

MINISTERIAL PROFILE

Introduction

As part of the process of "matching" clergy and congregations, the Christian Reformed Church in North America has set up the Ministerial Information Services as part of Pastor-Church Relations. It is our task to help provide resources and advice to both pastors and congregational search committees. To that end, we ask congregations and clergy to complete profile forms as an introduction to each other, and a first step in the process of calling a minister for a congregation. For both the individual pastor and the congregation, this is an opportunity for selfstudy, evaluation of current ministry and goals. This calls for honesty, effort, and commitment to open communication.

The Ministerial Profile form presents the unique skills, gifts and experiences of a pastor. Search committees are encouraged to approach this information respectfully and prayerfully. It is our hope that this will be of help in facilitating the search process. It is also important to keep in mind that the profiles are an initial introduction. The second phase of the process will be more in-depth interviews with those pastors who appear to be most compatible with the congregation's vision.

Duane A. Visser, Director
Pastor-Church Relations

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Developed by the office of Pastor-Church Relations
of the Christian Reformed Church in North America

Please return the completed document to:

Ministerial Information Services
Pastor-Church Relations
The Christian Reformed Church in North America
2850 Kalamazoo Ave. SE
Grand Rapids, MI 49560
or email: palsrokl@crcna.org

Part I: Statement of Consent*

We are called to honesty and a commitment to open communication as we seek to build the body of Christ. In that spirit, we ask that you confirm your agreement to the following statements by your signature below:

1. I attest that the information contained in my Ministerial Profile is true and complete to the best of my knowledge.
2. I authorize the persons and entities, such as members of search committees of a prospective calling body or appropriate staff persons, to make inquiries regarding all statements contained in my Ministerial Profile. I also authorize all persons referred to in the Profile as references, members of congregations I have served, or personal/professional colleagues to supply verification of the information provided in the Ministerial Profile. I understand that such persons may comment on and state their opinions regarding all matters addressed in the profile, including without limitation, my background and character. To encourage such persons to speak openly and responsibly, I hereby release them from any claims or liabilities arising from their responses and comments if made in good faith and without malice.
3. I authorize staff of the Ministerial Information Service to circulate, distribute, and otherwise share information gathered in connection with my Ministerial Profile to representatives of calling bodies. I hereby release the Christian Reformed Church in North America, its agencies, and all contractors or employees of the Christian Reformed Church or its agencies from any claims or liabilities in connection with the Profile or its distribution.
4. I understand that I may receive copies of all written information, which is submitted to the Ministerial Information Service in connection with the Profile, if I make a request in writing. I may submit additions to my file to supplement or reply to any matters included in my file.

*A copy of this consent form will be available to reference sources.

Date Signed: Apr 2009

Signature: *Pete VanderBeek*

Please print or type name: Pete VanderBeek

I am in a position to consider a call at this time. Yes

Part II: Personal Information (Please print or type)

1. Name: Pete VanderBeek
2. Address: 325 Jade Ave. Nanaimo B.C.
Phone: mobile (604) 936-4198
E-mail address vndrbeek@telus.net

3. List factors that affect you or your family and will influence your relocation, e.g. dual career, or a physical or mental disability that may require accommodation. (The church is committed to provide accommodation):

None.

4. Work History:

Present/Last (if you are presently not in a ministry position) Position

Dates of Service

- *Chaplain/Spiritual Director, Edgewood Addiction treatment Center Nanaimo BC*

Aug 08 – Apr 09

Previous Ministry Positions

Dates of Service

- *Interim Pastor, Quincy CRC WA*
- *Pastor of Mundy Park Christian Fellowship*
- *Forest CRC, Forest ON Canada*
- *Vanastra Community Church - Internship*

Sep. 2007 – Apr. 2008

Aug. 2003 – Jun. 2007

Sep. 1995 – Jul. 2003

1993 – 1994

5. Housing Allowance

Preferred

Parsonage Preferred

No Preference *Options can be discussed*

6. Educational Background:

Name of Institution

Dates Attended

Degree Achieved

Calvin Theological Seminary

Sept 1990 - May 1995

M. Div.

The Kings College (Edmonton)

Sept 1987 - May 1990

B.A. Social Sci.

