



CHURCH PROFILE

Zion Christian Reformed Church

409 Adelaide Ave., E. Oshawa, ON L1G 2A2

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*A community connecting people to God through
the love of Jesus and by the power of the Holy Spirit.*

CHURCH INFORMATION

Name:

Zion Christian Reformed Church

Address:

409 Adelaide Ave. E.
Oshawa, ON, Canada
L1G 2A2

T: (905) 436 3255

E: office@zioncrc.ca

Website:

<http://www.zioncrc.ca/>

Facebook Page:

<https://www.facebook.com/ZionChurchOshawa/>

Classical Church Counselor:

Rev. Bernhard VanderVlis (Hope CRC, Port Perry)

T: (905)-985-9307

E: bvandervlis@yahoo.com

Search Committee Chair:

Josh VanderMeer

4753 Dale Rd.

Port Hope, ON, Canada

L1A 3V5

T: (905) 926 2978

E: Josh.m.vandermeer@gmail.com

Position Available:

Lead Pastor (see Pastor Job Description)

Staff Positions:

Transitional Pastor (75% contract):	Rev. Nick Overduin
Worship and Ministry Coordinator:	William Jones
Administrative Assistant:	William Jones
Youth Director:	Hermen Broenink
North Oshawa Church Planter:	Jana Koh
Custodian:	Sharlene Beekman
Treasurer:	Ed Hosmar

MEMBERSHIP

	2007	2017
Number of Professing Members:	215	100
Number of Non-Professing Members:	110	47

Age Demographics:

0 – 11:	0.8%
12 – 18:	9.1%
19 – 24:	9.1%
25 – 34:	12.1%
35 – 49:	9.1%
50 – 64:	37%
65+:	22.7%

Years of Membership:

Less than 5 years:	10%
5 – 10 years:	10%
10 or more years:	80%

Occupation Demographics:

Business	16%
Professional	18%
Trades	12%
Stay at home parent	5%
Agriculture	0%
Retired	31%
Student	17%
Child	1%

WORSHIP

Worship time: 10:00 am

Planning:

Worship Gatherings are planned by our Worship & Ministry Coordinator based on the series or topic as set by the Pastor and the Worship Committee. Once planned, the Worship & Ministry Coordinator coordinates volunteers to lead various dynamics of the gathering. Generally, the majority of the worship gathering is led by the Worship & Ministry Coordinator or by members of the worship team or congregation. The Pastor gives God's Greeting, leads the reading of scripture, the message and offers God's blessing (benediction) at the close of the worship gathering. Various people, including the Pastor, are involved in offering congregational prayers. The Worship Committee also helps in planning worship gathering and offering input in broader planning (such as worship or sermon series, or broader liturgical seasons). Volunteers in the church also help in creating visual arts and displays for worship as well that tie in with the worship/sermon focus.

Worship Services

Zion's Worship Gatherings follow a fairly reformed structure/framework, but are diverse and flexible within such. Worship planning and leadership at Zion are both done with high level of intentionality. Songs are not chosen merely in order to create a balanced blend between "traditional" and/or "contemporary", but rather, are chosen based primarily on how they fit the story of the gospel being told within a gathering. Worship gatherings progress through this gospel-centered narrative: of praise and adoration, of confession and assurance, of God's word, and of our call to live, love and serve as faithful servants in God's Kingdom. Our worship gatherings attempt to be relational, reflecting a small-church family/community, and yet also aim to be led with excellence and intentionality.

Discipleship Practices:

Discipleship practices are something that we as a church and a leadership want to improve and grow. There is a desire to share our faith with our communities, but there is also a common uncertainty or vulnerability around the question of "how do I share my faith with someone else"? Zion's Worship Gatherings have helped enhance and begin to answer the question of "how do we share what goes on here with others outside of these walls"?

COMMUNITY SETTING

Oshawa is one of the fastest growing cities in Canada, located in the eastern side of the Greater Toronto Area, with a population of approximately 150 000 and a growth rate of 9% by 2024. Oshawa is most well-known for its auto industry because General Motors of Canada headquarters and its large vehicle assembly plants is located in this city. At almost 21 000 students and counting, Oshawa has a growing education sector with its two post-secondary institutions; Durham College and recent (2007) establishment of University of Ontario Institute of Technology.

