

FAMILY



CHRIST  
CENTERED



WELCOMING



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ENGAGING



# Middleburg Free Grace Reformed Church

Cultivate TRANSFORMaTION in Christ.

Equip eMERGING leaders of  
today and tomorrow.

Engage in Christ's Kingdom MISSION.

# WHO WE ARE

Middleburg Free Grace Reformed Church is located in the small town of Middleburg, Iowa. Middleburg is a rural community that is centrally located between the towns of Orange City, Sioux Center and Hull. The church is located in the Sioux Center school district, though many area schools are represented in the congregation. Nearby four year Christian colleges are Dordt College in Sioux Center and Northwestern College in Orange City.

Middleburg Free Grace Reformed Church was founded in 1885. We currently have 159 professing members. Middleburg Church is blessed with the gift of many children and we are committed to programs that nurture them spiritually (Sunday School, Children in Worship, Wednesday night activities, RCYF, Vacation Bible School, Children's choir).

Middleburg Church remains focused on being mission-minded. We look forward to our next pastor continuing to help us grow spiritually and draw us closer together so that we might grow our outreach programs. Through the preaching, teaching, and development of adult discipleship from our next pastor, we pray that our church will be better than ever in service to Christ our King. Our mission remains to cultivate transformation in Christ by equipping emerging leaders with the tools for engaging others so that they might know Christ's love.

Our morning worship service starts at 9:30 a.m., with Sunday School starting at 10:45 a.m. The worship style of our church is a mix of traditional and contemporary. We enjoy incorporating many different musical expressions of praise. Our praise team leads us in opening songs twice each month and represents a variety of ages from the congregation.

Our consistory consists of ten members. This includes 5 elders and 5 deacons.

This brief summary of Middleburg Free Grace Reformed Church shows a snapshot of our current programs. Our 125+ years of church history has blessed us with a close-knit family atmosphere. This, along with our central location to so many different communities, truly makes our church a special place to worship each Sunday.



# OUR COMMUNITIES

## Sioux Center Community

**City of Sioux Center**

[www.siouxcenter.org](http://www.siouxcenter.org)

**Sioux Center Chamber of Commerce**

[www.siouxcenterchamber.com](http://www.siouxcenterchamber.com)

**Sioux Center Schools**

[www.scwarriors.org](http://www.scwarriors.org)

**Sioux Center Christian School**

[www.siouxcenterchristian.com](http://www.siouxcenterchristian.com)

**Dordt College**

[www.dordt.com](http://www.dordt.com)

**Sioux Center Community Hospital**

[www.siouxcenterhealth.org](http://www.siouxcenterhealth.org)

## Hull Community

**City of Hull**

[www.cityofhull.org](http://www.cityofhull.org)

**Hull Chamber of Commerce**

[www.hullchamber.org](http://www.hullchamber.org)

**Boyden-Hull School**

[www.boyden-hull.k12.ia.us](http://www.boyden-hull.k12.ia.us)

**Hull Christian School**

[www.hullchristian.com](http://www.hullchristian.com)

**Western Christian High School**

[www.westernchristianhs.com](http://www.westernchristianhs.com)

## Orange City Community

**City of Orange City**

[www.orangecityiowa.com](http://www.orangecityiowa.com)

**Orange City Chamber of Commerce**

[www.orangecityiowa.com/business/chamber-of-commerce](http://www.orangecityiowa.com/business/chamber-of-commerce)

**Orange City Schools**

[www.moc-fv.k12.ia.us](http://www.moc-fv.k12.ia.us)

**Orange City Christian School**

[www.orangecitychristian.net](http://www.orangecitychristian.net)

**Unity Christian High School**

[www.unity.pvt.k12.ia.us](http://www.unity.pvt.k12.ia.us)

**Northwestern College**

[www.nwciowa.edu](http://www.nwciowa.edu)

**Orange City Area Health System**

[www.ochealthsystem.org](http://www.ochealthsystem.org)







## FELLOWSHIP



# OUR HISTORY

In the late 1800's a group of Dutch immigrants settled in the northwest part of Sioux County, Iowa. The outstanding feature of this beautiful area at the time of settlement was a small lake located one-half mile west of where Middleburg now stands. The lake was first known as Orange Lake in remembrance of William of Orange, ruler of the Netherlands. In later years, the lake slowly drained away.

