

CHURCH PROFILE FORM

Reformed Church in America



Section A. Background Information

Today's Date: 1/15/2016

Position to be filled: Minister of the Word & Sacrament

1. Name of church: Helderberg Reformed Church

2. Web address: www.HRChurch.org

3. Mailing address:

PO Box 196

Street

Guilderland Ctr , NY 12085

City / State / Zip Code

Telephone: (518) 861-8031

E-Mail address:

4. Classis: Schenectady

5. Classis Supervisor: Rev. Annie Reilly and Mrs. Clara Laselle

6.

Address:

25 Mellon Avenue

Street

Troy, NY 12180

City / State / Zip Code

Telephone: (617) 836-694

E-Mail address: reilly.ann.c@gmail.com

7. Chair of search committee: Joan Healey

Address:

337 Highgate Dr.

Street

Slingerlands, NY 12159

City / State / Zip Code

Telephone: (518) 376-8012

E-Mail address: johealey@aol.com

8. Membership:

Time of worship	Five years ago	Today
Active Confessing Members	129	110
Inactive Confessing Members	n/a	n/a

Age of all active members (baptized and confessing)

5 %	0-20 years old
5 %	20-34 years old
25 %	35-49 years old
35 %	50-64 years old
30 %	65 years and older

9. Racial/Ethnic composition of congregation:

0 %	African American
0 %	Asian
100 %	Caucasian
0 %	Hispanic
0 %	Other: (please specify)

10. Worship schedule:

Average Attendance (includes adults and children)

Time of worship	Average attendance Five years ago	Average attendance Today
9:30 am <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> pm <input type="checkbox"/>	80-90	70-80
am <input type="checkbox"/> pm <input type="checkbox"/>		

Comment on significant changes:

11. Describe a typical worship service (order of worship, music, etc.) What is your congregation's preferred style or styles of worship? Attach a bulletin, if available.

Traditional service including a choir and a childrens/youth sermon.
see attached bulletins

12. **Financial Information: Attach a copy most recent Consistorial Report and Annual Budget if available.**

	Five Years Ago	Today
Total RCA related contributions	\$7035.00	\$10,478.84
Total other contributions	\$	\$see annual report

Percentage of total budget contributed by living donors:

100-90 %	<input type="checkbox"/>
75-89 %	<input type="checkbox"/>
60-74 %	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
45-59 %	<input type="checkbox"/>
44 % or less	<input type="checkbox"/>

(Please include a copy of your annual budget)

13. **Congregational Giving:**
Number of those whose annual contribution is:

Less than \$500	not available
\$501- \$1,500	n/a
\$1,501- \$2,500	n/a
\$2,501-\$3,500	n/a
Greater than \$3,500	n/a

14. **Financial assistance: Do you receive financial assistance beyond the congregation? (rents, etc.)** Yes No

If yes, amount received last year: \$

List other fundraising programs that support the church:

Church Dinners (1-2 a year)

Annual RCW Bazaar

Yankee Candle Sale

Car Wash Coupon Sale

Used clothing collection

Helderberg Pre School

**15. Church/Sunday School:
Average Attendance**

Average attendance Five years ago	Average attendance Today
10-12 children	3-5 children

Comment on significant changes:

Sunday school attendance has been declining over the past 5-10 years

16. Describe briefly all educational programs (including children, young adult, adult).

Weekly Sunday School class for children of all ages. Operated as a "one room school" approach with all ages mixed.

Weekly Bible Study during winter months held on a week night and for adults. Class led by the minister.

Helderberg Pre School is a church owned and operated pre school for children ages 3 and 4 years . It is based on Christian values and has been successfully providing education and care for children of all faiths for 28 years.

**17. Church groups/organizations: Briefly describe ministry purpose of each group.
(use separate sheet if necessary)**

Name of group	Frequency of Meeting (i.e. weekly, bi-monthly, etc)	Attendance
Reformed Church Women (RCW)	quarterly	15-20
Crafters	weekly as needed to prepare items for the Bazar	8-10
Bible Study	weekly (Jan-May)	15-20
Choir	weekly (September-June)	12-14

18. Comment on one event or experience over the last year that has significantly contributed to the spiritual life of the congregation.

Our major event that has impacted our entire congregation was the retirement of our minister who had served us for 28 years. He was our minister, our leader and a good friend to us all. There was some worry that his departure would result in folks leaving the church or just not attending. To our surprise the our loss pulled us together and we have just let God lead us through the transition. Our faith and fellowship has grown stronger throughout the past few months and Sunday morning attendance has increased slightly.

19. Buildings: Please describe church-owned or rented buildings and purpose.

Our church is a modern, 28 year old facility complete with offices, classroom, a fellowship hall, an institutional kitchen and storage on 2 acres. It has a large paved parking lot, and beautiful grounds with picnic area and playground.

The parsonage is a colonial style home with 4 bedrooms, 1.5 bathrooms, a dining room and an unattached garage. There is a large back yard. The parsonage is conveniently located approximately 500 feet from the church building.

