Healthy  
Church  
Survey

Christian Reformed Church  
in North America

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*Healthy Churches Transforming Lives and Communities Worldwide* | *Christian Reformed Church in North America* | *Edition 2011*

# General Instructions

Please use this survey to rate the health of your church as you see it. Choose your ratings as fairly and objectively as possible. The goal is not to make your church look either good or bad but to provide an honest assessment of it. Your assessment, along with others from the church, is a valuable contribution to making your church as healthy as possible.

Please try to give an answer to every question; however, you may skip any question that you prefer not to answer. Check those responses that most closely represent your opinions and experiences.

The survey has three parts:

1. statements about your church,
2. demographic questions, and
3. statements about yourself.

When the survey refers to **church health**, we want you to think of the general wellness of your church in 11 different areas:

1. preaching and teaching the Word of God,
2. sense of mission/vision,
3. reaching out locally and globally,
4. loving fellowship,
5. spirituality,
6. worshiping,
7. leadership,
8. stewardship,
9. disciple making,
10. justice and righteousness, and
11. ministry to children and youth.

When the survey refers to **church leaders or leadership**, do not limit your understanding to only pastors or full-time, paid staff. Instead think of all those in your church leading its ministries, whether or not the position is paid or voluntary, full-time or part-time.

Note that **no personal identification is requested**. Responses in the returned surveys from your church will undergo data processing. Only aggregated summary statistical results will be seen by anyone at your church. Your answers will be kept anonymous.

For best results, you should **consider each question quickly and then select your answer**. Do not spend time pondering specific details.

It is expected that this survey will take approximately 30-35 minutes to complete.

**Thank you in advance** for taking the time to complete this survey. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.

# About Your Church

Using the scale at the top of the columns, indicate how true you think each statement is about your church.  
*Please check only one option in each row.*

|  | Definitely UNTRUE | Hardly true | Somewhat true | Mostly true | Definitely true |  | *Unsure* |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 1. The Bible is our primary guideline for all that we do and teach in our church. | 🌕1 | 🌕2 | 🌕3 | 🌕4 | 🌕5 |  | 🌕9 |
| 2. Our church strongly urges us to apply the Bible to every area of our lives. | 🌕1 | 🌕2 | 🌕3 | 🌕4 | 🌕5 |  | 🌕9 |
| 3. At our church, we teach the Bible in clear and practical ways. | 🌕1 | 🌕2 | 🌕3 | 🌕4 | 🌕5 |  | 🌕9 |
| 4. Our church preaches the good news of the gospel. | 🌕1 | 🌕2 | 🌕3 | 🌕4 | 🌕5 |  | 🌕9 |
| 5. The people of our church have a deep and thorough knowledge of the Bible. | 🌕1 | 🌕2 | 🌕3 | 🌕4 | 🌕5 |  | 🌕9 |
| 6. We are committed to understanding the Bible from a Reformed perspective. | 🌕1 | 🌕2 | 🌕3 | 🌕4 | 🌕5 |  | 🌕9 |
| 7. Our church’s activities clearly reflect our commitment to reaching the unchurched. | 🌕1 | 🌕2 | 🌕3 | 🌕4 | 🌕5 |  | 🌕9 |
| 8. Our church works intentionally with our community to make positive changes. | 🌕1 | 🌕2 | 🌕3 | 🌕4 | 🌕5 |  | 🌕9 |
| 9. Members of our church are being taught to share their faith with others. | 🌕1 | 🌕2 | 🌕3 | 🌕4 | 🌕5 |  | 🌕9 |
| 10. Our church lives out the gospel of Jesus Christ in our community. | 🌕1 | 🌕2 | 🌕3 | 🌕4 | 🌕5 |  | 🌕9 |
| 11. Our church works with one or more local organizations to increase the quality of life in our community. | 🌕1 | 🌕2 | 🌕3 | 🌕4 | 🌕5 |  | 🌕9 |
| 12. I’m satisfied that our church does enough evangelism. | 🌕1 | 🌕2 | 🌕3 | 🌕4 | 🌕5 |  | 🌕9 |
| 13. I am pleased with how much our church does to support international mission outreach. | 🌕1 | 🌕2 | 🌕3 | 🌕4 | 🌕5 |  | 🌕9 |
| 14. Our church strongly encourages us to build relationships with one another. | 🌕1 | 🌕2 | 🌕3 | 🌕4 | 🌕5 |  | 🌕9 |
| 15. Our church encourages people to develop relationships with unchurched people in the community. | 🌕1 | 🌕2 | 🌕3 | 🌕4 | 🌕5 |  | 🌕9 |
| 16. People in our church frequently show care in genuine acts of kindness, support and sharing. | 🌕1 | 🌕2 | 🌕3 | 🌕4 | 🌕5 |  | 🌕9 |
| 17. Our church is committed to building up a sense of community among us. | 🌕1 | 🌕2 | 🌕3 | 🌕4 | 🌕5 |  | 🌕9 |
| 18. Our church promotes loving relationships that cross racial, social, economic and political lines. | 🌕1 | 🌕2 | 🌕3 | 🌕4 | 🌕5 |  | 🌕9 |
| 19. When disagreements occur in our church, people easily and lovingly talk about them. | 🌕1 | 🌕2 | 🌕3 | 🌕4 | 🌕5 |  | 🌕9 |
| 20. There is a lot of joy and laughter in our church. | 🌕1 | 🌕2 | 🌕3 | 🌕4 | 🌕5 |  | 🌕9 |
| 21. Our church strongly encourages reliance on the Holy Spirit in everyday life. | 🌕1 | 🌕2 | 🌕3 | 🌕4 | 🌕5 |  | 🌕9 |
| 22. Spiritual disciplines such as prayer, Bible reading, silence and personal reflection are actively promoted and practiced in our church. | 🌕1 | 🌕2 | 🌕3 | 🌕4 | 🌕5 |  | 🌕9 |
| 23. Our church does a lot of praying together. | 🌕1 | 🌕2 | 🌕3 | 🌕4 | 🌕5 |  | 🌕9 |
| 24. Our church shows that it is very forgiving by practicing forgiveness in our daily lives. | 🌕1 | 🌕2 | 🌕3 | 🌕4 | 🌕5 |  | 🌕9 |
| 25. Our congregation enjoys a very close and meaningful relationship with God. | 🌕1 | 🌕2 | 🌕3 | 🌕4 | 🌕5 |  | 🌕9 |

