

# CHURCH PROFILE FORM

## Reformed Church in America

### Section A. Background Information

Today's Date: 08/9/2023

1. **Name of Church:** Community Church in Harrington Park
2. **Web address:** [www.cchpchurch.org](http://www.cchpchurch.org)
3. **Mailing address:** One Spring Street  
P.O. Box 185  
Harrington Park, NJ 07640
- Telephone:** 201-768-2457      **Email address:** [cchp@verizon.net](mailto:cchp@verizon.net)
4. **Classis:** Greater Palisades
5. **Classis Supervisor:** Pastor Jodie Wu  
**Address:** Bogart Memorial Reformed Church  
263 Larch Ave, Bogota, NJ 07603
- Telephone:** 201-487-1029      **Email address:** 4jodie@gmail.com
6. **Search Comm. Co-Chair:** Robert Carr  
**Address:** 17 Windsor Place  
Old Tappan, NJ 07675
- Telephone:** 201-566-4046      **Email address:** rfcarr22@aol.com
- Search Comm. Co-Chair:** Jeffrey Pond  
255 The Parkway  
Harrington Park, NJ 07640
- Telephone:** 212-810-1710      **Email address:** jtpond@gmail.com
- 7: **Membership:**

Time of Worship	Five years ago	Today	% Change
Active Confessing Members	125	100	-20%
Inactive Confessing Members	90	101	+12%

**Comment on significant changes:**

The 20% decrease in active confessing members is mainly due to members moving out of state and deaths with nominal increase in new members.

**Age of all active members (baptized and confessing):**

5%	0-20 years old
9%	20-34 years old
8%	35-49 years old
35%	50-64 years old
43%	65 years and older

**8. Racial/Ethnic composition of congregation:**

0%	African American
1%	Asian
98%	Caucasian
1%	Hispanic

**9. Worship Schedule:**

**Average attendance (includes adults and children)**

<b>Time of worship</b>	<b>Average attendance Five years ago</b>	<b>Average attendance Today</b>
10 A.M.	111	74

**Comment on significant changes:**

There is a 34 percent decline in average worship attendance. This decrease can be attributed to COVID related absence and members moving out of state or dying.

**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 possible.**

Our Sunday worship service is divided into three parts: Our Approach to God, The Word of God and Our Response to God. Each part incorporates one hymn and musical offerings may include the chancel, children's and bell choirs, soloists and instrumentalists along with a pianist and organist. Twice a month we have praise music at the beginning of the service. The pastor leads a children's message in the sanctuary followed by Sunday School in the education wing. Occasionally, the Puppet Club and children's choir perform during worship. Various parts of worship and the sermon come from one or more scripture lessons. Often, the overall theme of worship may be in the form of a series presented over several weeks or months. Celebrations and concerns of the congregation are shared and closed with a prayer led by the pastor. We show images and videos as well as play audio files using our sound system and large screen monitors. Every service is videoed and posted to the church's website. We provide nursery care during the service. About two-thirds of the congregation attend the fellowship coffee hour after the service.

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	\$27,870	\$28,627
Total other contributions	\$15,362	\$18,827

**Percentage of total budget contributed by living donors: 75%**

12. **Congregational Giving:**

Number of those whose annual contribution is:

Less than \$500	7
\$501-\$1,500	16
\$1,501-\$2,500	11
\$2,501-\$3,500	4
Greater than \$3,500	30

13. **Financial assistance: Do you receive financial assistance beyond the congregation? (rents, etc.)**

Yes  No

**If yes, amount received last year: \$61,000**

The church receives rental income from two sources: 1) the second manse (family tenant) and the church building (Board of Harrington Park Board of Education administration offices).

**List other fundraising programs that support the church:** none

14. **Church/Sunday School:**

Average Attendance Five years ago	Average Attendance Today
20	10

**Comment on significant changes:**

The 50% decrease in attendance is due to Sunday School being suspended during Covid, the graduation of middle and senior high school students and the low number of grade school children attending church. The current enrollment is 14 and has seen a steady increase since Sunday school re-opened last year.

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

Sunday School is offered concurrent with the Sunday service for children of all ages which is taught by volunteers. Nursery care is available for our youngest children. Children also have the opportunity to participate in the Puppet Club and Children’s Choir. Confirmation classes are held as needed and scheduled within a one or two-year program.

