



Fourteenth Street Christian Reformed Church

Church Profile

General Church Information

Location of the Church: 14 W. 14th Street, Holland, Michigan 49423

Phone: (616) 396-8182

Email: 14thcrc@sbcglobal.net

Website: www.14thstreetcrc.com

Classical Church Counselor: Chris DeVos

Search Committee Contact:

Co-Chair **Susan Vanden Berg**

Cell: 616-212-7281

Email: 14thpastorsearch@gmail.com

Co-Chair **Dan Day**

Home: 616-738-6630 Cell: 616-826-2365

Email: 14thpastorsearch@gmail.com

Community Setting:

Location: Small City, Near Downtown Holland, Hope College, and Western Theological Seminary

Function: College, Recreational, and Industrial

Growth: City is static, but surrounding area is growing

Population of City of Holland: 33,500 People

Population of Metro Holland: 65,000 People



Church Profile

Position Available:

Pastor (Full-time) will be vacant in June 2018

We are open to:

☒ Male & Female Pastors

☐ Female Pastors Only

☐ Male Pastors Only

List all Staff Positions:

Pastor (Full-time): Marvin Hofman

Directors Of Children's Ministry (Part-time): Bob and Laura Keeley

Director of Youth Ministry (Part-time): Raeanne Walters

Worship Coordinator (Part-time): Mary Koster

Director of Kids' Hope USA & STEP Tutoring (Part-time): Albie Praamsma

Secretary (Part-time): Sandy Polet

Custodial (Part-time): Matt Stilwell and Raeanne Walters

Bi-vocational Position:

☐ Yes ☒ No

Required Language(s): English



Church Demographics

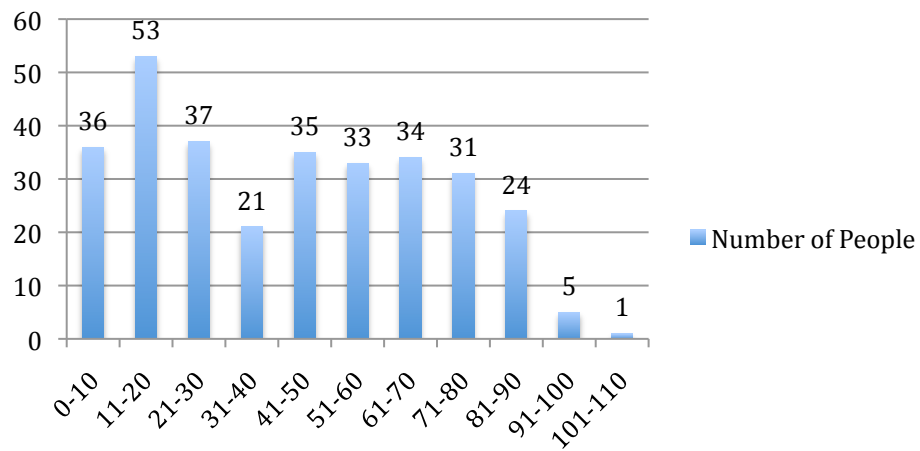
Average Sunday Attendance:

10:30 a.m. Service: 230 people

6:00 p.m. Service: 60 people

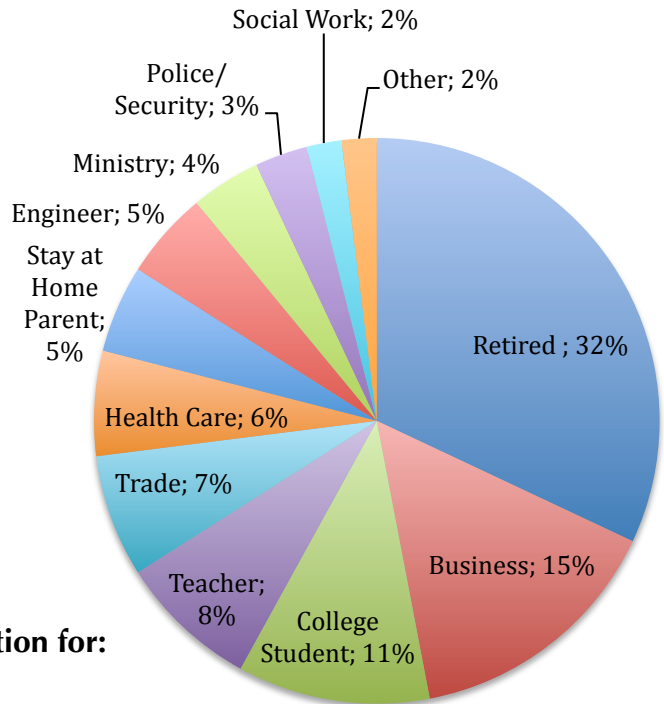
Active Adult Professing Members: 205

Ages of Congregation Members



Occupation:

Retired: 32%
Business: 15%
College Student: 11%
Teacher: 8%
Trade: 7%
Health Care: 6%
Stay-at-Home Parent: 5%
Engineer: 5%
Ministry: 4%
Police/Security: 3%
Social Work: 2%
Other: 2%



Members have belonged to the congregation for:

17% fewer than 5 years.
7% for 5-10 years.
76% for 10 or more years.

