

CHURCH PROFILE FORM

Reformed Church in America



Section A. Background Information

Today's Date: 4/27/2016

Position to be filled: Pastor

1. **Name of church:** Jamestown Reformed Church
2. **Web address:** www.jamestownrc.org
3. **Mailing address:** 2554 Riley Street, P.O. Box 168
Jamestown, MI 49427

Telephone: (616) 896-9732

E-Mail address: office@jamestownrc.org

4. **Classis:** Zeeland Classis
5. **Classis Supervisor:** Rev. Mike VanBuren, Fellowship Reformed Church
Address: 6610 36th Avenue
Hudsonville, MI 49426

Telephone: (616) 669-1213

E-Mail address: mvanburen@frchudsonville.org

6. **Chair of search committee:** Mark Lamers
Address: 1118 Riley Street
Hudsonville, MI 49426

Telephone: (616) 896-9218

E-Mail address: grandvorchard@gmail.com

7. Membership:

Time of worship	Five years ago	Today
Active Confessing Members	241	198
Inactive Confessing Members	12	0

Comment on significant changes:

Some relocated, some felt spiritual needs were not being met, and some moved because of changes in style of music. As numbers declined, some felt nervous about the potential demands on them, and preferred to move to a larger church where they could be a bit more anonymous.

Age of all active members (baptized and confessing)

36 %	0-20 years old
14 %	20-34 years old
25 %	35-49 years old
12 %	50-64 years old
13 %	65 years and older

8. Racial/Ethnic composition of congregation:

%	African American
%	Asian
97 %	Caucasian
3 %	Hispanic
%	Other: (please specify)

9. Worship schedule:

Average Attendance (includes adults and children)

Time of worship	Average attendance Five years ago	Average attendance Today
9:30 am <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> pm <input type="checkbox"/>	235	190

Comment on significant changes: The worship schedule has remained the same. The evening service was discontinued six years ago. Some attenders relocated, some felt spiritual needs were not being met, and some moved because of changes in style of music. As numbers declined, some felt nervous about the potential demands on them, and preferred to move to a larger church where they could be a bit more anonymous.

10. Describe a typical worship service (order of worship, music, etc.) What is your congregation's preferred style or styles of worship? Attach a bulletin, if available.

Our services are blended, leaning toward contemporary. Children are welcome in the service. Our music ministry prepares the congregation for the Word. The preaching of the Word is central to the service. Infant and adult baptisms are held. Communion is served six times per year.

11. Financial Information: Attach a copy most recent Consistorial Report and Annual Budget if available.

	Five Years Ago	Today
Total RCA related contributions	19,500	18,000
Total other contributions	6,500	13,000

Percentage of total budget contributed by living donors:

100-90 %	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
75-89 %	<input type="checkbox"/>
60-74 %	<input type="checkbox"/>
45-59 %	<input type="checkbox"/>
44 % or less	<input type="checkbox"/>

(Please include a copy of your annual budget)

12. Congregational Giving:

Number of those whose annual contribution is:

Less than \$500	32
\$501- \$1,500	25
\$1,501- \$2,500	11
\$2,501-\$3,500	2
Greater than \$3,500	4

13. Financial assistance: Do you receive financial assistance beyond the congregation? (rents, etc.) Yes No

If yes, amount received last year: \$

List other fundraising programs that support the church:

14. Church/Sunday School:

Average Attendance

Average attendance Five years ago	Average attendance Today
105	85

Comment on significant changes:

Despite the overall drop in numbers, our Sunday School numbers have remained quite strong. The largest portion of these Sunday School children are in primary grades or younger.

15. Describe briefly all educational programs (including children, young adult, adult).

A rich Sunday School program is offered for all ages. Additionally, during the morning worship service, children who have "graduated" from nursery are able to go to Little Lambs and Children in Worship (serving children three years old through kindergarten).

There is a strong Wednesday night program featuring "Wild Life" for children three years old through 2nd grade, GEMS for 3rd - 6th girls, Cadets for 3rd - 6th grade boys, and Crossroads (our 6th - 8th grade youth group). Sonseekers, our high school youth group, meets on Sunday nights. Our Wednesday night and youth programs draw in many children from the community. More than half of those in attendance are from families that are not members of the congregation.