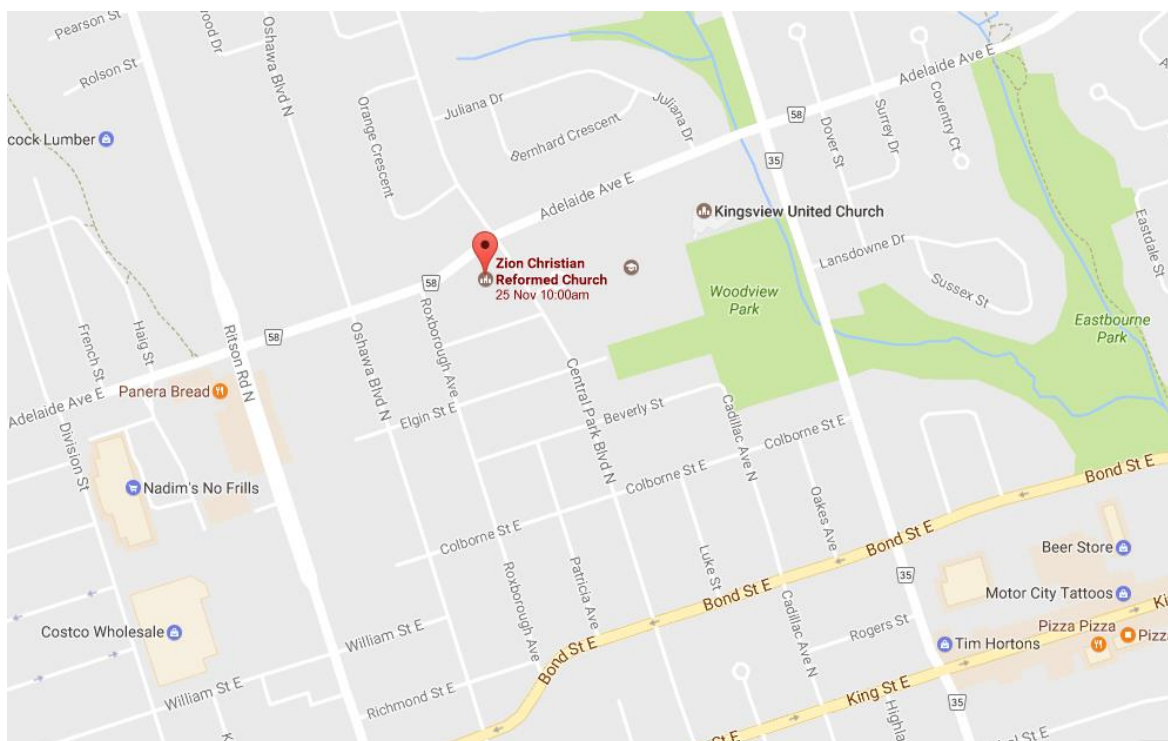
Downtown Oshawa is identified as an Urban Growth Centre in the *Government of Ontario's Places to Grow* initiative that includes 5500 people currently working downtown and 2500 students. Oshawa is also considered a commuter city for many people that work in Toronto as it is only 40 minutes west. On the contrary, cottage country is only an hour North of Oshawa.

Oshawa has Access to thriving arts and culture with live theatre, symphonies and museums as well as sporting events or concerts at the General Motors Centre Arena. There are great paved walking and biking trails including the Waterfront trail that runs along the shores of Lake Ontario. There are many Golf courses in the city and short drive away.

Most recently, Oshawa is having problems with its shrinking manufacturing sector as well as the rising cost of house prices. In the city as a whole, there are issues of poverty and addiction. In terms of faith and religion, many people in our city, as throughout the world, experience the pull of secularism.

Zion CRC is located in a suburban area of Oshawa within minutes to the downtown core.

City Website: www.oshawa.ca



BUILDING AND FINANCIAL

Facilities:

Room/Building:	Current Uses
Sanctuary	- Sunday Services (capacity 500) - Funerals - Weddings
Fellowship hall	- after church coffee - Social events - large meetings
Kitchen	- limited; renovations in progress, see planned building program below
Nursery/Sunday school rooms	- nursery - Sunday school - rental
Pastors office/council meeting room	- Pastor's office - council meeting room
Worship coordinator office	- worship coordinators office
Administrative Office	- Administrative assistants office
Prayer room/library	- prayer meetings - youth group - library
Community Groups Room	- community groups - youth group
Portable (4 small classrooms and 1 large classroom)	- storage

There is no parsonage currently owned or planned to be purchased. In the beginning of 2017, all the exterior doors and windows of the church were upgraded. Additionally, a full kitchen renovation and expansion was completed to accommodate our Volunteer Food Bank and many other church activities. The original kitchen was no longer insurable for cooking purposes which limited our ability to use the kitchen for ministries. The renovations will allow the facility to increase the capabilities of current ministries and create new opportunities for ministry. This will also give Zion greater opportunity to rent out the facility with a fully functioning kitchen.

