the most significant reasons are ones that many churches face today. Active family lifestyles force families to balance competing activities on a Sunday morning; children are now active in sports, etc. throughout the weekend, drawing families away from church services. More specific to our church, the competition of larger, more community involved local churches has caused us to lose families. Our Sunday School program of 10 years ago had 30 or more children; these children are now off to college and we have not been able to draw in new families with young children. We have resources available for a Sunday School program, but are struggling to draw in families.

Please indicate the title and publisher of the hymnal(s) used in worship:

- “The Hymnbook,” The United Presbyterian Church in the USA
- “Rejoice in the Lord”, Reformed Church of America

Bulletins of a typical service or a holiday service are available upon request.

Our service utilizes the same format throughout the year.

Describe a typical worship service (order of worship, music, etc.) What is your congregation’s preferred style of worship? Does your congregation use more than one style?

Our congregation has a traditional worship style. We follow the format of: The Approach to God, The Word of God, and The Response to the Word. We follow this structure year round, with the exception of the slight variation of removing the children’s sermon and organized choirs during the summer months. Our music is also traditional.

List other fundraising programs that support the church:

- Harvest Home Roast Beef Dinner (Annual)
- Spring Dinner (Not Annual)
- Walk-a-Thon (Annual)
- Art Auctions (Not Annual)
- Women's' Ministries Craft Show (Annual)

MINISTRY INFORMATION

What is the stated mission, vision, or purpose of your congregation? (Use separate sheet if necessary.)

Readington Reformed Church Mission: “Above all, we exist to worship God. Through the grace of God and the guidance of the Holy Spirit, we all make the love of Jesus Christ tangible by caring for one another and those around us and will go out into the world to spread the Good News of Jesus Christ.”

What specific ministry goals have been developed from your mission and vision statement for the next five years? (Use separate sheet if necessary.)

Relating back to RRC’s mission statement, our church has a few specific goals in mind. Over the next five years, one of the church’s main goals is to increase and expand our youth ministry. If our church were able to succeed at this goal, the word of God would be spread to younger generations.

Another tangible goal that we have had for the past few years is to make our church handicap accessible. We know that by making our church building accessible to all would enable us to care for community members who are not able to attend our worship now due to the structure of our church. Our congregation is passionate about this goal, yet we face the financial struggles of making this a reality.

Relating to our 300-year history (to be celebrated in 2019), we strive to continue caring for our community, spreading the Good News of Jesus Christ, and worshipping God for the next 300 years!

What leadership roles do women currently fill in your church?

At Readington Reformed Church we have women as active Christian Education teachers, deacons, elders, women’s ministries leaders, and Vice President of Consistory. Our former pastor was a woman.

What new program or outreach ministry expansion do you hope to provide in the next five years? Include long-range or strategic plan. (Use separate sheet if necessary.)

As discussed above in relation to our Ministry goals for the next 5 years, we would like to develop a new Youth Ministry program, continue to care for our community through programs such as Family Promise (providing temporary shelter for the local homeless), and be able to minister to the local population who would benefit from a church that is 100% handicap accessible. While these are our general goals, we do not have a specific strategic plan in place at this time.

Church/Sunday School

	<u>Five years ago</u>	<u>Today</u>
Average attendance:	25	less than 10

Explain significant changes:

Similar to the decrease in our overall church attendance, decreases in the Sunday School attendance of our church is due to a variety of reasons that many churches face today. Active family lifestyles force families to balance competing activities on a Sunday morning; children are now active in sports, etc. throughout the weekend, drawing families away from church services. Our Sunday School program of 10 years ago had 30 or more children; these children are now off to college and we have not been able to draw in new families with young children. We have resources available for a Sunday School program, but are struggling to draw in families.

Children's program/organizations (Briefly describe educational curricula being used for each age group.)

