

# CHURCH PROFILE FORM

## Church Information:

Name: Beacon Light Community Church

Location of church [City, State/Province]: Gary, Indiana

Classical Church Counselor: Jim Hollendonner (Munster CRC Pastor)

## Search Committee Contact:

Name: Jared Luttjeboer

Address: 1025 Windsor Ln., Dyer, IN 46311

Home: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell: (641) 629-0350 Work: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: jluttjeboer@gmail.com

## Community Setting:

### Location

Rural

Small Town

Metropolitan

Suburban

Inner City

Small City

### Function

Industrial

College/University

Agricultural

Recreational

Military

Bedroom Community

### Growth

Growing

Static

Declining

Approximate population of community: 4200

Church Profile:

We are open to:

- Male and Female pastors       Female pastors only       Male pastors only

List all staff positions: Alicia Sluis - Secretary (Part-Time)  
Maria Luttjeboer - Worship Coordinator (Part-Time)

Position Available: Lead Pastor / Minister of the Word and Sacraments      Date of vacancy: 07/01/2021

General position description:

The Pastor will preach Christ-centered, expository sermons that clearly communicate the gospel and the whole counsel of God and his Kingdom to all people, and in imitating Christ, this Pastor, together with the Associate Pastor and Elders, shall shepherd the flock and minister the Word according to the particular needs of groups, families, and individuals, including the poor, the sick, afflicted, and dying.

- Full-time       Part-time

Bi-vocational position?

- Yes       No

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

Required languages: English

## Church Demographics:

Average Sunday attendance: 60-70

Active adult professing members: 80

Profile of church members:

Age:

10 % 0-11    10 % 12-18    10 % 19-24    20 % 25-34  
0 % 35-49    10 % 50-64    40 % 65+

Occupation:

10 % Business    10 % Professional    10 % Trades    10 % Stay-at-home parent  
10 % Agriculture    30 % Retired    10 % Student    10 % Other

Percentage of members belonging to the congregation:

Less than 5 years    35 %  
5-10 years    15 %  
10 or more years    50 %

Racial/Ethnic composition of congregation and surrounding community:

Primarily caucasian

Composition of congregation:

Mono-Cultural

Multi-Cultural

Specific Ethnicity (specify:

)

List the last three persons in this position:

1. John Hoffmaster
2. Peter Oh
3. James LaGrand

## Worship:

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

The order of service is planned and structured by the pastor in consultation with the worship coordinator. We are conscious to our desire to make this an intentionally congregational worship service. Therefore, at times, congregants will participate in litanies, special music, reading the Scriptures, offering prayers, etc.

Describe the worship services in your church:

Beacon Light Community Church follows a traditional Christian Reformed liturgy/order of service, with a blend of traditional and contemporary music (i.e., Getty music) (see sample bulletin attached to our other uploaded documents)

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

A variety of opportunities are present for people of most ages to participate in discipleship programs, such as Coffee Break, Seniors Coffee, Women's Bible Study, Men's Bible Study, and Adult Sunday School.

## Building/Financial:

Present annual budget: \$115,914.94

Last year's annual budget: \$102,855.54

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

Budget	97%
Denominational Ministry Shares	\$2,863.47
Classical Ministry Shares	\$2,863.47

Amount contributed above budget and ministry shares: n/a

Specify (optional):

Facilities:

Describe facilities: The church building hosts a sanctuary, foyer, pastor's office, council room, balcony (with potential youth loft), nursery, fellowship room, kitchen with food pantry, and a chapel.

Are your buildings adequate for your ministries?  Yes  No

If no, please explain:

Is a building program projected?  Yes  No

If yes, describe what and when:

Does the church own a parsonage?  Yes  No

Location of office or study: Church building

## Compensation:

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

Compensation Survey for our area:

If other, please specify: \$53k with parsonage / \$65k with housing allowance

The average annual increase for this position over the past three years is:

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ or 3 \_\_\_\_\_ %

## Housing:

- Housing allowance
- Parsonage only
- Either of the above

## Benefits and expenses:

- Pension
- Medical insurance
- Life insurance
- Social Security or Canada Pension
- Travel/mileage
- Continuing Education funds
- Continuing Education time allotted
- Sabbatical policy in place
- 3 Annual vacation (# weeks)
- Other (please specify)

# Church Characteristics:

*[Check which one(s) are closest to your church's characteristics]*

Presently, the FOCUS OF OUR CHURCH'S MINISTRY is

	Community exclusively	Community primarily	Community & current members/ participants equally	Current members/ participants primarily	Current members/ participants exclusively	
External	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Internal