Composition of the congregation:

☒ Mono-Cultural
☐ Multi-Cultural
☐ Specific Ethnicity

List the last three persons in this position:

- 1) Marvin Hofman
- 2) Norman Steen
- 3) Cliff Bajema





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

The pastor serves as the lead worship planner and creates the liturgies, with logistical support from the Worship Planning Team that meets biweekly to brainstorm, cover details, and recruit and coordinate volunteers.

Volunteers serve in a variety of ways to enhance worship: musicians, acolytes, the prayer of illumination, reading Scripture, sound and video, dramatic readers, children's choir, greeters and ushers, Hospitality Team, Worship Planning Team, worship planning coordinator, children's message, Worship Design Team, worship design coordinator, and by sharing "Story of God" moments during the services.

Describe the worship services in your church:

Our worship is purposeful, intergenerational, and liturgical. Our worship style values both where we have come from and where we are now. At the start of every Sunday morning service, the flame of the Christ candle is lit and the Bible brought forward to symbolize the Good News of the gospel. At the close of the service, we take the light of Christ and the Holy Scriptures from the sanctuary into the world. Music at 14th Street is often led by organ and piano. Members of all ages offer their talents in vocal ensembles, and through musical instruments such as guitar, brass, wind, and string. We worship through songs that range from hymns and psalms to contemporary and world music that remind us of our place as a body of believers that goes beyond our current time and space.



We also worship through the spoken word. Each week, church members offer prayers and read Scripture and hear the Word preached. Once a month, we have the sacrament of Communion. Responsive readings and creeds as well as times of reflection and prayer engage the congregation. Members occasionally also participate in dramatic readings of Scripture passages.

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

Our congregation has faith-formation programs for all ages:

Nursery

Children's Worship (three-year-olds to 4th grade)

Sunday School (three-year-olds to adults—approximately 30 adults attend Sunday School each week.)

Joy Club and Boys' Club (3rd to 8th grade kids)

CrossTrainers (7th and 8th grade)

Young Peoples (9th to 12th grade)

Bible studies for adults (Moms in the Morning, Bibles and Brews (men's evening study), 20s & 30s Women evening Bible study, Thursday morning Bible study)

Tuesday 6:00 a.m. Prayer Group

In addition many members use their gifts and talents on serving on council, teams and committees and volunteering in the church as well as in the community.



Building and Financial

Present Annual Budget (2018): \$449,374

Last Year's Annual Budget (2017): \$446,726

Percentage of financial obligations met (last complete year reported)

Budget: 100%

Denominational Ministry Shares: 100%

Classical Ministry Shares: 100%

Facilities: We have a 300-seat sanctuary that includes a balcony. There are nine classrooms, offices for the pastor, secretary, and staff, a conference meeting room, a mid-size community room, a large fellowship hall, a kitchen, and a nursery. Our facility includes a parking lot with entrances on 14th Street, 15th Street, and Central Avenue.

Are your buildings adequate for your ministries? Yes

Is a building program projected? No (Renovation/Expansion was completed in 2014.)

Does the church own a parsonage? No

Location of office or study: In the church office



Compensation

The salary range we are prepared to offer our new pastor is based on the CRC
Minister compensation salary for our area: Yes

The average annual increase for this position of the past three years: Salary
increase has followed the Social Security cost of living recommendations.

Housing:

- ☒ Housing allowance
- ☐ Parsonage only
- ☐ Either of the above

Benefits and Expenses:

- ☒ Pension
- ☒ Medical Insurance
- ☒ Life Insurance
- ☐ Social Security
- ☒ Travel/Mileage
- ☒ Continuing Education Funds
- ☒ Continuing Education time allotted
- ☐ Sabbatical policy in place
- Annual Vacation: Negotiable
- Other Benefits: _____



Leadership

How many Council members does your church have? There are 18 members of the Council, including the pastor. Office bearers are selected by election and drawing lots.

What is the length of term for Council members? Members serve for three years.

How often does the full Council meet? The full Council meets once a month (with the exception of July). Elders and deacons meet independently before the full council meets.

What subgroups of Council exist? We have four subgroups of Council: the Executive Team, the Finance Team, the Building Team, and the Technology Team.



1) In what ways does your church participate in ecumenical activities?

Fourteenth Street CRC is active with other churches in a number of ways. Our pastor, Marv Hofman, is responsible for many of them. He hosts a monthly brown-bag lunch for local CRC pastors where they discuss issues in the church. We have also partnered with other churches in our area for a number of community events, most recently, the Holland Reformation Commemoration Series in which we have partnered with many churches in Holland (including the Catholic churches) to reflect on what the Reformation has meant for all of us. A number of our members attend the yearly Calvin Institute of Christian Worship (CICW) Symposium on Worship, which allows us to commune with people from many denominations. In addition we are part of the Holland Deacons Conference and support their ministries. Many members serve other nonprofit organizations such as Lakeshore Little People's Place, Jubilee Ministries, Positive Options, 3sixty Ministries, Barnabas Ministries, Red Cross, World Renew, Resonate Global Mission, Cornerstone Youth Ministries, CRC Missionary Support, and more.

