

THE REFORMED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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The question, "What is the Reformed Presbyterian Church of North America?" may possibly be a question of interest to you. We hope so. Of course, on the other hand, maybe you have never heard of the Reformed Presbyterian Church. Hence, it is our intention both to introduce ourselves to you for the first time and for those who have either visited one of our churches or have heard of us through a friend we wish to relate to you more information about our name, our beliefs and practices, and our interest in you. We hope that this pamphlet will aid you in becoming desirous of getting better acquainted with us.

OUR HISTORY

The REFORMED PRESBYTERIAN (COVENANTER) CHURCH OF NORTH AMERICA has an unbroken history since the establishment of the Reformation Church in Scotland, continuing to believe and teach those principles characterizing that Church.

Patrick Hamilton, a Scottish nobleman, having visited Martin Luther brought the principles of the Reformation to Scotland, and was burned at the stake. John Knox, inspired by his study with John Calvin at Geneva, returned to Scotland and was instrumental in establishing the Reformation Church of Scotland in 1560. Calvinism, as this theology of John Calvin was nick-

named, was not only adopted by the Scotch Presbyterians but also the French Huguenots, the English Puritans, and our Pilgrim Fathers.

The practice of public "covenanting" was followed in Scotland, a high point being reached when the National Covenant which embraced these Reformation principles was signed by the king and the people in 1638. In the succeeding decades the Covenanters refused to surrender the "crown rights" of Jesus Christ as King over His Church in spite of severe persecution under the Stuart kings. Their struggle for religious liberty laid the foundation for the religious and political freedom which we now enjoy.

In 1743 the first Reformed Presbyterian congregation was organized in North America. Today congregations are located across the country from Seattle to Orlando; San Diego to Cambridge.

WE BELIEVE

The Reformed Presbyterian Church believes that the sovereign God Who breathed out His Word in the Bible through His chosen authors sent His Son the Lord Jesus Christ to die on the cross and rise again in order to save men from sin and its curse. Those, who by His grace repent of sin and believe in Jesus, will be delivered from condemnation in the final judgement when Jesus returns and will enjoy the blessings of heaven prepared for God's chosen people.

Owing to our historical development the Covenanter or Reformed Presbyterian Church

recognizes Christ Jesus as King of men and nations. Hence, a precious belief is that which has come to be known as the Mediatorial Kingship of Jesus Christ. As the second Adam, the God-man, Jesus lived a sinless life yet was crucified on the cross as a common criminal. God the Father vindicated that death by resurrecting His beloved Son and seating Him at His right hand from which place He rules the creation as Lord of lords and Saviour of God's chosen, and through them the creation.

The Westminster Confession of Faith, the Larger and Shorter Catechisms and the Testimony of the Reformed Presbyterian Church of North America are the creeds to which we subscribe. The Testimony seeks to apply the teachings of God's written Word, the Bible, to man today as our Church understands those teachings.

As our name should imply, we are Presbyterian in our form of church government. The responsibility of caring for God's people rests with the Elders and Deacons. The Elders make up a session which is particularly interested in the oversight of the congregation in the Lord while the Deacons supervise the ministry of mercy to those within and without the congregation.

OUR WORSHIP AND PRACTICE

The reading and exposition of the written Word of God is an integral part of every worship service. Since Jesus Christ is the only King and Head of the Church our worship must be in accord with His will as

He commands it in the Scriptures. We, therefore, follow the New Testament administration of church worship as it "filtered" through the worship patterns of the Tabernacle and Temple as pictured in the Old Testament. Because of this our hymnal or Book of Praise is the 150 Psalms from the BOOK OF PSALMS in the Bible. We sing the Psalms a cappella (without instrumental accompaniment).

We understand God's Word to teach that the sacraments of baptism and the Lord's Supper are instituted by Christ to be administered by the Church. As members of that body of Christ it is our duty, on a sessional basis, to guard against the misuse of either sacrament. Hence, only parents who have a credible profession of faith may have their infants baptized and only those with whom the session has met and knows to have a credible profession of faith may partake of the Lord's Supper.

OUR INTEREST IN YOU

We are interested in you and your family! We believe that it is the duty of every Christian to join and support that denomination of the visible church which maintains the purest preaching of the Word of God, which properly administers the sacraments, and which practices discipline by faithfully overseeing the doctrine and practice of its members and eliminating from its membership by excommunication those members who refuse to be corrected in either doctrine or life. Of course, as a denomination

we would maintain our separateness from such modern-day church-union movements as the World Council of Churches (WCC) because of their denial of many of the central doctrines of the Christian faith. We do have many pastors who are actively involved in interdenominational fellowships; one such movement is the National Presbyterian and Reformed Fellowship (NPRF).

We are interested, not only in the sound education of our members and visitors in the Word of God on the Lord's Day in the Bible classes, but also in the broad scope of education which takes place during the week. Therefore, we have a college which is seeking to present Christian education both in the field of the liberal arts as well as science and engineering. Geneva College in Beaver Falls, Pennsylvania has been supported by the Reformed Presbyterian Church since its beginning in 1848. Also, now days, many Reformed Presbyterians are becoming interested in Christian day schools to better instruct our children in the way of the Lord that they might walk in it.

We invite you to worship with us both in the morning and evening each Lord's Day.

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TO YOU BY: