Who We Are

A brief introduction to the Reformed Presbyterian Church of North America...
Our segment of the organized body of Christ is known as the Reformed Presbyterian Church of North America. In a few words, we would like to share with you what this name means and what our church as a denomination is doing.

Our Name

We are “Reformed” because we adhere to the Biblical principles set down by the Protestant Reformation of the sixteenth century. Our spiritual fathers include Martin Luther, John Calvin and John Knox.

We are called “Presbyterian” because of our form of church government. In each congregation we are under the oversight of those elected as elders who are also part of the higher courts known as Presbyteries and Synods.

We have also been referred to historically as Covenanters because of our identification with public covenanting in Scotland. This act was a protest for Christ’s Kingship over the Church without interference from the government. Our roots also include those referred to as the Fudders, who share in the testimony for Christ’s Crown and Covenant.

In 1743 the first Reformed Presbyterian congregation was organized in North America. In this country, too, the Kingship of Christ has been maintained as a foundational principle of our denomination. Today, congregations reach across all the North American continent. We also acknowledge as sister churches, groups of Reformed Presbyterians in Britain, Cyprus and Australia.

Our Belief

Our beliefs all stem from a full commitment to the authority of the Bible as the inerrant, infallible Word of God. This means that we believe in the Triune God; Father, Son and Holy Spirit. We acknowledge our total inability to save ourselves and depend on faith upon Christ alone as our Savior. We acknowledge Him as Covenant Lord in every area of life and we vow together to advance His Kingdom on earth.

We believe that God desires His Church to set forth clear statements of her system of doctrine which can be supported from Scripture. Therefore accept as our creed, or subordinate standards, The Westminster Confession of Faith and the Larger and Shorter Catechisms. In addition to these doctrinal statements we adhere to the Testimony of the Reformed Presbyterian Church of North America which is our confining application of God’s written word to the world and the church of today.

We believe that God’s Word clearly sets forth how He is to be worshiped. The reading and exposition of the Word of God are the central focus of our worship. In our musical praise we employ God’s Word only, thus making use of the divinely inspired Book of Psalms of the Bible. In keeping with the New Testament Church’s directive for heart worship, we sing without the aid of musical instruments.

Our Institutions

Because we believe that the Gospel applies to the whole man, the church maintains various institutions for the training and care of God’s people. These include:

Geneva College

Geneva, established in 1849, is a fully accredited 4 year co-educational institution offering courses in liberal arts and the sciences. The authority of God’s Word is upheld in all these fields and Christ is at the center of Geneva’s educational philosophy.

Theological Seminary

The Reformed Presbyterian Theological Seminary was established in 1810. The purpose of the Seminary is to provide godly and able men for the Gospel ministry, with an emphasis upon the pastorate.

Students certified by their church may be admitted when they have completed requirements for a bachelor’s degree or its equivalent. Courses in missions and specialized fields of Christian service are also provided. Students of several denominations are currently enrolled.

The Seminary is authorized to grant the Master of Divinity degree which is scheduled as a 3 year program of study.

The Seminary is located in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Enquiries should be addressed to:

Reformed Presbyterian Theological Seminary
7418 Penn Avenue
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15208

Home for the Aged

For over 75 years the Women’s Association has maintained a fully staffed and well equipped home for aged men and women. This institution largely serves its church family, but others also share in her many comforts. This is a Christian home-away-from-home for nearly 50 people. An active religious and social program fosters a unique family spirit. The location is convenient to urban shopping and cultural centers. For further information write to:

Reformed Presbyterian Home for Aged
2344 Perrysville Avenue
Pittsburgh, Pa. 15214

The college is located about thirty miles northwest of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Enquiries regarding her program should be addressed to:

Geneva College
Beaver Falls, Pa. 15010
OUR BOARDS

Apart from our institutions, the continuing testimony of the denomination is carried forth by numerous Boards and Committees which are responsible to Synod, our highest court. The major Boards include the following:

The Board of Home Missions acts with the presbyteries to encourage the formation of new congregations and to aid smaller works in achieving self-supporting status. Particular attention is also given to programs and methods of evangelism.

In the past, particular attention was given to work among minority groups including the black, Jewish, and Indian Americans. Today's approach centers on the establishment of new churches across the country without particular focus on ethnic backgrounds.

The Board of Foreign Missions administers the placement of missionaries and oversees their work in various countries. Over the years, Reformed Presbyterian missionaries have been active in China, Manchuria, Syria, Cyprus, Ethiopia and Japan. Special training is provided for applicants accepted for missionary service. Working with other Reformed Presbyterians from Europe, Asia and Australia, our mission goal is the planting of a self-governing Church of Jesus Christ in every land.

To promote knowledge and interest in missions, the Women's Missionary Societies of the denomination work closely with the Home and Foreign Mission Boards. This organization operates on local, presbyterial and synodical levels. Spiritual fellowship for women is also provided through Bible study and prayer.

The Board of Education and Publication has the responsibility of promoting Christian Education through the printed page and leadership training. The Director of Educational Services is a field worker whose main efforts are concerned with denominational youth and the educational programs of congregations and presbyteries. The Director of Publication oversees and develops the denominational materials which include the denominational magazine, The Covenanter Witness and numerous other books and pamphlets. A catalog of these items is available from the Clerk of Synod whose address is given at the end of this pamphlet.

If you wish to make further inquiry concerning the activities of these Boards or if you have any other questions concerning our denomination, the Clerk of Synod is prepared to answer your queries. A directory of our congregations is available upon request. Correspondence may be addressed to:

Clerk of Synod
Reformed Presbyterian Church of North America
7418 Penn Avenue
Pittsburgh, Pa. 15208