

CHURCH PROFILE FORM

Reformed Church in America



Introduction

The Reformed Church in America's Office of Ministry Services provides information and services to ordained ministers who are seeking a call and churches who are seeking ordained ministers. It does not recommend any particular candidate or church but instead serves as a resource to both.

For further information, or if you have questions or problems while completing this form, please contact Ministry Services at ministryservices@rca.org or 212-870-3252.

Helpful Hints for this form...

- ❖ To move to the next field, hit TAB.
- ❖ To move the cursor to a desired field, left click on it with the mouse.
- ❖ To mark (x) in a box, left click with mouse.
- ❖ Hitting ENTER will move the cursor to the next line but keep you in the same field (essay questions)
- ❖ Spell check is not available in this format.
- ❖ Bold, italics and underline are not available in this format--use quotation marks instead for emphasis.
- ❖ The form will "paginate" itself as you complete it.
- ❖ If at any time you cannot include information important to you because of the "form field", please continue to complete the question on a separate page. Make sure to reference the question number!
- ❖ Please sign and return the **Release Statement** at the end of this form. You may scan it and email it as an attachment to ministryservices@rca.org.

CHURCH PROFILE FORM

Reformed Church in America



Section A. Background Information

Today's Date: 4/8/2019

Position to be filled: Pastor

1. **Name of church:** Clover Hill Reformed Church
2. **Web address:** www.cloverhillchurch.org
3. **Mailing address:**
890 Amwell Rd
Street
Hillsborough, NJ 08844
City / State / Zip Code
Telephone: (908) 369-8451 **E-Mail address:** chrc1834@gmail.com
4. **Classis:** Delaware Raritan
5. **Classis Supervisor:** Rev. Bill Borrer
Address:
619 Shortleaf St
Street
Feasterville, PA 19053
City / State / Zip Code
Telephone: (484) 557-1658 **E-Mail address:** billborror@gmail.com
6. **Chair of search committee:** Marilyn Fineman
Address:
37 Rittenhouse Circle
Street
Flemington, NJ 08822
City / State / Zip Code
Telephone: (908) 788-0664 **E-Mail address:** m2fineman@gmail.com

7. **Membership:**

Time of worship	Five years ago	Today
Active Confessing Members	124	88
Inactive Confessing Members	259	113

Comment on significant changes:

Long term inactive members were intentionally purged

Age of all active members (baptized and confessing)

31 %	0-20 years old
6 %	20-34 years old
8 %	35-49 years old
31 %	50-64 years old
24 %	65 years and older

8. Racial/Ethnic composition of congregation:

2 %	African American
0 %	Asian
97 %	Caucasian
1 %	Hispanic
%	Other: (please specify)

9. Worship schedule:

Average Attendance (includes adults and children)

Time of worship	Average attendance Five years ago	Average attendance Today
10:00 am <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> pm <input type="checkbox"/>	74	50
am <input type="checkbox"/> pm <input type="checkbox"/>		

Comment on significant changes: In 2015, our pastor of 38 years retired and the transition disrupted attendance.

10. 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.

We are traditional in style, homey and welcoming in atmosphere. Clover Hill is a place where children are both seen and heard. There is a Children's Sermon each week during which the children are called forward and the pastor delivers the message of the week's Sunday School lesson in a simple, interactive way, followed by a prayer with the children and their dismissal to Sunday School. The older children return to the worship service by the beginning of the Response to the Word, while the younger children remain in their classes in the church basement for the remainder of the worship service.

