

# COMMUNITY REFORMED CHURCH

## SIOUX FALLS, SD

Below you will find 4 pages of information. Please review all 4 pages.

The Consistory is seeking your input. The following opportunities are available.

- Feedback Meetings:
  - Sunday, May 15 at 7pm
  - Monday, May 16 at 7pm
  - Wednesday, May 18 7:30pm
- Email Feedback: [CommunityReformed2022@gmail.com](mailto:CommunityReformed2022@gmail.com)

## DENOMINATION INFORMATION CHART

### Page 1 of 4

Options (in alphabetical order) > Attributes *	Alliance of Reformed Churches (ARC)	Kingdom Network- A Community of Reformed Churches	The Reformed Church in America
<b>Year Established</b>	2021	2021	1628 with name change in 1867
<b>Web Page</b>	<a href="https://arc21.org/">https://arc21.org/</a>	<a href="https://kingdomnetworkusa.org/">https://kingdomnetworkusa.org/</a>	<a href="https://www.rca.org/">https://www.rca.org/</a>
<b>Sources of Information</b>	Welcome Packet, informational meetings held at Community, and the web page of the organization	Bylaws and Book of Church Order, informational meetings held at Community, and the web page of the organization	Book of Church Order and Minutes of General Synod, informational meetings held at Community, and the web page of the organization
<b>Reformed</b>	Reformed- YES	Reformed- YES	Reformed- YES
<b>The Apostles Creed</b>	Yes	Yes	Yes
<b>The Nicene Creed</b>	Yes	Yes	Yes
<b>Athanasian Creed</b>	Yes	Yes	Yes
<b>Heidelberg Catechism</b>	Yes	Yes	Yes
<b>Belgic Confession</b>	Yes	Yes	Yes
<b>Canons of Dort</b>	Yes	Yes	Yes
<b>Chicago Statement on Biblical Inerrancy</b>		Yes	Yes
<b>The Belhar Confession</b>	Yes	Yes	Yes
<b>The Great Lakes Catechism on Sexuality and Marriage</b>	Yes	Yes	
<b>1978 "Our Song of Hope" contemporary statement of faith</b>			Yes

Additional information on the following 3 pages.

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## DENOMINATION INFORMATION CHART - PAGE 2

Options (in alphabetical order) > Attributes <sup>v</sup>	Alliance of Reformed Churches (ARC)	Kingdom Network- A Community of Reformed Churches	The Reformed Church in America
<b>Biblical Authority and Understanding</b>	We affirm the Bible is the inspired, infallible, authoritative Word of God, we are living within God’s redemptive-historical story that is constructed and governed by God’s covenants and promises, understanding the Bible correctly requires use of consistent exegetical principles that include the grammatical/literary, historical, language and theological dimensions, the illumination of the Holy Spirit, the author who sits with us every time we open his bestselling book.	We will act continually on the belief that the Word of God, the Bible, is the inspired and inerrant final authority in all issues of life and doctrine. We understand that the original authors and their historical contexts are the best guides to understanding the bible. Outside ‘wisdom’ can often be yeast that ruins the bread.	We believe the Bible—66 books of the Old and New Testaments—was not composed “by human will, but men and women moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God” Because God is their true author, the words of Scripture are holy and divine. We trust the words of the Bible “above all because the Holy Spirit testifies in our hearts that they are from God” One of the defining characteristics of the Reformation was its insistence on sola Scriptura, or the belief that everything we need for salvation and a life of faith is available in Scripture. Reformed Christians sometimes say the Bible is “the only rule of faith and life.”
<b>Communion</b>	The ARC will leave decisions regarding Communion to each church.	The Kingdom Network will leave decisions regarding Communion to each church.	The sacrament of the Lord’s Supper shall be administered, if possible, at least once every three months in every church. “The Office for the Administration of the Lord’s Supper” or a liturgy approved by General Synod for occasional use shall be read. All baptized Christians present who are admitted to the Lord’s Supper are to be invited to participate.
<b>Baptism</b>	The ARC will leave decisions regarding baptism to each church.	On essential issues of doctrine and Christian living, we are united. On disputable issues like infant versus adult baptism, women ordination, and style of worship, we want to give liberty and cultivate charity.	Recognizing the symbolic cleansing and refreshing characteristics of water, the RCA affirms sprinkling, immersion, and pouring as methods of baptism. In the Reformed Church, baptism is always performed in the context of a congregation of God’s people. The congregation commits itself to the spiritual nurture of the infant, child, or adult being baptized. Baptism is the mark of corporate faith as well as individual faith. The sacrament of baptism shall be administered, if possible, at a time and place of public worship. “The Order for the Administration of Baptism” shall be read. It shall consider requests for infant baptism, providing at least one parent or guardian is a confessing member of the church to which the request is presented. A request for baptism from a parent or guardian who is not a confessing member of the church to which the request is made shall first be submitted for approval to the governing body of the church where the parent or guardian has membership.
<b>Membership in Congregation</b>	Each church will determine how to handle membership.	Each church will determine how to handle membership.	Membership in congregations of RCA “confessing” members, “baptized” members, & “inactive” members. Also includes “adherents.”
<b>Strategic Priorities/ Vision</b>	<p>MAKE DISCIPLES WHO FOLLOW JESUS</p> <p>We will equip collaboratives/classes and congregations to multiply disciples who are Christ-formed and gracious. BRING NEW MINISTRIES TO LIFE THAT SHARE THE GOSPEL IN THEIR CONTEXT</p> <p>We will encourage, equip, and empower collaboratives/classes and congregations to intentionally and continually multiply ministries that share the gospel with the people God has called them to reach, now and in the future. EQUIP LEADERS FOR KINGDOM WORK</p> <p>Personally, locally, regionally, and globally, We will help collaboratives/classes and congregations identify, encourage, and equip servant leaders who lead people to follow Christ personally, in their communities, and throughout the world.</p>	<p>Our foundation is Jesus Christ. We have a passion for him, and we love him. He is preeminent in all that we do. His fame is our concern. –We exist to proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ. Creation was good because God made it. Sin entered the world through the disobedience of Adam and Eve; all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God. Jesus Christ was born from a virgin, lived a sinless life, proclaimed the good news of the Kingdom of God, died a criminal’s death, was buried and on the third day, he rose again to save all those who believe in him. He now rules at the right hand of the father. All who trust him as Lord will be saved.</p>	<p>Being led by the Holy Spirit, serving with each other, embracing our diverse world and striving for a multicultural future freed from racism, and working with all the partners that God provides, as we move toward a fifth century of mission and ministry, the Reformed Church in America commits to focus its efforts for the next fifteen years on the following three interconnected strategic priorities: Cultivating Transformation in Christ, Equipping Emerging Leaders of Today and Tomorrow, Engaging in Christ’s Kingdom Mission</p>

