

CHURCH PROFILE FORM

Reformed Church in America



Section A. Background Information

Today's Date: 1/4/2019

Position to be filled: Pastor

1. **Name of church:** Neshanic Reformed Church
2. **Web address:** www.neshanicreformedchurch.org
3. **Mailing address:**
715 Amwell Rd.
Street
Hillsborough, NJ 08844
City / State / Zip Code
Telephone: (908) 369-4542 **E-Mail address:** neshanic.reformed@comcast.net
4. **Classis:** Delaware Raritan
5. **Classis Supervisor:** Rev. Mark Swart
Address:
North Branch Reformed Church
203 Route 28
Street
Bridgewater, NJ 08807
City / State / Zip Code
Telephone: (908) 725-2313 **E-Mail address:** swart@nbrc.com
6. **Chair of search committee:** Antonio (Tony) Barberio
Address:
113 Oak Crest Dr
Street
Branchburg, NJ 08853
City / State / Zip Code
Telephone: (908) 369-3731 **E-Mail address:** nrcsearch18@gmail.com

7. **Membership:**

Time of worship	Five years ago	Today
Active Confessing Members	180	134
Inactive Confessing Members	218	259

Comment on significant changes:

A number of families that have been active members of the church over a significant period, have reached retirement age. They have, therefore, begun to move out of the area. It is our desire to begin to attract new members to make up for this loss in membership. It is also our desire to attract younger families with children as a means of growing our Sunday School and youth programs.

Age of all active members (baptized and confessing)

14 %	0-20 years old
8 %	20-34 years old
25 %	35-49 years old
34 %	50-64 years old
19 %	65 years and older

8. Racial/Ethnic composition of congregation:

%	African American
1 %	Asian
98 %	Caucasian
1 %	Hispanic
%	Other: (please specify) Information not tracked

9. Worship schedule:

Average Attendance (includes adults and children)

Time of worship	Average attendance Five years ago	Average attendance Today
10:00 am <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> pm <input type="checkbox"/>	114	75
am <input type="checkbox"/> pm <input type="checkbox"/>		

Comment on significant changes: (See answer to question number 7)

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 available.

- Prelude
- Welcome and Sharing of Church Life
- The Passing of the Peace
- THE APPROACH TO GOD
- Opening Prayer
- Choral Introit
- Children's Message
- Hymn
- Call to Worship (responsive then "all" for prayer of confession)
- Silent and Personal Prayers
- Prayer Response
- The Words of Assurance
- The Law
- The Gloria Patri
- Anthem
- THE WORD OF GOD
- Scripture Lesson
- The Sermon
- Prayer for Blessing on the Word
- THE RESPONSE TO GOD
- The Offering and Offertory
- Doxology

The General Prayers and the Lord's Prayer (debts, debtors)

Hymn

The Benediction

Choral Benediction

Postlude

11. **Financial Information: Attach a copy most recent Consistorial Report and Annual Budget if available.**

	Five Years Ago	Today
Total RCA related contributions	\$13,398	\$10,280
Total other contributions	\$15,797	\$10,723

Percentage of total budget contributed by living donors:

100-90 %	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
75-89 %	<input type="checkbox"/>
60-74 %	<input type="checkbox"/>
45-59 %	<input type="checkbox"/>
44 % or less	<input type="checkbox"/>

(Please include a copy of your annual budget)

12. **Congregational Giving:**
Number of those whose annual contribution is:

Less than \$500	102
\$501- \$1,500	47
\$1,501- \$2,500	11
\$2,501-\$3,500	6
Greater than \$3,500	18

13. **Financial assistance: Do you receive financial assistance beyond the congregation? (rents, etc.)** Yes No

If yes, amount received last year: \$ 31,000 from Christian Nuturing Center for rent and \$13,900 in captial improvements. We also received \$7,800 from Verizon Wireless in rent for cell tower housed in the sanctuary building.