Hamilton District Chr. H.S.

Sept 1970 - June 1975

H.S. diploma

7. Continuing Education/Professional Development (during the last 3 years):

I most recently audited the Calvin Theological Seminary course on [Pastoral Identity](#) in Feb 2007. Almost every year that I have been an active pastor in BC I have attended the annual [Regent College Pastor's conferences](#), and I have taken two courses at Regent, one on Evangelism and one on Preaching.

8. Community and Civic Activities:

I have attended a few city hall meetings when matters discussed were of interest personally or professionally. I have been a volunteer for Canadian Blood Services for the blood donation clinics held in our church. I am a promoter of participation in Remembrance Day ceremonies.

9. Classical and Denominational Activities (boards, synod, etc.):

In Classis BCNW I served on the Day of Encouragement Planning Team, and on the Safe Church Team (formerly ART). I have chaired a Classis committee that did a study on how councils should deal with cohabiting couples. Prior to that I was on the Classis Chatham Home Missions Committee and also served a three year term on the Youth Ministry Committee.

10. Ecumenical Activity:

Wherever I have been in ministry I have been actively involved in the local ministerial. In Coquitlam it met monthly to plan combined ministry and to pray for the Tri-Cities and its Christian Churches, its Christian ministries, its civic leaders and for each other as church leaders. We saw ourselves as the collective Elders of the Tri-Cities. The ministerial also hosted key leaders and officials (City Hall, Police, Fire) for an annual breakfast where we prayed for them. I am supportive of the way some denominational walls are coming down and find it important to be connected as local churches. The key to making such cooperation work is to set aside the differences that threaten to divide and to focus on what unites.

11. Special Interests, Hobbies:

I have a broad range of interests which don't easily congeal into one hobby but which do help to relax me. To 'escape' and unwind from my work I enjoy walking, cycling or driving in the countryside in thought-filled silence or listening to recorded lectures, speeches and sermons (not my own). Lately I've been taking creative pictures as unique sights catch my eye, and use them on my blogs. I enjoy reading mainly material about general culture, especially trends in technology, economics and church. For instance I have read much of the Emergent Church literature and am very intrigued by what it presents. I believe God is calling us in North America to reconsider how we 'do' church, but we haven't finished exploring that yet. I also track how technology affects our lives for better or worse. At the time of updating this profile I just finished reading: "A Spirituality of Imperfection" which tracks the insight behind the 12 steps of A.A. back to various wisdom traditions. I keep a blog where I can organize and share some of my thoughts. See <http://pastorpete.wordpress.com> for one public example.

I like to have animals or pets around if I can. I like to have an aquarium in my study for instance, along with lots of live plants. I like to grow some strawberries and tomatoes in planters on the deck but am not a serious gardener.

Overall, people's relationships, group dynamics, and personal and spiritual growth are the major underlying theme of what I would call my hobby, I constantly observe and note things about the way we humans act and interact. My life experiences -- primarily having moved a lot -- have shaped that interest. I like to be 'media aware' and believe being current on popular culture to be part of my role in interpreting the culture we live in so as to be able to effectively address it with the gospel message.

12. Languages you can speak (and level of proficiency):

I am fluent and linguistically proficient in English, both in written and spoken form. I also can understand Dutch fairly well, and can speak it if really really pressed.

13. Types of supervision/accountability you have found helpful in your ministry:

I make it my practice to find one or two people wherever I am who I identify as people who will speak the truth in love to me clearly and succinctly. Iron sharpens Iron. I need that. These are not necessarily people who think like me or agree with me, but they have a quality of speaking directly into my life that keeps me balanced. I now have two or three such men across the country who I know I can call at any time and get some clear feedback.

Ideally there is a healthy accountability relationship within a church leadership team, but realistically it often works better outside of that. Other local ministers from the ministerial have functioned as sounding boards for me as well.

Frankly, I find us generally very weak in our understanding of accountability and so we practice it poorly. I – and we - reflect our society very much in our desire to be independent and accountable to no one. It is very dangerous. I am continually looking for a better way.