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<b>Missions</b>	We are committed to local congregations as the primary place to enhance and grow missional effectiveness through local congregational partnerships and relationships.	Each church will determine missions but some churches in a Network may work together to support missions.	The RCA supports a variety of missions in a variety of ways. The RCA has a global Misions organization that is supported in a variety of ways including individual churches and congregation members.
<b>Staff</b>	3 national level staff and at least one full time additional network level staff	Part time book keeper at National level.	The RCA has staff at the National (more than 10), Regional (9) and Classis level (# has changed during transition).
<b>Organizational Structure</b>	Alliance-This is the board leadership for the ARC as a whole, Network (30-60 Congregations), Hub (5-10 Congregations),	The Executive Team shall be the guardian of the Network's mission and vision and facilitate the working of the Network. It shall function as the executive committee of the Network and shall serve as the Board of Directors of the corporation. Each member church has a board in their church.	Consistory-Oversees individual congregation, Clasis-Oversees consistories, Regional Synod- Oversees Clasis, General Synod- Oversees ministry of the denomination
<b>Worship</b>	No statement found	On essential issues of doctrine and Christian living, we are united. On disputable issues like infant versus adult baptism, women ordination, and style of worship, we want to give liberty and cultivate charity.	In the Reformed tradition, worship is so essential that its forms—the liturgy—are part of the RCA's Constitution. Historically, Reformed worship services have a particular flow that reflects our encounters with God: approaching God, receiving the Word of God, and responding to God. The particulars of the service are flexible, but the foundation remains the same.
<b>Growing as people and transformation in Christ</b>	We affirm that the call of every relationship, person and leader is to live as a spirit-filled Christian who is growing in spiritual maturity (becoming more like Christ every day). We affirm that our primary family of faith is not our family of origin, but rather the body of Christ with whom we "are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God's people and also members of his household, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord." (Ephesians 2:19-21).	We are growing as people of love. This movement is based upon Christ-centered friendships that encourage us to stay faithful, accountable and that will work to see all our churches thrive (2 Tim 3:16).	Cultivating Transformation in Christ: Developing passionate disciples filled with the Holy Spirit and the truth of the Word who effectively make followers of Jesus who live and love like him. Deepening our spiritual journey in ways that are biblical and Reformed. Loving and embracing all people. Opening ourselves humbly to deep change under the guidance of the Holy Spirit. Increasing our personal and corporate devotion to God, emphasizing prayer and worship. Building intentional intergenerational discipling relationships. Engaging conflict in healthy and redemptive ways.
<b>Multiplication (Growing and starting new churches)</b>	We will encourage, equip, and empower collaboratives/classes and congregations to intentionally and continually multiply ministries that share the gospel with the people God has called them to reach, now and in the future.	We are a multiplying movement of like-minded churches that is committed to make disciples through raising up a new generation of leaders and starting new churches. –We are a movement that is passionate about embodying the great vision of heaven found in the book of Revelation, "every tribe, tongue and nation". We promise to partner with God to see this come about.	planting 1,000 churches over 20 years in the hopes of introducing 100,000 people to Jesus and helping them grow as disciples.
<b>Pastoral Accountability</b>	The credentials of Congregational/Specialized Pastors, Commissioned Pastors and Teaching Elders will be granted, held, and supervised by a single ordained ministry oversight board for the purpose of professional/theological accountability.	Part of the ordination vows include submission to the discipline of this body, so all pastors will be accountable to the Network, which shall administer discipline in accordance with Appendix 1 of the Bylaws	The ordination of pastors is held by each Classis. A classis within the geographic area of service in which a minister serves in an RCA congregation or in a specialized ministry shall be the classis in which membership is held and, as such, shall be responsible for the installation or commissioning and supervision of that minister
<b>Women in Ministry</b>	The core belief of the organization is that men and women are created in God's image and are gifted by the Spirit to equip and lead God's people for ministry. We maintain that there are two theologically acceptable positions regarding the interpretation of ordained offices. One position ordains women into the ordained offices of the church. The other limits the ordained offices in which women can serve. We respect each other and each other's congregational choices regarding the nature of ordained leadership	On essential issues of doctrine and Christian living, we are united. On disputable issues like infant versus adult baptism, women ordination, and style of worship, we want to give liberty and cultivate charity.	The Reformed Church in America believes women are called to use their gifts at every level of church leadership. We are working to become a place where all women are equipped and empowered to fully exercise their gifts in the life, ministry, mission, and offices of the church.