List other fundraising programs that support the church:

Golf Outing and Hearts & Hands (knitting and crochet group)

**14. Church/Sunday School:
Average Attendance**

Average attendance Five years ago	Average attendance Today
not avail	Childen & Worship (ages 4-2 nd grade) - 6
not avail	Grades 3-5 - 4

Comment on significant changes:

Increasingly low attendance over the years led to combined grades and discontinuing classes for grades 6-8

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

Ages 4 through 2nd grade use the Young Children & Worship curriculum ht

Grades 3-5 use SeasonsENCORE from Woodlake Publishers

Adult Bible Study meets weekly from September through June

Youth Group for grades 6-12 meet at least once per month (meetings & activities)

**16. Church groups/organizations: Briefly describe ministry purpose of each group.
(use separate sheet if necessary)**

Name of group	Frequency of Meeting (i.e. weekly, bi-monthly, etc)	Attendance
SEE ATTACHMENT		

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

The one most significant event that occurred over the last year that has brought our church community together would be the leaving of Pastor Dave. Dave was our Pastor over the last 18 years and has done an excellent job in leading our congregation over that time period. Whereby we will certainly miss his leadership, the congregation and especially the leaders of the congregation such as the consistory and search committee, are all pulling together and looking at this as an opportunity to pick a new leader.

We are excited to pick a new leader for our congregation that can guide us over the next decade and beyond to continue to develop what we have done well and to bring in new ideas to excite our existing congregation and bring in many new people from the surrounding communities to our congregation.

We are hoping to expand on our love of Jesus to bring forward the message that we are a great place to worship Christ for all families as well as a place of worship that gives back to the community.

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

Sanctuary: Worship services (September - June), weddings, funerals, Boy Scout troop Eagle ceremonies. The Link: Preschool class, Adult Choir rehearsal. Brookside Hall: Administration offices, preschool classrooms, meeting rooms. Nurture Center: main hall, kitchen, preschool classrooms, worship services (July & August), hall rentals, meetings, church fellowship gatherings.

19. Do you plan any capital expenditure during the next five years? Yes No
If yes, please explain briefly:

The church will be repointed in 2019 through a grant of \$92,630 from NJ Historic Trust. The balance of the cost for \$61,759 will come from the congregation. The \$61,759 has already been pledged by the congregation and \$51,841 has been raised to date.

20. Is there a mortgage indebtedness? Yes No

Amount: \$

Of how long standing?

Annual rate of repayment

21. Pastor's study:

In church in parsonage Other Not Provided

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

Position	Full time <input type="checkbox"/>	Part time <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Church Administrator	Full time <input type="checkbox"/>	Part time <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Director of Music	Full time <input type="checkbox"/>	Part time <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Maintenance Custodian	Full time <input type="checkbox"/>	Part time <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Janitorial Custodians (2)	Full time <input type="checkbox"/>	Part time <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Full time <input type="checkbox"/>	Part time <input type="checkbox"/>
	Full time <input type="checkbox"/>	Part time <input type="checkbox"/>
Director of Preschool - Christian Nurturing Center	Full time <input type="checkbox"/>	Part time <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Preschool teacher/aides (approx. 9) - Christian Nurturing Center	Full time <input type="checkbox"/>	Part time <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Full time <input type="checkbox"/>	Part time <input type="checkbox"/>
	Full time <input type="checkbox"/>	Part time <input type="checkbox"/>
	Full time <input type="checkbox"/>	Part time <input type="checkbox"/>
	Full time <input type="checkbox"/>	Part time <input type="checkbox"/>
	Full time <input type="checkbox"/>	Part time <input type="checkbox"/>

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

Nomination by church members

Please list present Consistory members (Put a check in the box where appropriate:

Elder	Deacon	Male	Female	Occupation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Healthcare Administrator
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Consultant
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Compliance Officer
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Realtor & Property Manager
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Teacher
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Police Sergeant, retired
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Engineer, retired
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Software Developer
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Computer Teacher
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Teacher

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

A number of women presently serve on the Consistory as Elders and Deacons and Search Committee. Women are also actively involved in most other church committees and can serve in any role.

