



# Annual Consistorial Report

for the year ending December 31, 2021

*The Book of Church Order requires that each consistory shall make an annual report of statistical information and on the spiritual state of their congregation. Information reported by consistories helps RCA assemblies to “equip congregations to follow Christ in mission” and also gives the local church an opportunity to examine and reflect on its mission and ministry.*

*Parts 1a and 1b ask for quantitative information that is for the benefit of the General Synod, regional synod, and classis.*

*Parts 2a and 2b are for the benefit of the classis and include open-ended questions to assist the consistory in reflection on the ministry of the church.*

Maple Avenue Ministries  
427 Maple Ave  
Holland, Michigan 49423-4139

## ONLINE FORM

Please fill out this form electronically.  
Visit [crf.rca.org](http://crf.rca.org)  
and follow the instructions found on that screen.

**Part 1a**

**MEMBERSHIP STATISTICS:** *Revision of membership rolls is to be made at the end of each calendar year. The figures are to be the totals in each category. Report only the RCA portion of your statistics. (For example, if you are a union congregation with one other denomination, the numbers you report should be 50 percent of your totals.)*

**1. Church Households:** *Indicate the number of households living as one family at one address, in which there is at least one confessing member. (Include single military personnel and students with their family at the home address.)*

65

**2. Confessing Members:** *Indicate the number of members who have received Christian baptism and have been received by the Board of Elders through profession of faith, reaffirmation of faith, or presentation of a satisfactory certificate of transfer of membership from another Christian church, and who make faithful use of the means of grace, especially the hearing of the Word and the use of the Lord's Supper.*

159

**3. Inactive Members:** *Indicate the total number of members who have been removed by the Board of Elders from the active confessing membership roll.*

2

**4. Baptized Members:** *Indicate the number of members who have received Christian baptism, who may or may not participate at the Lord's Table, and who have not been received by the Board of Elders as confessing members. (This figure must be annually adjusted for baptized children who have been transferred with their parents into or out of the congregation.)*

2

**5. Total Membership** will be auto calculated (the sum of 2 through 4).

163

**6. Adherents:** *Indicate the number of individuals who participate in the life, work, and worship of the church but are not members.*

4

**7. Average Worship Attendance:** *Indicate the average of the actual count of all persons present for weekly worship service/s. (Give the average for the entire year.)*

50

**GAINS:**

**8. Received on Confession:** *Indicate the number of individuals who have been received by the elders upon confession or reaffirmation of faith.*

\_\_\_\_\_

**9. Received on Certificate:** *Indicate the number of individuals who have presented a satisfactory certificate of transfer from another church.*

\_\_\_\_\_

**LOSSES:** *Indicate the number of confessing And inactive members whose names have been removed from the membership roll.*

**10. Transferred**

1

**11. Deceased**

1

**12. All Other Removals from Roll**

\_\_\_\_\_

**BAPTISMS:** *Indicate the number of individuals baptized.*

**13. Infants**

3

**14. Adults**

1

**Part 1b**

**FINANCIAL REPORT:** Please complete the following section with financial results from your church's most recent fiscal year-end.

Fiscal year-end: 2021-12-31 00:00:00

The dollar amounts listed below are in U.S. Dollars

*Union and federated churches should report only the RCA portion of their financial statistics, in the same proportion as they report membership statistics in Part 1a. A church that does not keep separate membership rolls should divide its full financial numbers by the number of denominations in the union or federation (for example, a church that is a union church of the RCA and one other denomination should report half of its full financial numbers). A church that keeps separate membership rolls should multiply its full financial numbers by the percentage of its membership that is RCA (for example, a federated church whose membership is 64 percent RCA should multiply its full financial numbers by 0.64).*

**Income:**

<b>21. Contributions received*</b>	<u>214580</u>
<b>22. Endowment gifts</b> (gifts that are permanently restricted by the donor, from which only the earnings may be used)	<u>                    </u>
<b>23. Investment income and endowment appropriations</b>	<u>                    </u>
<b>24. All other income</b> (including, but not limited to: tuition revenue, rental income, grants from any agency)	<u>                    </u>
<b>25. Total income (sum of lines 21-24)</b>	<u>214580</u>

\*Any gift received by the church, except for new endowed gifts. This includes, but is not limited to, contributions for the general operations, missions, benevolence, special designated funds, estate gifts, and capital campaign gifts.