# Overall Church Health

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1. Please describe your church’s current overall health. | 🌕1 Awful 🌕2 Poor 🌕3 Fair 🌕4 Good 🌕5 Great  🌕9 *Unsure* |
| 2. Please describe your church’s overall health five years ago. | 🌕1 Awful 🌕2 Poor 🌕3 Fair 🌕4 Good 🌕5 Great  🌕9 *Unsure*  🌕99 *Was not at this church 5 years ago* |

# Demographics

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1. What is your gender? | 🌕1 Female 🌕2 Male |
| 2. What is your age? | 🌕1 Under 20 🌕2 20 to 34 🌕3 35 to 49 🌕4 50 to 64 🌕5 65 to 79 🌕6 80 or older |
| 3. What is your primary racial or cultural group? *Check all that apply.* | □1 American Indian/Alaskan Native, Native Indian or Inuit  □2 Asian or Asian American  □3 Black or African American  □4 Hispanic, Latino or Cuban  □5 Middle Eastern  □6 Hawaiian or Pacific Islander  □7 White or Caucasian  □8 Multiracial or multicultural |
| 4. What is your current marital status? | 🌕1 Single or never married 🌕2 Married 🌕3 Divorced or separated 🌕4 Widowed |
| 5. Do you have children currently living at home? *Check all that apply.* | □1 No, I have no children living at home  □2 Yes, age 12 or younger  □3 Yes, age 13 to 18  □4 Yes, age 19 or older |
| 6. What is the highest level of education you have completed? | 🌕1 Less than high school diploma  🌕2 High school diploma or equivalent  🌕3 Trade certificate  🌕4 Some college or associate’s degree  🌕5 Bachelor’s degree  🌕6 Graduate degree (MA, PhD, etc.) |

# About You

Using the scale at the top of the columns, indicate how true you think each statement is for yourself.  
*Please mark only one circle in each row.*

