

# Faith Community Church



A community of believers,  
with Christ as our head,

glorifying God, sharing and growing  
in faith, hope, and love.

## CHURCH PROFILE

### Church Information:

**Name:** *Faith Community Christian Reformed Church*  
**Location of church:** *Colton, South Dakota*

### Council Contact:

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### Community Setting:

*We are located in the small town of Colton (approximate population: 600-700), which is in rural South Dakota, 20 minutes northwest of Sioux Falls (population: 180,000). It's an agricultural community, but a growing number of residents have jobs in Sioux Falls. Colton isn't growing, but Sioux Falls is currently growing at a rate of 5,000 new residents per year. Colton is part of the Tri-Valley School District and serves students in Colton, Crooks, and Lyons.*

### Position Profile:

*The position we are looking to fill as of January 2021 is that of a pastor who is willing to serve full time. We would also entertain the idea of part time or three-quarters time. We are looking for someone who is committed to the Reformed faith and is devoted to the standards of the Christian Reformed Church. The job description is given below. We are open to male pastors only. We would prefer a minimum three year commitment.*

#### *Job Description:*

- *Provide leadership in Sunday and special worship services, preaching the Word and, if ordained, administering the Sacraments.*
- *Provide the required administrative involvement and direction in the daily affairs of the church as needed for the purpose of effective ministry to the congregation.*
- *In conjunction with the elders, provide pastoral care for the congregation by visiting the sick, comforting the distressed, counseling and/or referral in crisis situations, and visiting the families of the congregation.*
- *Provide pastoral services for weddings and funerals.*
- *Assist the congregation with catechetical instruction, adult and youth education, profession of faith, membership classes, and outreach activities.*

- *Chapel services once a month at Colton Assisted Living.*
- *Be a member of the Education Committee.*
- *Be directly accountable to the council of the Faith Community CRC, providing monthly reports of activities.*
- *Work closely with the following groups within the church:*
  - *Powerpoint*
  - *Music*
  - *Education committee*
  - *Ministry groups*
  - *GEM's*
  - *Cadets*
  - *Youth group*

### Church Demographics:

Approximate size of the congregation: 23 families, 53 adults, 43 children

Profile of church members:

Age:

24% 0-11	21% 12-18	4% 19-24	6% 25-34	14% 35-49
11% 50-64	20% 65+			

Occupation:

11% Business	19% Professional	11% Trades
17% Agriculture	30% Retired	4% Student 8% Other

Percentage of members belonging to the congregation:

Less than 5 years	5%
5-10 years	5%
10 or more years	90%

Racial/Ethnic composition of congregation and surrounding community: *Largely Caucasian*

The last four persons in this position:

1. *Rev Dave Weemhoff: 2017-2020*
2. *Rev. Bernie Haan (Interim Minister): 2014-2016*
3. *Rev. Philip Landers: 2011-2014*
4. *Rev. Bill Vis: 2002-2010*

### Worship:

Planning and participation in the liturgy/worship:

*The pastor plans the order of worship, assisted occasionally by the accompanists. Members are willing to participate in special ways by reading Scripture, leading a litany, giving a children's message, offering special music, operating the video projector.*

Description of the worship services:

*There is one worship service each Sunday. Each service generally uses the Reformed*

*dialogic approach (God speaks/His people respond): call to worship/ song of praise; God's greeting/mutual greeting; call to confession/prayer of confession; words of assurance/song of response, etc. A separate message for the children can be included in the order of worship.*

Description of the discipleship practices in our church for all ages of members and attenders:  
*There is Children's worship (children ages 3-2nd grade), Sunday school for the younger children (4-12) and catechism for the teen-agers. A GEM's, Cadets, and youth group ministry is also available for the children of the church and the surrounding community. In the past there have been Bible study groups for adults. The older adults are encouraged to attend a monthly chapel service at the Assisted Living Home in Colton when Faith Community Church is responsible for the service.*

## Facilities:

### Church building:

*Built in 1994, the sanctuary can hold 250. There are 6 classrooms, a nursery, a kitchen, a fellowship hall that can handle 10 large round tables, an office/study, a workroom with copier and counter space, a women's and men's bathroom, a storage room. The facility is handicap accessible, and there is no debt on the building.*

### Parsonage:

*Built in 1957 (and updated a number of times since then), it consists of a kitchen, dining room, living room, 4 bedrooms (two upstairs and two on the main floor), 1 and 1/2 bathrooms (one upstairs and one on the main floor), laundry room (on the main floor), one-stall garage, and a large open basement.*