**Expenses:**

<b>26. Assessments paid to RCA classis, regional synod, and denomination</b>	<u>17250</u>
<b>27. All other church expenses</b>	<u>184565</u>
<b>28. Total expenses</b> (sum of lines 26-27)	<u>201815</u>
<b>29. Net income</b> (line 25 minus line 28)	<u>12765</u>

Note: as of 2018, lines 18 through 18e, 19 through 19c, and 20 have been replaced with lines 21-29.

## Part 2a

**THE LIFE AND SPIRITUAL HEALTH OF THE CONGREGATION:**

*These questions encourage reflection as a consistory and are intended for the use of the classis. If necessary, please attach your responses on separate pages.*

1. What signs of transformation have been visible in the life and ministry of your congregation this year?

In February, our church faced the impending marital separation of its Lead Pastor and its Chief Musician. As a result, the Chief Musician was asked to resign. In July, the Lead Pastor resigned as well to allow for her own healing. In December, the Assistant Pastor announced she would be leaving in the coming months. Transformation has been visible in the grace-filled and unifying spirit of church members and community members. There has been kindness towards each other, the Pastor's family, and towards church leadership. There has been a welcoming gratitude towards guest pastors, worship leaders, and lay leaders. With each devastating announcement, fingers were not pointed, grief was shared, people were vulnerable, withstood each blow, and continued to lean on each other for understanding and strength.

2. How is your congregation actively ...

- a. developing passionate and reproducible disciples who live and love like Jesus?
  - b. mobilizing emerging leaders for service in the church and in the world?
  - c. embracing your mission to the world and sharing the good news of the gospel with everyone?
- (Please share specific stories, experiences, and examples.)

While many plans and ministries have not gone as planned, Maple Ave has been mobilizing leaders in a special way in 2021. Upon the departure of our pastors, we formed a Vision Team of 14 congregation members to work on re-establishing the identity of the church, giving greater definition to its values, and producing an accurate job description for the upcoming pastor search.

As part of the Vision Team, Leela, in her mid-twenties, admitted she felt like an outsider to the inner workings of the church, as she couldn't come every Sunday, and as an Asian-Latina, felt different than the majority White-Black congregation. Recently, she approached council with the hopes of starting to minister to youth in the congregation, doing children's messages, and assembling a sort of youth team, which has been inactive since 2020.

Additionally, "Grandma Maggie" started with a very skeptical view of vision team as we started by verbally processing much of our journey through different seasons and processing grief. After a few sessions, Maggie was sharing more liberally, sharing her own hurts, her dreams, and returning to her emphasis and passion for prayer and calling other leaders to prayer.

atc: the most encouraging space for disciple-making and gospel-sharing is in the Wednesday night women's Bible study. This group has been one of the few programs to start back up successfully since 2020. They are faithful. They are diverse. They are inclusive. They love God's word and have helped bring about a renewed passion for God's word in our congregation and among the community.

3. In what ways can your congregation more intentionally live out the call to cultivate transformation in Christ, equip emerging leaders of today and tomorrow, and engage in Christ's kingdom mission in the coming year?

- Intentionally foster kingdom-oriented relationships with youth.
- Engage members in formation opportunities (Sunday school, children's message) for kids.
- Restart some feasible ministry teams to embody MAM's priorities coming out of the Vision Team, including Diversity, Worship, Congregational Care, Youth.

4. What challenges, concerns, or celebrations does your congregation have right now?

- We don't have a pastor.
- Our membership, and consistent attenders have declined significantly during COVID, especially our members of color.
- We're undergoing consulting with SafeChurch with a potential investigation for past abuse pending.
- Our budget is small, and will we have room to hire appropriate church staff?
- Pastors and council have been putting a lot in, and mental health has surfaced as a consistent concern.
- Our building has a long list of concerns: Boiler and air conditioning need replacing, the entire basement is unusable.
- We've gained a dozen or so new members who have been true gifts to our congregation, in singing, playing piano, dancing, and bringing a new energy and appreciation to the table.

Information regarding the spiritual health of the congregation and congregational indebtedness is collected to assist the classis in its supervision of the churches within its bounds.

