**CHURCH PROFILE FORM**

Church Information:

**Name**: Peace Christian Reformed Church

**Location of Church**: Menno, South Dakota

**Classical Church Counselor:** Pastor Bryan Dick

Search Committee Contact:

**Name**: Wes Schaeffer, c/o Peace CRC

**Address**: 306 High St. Menno SD 57045

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Community Setting:

**Location**: Small town in rural South Dakota; approximately 60 miles southwest of Sioux Falls, the largest city in S.D. Located close to Yankton and Mitchell as well.

**Function**: Agricultural community

**Growth of Menno**: Static, however, seeing more demand from those moving out of larger cities.

**Approximate Population of Community**: 600 people

Church Profile:

**We are open to**: Male pastors only

**List all staff positions**: All lay staff positions are volunteer

**Position Available**: Lead Pastor

**General position description:**

Lead pastor devoted to the standards of the CRC to shepherd our theologically conservative congregation with sound teaching based on biblical principles. Expectations: preach one sermon each Sunday and special services as needed, complete pastoral care visits, teach catechism class, teach adult Sunday School and Bible studies, be active in the Menno community and attend school-based youth events, work alongside the elders and deacons in church administration.

Full time

Years of Experience: Open

**Required languages**: English.

Church Demographics

**Average Sunday attendance**: 80-90

**Active adult professing members**: 110

**Profile of church members**:

**Age**:

0-11 – 8%; 12-18 – 7%; 19-24 – 5%; 25-34 – 7%; 35-49 – 14%; 50-64 – 22%; 65+ - 35%

**Occupation**:

Business – 5%; Professional – 16%; Trades – 18%; Stay at home parent/other – 6%; Agricultural – 16%; Retired – 28%; Student – 11%

**Percentage of members belonging to the congregation**:

Less than 5 years – 1%; 5-10 years – 5%; 10 or more years – 94%

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

Caucasian with German and Norwegian heritage

**Composition of congregation**: Mono-Cultural

**List the last three persons in this position**:

1. Steve Moerman
2. Joseph Brinks
3. Harold Willemstyn

Interim Pastors: Bill Vis, Jack Gray

Worship:

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

Currently worship is 100% pastor lead since we are vacant. We expect the pastor to work with worship and music committees as needed. Church members help with visual projector and sound system.

**Describe the worship services in your church**: Our worship services are currently traditional. We have a desire to reach blended services between conservative and praise and worship styles.

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

Children’s Sunday school offered to pre-school through 12th grade; Adult Sunday School; Coffee Break Bible Study; Men’s Bible Study, Women’s Bible Study; Women of the Church fellowship and study, Youth Group (including SERVE and TUG); catechism class, care groups; monthly church visiting groups; programs and services at the area nursing homes; articles in the local paper.

Building/Financial:

**Present annual budget**: $134,791

**Last year’s annual budget**: $132,936

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

Budget – 100% Denominational Ministry Shares – 0% Classical Ministry Shares – 100%

**Facilities:**

The church was built in 1979 and is adequate for our ministries. No current building plans are projected.

Parsonage was built in 1981 – tri-level house with spacious storage; 4-bedroom, 2.5 bath, study available;, 2-car garage; back yard with large garden plot available. Parsonage located across the street from the church.

There are two options for a pastor’s study – one at the church and the other at the parsonage.

The salary range we are prepared to offer our new pastor is based on the CRC minister compensation survey for our area.

The average annual increase for this position over the past three years is 1.9%.

**Housing**: Parsonage only

**Benefits and expenses**: pension, medical insurance, social Security, travel/mileage, continuing education funds, annual vacation (four weeks per year for first four years; increases with tenure), all parsonage utilities and maintenance paid.

Church Characteristics:

Presently the focus of our church’s ministry is primarily for current members and participants.

In our church, the worship service is designed with an emphasis on believers.

In our church, the style of music used in the worship service is traditional during our vacancy. We will work to get back to having praise and worship music on a regular basis.

In our church, leadership is generally provided by the lay leaders.

Our church seeks to encourage spiritual growth through ministries for all groups.

In our church, evangelism strategies and methods are equal emphasis between unplanned and planned.

Our church is mostly representative of the economic diversity of our community.

Our church is mostly representative of the ethnic diversity of our community.

Our church’s response to compassion, mercy, and justice needs is both 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?**

Menno-Olivet Ministerial Association (bachelorette service, community services); Minn-I-Kota Youth; SERVE, TUG (Teens United in God), rotation of area nursing home programs and services, Easter Cantata, M.O.R.E. (Menno-Olivet Resources for the Elderly), community projects, written articles in the local newspaper

**Reflect on your strengths/gifts as a church**:

We follow conservative theology (ex. R.C. Sproul) and enjoy faithful worship by our members on a regular basis. We are a strong biblically-based church that supports both global (ex. Ben & Amy Meyer) and local missions. All Bible studies are well-attended. Our congregational members have servant hands and willing hearts so we are caring and compassionate, always willing to lend a hand to help those in need. Our members generously support the youth of our church and the SERVE projects in which they participate. Our congregants view each other as family – willing to open our homes and the church social hall to practice hospitality to individuals and groups – providing meals for projects around our area.

**Reflect on your passions as a church**:

We strongly value the preaching of God’s word from the Gospel including preaching structured by the Heidelberg Catechism. We are passionate about encouraging our youth and supporting their SERVE trips and organizing trips to the Creation Museum and the Ark. We also encourage congregants in member-led missions (Little Dresses for Africa, Operation Christmas Child, Alpha Center, Gideons, etc). Peace is our name, and peace is our pattern.

**List specific problems with which your congregation struggles:**

Retaining members – our funerals out-number our baptisms. Currently we are not the “go-to” church so we lose members to a bigger church in the community.

**Do you have a recently articulated mission/vision for ministry?** No. We desire to develop this with our next pastor.

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

After years of peaceful pastoral care, we had a regrettable Article 17 separation. We are healing. We have corrected the cause.

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

Open communication as we continue to heal. As the healing process continues, we look forward to attracting new members.

**Describe what being Christians of Reformed accent means to you:**

As part of Classis MinnKota, we stand strongly for a rich appreciation of strong lay leadership founded in the infallible, inerrant scripture as reflected in the classic confessions and creeds of the church. We strive to “do” and speak the truth. We believe in the five solas of the Reformation: *sola Scriptura, sola fide, sola gratia, solus Christus, Soli Deo gloria.*

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

We deeply regret the denomination’s slide from orthodoxy to a more social gospel and for allowing churches to deviate from biblical practice.

We enjoy supporting classical and denominational missions.

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

Abortion, gender issues, cancel culture, easy beliefism, government policies against Christians

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

1. Establishment in 1979 – stood up against liberal policies – withdrew from the UCC to be a more biblically confessional reformed congregation.

2. SERVE opportunities for the youth since 1989; mission out-reach

3. Moved to Classis MinnKota – 2018

Leadership

**How many council members does your church have?** nine

**What is the length of term for council members?** three years

**How often does the full council meet?** Monthly or more as needed.

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

We have five elders and four deacons. Together they meet monthly or more often as needed. The elders meet each Sunday before the church service, and the deacons meet each Sunday after the church service.

Other church committees:

Building & Grounds, Education, Missions, Planning/Projects, Library, Weather, Saron Cemetery, Worship and Music