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

	Few have...	Many have...	Most have...
Had up to twelve years of formal education	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Had some education beyond high school	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
A college degree	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
A graduate degree	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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

	Few are...	Many are...	Most are...
Scientists & Engineers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Farmers	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Business People	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Students & Teachers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Industrial Workers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Office Workers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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

None.

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 \$ Salary will be commensurate with experience following classis guidelines.

The average annual increase to our pastor over the past three years was \$400.00

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?

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.)**

Base Salary	\$
Housing Allowance	\$
Parsonage provided? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	
Travel Reimbursement	\$
Social Security (Amount)	\$
Book Allowance (Amount)	\$
Continuing Education Allowance (Amount)	\$
Provision for Sabbatical	\$
Other (Specify Below)	\$
TOTAL	\$

- Yes No **Retirement**
 Yes No **Major Medical Insurance**
 Yes No **Health/Hospital Insurance**
 Yes No **Life Insurance**
 Yes No **Dental Insurance**
 Yes No **Unemployment Insurance**
 Yes No **Disability Insurance**

Annual Vacation (Number of Weeks)

Necessary Comments regarding above: Benefits will be commensurate with experience following classis guidelines

33. Community served: (please check one)

Rural: Under 2,500	<input type="checkbox"/>
Town: 2,500-9,999	<input type="checkbox"/>
Small City: 10,000-49,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
Metropolitan-Suburban: 50,000+	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Metropolitan-Urban: 50,000+	<input type="checkbox"/>
Metropolitan-Inner City: 50,000+	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other:	<input type="checkbox"/>

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

Shared Ash Wednesday service wth Clover Hill Reformed Church
 Confirmation Class (2018-2019) to be shared with TBD
 Youth group activities

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

The Midland Foundation, Hillsborough Food Pantry, Christian Nurturing Center Scholarship Fund, Samaritan Homeless Interim Program, Boy Scouts, Cancer Support Center of Central New Jersey, Visions and Pathways, Summer Mission Project, Greater Community Assistance Program (GAP)

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

Our church is in an area containing a diverse number of houses of faith. Multiple healthy Roman Catholic churches, Independent and Baptist churches, and many Protestant and mainline churches (including Lutheran, Presbyterian, Methodist, Episcopalian, and even other RCA congregations) exist within reasonable proximity of Neshanic Reformed Church, as well as a Greek Orthodox Church and a Jewish synagogue.

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

It is our strategy and hope that with a new and exciting Pastor we will be able to attract people in our community to come join our church by getting the message out to the greater community that the Neshanic Reformed Church is:

- A great place of worship to hear the word of God and Jesus Christ
- A great place of worship to bring all children to develop and grow a faith in Jesus Christ
- A wonderful place of worship and fellowship to not only share with each other but also a place of worship whereby we are giving back and helping the local and greater community through many great missions.

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

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	About average for our community
<input type="checkbox"/>	Somewhat below the rest of the community
<input type="checkbox"/>	Somewhat higher than the rest of the community

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

Neshanic Reformed Church is part of the Neshanic Historic District. The church was built in 1762. The church is located in a rural/suburban area. The church is in the township of Hillsborough in Somerset County, NJ. Hillsborough has both an urban and rural feel. Although the church is located in a rural area, only a few miles away there are large shopping centers and many restaurants Hillsborough has one of the top school systems in the state. Neshanic Reformed Church is in central NJ and is almost equidistant between Philadelphia and New York. Another local village, Centerville, was the half way point and the overnight stop for stage journeys between NY and Philadelphia on the Old York Road. Each city is approximately 50 miles away. The church is about a 30 minute drive from Princeton and New Brunswick.

