



FIRST BYRON

CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH

Church Information

Name: First Byron Center Christian Reformed Church

Location of church: Byron Center, MI

Search Committee Contact

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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: 7,685

Church Profile

We are open to:

☐ Male & Female Pastors

☐ Female Pastor Only

☒ Male Pastors Only

Current staff positions:

- Senior Pastor - Pastor Jean Gomes (full time)
- Pastor of Worship - Pastor Jordan Nickell (full time)
- Director of Ministries - Steve Elenbaas (full time)
- Director of Youth Discipleship - Josh Cnossen (full time)
- Director of Children's Discipleship - Lindsay VanderPloeg (full time)
- Director of Missions/Outreach - Pastor Karis Mpindi (part time)
- Pastor of Visitation - Pastor Richard Hartwell (part time)
- Admin Assistant - Cherie Zondervan (full time)
- Bookkeeper - Becki Doornbos (part time)
- Kids Hope Director - Chris Kruithof (part time)
- Facilities (part time) - Brett & Deb Dykema

Position available: Pastor of Congregational Care

Date of vacancy: NA - This is a new position

General Position Description: The Pastor of Congregational Care is responsible for shepherding the church through life's joys and challenges, ensuring that members receive compassionate, Christ-centered care and remain connected to the church community.

☒ Full-time

☐ Part-time

Bi-vocational position?

☐ Yes

☒ No

Church Demographics

Average Sunday attendance: 750

Active adult professing members: 664

Profile of church members

Age:

0-11:	16.5%	25-34:	10.0%	65+:	24.9%
12-18:	15.4%	35-49:	8.6%		
19-24:	13.6%	50-64:	11.0%		

Occupation:

Business:	20%	Stay-at-home:	5%	Student:	13%
Professional:	15%	Agricultural:	2%	Other:	
Trades:	25%	Retired:	20%		

Percentage of members belonging to the congregation:

Less than 5 years:	15%
5-10 years:	30%
10 or more year:	55%

2025 Church Life Statistics:

Births:	15
Weddings:	7
Funerals:	17
Professions of Faith:	14
Small Groups:	37 (330 Members)

Racial/Ethnic composition of congregation and surrounding community:

Predominantly white (95%), English speaking

Composition of congregation:

- ☒ Mono-Cultural
- ☐ Multi-Cultural
- ☐ Specific Ethnicity (specify:)

Worship

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

The Pastor of Worship plans all services of worship and then reviews and adapts the order of worship with the Senior Pastor. Over 50 volunteers rotate on musician and sound teams to help lead the congregation in worship. Many other volunteer teams participate during worship, including hospitality, security, medical response, ushering, nursery, valet, children's ministry, and post-service fellowship.

Describe the worship services in your church:

We believe God has told us in His Word how He wants to be worshiped, so we don't get creative with the fundamentals. We want to be a church that proclaims the Word of God, so in our worship we will read the Word, sing the Word, pray the Word, see the Word, and most of all, preach the Word. First Byron is a singing church! The collective voice of the congregation is the primary musical element in our services. We use a blend of traditional hymns and modern worship songs to engage a multi-generational body. A worship committee meets quarterly to review the blend and ensure balance in worship styles. We gather again in the evening to close the Lord's Day with worship.

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

First Byron values every member of our church family, we do our best to encourage one another in our walk of faith no matter their age.

Early Childhood (0-Kindergarten)	Youth (PreK-12th grade)	Adult/Family (18+)
Nursery (age 0-4) Children in Worship (age 4-Kindergarten)	Sunday School (PreK-4th grade) Catechism (5th-12th grade) VBS (PreK-5th grade) Middle School Youth Group (6th-8th grade) High School Youth Group (9th-12th grade) Cadets (5th-8th grade) GEMS (4th-8th grade)	Adult Education Bible Study Groups (various) Caregivers Support Group Choir Church Life Congregational Prayer Meetings Dining Out Groups Grief Share Helping Hands Kids Hope Member Care Ministry Men's Discipleship Prayer Shawl Ministry

		Prime Timers Small Groups Spring Break Mission Trip (bi-annual) Stephens Ministry Women's Ministry Events Young Adults
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Building/Financial

Operations budget for 2026: \$1,574,094

Previous year's Operations budget (2025): \$1,464,763

Collected: \$1,522,519.74

Paid 2025 Expenses: \$1,281,511.28

Other 2026 Financial items

Christian Education budgeted: \$632,561

Missions budgeted: \$210,500

Denomination Ministry shares pledged: \$126,000

Classical Ministry Shares pledged: \$19,760

Facilities

Describe Facilities: Located in the heart of Byron Center, our facilities were renovated in 2003 with a sanctuary that holds 1,050, a Fellowship Hall and several offices. A house on the church property was purchased in 2022 and is used for additional office space and church ministries.

Is a building program projected? Yes

If yes, describe what and when: A building campaign is underway to expand facilities to accommodate the growth of the church.

Does the church own a parsonage? No

Location of office or study: Several offices located on church property

Compensation

The salary range we are prepared to offer our new pastor is based on the CRC Minister Compensation Survey for our area.

