Solo Pastor Search
Church Information Packet 2019

FAITH REFORMED CHURCH
Erie, Pennsylvania
Welcome!

We welcome you as you learn a bit about us, a small part of the Body of Christ across the world! As you begin, we pray for you as you conduct a search for the right church to shepherd - that God would give you clarity of mind and peace of heart, and that a clear call would be evident to you when He determines the time is right. Please feel free to reach out at any time with questions as you explore the following narrative about FRC.

We look forward to hearing from you,

One in Christ,
Dave, Ray, Mindy, Barb, Jon, Joe, & Jenny

"Then I will give you shepherds after my own heart, who will lead you with knowledge and understanding"  
Jeremiah 3:15
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Our Beliefs

Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving. (Colossians 2:6-7)

Faith Reformed Church of Erie, PA is a community of Christians who have been brought together through the saving work of Jesus Christ in our lives. Our desire is to know God better and to bring glory to Him in our teaching, our worship, and our lives.

We are a part of the Presbyterian Church in America. We believe in the authority of the Scriptures and are committed to the fulfillment of the Great Commission.

We are a Confessional and Reformed church. We believe the historic truths expressed in the Apostles’ and Nicene creeds and in the Westminster Standards. We believe that salvation is by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone, according to the Bible alone, for the glory of God alone.

Our worship is liturgical, with the singing of hymns and psalms, a corporate Confession of Sin, three Scripture readings, and celebration of the Lord’s Supper each week.
Our History

God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. (1 Corinthians 1:9)

Faith Reformed Church began as a Bible Study in 1976, meeting in a Howard Johnson's motel in the southern area of the city of Erie. Most of the members had been members of the United Presbyterian Church in the USA, but due to the religious liberalism in this denomination, they desired to be in a more biblical church.

The church was organized in 1980, with Paul Doriani as the organizing pastor. We purchased our building on the east side of Erie in 1981 from a Lutheran congregation. Pastor Doriani left in December 1984, and Pastor H. Leon Ben-Ezra was installed in October of 1985. He has served as pastor since then.

The church grew slowly in the 1980’s and early 1990’s. In 1994, a small group from Faith Reformed Church, led by Pastor Jerry Knight, began a Bible Study in downtown Erie. This group eventually formed West Erie Bible Presbyterian Church (now West Erie Presbyterian Church), which became a particular church in 1999.

In 2009, Jerry Knight accepted a call as a professor at African Bible University in Kampala, Uganda, where he still teaches today. He is a member of our church and one of the missionaries that we currently support. Two more of our members, John and Mary Nelson, accepted a call to teach in Iraq in 2010 with Servant Group International. They still serve in this organization with our support today.

After 33 years of faithful service, Pastor Ben-Ezra announced his plan to retire in August of 2019. We now seek a pastor to lead us going forward.
Our Church Now

Faith Reformed Church is a body of Believers committed to growing in wisdom, and in stature, and in favor with our God. Though small in number, we are markedly diverse in many socio-economic demographics including age, education, and job class. We are, however, united by the blood of Christ, taking seriously our membership vows pledged to each other before God. Members work hard to support each other physically, emotionally and spiritually to the best of our ability, and will make that same commitment to our future pastor and his family.

The membership has made strides growing in community. We've done this by intentionally seeking opportunities to spend time together, such as at meals, Bible Studies, and social gatherings. Visitors are readily welcomed, with a few of those visiting families regularly participating in some church activities. We've also taken advantage of modern means to develop relationships and stay in touch via email, text, and social media.

Geographically, our congregation pulls from a wide area of Northwestern Pennsylvania and Western New York. A few families travel upwards of 25 to 30 miles to attend Sunday services.

Though we long to see our families, friends, and neighbors experience the freedom and joy of the gospel, we do not wish to do so at the expense of God-centered worship. Our services are traditional, observing formal liturgies and weekly celebration of communion. It has been this deliberate, purposeful worship style that has enhanced and stimulated a growing love for our LORD, which displays itself in a sincere love for each other.

But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity. Amen. (2 Peter 3:18)
Our Values

Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me His own. (Philippians 3:12)

FRC is characterized by a few specific values that shape and inform the kinds of things we do together and the lifestyles we each live. They describe the activities and goals we focus on each week. Our ultimate goal is to glorify Jesus, and the way we do that is to strive to live well: to love Him with all that we are and to thrive in obedience to His ways.

These are 5 things we value as a Body:

1. The Word of God is the truth that describes Reality and that guides our lives and worship. (Heb. 4:12, Ps. 19:10)
2. Repentance and faith – two sides of the same coin – are what bring us closer to God and His will for us. (1 Pet. 3:8-12, Acts 17:30-31)
3. The community and fellowship of the Body is both a blessing and an essential key to following Jesus well. (1 Thess. 5, Col. 3:12-17)
4. We pursue wisdom by (1) getting to know God, (2) getting to see ourselves as we truly are, and (3) getting to understand other people. (Prov. 9:10, Jer. 17:9, 1 Pet. 1:13-21, 2:5, 2:9-11, Prov. 27:17)
5. Learning how to glorify God as individuals and as His Church through a greater and more unified use of the gifts He gave each of us. (Matt. 24:14-30, Eph. 4:1-16)
FRC’s Ministries

FRC’s ministries have historically been targeted toward the communal and individual development of our church’s people and community, so that we are that much more equipped to influence the world in God’s ways. Our everyday lives within our everyday communities is the platform of our calling. Our neighbors need Christ, and we are here to show Him to them. That can only be done well by donning the armor of Christ and flourishing in the truth of His Word, both as individuals and as the Body of Christ.