Our VBC (Vacation Bible Camp) program has utilized Group Publications for years, resulting in a highly energized, well attended, inspirational week offered to community children ages 3-13. Our Sunday School program has utilized a variety of curricula over the years for our various age groups. Currently, our pre-schoolers teachers use "My First Hands on Bible." (Tyndald KIDS Group, Tyndale house Publishers). For grades 4-6 f we have used Group Publishing's Inside Out curriculum, and we've been supplementing with the Group's series of books called "All Together Now" and "All in One Sunday School." In middle school we used a variety of individual modules, all from different Group teen or preteen Series.

Our church also actively sponsors a local Cub Scout pack, and we offer a "Parents Night Out" to community members throughout the school year. Parents Night Out occasionally uses Group Publishing as a basis for some of the activities.

Young people's program/organizations (Describe briefly; include age range for each.)

While we do not have an organized Youth Group, we have a vibrant Vacation Bible Camp, which we have offered for many, many years. We have as many as 100 children attending, ages 3-13, and an enormous volunteer staff, the majority of which is teen volunteers. By volunteering year after year, teens and youth from throughout the community find this to be a very rewarding experience.

Adult education program (Describe briefly.)

We currently have 3 bible studies:

- Tuesday nights/weekly with approximately 5 attendees
- Thursday mornings/weekly with approximately 8 attendees
- Saturday mornings Men's group/monthly with approximately 6 attendees

Adult groups/organizations (Briefly describe ministry purpose of each group; use separate sheet if necessary.)

<u>NAME</u>	<u>FREQUENCY OF MEETING</u>	<u>ATTENDANCE</u>
1. Women's Ministries	Monthly	6-7 people
2. Building and Grounds/Cemetery	Quarterly	12 people
3. Dinner Committee	Quarterly	5-6 people
4. Financial Care	Monthly	6 people
5. Fellowship Committee	Depends	3-4 people
6. Hunterdon Quilting Guild	Monthly	40 people
7. RRC Quilting Group	Weekly	5-6 people
8. Adult Vocal Choir	Weekly	6-8 people
9. Adult Bell Choir	Weekly	8-10 people

Describe one event or experience over the last year that has significantly contributed to the spiritual life of the congregation.

Our church has a very spiritual Holy Week. We have a Seder Dinner on Maundy Thursday, which offers a traditional Passover celebration with a potluck dinner, followed by communion. Our Good Friday Tenebrae service is a powerful and solemn service during which the congregation will read the scriptures of the Passion of Christ alternating with Lenten hymns as the lights dim and eventually go out. The readers will then clear the sacraments from communion table; everyone leaves in silence to reflect on the crucifixion. Our Sunrise Service on Easter Morning is a service of celebration! We then have a glorious Easter Worship service, focusing on the resurrection of Christ, filled with special music and celebration! We find this week to be very spiritual, reminding us of our Christian beliefs.

One of the other events that contribute significantly to our church's spiritual connection is our annual Harvest Home dinner. This event provides opportunity for fellowship; the activities of planning, preparation, and the business of the day itself unites the people of RRC with a common purpose for the good of the church, its missions, and God's holy spirit to work through His people's hands.

BUILDING INFORMATION

Buildings: Please describe church-owned or rented buildings and their purposes.

RRC has a beautiful, large sanctuary, which was remodeled in 2007, with an educational wing. RRC owns a parsonage with a large barn adjacent to the church property. We also own the largest cemetery in Hunterdon County, NJ and several small cemeteries throughout the county.

The parsonage is intended as a home for Pastor and family. The barn is used for storage for church property, pastor use and Boy Scout supplies.

Are your buildings adequate for your present program? Yes No If no, please explain:

Do you plan any capital expenditure during the next five years? If yes, please explain briefly:

We are currently undergoing a parsonage renovation: major plaster repairs and the painting of all rooms are expected to be complete by mid-autumn 2017. The remodel of first floor laundry room, bathroom and family room is also complete.

We are also anticipating a Handicap Accessibility Project to be started within the next 5 years.

Pastor's study is: in church in parsonage not provided other

- There is space in the parsonage that can be set up as an additional study for Pastor.

STAFF INFORMATION

List all paid staff in addition to the pastor.

