

# Church Profile

## Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church

Name of Church: Hope Presbyterian Church

Date: 03/01/2023

Address 434 S. Main St

City:\_Opelousas\_State: Louisiana

Presbytery: Mississippi Valley Presbytery

Phone: 337-948-9339

Church Contact Person: Dirk Andrepont (PSC Chairman) Email: [dandrepont@mac.com](mailto:dandrepont@mac.com)

Phone: 337-945-8548

Position to be filled: Pastor

### Part I: The Church

#### A. Basic information about the church

When was the church organized?\_1871

Active Membership: 50

Total Membership: 88 Church Membership 5 Years Ago: 95

Annual General Budget \$165000

Number of New Members Last Year by:

Profession 4 Transfer 0 Reaffirmation 0

Number of members lost last year by:

Death 1 Transfer 2 Removal from Roll 0

Is your church part of a yoked parish? No

Number of members who are Adult Women 42 Adult Men 38

Youth//Children 10 Ethnic: White

Former Pastors. Please list your last three pastors, their addresses (if known) and the years they were at your church.

1. Rev. Dean Rydbeck 11 years (current pastor retiring April 30, 2023)
2. Rev. John Uhl (about 6 years) Currently at Grace Covenant Presbyterian, Ingram, TX.
3. Rev. George Crocker

#### B. Narrative information about the church

Hope Presbyterian Church is a segment of the body of Christ that gathers in Opelousas, Louisiana. After several years of division, we reunified and joined the ARP in 2003. Since that time, we have grown in unity and love for one another and our community.

- We acknowledge our need for the work of the Spirit in our lives and in our church through the ordinary means of grace (preaching of the Word, sacraments, and prayer).
- We celebrate the Lord's Supper every week.
- We are accustomed to expository preaching through entire books of the Bible, both Old and New Testaments.
- Our Mission: Glorifying God in a Gospel Ministry of Worship, Word, and Witness.

- Exalt God in Christ-glorifying liturgical worship.
- Edify and equip believers by faithfully teaching and applying God's Word.
- Evangelize the hopeless with Gospel words and Gospel deeds.
- We strive to be a welcoming environment for visitors and to share the love of Christ in both word and deed.
- A sample bulletin (order of worship) is attached.
- Members and guests feast on delicious South Louisiana fare prepared by church members during our "First Sunday Luncheon" (potluck) each month.
- We have a music team that leads the congregation in singing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs. We are typically accompanied by piano, acoustic guitar, bass guitar, and occasionally keyboard or organ. We sing many traditional hymns from the Trinity hymnal, some newer worship music, and several older hymns put to more modern tunes. Our music leader prioritizes theological orthodoxy and ease of congregational involvement as he works with the pastor to select music for each week's service and decisions to incorporate new (to us) hymns.
- We have a part time church secretary to handle finances (payroll, paying bills, etc.)
- We are blessed to have a sanctuary that seats ~200 and a fellowship hall with a large meeting room, kitchen, nursery, storage, and several classrooms. Our children enjoy a fenced church yard with swings.
- Hope Church also owns two structures next door which provide some rental income. One of our tenants is the Opelousas Pregnancy Center, a Christian ministry for mothers and families.
- Hope Church also own a manse located about a mile from the church, which previous pastors have occupied.
- Hope Church is made up of mostly middle-class white families. The majority are of the baby-boomer generation with fewer from younger generations. Members engage in a mix of professional and blue-collar vocations.
- Hope Church faces the challenge of ensuring that the next generation hears the Gospel of Jesus Christ preached clearly and consistently. We need renewed focus on evangelism: reaching out to neighbors, coworkers, and others with the Gospel.
- The pastor of Hope Church has the opportunity to shepherd a flock that has grown in unity and in love for one another. Our children are well-catechized, and families have emphasized the importance of reading the Scriptures. Our congregation prays for each other, including our pastor. We are accustomed to a liturgy focused on reverent worship of God. Church elders and deacons are committed and oversee most of the ministries of the church. Our members are eager to be involved in ministry opportunities.

## Part II: The Neighborhood

Check any terms which might apply to your neighborhood:

Inner City \_\_\_\_\_ Downtown X Urban Residential \_\_\_\_\_ Suburb \_\_\_\_\_ Rural \_\_\_\_\_

Small Town X College \_\_\_\_\_ Retirement \_\_\_\_\_ Resort \_\_\_\_\_ Agricultural \_\_\_\_\_

The total population of the town, community, or rural area within which the church is located is approximately 16000 within city limits (76% African American, 21% White) The city plus 5 mile radius is about 30000 (50% African American and 50% White)

See below:

[https://www.citypopulation.de/en/usa/metro/36660\\_opelousas/](https://www.citypopulation.de/en/usa/metro/36660_opelousas/) for the parish(county) statistics.