Question 5 was added by the General Synod in 2017. Responses to this question only are collected for the benefit of the General Synod and will be shared with the Commission on Race and Ethnicity.

5. How does your congregation reflect the racial and cultural context in which you conduct your ministry? What are you doing to build bridges that develop and deepen mutual ministry that is multiracial and multicultural?

-Maple Ave hosts the Harmony Scholars, a group of stringed instrument students from intentionally diverse backgrounds, during midweek.

-Maple Ave intentionally selected a diverse group to serve on its Vision Team.

-Maple Ave elected not to hire an interim pastor, in part because most interim pastors available are older, white males. Instead, a given month at Maple Avenue will feature a black female member preaching, a black male former intern, a white female assistant pastor, and another guest community member. It was important to the congregation to have worship leaders who both knew the heartbeat of MAM and represented the diversity of MAM.

Question 6 was added by the General Synod in 2018. Responses to this question only are collected for the benefit of the General Synod and will be shared with the Commission on Christian Discipleship and Education.

6. How have those who serve in the spiritual formation or teaching arena of your congregation received ongoing or continuing education this year?

We do not have people serving in spiritual formation & teaching in a staff role (all guest preachers, no youth group, no Sunday school), nor do we have ongoing education set up for when we begin to do that.

Part 2b

INDEBTEDNESS:

The following information is collected for the use of your classis in order to fulfill the directive from the Book of Church Order regarding indebtedness, which states, "the consistory shall not incur a total indebtedness which exceeds two-thirds of the prior year's expenditures for congregational purposes, as reported to the General Synod, without the approval of classis" (BCO, Chapter 1, Part I, Article 2, Section 13; 2019 edition, p. 17).

1. Does your church have any indebtedness?  yes  no

2. If yes, what is the total indebtedness? \$ 53389

3. Is your church delinquent in any of its debt payments?  yes  no

4. If yes, what is the amount of the delinquency? \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Information regarding the spiritual health of the congregation and congregational indebtedness is collected to assist the classis in its supervision of the churches within its bounds.

**The information below will not be shared with any entity outside the RCA.** It will be used by the Office of Ministry Services to send information to elders and deacons. Because the General Synod requires that gender statistics of ordained officeholders be reported (*MGS 2002, R-32, p.54*), please use the check box to convey that information.

**List only those elders and deacons elected in 2021.**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Phone</b>	<b>Email</b>	<b>Office</b>	<b>Gender</b>	<b>Address</b>
Kathy Gustafson	269-569-3694	gusandkathy@yahoo.cc	Elder	Female	98 E. 39th St Holland Michigan 49423
Viola Jackson-Clev	616-405-1832	vijackson25@gmail.com	Elder	Female	79 w 19th Street Holland Michigan 49423
David Brander	6168028361	branderman@gmail.com	Elder	Male	146 W 18th St., Holland, MI 49423
Jon Myers	616-283-6102	jonmyersinholland@gmail.com	Deacon	Male	8 W 17th street Holland Michigan 49423

**The information below will not be shared with any entity outside the RCA.**

It will be used to provide support for youth and discipleship ministry in RCA congregations, in keeping with the call articulated in Transformed & Transforming.

**Primary youth ministry contact**

Please provide information for the person who is the primary contact for youth ministry in your congregation. This person could be a paid staff member such as a youth minister or director of youth ministry, or he or she could be a volunteer if your congregation does not have youth ministry staff. If your congregation has more than one person in this role, please designate one as the primary contact.

\_\_\_ We have no youth ministry contact.

**Name:** AJ Westendorp

**Title:** Elder

**Address:** 427 Maple Avenue  
Holland Michigan 49423

**Email:** westendorpaj@gmail.com

**Phone:** 6168361669

**Phone Type:** Cell

**Primary Christian education/discipleship contact**

Please provide information for the person who is the primary contact for discipleship and/or education in your congregation. This person could be a paid staff member such as a Christian education director or pastor of discipleship, or he or she could be a volunteer if your congregation does not have Christian education or discipleship staff. If your congregation has more than one person in this role, please designate one as the primary contact.

We have no Christian education/discipleship contact.

**Name:**

**Title:**

**Address:**

**Email:**

**Phone:**

**Phone Type:**