2) Reflections of the strengths and gifts of your congregation:

We are a warm, welcoming congregation. From the moment someone walks in the door, a Fourteenth Street member is learning their name and finding ways for them to connect with us.

Our church has a long history of serving children well and faith formation has been a focus at Fourteenth Street Church for many decades. We have thriving Sunday School classes (for three years old through adults), Children's Worship classes, youth groups, and a prayer partner ministry.

Our worship services are liturgical, thoughtfully planned, and executed. We include traditional and contemporary music. We try to choose music that has a solid reformed text and allows the congregation to sing well. We want things done well, but we also value involvement from many members of the congregation from people of all ages. That means that we have a tradition of excellence tempered by grace. We are not afraid to try new things, and allow our pastor and the Worship Planning Team lead us into new areas of worship.





3) Reflections of the passions evident in your congregation:

Many of our passions are reflected in our strengths (See question 2). We also have a passion for partnering with our community and neighborhood, especially in areas of education. We have long had a Kids' Hope USA program and also our own middle school tutoring program, STEP (Students & Tutors for Educational Progress). We are also passionate about being an intergenerational church. We value all generations in every aspect of our community and ministry.

4) List specific problems with which your congregation struggles

Connecting with our neighborhood is an area in which we would like to improve.

We are friendly, but sometimes struggle to go deeper with new people. For some, it takes a while before they feel like they're fully part of the community. We would like to be better at enfolding newcomers and encourage deeper, spiritual relationships.

Our household structure is struggling to serve its intended purpose and needs some new initiatives to renew the connections that we hope members will make within the larger congregation.



5) What have been the most interesting and challenging events in the life of your church in the last three years?

We have completed an addition to our church building in 2014 and have been learning about and growing into our newly renovated space.

After spending time in the Church Renewal Lab, run by the Calvin Theological Seminary (<http://www.calvinseminary.edu/the-renewal-lab/>), we created a new ministry plan in 2014 and have been implementing it since. It has reorganized many areas of ministry and refocused the tasks of the church.

In 2014, Montello Park CRC was preparing to close their doors and we considered combining our ministries. After months of consideration and conversations between our two congregations (including combined services), we invited the members of Montello Park to join as members of Fourteenth Street Church. We were happy to have a number of them join us.

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

In our 2014 Ministry Plan, we set many goals for ourselves to work towards. Many of them have already been accomplished, and others are still pending. They include goals like “Promote deeper discipleship,” “Assess and potentially re-organize Wednesday night activities to promote fellowship and discipleship,” and “Evaluate the roles and responsibilities of households.” Additionally, we hope to connect more with our neighborhood and community. (We’ve joined forces with groups like 3sixty Ministries to help us do this better.) Our Ministry Plan is available upon request.

7) Describe what being Christians of Reformed accent means to you:

It means that:

- We have a theology in which God’s sovereignty is not only acknowledged, but cherished.
- We recognize that we are saved by grace and live our lives in gratitude.
- The whole world is God’s and we need to reflect that in the way we treat it.
- We do not shun culture but also do not allow it to be more important than being citizens of God’s Kingdom.
- Each person is created in God’s image and is worthy of honor as we walk alongside them.

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

Fourteenth Street is pleased to be part of the CRC. We faithfully attend Classis meetings, pay our share of classical and denominational ministry shares, receive offerings for denominational agencies, give and receive updates on the work of CRC ministries, and participate in the leadership of the denomination. We support Christian Reformed Missionaries with prayers, financial support, and quarterly Global Outreach Services. Fourteenth Street is willing to innovate but we are careful about how we do it. Our leadership in the children at the Lord's Supper issue over the last decade shows that we cherish our connections to the CRC but also want to be engaged in how we can more faithfully be a church in the 21st century.

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

In our culture for the past couple of decades, there has been a decline of faith commitment (and church attendance) among all ages, but especially younger adults. How do we encourage digging deeper into the faith (especially for young adults who were raised in the church) without pushing new believers away?

The church also needs to reclaim the importance of community. Our culture has encouraged independence and yet the church is a place to work together to discern where God is working and how to move forward together.

The questions of how Christians and Christian churches are called to handle LGBTQ issues (including same sex marriage within the church) with love and biblical faithfulness is a challenge for many churches today.



10) What have been the three important events in the history of your church (past and present)?

Past:

- 1) Fourteenth Street CRC began as the first English-speaking Christian Reformed Church in Holland, Michigan in 1902.
- 2) Fourteenth Street CRC split in 1954, which created Faith CRC.
- 3) Fourteenth Street CRC affirmed women in church office by electing our first female office bearer in 1990.

Present:

- 1) The “Children at the Lord’s Supper” overture at Synod began at Fourteenth Street CRC in 2006.
- 2) New vision and mission statements were created in 2014.
- 3) Church expansion and renovation project (completed in 2014).