Adult educational offerings are available on Sunday mornings and during Wednesday night activities. Additionally, our small group ministry enables adults to continue developing in their spiritual walk.

16. Church groups/organizations: Briefly describe ministry purpose of each group. (use separate sheet if necessary)

Name of group	Frequency of Meeting (i.e. weekly, bi-monthly, etc)	Attendance
Small Groups	bi-weekly/monthly	60
Women's Bible Study	weekly	10
J.O.Y. (Jamestown Older Youth)	quarterly	10
Sew Sew Sisters	monthly	10
Wednesday Morning Coffee Group	weekly	15
Men's Basketball	weekly	15
Women's Volleyball	weekly	15

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

Our congregation has gone through a significant self-examination and revitalization process in the past year. We explored in depth an opportunity to become part of Harbor Churches. The process included several meetings between representative teams. At the same time, Zeeland Classis stepped in with an offer of significant support for a revitalization process. Ultimately, following a series of congregational meetings and information sessions, the congregation overwhelmingly made the decision to go with the revitalization process through Zeeland Classis.

Fellowship Reformed Church of Hudsonville has stepped in to provide extensive support during this time as we critically examine our ministry approach and mission. We are now several months into this process and are making great strides. Our membership and attendance has stabilized, and in fact, some families that had departed have returned. We are also thrilled with the recent record of givings, which is up significantly. Ministry teams have been reestablished with new direction. The congregation has committed themselves wholeheartedly to the process, and the energy is outstanding.

18. Buildings: Please describe church-owned or rented buildings and purpose.

Attractive and well-maintained church building constructed in 2001 with sanctuary, offices, education/classroom wing, adult gathering room, youth room, kitchen, and multi-purpose room. Separate building for Cadet program and storage.

19. Do you plan any capital expenditure during the next five years? Yes No
If yes, please explain briefly:

20. Is there a mortgage indebtedness? Yes No

Amount: \$

Of how long standing?

Annual rate of repayment

21. Pastor's study:

In church in parsonage Other Not Provided

22. List all paid staff in addition to the pastor:

Position	
Jami Alferink, Ministries Coordinator and Kids' Hope Director	Full time <input type="checkbox"/> Part time <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Erin Wolters, Secretary	Full time <input type="checkbox"/> Part time <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Amy Schams, Worship Coordinator	Full time <input type="checkbox"/> Part time <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Jeremy & Lori Warsen, Custodians	Full time <input type="checkbox"/> Part time <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

23. Consistory Membership: What method is used in selecting members?

A list of all members of the church eligible for election is compiled and reviewed by the elders. Members are allowed a two-week period to remove their name from consideration for service on Consistory through consultation with their elder. The elder-approved list is distributed to the members of the congregation for consideration. Members have two weeks to submit two names for elder and two names for deacon. The two top nominees for each office are placed on a final ballot for a congregational vote confirmation at the annual congregational meeting. Consistory members are elected to three-year terms, followed by three years during which they are ineligible to be on the list for nomination/election.

Please list present Consistory members (Put a check in the box where appropriate):

Elder	Deacon	Male	Female	Occupation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Township Treasurer, Educator
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Electrician
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Engineering Manager
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Retired
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Retired
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Quality Engineer
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Field Operations Manager, Electrical Contractor
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sales, Payroll Services
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Pharmacist
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Builder
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	IT Manager
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Insurance/Banking

24. What leadership roles do women currently fill in your church?

Women serve in leadership roles in all aspects of church life, including as team chairs, program leaders, and on Consistory.

25. In our congregation...(please check appropriate box)

	Few have...	Many have...	Most have...
Had up to twelve years of formal education	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Had some education beyond high school	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
A college degree	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
A graduate degree	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

26. In our congregation...(please check a box)

	Few are...	Many are...	Most are...
Scientists & Engineers	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Farmers	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Business People	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Students & Teachers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Industrial Workers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Office Workers	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other: Medical Field	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

27. Special training/experience desired: (Describe briefly)

M.Div.