One of the characteristics of these immigrants was their determination to exercise their newly acquired American freedoms. Of these freedoms, the freedom of religion was cherished above all others. According to tradition, they believed implicitly in the individual relationship to God, both in church and in everyday life.

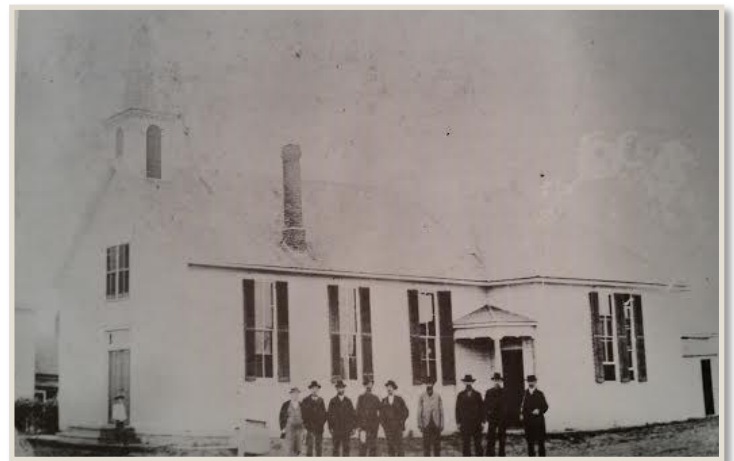
The pioneers felt the need to gather on the Day of Rest. When they first came to this area, they had to travel to Orange City for purposes of worship. This, however, required a ten mile trip on trails which was both tedious and cumbersome, especially when the weather was unpleasant. As more people moved into the region, ministers from the neighboring areas felt compelled to extend their services to the new community and began to hold prayer meetings at the various country schoolhouses.

As a result of this interest, the establishment of a new church organization was approved on July 31, 1885.

The original church structure was built that year and the name Free Grace Reformed Church was claimed. Twenty-nine members from the congregation in Orange City left to join the new church organized at Orange Lake.

In December 1885, the consistory, with the agreement from the Northwestern Classical Academy in Orange City, chose to appoint a Leeraar (teacher or leader). In the summer of 1886, the Reverend A. Zwemer from Graafschaap, Michigan, accepted the call to serve the congregation. A parsonage was built in 1887. On September 30, 1887, the church was legally incorporated.

The early church was flourishing and growing spiritually and in 1889, an enlargement to the church took place. A small village arose as the church expanded and the hamlet became known as Middleburg, signifying its location in the middle of the county and in between the larger surrounding towns.







In 1890, the congregation purchased a cemetery of one acre which is located one-half mile southwest of the church structure.

1894 brought an additional expansion of the church building. Growth continued and in March of 1906, the congregation agreed to build a new church, with a new parsonage to follow in 1921.

Expansions have occurred to the church building since, with addition of a narthex and bell tower and extension of the fellowship and Sunday School areas. This building has served the congregation well. The parsonage recently received an addition including a main floor laundry and attached garage.

In 2010, Middleburg Free Grace Reformed Church celebrated 125 years of God's faithfulness.

Today, as a rural congregation, we continue to draw members from several surrounding communities. We have much for which to give thanks—the Lord has richly blessed us as a congregation and we praise Him for his faithfulness.

