

# ANN ARBOR CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH

## CHURCH PROFILE



SEEKING PASTOR OF MISSION AND DISCIPLESHIP

# OUR SEARCH TEAM



**Top Row:** Phil (Chair), Jill, Dave, Godwin, Phil

**Bottom Row:** Janelle, Jocelyn, Mary, Ross, Allyson

Welcome!

Thank you for your interest in the Ann Arbor Christian Reformed Church. We hope by reading this profile, you will better know our church, our community, and our commitment to God's Word.

*We are a purposeful community transformed by the love of God and engaging the world with the grace and truth of Jesus through the practice of Christian hospitality.*

We are a church that strives to embody God's Word and practices, to be his church here on earth. We confess his redeeming love and are called to share that love with those around us. We worship together in song, prayer, and word. And in times of difficulty, we worship together virtually.

Our community desires to grow. As a congregation, we have embraced our church's mission of Christian hospitality. In connection with our mission partners, we celebrate our God-given differences and work to be living examples of Christ through words and deeds within our community.

Our commitment to God's Word assures us that through him all things are possible. We seek his guidance in this pastoral search wholeheartedly. In Him, we fervently pray for our church, for this search team, and for you.

As you prayerfully consider God's calling, please contemplate how you and your passions may align with ours. We would love to connect with you.

Blessings and Peace to you,  
AACRC Pastoral Search Team

**Contact:** Phil Boonstra, chair  
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Email: [pastorsearch@aacrc.org](mailto:pastorsearch@aacrc.org)



# OUR MISSION & VISION: OIKOS 20/20

(Excerpts pulled from *Oikos 20/20 Making Room for the Future*, approved June 2018)

*AACRC is a purposeful community being transformed by the love of God and engaging the world with the grace and truth of Jesus through the practice of Christian hospitality.*

We are called to create a welcoming and healing space where we embrace those who enter into life with us. We seek to cultivate relationships in which we learn, grow, and thrive together. We seek to live out the love of the Triune God through compassion, reconciliation, and justice in our community and the world.

**"Once we were no people, now we are God's people." –1 Peter 2:10**

We are a faith community that is part of the Christian Reformed Church of North America. We subscribe to the ecumenical creeds of the historic Christian faith and the historic confessions of the Reformed Church.

**We are Christian** because we have committed ourselves to following Jesus, we trust in him for our salvation, and we gratefully serve him as Lord.

**We are Reformed** because we are part of that historic branch of the Christian church that follows the teachings of 16th-century reformer John Calvin, who worked to return Christianity to its biblical roots.

**We are Ecumenical** because we believe that the Church is people and not walls. We welcome and desire to partner in all God's work with other traditions in the name of Jesus.

Our creeds, confessions, and contemporary testimonies provide a rich window into the Christian faith that we embrace at Ann Arbor Christian Reformed Church.



## OUR LOCAL COMMUNITY

Ann Arbor is located in southeastern Michigan on the Huron River, about 40 miles west of Detroit and 45 miles east of Lansing. Ann Arbor is many things, including a bustling university town, culinary hotspot, and a tech hub with a walkable downtown that includes world-class arts and culture. It lies at the center of a greater collection of communities in Washtenaw County. With so many thriving communities nearby, Ann Arbor has become a cultural melting pot and urban oasis, boasting as many hiking, biking, boating and fishing areas as world-class restaurants and cultural attractions.

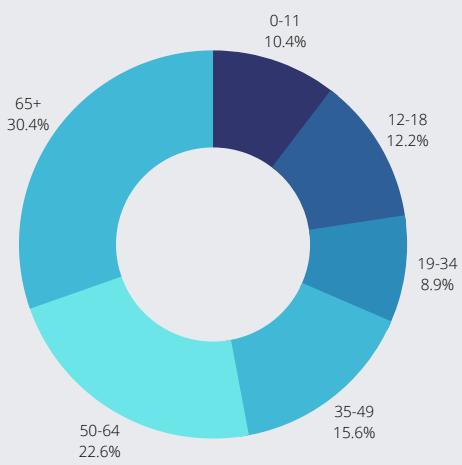
(text from annarbor.org)



# OUR HISTORY, FACILITY, AND CULTURE



## AGE DEMOGRAPHICS



The Ann Arbor Christian Reformed Church (AACRC) was organized in 1955. From the beginning there was a desire to be a witness to the university community, particularly to the many internationals here. Therefore, when land was purchased, it was intentionally located to be accessible to the university community – and, thus, today we are still located on Broadway adjacent to the North Campus of the University of Michigan. Many of our members came to Ann Arbor because of the University. Many have stayed, but many more have left for a variety of work opportunities across the country and around the world. Thus, we have always been blessed with diverse resources for our ministries to draw upon.

The sanctuary and a few classrooms were constructed in 1962, with expansions added in 1967 and 1992. In 1990, the congregation provided space on church property to a group of young families for a Christian school. The school purchased modular classrooms with a connecting hallway to the church that provided shared rooms for the classes of both the church and the school. In 2003 the Ann Arbor Christian School moved off site at which time the church purchased the modulars from the school. In 2013, when the modulars reached the end of their life cycle, we decided to build a new two-story addition to replace those classrooms and to renovate the existing educational wing of the church. Construction started in 2014 and was completed in 2015.

