

# CHURCH PROFILE FORM

## Church Information:

Name: Spring Lake Christian Reformed Church

Location of church [City, State/Province]: Spring Lake Michigan

Classical Church Counselor: Nathan Visker

## Search Committee Contact:

Name: Jim Plaisier

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## Community Setting:

<u>Location</u>	<u>Function</u>	<u>Growth</u>
Rural	Industrial	Growing
Small Town	College/University	Static
Metropolitan	Agricultural	Declining
Suburban	Recreational	
Inner City	Military	
Small City	Bedroom Community	

Approximate population of community: 22,000

## Church Profile:

We are open to: Male pastors only

List all staff positions: Sole Pastor - Full Time

Worship Coordinator - Part Time

Church Secretary - Part Time

Financial Secretary - Part Time

Position Available: SOLE PASTOR

Date of vacancy: 07/31/2021

General position description: Our Pastor will lead us in carrying out the vision of the Spring Lake CRC through:

WORSHIP: Preaching of the Word, Administration of the Sacraments and coordination of worship services with the worship coordinator.

PASTORAL CARE: Call on the sick and shut-ins, conduct weddings and funerals, provide counseling and Christian discipline and maintain a visible presence in the life of the congregation by attending church activities.

DISCIPLESHIP: Lead and/or coordinate adult Bible studies, help coordinate our mid-week family gathering called "CONNECT", meet periodically with youth leaders and lead profession of faith classes as needed.

OUTREACH/GROWTH: Provide support and resources for those coordinating outreach events, attend outreach events and coordinate follow-up calls to visitors.

ADMINISTRATION: Lead/attend monthly meetings of Consistory and Council, attend all Classis meeting and support all other administrative staff.

Full-time

Part-time

Bi-vocational position?

Yes

No

Number of years preferred of ministry experience of potential candidate: 5-15 years

Required languages: English

### Church Demographics:

Average Sunday attendance: 75

Active adult professing members: 88

Profile of church members:

Age:

10% - 0-11	10% - 12-18	3% - 19-24	
1% - 25-34	17% - 35-49	8% - 50-64	51% - 65+

Occupation:

6% Business	13% Professional	1% Agriculture	47% Retired
8% Trades	1% Stay-at-home parent	21% Student	3% Other

Percentage of members belonging to the congregation:

Less than 5 years	25%
5-10 years	10%
10 or more years	65%

Racial/Ethnic composition of congregation and surrounding community:

Congregation is 99% Caucasian, 1% other: Community is 95% Caucasian, 5% other

Composition of congregation: Mono-Cultural

List the last three persons in this position:

1. Rev. Steve Datema 1999-2006
2. Rev. Drew Sweetman 2007-2016
3. Rev. Michael Westerveld 2017-2021

## Worship:

How are members involved in planning and participation in the liturgy/worship?

Members are involved in planning and participation in the liturgy/worship in the following ways:

- Worship and Music Committee (responsible for planning and overseeing various aspects of worship and decisions about special services, etc.)
- Worship Planning Committee (responsible for planning the specific elements and selections used in worship services, including readings, song selections, creative ideas, etc.)
- “HeartSong” Selections (members of all ages are encouraged to submit songs that are meaningful to them to the worship director for inclusion in services when appropriate)
- Praise Team
- Special Music (Chimes Choir, solos/duets/small groups, instrumentalists)
- Audio/Visual Team
- Reading scripture or liturgies
- Nursery
- Children in Worship (young children are led in worship by leaders in a separate area during worship services)
- Janitorial support (open/close church, keep building comfortable, light cleaning)
- Church decorations (Flowers/plants, banners)
- Kitchen Support (Fellowship time, church events, funerals, etc.)
- Greeters
- Ushers

Describe the worship services in your church:

The worship services in our church are blended style services. The song selections include both old and new songs that relate to the theme of the message being delivered. Typical worship services include the use of a praise team, piano, organ, and occasionally other instruments. Projection is utilized for song lyrics, Scripture, and other worship elements.