Regular Bible studies in small groups are held throughout the year which typically meet weekly and have a common theme from week to week. Participants may meet in person or online via Zoom.

The Men’s Group meets the second Saturday of each month in the morning. During COVID, the Group met via Zoom and then resumed our “in person” fellowship each month. The Group enjoys a hearty (but not always “heart healthy”) breakfast, followed by video presentations and discussion of relevant scripture. Attendance at monthly meetings typically ranges from eight to fifteen men. The men of the church also meet once a year for a day-long Men’s Retreat which is a popular event with robust attendance.

The Women’s Breakfast Ministry meet monthly for breakfast and a speaker or shared spiritual life lesson. The Women’s Breakfast Ministry is an outreach program and is open to all women regardless of church affiliation with about one-third attending being non-members.

The Women’s Guild for Christian Service meets monthly in small-group Circles for fellowship and spiritual growth. All women of the church are invited to attend and participate in Bible study with discussion. The Guild oversees nursery care and flower distribution on Sundays. The Guild sponsors additional all-church fellowship and service opportunities throughout the year such as soup suppers, a women’s Communion brunch, the Church World Service Blanket Sunday collection, and a service project during Lent. The Guild traditionally runs a Fall Bazaar and has tried a Spring Garage Sale. Both of these are all-church events with all proceeds going to missions and benevolences.

A day-long Women’s Retreat led by a facilitator is held once a year to provide fellowship and meaningful discussion.

**16. Church groups/organizations: Briefly describe ministry purpose of each group.**

<b>Name of Group</b>	<b>Frequency of Meeting</b>	<b>Attendance</b>
Chancel Choir	Twice weekly/ministry of music	14
Bell Choir	Weekly/ministry of music	6
Children’s Choir	Weekly/ministry of music	8
Sound/Tech Team	Weekly/prepare sound and video for worship	8
Sunday School	Weekly, September-June Christian Education	10

Confirmation	Weekly, prepare high school students for membership/communion	As needed
Puppet Club	Weekly, children prepare skits for Sunday worship 4 - 5 times a year	8
Women's Breakfast Club	Monthly from Oct.-March fellowship and speaker sharing "her story".	35
Bible Studies	Weekly for six weeks	10
Guild for Christian Service	Monthly/women's service organization	20
Youth Group	Program being developed Christian fellowship for 5 <sup>th</sup> -8 <sup>th</sup> gr.	
Courier team	Monthly church newsletter	4
Feed Our Souls	Monthly meal delivery for shut-ins and those in need	15
Caring ministry	Monthly	8
Consistory	Monthly	13
Consistory committees (Worship, Discipleship, Administration, Outreach/Evangelism, Congregational Care)	Monthly	5 - 10
Men's Group	Monthly	8-15
Boy Scouts	Church-sponsored troop	10

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

The Discipleship Task Force developed a new eight-week discipleship/stewardship program in the fall of 2022 and will offer another in the fall of 2023. These programs are designed to provide added understanding and inspiration for us to live as Christ calls us to be by giving our time and talent as well as treasure to support church endeavors.

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

In addition to the church building (sanctuary, several offices, chapel, educational wing, fellowship hall and kitchen), we own two manses—one is for the pastor, the other is rented.

**19. Do you plan any capital expenditure during the next five years? Yes  No**

**If yes, please explain briefly:**

Prospective capital projects include: re-shingle church building roof, repave parking lot, and eliminate moisture issues to make basement classrooms and storage usable.

**20. Is there a mortgage indebtedness? Yes  No**

**21. Pastor's study:**

In church  In parsonage  Other  Not provided

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

Position	Full or part time
Office Administrator	Part-time
Sexton	Part-time
Music Director	Part-time
Bell Choir Director	Part-time
Children's Choir Director	Part-time
Organist	Part-time
Guitarist	Part-time

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

The Nominating Committee, consisting of the Pastor, Vice President and outgoing members of the current consistory meet and review our listing of the greater consistory and current membership of the church. Based on this review, a list is created to ask individuals to serve as either elders or deacons for the next three-year term. The consistory approves the slate of nominees which are presented to the congregation. At the annual meeting they are considered, along with any floor nominations, and voted on by the congregation.