The Approach to The Word

- Morning Announcements
- The Prelude
- The Call to Worship
- Hymn
- The Prayer of Confession
- The Kyrie Eleison

Silent Confession
 The Words of Assurance
 The Law of God
 Statement of Faith - The Apostles' Creed
 The Gloria Patri

The Word of God

The Children's Sermon
 Senior Choir Anthem/Hymn
 Scripture Reading
 The Sermon
 Hymn

The Response to the Word

The Gifts of the People
 The Offertory
 The Doxology
 The Prayer of Dedication
 The Sharing of Concerns
 Communion (First Sunday of each Month)
 The Prayers of the People
 The Lord's Prayer

Dispersion to Serve God

Hymn
 The Benediction
 The Response
 The Postlude
 The Dispersion to Serve God

11. Financial Information: Attach a copy of the most recent Consistorial Report and Annual Budget if available.

	Five Years Ago	Today
Total RCA related contributions	\$2,965	\$0
Total other contributions	\$4,528	\$2785

Percentage of total budget contributed by living donors:

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

(Please include a copy of your annual budget)

12. Congregational Giving:

Number of those whose annual contribution is:

(These are for 2018 for households who were regular givers.)

Less than \$500	21
\$501- \$1,500	17
\$1,501- \$2,500	10
\$2,501-\$3,500	5
Greater than \$3,500	14

13. 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:

- Annual Pig Roast
- ShopRite Gift Card
- Amazon Smile

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

Average attendance Five years ago	Average attendance Today
12 Sunday School	7 Sunday School
	5 Wednesday evening

Comment on significant changes:

In the fall of 2018, we began a Wednesday evening church school to accommodate schedules.

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

Our programs focus on the spiritual growth of families through Sunday School, our yearly Summer Vacation Bible School, a Youth Group (YG), a Confirmation Class, an adult Bible Study, and most recently book reviews/book swaps.

Children’s Programs:

While Sunday School attendance has declined more than 50% in the past few years, we have begun to rebuild and have an enthusiastic group of teachers, several teens who help as assistant teachers and a solid group of 6 to 8 children who love interacting with one another and learning the Word of God.

Our Sunday School takes place at the same time as worship, 10 a.m. each Sunday. All children ages three through seventh grade are welcome to participate whether they are regular attendees or not. The children sit with their families for the beginning of the worship service, are called to the front of the sanctuary to join the pastor for a children's sermon and then are dismissed to their classes.

For the past several years, we have been using a new Sunday School curriculum assembled for us by one of our members who also serves as a Sunday School coordinator and teaches Sunday School. These lesson materials are designed to take our children through many of the best known Bible stories in a two year cycle. This curriculum ensures that our children are exposed to these important lessons, but it does not follow the common lectionary, the source for the scripture readings in worship each week. Because both the children's bulletins distributed at the door each Sunday and the children's sermon were drawn from the common lectionary, this resulted in a disconnect between what the children heard in the children's sermon and the lesson presented when they were dismissed to their classes. Beginning in the fall of 2018, the children's sermon leads into the Bible story that is being presented as part of the Sunday School lesson that day. And the children's bulletins also reflect the Sunday School lesson. The children are dismissed to their classes before the first scripture reading in the sanctuary and return to the sanctuary at the end of the hymn following the sermon. While this shortens the instructional time in Sunday School, it is hoped that having

the children return to the sanctuary will give them greater exposure to the liturgy, including the offertory and prayers.

In the fall of 2018 we introduced NSWE (NOT School, Wednesdays for Everyone) This was done to accommodate the reality of busy family schedules, by offering the "Sunday School" curriculum on a weeknight as we seek to provide direction for living to our youngest members.

The NSWE program is geared toward those in grades K to 7, but all are welcome. The hour-long session includes two lessons, a craft or activity and food offered in a relaxed (NOT school) setting. NSWE meets twice a month from Sept-May.

During the summer we host a one week Vacation Bible School open to the community. For 2019, our plans are to partner with the Neshanic Reformed Church for VBS. We also hold Summer Season Sunday School (SSSS) during the church service. SSSS is held using the one-room classroom format (i.e. all ages together).

Youth/Young Adult Programs:

This year our Confirmation class is being held jointly with Neshanic and Three Bridges Reformed Churches led by the interim minister at Neshanic. Depending on the number of Confirmation candidates we have in the future, it is possible that we would continue that combined class with our pastor involved as well, or we might go back to having our own session led by our pastor. The classes would meet 2-3 times a month from October to May.