Part III: Narrative

Life Story (In one page, describe your life's journey. Include key incidents that were significant in your formation as a person. State your personal ideals and goals.)

I was born in Brooks, Alberta, the first of Rev William and Gertie VanderBeek's children. I was a shy, quietly curious, inquisitive and observant child, with an active imagination. My early years were lived in several places in Canada. Then we spent a three year period in a small village in the Netherlands, after which we returned to Canada. Having experienced first-hand a variety of cultural situations - from a small rural Dutch community to "Big City" life - it is no surprise I developed a keen interest in culture-watching by high school age.

There I became involved in drama and very active in track & field and volleyball. Although I read a lot about anything that caught my interest this knowledge did not transfer into good grades. I needed to first understand the relevance and practical application of things instead of -- as I saw it -- blindly conforming to prescribed age-old methods and community expectations. I questioned needing to learn what I thought to be irrelevant facts. Much later, I realized that by challenging things so much I had actually learned a lot.¹

After my high school graduation, I chose to enter the labour force. Having heard "are you going to be a minister, too?" a few too many times and feeling a need to carve my own identity -- to not comply with expectation -- I got 'real' work. I worked in construction for a time, then worked as a backyard greenhouse builder in BC for six years.

¹ To this day I still cannot 'inflict' that spoon-feeding type of teaching style I grew up under. Instead I prefer to explore questions together with those I teach. It seems useless to be giving answers to questions students do not feel pressing on their lives yet. But if we can together create some tension around the question, finding an answer can become important to them.

During this time, I met Jenny and we married and began a family. I served our church (New Westminster CRC) in various ways, especially as a youth leader and as a deacon.

I changed jobs and worked as a wholesale florist for seven years next. Both of these past vocations helped to shape me and mold me towards what I have become.

In my work I learned to assert myself more and to trust my judgment. I had a knack for connecting with people and found myself, on a few occasions, having discussions on faith and life with non-Christian customers. When one of these customers commented that I would make a good pastor, I began to hear what I could no longer silence or run from: God calling me to some form of ministry, likely either as some kind of counselor or as pastor.

Facing a decision to quit my job to go back to school was frightening for one who was not much of a risk taker. Jen and I had been married eight years and had three small children. But, the more I struggled, the clearer a sense of call became. I felt affirmed in this by Jen's permission and the encouragement of a few other people. I now realize I was also 'waking up' spiritually while in this struggle to find God's will.

So, at the age of thirty, in 1987, I went back to school. We moved to Edmonton where I easily earned my BA in Social Sciences -- which is a fancy way of saying "people studies." While a student I worked part-time as a counselor at a half-way house, which added greatly to my learning. Two more children were born into our family there. My studies and growth those exciting years affirmed the sense of being on the right track. It was decided upon graduation that I might as well go on to seminary sooner rather than later.

We moved to Grand Rapids in 1990. CTS was a very difficult experience for a wide variety of reasons. It was five years of hard slogging. The bright spots were my field assignments, particularly my one year internship. I seemed to disturb some profs but be appreciated by congregations. I graduated from CTS in 1995 after a very difficult last few months and went to work in the Forest CRC. I served there for 8 years. The first three or so years were a time of 'recovery' from Seminary. In Forest and area I learned to 'own' my identity as a preacher and clarified what my strengths in ministry are.

In 2003 I took a call to Mundy Park Christian Fellowship in Coquitlam. We struggled to grow the church, but came to a point in May '07 where the shrinkage was continuing and my council and I could not find a mutually agreeable approach to get a turnaround going, so we agreed to part under Article 17. That has been a difficult experience that I have learned a lot from, at learning which is ongoing.

A long lasting struggle in my/our life has been the gradual revealing and accepting of my own father's sexual abuse of family members. He was deposed in retirement for admitted incidents. That was the right thing for the church to do. All of this raised a myriad of family issues. My wife and I have both been very involved with the denominational abuse prevention and education ministry. Our personal experience of being in one of 'those' families has had a huge effect. Although Jen and I had been pretty good at working through difficult things in most of our 27 years of marriage, in 2006 we encountered obstacles we could not overcome. On the advice of help we sought out, we agreed to living apart in an effort to 'declutter' and 'disentangle' our personal issues. I can say much more about these things in person. It is hard to know what to put in a document like this. Much can be said about the character and faith-shaping effect of hardships. Struggles in general have been hugely formative events in my life and ministry and have served to draw me deeper spiritually and be very aware of my dependence on God.

