



VANDERBLOEMEN

Next Gen Pastor

Faith Reformed Church

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Meet Faith Reformed Church

Faith Reformed Church in Traverse City, Michigan, has a rich history rooted in the Reformed tradition. The church's origins can be traced back to 1949, when a small group of families, feeling a call to establish a Reformed congregation in the area, began meeting together.

As Traverse City grew, so did the number of people attending the church, and construction began on new buildings. As the church experienced steady growth, four additional buildings were acquired on the same block, now housing Jacob's Well, the Family Life Center, the Intersection, and a home that is currently used as temporary housing for single mothers in crisis.

Over the years, Faith Reformed Church has grown and evolved, becoming an integral part of the Traverse City community through outreach programs and partnerships with other organizations. Today, Faith Reformed Church is most clearly defined by its active engagement in both local and global mission, along with distinctive opportunities for spiritual formation.

Location: Traverse City, Michigan

Role: Next Gen Pastor

Mission, Vision, Values, and Beliefs

Mission

For Christ and His Kingdom

Identity

We are ROOTED, and aspire to be further ROOTED, in these things:

Rooted in Christ: We are, first and foremost, a *Christian* community. We believe Jesus Christ to be God in the flesh, the Redeemer of all people, and the living Lord of all creation ([Col. 1:15-20](#)). He is the True Vine, and we are the branches, **rooted** in Him ([John 15](#)). We want Christ to dwell in us and us in Christ ([John 14:20](#), [Eph. 3:16-17](#), [Col 1:27-28](#)).

Rooted in the Word: God chose to reveal himself through the Holy Scriptures. We want to be deeply **rooted** in God's Word, so that its stories, prophecies, poetry, and instructions guide every aspect of our lives ([Deut. 8:3](#), [Psalms 1, 19, & 119](#), [Isaiah 55:6-11](#), [2 Tim. 3:16-17](#)).

Rooted in grace: We cannot earn God's favor, but can only receive it as an undeserved gift. By grace alone, God establishes a relationship with us ([Eph. 2:1-10](#), [Acts 15:11](#), [Rom. 3:24](#), [Gal. 2:16](#)). We want to be deeply **rooted** in that grace so that no one in our community feels they have to prove their worthiness.

Rooted in our belovedness: Jesus was able to live out His purpose because he was secure in his identity as the beloved Son of God ([Mt. 3:13-4:11](#)). He also gave us the right to become children of God ([Jn1:12-13](#), [Rom. 8:14-17](#)). Yet, most struggle to live into this identity. We want to see all people firmly **rooted** in their identity as beloved sons & daughters of God. That's who we are and Whose we are ([Col. 3:12](#)).

Rooted in the Reformed tradition: We are **rooted** in a movement that arose in the 1400s; at that time, reformers called the Church back to its **roots**. We resonate with the convictions they articulated ([Creeds and Confessions](#)) and desire to carry on the tradition of 'Ecclesia reformata, semper reformanda secundum verbi Dei' — 'the church reformed, and always being reformed according to the Word of God.' ([Prov. 13:20](#), [Romans 12:1-2](#), [1 John 4:1-3](#))

Rooted in the mystery of God: The Reformed Tradition is known for being dogmatic, yet John Calvin often wrote: *Finitum non capax infinitum*—"The finite cannot grasp the infinite." Because God is infinite in being and eternal in scope, our knowledge of God is incomplete ([Isaiah 55:8-9](#), [Rom. 11:33-36](#), [Eph. 1:9](#), [Eph. 3:1-13](#)). Therefore, as much as we passionately express belief, we even more fervently invite everyone to revel in God's ineffable glory—*solī Deo gloria* ([Ps. 115:1](#), [Rom. 11:36](#), [Rev. 7](#)).

Rooted in a location: 75 years ago, God planted our church in the soil of Front Street. Over the years, God has helped us acquire an entire block so that it might be used for His glory. ([1 Cor. 10:31](#)) We're **rooted** here and want to see growth and flourishing.

We are GROWING, and aspire to continue GROWING, in these ways:

Growing by the Spirit's power. God not only wants us to know Christ, but also to **grow** in Christ ([Mk 4:1-20](#), [2 Peter 3:18](#), [Hebrews 6:1-8](#)). The Holy Spirit is the one who spurs that growth ([Rom. 8:1-11](#)) and thus, we seek **Spiritual formation**. We put time and resources into ensuring that we are open to the Spirit's influence, much in the way clay is formed by a potter ([Jer. 18:1-6](#), [Isa. 64:8](#)).