Describe the discipleship practices in your church for all ages of members and attendees:

Discipleship or growth in one’s walk with the Lord is very important in the life of our church. We offer the following opportunities for discipleship practice:

- Children in Worship
- Connect (Wednesday evening meal as a church family followed by classes and educational opportunities for all ages)
- Youth Group (for middle and high school students)
- Men’s Bible Study

- Hannah Bible Study (for women)

### Building/Financial:

Present annual budget: \$222,000

Last year's annual budget: \$216,000

Percentage of financial obligations met (last complete year reported):

Budget: 90% (100% of Expenses)

Denominational Ministry Shares: 100% (9% of Budget)

Classical Ministry Shares: 100% (1% of Budget)

Amount contributed above budget and ministry shares:

Specify (optional): Faith Promise - \$11,000

Facilities:

Describe facilities:

Our church building is located in a residential area of the Village of Spring Lake near Lloyds Bayou. The building has two levels. The main level has a sanctuary with seating capacity of 300, as well as a nursery, kitchen, fellowship hall, quiet room/library, church offices, storage areas, and classrooms. The basement level has a youth area, kitchen, classrooms, and storage areas. There are bathrooms on both levels.

Are your buildings adequate for your ministries?	<b>Yes</b>	No
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If no, please explain:

Is a building program projected?	<b>Yes</b>	No
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If yes, describe what and when:

Our church has recently completed a major renovation project, which included a new roof, new paint and carpeting, sanctuary seating, kitchen upgrades, as well as reconfiguration of several offices and classrooms.

Does the church own a parsonage?	Yes	<b>No</b>
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Location of office or study:

Pastor's study available in the church building on the main level, near the church office.

## Compensation:

The salary range we are prepared to offer our new pastor is based on the CRC Minister

Compensation Survey: Yes

The average annual increase for this position over the past three years is: 5% (Wages and other Benefits)

### Housing:

Housing allowance

Parsonage only

### Benefits and expenses:

Pension

Medical insurance

Life insurance

Social Security or Canada Pension

Travel/mileage

Continuing Education time allotted

Sabbatical policy in place

Annual vacation (Negotiable

## Church Characteristics:

Presently, the FOCUS OF OUR CHURCH'S MINISTRY is: Current Members / Participants  
Primarily

In our Church, the WORSHIP SERVICE IS DESIGNED FOR: Emphasis on believers

In our church, the STYLE OF MUSIC used in the worship service is: Blended

In our church, LEADERSHIP is generally provided by the: Lay leaders & pastoral staff share  
leadership

Our church seeks to ENCOURAGE SPIRITUAL GROWTH through: Ministries for most groups

In our church, EVANGELISM STRATEGIES AND METHODS are: Generally planned

Our church is representative of the ECONOMIC DIVERSITY of our community: Moderately  
representative

Our church is representative of the ETHNIC DIVERSITY of our community: Strongly  
representative

Our church's RESPONSE TO COMPASSION, MERCY, AND JUSTICE NEEDS is:  
Church-based and personal action

Our church's MISSIONAL FOCUS is: Equally local and global

## Narrative:

In what ways does your church participate in ecumenical activities?

1. Yearly Crop Walk Participation
2. Positive Options (local pregnancy center) Projects
3. Love in Action projects
4. Members on boards for Christian Haven Home
5. Started Feeding America Food Trucks and changed into Household Items Pantry and distribution of non-perishable items
6. Teen Challenge Worship Service and financial support.

Reflect on your strengths/gifts as a church:

1. Small size allows everyone to know most members and no one should get lost in regard to participation.
2. Have witnessed some infant baptisms and a growing youth program. New young families have joined the congregation over the past year.
3. Active outreach committee and good congregational support
4. Financial status is stable, budget has been met or close for the last 6 years
5. Faith Promise support is above budget to support missions and outreach.
6. Caring and friendly intergenerational family
7. Generous giving is evident in tangible ways with both money and donated time and items.

Reflect on your passions as a church:

1. Support for local and overseas missionaries
2. Spiritual education with Bible discussion groups, youth groups, and Wednesday evening CONNECT activities
3. Our congregation is driven to reach out to the unchurched by building loving relationships regardless of differences
4. Passion for those in need by providing goods not offered or able to be purchased with the EBT programs. Household items are donated and distributed without conditions other than you are in need of these items.

List specific problems with which your congregation struggles:

1. Small size is a challenge because the older age of many members excludes them from activities.
2. Many members travel south for winter months and because of this absence many will not serve on council or in leadership capacities.
3. Large churches in the community with more resources have appealed to members from smaller churches.



Do you have a recently articulated mission/vision for ministry? Yes: At Spring Lake Christian Reformed Church, we exist to help people of all ages develop authentic relationships with Jesus Christ.

What has been the most interesting and challenging event in the life of your church in the last three years?