## History of Our Pastors

A. Zwemer	1886-1891
W.J. Duiker	1892-1895
S. Koster	1897-1900
F. Fortuin	1901-1903
H. Douwstra	1903-1920
F.B. Mansen	1921-1939
H.W. Kolenbrander	1940-1948
E.C. Dykstra	1949-1954
W.B. Kolenbrander	1955-1965
J. Ekema	1966-1981
R. Hector	1982-1990
J. Taylor	1990-1995
S. Breen	1995-2017





SUPPORT



# OUR MISSIONS

Middleburg Free Grace Reformed Church has always been active in missions! Missionaries and projects we currently support:

## **RCA Partners in Mission:**

Rev. Barry and Terryl Bruce  
*Way Out Ministries*  
Hawaiian Gardens, California

Craig and Christa Hollander  
*Mission Aviation Fellowship*  
Tarakan, Indonesia

Chad and Dara Vanden Bosch  
*Audio Scripture Ministries*  
Mozambique, Africa

Aaro Ritkoenen  
*Al Aman Center*  
Muscat, Oman

## **Mission Projects:**

In addition to the above RCA Mission commitments, we also have a commitment to the following mission projects:

*Words of Hope*  
Gospel Radio  
Nuer Language Broadcast  
South Sudan, Africa

Paul and Dori Hoekstra  
*Talking Bibles Ministries*  
Escondido, California

## **Sunday School mission projects:**

Our Sunday School picks a different mission project each year. This year's project was two-fold:

- Raising money to help support the purchase of Pawpi, a diabetic alert dog
- Naika, our Compassion Child.

## **Other Projects:**

Vacation Bible School—Supports a different mission project each year

Clothe-A-Child—Project through Love, Inc. to provide some new school clothes for children in need.

Mission Outreach Fund—Established to provide financial assistance to Middleburg members who wish to participate in short-term mission projects.



LOVING JESUS





# OUR CONSISTORY



## PICTURED:

Elders (back row): Rus Verburg, George Miller, Larry Dokter, Jon Mortenson

Deacons (front row): Bruce Schafer, Justin Draayer, Jason Hettinga, Bill Kooiker, Jr.

NOT PICTURED: Elder—Paul Kooiker, Deacon—Ryan Dekkers





FUN-LOVING



# OUR PROFILE FORM

## Section A. Background Information

**Position to be filled:** FT Pastor

**Name of church:**

Middleburg Free Grace Reformed Church

**Mailing Address:** 3630 370th Street

**City/State/Zip Code:** Orange City, IA 51040

**Telephone:** (712) 722-3300

**E-mail Address:**

freegracereformed@gmail.com

**Website Address:**

www.middleburgfreegrace.org

**Classis:** West Sioux Classis

**Classis Supervisor:** Dan Kruse

**Address:** 232 16th St. SE

**City/State/Zip:** Sioux Center, IA 51250

**Telephone:** (712) 722-3520

**E-mail Address:** info@nlrchurch.org

**Classis Leader:** Chris Godfredsen

**Address:** 310 Hunter Ridge

**City/State/Zip:** Rock Valley, IA 51247

**Telephone:** (712) 541-0604

**E-mail Address:** chrisgodfredsen@gmail.com

**Co-chairs of search committee:**

Heidi Kooiker & Gina Wells

**Address:** 3781 310th Street

**City/State/Zip:** Boyden, IA 51234

**E-mail Address:** gwells371@gmail.com

## Membership

Time of Worship	Five Years Ago	Today
Active Confessing Members	156	159
Inactive Confessing Members	7	8

**Age of all active members  
(baptized and confessing):**

26%	0-20 years old
17%	20-34 years old
14%	35-49 years old
26%	50-64 years old
17%	65 years and older

**Racial/Ethnic composition of congregation:**

99%	Caucasian
1%	Other

## Financial Information

Total Contributions	Five Years Ago	Today
RCA Related	\$234,208	\$265,097
Other	\$0	\$0

**Percentage of total budget  
contributed by living donors:** 90-100%

# Worship Schedule

# Programs

**Average Attendance**  
(includes adults and children):

**Sunday School Average Attendance**

Time of Worship	Five Years Ago	Today
9:30 a.m.	188	152

Five Years Ago	Today
40	45

**A typical worship service**  
(order of worship, music, etc.)

- ◇ Organ Prelude
- ◇ Praise Team (2x/month)
- ◇ Call to Worship
- ◇ Congregational singing/greeting time
- ◇ Opening Prayer
- ◇ Hymn of Response
- ◇ Children’s Message
- ◇ Pastoral Prayer
- ◇ Ministry of Music
- ◇ Offertory Prayer and Hymn
- ◇ Message
- ◇ Closing Hymn
- ◇ Benediction
- ◇ Postlude

