

Overview of Church (Past and present)

An Historical Overview

The First Christian Reformed Church of Modesto, California - most commonly known as Modesto Christian Reformed Church (MCRC) - celebrated its 75th anniversary in April, 2012. It began as a mission station of First Ripon CRC, but within a year the Modesto group submitted their request to Classis for permission to organize. MCRC is still the only CRC in Modesto, a steadily growing city of about 200,000 people,

MCRC has a total of 450 members, 334 professing and 116 baptized. All ages can be found in the church, although our smallest group would be those of college and early career age. There are many retired members, and a number of young families. Members tend to be employed as professionals, in businesses and in trades and in agriculture.

The Rev. John Zwaanstra accepted the call in 1938 to become the first pastor, and in 1940 our first church building was dedicated on the corner of Granger and College Avenues. For a while 3 Sunday services were introduced to accommodate the growing membership. The present site, several blocks north on College Avenue, was purchased and the sanctuary and parsonage (now our ministry center) were built and dedicated in 1966. Several pastorates, associated pastorates, and internships followed. Our present staffing is: Pastor Peter Oh, Director of Youth Ministries Alexandra Prevette, Director of Music and Worship (vacant), and Director of Outreach (vacant).

Church Purpose and Programs

Over the years, MCRC has often looked at itself, exploring tools to help expand its membership and its ministry to the broader Modesto community. More recently, in the autumn of 2010 the Council established an Ad Hoc Committee to review the church's purpose (ministry statement). The committee evaluated whether the vision, ministry, budget, and staff adequately reflected the purpose statement.

The mission statement of the church, written in 1980's by the Church Analysis Committee, remains "...to joyfully worship and glorify God; lovingly equip, nurture, and care for our fellow believers; and earnestly share the life in Jesus Christ with others, enfolding them in His church." Detailed goals for the committees of evangelism, education, worship, and fellowship came out of that committee's work. These goals appear yearly in the church's directory.

In 2007, our values study clarified what we already recognized:

- A church with strong family values
- A church eager to worship, using a variety of musical expressions
- A church dedicated to Scripture-based preaching and teaching for adults and children
- A church that wishes to fellowship across generations
- A church involved in evangelism from its inception
- A church developing service within the community
- A church that is cognizant of its members' gifts and uses them
- A church that supports Christian education from preschool through college and seminary