Bible Studies  Men’s Group
Choral Group  Women’s Group
Youth Group

Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing. (1 Thessalonians 5:11)

Our missionary families:

THE KNIGHTS

Jerry and Karen Knight joined FRC in 1994, and planted West Erie Presbyterian Church, where Jerry served as pastor. In 2009, Pastor Knight was called to teach at African Bible College (now African Bible University) in Kampala, Uganda. He teaches in the Biblical Studies department, and his wife Karen serves as Dean of Women.

THE NELSONS

John and Mary Nelson were called into ministry overseas in 2010, where they taught in a Christian school in northern Iraq with Servant Group International. John is now Assistant Director at Servant Group International in Nashville.

And he said to them, “Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation.” (Mark 16:15)
About Erie, PA

Faith Reformed Church is located in the township of Harborcreek, PA, minutes away from the heart of the city of Erie. Erie is a mid-sized city on Lake Erie's Presque Isle Bay and is a two-hour drive from Cleveland, Pittsburgh, and Buffalo. The economic base includes industrial plants, with a specialization in plastics, and a service sector which includes medical, insurance, and tourism. Erie is home to a Fortune 500 company, Erie Insurance Group, which employs more than 3,000 workers in the local area.

The region experiences all four seasons distinctly and offers many opportunities for seasonal outdoor recreation. There are a number of cultural, historical, and sports resources, as well.

Erie has a modest cost of living, affordable housing, an international airport, and is home to two nationally ranked hospitals which are also affiliated with larger health system networks. The church is located within two miles of one of the five universities in the area, Penn State Behrend. This region is also home to a medical school.

You can learn and see more about Erie, PA here: Welcome to Erie, PA.
Desired Profile of a Solo Pastor

The saints of Faith Reformed Church are seeking a shepherd who loves the LORD with ever-growing proportion of his heart, mind, body, soul, and strength. Our future pastor should first look to the scriptures to define his work at FRC, particularly, but not limited to, the books of Titus and 1 & 2 Timothy. These verses reveal that a pastor should have a heart after God’s and love what is good. He should be a man who holds firmly to the trustworthy message, preaches the Word, and cares for the church. This man’s actions are hospitable. He’s a good manager. He encourages but is also able to refute opposition. His character is blameless, patient, eager to serve, disciplined and self-controlled. The pastor we desire is a man who is after God’s own heart, who anchors his job description in the word of God and is eager to tenderly care for our souls.

The prioritized duties of FRC’s next pastor include:

1. First and foremost, our congregation seeks a pastor who can strongly and faithfully proclaim the Word of God by the power of the Spirit through wisdom and discernment. With the support and accountability of the Session, he is expected to lead in the worship of our LORD, the preaching of His Word, and the practice of the Sacraments.
2. In addition to preaching, he is expected to be a teacher and a mentor. We envision him teaching the flock through Bible studies as well as offering Biblical guidance and counseling. He is also expected to assist in the raising up and training of leaders, helping them to grow in spiritual maturity and church leadership.
3. He should encourage the fellowship of the church and himself enjoy fellowship with brothers and sisters in Christ.
4. Lastly, in addition to ministering and equipping the saints, we hope that our future pastor will long for his church to be a light to the lost in our local community and throughout the world.
Candidate Referral Form

The following form can be filled out when a prospective applicant for pastorship is identified. After it is completed, it should be sent to the Pulpit Search Committee (pulpitcommittee@frcerie.info), who will review the referral and may pursue further consideration of the candidate using the contact information provided here. Please use discretion and maintain a confidential approach when recommending a candidate. PLEASE KEEP ALL RECOMMENDATIONS CONFIDENTIAL for the sake of protecting the candidate’s privacy as well as to guard against church divisions.

Thank you for taking a part in the search for a pastor with us!

Your Name:__________________________________________________________________________

Your Email & Phone:_____________________________________________________________________

Candidate’s Name:____________________________________________________________________

Candidate’s Email & Phone:_____________________________________________________________

Candidate’s Current Church, Location, & Position:__________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________________

Please provide a summary description of the candidate’s history, qualifications, & ministry focus:_____
__________________________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________________

How did/do you know the candidate and for how long?______________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________________

Have you discussed with him the prospect of his candidacy for FRC’s pastoral opening?
____________________________________________________________________________________________

Additional comments: _________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________________
How to Apply

Email the following to Ray at pulpitcommittee@frcerie.info:

- Ministry Data Form
- Résumé
- Cover Letter
- 3 References
- Recording of one or more of your sermons
Here are some additional resources if you’d like to explore more. Blessings as you continue with God on your search!

Website: frcerie.info/ • Email: pulpitcommittee@frcerie.info