Housing:

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

Benefits and expenses:

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

Church 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	
<i>External</i>	☐	☐	☐	☒	☐	<i>Internal</i>

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	
<i>Unchurched</i>	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒	<i>Churched</i>

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

	Contemporary	Mostly contemporary	Blended	Mostly traditional	Traditional	
<i>Contemporary</i>	☐	☐	☒	☐	☐	<i>Traditional</i>

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	
<i>Congregational Members</i>	☐	☐	☒	☐	☐	<i>Pastoral Staff</i>

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	
<i>Informal</i>	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒	<i>Formal</i>

In our church, EVANGELISM STRATEGIES AND METHODS are

	Predominantly unplanned	Generally unplanned	Equal emphasis	Generally planned	Predominantly planned	
<i>Unplanned</i>	☐	☐	☐	☒	☐	<i>Planned</i>

Our church is representative of the ECONOMIC DIVERSITY of our community

	Strongly representative	Mostly representative	Moderately representative	Mildly representative	Weekly representative	
<i>High Representation</i>	☐	☐	☒	☐	☐	<i>Low Representation</i>

Our church is representative of the ETHNIC DIVERSITY of our community

	Strongly representative	Mostly representative	Moderately representative	Mildly representative	Weekly representative	
<i>High Representation</i>	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐	<i>Low Representation</i>

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

	Commitment to church-based action	Encouragement of church-based action	Church-based and personal action	Encouragement of personal action	Commitment to personal action	
<i>Church-based</i>	☐	☐	☒	☐	☐	<i>Personal</i>

Our church's MISSIONAL FOCUS is

	All local	Mostly local	Equally local and global	Mostly global	All global	
<i>Local</i>	☐	☐	☒	☐	☐	<i>Global</i>

Narrative

In what ways does your church participate in ecumenical activities?

We work together with several area churches to help support Kid's Hope, Buist Community Assistance, Hand 2 Hand, and Byron Community Ministries. We also coordinate with area churches to provide preaching for Byron Manor Senior Living.

Reflect on your strengths/gifts as a church:

First Byron has a warm, welcoming atmosphere, and a faithful following of members spanning multiple generations. We are a household of faith, aware that we are far from perfect, but have been blessed by a rich history of Reformed Biblical preaching pointing us to God's grace and His forgiveness. We have numerous ministry opportunities for our members to get plugged into, helping form the family atmosphere where we genuinely care for one another. We have been good stewards of our financial resources which has resulted in generous giving and careful use of our funds.

Reflect on your passions as a church:

We are passionate about being disciples and making disciples. In 2022, we formed a men's discipleship group where men come together as disciples of Christ. Another example is our vibrant youth ministry, which teaches, equips, and trains children and young people to be discerning, courageous Christians. We also value Christian education for our youth in Christian schools as well as in Christian homes. Yet another passion of First Byron is our desire to walk alongside members of our church wherever they find themselves in life, supported through a number of caring ministries. Prayer is also a vital aspect of our church family. Every Wednesday night, members come together to pray over a variety of topics and concerns for our church family.

Do you have a recently articulated mission/vision for ministry? The Vision committee created a strategic plan in 2019 and recently met in 2025 to review progress.

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

The most challenging event for our church in the last couple of years was when a former senior pastor resigned unexpectedly (2023). His resignation resulted in a divide in the congregation and a loss of many members. Through this trial, God remained faithful to us as we healed and sought His guidance. He faithfully provided sound Biblical pulpit supply and elder leadership, which aided our church family in becoming more unified than before the trial. We were also blessed by the support from our Classis and other area churches.

List specific problems with which your congregation struggles:

In recent years, we have struggled with momentum on key initiatives, especially through the trying times mentioned above. This includes progress on our building project to expand our facilities. We have also struggled to maintain a full staff to support our church's growing needs.

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

The congregation anticipates the hiring of our Pastor of Congregational Care to support the care needs of our church along with continuing our building campaign to expand our facilities.

Describe what being Christians of Reformed accent means to you:

Our identities as Reformed Christians are first as Christians, and only secondarily as Reformed. The message of the gospel is our priority, and our articulation of the gospel is shaped by our Reformed interpretation of Scripture, as defined in the Three Forms of Unity. We recognize that we are saved by grace alone, through faith alone by the saving work of Jesus alone. The Reformed view is to say that we hold a high view of God as sovereign, which affects our understanding of everything - from God's Word, to who we are and how we are to live.

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

The Christian Reformed denomination protects the purity of the church, keeping local churches accountable to one another and the denomination. As a result of having good relationships among local CRC churches, we have been able to accomplish kingdom work through our local ministries. First Byron has maintained a strong commitment to the ministries of the CRC, giving 100% of our pledged ministry shares.

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

1. In 1917, our church helped start our local Christian school, which has grown to over 600 students today.
2. Our church has helped plant multiple churches in the Byron Center area: 2nd Byron Center in 1953, Heritage in 1970, Friendship in 1987 and Pathway in 2001.
3. The pandemic brought some challenges with differing opinions and frustrations, but ultimately God continued to be faithful to our church in providing strong elder leadership to help maintain our focus on Him.
4. The unexpected resignation of a previous senior pastor in 2023.

Leadership

How many council members does your church have? 30

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?

Committee	Meeting Frequency	Description
Executive	Monthly	Senior Pastor and leaders of council discuss significant functions of church
Finance	Monthly	Allocates funds for church operating and Christian education
Missions	Bi-Monthly	Prayerfully decides which missions the church supports and how to fund them
Church Life	Monthly	Plans social activities for church family
Worship	Quarterly	Ensure the worship services are conducted in such a way that they show glory to God and are edifying to the congregation.