Youth Group activities are open to those in grades 7 through 12. Our focus has been on service to the community. We partner with Neshanic, South Branch and Three Bridges Reformed churches in our Youth Group Programs.

Adult Programs:

About seven years ago, we began an adult Bible Study which meets twice a month with regular in-person attendance of 5-8 people. There are 10 others who follow along receiving the sessions via email. The group takes an individual book of the Bible to study over the course of several months and is currently led by members of the congregation. We look to our pastor to provide opening and wrap-up sessions for each book studied and to be a resource when questions come up during the study.

About two years ago, under our previous pastor, Summer Book Reviews were started. For the months of June-August, those participating all read the same book and then came together for a pastor-led session during which the book was discussed. With the departure of this pastor, several members of the congregation felt that they wanted to continue the book reading and review habit, but in a different form. From that, our current 'Book Swap' was started. The group meets every 2-3 months and discuss books (on religious topics) that they are reading. All are invited, whether they've read a book or not, to share in the discussion. Like our adult Bible Study, the Book Swap is led by members of the congregation.

- 16. 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
Choir, Bell Choir, Cleaning Angels	Weekly	12,12, 6
Adult Bible Study, Skeins of Hope, Prayer Group	Twice monthly	6, 6, 3
Teams: Service, Stewardship, Fellowship, Spiritual Growth, Communication	Monthly	6 each team
Book Club/Book Swap	Quarterly	5
Garden Angels	Monthly during the growing season	4

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

We offer two experiences that illustrate the spiritual life of the congregation.

One of the events that has been created by our Minister of Music is the Advent/Christmas Concert. For the last three Advent seasons, the Clover Hill Choir has performed, free of charge, for the congregation and local community. The concerts have taken place on Sunday afternoons, and more recently, a Friday night in the church sanctuary. Through song, text, and Bible readings, the message of God’s love and the impending birth of his only son, Jesus, was delivered to enthusiastic audiences. Following the concert, coffee, tea, and snacks were served. This social event has been well-received, and many audience members have stated that it puts them in a joyful mood for the holidays.

This past year, one of the VBS Helpers, who is currently in our Confirmation Class, had a great idea to provide a venue where all of the participants in VBS could learn more about what we did throughout the week. This group included the children who attended, along with their immediate and extended families, and all of the congregation members who helped, teens, or other church members who wanted to know more about what material we covered and how it was delivered.

His idea was to have a VBS Friday Night Finale! We served a pasta dinner to all who wanted to come at 6 PM. We had approximately 40 to 50 people in attendance in Nevius Fellowship Hall, and had a large family style meal, and we all sat down together to eat. The roar of the crowd during dinner was very comforting, happy, loose, and enjoyable for all, with kids running around, playing games and much laughter. This allowed new families to our Church to bond with the congregation and enabled us an opportunity to demonstrate a deeper sense of acceptance and understanding of who we are as a congregation and what we do.

After dinner we performed a skit to demonstrate to the congregation and the parents what curriculum we provided and how the curriculum was delivered to the children throughout the week. Once we finished the skit, we went back down to Nevius Fellowship Hall and had dessert, which was followed by a children’s movie in the Sanctuary until about 10 PM.

This event was a huge success, and it was a great moment for fellowship and bonding, and we plan to incorporate this program in years to come, as the feedback was outstanding.

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

CHRC has several properties:

1. Church building

The church building was built around 1834 and is a multi-story posted frame structure with sanctuary, narthex, office on the first level, second level lounge, balcony and access to attic and bell tower; the basement has a kitchen, office, library, nursery and open seating area where Church School and other activities are held. The church building is surrounded on three sides by a cemetery with Amwell Road in front, along which is partial church parking.

2. O'Brien-Cruser Property

The O'Brien-Cruser house predates the church and is a two story family home with several acres of land. Currently our Minister of Music resides in this house. Between the church building and O'Brien-Cruser property is the Clover Hill Cemetery.