1. Church Remodel Project

- a. Our church has recently completed a major renovation project, which included a new roof, new paint and carpeting, sanctuary seating, kitchen upgrades, as well as reconfiguration of several offices and classrooms.
- b. In the Fall of 2019, our congregation had determined that our church building needed more than a facelift: it needed an overhaul. From the repairing and re-shingling of our roof, to replacing the sanctuary windows, much of the flooring, lighting, and into the fellowship hall, offices and kitchen, it needed extensive work to be sure. Then enter COVID. Should we proceed with our plans, or would it be prudent to wait and see? We had the funds – a portion of which was already in our coffers and the remaining portion committed via pledges over the next three years. We decided that along with virtual services and meetings, there was no time like the present. We started with a “party” one evening which saw a huge turnout to take out all of the old wooden pews (some were kept for posterity) in favor of more comfortable (and movable) individual chairs. When all this work was completed, our results were not limited to our church being much more aesthetically pleasing with increased functionality. Most importantly, we proved to ourselves that despite the challenges of COVID, we could come together. When completed in the Spring of 2021, it gave us the confidence and the lesson learned that with a single purpose and working together, we can accomplish even more going forward.

2. Household Pantry Distribution Program

This event is held six times a year and we distribute non-food items (donated by the congregation). We impact 40 to 60 families each time.

3. Covid Response

During the covid shut down, we were able to continue worshipping together first via YouTube and then via Zoom. During the summer months we held our worship service outside on our lawn. This was very effective as we welcomed many members and non-members into fellowship together.

List major goals that this congregation has set for itself or opportunities the congregation anticipates:

1. As a church we want to increase the awareness of our presence and ministry in our community.
2. We want to increase our involvement in our community.
3. We strive to increase our youth and discipleship of our members.
4. We want to be a church that always remains true to the word and reformed doctrine.

Describe what being Christians of Reformed accent means to you:

1. Being of a reformed background means that we hold tight to the doctrines as they are laid out in TULIP.
2. We follow the 52 Lord's Days of the Heidelberg Catechism.

Describe your understanding of the relationship between the local church and the Christian Reformed denomination:

The relationship between our local church and CRC denomination is one of working together to support each other. We have an emphasis on our local church with wonderful support of resources through the denomination. We have access to, and use, many documents for the denomination. We support the work of many missionaries through Resonate Global Mission and World Renew. We also support the denomination through our yearly ministries shares.

Identify some of the cultural challenges facing Christians and Christian churches today:

1. Homosexuality and the danger of cultural acceptance of this in society. How the church relates to society and the place of the Bible and the role of Christians and churches.
2. Life gets too busy and these things get pushed to the side of life/family/church balance. The struggle of "busy" lives and the danger of losing the importance of the Christian values in daily lives. The importance of daily devotional time, both personal and family.
3. The sanctity of Sunday; the challenge of Sunday becoming just another day of the week. Sunday is a day of rest, declares the Lord. Protecting Sunday as a Holy day and setting aside this day to be with church family.
4. Denominational loyalty is also a challenge. Many people float from church to church without ever setting roots.
5. As a church we must remain true to the word and not "water down" the message to make it a "feel good" message.

What have been the three most important events in the history of your church?

1. In 1961, we moved to the current facility and the church started to outgrow its current location. Also, celebrating our centennial celebration on God's faithfulness to Spring Lake CRC.
2. In September of 2021 we completed a large renovation project of the facility, allowing us to better use this building to serve the Lord and to better engage our community.
3. Spring Lake CRC has always had strong support for our local and foreign missions. We support several foreign missionaries around the world. Some are children of our congregation. On the local level we serve our community with a household distribution every other month. We are always looking for ways to engage with our community.

### Leadership:

How many council members does your church have? 8 (4) Elders and (4) Deacons

What is the length of term for council members? 3 Years

How often does the full council meet? Monthly

What subgroups of council exist, how do they function and how often do they meet?

Finance - Oversees church finances - Meets as needed

Outreach - Promotes missions/evangelism locally and globally - Meets monthly

Properties - Oversees church property - Meets monthly

Faith Nurture - Coordinates church education, study groups, youth groups and mid-week gathering called "Connect" - Meets monthly

Worship & Music - Oversees worship services - Meets monthly

### OTHER MINISTRIES/OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE:

Children in Worship

Household Pantry Distribution

Nursing Home Services

Praise Team

Decorations

Hannah Bible Study

Nursery

Sixty Plus

Men's Bible Study

Hospitality (Greeters, Ushers, Welcome Table and Coffee Servers)

Technology Team (Web Design, Video, PowerPoint and Sound)

Wild Game Dinner