Growing in maturity. God does not want us merely to be 'saved,' but also to experience ever-increasing maturity where we become who he has created us to be ([Mt. 5:48](#), [Eph. 4:13](#), [John 10:10](#), [John 17:3](#), [Eph. 3:18-19](#)). Becoming is never about living up to an expectation so much as it is living into an identity. We nurture this transformation of our way of being because the world is not in need of superficial converts, but rather, mature followers of Jesus.

Growing through relational vulnerability. We are made in, through, & for relationships—first with God, then with others (Gen. 1:26-28, Mt. 22:34-40). God uses relational interaction to form us into who we are supposed to become (see the “one another” verses). We intentionally create opportunities for intergenerational interaction. We also seek to cultivate spaces that are full of grace and full of truth, so that we can be challenged and yet, vulnerable, connected, and safe (Jn 1:14; Eph. 4:15; Gen. 2:25). Such spaces are uncommon, but they are the ‘good soil’ in which faith flourishes (Mk 4:1-20).

Growing via subtraction. It may seem counter-intuitive, but we believe a key to significant **growth** is subtraction (John 15:2).

We need God to prune us so that we shed lies we’ve believed, break sinful patterns we engage, and uproot cultural norms that don’t reflect God’s design (Phil. 3:12-17, Hebrews 12:3-11).

Growing into God’s grand story. Human beings are ‘story’ people. We live by reading, watching, hearing, and telling stories. We are prone to believe many stories that are untrue—stories about ourselves, others, life, and God (Gen. 3:11). One of God’s greatest aims is to re-story us so that we inhabit God’s story. That’s why the Bible includes so much narrative and why Jesus taught using stories (Mt 13:10-17)

Growing within the mystery of God. It is a profound mystery how we **grow** in Christ. (1 Tim. 3:16) One of the greatest resources for this growth is the sacrament of the Lord’s Supper. By a profound mystery, we not only remember Christ’s sacrifice, but commune with Christ, get a foretaste of what is to come, and much more.

We SHARE the grace given to us and aspire to BEAR fruit in these ways:

Sharing the Father’s gifts. We are not to hoard the gifts the Father has lavished on us, but are called to share those gifts generously. We are blessed to be a blessing. (Gen. 12:1-3, Eph. 2:8-10, 1 John 4:11) Just as God loves us, we are called to love others (Jn 13:34, 15:12, 17; Ro 13:8; 1 Th 3:12, 4:9; 1 Pe 1:22; 1 Jn 3:11, 4:7; 2 Jn 5)

Sharing the good news. We follow a risen Savior who not only died on our behalf, but also ascended to the right hand of the Father to be Lord over all. This is good news because this King is righteous and just. He intends to reconcile all things. We are called to share the good news, the gospel, everywhere we live, work, and play. (Mt. 13:1-23, Rom 10:8-15, 1 Cor. 9:19-23, 2 Tim. 4:1-5)

Sharing through acts of service. We are called to serve as Christ served (Mk 10:43-45), and Jesus could hardly be more clear about the need to welcome the stranger, feed the hungry, and visit those in prison (Mt. 25:31-46). Therefore, we **share** God’s riches in similar ways: sponsoring a community meal, supporting Safe Harbor, and hosting both Love Thy Neighbor and Keys to Freedom on our campus (Isaiah 58).

Sharing in holistic ways. Too often, Christians have focused exclusively on evangelism or exclusively on service—one to the neglect of the other. We want to defy that unhealthy dichotomy by being people who seek God’s will in **all** aspects of life (Mt. 6:9-10), **sharing both** in word and in deed (Mt. 28:18-20, James 2:14-19).

Sharing locally, nationally, and globally. God calls us to be his witnesses in our neighborhoods, communities, and throughout the world. (Mt. 28:18-20, Acts 1:8) Therefore, we support God’s ongoing mission by working with local, national, and global partners to **share** the good news (Ph. 1:3-5, John 17:20-23, Eph. 4:1-5).

Sharing in God’s ongoing work. God’s reign is inaugurated, but not yet fully consummated. Until it comes in full, we are invited to participate in its ongoing-coming-to-fulfillment. We want our current actions to reflect the values of that *future* reality. (Isa. 9:2-7, 65:17-25, Micah 6:8, Luke 4:14-21, Col. 1:15-20, Rev. 21:1-5)

Sharing God's mysteries. As we share our faith both in word and in deed, we realize that our actions may seem a mystery to those who do not share our faith (1 Cor. 2:6-7, 4:1-2, Eph. 6:18-20). We trust that God's wisdom is greater than our finite understanding, and thus, our faith may be like Christ's witness: counterintuitive and disruptive (1 Cor. 1:18-25).