28. Languages:

Should your pastor be fluent in any language other than English?

Yes No If yes, please explain.

29. The salary we are prepared to offer our new pastor is \$ determined according to RCA guidelines.

The average annual increase to our pastor over the past three years was

\$done according to the RCA guidelines

30. Is a parsonage provided? Yes No

If so, is it on site with the church? Yes No

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

31. Is a Minister's housing allowance in lieu of a parsonage a negotiable option?

Yes No

32. The benefits/business expenses we will provide our pastor are:

(Please check those provided or give amount as requested.)

Base Salary	TBD
Housing Allowance	TBD
Parsonage provided? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Travel Reimbursement	TBD
Social Security (Amount)	TBD
Book Allowance (Amount)	TBD
Continuing Education Allowance (Amount)	TBD
Provision for Sabbatical	TBD
Other (Specify Below) Annuity possible Cell Phone allowance possible	TBD
TOTAL	

- Yes No Retirement
- Yes No Major Medical Insurance
- Yes No Health/Hospital Insurance
- Yes No Life Insurance
- Yes No Dental Insurance
- Yes No Unemployment Insurance
- Yes No Disability Insurance

Annual Vacation (Number of Weeks): four

Necessary Comments regarding above: Some of the above items may be negotiable.

33. Community served: (please check one)

Rural: Under 2,500	<input type="checkbox"/>
Town: 2,500-9,999	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Small City: 10,000-49,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
Metropolitan-Suburban: 50,000+	<input type="checkbox"/>
Metropolitan-Urban: 50,000+	<input type="checkbox"/>
Metropolitan-Inner City: 50,000+	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other:	<input type="checkbox"/>

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

As described above, our primary cooperative work has been with Fellowship Reformed Church as we engaged in our process of self-reflection and revitalization. Fellowship Reformed has provided consistent pulpit supply on a rotational basis, with their three pastors each preaching one service per month. They have also provided leadership and support for the reestablishment of our ministry teams and general work with the Consistory and Executive Team. It has been a very productive and beneficial relationship.

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

Jamestown Reformed is a highly-engaged part of the local community. We have a long-standing partnership with Jamestown Elementary School as part of the Kids' Hope USA program. The congregation also supports the children of the school through our Hand2Hand ministry.

The congregation is also active in sponsoring community-centered events. Each year our "Celebrate! Community" event brings the community together following the Memorial Day parade for an afternoon of activities on the church grounds. In the fall we sponsor a Harvest Festival. Our Vacation Bible School brings children from throughout the community into our facility to learn more about God's promises for their lives.

Each year the congregation also participates in a number of other local and regional mission projects. Examples of past projects include service for the WAR (Women at Risk) program, packing food for Feed My Starving Children, work at the Holland Rescue Mission, service projects in Chicago, cleanup work for older congregational members, and cleanup at City on a Hill Ministries.

36. What denominations or religions are present within three miles (in rural areas, consider the county) where your church is located?
 RCA, Christian Reformed, Baptist, Assembly of God, non-denominational

37. Outreach: What is your strategy to reach un-churched people in your community?
 Community gatherings, food distributions, Kids Hope, door-to-door, welcome baskets, VBS

38. The income level of the people in our congregation tends to be: (please check one)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	About average for our community
<input type="checkbox"/>	Somewhat below the rest of the community
<input type="checkbox"/>	Somewhat higher than the rest of the community

39. Describe the community and school system: (Provide website links where appropriate.)

The Jamestown community lies just south of Hudsonville, Michigan. The area is part of the Greater Grand Rapids metro area, and is one of the fastest growing areas in the state. Jamestown Township has seen a significant transition in the last decade as it has moved from a primarily agricultural area to an area with numerous subdivisions. New housing construction is currently underway in many areas in the township.

Students in the area primarily attend the Hudsonville Public Schools. The district serves 6,500 students in grades K-12, and is one of the fastest growing districts in the state. Other students in the congregation attend Jenison Public Schools, Unity Christian Schools (in Hudsonville), and Zeeland Christian Schools.