20. Do you plan any capital expenditure during the next five years? Yes No
 If yes, please explain briefly:

21. Is there a mortgage indebtedness? Yes No

Amount: \$ 28,651.57

Of how long standing? mortgage will be paid off in 2018

Annual rate of repayment \$10,091.16

22. Pastor's study:
 In church in parsonage Other Not Provided

23. List all paid staff in addition to the pastor:

Position	Full time <input type="checkbox"/>	Part time <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Administrative Assistant	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Sexton	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Organist/Choir Director	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Pre School Teacher	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Pre School Assistant Teacher	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

24. Consistory Membership: What method is used in selecting members?
 Nominating Committee is comprised of past Consistory Members who rotated off one year prior.

Please list present Consistory members (Put a check in the box where appropriate:

Elder	Deacon	Male	Female	Occupation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	School Teacher
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Retired NYS Government Employee
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Retired Government Employee
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Nursing Home Administrator

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Child care provider.....
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Businessman
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Retired Secretary
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Retired
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Retired
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Government Employee
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Registered Nurse
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Homemaker

25. What leadership roles do women currently fill in your church?

- Vice President of Consistory
- Chairperson of the Search Committee
- Senior Elder
- Sunday School Coordinator
- Senior Deacon
- Church Treasurer

26. In our congregation...(please check appropriate box)

	Few have...	Many have...	Most have...
Had up to twelve years of formal education	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Had some education beyond high school	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
A college degree	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
A graduate degree	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

27. In our congregation...(please check a box)

	Few are...	Many are...	Most are...
Scientists & Engineers	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Farmers	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Business People	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Students & Teachers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Industrial Workers	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Office Workers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

28. Special training/experience desired: (Describe briefly)

- Interest and ability to provide youth ministry
- Pastoral Care to the sick and elderly
- Interest in offering a variety of Christian Education programs ie. adult Bible Study
- Ability to embrace life in our village-suburb of Albany NY.
- Ability to embrace ecumenical and interfaith relationships.

29. Languages:

Should your pastor be fluent in any language other than English?

Yes No If yes, please explain.

**30. The salary we are prepared to offer our new pastor is \$ based on the Schenectady Classis
The average annual increase to our pastor over the past three years was**

2.5%/year

31. Is a parsonage provided? Yes No

If so, is it on site with the church? Yes No

If the parsonage is not on site with the church, how far from the church is it located? Approximately 500 feet from the church.

32. Is a Minister's housing allowance in lieu of a parsonage a negotiable option?
 Yes No

33. The benefits/business expenses we will provide our pastor are:
 (Please check those provided or give amount as requested.)

Base Salary	\$based on Schenectady classis salary schedule
Housing Allowance	\$
Parsonage provided? Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	
Travel Reimbursement	\$
Social Security (Amount)	\$
Book Allowance (Amount)	\$
Continuing Education Allowance (Amount)	\$
Provision for Sabbatical	\$
Other (Specify Below)	\$
TOTAL	\$0.00

- Yes No Retirement
- Yes No Major Medical Insurance
- Yes No Health/Hospital Insurance
- Yes No Life Insurance
- Yes No Dental Insurance
- Yes No Unemployment Insurance
- Yes No Disability Insurance

Annual Vacation (Number of Weeks) 4 weeks

Necessary Comments regarding above: Exact numbers will be discussed with individual candidates

34. Community served: (please check one)

Rural: Under 2,500	<input type="checkbox"/>
Town: 2,500-9,999	<input type="checkbox"/>
Small City: 10,000-49,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
Metropolitan-Suburban: 50,000+	<input type="checkbox"/>
Metropolitan-Urban: 50,000+	<input type="checkbox"/>
Metropolitan-Inner City: 50,000+	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other: town of 35,000+	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

35. Cooperative ministry: In what ways have you cooperated with other churches in your community during the past year?

- Ecumenical Thanksgiving Eve Servi**
- Ecumenical Lenten Weekly Services**
- Weekly meetings of area clergy**
- Sharing a organist/choir director with the local Lutheran Church**

36. Community involvement: In what community programs or projects have you participated during the past year? (As an organization, not as individuals.)

- Annual Christmas gift to needy/we adopt a needy family and provide food and gifts.**
- Local and Regional Food pantries**
- City Missions**
- Local womens's shelter**
- Local families with specific needs**
- Camp Fowler**
- annual Red Cross Blood Drive**

37. What denominations or religions are present within three miles (in rural areas, consider the county) where your church is located?

- Baptist**
- Lutheran**
- Roman Catholic**
- Episcopal**

38. Outreach: What is your strategy to reach un-churched people in your community?

- Our Child PreSchool program is open to anyone in the community.**

39. The income level of the people in our congregation tends to be: (please check one)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	About average for our community
<input type="checkbox"/>	Somewhat below the rest of the community
<input type="checkbox"/>	Somewhat higher than the rest of the community

40. Describe the community and school system: (Provide website links were appropriate.)

Guilderland is a town in Albany County, New York. The town is named for the Gelderland province in the Netherlands. The Town of Guilderland is on the central northwest border of the county. It is west of the city of Albany which is the capital of New York State.

In the most recent census (2010) the town had a population of 35,303 and 14,205 households.

Guilderland Center is the small hamlet within the town where the church and the parsonage are located.

Guilderland is served by the Guilderland Central School District. It has one high school, one middle school and five elementary schools. The school district is rated as one of the best in New York State.

www.Guilderlandschools.org

www.townofguilderland.org

41. Record of last three pastors:

Name	Dates
Allen Jager	9/20/87 to 6/30/15
Jospeh Loux	1/28/73 to 4/30/86
Charles Boonstra	6/30/68 to 1/10/72

42. Please complete your profile with the following contacts:

Name	
Barbara Horan	Vice President, Consistory
Rev. Annie Reilly Mrs. Clara LaSelle	Classis Supervisor

Helderberg Reformed Church

Section B

Reflections

Please answer the following questions, adding your own experiences where appropriate.

1) What is the stated mission, vision or purpose of your congregation?

We believe that the Helderberg Reformed Church is called by her Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, to be his body on earth, ministering to the total life of all the people by preaching, teaching, and proclamation of the Gospel, and by all Christian good works. We are called to be Christ's light of the world, embracing all of God's children for whom Jesus died; finding the lost, healing the broken, feeding the hungry, releasing the prisoner, rebuilding the nations, bringing peace among the people, and making music in all hearts.

2) What goals have been developed from your mission and vision over the next 5 years? (Example new programs or outreach ministries.) Include long range or strategic plan.

- Expand community involvement through activities and outreach. Ensure that both new and current activities are attractive and meet the needs of new and existing families.
- Foster a welcoming culture.

Continue to develop in our members a sense of ownership in Helderberg that it is their church and not just a church that they go to.

- Build programs to attract young adults.
- Maximize the pre-school potential.
- Utilize the building and grounds to their potential by adding programs and services that will be of service to the community

3) Describe the strengths of your church, the best of what you are as a community, and what you can offer a new pastor.

Helderberg Reformed Church has many assets to offer the community, both personal and physical. We are poised to support a new pastor in expanding into the community.

- We are a supportive, loving and caring congregation.
- We have worshippers who are devout and spiritual.
- We operate a pre-school (nursery) school program for children ages 3 and 4 that is recognized for its quality.
- We have a fully equipped kitchen with many talented culinary congregants. We have at least one very successful fund raising dinner a year. We also have several congregational events that involve serving food.
- We have a relatively new church building (approximately 28 years old) housed on a beautiful setting in a quaint village.
- We own a 4 bedroom parsonage within walking distance of the church.

4) Explain the strategies or ideas that most excite your church in becoming or remaining missional.

- We collect food items for local food bank, deliveries are made monthly. Once a year we do a major soup drive called Souper Sunday. Proceeds are delivered to the local food bank. We celebrate with the congregation on Super Bowl Sunday with a luncheon of homemade soup and sandwiches. This event has become one of our traditions.
- A Deacons offering is collected every communion Sunday to help those in need. We support a variety of individuals and community agencies through the Deacon's Fund.
- We offer an adult Bible study weekly that is open to non church members. This is a program that has touched many members of the congregation as well as community members.
- We hope to re-establish a Vacation Bible school

5) Name three of your church's most passionate hopes and why they are significant.

- Develop youth participation to ensure the future of the church.
- Attain financial stability to allow us to focus on evangelism and growth.
- Develop a faith based relationships with the community

6) How do you hope someone who visits your church would describe what s/he considers to be most important?

- A love of the Lord in a caring, loving environment.
- A love for each other.
- A comfortable setting where all are accepted and love the Lord.

7) Name at least one challenge facing your new pastor.

Reversing the trend of dwindling membership. In particular, losing the youth to the demands of the nonspiritual (secular) world.

8) Describe your vision and hopes for your church and your pastor over the next 5 years.

Share the gospel with more people in our community.

- A congregation consisting of multiple generations.
- A Pastor who will lead us into the future with an understanding of who we are and the ability to lead us where we have to go.
- To become the vibrant force in our immediate community

9) Explain what ever else you would like your potential pastor to know about your church.

- Helderberg currently doesn't have a formal strategy to reach people in our community. We participate in some community events but look forward to a new approach that comes with the leadership of a new pastor.
- Our church family is a wonderfully, warm group of people who love each other and care for our community. We want to reach others to share in God's love.

Reformed Church in America
Office of Ministry Services

Release Statement

(Full Church Name)
We, Helderberg Reformed Church, acknowledge that the information in this Church Profile is accurate and complete. We authorize the Office of Ministry Services (OMS) to release this profile to designated recipient(s) seeking positions as ordained Ministers of Word and Sacrament, including posting of this profile on the RCA website.

Jan Skaley
Signature of Search Team Chairperson or Designated

1/20/16
Date