AACRC was founded on the principle of covenantal fidelity to one another, in the hope that the community would grow with and into the abundant love of God in Christ. This ethos led to an openness from the beginning, and the church embraced both sojourners and Ann Arbor residents, on campus and in our neighborhoods, and sometimes released them to the world. This openness remains one of the church's strengths, and today we build on that foundation with a renewed vision of hospitality.



# OUR WORSHIP

**Worship is Our Life.** Our worship services are—and strive to be—deeply Trinitarian: Word-centric, sacramental, and participatory. The center of our service is always Jesus Christ, encountered both in Scripture and at his Table. Our liturgy is both strong and flexible: it provides a solid framework that fosters creativity, fresh expression, and long-term formation. We are deeply committed to include both team-led and organ-led songs every week. For us, this musical mix is an intention, not a concession.

Regular Sunday worship services are largely planned by Pastor Noah, with input from the other pastors and worship participants. Organists select music that fits the theme of the service. Special services (Ash Wednesday, Holy Week, Thanksgiving, etc.) are planned by a team which is led by Pastor Noah. Each week, members lead in music (worship team, organ, choral ensembles, etc.), in preparing and serving the communion elements, and in audio/visual tech.

We currently hold one 10:30am Sunday morning worship service. We offer both in-person worship and a YouTube livestream. We estimate 210-240 people join us on a Sunday morning through that combination of offerings.

We encourage you to check out past liturgies and services found on our website at [aacrc.org/worship-archive/](http://aacrc.org/worship-archive/)



# OUR MINISTRIES

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## Birth to Preschool

- Children's Worship (Pre-K, during service)
- Kid Connection (PreK - 5th, Sunday AM prior to the service)



## Elementary

- Kid Connection (PreK - 5th, Sunday AM prior to the service)
- GEMS (2nd-5th grade girls, 1st & 3rd Wed. evenings)
- Cadets (2nd-5th grade boys, 1st & 3rd Wed. evenings)



## Middle School

- Faith Formation Class (Sunday AM prior to the service)
- Roots/youth group (1st & 3rd Wed. evenings)
- The Paraclete Project: Middle schoolers are paired with an adult mentor through their 9th grade year



## High School

- Reach/youth group: Gathering for Sunday morning faith formation, social activities, and service opportunities

## Post-High Ministries

- Regular gatherings of college/graduate students and young adults for a meal and time of connection following the worship service.



## Adult Ministries

- Sunday morning House Groups (small group Bible study) and Big House meetings (large group faith formation sessions)
- Women's Ministry Program: small group Bible study and occasional social gatherings
- Men's Wednesday morning Bible study
- Gray Matters: once a month gathering of the "gray" members of our community for learning, socializing, and refreshments.



## Wednesday Pizza Nights

- Pizza Night provides a time for all members of the congregation to come together for food and fellowship prior to the start of Wednesday night programming.

# OUR MISSION AND MINISTRY PARTNERS

*Engaging our community and the world*

The community of believers and seekers at Ann Arbor Christian Reformed Church is all about engaging — engaging with our faith as we grow in following Jesus and engaging with each other and our community with the grace and truth of Jesus Christ.

## Ways we serve in the community

- Local opportunities with our ministry partners:
  - Crop Walk
  - CAP Thanksgiving Meal Collection
  - Rotating Shelter
  - Hope Clinic dinners
  - Habitat House of Faith
  - Faith and Food Garden
- Social Justice Team: helps us to live into God's call to bring God's grace to a hurting world and the people in it, starting with our own faith community and then reaching out into our towns, countries, and the world.
- Friendship Ministry: Provide loving support and fellowship for young people and adults with special needs.
- Minister to internationals through conversation partners and Coffee Break.
- Our facilities at 1717 Broadway are regularly made available to outside ministries that need a place to meet, just one way we can help in a small way to spread Jesus' love in Ann Arbor.



## Partners in Ann Arbor and around the world

Our congregation partners with organizations in Ann Arbor and around the world to reach out with the love of Jesus.

- Campus Chapel Ministry
- China Outreach Ministries
- Community Assistance Program (CAP)
- DAAM/Detroit's Afro-American Mission
- Family Life Services
- Friends In Deed
- Habitat for Humanity
- Hesed Community Church
- Hope Clinic
- Resonate Global Missions:
  - Joel & Jeannie Huyser
  - Jim & Ruth Padilla De Borst
  - Nathan Groenewold, Cohort Detroit

# OUR LEADERSHIP

The Ann Arbor CRC is led by its Council, which is made up of 10 elders, six deacons, its pastors and church executive. The elders are split into two groups, Shepherding and Executive. The Executive Elders and staff make up the Council Leadership Team, which handles the day-to-day business of the church and supervises staff. The Shepherding Elders take the lead in coordination of care for our members and church community. The Deacons meet monthly with our Mission Action Team to pray for our mission partners and discern ways to be serviceable. The Council meets once per quarter.



# OUR PASTORS AND STAFF

## Pastor Noah Livingston

*Pastor of Worship Arts and Digital Presence*



## Pastor Kristen Livingston

*Pastor of Congregational Care and Connection*



## Staff

- Sophia Knappe, Director of Youth Ministries
- Rachel Redder, Director of Communication and Community Engagement
- Ross Weener, Church Executive
- Jim Wagner, Custodian