



ON THE CHURCH NAME

Adopted by the Session – February 2014

CHRIST: The Lord, Head, Redeemer, and King of the Church

COVENANT: We are a covenant community living life before a watching world

CHURCH: We are God's people, the church. "Ekklesia", the ancient Greek word for the church, literally means that we are "called out" of the world for holy worship and living.

ASSOCIATE: Part of our denomination's heritage comes from the Seceders of Scotland, who left the church over issues of anti-patronage and the Marrow Controversy, believing that the free offer of the Gospel was for all men. They would leave to form the Associate Presbytery.

REFORMED: The word "reformed" can be defined simply in three ways:

1. It is a reference to our historical link to the Reformation of the 16th century and intends to describe us as the heirs of that tradition, which comes from Luther, Calvin, Knox, and other reformers.
2. The word "reformed" is used most commonly to refer to certain theological distinctives that have marked reformation believers, particularly those in the Calvinist tradition. We believe that the Bible is our only "rule of faith and practice," therefore it "reforms" all of our life to conform to God's standards.
3. We are connected in history to the Reformed Presbytery, a group that left the Church of Scotland in 1743, because the king of Scotland would not sign the Solemn League and Covenant, which affirmed that Christ alone was head and king of the church, not the civil magistrate.

PRESBYTERIAN: Churches are governed or ruled in one of three ways: congregational, episcopal, or presbyterian. In congregational churches, the congregation as a whole makes all decisions for the body and the churches are independent and not under the oversight of any higher ecclesiastical authority. In episcopal churches, a hierarchy of bishops or overseers are given authority to rule for the whole. Presbyterian churches like ours are ruled by Elders, men elected to oversee the spiritual and leadership needs of the church. The elders also represent the church in the higher courts of the denomination: the presbytery (all churches in a particular geographic region) and the synod (all churches from the various presbyteries).

ASSOCIATE REFORMED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH: We are a congregation of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church. The ARP is an old Presbyterian and Reformed denomination with roots in the Church of Scotland. The denomination was formed in Philadelphia in 1782, when two groups, the Associates and the Reformed, united together to form a new denomination. Both groups left the Church of Scotland under circumstances of persecution in the 1730s and 1740s. Today, the ARP Synod has 10 presbyteries in North America and several agencies and boards to accomplish its work. The denomination actively plants new churches and supports missionaries all over the world. Find out more information at www.arpchurch.org.