3. Parsonage

The parsonage, located adjacent and east of the O'Brien-Cruser property, is a 3 bedroom, 2 bath ranch with large family room, separate living room, dining room, study and kitchen, basement with two car garage, deck and a large yard.

4. Parking lot

Across Amwell Road and opposite the O'Brien-Cruser house is a lot with additional church parking and a church garden.

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

20. Is there a mortgage indebtedness? Yes No

Amount: \$

Of how long standing?

Annual rate of repayment

21. Pastor's study:

In church in parsonage Other Not Provided

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

Position	
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Office Administrator	Full time <input type="checkbox"/> Part time <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Minister of Music	Full time <input type="checkbox"/> Part time <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Full time <input type="checkbox"/> Part time <input type="checkbox"/>
	Full time <input type="checkbox"/> Part time <input type="checkbox"/>
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	Full time <input type="checkbox"/> Part time <input type="checkbox"/>

23. Consistory Membership: What method is used in selecting members?

A Nominating Committee consisting of three present Consistory members and four congregational members are selected. The Nominating Committee presents a single slate of nominations to the Congregation for approval.

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

Elder	Deacon	Male	Female	Occupation
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Retired Engineer/Manager
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Registered Nurse
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Executive Administrative Assistant
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Office Assistant
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Forensic Scientist
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Retired Records Management
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Chemical Engineer
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Retired
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Retired teacher & telecommunication manager
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Auto Body Specialist
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

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

Women have significant leadership roles: Elders, Deacons, Office Administrator, Choir and Bell Choir, Bible Study Leader, Youth Group, Church School, Financial Secretary, bookkeeping, auditor, leaders of Cleaning and Gardening teams, Pastoral Search Chair.

25. 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"/>

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

	Few are...	Many are...	Most are...
Scientists & Engineers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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: Medical	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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

None.

28. Languages:

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

Yes No If yes, please explain.

29. The salary we are prepared to offer our new pastor is \$ Negotiable with Consistory

The average annual increase to our pastor over the past three years was \$___

The past three years have not been representative since this year we do not have a pastor, last year our pastor was leaving, and the year before was his first full year. Prior to that, pay raises followed the RCA proposal often around 2%.

30. 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? 200 yards

31. Is a Minister's housing allowance in lieu of a parsonage a negotiable option?

Yes No

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

Base Salary	\$ negotiable
Housing Allowance	\$ negotiable
Parsonage provided? Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	
Travel Reimbursement	\$ yes, government mileage rate
Social Security (Amount)	\$ 7.65% of salary
Book Allowance (Amount)	\$ estimated at \$300/yr
Continuing Education Allowance (Amount)	\$ one week's salary
Provision for Sabbatical	\$ not at this time
Other (Specify Below)	\$
TOTAL	\$

- 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) Four
Necessary Comments regarding above:

33. 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 checked="" 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: Described below	<input type="checkbox"/>

See response to question #39 below.

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

Shared Ash Wednesday Service with Neshanic Reformed Church: Each year we alternate the location of the service.

Youth Group Activities are shared with other churches in the area. Our Youth Group has been invited to participate in an activity with the South Branch Reformed Church called the Diaper Challenge, collecting diapers for multiple organizations in the area. In April our Youth Group and South Branch Youth Group shared in a river clean up project.

Somerset County Crop Walk: We joined the Blawenburg, Griggstown, Hillsborough and South Branch Reformed Churches in the Crop Walk to fight hunger.

This year we are holding a joint Confirmation Class with Neshanic and Three Bridges Reformed Churches.

Good Friday Services are alternated with Three Bridges and Neshanic Reformed Churches.

We participate in seminars offered by the Classis with local churches. Most currently offered: "Resources and Connections - How to Thrive as a Small Church".

New for 2019, our summer Vacation Bible School will be hosted at Clover Hill in cooperation with the Neshanic Reformed Church.

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

For several years we have supported both the Flemington and Hillsborough food pantries with monthly donations of goods and, occasionally, supermarket gift cards. In February 2019 we conducted a "Feel the Love" campaign to help restock the depleted shelves of both pantries after the holidays. Our members supplied over 350 pounds of food and several gift cards.

