

ÉGLISE RÉFORMÉE DU QUÉBEC (ERQ)
Report to WRF - 2015

Name of Church/Federation: **Église réformée du Québec (ERQ)** Reformed Church of Quebec

Address of Official Website: <http://www.erq.qc.ca/>

Year Established: 1988

Confessional Standards: Westminster Confession of Faith; Heidelberg Catechism

Other Standards: none

Statistical Information:

Effective date of statistical data: December 31, 2015

Total number of members (including baptized covenant children): 364

Total number of communicant members: 233

Total number of congregations (including mission works not yet organized): five

Total number of organized congregations/churches: five

Total number of presbyteries/classes: one synod

Total number of ordained ministers: ten (5 without call working in Christian ministries)

Total number of ordained ruling elders: seven

Total number of ordained deacons: seven

Major Assembly: synod

Frequency: three times a year

Date(s) and venue of most recent: November 5, 2016, Quebec, Quebec

Date(s) and venue of next: February 4, 2017 , Quebec (to be determined)

May 6, 2017 , Quebec (to be determined)

Interchurch Relations:

Membership in ecumenical organizations:

- 1) North American Presbyterian and Reformed Council
- 2) World Reformed Fellowship

Specify the different levels of ecclesiastical relationships

Full ecclesiastical fellowship:

- 1) Canadian Reformed Churches (CanRC)

- 2) Presbyterian Church in America (PCA)
- 3) Orthodox Presbyterian Church (OPC)
- 4) United Reformed Churches in North America (URCNA)

World Missions Activity:

Current fields of labor: Guinea; Cuba

New fields being developed or under consideration: Haiti – eventual STM

Specific opportunities for cooperation with other NAPARC churches:

- i. **Short term missions** whereby individuals or teams participate in English conversation activities for children, teenagers and adults. All member of confessional Reformed churches may apply to send STM teams or individuals. For more information <http://opcstm.org/category/global-stm/quebec/>
- ii. **Quebec Reformed Translation** is seeking to provide solid, Reformed literature for French-speaking believers. Publications already realised or being translated include *Reasons of the Heart* (William Edgar), *Creation Regained* (Albert Wolters), *Summary of Christian Doctrine* (Louis Berkhof), *Covenant of Grace* (William Cummings), and *Covenant of Love* (Clarence Stam). We welcome recommendations of books for translation.
- iii. **Pastor Paulin Bédard** receives, translates and writes Reformed educational material for the website *Ressources chrétiennes* <http://www.ressourceschretiennes.com/> Several thousand short-length articles can be easily searched, consulted, printed and shared by pastors and believers in Quebec and throughout the French-speaking world. We accept articles for possible translation and posting on the site.

Home (or North American) Missions Activity:

Current number of mission works: none

Location(s) of new mission work(s) being planned: none

Specific opportunities for cooperation with other NAPARC churches:

- i. There is a constant need for **Reformed Presbyterian French-speaking** pastors, theologians, conference speakers, university campus pastors, missionaries to Muslims immigrants, etc.

Major Assembly Study Committees:

List of ongoing (year established):

- 1) **Education Committee** (standing): awaiting approval of ordination vows for pastors, elders and deacons; exploring the possibility of translating and publishing the “*Show Me Jesus*” Sunday program (Great Commissions Publications);

- 2) **Ministerial Committee** (standing):
 - a. revise examination procedure for pastoral candidates;
 - b. clarify the procedure for receiving ordained pastors from sister churches;
 - c. propose an examination and ordination procedure for men who, without having obtained a theological diploma, demonstrate the capacity to serve the church as an ordained evangelist.
- 3) **Inter-Church Committee** (standing): develop relations with sister churches; establish a list of available French language Reformed Presbyterian pastors and resources.

Final report(s) received at last major assembly (include links to website): none

Significant Actions of the Most Recent Major Assembly:

- i. **Pastor Karis Mpindi**, born in the Democratic Republic of Congo and raised in the United States, was received in February to serve the St-Jean congregation in Montreal. One congregation of the ERQ remains vacant.
- ii. For several years the ERQ synod has been wrestling with questions related to the **doctrine of creation**. The synod meeting held in February 2016 adopted three motions largely “borrowed” from sister churches who had already wrestled with the creation issue.
 - a. We adopted an affirmation summarizing the biblical and confessional teaching on creation.
 - b. We did adopt a recommended series of questions for the examination of pastoral candidates and pastors transferring into the ERQ in which the examinee must refute the theory of evolution, as well as articulate the hermeneutical and theological rationale of his position.
 - c. The synod also adopted the motion reminding the consistories to follow the church order with respect to the discipline of office bearers in case of heretical teachings.
- iii. Saturday May 14th 2016, eight office bearers and sixteen un-ordained men spent the day learning about **the call to serve the Church as pastors or elders**. We pray that several of these men will eventually be called to serve the Churches in Quebec.

Specific Matters for Prayer in the Life or Ministry of the Church:

- ✓ Thankfulness to the Lord for **steady growth** during the past four years of nearly 2.5% each year.
- ✓ **Young men to serve the ERQ** as elders and deacons, as well as church planters.
- ✓ **Edification** of French-speaking believers and churches through Reformed literature available in publications and on the internet.