Please describe briefly (Confine your answers to two pages):

My Leadership Style: (How you include others in decision-making, administrative style, ways you deal with conflict, etc.)

If one pictures the way a shepherd moves a flock of sheep toward good grazing or safe shelter, one comes up with three 'positions' of leadership:

- 1. out in front of the flock, counting on it to follow;*
- 2. in the center, keeping all within reach of the staff, or*
- 3. behind, nudging key members in the needed direction.*

Ideally, ideologically and by my character I prefer the latter or the second one. One method alone is not always the right one. The key is knowing when each fits the situation.

I do not like making major decisions alone. I am not like a C.E.O. in that way. I believe in striving for consensus, particularly in a leadership team. I have found that I like to have ideas proposed and to watch for what 'catches' with the leadership, rather than impose 'my' plan or insight, no matter how strongly I feel convicted. A leadership difficulty for me would be in having the patience to wait for consensus if a need for some bigger change feels urgent to me. I do need considerable freedom to make independent, lesser decisions and would chafe at being micromanaged.

I am not an effective administrator of paper of any kind, and I am weak on detail work! I know and admire an organized office when I see it, but I can't create one. Tasks such as sorting the mail, remembering what specific preparations need to be made for congregational meetings from year to year and the like are ones that I best delegate to others. Over time I am learning to adapt and overcome this deficit, primarily through technology, but it remains a weakness.

I am a leader who has many ideas, some of them even great, inspired and valid ideas, but I have learned I need a team around me that can help with implementation or not much comes of them.

I am also weak on what is usually considered "small talk" with congregation members. My introverted nature makes this difficult and tiring for me. I'd rather get right into some serious question or discussion - or even sit in silence - than make extensive small talk. I have found I can do it with prospective converts or people on the margins however as a part of my ministry to them.

On conflict: I find that I prefer to deal with it directly, along the lines of Matthew 18:15-17. I like to know where I stand. I appreciate directness, and I am not afraid to dig around to find the roots of conflict. Often the heart of it is not the issue that is presented. I think much damage occurs in group dynamics because problems are not dealt with openly and honestly. I continually practice speaking the love-motivated truth about self and other, as humbly and compassionately as I can. Of course I prefer to avoid conflict and have everyone happy. 😊 However, I clearly recognize that in any conflict there will almost certainly be some people who will not be satisfied. In that case, I have no qualms about agreeing to disagree.

My Worship Emphases: (preaching style, preferred worship emphases and style, etc.)

My preaching style is incarnational, invitational and inductive. It's inductive in that I invite the congregation to think through what God is telling us in a passage, rather than tell them what I think it says, or preach my conclusions. It is invitational in a twofold way. First, I do

study and deduce a conclusion about it's message, but then I try to invite people to discover that same thing along with me. Second, I don't take for granted that all hearing me are full believers even though they may have occupied a pew for many years, and so now and then I will challenge and invite them to more fully engage the Word and the work of the Kingdom of God. I prefer in my preaching to have people themselves 'live into' the Word, and so have the Word live into their lives today, just as in the past. In that sense my preaching is incarnational. A guiding principle there is "The word became flesh and lived among us" and so I like to have it incarnated again each week.

I love the power of story, of the gospel story particularly but other stories as well. I most enjoy preaching on a section of narrative or a parable of Jesus. Story engages more people and more of their being than a series of text-snippet-derived propositional statements do.

I prefer an approach in worship that is authentic, relevant and contemporary. One of my highest personal values in ministry is that of authenticity - a lack of pretension, being who we really are, unmasked as sinners and broken people before God and each other in worship. This makes for a less than formal manner in leading worship. Relevant worship is: if the congregation is grieving, make that part of the service. If rejoicing, let's sing it out!

I like to use currently popular media references as examples in my messages.