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

- ◇ Sunday School (Pre-K-12th grade) (Sept-May)
- ◇ Jr. High Youth Group meets bi-weekly (Sept-May)
- ◇ Sr. High Youth Group meets weekly (Sept-May)
- ◇ Wednesday night catechism (Sept-March)
- ◇ Children in Worship program (Sept-May)

## Church groups/organizations

# Congregational Giving

**Number of those whose annual contribution is:**  
Unknown; there is no envelope system or tracking

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

Name of Group	Frequency	Attendance
Tuesday Women’s Bible Study	Weekly	8-10
Wednesday Women’s Bible Study	Bi-monthly	8-10
Men’s Bible Study	Weekly	5-10
RCWM (women’s Bible study)	Monthly	15-20
Family Bible Study	Monthly	30-40
Vacation Bible School	Annually	50-75

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

The past year has had more deaths and professions of faiths than previous years, which has contributed to an increase in the overall closeness of the congregation. This year also saw the creation of the F.L.O.C.K (Focused Love On Children of the King) Program, which has matched Care Shepherds to oversee small groups of the congregation to increase connection, support and relationship.

Buildings

Please describe church-owned or rented buildings and purpose.

We have a single building with sanctuary, fellowship hall, kitchen and classrooms. We also have a parsonage with attached garage. Additionally, the former janitor’s house is used for housing as needed for individuals in the community.

Do you plan any capital expenditure during the next five years? No. We have no specific plan to upgrade facilities at this time.

Is there mortgage indebtedness? No.

Pastor’s study: In church

Staff

List all paid staff in addition to the pastor:

Secretary	Part time
Education Director	Part time
Janitor	Part time
Organists	Part time
Pianists	Part time
Sound Technicians	Part time
PowerPoint Operators	Part time

In our congregation

In our congregation:	Few Have	Many Have	Most Have
Had up to 12 years formal Education			X
Had some education beyond high school		X	
A college degree		X	
A graduate degree	X		
+++++	Few are	Many are	Most are
Scientists & Engineers	X		
Farmers		X	
Business People		X	
Students & Teachers		X	
Industrial Workers		X	
Office Workers		X	
Homemaker (FT)	X		



# Consistory Membership

## What method is used in selecting members?

Candidates are nominated by the congregation and are approved by the current Consistory. Selection is determined by casting of lots.

## Please list present Consistory members:

Elder	Deacon	Male	Occupation
X		X	Farmer
X		X	Farmer/Teacher
X		X	Insurance Agent
X		X	Truck Driver/Warehouse Coordinator
X		X	Home Store-Sales/Retired Farmer
	X	X	Business Owner-Contractor
	X	X	Farmer
	X	X	Sales Representative
	X	X	Farmer/Trucker
	X	X	Farmer

## What leadership roles do women currently fill in your church?

Women in our church have leadership roles through teaching positions, Education Director, VBS, women’s ministry, PowerPoint coordinator, Youth Group sponsors, choir directors, Praise Team, various committees,

Care Shepherds, church programs (Fellowship Supper, Family Fun Night, Family Suppers, Harvest Festival)

# Community Served

**Rural:** Under 2,500

# Cooperative Ministry

In what ways have you cooperated with other churches in your community during the past year?

- ◇ Joint services on Reformation Sunday, Memorial Day
- ◇ Joint Youth Group on Reformation Sunday
- ◇ Rocky Mountain High
- ◇ Power Connection

# Community Involvement

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

Sioux City Gospel Mission, Living Stone prison ministry, Clothe-a-Child, Operation Christmas Child, Sack Pack Program, VBS, Family Fun Night