In our church, the WORSHIP SERVICE IS DESIGNED FOR

	Designed for unchurched	Emphasis on unchurched	Unchurched and believers	Emphasis on believers	Designed for believers	
Unchurched	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Churched

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

	Contemporary	Mostly contemporary	Blended	Mostly traditional	Traditional	
Contemporary	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Traditional

In our church, LEADERSHIP is generally provided by the

	Predominantly lay leaders	Frequently lay leaders	Lay leaders & pastoral staff share leadership	Lay leaders function under pastoral staff	Predominantly pastoral staff	
Congregational members	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Pastoral staff

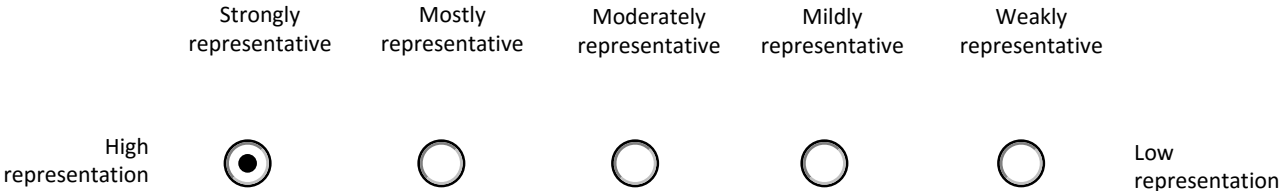
Our church seeks to ENCOURAGE SPIRITUAL GROWTH through

	No specific ministries	Ministries for a few groups	Ministries for selected groups	Ministries for most groups	Ministries for all groups	
Informal	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	Formal

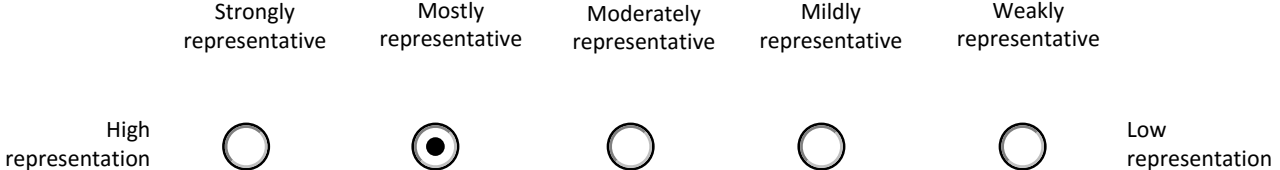
In our church, EVANGELISM STRATEGIES AND METHODS are

	Predominantly unplanned	Generally unplanned	Equal emphasis	Generally planned	Predominantly planned	
Unplanned	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Planned

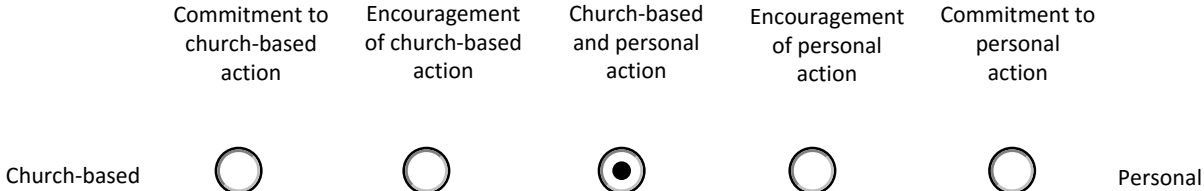
Our church is representative of the ECONOMIC DIVERSITY of our community



Our church is representative of the ETHNIC DIVERSITY of our community



Our church's RESPONSE TO COMPASSION, MERCY, AND JUSTICE NEEDS is



Our church's MISSIONAL FOCUS is



## Narrative:

In what ways does your church participate in ecumenical activities?

Beacon Light has participated in ecumenical activities in the following ways:

- 1) Holding joint special services with other churches in the Black Oak community, most notably a Good Friday and Evening of Lessons and Carols service.
- 2) Once a month prayer meetings held between local churches.
- 3) Developing relationships with African American churches in the community
- 4) We are partnered with other Reformed churches in the area (being of one missional mind)

Reflect on your strengths/gifts as a church:

Beacon Light Community Church's strengths/gifts are truly reflected in its name: community. As a tightly-knit portion of the body of our Lord, we exude a communal compassion for those in our midst: friends and strangers alike.

We do our best, God helping us, to make members and visitors feel like family, exhibiting the incarnational life that our Lord encourages us to live, encouraging and building each other up in the most holy faith, while at the same time promoting a vibrant praying environment (Jude 1:20).