<https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/opelousascitylouisiana> (city census stats)

Opelousas is the Parish Seat. I-49 and US 190 intersect at Opelousas

What would you say is the average distance your members drive to and from work each day?

5 miles or less

### Narrative about the Neighborhood

Opelousas is a historic city (once the capital of Louisiana!). Opelousas faces challenges of poverty and a struggling public school system, though there have been some promising economic developments of late. The St. Landry Parish public school system, Opelousas General Hospital, and LouAna (cooking oil producer) are the largest employers.

Residents of Opelousas are primarily blue-collar and service-oriented workers. The area is historically and predominantly Roman Catholic, which provides a ripe mission field.

Opelousas residents enjoy hunting and fishing. Opelousas is the "spice capital," home to Tony Chachere's and Targil seasoning plants, and the local Cajun and Creole food is excellent.

The Opelousas area is evenly split between black and white races, though our church is almost completely white. Previous pastors have helped us to build relationships with other Gospel-proclaiming churches and pastors in the area.

## Part III: Activities

**A. Session.** How many members are on your Session: 6 rotating.

**B. Diaconate.** How many members are on your diaconate? 3 Are they rotating or permanent? Do you have women on the diaconate? No

**C. Youth.** How many youth do you have in your Junior High? 2 Senior High? 2  
College groups? none

Do you have any special programs other than Sabbath School and youth groups for your youth? (For example, youth choir, drama group, sports programs, etc.)? No

**D. Children.** How many elementary school children do you have? 5 Pre-School children? 1

Do you have a children's church? No

What other special youth events/activities do you have? VBS in the summer (includes children in the city and from other churches )

### **E Women's Ministry**

Our Women's ministries have been well-attended by church members and guests (typically 10-15 participants). Bible studies held by our women are attended by many community members (including some who are Catholic or unchurched), and have provided avenues to build relationships and minister the Gospel.

Our women meet weekly for prayer at the home of a church member.

Embrace Grace Bible studies for pregnant or new mothers have been hosted by Hope Presbyterian women in the last couple years. These Bible studies have resulted in the Holy Spirit's drawing these women to faith, building fruitful relationships, and avenues for our women to minister to the needs of our community.

**F. Outreach Ministries.** List any special service or outreach ministries you have, describe them, and list how many people participate.

Our women are amazing at providing "food tidings" for those in our church and community in need of practical support. A regular attender recently lost a parent, and the women of the church organized, prepared, and served a meal following the funeral. Those undergoing surgery or dealing with health or family issues have a tangible sense of the compassion of our church family due to the women of our church providing meals and loving support.

Wednesday evening prayer gatherings regularly attract 7-12 church members. In the past, our pastor taught a brief lesson on prayer from the Bible or Westminster Confession, and then we spent time corporately in prayer for those supplications.

We have a men's book reading and discussion ZOOM meeting at 6 AM on Thursdays which has been meeting for over 10 years. Four to six men attend regular. We have gone through such books as Knowing God (Packer), Pilgrims Progress, The Bruised Reed(Sibbs) The Mystery of Providence (Flavel), Rejoice and Tremble(Reeves) etc

Our church has hosted Vacation Bible School most summers in which we invite 3-12 year old children from our church family, extended family, and community to learn about the Gospel through singing Scripture songs, learning about Jesus, and hearing missionary stories while enjoying crafts and recreational activities as well.

Our deacons, elders, and church members have served and loved troubled young people with connections to our church family as well as some from the community.

**G. Missions.** Describe how your church promotes World Missions and Local Missions.

What local missions do you support?

We directly support missionaries in Japan, Sudan, and Germany. Our support of the ARP presbytery and synod helps provide support for World Witness missionaries and other ministry arms of the ARP.

Around 2008, Hope Presbyterian helped to launch Hope for Opelousas, a successful local non-profit focused on ministering to local families' educational needs with an after-school program, summer programs, and a well-traveled outdoors adventure group. A few church members are involved in this ministry as staff or volunteer "reading buddies." Hope Presbyterian continues to provide financial support, but Hope for Opelousas has become self-sufficient and is an independent ministry.

In addition to providing a physical location for the Opelousas Pregnancy Center in our property next door to the church, a few of our women are involved in this ministry by volunteering regularly to meet with and counsel visitors to the center. Two of our church members are former nurses and have been trained as sonographers to provide ultrasounds to expecting mothers. Our women have hosted Embrace Grace Bible studies at Hope Church in partnership with the Opelousas Pregnancy Center.

Hope Church also provides support to the Refinery Mission—our local men's ministry for men in transition (coming from the streets, jail, behavioral clinics, substance abuse, etc.). A member fundraises each year to provide Christmas gifts for the men. Elders regularly preach at chapel services and facilitate weekly morning devotions at the mission.

**H. Social Events.** What other on-going fellowship activities does your church have?

What special events occur annually in the life of your church that brings all your people together?

**I. Worship.** When are your worship services? Sunday School 9:30-

What special worship events happen annually throughout the year?

**J. Stewardship.** Describe how your church encourages stewardship every year.

Does your church have a pledge system as part of your budget process? No

**K. Staff.** Please list the full or part-time staff of your church.

Kristina Davis -bookkeeping/minor administrative duties Part Time \_\_\_\_\_

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**L. Christian Education.** What is the average attendance in your Sabbath School? 25

What other educational/discipleship programs do you have?

Does your church have a regular new members' class? Yes Officer training? Yes

**M. Music.** What on-going music ministries do you have in your church? Sunday morning worship and the aforementioned hymnsings

### **Part IV: Expectations of a Pastor**

Describe the characteristics and qualifications needed in a person who would fill this position.

- A man of character according to 1 Timothy 3 and Titus 1.
- Able to correctly handle the Word of Truth.
- Passionate about preaching law and Gospel.
- Shepherd. Leader.

What sort of ongoing evaluation will be offered by the church? Who will do the evaluation?  
The Session will conduct periodic reviews of sermons and pastoral activity log.

What style of leadership will the church expect of its new pastor?

Shepherd leader

Preferred experience: Not necessary  1-2 years \_\_\_ 2-5 years \_\_\_ 5-10 years \_\_\_ 10 years or above \_\_\_\_\_ We are open to evaluate candidates regardless of the level of experience.

What other expectations do you have for a pastor? (Such as doctrinal beliefs, values, lifestyle, etc.)?

Adhere to standards of the scriptures and ARPC Standards (WCF)

## B. Pastoral Activities

Listed below are 20 activities of a pastor in a church. Please determine a priority rating of these activities for the minister. Please limit your #1 categories to 6, and same for #2s.

Category	High			Low
1. <b>Corporate worship and sacraments</b> (Pastor works with congregation to develop a rich, meaningful worship experience)	1 X	2	3	4
2. <b>Proclamation of the Word.</b> (The Word of God is preached with urgency and conviction. High priority on sermon preparation)	1 X	2	3	4
3. <b>Spiritual development of members</b> (Pastor facilitates spiritual growth through individual training, counseling, and small groups)	1 X	2	3	4
4. <b>Evangelism of the lost outside the church</b> (Pastor facilitates programs that train laypersons in sharing Jesus Christ with others)	1	2 X	3	4
5. <b>Church growth and church planting</b> (Pastor places strong emphasis on increasing church size and/or starting a new church)	1	2 X	3	4
6. <b>Support and encouragement of missions</b> (Pastor facilitates support and awareness of home and foreign missions)	1	2	3X	4
7. <b>Home Visitation of the members</b> (Pastor places high priority on visiting people in their homes regularly)	1	2 X	3	4
8. <b>Hospital or emergency visitation</b> (Pastor willing to take time anytime to visit during sickness or emergencies)	1	2 X	3	4
9. <b>Support of Christian education program</b> (Pastor encourages education for all ages consistent with mission of church)	1	2 X	3	4
10. <b>Counseling and referral</b> (Pastor places high priority on developing counseling and referral programs)	1	2	3 X	4
11. <b>Congregational fellowship</b> (Pastor places strong emphasis on developing congregational community of mutual love and support)	1 X	2	3	4
12. <b>Administrative leadership in the church</b> (Pastor is comfortable with accepting administrative responsibility, delegation, and training of leadership)	1	2	3	4 X
13. <b>Stewardship and commitment programs</b> (Pastor works with church to develop a stewardship program of time and talent.)	1	2	3 X	4
14. <b>Encouraging the ministry of the laity</b> (Pastor encourages spiritual gifts of members, sharing opportunities for planning and participation)	1	2 X	3	4
15. <b>Responsibility for teaching within the church</b> (Pastor places emphasis on his own personal role of teacher)	1 X	2	3	4
16. <b>Denomination and Presbytery service</b> (Pastor is involved in and encourages participation on Presbytery and Synod level)	1	2	3	4 X
17. <b>Social and political witness within and without the church</b> (Pastor emphasizes Biblical witness in politics and society)	1	2	3	4 X
18. <b>Social service</b> (Pastor places emphasis on the ministry of social assistance in the community)	1	2	3	4 X
19. <b>Development of congregation prayer</b> (Pastor places strong emphasis on the ministry of prayers, offers prayer opportunities)	1 X	2	3	4
20. <b>The development of youth and/or children's ministries</b> (Pastor encourages programs to reach youth and children)	1	2	3	4 X