## Compensation:

*What we are prepared to offer is comparable to the compensation package being provided for a full-time pastor serving a Christian Reformed congregation nearby.*

### Benefits and expenses:

*Pension (CRC—ordained) or Retirement plan (un-ordained or non-CRC)  
Medical insurance (partial)  
Social Security off-set  
Travel/mileage  
Continuing Education funds and Continuing Education time allotted  
3 weeks annual vacation  
Parsonage utilities paid by the church*

## Church Characteristics:

Presently, the FOCUS OF OUR CHURCH'S MINISTRY is to *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 *mostly traditional.*

In our church, LEADERSHIP is generally provided by the *lay leaders who function alongside the pastor.*

Our church seeks to ENCOURAGE SPIRITUAL GROWTH through ministries for a *few groups within the congregation.*

In our church, EVANGELISM STRATEGIES AND METHODS are generally unplanned.

Our church is *mostly representative* of the ECONOMIC DIVERSITY of our community.

Our church is *strongly representative* of the ETHNIC DIVERSITY of our community.

Our church's RESPONSE TO COMPASSION AND JUSTICE NEEDS is *encouragement of personal action.*

Our church's MISSIONAL FOCUS is *mostly local.*

### Narrative:

- *Our mission statement, adopted in 2005 is: A community of believers, with Christ as our head, glorifying God, sharing and growing in faith, hope, and love.*
- *As for ecumenical activities, the pastor is part of the Colton Ministerial Association, which handles some community benevolent needs and plans the annual community outdoor worship service. The members also participate in the annual community wide VBS which is held in our building.*
- *Some of our strengths/gifts as a church are:*
  - *We have a variety of programs to educate our youth.*
  - *We have a growing number of young children.*
  - *Our church members are very caring.*
  - *We are a good working congregation.*
  - *We have a lovely structure that is handicap accessible.*
  - *We are willing to try new approaches to carrying out ministry.*
- *Our passions as a church include:*
  - *Gathering for worship to give praise to God and listen to His Word*
  - *Being attentive to the spiritual needs of our children and the children of our community*
  - *Demonstrating our care for one another in times of joy and sorrow*
- *Some problems we struggle with as congregation are:*
  - *Being willing and able to draw new members from the community*
  - *A shrinking pool of men able and willing to serve as office-bearers*
- *Perhaps the greatest challenge we have had in the life of our church is being able to draw new members into commitment to the church.*
- *A couple of goals that we have set for ourselves are:*
  - *Spiritual growth through active participation in the life of the church*
  - *Growth in numbers as we share with others the blessed truths of God's Word*

- *To us being Christians of Reformed accent means the following:*
  - *The Bible alone is our only authority for our faith and life.*
  - *Salvation is ours only by God's sovereign grace through faith in Jesus Christ.*
  - *Christ alone is our Savior from condemnation; he is also Lord over every area of life.*
  - *We are called to thankfully serve and glorify God in all that we do.*
- *It is our understanding that we have a covenantal relationship with the Christian Reformed denomination whereby we are supported in various ways by fellow CRC congregations, primarily at the classical level, but also at the synodical level through the ministries of the CRC. We, in turn, honor that covenant through our compliance to the church order, our prayer support, our monetary gifts, and our classical involvement.*
- *Some of the cultural challenges facing Christians and Christian churches today:*
  - *Individualism (not seeing the need for being part of a group of believers)*
  - *Moral relativism (what the church has stood for is suddenly dismissed)*
  - *Consumerism (material wealth has become more important than spiritual health)*
- *The three most important events in the history of our church are:*
  - 1) *The effect that the start of (early 1950's) and eventual closing (early 1970's) of a Christian school had on the congregation.*
  - 2) *The construction of a new building (both the many years of discussion prior to the decision and the fact that, thanks to the sweat equity and generosity of the members, there was never any debt on the building)*
  - 3) *A congregational assessment in 2004 led to forming a Renewal Team, adopting a mission statement, and naming the congregation Faith Community CRC*

### Leadership:

- *The council, which meets once a month, consists of 3 elders, 3 deacons, and the pastor. The length of term for the elders and the deacons is three years.*
- *There has been a Renewal Team that has met periodically within each year to oversee the details of the various ministries and make recommendations to the council.*
- *Currently the church is made up of three ministry groups that rotate to help with the supporting functions of worship and fellowship such as prelude music, greeting, decorations, serving coffee, and special activities.*