[https://www.google.com/maps/place/Hillsborough+Township,+NJ/@40.4980498,-](https://www.google.com/maps/place/Hillsborough+Township,+NJ/@40.4980498,-74.7550285,12z/data=!3m1!4b1!4m5!3m4!1s0x89c3eec1198696c7:0x3dea3e3a67fd1f36!8m2!3d40.5106322!4d-74.6472522)

[74.7550285,12z/data=!3m1!4b1!4m5!3m4!1s0x89c3eec1198696c7:0x3dea3e3a67fd1f36!8m2!3d40.5106322!4d-74.6472522](https://www.google.com/maps/place/Hillsborough+Township,+NJ/@40.4980498,-74.7550285,12z/data=!3m1!4b1!4m5!3m4!1s0x89c3eec1198696c7:0x3dea3e3a67fd1f36!8m2!3d40.5106322!4d-74.6472522)

Hillsborough Township Website: <http://www.hillsborough-nj.org/>

Hillsborough School District: <https://www.htps.us/>

40. Record of last three pastors:

Name	Dates
Rev. David J. Hill	2001 to 2018

Rev. Dr. Richard J. Tiggelaar	1994 to 2000
Rev. Glen O. Peterman	1977 to 1993

41. Please complete your profile with the following contacts:

Name	
Randy Gerstl	Vice President, Consistory
Rev. Mark Swart	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?

GROW IN FAITH: To provide a loving, supportive environment where we can become closer to God, learn His message, and share with others.

GROW IN FELLOWSHIP: Develop relationships led by God among ourselves, our community and our world.

GROW IN SERVICE: Broaden our love for others, knowing that we are all God's children, through outreach within our church, within our immediate community and throughout God's world.

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.

We hope to continue our current missions (see below), as well as, implement new missions such as:

- Helping nearby communities possibly through organizations such as Habitat For Humanity

- Establish new ways to support the needs of our community within the local area. Some ministries we are pursuing are supporting the Midland School, Steps Together, and broadening the scope of the Greater Community Assistance Fund.

- Engage our youth in more Outreach Programs

- Re-establish Vacation Bible School

- Provide an ongoing reevaluation of the strengths/weaknesses of all of our

- Current Missions:

CNC Scholarship Fund

Cancer Support Community

College Care Packages

Deacon's Fund (to be renamed to Greater Community Assistance Fund)

Hillsborough Food Pantry

Hunterdon Medical Center Hospice

SHIP (Samaritan Homeless Interim Program)

Summer Mission Project

Souper Bowl of Caring

Boy Scout Troup# 1776

Visions and Pathways programs and ministries.

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

We have a close-knit multi-talented congregation with strong family values.

The congregation is extremely involved in the church, lending their individual talents and time to make the church better. Examples include

groundskeeping, knitting, cooking, financial support (i.e. obtaining loans/grants), teaching Sunday School, working with Boy Scouts and providing gifts during the holidays.

Musically, the congregation is outstanding. The talent and creativity of the music programs shine through on a weekly basis.

The Christian Nurturing Center is another strong example of the church's overall commitment to excellence.

The congregation is very friendly, welcoming to new members and fully supportive of the pastor. On Sundays, the congregation gathers after service (for upwards of an hour), which reflects the fact that the congregation enjoys each other's company.

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

The strong history of our church and engagement in our missions, as well as the diversity of our congregation, is the foundation of our future. It has often been said that if a church doesn't have an outward mission, it is in danger of becoming a receiver of others' mission. Now that the physical needs of NRC have been met and will be satisfied for years, we can turn our focus outward.

Our church has always been open to pursue new ideas. We are eager to take on new missions, particularly in our surrounding communities and are very excited in extending our influence within those communities and in understanding how we can assist those in need.

By taking our faith into mission, we strengthen the congregation. We have demonstrated this through the implementation of many new missions taken on in recent years: annual mission trip, Cancer Support Community, Hearts & Hands, Souper Bowl of Caring, Giving Tree are just a few. As some of these efforts focus on young people, it is our hope that we can take this opportunity to get our own youth more involved in these missions and others.

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

1) Continue to strengthen and grow our children's and youth programs and their Christian education. This is significant since this represents the future of our congregation and society. This includes continuing support of our Christian Nurturing Center, Sunday school and youth programs and our Vacation Bible School Program.

2) Continue to grow our congregation. This is significant since it will allow us to continue to maintain our church and continue the traditions that have held our church together for over 265 years. This will also allow us to grow our

mission program and spread our message throughout the greater community and the rest of the world.

3) Broaden and expand our mission programs. We have been able to establish a sound financial stability in our internal church programs and buildings and grounds over the last several years. It is now time in our church to begin to spread our mission programs and congregational outreach programs to find new ways to better our community and world.

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

We hope that visitors from any walk of life, walking through the church doors, would find a supportive and accepting community of people. We hope they would feel included and welcome to join our Bible based worship with people engaged in the daily struggle of growing in faith. Also, we hope they, whether it be prayer, music, missions, teacher or learner, would find a place in our congregation for their God given talents.

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

The Church was fortunate to have a well-respected and charismatic pastor for many years. The new pastor will be challenged with filling the void his absence has undoubtedly left. While the Church had, as a whole, been satisfied with the pastoral leadership, the congregation is also looking for some change. Members primarily seem universally invested in attracting new members while being able to assure, to long time members, that important traditions will be maintained.

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

Our vision is to ensure that Neshanic Reformed Church will continue to grow and evolve into the future just as it has over the last 265 years.

To that end, we hope that our new pastor will seek to understand the needs and priorities of our current congregation, supporting our spiritual growth and fostering strong connections with and among us. We wish for our pastor to find paths for our congregation to connect not only internally but also with outside communities. We are open to fresh ideas that may help attract new members to join our worship and ministries. Additionally, we feel it is critical that our new pastor focuses on engaging and spiritually educating our youth as they, as well as new membership, are the future of our church.

Our hope is that our pastor and congregation will work collaboratively to identify areas of improvement throughout our ministries and to help us determine the best path forward as we continue to evolve and serve the needs of our congregation and broader communities even better.

9) Explain what ever else you would like your potential pastor to know about your church.

Although we are a small church, we are big in many ways. We have a highly diverse congregation of young and old members; some have only just started with us but many have been here for decades. This leads to the gift of many talents, such as lay leadership, stewardship, music, education, mission, outreach, quilting, knitting, cooking, support of each other, buildings and grounds maintenance, and more.

We also have local missions for food and shelter as well as a summer mission project in helping folks in need with major building projects for their homes.

We have always had a welcoming and loving congregation built on strong family values as well as full pastoral support. We retain a "closeness" within the church community. The congregation truly enjoys each other's company which is reflective in the "coffee fellowship time" that we all spend together after service. There is also strong congregant involvement with church projects and programs as we all enjoy working together for the betterment of our church and for the glory of God.

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

Release Statement

(Full Church Name)

We, Neshanic Reformed Church, 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.



Signature of Search Team Chairperson or Designated

12/12/18
Date

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

Name of Group	Frequency of Meeting (weekly, bi-monthly, etc.)	Attendance
Hearts & Hands –crochet, knit for charity & fund raising	Weekly	
Adult Choir – Provides Anthem and other portions of weekly service 2x per month (Sept – June)	Weekly (September – June)	
Youth Choir –Sings 1x per month (Oct-May)	Weekly (September – June)	
Praise Band – Practices weekly and plays 1x per month (Sept – June)	Weekly (September – June)	
NRC Women – Fund raising and fellowship events	Monthly (September – June)	
Adult Bible Study – Led by Pastor	Weekly (September – June)	
Youth Group	Bi-monthly (with additional events)	
Confirmation Class	Bi-monthly (October – June)	