Core Values

- We value the Bible as the inspired, infallible Word of God and anointed teaching derived from it as the catalyst for transforming individual lives and the Church more into the likeness of our Lord, Jesus Christ.
- We value ministry that builds relationships with lost people because we believe that lost people matter to God and should also matter to us. We will build relationships through our involvement and support of evangelistic efforts locally, nationally, and globally.
- We value ministry that is doctrinally pure and culturally relevant because we believe the gospel message is timeless and unchanging, but its presentation must be tailored to ensure it is heard and received by the audience. We will remain faithful to the historic tenets of the Reformed faith but will not permit institutionalization or tradition to prevent us from communicating the gospel in culturally relevant ways.
- We value discipleship – the continuous growth of every Christian in biblical knowledge, wisdom, stewardship, and service – because we believe that growth is necessary for all believers in order for them to become focused and flexible servants of Jesus Christ. We value a church that engages every believer in ministry on the basis of their spiritual gifts because we believe every member of the body of Christ has been given a spiritual gift by God and intended to be used for the common good of His church. This means that the church will be led by leaders, taught by teachers, shepherded by shepherds, and administered by administrators.
- We value ministry that is characterized by love, forgiveness, and accountability because we believe that all people will know we are Christ's disciples if we have Christ-like love for one another. We value small group ministry because we believe that as a church grows in numbers, small groups are the best place for people to feel part of the body of Christ, to be cared for, and to experience the life-changing power of Jesus Christ.
- We value "excellence in all things and all things to the glory of God" because we believe that excellence honors God and inspires people.
- We value human life from the moment of conception to the last earthly breath and the family as the basic building block for all societies because we believe that this is the way God created life to be lived out.
- We value a church whose members can clearly and articulately express a biblical worldview because we believe the vitality of the church can be measured by the level of positive impact it is having on the culture.

Beliefs

As Reformed believers, we share many beliefs with all other Protestants, beliefs that emanate from the confessed consensus of the early church:

- Classic theism: one omnipotent, benevolent God, distinct from creation.
- Trinitarianism: one God in three eternally existent persons, equal in power and glory.
- Christ: the God-Man, the one mediator between God & the human race, incarnate, crucified, resurrected, ascended, & coming again.
- The Human Condition: created in the image of God, yet tragically fallen and profoundly in need of restoration through Christ via the Holy Spirit.
- The Visible Church: the community of the redeemed; the mystical body of Christ on earth, indwelt by the Holy Spirit.
- The Sacraments: baptism and Lord's Supper, visible signs and seals of the grace of God, ministering Christ's love, through the Spirit's power, to our deepest needs.
- The Christian life: followers of Jesus, who make other followers of Jesus, all growing in maturity, increasingly characterized by godly wisdom and the fruits of the Spirit.
- The Bible: our final authority, the infallible Word of God, the Holy Scriptures represented in the 66 books of the Old and New Testaments.

For other commonalities we share with Protestants, read this confession created on the 500th anniversary of the Reformation: <https://reformingcatholicconfession.com/>

Ministry Programming

More information about the ministries at Faith Reformed Church can be found at: [Faith Reformed—Get Involved](#)

Weekend Programming

Worship at 9:30am on Sundays



What it's like to live in Traverse City, Michigan:

Living in Traverse City has a lot going for it— strong community ties, access to Grand Traverse Bay, and a pace of life that draws people in. Families are here because they want something steady and grounded, but like anywhere, that doesn't mean everything is easy or already in place.

There's a real opportunity, and need, to invest in people. Many families are looking for support, connection, and something deeper than just a good place to live. Parents are busy, kids are growing up fast, and there's space for consistent presence, guidance, and discipleship that actually meets them where they are.

Life here naturally gathers people together, whether that's through outdoor activities, local events, or school communities. Those rhythms create natural touchpoints for relationships, but they don't automatically lead to transformation. That takes intentionality. For someone called to pour into families and walk with the next generation, there's meaningful, ongoing work to be done, and a community that's open to it.

About the Next Gen Pastor

Faith Reformed Church is deeply passionate about discipling the next generation and are looking for someone whose calling truly aligns. This Next Gen Pastor at Faith Reformed Church is a newly created, full-time role that combines previously separate part-time children's and youth ministry positions into a unified vision for ages zero through high school. This highly collaborative and relational leader is expected to provide direct, hands-on leadership to one specific age group while recruiting, empowering, and managing a robust volunteer team to lead the others. Key responsibilities include overseeing weekly discipleship and age-appropriate curriculum aligned with Reformed Theology, facilitating milestone trainings like sacraments and public professions of faith, planning intergenerational events such as Vacation Bible School, and equipping parents with resources for spiritual formation at home. Faith Reformed Church is seeking a visionary leader with strong biblical aptitude who has a passion for revitalizing youth programs, serving young families, and fostering a connected, multigenerational church culture.

Reporting Relationships

Reports to: Senior Pastor



Responsibilities

Strategy & Vision: Your primary responsibility is to set a fresh, unified direction that will revitalize the youth and children's programs and attract young families. You will have the freedom to innovate and create new initiatives, with support of the executive leadership team.

Team Building & Volunteer Leadership: You will be responsible for recruiting, training, mentoring, and thanking a robust team of volunteers. You will provide direct, hands-on leadership to one specific age group, but you must empower and equip your volunteer team to lead the remaining age groups. You will also collaborate with the Associate Pastor to ensure all volunteers comply with safety policies and clear thorough background checks.

Discipleship & Spiritual Development: You will be responsible for selecting and managing cohesive, age-appropriate curricula that align with Reformed Theology. A key part of spiritual development involves partnering with other pastoral staff to guide families through milestone rituals, such as sacraments (baptism and the Lord's Supper) and classes for public professions of faith. Beyond the church walls, you will empower parents to lead spiritual formation at home by providing seasonal devotionals, newsletters, and regular social media "discipleship cues".

Ministry Experience & Events: You will create and lead regular intergenerational events that integrate children and youth into the broader congregation and serve as welcoming entry points for new families. You will also oversee exciting summer programming, such as Vacation Bible School (VBS) or an alternative Christ-centered summer ministry. Furthermore, you will help families engage in local, national, and international missions, which will include coordinating a youth mission trip if you are directly leading the student age group.

Administration & Communication: You will manage the administrative operations of the nursery alongside the administrative staff, overseeing volunteer schedules, safety compliance, and cleanliness. Working with the Office Administrator, you will handle all ministry-specific communications, digital displays, and verbal announcements. You are also responsible for the stewardship of ministry spaces to ensure they are organized and stocked, while regularly attending staff meetings and submitting quarterly progress reports to the Consistory.



Candidate Profile: What You Bring

Education & Experience

Bachelor's degree in Bible, Theology, or a related field required. A graduate degree in a similar field is preferred but not required. Ordination is also preferred but not required. Ministry Experience: Candidates must bring 2-5 years of experience with proven leadership experience in children's and youth ministry. Additional experience in broader church roles serving as a plus.

**As the church and ministry grow, this position is designed to expand into an executive-level Pastor or Family & Next Gen role.*

Personal Characteristics and Qualifications

Passion and Love: Above all, the candidate must have a deep passion for the next generation, desiring in their soul to see each young person know God and feel His love.

Theological Alignment: The candidate must be biblically and doctrinally sound, aligning with the historic tenets of Reformed Theology. Practically, this means they must hold a traditional view of marriage while simultaneously affirming women in ministry leadership roles.

Temperament: The church is looking for someone who is highly relational, friendly, visible, and confident. They must be a selfless team player who collaborates well with the pastoral staff.

Coachable and Flexible: The candidate needs to be teachable and open to new ideas. They should actively avoid an arrogant, uncompromising, or domineering "my way or the highway" approach to ministry.

Visionary: As a catalyst for growth, they must bring high energy and a visionary mindset, showing a willingness to innovate and even phase out legacy programs that are no longer effective.

Compliance: The candidate must pass a thorough criminal background check and strictly adhere to all church safety policies.

Skills and Knowledge

Leadership and Volunteer Building: The candidate must be a "leader of leaders" who can motivate, inspire, and raise the temperature of volunteer participation. They must possess the skills to effectively recruit, train, mentor, and appreciate a robust team of volunteers.

Biblical and Relational Application: They need strong biblical knowledge and exceptional interpersonal communication skills. They must know how to relate to children as individuals, avoiding a "cookie-cutter" approach and recognizing that spiritual growth looks different for every child based on their unique background.

Administrative Project Management: Because they will be managing multiple age groups and potentially operating without extensive part-time administrative support, they must have strong organizational skills for event planning, proactive communication, and utilizing ministry management software.

Invitational Strategy: They must know how to build creative "on-ramps" that attract and integrate new families and volunteers into the life of the church.



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