Worship times should have a God focus, should flow well, and should have a recognizable theme that echoes throughout so people don't miss it.

My Ministry Skills/Strengths:

I have an expressive and engaging way of communicating and my preaching gift and ability has been repeatedly affirmed. I know that I read scripture out loud in a way that sometimes can, by itself, already raise new insight for hearers. I craft good worship services which as a whole carry a theme that is stated in several different ways so that it has the best chance of being 'heard' by all. I believe that I am a good discipler, an effective shaper of people's thinking and insight. I have a good understanding of people, family and social dynamics. I have discovered that I have a passion for 'the lost in the pew' i.e. those who may have 'been there -- heard that' but not 'caught' anything. For me the greatest excitement in ministry is to see people grow in insight into God's great plan of redemption, how it applies for them, and how they can share it with others. I have been privileged to have been used by God to connect with people on the margins of society and church and/or pre-believers and shape their lives, including recovering addicts and people with mental health issues or other disabling conditions.

My Vision for Ministry:

Vision is very much affected by context, so this is tricky to answer without a context in mind. With North America as larger context, I am convinced and impassioned by the sense that God is breaking down unnecessary denominational barriers so that a common Jesus-witness can be shown. Beyond that though, it is my personal sense that God is putting things in place for a completely new form of being church to be born or to erupt out of the groanings and wrinklins of the church as we know it. I want to be a midwife in that late-in-life (re)birth. I want to be part of what I think of as the Remorphing of the way we organize the body of Christ so that our 20-somethings will return. It will take some very out-of-the-box thinking and action. Beyond what I've written here more specific answers are best given in personal, situation-specific discussions.

Part V: Appraisal

A. Self-Appraisal

The purpose of this form is to provide search committees with a view of how you see yourself. Your references will be receiving the same items to consider. Try to be as candid as possible and indicate as honestly as you can what you believe your capabilities are in ministry.

Identify a maximum of 12 ministry emphases which you believe best describe you and your current ministry. Obviously, you have more than these. Please try to identify those which are strongest as you are now carrying out your calling. Write the 12 numbers for the characteristics you believe are strongest in the blanks provided at the end of this list. An item not chosen should not be deemed an indication of weakness. **Do not rank them.**

Write no more than 12 numbers in the blanks at the end of this list

I...

1. am an effective preacher/speaker.
2. continue to develop my theological and biblical skills.
3. help people develop their spiritual life.
4. help people work together in solving problems.
5. am effective in planning and leading worship.
6. have a sense of the direction of my ministry.
7. regularly encourage people to participate in denominational activities and programs.
8. help people understand and act upon issues of social justice.
9. am a helpful counselor.
10. minister effectively to people in crisis situations.
11. make pastoral calls on people in hospitals and nursing homes and those confined to their homes.
12. make pastoral calls on members not confined at home or in hospitals.
13. am a good leader.
14. am effective in working with children.
15. build a sense of fellowship among the people with whom I work.
16. help people develop their leadership abilities.
17. am an effective administrator.
18. am effective with committees and officers.
19. am an effective teacher.
20. have a strong commitment to the educational ministry of the church.
21. am effective in working with adults.
22. inspire a sense of confidence.
23. work regularly at bringing new members into the church.
24. regularly encourage support of the CRC's missions and outreach.
25. reach out to inactive members.
26. work regularly in the development of stewardship growth.
27. am active in ecumenical relationships and encourage the church to participate.

28. am a person who cultivates a close, devotional relationship with God.
29. write clearly and well.
30. work well on a team.
31. am effective in working with youth.
32. organize people for community action.
33. am skilled in planning and leading programs.
34. plan and lead well-organized meetings.
35. encourage people to relate their faith to their daily lives.
36. am accepting of people with divergent backgrounds and traditions.
37. encourage others to assume and carry out leadership.
38. am mature and emotionally secure.
39. have strong commitment and loyalty to the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
40. maintain confidentiality.
41. am a compassionate and caring person, sensitive to others' needs.
42. deal effectively with conflict.

1, 3, 5, 10, 19, 23, 27, 29, 35, 36, 37, 41

Comments: