

BENTHEIM REFORMED CHURCH, HAMILTON, MI CHURCH PROSPECTUS

Position to Fill: Lead Pastor

Date: Aug. 23, 2022

A. Basic Information

1. Church Name: Bentheim Reformed Church (hereafter, "BRC")
2. Transition Pastor: Rev. Paul Burmeister; (231) 286-4681; paul@bentheim.org
3. Church Address: 3997 – 38th St., Hamilton, MI 49419 (7 mi. east of Hamilton)
4. Church Phone: (269) 751-5882 (no fax #)
5. Church Website: www.bentheim.org
6. Church Denomination: *Alliance of Reformed Churches* (as of March, 2022)
7. Church Membership: 418 members + approx. 60 adherents (non-members);
Church Attendance: Averages 250-270 during program year (summer is less)
8. Church Staff: 9 members including three full-time positions: Lead Pastor, Director of Youth Ministries, and Director of Administration & Community Engagement; Six part-time positions include Director of Children's Ministries and a CM Support Administrator, Director of Kid's Hope, Treasurer's Assistant, Video Ministries Director, and two Custodians
9. Church Buildings: Sanctuary seats 375 (including a balcony), plus an onsite "Video Venue" that seats 50+; large Family Life Center (gymnasium), Youth Ministry room, Children's Ministries rooms, plus a dedicated Cadet building, and an available 4-bedroom parsonage with an attached 2-car garage on campus
10. Community Information:
Bentheim is a small rural farming village located in Allegan County and is part of the Hamilton community in beautiful West Michigan. It is a community steeped in tradition and composed of passionate, caring, and dedicated people. The village consists of Bentheim Reformed Church, the Bentheim Cemetery, the Overisel Fire Department, and Bentheim Elementary School, which is part of the Hamilton Community School District, and provides a quality public education for all residents. The Middle School and High School are located in the village of Hamilton just a few miles west of Bentheim. Attractions in this area include many State Parks along the Lake Michigan coastline, and we are just minutes away from the cities of Holland, Zeeland, and Grand Rapids, which is well known for its outstanding health care systems.

B. Pastoral Search Information

1. Search Team Email Address: pastorsearch@bentheim.org
2. Search Team Chair: Brian Scholten; Cell # (616) 836-2435;
Email: scholtebr@gmail.com
3. Facilitator/Church Supervisor: Rev. Paul Burmeister; Cell # (231) 286-4681;
Email: paul@bentheim.org

4. Search Team Composition: 9 members - 5 men and 4 women - including one current Elder and one Deacon

C. Educational Ministries Overview

BRC has a very active Children's Ministry, and is in the final construction stages of a new 4,700 sq. foot children's ministry center to make room for the growth we have been experiencing. Classes are provided for pre-school (2-5 year olds) through high school. The Sunday School was transformed in 2010 to "*Walk Out Worship*" (aka "*WOW*") in which children leave the congregational worship time for a 90-minute worship and discipleship experience appropriate to their age group. WOW currently has an average attendance of 55 children. BRC also offers a well-developed Wednesday night education experience featuring GEMS (for girls), Cadets (for boys), Middle School ministries, and a children's choir called "*God's Gang.*" High School youth ministries meet on Sunday evenings, and are recognized as some of the best in the entire region. Adult discipleship opportunities include a weekly Men's Bible Study, some small groups, Quilters and Crafters groups, a new Play Group ministry, and periodic special presentations, which are also open to the greater community.

D. Community Outreach & Engagement Overview

BRC strives to train and equip all ages to actively share about Jesus Christ with others, to be a strong invitational and welcoming community of faith, and to reach out in love to the unchurched around us who may be in need. The congregation is purposefully engaged in reaching out to the local community and the world in several ways:

1. Through strong Middle School and High School programs, and our GEMS and Cadet programs, all of which are attended by a high percentage of community (and non-churched) youth;
2. Through our annual Vacation Bible School;
3. Through our *Kid's Hope* mentoring program in the Bentheim Elementary School, and our *Bible Release Time* program, which brings over 200 children from the school to the church once every month (November to March).

To address physical/tangible needs around us, the church conducts holiday food drives, community festival events, an annual "*Buy-Nothing Event*," a Hand-2-Hand food program for needy children and families, and a backpack ministry for the Elementary School. BRC also just began a partnership with "*Care Portal*" for reaching children potentially and actually at risk in the community.

We maintain strong relationships with other churches in the area by celebrating combined worship services on several holidays, by participating in community prayer services on the National Day of Prayer and the Day of Prayer for Crops & Industry, and through our joint leadership of the Hamilton Area Youth Ministries (HAYM).

E. Miscellaneous Items of Importance

1. BRC's current Vision/Mission Statement is: "*BRC exists to Reach the lost, Exalt Christ, Serve the community, and Teach God's Word.*" We are a body of believers who desire to glorify God through authentic worship, to educate people of all ages in the Christian faith, to care for one another in a spirit of genuine love, to evangelize others who do not yet know Christ as Savior, and to offer ourselves in ministries of love and service to others in Jesus' name.
2. BRC affirms a traditional, biblical view of marriage, gender, and human sexuality, and expects all staff members to ascribe to their statement of position on this. The full statement of our position can be found on the church's website. (*Go to "About Us"/What We Believe*)
3. Strengths of the church, and what we offer best: We are a solidly Biblical and doctrinally grounded fellowship; our Children and Youth Ministries are excellent, and attract many to the church; we possess a genuine heart for outreach and serve the community tangibly with the love of Christ; we have a solid organizational structure and high functionality through our ministry committees; we have a great staff who are deeply invested and committed to their respective ministries. The church's full Statement of Faith can be found on the church's website. (*Go to "About Us"/What We Believe*)
4. Demographics: About one third of the congregation is represented by children and youth under the age of 20, another one third in the 20-50 age category, and the final third age 50 and above. So this is a very inter-generational church, and experienced by other people as a genuinely loving body of believers.

More specific information about Bentheim Reformed Church and its ministries can be found on the church's website: www.bentheim.org. We invite you to check us out, and to be in contact with us if you have questions!