<http://www.twp.jamestown.mi.us/>
<http://www.hudsonville.org/>
<http://www.hudsonville.k12.mi.us/>

40. Record of last three pastors:

Name	Dates
André Batt	2009 to 2016
Chad Pierce	2002 to 2007
Scott Lokers	1990 to 2001

41. Please complete your profile with the following contacts:

Name	
Mark Lamers	Vice President, Consistory
Rev. Mike VanBuren	Classis Supervisor

Section B. Reflections

Please answer the following questions, adding your own experiences where appropriate.

1) What is the stated mission, vision or purpose of your congregation?

The mission of Jamestown Reformed Church is to be the presence of Jesus to each other, the community, and the world.

2) What goals have been developed from your mission and vision over the next 5 years? (Example: new programs or outreach ministries.) Include long range or strategic plan.

As we go through the revitalization process, our congregation is looking to be led in the development of a strategic plan. Our mission statement challenges us to be ministers to one another, and we are feeling a call to grow in numbers so that we can continue our current programs and grow into others.

In recent years, an example of a new program is our commitment to expand our prayer ministry through the creation of the PEP (Powerful, Effective Prayer) Talk program. And as we look into the community, our congregation strives to minister to the needs of the community through connections with the local elementary school. This has most recently included the creation of our own local Hand2Hand ministries program which packages and delivers food to children in need.

3) Describe the strengths of your church, the best of what you are as a community, and what you can offer a new pastor.

Our congregation is routinely described as very welcoming and friendly. We are relatively young demographically, but with a good mix of age ranges. The church is very family friendly, with particularly strong programs in the education of children.

Through our revitalization process, it is abundantly clear that our congregation is deeply desiring growth, both spiritually and numerically. This commitment, coupled with the fact that we are perfectly situated in one of the highest growth areas in Michigan, makes us a very desirable and attractive ministry opportunity.

4) Explain the strategies or ideas that most excite your church in becoming or remaining missional.

Our church is excited about being the presence of Jesus to others. This has been a long-term commitment of our congregation, borne out through our work in mission trips, community service, and activities such as Kids Hope and Hand2Hand. We have also seen great response to specific connections with missionaries and projects, like our ongoing support of Chad and Dara VandenBosch's work with Audio Scripture Ministries in Mozambique.

5) Name three of your church's most passionate hopes and why they are significant.

Our mission statement encompasses multiple aspects of our most passionate hope--that of being the presence of Jesus to each other and others. We know that in order to accomplish this goal, we need to be passionate about reaching our community. Finally, as we strive toward this goal, we hope and expect to see our congregation grow spiritually and numerically so that we can have the impact on our community that we wish to see.

6) How do you hope someone who visits your church would describe what s/he considers to be most important?

We want all who visit our church to feel welcome, and we hope they would value preaching from the Word. We would desire that they have a family focus and place importance on education and discipleship. We would also hope that they would have a willingness to serve and be led.

7) Name at least one challenge facing your new pastor.

We see our new pastor's most important challenge to be leading our congregation through the proportionate growth we expect to see as our community grows.

8) Describe your vision and hopes for your church and your pastor over the next 5 years.

We would like to make an increased impact for Christ in our community and the world over the next five years. To achieve this goal, we know and expect that we will need to see growth, both spiritually and in numbers, in our congregation. We are seeking a pastor whose gifts and talents would help us achieve these goals.

9) Explain whatever else you would like your potential pastor to know about your church.

As described elsewhere in this profile document, we believe it is important for our potential pastor to know the process we've been through and the unwavering commitment that has been made by the congregation to our work together as a church family. When presented with an opportunity to go a different, and in some ways easier, route, the congregation intentionally chose the hard work of revitalization. This was done with the firm belief that we were being called to do the work of the Kingdom in this place through our own unique approach. The Holy Spirit is at work here, and the enthusiasm for our mission is strong.

Reformed Church in America
Office of Ministry Services

Release Statement

We, Jamestown Reformed Church, acknowledge that the information in this Church Profile is accurate and complete. We authorize the Office of Ministry Services (OMS) to release this profile to designated recipient(s) seeking positions as ordained Ministers of Word and Sacrament, including posting of this profile on the RCA website.

Signature of Search Team Chairperson or Designated

Date