Reflect on your passions as a church:

Beacon Light Community Church's passions can be listed as follows:

- 1) To yearn to know Jesus more and more by learning from the Word proclaimed and taught
- 2) Worshiping together as a community of saints
- 3) Leading souls to Christ through an effective witness
- 4) Having a big-picture Kingdom mindset of the world around us
- 5) Meeting and providing for those who stand in need

List specific problems with which your congregation struggles:

If there was one specific problem that a portion of Beacon Light struggles with, it is that of being mature in biblical literacy. It has been pressed upon the leadership of Beacon Light to call this family of God to dig into the Scriptures more, to memorize passages of God's Word, to understand the movement of divine revelation through the Bible from the Old Testament into the New, especially as it is fully realized in Christ, and to grow in love and appreciation for this special revelation given to us.



Do you have a recently articulated mission/vision for ministry?

Yes

No

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

The onset of the COVID-19 pandemic forced the leadership and congregation of Beacon Light to adapt in ways they never had to before, particularly virtually (audio only). After careful deliberation, consideration, discussion, and prayer over the announcement from Indiana Governor Eric Holcomb on reopening the State, the Council at Beacon Light decided to move forward with having our first in-person service together on Sunday, May 24. As we moved ahead into those weeks, the Council met frequently to strategize a plan for how we as a church would continue to abide by healthy social-distancing guidelines as we held services, and kept members and visitors up to date on those developments. We gave praise and thanks to God for his grace and mercy and providence in this tumultuous season that we found ourselves in. Council's role was in accordance with acts of love as found in the roles of those who are leaders of the church, that we may "Pay careful attention to ... all the flock, ... to care for the church of God" (Acts 20:28). Not only are we called to do this in a spiritual way, but at that moment, we were to care for the congregation physically as well.

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

- 1) A Sunday Evening learning/teaching service, at least twice a month
- 2) Develop a robust youth and children's ministry, with many young ones eager to grow in spiritual maturity
- 3) To be more evangelical with interpersonal one on one witnessing and sharing of the faith, and in this way, experiencing the organic growth of the church.

Describe what being Christians of Reformed accent means to you:

It may be said that to be Reformed is to be evangelical with a Kingdom mindset, having our minds and lives shaped by the gospel of Jesus Christ, which then enables us to express our love and gratitude to Christ, and then by extension to others in front of a watching world. God in his sovereignty has ordained the calling out of the world those chosen before the foundation of time itself, sending his one and only Son to die for them (John 3:16). God uses his church as a vessel to bring the Word and sacraments to this people. As those whose lives are subsequently changed by the renewing of our minds by God's Spirit, we are called to "do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with [our] God" (Micah 6:8). This church is comprised of all nations, a spiritual maturation of the physical ethnic nation of Israel (the Church being the Israel of God). We also view the world through the lens of redemptive history, namely, Creation, Fall, Redemption, and Consummation/Restoration. In all of these things, Christ is at the center, and is the focus of the preaching of the Word.

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

The local church carries the greater weight of our cares and concerns. And in regards to overall ministry life, the local church has the greater focus. Yet, being in the Christian Reformed denomination helps our local church to remain healthily reformed, safely orthodox, and decidedly encouraged. Encouraged because we are dynamically united with other churches who are mutually Christ-centered and Reformed in theology.

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

The greatest cultural threat/challenge facing Christians and Christian churches today is the very question of what it means to be human. Given current events (this form was written in 2021), the current cultural climate, and twisting and manipulation of biblical justice into a social poison, social norms have the craftiness of the "devil in the details," able to sneak into the church and attempt to destroy her.

With this challenge, the church, especially her leaders, needs to remain vigilant in being a visible, tangible, united witness in a fragmented postmodern virtual media informed culture, and remain rooted in the truths of God's Word ultimately.

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

1) 1949 Beacon Light was established as a church

2) Transitioning from the old chapel building to a new building project; in between, the congregation was meeting in the Old Firehouse Ministries facilities. The body of the church, since moving into the new building in 2018, has grown during this time (particularly with a new generation coming in), allowing the leadership itself to grow as well, with able-bodied and energetic individuals with God-given gifts and talents to step into those leadership roles.

3) 70 Year Anniversary held in 2019

## Leadership:

How many council members does your church have? 8

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

How often does the full council meet? Once a month

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

Subgroups of council include the diaconate and the consistory.

Deacons serve in the ministry of mercy, helping those who stand in need of a variety of things. The consistory (along with the pastor), comprised of elders, maintain the orthodox doctrine of Scripture through preaching and teaching, preside over the sacraments, and give pastoral aid to the the spiritually and physically weary.