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

Catholic, Lutheran, various Reformed traditions

# Considerations

**Special training/experience desired:** None

**Should your pastor be fluent in any language other than English?** No

**The salary we are prepared to offer our new pastor is:** Consistent with Classis guidelines.

**The average annual increase to our pastor over the last three years was:** 2-3% of previous year's salary.

**Is a parsonage provided?** Yes  
**If so, is it on site with the church?** Yes

**The benefits/business expenses we will provide our pastor are:**



Base Salary	Meets or exceeds classis minimum
Housing Allowance	Parsonage
Parsonage Provided?	Yes
Travel Reimbursement	IRS rate
Social Security	Yes
Book Allowance	\$500 / year
Continuing Education Allowance	1/52nd of salary
Annual Vacation	4 weeks
Provision for Sabbatical	Yes

HSA	Yes
Pension	Yes
Major Medical Insurance	Yes
Health/Hospital Insurance	Yes
Life Insurance	Yes
Dental Insurance	Yes
Unemployment Insurance	Yes
Disability Insurance	Yes

# Outreach

**What is your strategy to reach un-churched people in your community?**

TV ministry, VBS, volunteering through our local missions. We have a heart for missions, but as a congregation, we feel that there is room for growth here, especially in local outreach.

**The income level of the people in our congregation tends to be:** about average for our community.

**Record of last three pastors:**

Name	Dates
Robert Hector	1982 to 1990
Jeff Taylor	1990 to 1995
Steve Breen	1995 to 2017

# Reflections

Please answer the following questions, adding your own experiences where appropriate.

**What is the stated mission, vision or purpose of your congregation?**

Cultivate transformation in Christ. Equip emerging leaders of today and tomorrow. Engage in Christ’s Kingdom mission.

**What goals have been developed from your mission and vision over the next five years?**

We do not have stated, measurable goals specific to the mission statement; however, the congregational survey recently conducted conveyed a strong desire for spiritual growth and unity. Setting goals around this is a definite area of opportunity for us.

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

Our church is a “melting pot” of county residents that come together for worship and activities to create a warm, caring environment. We are a church with a lot of young families and talent. Our congregation has a heart for mission outreach and benevolent tendency– and a desire to learn how to use this heart more effectively. We are eager to learn and grow.

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

We have a strong history and focus of outreach both abroad and locally. The mission outreach area is supported well financially and is searching for ideas for this year.

**Name three of your church’s most passionate hopes and why they are significant.**

- ◇ Spiritual growth
- ◇ Energy/”fire” for Christ
- ◇ Grow family life and relationships

All of these hopes are significant in that we hope to grow Christ’s kingdom and care for His people.



## Reflections (continued)

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

A warm and friendly church, with a great sense of community and spiritual support.

**Name at least one challenge facing your new pastor.**

Our congregation has a large age range—it may be challenging for a new pastor to balance the needs of the various groups as the only pastor serving our congregation. We also like a mix of traditional and contemporary worship, which may be challenging to some pastors (though we have found it helps keep all age ranges engaged during services).

**Describe your vision and hopes for your church and your pastor over the next five years.**

The themes in our congregational survey really spoke to growth within the church (spiritual, membership, involvement of young adults, pastoral involvement with youth). That together we could become more excited in our faith and worship and be led spiritually by our new pastor, yet still be able to relate with him/her as a person/friend.

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

We want a pastor that sees everyone as worthy of God's love, who can react respectfully to different points of view and has skill in building relationships. We are a somewhat reserved congregation with a strong history and are open to change (though we

may need to be introduced to some changes gently). There is a lot of talent in our small church—and we are generally willing to use those talents to help further God's kingdom.

**Please complete your profile with the following contacts:**

Gina Wells	Search Committee Co-chair
Heidi Kooiker	Search Committee Co-chair
Chris Godfredsen	Classis Leader

Learn more about us on our [website](#) or [Facebook](#) page.





## OUR SEARCH COMMITTEE

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We welcome your inquiries.

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# Reformed Church in America

## Office of Ministry Services

### Release Statement

We, Middleburg Free Grace 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.

Gina Wells

*Signature of Search Team Chairperson*

Date: May 16, 2017

Rus Verburg

*Signature of Vice President of Consistory*

Date: May 16, 2017



ENCOURAGING





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