One of our favorite projects supporting the Flemington Food Pantry was to provide children's "Birthday Party in a Bag" kits for their client families. Our church members purchased the supplies and met together for a fun-filled morning to assemble approximately 30 bags of party essentials, including paper goods, decorations, balloons, candles, cake mix and frosting, and small toys and books. This was such a special way of spreading joy to others and was so enjoyable for us that we intend to do this again.

Since the formation of our Service Team a little over a year ago we have shifted the focus of our mission activities from a "mission a month" model to a more focused and intentional one where we are concentrating on perhaps four or five activities a year. We are seeking activities that provide more direct involvement with local groups. One of these groups is Binnacle House, a residential sanctuary house in Flemington for ten teenage boys. This past fall, a few members went to Binnacle House to bake and decorate cookies with the boys. Everyone really enjoyed this activity, and we are in the planning stages to hold a summer cookout and game day with them.

Our church has helped support SHIP, Samaritan Homeless Interim Program, in Somerville, for many years. The SHIP organization operates a food truck and offers many outreach programs to the homeless and disadvantaged. We maintain a donation jar that last year provided \$950 to them. From time to time we collect "pop-top" canned protein foods, hygiene kits and socks for them.

This past November we contacted Family Promise in Flemington to provide Christmas gifts to two of their homeless client families. The gift item tags on our "Giving Tree" were eagerly removed from the tree and our congregation purchased and wrapped with enthusiasm.

In December our congregation received an unexpected and urgent request from a mother in Somerville who needed winter clothing for her four school age children. Even though we had just completed a Christmas gift drive and members were shopping for their own families, our people reacted with overwhelming generosity and love to provide brand new coats, hats, boots and three outfits apiece for all four children.

This brought us to the awareness that we need to be prepared to meet needs like this in the future, so we have recently established a Benevolence Fund. We are in the process of defining the guidelines.

Our church also donates annually to Engineering Ministries International, an organization that uses design to bring a world of hope, who develop people spiritually and professionally, and who connect people of all nations to show the unity of Christ. One of our former members, who grew up in Clover Hill, has served in this organization for 17 years which brings technology to meet the needs of disadvantaged areas worldwide.

Our Service Team meets monthly. Our plans for the remainder of this year include an “April Shower” drive for personal hygiene items and cleaning supplies for Family Promise clients, the summer picnic and possibly other activities with Binnacle House, and Christmas gifts for Family Promise clients. We may identify other projects later this year.

Clover Hill Reformed Church also provides use of its facilities to an Alcoholics Anonymous group, an Adult Children of Alcoholics group, and two nights a week we provide use of our fellowship room for a community church to hold their services.

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

Our church is in an area containing a diverse number of houses of faith. Multiple Roman Catholic churches, Independent and Baptist churches, and many Protestant and mainline churches (including Lutheran, Presbyterian, Methodist, Episcopalian, and even other RCA congregations) exist within reasonable proximity of the Clover Hill Reformed Church, as well as a Greek Orthodox Church and a Jewish synagogue.

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

We currently have a Communications Team with a mission to promote effective communication within our church and with our community. Using a variety of communication tools, we hope to engage both our congregation and community to inspire and invite participation in worship, teams (Fellowship, Service, Spiritual Growth, Stewardship) and other ministries of the church.

We utilize the following methods:

Weekly press releases - to let the community know worship and Sunday School times and the scripture which the message will be based upon.

Website - The main purpose of our church website is to inform potential visitors about our church. A second major purpose is to provide an information hub for our congregation. (Our website was totally redesigned and updated in 2018.)

FaceBook / Instagram - to improve our digital presence and cultivate relationships within and outside of our church family. Social media are designed to be social and the reach of Facebook is undeniable.

Local Media Outlets (online) - to inform the community around us of the events/activities/meetings that are open to them in getting involved in our church life and family.

Local Community Newsletter – all church activities are published once a month in a free newspaper for the East Amwell area.

Banners – each year we advertise our VBS program through a banner that hangs in front of our church.

Portable Signs – events such as our Pig Roast, music concerts, special worship services and more are advertised on a portable sign that is in front of our church near the road.

38. 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

39. Describe the community and school system: (Provide website links where appropriate.)

The Clover Hill Reformed Church is the centerpiece of a rural village. Listed as the Clover Hill Historic District on the National Register of Historic Places, the village once had a hotel, a creamery, a general store and post office and a school. Today, the church stands amid a small cluster of homes on a county road. Two counties and three municipalities meet in the village: Hillsborough Township in Somerset County and Raritan and East Amwell Townships in Hunterdon County. The church itself is in Hillsborough Township, but only by a matter of about 15 yards. The surrounding area was once entirely rural and featured small, family dairy farms. While there are still farms in proximity to the church, the community has evolved and now may be characterized as a suburban, bedroom community. The development rights for a number of farms in the area have been purchased through farmland preservation programs, so the area retains its open fields, beautiful rolling hills and rural appearance.

The nearest town is Flemington, the Hunterdon County seat. Clover Hill was once considered part of "rural Flemington". In Flemington, there are shops, restaurants, outlet stores, Walmart, Lowes, Costco, The Home Depot, Kohls, supermarkets, gyms, a sports complex and a regional medical center, the Hunterdon Medical Center.

Clover Hill is in central New Jersey and is almost equidistant between Philadelphia and New York. Another local village, Centerville, was the halfway point and the overnight stop for stage coach journeys between New York and Philadelphia on Old York Road. Each city is approximately 50 miles away. The church is about a 30 minute drive from Princeton or 17 miles, just a little bit farther from New Brunswick at 20 miles and about 16 miles from the quaint town of Clinton.

Our members come from a number of different communities. The children in our church do not all attend the same schools. This makes our congregation a unique overlay of various surrounding towns. Our missions also reflect the fact that the

church straddles two counties. Our food pantry donations go to food banks in both counties and our mission partners include local organizations in both counties.

The parsonage is in Hillsborough Township which is 54 square miles with 37,000 residents and children residing in the parsonage attend Hillsborough public schools. In general, the public schools in central New Jersey are well regarded. Hillsborough's schools are no exception. The link for the school district website is: www.https.us Hillsborough has a high school, a middle school, an intermediate school and six elementary schools. Younger students from the Clover Hill area attend the Woodfern Elementary School. Hillsborough High School had an enrollment of almost 2300 students for the 2017-2018 school year. Of the 524 graduates in the class of 2018, over 90 percent were college bound.

Other surrounding communities, including East Amwell Township, Readington Township and the Flemington-Raritan School District, also have excellent schools. All are kindergarten through eighth grade districts; the high school students attend Hunterdon Central Regional High School. Links to the websites are included below.

- East Amwell Township Schools: <http://www.eastamwell.org/>
- Readington Township Schools: <http://www.readington.k12.nj.us>
- Flemington-Raritan Regional Schools: <http://www.frsd.k12.nj.us>
- Hunterdon Central Regional High School: <http://www.hcrhs.k12.nj.us/>

40. Record of last three pastors:

Name	Dates
Andrew Wall	2016 to 2018
John Cherry	1977 to 2015
Robert White	1970 to 1976

41. Please complete your profile with the following contacts:

Name	
Greg Hedden	Vice President, Consistory
Rev. Bill Borrer	Classis Supervisor

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?

At Clover Hill Reformed Church, we strive to be a place where people of all ages and walks of life can come to grow together, serve together, and worship together.

We aim to be a community of *spiritual friendship* that enjoys fellowship, such as eating together and spending time with one another, as well as strives to be a place where we can all find accountability for our pursuit of faith and also resources for increasing our knowledge of Scripture and God's will for our lives.