|  | Definitely UNTRUE | Hardly true | Somewhat true | Mostly true | Definitely true |  | *Unsure* |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 1. The Bible is my primary rule and guide for life. | 🌕1 | 🌕2 | 🌕3 | 🌕4 | 🌕5 |  | 🌕9 |
| 2. I read the Bible every day. | 🌕1 | 🌕2 | 🌕3 | 🌕4 | 🌕5 |  | 🌕9 |
| 3. Through hearing God's Word, I often confront my sin and experience God's forgiving grace. | 🌕1 | 🌕2 | 🌕3 | 🌕4 | 🌕5 |  | 🌕9 |
| 4. I often engage in conversations about the Bible with others. | 🌕1 | 🌕2 | 🌕3 | 🌕4 | 🌕5 |  | 🌕9 |
| 5. The Bible gives me hope and strength for my daily life. | 🌕1 | 🌕2 | 🌕3 | 🌕4 | 🌕5 |  | 🌕9 |
| 6. Every day I earnestly think about how to apply God's Word to my life. | 🌕1 | 🌕2 | 🌕3 | 🌕4 | 🌕5 |  | 🌕9 |
| 7. I think I have a deep and thorough knowledge of the Bible. | 🌕1 | 🌕2 | 🌕3 | 🌕4 | 🌕5 |  | 🌕9 |
| 8. I make a habit of giving significant financial support for international ministry. | 🌕1 | 🌕2 | 🌕3 | 🌕4 | 🌕5 |  | 🌕9 |
| 9. I regularly engage in activities that positively affect the broader community. | 🌕1 | 🌕2 | 🌕3 | 🌕4 | 🌕5 |  | 🌕9 |
| 10. I intentionally build relationships with non-Christians. | 🌕1 | 🌕2 | 🌕3 | 🌕4 | 🌕5 |  | 🌕9 |
| 11. I regularly pray for Christian ministries around the world. | 🌕1 | 🌕2 | 🌕3 | 🌕4 | 🌕5 |  | 🌕9 |
| 12. I actively share with others the hope I have in Christ. | 🌕1 | 🌕2 | 🌕3 | 🌕4 | 🌕5 |  | 🌕9 |
| 13. I often pray for specific people who do not know Jesus Christ. | 🌕1 | 🌕2 | 🌕3 | 🌕4 | 🌕5 |  | 🌕9 |
| 14. Involvement in some kind of community ministry always helps me grow more spiritually mature. | 🌕1 | 🌕2 | 🌕3 | 🌕4 | 🌕5 |  | 🌕9 |
| 15. In the past year, I have given time to a local community effort to assist people in need. | 🌕1 | 🌕2 | 🌕3 | 🌕4 | 🌕5 |  | 🌕9 |
| 16. I feel participation in small groups deepens our relationships with others and God. | 🌕1 | 🌕2 | 🌕3 | 🌕4 | 🌕5 |  | 🌕9 |
| 17. I am growing in my sense of belonging in my congregation. | 🌕1 | 🌕2 | 🌕3 | 🌕4 | 🌕5 |  | 🌕9 |
| 18. Building relationships with others of different background (racial, social, economic) makes me a stronger Christian. | 🌕1 | 🌕2 | 🌕3 | 🌕4 | 🌕5 |  | 🌕9 |
| 19. I can talk to other church members about their sinful actions or words and still remain good friends. | 🌕1 | 🌕2 | 🌕3 | 🌕4 | 🌕5 |  | 🌕9 |
| 20. I trust that I will be cared for by people in my church when I am hurting. | 🌕1 | 🌕2 | 🌕3 | 🌕4 | 🌕5 |  | 🌕9 |
| 21. Aside from family members, I have a close friend in my church. | 🌕1 | 🌕2 | 🌕3 | 🌕4 | 🌕5 |  | 🌕9 |
| 22. I can recall times when I truly lived out God's command to "love my neighbor." | 🌕1 | 🌕2 | 🌕3 | 🌕4 | 🌕5 |  | 🌕9 |
| 23. I believe I can and do love people of my church with whom I might deeply disagree on some things. | 🌕1 | 🌕2 | 🌕3 | 🌕4 | 🌕5 |  | 🌕9 |
| 24. I spend some time every day in prayer and personal reflection on God's Word. | 🌕1 | 🌕2 | 🌕3 | 🌕4 | 🌕5 |  | 🌕9 |
| 25. I quite often speak with people of my congregation on a spiritual level. | 🌕1 | 🌕2 | 🌕3 | 🌕4 | 🌕5 |  | 🌕9 |
| 26. I try to make confession of sin a regular part of my devotional life. | 🌕1 | 🌕2 | 🌕3 | 🌕4 | 🌕5 |  | 🌕9 |

# Optional Comments

Please add your comments about church health and the survey here. *Please avoid any words that might identify yourself or others; even if you want to be known, your self-identification may affect others.*

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|  |

# Thank You!

Thank you for completing this survey. You have significantly contributed to helping your church toward the goal of becoming a healthier church. Your contribution is greatly appreciated.

***Please return your survey*** *to the designated location at your church or mail it to the church for data entry by your church’s office staff or data entry volunteer.*

*If you are uncomfortable with your survey being viewed by a church member, you may mail the survey anonymously to the following address, and the Calvin College Center for Social Research will do the data entry at a nominal additional expense to your congregation.*

  
Center for Social Research  
Calvin College  
3201 Burton St. SE  
Grand Rapids, MI 49506

Questions about the survey results may be addressed to your church’s Healthy Church team or Healthy Church coach. Questions about survey data management may be addressed to the Center for Social Research at email *csr@calvin.edu* or telephone 616 526‑7799. Thanks again!