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

<u>Elder</u>	<u>Deacon</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Occupation</u>
X		X		Retired
X			X	Healthcare
X		X		Software Engineer
X		X		Retired
X			X	Retired
X			X	Production Manager
	X	X		Director Non-Profit
	X	X		Electrician
	X	X		HVAC
	X		X	Marketing/Business Development
	X	X		Architect
	X		X	Homemaker

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

There is no distinction made between men and women when filling leadership roles within the church.

**25. In our congregation . . . (please check appropriate box)**

	Few have . . .	Many have . . .	Most have . . .
Had up to 12 years of formal education			X
Had some education beyond high school		X	
A college degree		X	
A graduate degree		X	

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

	Few are . . .	Many are . . .	Most are . . .
Scientists & Engineers	X		
Construction/Trade	X		
Business People		X	
Students & Teachers		X	
Industrial Workers	X		
Office Workers		X	
Healthcare		X	
Retired		X	

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

We are not seeking a pastor with specialized training in a particular area. We hope to find someone with the skills and passion to shepherd us as we continue to serve Christ in our community and beyond.

**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.**

Because this is determined by many factors, the compensation package will, at the very least, be in compliance with the Required Minimum Compensation Schedule as defined by the Classis of the Greater Palisades.

The average annual increase to our pastor over the past three years was 3 percent.

**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?**  
N/A

**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.)**

Because this is determined by many factors, the compensation package will be, at the very least, in compliance with the Required Minimum Compensation Schedule as defined by the Classis of the Greater Palisades and include travel and education allowances.

**33. Community served: (please check one)**

Rural: Under 2,500	
Town: 2,500-9,999*	<b>X</b>
Small City: 10,000-49,000	
Metropolitan-Suburban: 50,000+	
Metropolitan-Urban: 50,000+	
Metropolitan-Inner City: 50,000+	

\*Harrington Park population from 2020 census – 4,742  
Active membership demographics – 50% from Harrington Park and 50% from 14 other surrounding Bergen County towns

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

The three Christian churches in Harrington Park hold an ecumenical Thanksgiving service annually. Harrington Park also hosts an annual Menorah/Christmas tree lighting and Memorial Day Parade attended by local spiritual leaders. We support the Norwood Food Pantry at the Norwood Episcopal Church.

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

The Center for Food Action Snack Pack events are held once or twice a year. These events see volunteers of all ages and are well attended by the community at large in addition to our own members.

A Live Nativity is held for the community during Advent which includes instrumental and vocal music, a short play and animals from a petting zoo.

The building and grounds are available for after-school care, the Boy and Girl Scout troops, a senior citizen group and for town meetings.

We do collections and have done facility improvement work for New Hope Pregnancy Resource Center which supports single mothers and their babies.



Through the Feed Our Souls program, the church prepares monthly meals for church members and non-members who are sick, house bound, or in need.

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

Presbyterian, Episcopal, Lutheran, Reformed, United Methodist, Catholic, Jewish Jehovah’s Witness, Bible Church (independent), Assemblies of God, Baptist, United Church of Christ, Latter Day Saints, Syriac Orthodox, Evangelical Free

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

We have started several initiatives to reach the un-churched in our community. From a technology perspective, we use our upgraded website and social media (Facebook and Instagram) to provide information and activities at the church. The Discipleship Task Force and Outreach Committee have planned several "Invite Someone to Church" Sundays. We will continue community outreach by offering events such as the Live Nativity, Center for Food Action Snack Pack, Feed Our Souls Meals, Women's Breakfast Ministry, Women’s Guild for Christian Service events, Men’s Group, and a new youth-group social program.

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

<b>X</b>	About average for our community
	Somewhat below the rest of the community
	Somewhat higher than the rest of the community

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

Harrington Park and the surrounding towns are small, suburban communities that attract families with many generations living in the area. Harrington Park demographics include: 73% white; 21% Asian; 4% Hispanic. We have one highly-rated Pre-K through grade 8 school in Harrington Park and an award-winning regional high school in Old Tappan (bordering Harrington Park).

Harrington Park has an active recreation program and swim club. Local organizations sponsor events throughout the year including a town picnic, farmers' market, Christmas tree/menorah lighting and 5K run. There is a quaint, downtown area with two restaurants, a deli, a convenience store, a barber, a hair salon, a cleaners and other small businesses. The town is one-third watershed with limited over-development as a result.