We aim to be a community that serves both those who are a part of our church and those outside of our walls in tangible ways that meet expressed needs, providing support in the midst of struggle. This is the living out of the call to *radical hospitality* given to us by our Savior, Jesus Christ.

We aim to be a community that *gathers together to worship* God by engaging in the rich tradition of our Reformed worship, celebrating through quality music, and listening to the proclamation of God's Word.

We hope to do all of this in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, who calls us to grow, to service, and to worship as we strive to become people of faith, people of action, and people of gratitude.

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.

Our mission statement was a key driver to establish our new team structure as well as many goals either in progress or in early stages of development.

Our five teams: Spiritual Growth, Fellowship, Stewardship, Service and Communication each develop goals and carry out actions that tie back to our shared mission. In fact these teams have enabled a higher level of self-sufficiency so that important work is carried on even in our interim phase without a pastor. Here are examples:

Spiritual Growth

1. Assure visitation to shut-ins, hospitalized, the sick and others with identified needs. Provide training for those who visit.
2. Provide Adult Bible Study.

3. Offer quality music in our worship programs.
4. Invite area churches to participate in a combined effort when appropriate.
5. Offer Book Swap program for increasing spiritual growth from reading to those interested.
6. Restructure our Sunday School program to reach more children.

Fellowship

1. Plan and organize monthly activities that promote fellowship of church members.
2. Organize Coffee Hour after church service.
3. Assess and promote fundraising efforts that provide fellowship opportunity.

Stewardship

1. Create and execute Stewardship campaigns that focus on financial responsibility.
2. Develop realistic budgets that provide direction and value.
3. Property team emphasizes volunteerism to complete work on church property where possible rather than contract. This can build more cohesiveness and offers fellowship.

Service

1. Identify missions that the church should support.
2. Organize and lead our efforts to support and to be involved with these missions.
3. Identify process and guidelines for a Benevolence Fund.

Communications

1. Identify process and guidelines for communications.
2. Encourage each team to contribute to communications.
3. Assure systems are utilized and are updated for communicating church activities and events.

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

Many new visitors to Clover Hill Reformed Church notice the friendly and warm atmosphere immediately. Clover Hill is welcoming to all. It is clear that the members of the church know each other, care for each other and encourage visitors to join us. After church services, people stay and talk with each other. The coffee hours and brunch meetings are well attended and many look forward to these informal opportunities to get to know each other better.

There is a strong feeling of trust and safety within our church. Members share concerns openly and ask for prayers for family and neighbors alike. The church comes together for the annual Pig Roast as a fundraiser for the Building Fund.

The church family rises to meet specific challenges and needs. Clover Hill members provided funding for new church windows and more recently for the parking area paving project.

The community is served through mission projects that are local, national and international. Missions include our local food pantries, and SHIP, a local group that provides food and other services to the homeless and those in need. Clover Hill supports Engineering Missions International (EMI) with annual donations. There are other specific outreach programs throughout the year.

Clover Hill offers members opportunities for spiritual growth through its prayer group, Wednesday evening Sunday School, adult Bible Study, and Book Swap discussion. The annual Vacation Bible School has provided innovative programs for several years. It is open to members of the community and provides fellowship for young and old as well as youth education.

A new pastor will find a community of welcoming people. We are open to new ideas. We recently started a Blue Christmas Service held on the shortest day of the year. We recognize that, for some, this is a difficult time of the year.

The new pastor will find a strong music program. The Minister of Music is an accomplished musician and educator. His proficiency has made music an important part of the service each week with collaborative hymns and choir selections that enhance and complement the service. The congregation looks forward to the Advent/Christmas Concert of songs and readings.

The new pastor will find a well organized team system for church governance including a Stewardship Team, Spiritual Growth Team, Fellowship Team, Service Team and Communications Team. These teams work with the pastor and Consistory on various church programs. This system provides opportunity for participation by many church members and has worked well.

There is also a good system of communication in place, including a monthly newsletter (the Belltower), a good email system, a recently updated website and an excellent church administrator.

The new pastor will also find the congregation has a good sense of humor.