- | | | |
|---------------------|-----------------|--------------------|
| 1. Church Secretary | Full-time _____ | Part-time <u>X</u> |
| 2. Music Director | Full-time _____ | Part-time <u>X</u> |
| 3. Grounds Keeper | Full-time _____ | Part-time <u>X</u> |
| 4. Custodian | Full-time _____ | Part-time <u>X</u> |

CONSISTORY INFORMATION

Membership: what method is used in selecting members?

The method used to select and elect members of Consistory is prescribed in Article III, Section 2 of the church by-laws.

List age, gender, and occupation of each current consistory member.

1. 54 -- Female -- Office Manager
2. 63 -- Male -- Service Manager
3. 61 -- Female -- Steel Sales
4. > 50 -- Female -- Engineer/Supervisor
5. 74 -- Retired -- Male
6. 82 -- Retired -- Male
7. 49 -- Male -- Software Developer
8. 70 -- Female -- Retired teacher
9. 72 -- Female -- Retired Office Worker
10. 51 -- Female -- Fundraising at Lehigh University
11. 61 -- Female -- Teacher
12. 74 -- Female -- Retired Office Manager
13. 48 -- Male -- Sales/Marketing

CONGREGATION INFORMATION

In our congregation:

few	many	most	
		<u>X</u>	have had twelve years of formal education
		<u>X</u>	have had some education beyond high school
	<u>X</u>		have a college degree
	<u>X</u>		have a graduate degree

In our congregation (Number in order for each of the three categories; for example, if most people are farmers or business people, but the majority are farmers, put a number one (1) under “most” for farmers and a number two (2) under “most” for business people.):

few	many	most	
___	___	___	are scientists and engineers
___	___	___	are farmers
___	___	<u>1.</u>	are business people
<u>3.</u>	___	___	are students and teachers
___	___	___	are industrial workers
___	___	___	are office workers
___	<u>2.</u>	___	are <u>RETIRED</u>

EXPECTATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS OF MINISTER

Choose up to six of the following Christian ministry activities that you consider to be most important as you look to the immediate future of your congregation. (Number them in order of importance.)

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Church administration | <input type="checkbox"/> Small groups |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pastoral calling | 4 Ministry to families |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pastoral counseling | <input type="checkbox"/> Staff administration |
| 3 Youth ministry/Children's Work | 6 Spiritual leadership |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Adult education | <input type="checkbox"/> One-on-one evangelism |
| 1 Preaching/Conducting Worship | 2 Membership growth |
| 5 Community involvement | |

What specific ministry gifts do you need in your next pastor in relation to these activities?

1. Excellent interpersonal skills.
2. Inspirational preaching style, including preaching on current topics relevant in today's society.
3. Effective and focused leadership skills.

Special training/experience desired (Describe briefly.)

Our congregation desires a pastor who is educated and enthusiastic in relation to church growth and youth programming.

Languages

Should your pastor be fluent in any language other than English? Yes No

If yes, please indicate language and importance:

Language: _____
 Helpful Essential Must be primary language

COMPENSATION, BENEFITS, AND MINISTRY EXPENSES

Standard salary to be provided.

Is a parsonage provided? Yes No

If so, is it on site with the church? Yes (next door) No

If the parsonage is not on site with the church, how far from the church is it located?

Parsonage style:

Split-level

Ranch

Two-story

Other (describe) _____

Number of....

Bedrooms: 3

Number of...

Bathrooms: 2

What plans, if any, are in place for the renovation and/or redecorating of the parsonage?

We are currently undergoing a parsonage renovation: Major plaster repairs and the painting of all rooms are currently in progress and are anticipated to be complete by mid-autumn 2017. The remodel of first floor laundry room, bathroom and family room is complete.

The benefits/business expenses we will provide our pastor (Please check those provided or give amount, as requested.):

Pension

Major medical insurance

Life insurance

Dental insurance

Unemployment insurance

Disability insurance

Provision for sabbatical

Other (specify: _____)

)

*Is a minister's housing allowance in lieu of a parsonage a negotiable option?

