

LARRY VISSER
(b. 1962)

Larry Visser has held the position of Minister of Music and Organist at LaGrave Avenue Christian Reformed Church since 1999, a position in which he oversees the administration of the church's extensive music ministry and plays the organ for weekly worship services. During his 20-year tenure at LaGrave, Larry has presented several solo organ recitals and concerts in collaboration with instrumentalists, produced two solo organ recordings (*LaGrave Organ Favorites* and *On Christmas Night*) and three discs featuring LaGrave's instrumentalists, vocal and handbell choirs (*Lo! He Comes: Advent at LaGrave*, *Every Voice in Concert*, *Ring: Christmas at LaGrave*, and *Love So Amazing, So Divine: Lent at LaGrave*), and hosted several guest solo artists and prominent choirs.

Dr. Visser is a published composer of both organ and choral music and several of his compositions are included regularly in worship services. He has received a number of commissions from churches and individuals to write hymn concertato settings, anthems, and hymn tunes. His music is represented by major publishers including Wayne Leupold Editions, Inc., GIA Publications, Inc., and MorningStar Music Publishers.

Larry earned the Bachelor of Music degree in music history, theory and composition from Calvin University (1989), the Master of Music degree in church music from the University of Michigan (1991), and the Doctor of Musical Arts degree in organ performance under the tutelage of Dr. James Kibbie (1995), also from the University of Michigan. While a graduate student, Larry served as a graduate student teaching assistant in music theory, studied harpsichord, and participated in the world's most prestigious organ competition—the *Grand Prix de Chartres* held in Paris and Chartres, France, at which he was awarded a finalist medal.

Larry served on the adjunct organ faculty at Calvin University from 2003-2010 and joined the Calvin University Capella as organist on several tours, both domestic and international, as well as on several recordings.

Larry is a member of both the Grand Rapids Chapter of the American Guild of Organists and the Hymn Society in North America and Canada. Most recently, he was awarded first prize in the 2019 Utech Hymn Tune Competition sponsored by the Eastman School of Music in Rochester, New York.