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

CHRC has focused, but has not limited, its mission on local needs.

Our missions are reflected throughout this profile and the expression of our missions continues to evolve. These new ways of supporting the same missions keep interest high and involve new people in the project.

- CHRC has supported the Food Pantry with food donations. Recently two innovative ways to support the pantry were introduced. The pantry recently expressed a need for Birthday Bags. The church collected funds and items and assembled the bags. Instead of bringing food items in bulk, church members were issued bags and asked to fill them for the pantry.
- A Benevolence Fund was started recently to allow Consistory to respond to immediate needs within our church and community at large.
- Engineering Ministries International (EMI) is supported with an annual pledge met with church funds and individual donations. A former member of the church is part of this organization and CHRC supports his work. His mother holds periodic 'Bread for Jason' fundraisers which provide another way for the congregation to support EMI.
- The strong music program provides a meaningful contribution to worship and an opportunity for participation by members and others seeking to express their interest in music. Our music program has created an atmosphere that is transformative to the spirit of the congregation.
- The Vacation Bible School is open to all members of the community. It provides an opportunity for the community to get to know CHRC while providing a great program. This year VBS is being held in partnership with Neshanic Reformed Church.

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

It is the hope of Clover Hill Reformed Church to hire a compassionate, dynamic, competent and inspirational spiritual leader that will help the congregation grow in faith. In conjunction with the five teams of Stewardship, Spiritual Growth, Fellowship, Service, and Communication, Clover Hill wants to continue to learn, pray, and serve others.

It is the hope of Clover Hill to grow the congregation, particularly the children and youth populations so that the church can exist for another 185 years. Along with that hope, is the desire to continue to develop relevant and meaningful educational opportunities for all ages and seek to discern God's will.

It is the hope of Clover Hill that it will expand its mission work, so that it can carry out the Word of God in deeds.

It is the hope of Clover Hill to continue to develop the spiritual generosity of the people to financially support the ministry of our church.

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

Anyone visiting would see that Clover Hill Reformed Church has a warmth of acceptance to all who enter its doors. Our simple but beautiful architecture reflects our approach to loving God and each other. The tradition of scheduled members greeting everyone for Sunday service begins the welcoming atmosphere.

There is a comfort to share concerns and joys openly during our service. Such comfort has had a wonderful rippling effect. We hope that anyone visiting Clover Hill finds a sense of God's presence in the preaching, in the music, and in the warmth of the people sharing the pews.

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

One of the greatest challenges our new pastor will find is sustaining and expanding church membership. The size and resources of our congregation limit us. We do a solid job of retaining our core membership, but struggle with attracting and retaining younger families. We wonder if being limited to a single worship service each week is possibly a factor in this in that not everyone can attend services on Sunday mornings at 10am.

In an effort to be more accommodating we have offered a twice monthly alternative to Sunday School that meets on a weeknight.

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

Our hopes, as discussed in question B5 above, drive our vision.

Over the next five years our vision is to:

1. Create the programs and atmosphere needed to attract new members with a focus on young families.
2. Grow in faith through relevant sermons and additional educational opportunities for all ages.
3. Expand our mission work to bring the love of God's kingdom to those in need. □
4. Develop a spiritual generosity to financially support our vision.

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

The last three years have been a transition from a long term pastorate to rethinking what it means for us to be organized as a church and our mission in the community. We now have active ministry teams that oversee all the work of the church led by a large group of committed servant leaders. It has also included coming to grips with long term financial challenges and developing an on-going stewardship program and responsible fiscal policies.

There is a new energy, a "buzz" if you will, in our congregation to face the challenges of our church. We are thankful for the pastoral leadership we have had

in the past and we look forward to building on their legacy and working with a new pastor to help us translate this renewed energy into action, growth and ministry.

Reformed Church in America
Office of Ministry Services

Release Statement

We, ^(Full Church Name) Clown Hill 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.

Margaret M. Fineman, CHRC Search Team Chair 4/8/19
Signature of Search Team Chairperson or Designated Date