Yes No (however, it is our strong preference to have the Pastor reside in the parsonage)

COMMUNITY INFORMATION

Community served

Rural, under 2,500

Town, 2,500-9,999

Small city, 10,000-49,999 (*Readington Township population is 15,800*)

Metropolitan – suburban, 50,000+

Metropolitan – inner city, 50,000+

Metropolitan – urban, 50,000+

Cooperative ministry: In what ways have you cooperated with other churches in your community during the past year?

Our church actively participates in an Ecumenical Lenten Service series. We host an ecumenical Women's Lenten Breakfast, as well as a community-wide Vacation Bible Camp. In addition, our church collaborates with area churches in the local homeless sheltering program, Family Promise.

What makes your church uniquely attractive to people in your community?

Our church is physically the largest church in the area, allowing us to host services for the community that smaller churches are not able to accommodate. Our congregation has a welcoming personality that invites outsiders to participate in our service. People often find our deeply rooted history of nearly 300 years a positive attribute, standing for tradition and continuity.

Community involvement: In what community programs or projects have you participated (as an organization, not as individuals) during the past year?

- Feed My Starving Children program
- Family Promise (local homeless shelter program, physical and financial support)
- Starfish Food Collection (township Social Services program)
- Hosting a Flu Shot Clinic for all community
- 52 Reasons to Love a Vet (financial support)
- Host of weekly Nar(cotics) Anonymous meetings and meeting for families of addicts.

Describe changes currently occurring in the community in which your congregation ministers, and identify ways God is acting among you to meet these new challenges.

RRC continues to try to stay up-to-date with the changes in the community through our action initiatives in VBC, handicap access development, and creating an opportunity for a new youth ministry program.

Which denominations or religions are present within three miles (in rural areas, within the county) where your church is located?

Roman Catholic, Calvary Bible, Jewish, Non-denominational, and various Protestant churches.

Outreach: What percentage of the people who live within a mile of your church are unchurched, and what is your strategy to reach unchurched people in your community?

Our church does not have the information or resources available to access the statistics regarding the percentage of people within a mile radius who are unchurched. Note that Readington Township is a very rural community, and the area immediately surrounding the church is not densely populated. One outreach strategy of ours that currently works is our social media platform, specifically Facebook. Regardless, our strategy to reach unchurched people in the local area requires us to go well beyond the one-mile radius; successfully reaching the individuals residing in our community is an area of improvement for our church.

The income level of the people in our congregation tends to be:

- about average for our community
 somewhat below the rest of the community
 somewhat higher than the rest of the community

Describe your community and school system:

Readington Reformed Church sits on the border of Hunterdon and Somerset Counties. We are in a rather rural area of New Jersey, and our church is surrounded by family neighborhoods, and farmlands. We are also very close to a small private airport, and within 10 miles of multiple shopping opportunities! As mentioned above, our church is approaching its 300th anniversary, which is indicative of the neighborhood's history.

The Readington Township Public Schools serve students in pre-kindergarten through eighth grade. As of the 2014-15 school year, the district's four schools had an enrollment of 2,734 students. Schools in the districts are Three Bridges School (PreK-3), Whitehouse School (K-3), Holland Brook School (4-5) and Readington Middle School (6-8). Students in public school for ninth through twelfth grade attend the Hunterdon Central High School, which is a regional high school. As of the 2014-15 school year, the high school had an enrollment of 3,043. Our church borders Branchburg Township, so many of our members live in the area served by that school district. The Branchburg Township School District serves public school students in pre-kindergarten through eighth grade. As of the 2014-15 school year, the district and its three schools had an enrollment of 2,384 students. Schools in the district are Whiton Elementary School (PreK-3), Stony Brook School (4-5) and Branchburg Central Middle School (6-8). The public secondary school serving Branchburg for ninth through twelfth grades is Somerville High School. As of the 2014-15 school year, the high school had an enrollment of 1,159 students.

OTHER INFORMATION

Record of last three pastors:

Name

Cathy Gumpert

Raymond VandeGeissen

Don McCabe

Dates of service

2002- February 2017

1991-1999

1980-1990