**Websites:**

Borough of Harrington Park

[www.harringtonparknj.gov](http://www.harringtonparknj.gov)

Harrington Park School

[www.hpsd.org](http://www.hpsd.org)

Northern Valley Regional High School, Old Tappan

<http://oths.nvnet.org>

40. Record of last three pastors:

Name	Dates
Rev. Steve Sayer	February, 2015 -- present
Rev. George V. Kaden	1993 to 2013
Rev. Charles P. Johnson	1973 to 1992

41. Please complete your profile with the following contacts:

Name	
Barry Wood	1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President, Consistory
Jodie Wu	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?

**Mission Statement:** "Striving to be what Christ tells us through Scripture"

**Vision Statement:** "A Community of caring believers who worship together and aspire to grow and share our faith as we live out our lives aligned with the life and teaching of Jesus Christ"

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 goals for the future came from the eight guiding principles we have adopted for guidance in achieving our mission and vision for The Community Church.

1. **Belonging together** – Fellowship – becoming people who practice the love and care of Christ for each other.
2. **Building Faith** – Discipleship – Becoming people who are gradually becoming more Christ-like
3. **Beholding God** – Worship – Becoming people who connect with God in worship
4. **Bearing Fruit** – Ministry – Becoming people who find and follow how God’s calling and crafting us for ministry
5. **Bringing Others** – Evangelism – Becoming people who assist the Spirit to help others make connections with Christ
6. **Being One** – Unity – *Living as* people who are one, not letting barriers of ethnicity, education, economic, theology, or personal feelings divide us
7. **Bestowing Mercy** – Helping people in need – Becoming people who serve the world in compassion and love
8. **Boosting Ministry** – Administration and leadership – becoming people who figure out structures that encourage all these things to happen

In the next five years we look forward to calling a new pastor who will shepherd us through our goals of growing the Sunday School and adult membership, serving the needs of our members and community through caring and compassion ministries and studying the Bible to support our mission.

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

At CCHP we are a Spirit-led congregation who enjoy Christ-centered worship, fellowship and service. People form deep relationships, have a desire to become a little more like Jesus and want to serve each other and the world in which we live. We are willing to care for each other, work for the betterment of the church and the community and take on leadership roles. In most cases, the congregation possesses a flexible attitude, encouraging new ideas and participating in new programs. We have completed the Natural Church Development survey three times and acted on outcomes. We are a friendly, welcoming congregation, celebrating our unity but not uniformity.

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

With Scripture as the essential guide, we strive for passionate spirituality. Educational programs for children and adults help us better understand who Christ wants us to be. We further renew our commitment with discipleship programs, outreach events and stewardship campaigns. All church income is tithed at 10% to support local, regional and international missions. Members are encouraged to offer not only their treasure but their time and talent as well.

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

With God's blessing, we hope to find a pastor to help us become a more vibrant, financially stable, and spiritually growing church, enabling us to provide and support the many important programs our church offers now and in the future. We hope to grow our Sunday school and youth programs to help children connect with God, Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit. We hope that our members remain strongly connected to each other and through the Holy Spirit grow in fellowship, numbers, and faith.

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

We are known as CCHP and appropriately the first two letters, CC, stand for Community Church, and that is exactly what we strive to portray to our visitors. We are a church with a strong sense of community. At the top our Sunday bulletin it says, "We are caring believers who grow, share and live out our faith in Christ." It is our earnest hope that visitors leave our church having received a strong, relevant, Biblically-based message, experienced a

warm sense of inclusion and fellowship with other members of the Body of Christ, and are anxious to return in the near future.

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

Attracting new members and continuing to build an active Sunday School, youth group, and adult education program.

Offsetting declining church membership which will impact church programs and financial viability.

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

We hope to deepen our faith and share the love of Christ, as well as attract, build, and maintain members among young adults.

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

We would like you to know that:

- 1) Our church has a caring culture. We take care of one another and help each other during times of need.
- 2) Our church has a gifted musical ministry.
- 3) We are sad to see our pastor retire but look forward with excitement for new ideas, opportunities and challenges.
- 4) We want to remain an RCA denomination church.

## **Reformed Church in America Office of Ministry Services**

### **Release Statement**

**We, the Community Church in Harrington Park, 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.**



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**Jeffrey Pond, Search Committee Co-Chairperson**

**9/30/2023**

**Date**