

Ideas & Information You Can Build On

Breaking Ground



New construction was designed to replicate the original design and materials; visitors have no idea the new spaces are later additions.

Creating Space for a New Vision

In 2015, the Grand Rapids, Michigan headquarters of Reformed Church in America [RCA] adopted a new 15 year “Leadership Communities” strategic vision. While that vision—about new ways to serve churches—would entail change, what would also be required was additional space.

The leaders at RCA knew and respected Wilbert Hamstra, founder and CEO emeritus of The Hamstra Group, and invited the company’s assistance.

“Wilb has been a friend for many years, and is someone I trust and respect,” said Paul Boice, CEO of RCA. “He is also a

faithful member of the RCA. We asked The Hamstra Group to make a proposal and we liked what the design team presented.”

“Greg Hamstra [current president and CEO], like Wilb, walked through this project with us, and used the impressive Hamstra Group talents to build an exceptional Ministry Center that will bless so many within the Reformed Church and the community,” added RCA Director of Development Ken Neevel.

Plans were developed for the construction of 11,649 s.f. of new space to expand the RCA facilities and accommodate the new DeWitt Ministry Center. The groundbreaking was set for March, 2017 and the project was completed within one year.

The goal was two-fold: not only more room, but more flexibility. To that end, Hamstra Group architectural designer Betty Lamp drew up plans for a pair of additions to the existing building. The

DeWitt Ministry Center features a large meeting space that can be divided into two spaces via a moveable wall. A substantial catering kitchen, large ladies’ and men’s restrooms, a mechanical room, and two large storage rooms were added. The center also boasts a wide corridor for reception and gathering. A second addition allowed construction of more offices for support staff.

Other work included the remodeling of an existing office area, which was transformed from a space with many small, partitioned areas to a large open office with lots of light and brand new finishes. Parking was added and the driveway reconfigured. Landscaping was finished in the spring.

Hamstra Group project manager Curt Albertson is pleased with the seamless design [“the additions match the existing building so well no one can tell they’re new”]. He also praised onsite

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superintendent Dan Doege for keeping the project on target while carefully staging construction to minimize disruption to RCA staff.

“Because we were doing renovations as well as additions, we needed to keep working in the space throughout the project,” said Boice. “While it would have been easier for all involved if we had vacated the premises during construction, that wasn’t an option. The team was great to work with, and Dan did a wonderful job of keeping us informed and minimizing disruption.”



Renovations to offices produced more room, more light, and more flexibility. The project began in March, 2017 and was completed by March, 2018.

The RCA project in Grand Rapids, Michigan involved both new additions and renovations to existing space. The Hamstra Team developed plans for the construction of 11,649 s.f. of new space to expand the RCA facilities and accommodate the new DeWitt Ministry Center. The groundbreaking was set for March, 2017 and the project was completed within one year.



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