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<b>Homosexual Marriage</b>	We affirm the Great Lakes Catechism on Marriage and Sexuality as a confessional appendix to the Heidelberg Catechism so that its affirmations regarding human sexuality are read within the context of the Heidelberg Catechism's teachings on sin, salvation, and service.	We intend to defend and celebrate a biblical view of sexuality. Man is for woman and woman is for man. Heterosexual marriage is the space for the good sexual intimacy. Any other relationship where there is sexual activity is sin and requires the truth and grace of the gospel. We will be communities of light and hope.	General Synod 2017 voted "to affirm that the Heidelberg Catechism Q&A 108 and 109 categorically states that God condemns 'all unchastity,' which includes same-sex sexual activity, and that faithful adherence to the RCA's Standards, therefore, entails the affirmation that marriage is between one man and one woman." The 2018 General Synod responded to overtures from two classes and a regional synod by approving a recommendation: To commend the Great Lakes Catechism on Marriage and Sexuality for reflection, study, and response by the Commission on Theology and RCA churches and classes as a means of deepening our understanding of the biblical teaching on human sexuality and finding a pathway forward toward unity in mission and ministry. (OV 18-21, MGS 2018: 148) General Synod 2019 declined to receive the Great Lakes Catechism on Marriage and Sexuality as a "catechism" based on the Commission on Theology's review of the document, instead instructing that it be referred to as a "teaching tool" in future denominational references.
<b>Financial Expectations</b>	Plan as of 2/6/22 meeting is: 1% of Community Reformed Church income to National/Global Alliance, 2% of Community RC Income to Network office. Dollar amount determined quarterly based on individual church income using that 3% plan. This could change as plans evolve.	\$3 per member per year for National, Hubs (regional) decide together what they would like to do and the amount of money they'd like to put toward that project including examples of partnering for a mission, church plant, shared staff, etc.	An RCA church pays assessments to classis, regional synod and denomination. The amount for denomination is \$52.01 per member for National RCA. Each classis and regional synod determine assessment rates. The average is 57% of total to General Synod and 43% to Classis and Region. The RCA is considering an option called Covenant Shares that is calculated as a percentage of church contributed income.
	For Community, this means approximately \$30,000	For Community, this means approximately \$2700	For Community, this means approx. \$90,000 per year
<b>The funds sent by churches are used for:</b>	Organizational funding will be limited to that needed for organizational leadership and for governing. The organization will intentionally limit its funding to those ministries initiated/ identified for partnership support in conversation with Networks, Hubs and congregations. This includes leadership staff, training for healthy leadership. 1% governance and leadership, 2% to healthy leadership.	Administrative needs at the national level (\$3 per member of the church) and at the Hub level, it would be decided together with the Hub if the Hub desires to work together for a mission, staff member, church plant or other project.	Ministry Expenses (Global Mission, Transformed/Transforming & Church Multiplication; Work of the General Synod (meeting, commissions, task forces, Office of General Secretary, General Synod Council and Communication and Production Services); Ministry Support Services (human resources, data management, IT, financial services, legal, fundraising), Chaplains, Missions, Staff, Seminary, General Synod, Racial-ethnic councils, developing resources for current issues, caring for retired ministers and spouses, church planting, equip leaders, educational resources and tools, leadership cohorts for pastors
<b>Church Property</b>	Congregations will have full ownership and authority over their local property with the single exception that if a congregation closes, the future use of the property and its assets reverts to the organization.	All property of member churches (including, but not limited to, real estate, bank deposits, other personal property, and intellectual property) shall at all times remain the property of the member church. The Network shall have no claim against such member church property.	Whenever a church is disbanded and the corporation or other legal entity through which its consistory functions is dissolved, all real and personal property shall thereupon become vested in the classis with jurisdiction over the church, upon the assumption by the classis of all that church's outstanding obligations, provided the laws of the state in which the church is located do not prohibit this procedure. If the classis is not legally capable of owning real property, all such real and personal property shall become vested in the next higher assembly legally capable of owning real property, upon the assumption by that assembly of all outstanding obligations of the church. The assumption of obligations shall be limited to the value of such property.

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