



## Colorado Springs, CO

Rev. Tony & Donna Phelps

### ***The Lord is faithful to His promise to build His church, by His Word and Spirit!***

Covenant URC was planted in Colorado Springs in 2011 under the oversight of Co-ram Deo URC in Littleton, CO. God has mercifully preserved this congregation through difficulties. The original church planter departed, multiple families left, and the pulpit was vacant for 12 months. Yet the Lord provided regular preaching, and preserved a remnant by His grace.

Rev. Tony Phelps, after ministering for nearly 12 years in the PCA, was asked to serve as interim pastor in February 2015. He was installed as minister of Word and Sacraments in January 2016. Elders Bob DeRuiter and Will Kim have given stability and continuity to the congregation as faithful undershepherds of Christ. Attendance was in the low 20's when Rev. Phelps arrived. By His grace, the Lord has granted gradual growth. Attendance is now regularly 45-50. A second new members' class is nearing completion, and several households should be added to membership – with one adult and one child baptized.

Officer training was completed in early 2017, and two potential candidates for the offices of elder and deacon have emerged. With growing attendance, giving has increased recently. However, internal giving does not yet cover the fairly modest budget. If the Lord wills, and as He provides, organization may be a possibility in 2018.

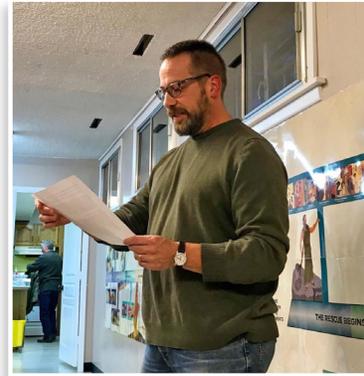
By God's good providence, Covenant has one seminarian – a potential future minister and church planter (he is also the elder candidate). Among the newer families, another brother is also hopeful to begin taking seminary classes in the near future.

He desires, as God wills and directs, to eventually minister the Gospel and Reformed faith within the Latino community.

Covenant has been holding a bi-monthly Bible study in Romans



Reformation fun



at the Phelps' home. This has been a time of edification and instruction, to see how naturally the Reformed faith emerges from God's Word – even as the “guilt-grace-gratitude” structure of Heidelberg echoes this glorious epistle.

Rev. Phelps has begun bi-monthly public evangelism

in downtown Colorado Springs, in an effort to “do the work of an evangelist” and scatter the seed of the Gospel among those who may not otherwise hear. May God call His own to Himself by the foolishness of preaching Christ crucified and risen.

Covenant also enjoys a good relationship with Springs Reformed Church. This RPCNA congregation hosts an annual conference on Reformed Theology around Reformation Day. It concludes with a joint-NAPARC Lord's Day evening service. Rev. Phelps has been blessed to participate in this service three times now. Covenant also hopes to participate in additional joint evening services on months with a fifth Sunday.

Prayer needs include the Lord's provision of sufficient finances to organize, the election and ordination of new officers, continued healthy growth of the congregation spiritually and numerically, and to see the Lord gather and grow His elect to His church through the faithful proclamation of His Gospel.

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