Budget:

Present Annual Budget (2017): \$241 000
 Last Year's Annual Budget (2016): \$262 000

Percentage of Financial Obligations:

Budget: 100%
 Denominational Ministry Shares: 29%
 Classical Ministry Shares: 100%

CHURCH ATTRIBUTES

Mission:

Our congregation's mission is to be "A community connecting people to God through the love of Jesus, by the power of the Holy Spirit. We do this by making it our mission to develop a bold, Christ-like community that has, and continues to develop relationships that include and encourage ALL people!"

In an exercise led by our Specialized Transitional Minister on November 20, 2016, asking about the congregant's favourite Bible passages, there was an unusual and remarkable degree of unanimity! It became apparent that Zion's passion is for the radical message of divine grace and forgiveness. This exercise was just one small demonstration that the Vision and Mission Statement has become living in the heart of the congregants and is not merely theoretical. It is not a dead document sitting on a shelf, as can sometimes happen in church life. After years of uncertainty in Zion's purpose, Zion is ready for renewal.

Committees:

Consistory

The Consistory works as a team to "oversee the doctrine and life of the congregation and fellow office-bearers. They exercise admonition and discipline along with Pastoral Care in the congregation, participate and promote evangelism and defend the faith"

Number of members: 7

Frequency of meetings: Once per month

Deacons

The Deacons work as a team to show compassion to those who are hurting, to encourage the congregation to be involved and engaged with community ministries, to encourage church members to be stewards of God's creation and to practice stewardship with their time, talents and money. They also encourage the congregation to be advocates *for* and *with* the marginalized and vulnerable people in their own local communities.

Number of members: 4

Frequency of meetings: Once per month

Worship Committee

The Worship Committee is responsible for providing leadership and oversight in planning and preparing worship services that uphold and reflect Zion's vision—a church connecting people to God, to the body of Christ, to the Community and to the World, through the love of Jesus and the power of the Holy Spirit.

Number of members: 7

Frequency of meetings: once per month

Property Committee

The Property Committee is responsible for managing all maintenance and repairs as needed for facilities belonging to Zion Christian Reformed Church. They ensure the church facilities are optimized to support the church ministries and operations in accordance with safety regulations.

Number of members: 8

Frequency of meetings: as required

Personnel Committee

The Personnel Committee is responsible for overseeing the hiring and ongoing performance of the church employees and contract personnel. They are responsible to provide recommendations to council for potential employees, communicate expectations between council and the employees, and provide accountability to the staff.

Number of members: 4

Frequency of meetings: as required

Programs/Ministries:

Food Bank / Meeting at the Well

The Zion/Hope Fellowship Food Bank operates as the hands and feet of Jesus to the poor. They create a welcoming environment and offer a designated amount of food to the clients according to the size of their family along with words of encouragement. The Food Bank is small group of volunteers who serve people in our region who need extra help to make ends meet.

The Meeting at the Well takes place every Thursday for an hour prior to the Food Bank opening. Food Bank clients are invited into the church to watch a Christian program, discuss the material and have an opportunity for prayer with one of our leaders. This gives clients who arrive early to the Food Bank relief from the elements, and an opportunity to be spiritually fed. The Meeting at the Well is not expected to be led by the pastor.

Number of members: 16

Frequency of meetings: once per week

Youth Ministry

The Zion Youth Ministry is responsible to provide an environment that will nurture the relationships of the youth with Jesus Christ. The Youth Program is held weekly and includes time for musical worship, teaching, testimonies, and activities that facilitate a deeper understanding of Jesus.

Number of members: 5 leaders, 10-15 youth (majority are previously un-churched youth from the community)

Frequency of meetings: once per week

Community Groups

Community Groups are small groups of around 6-10 people who gather every other week to live in relationship with each other through conversation, fun activities and through learning and growing in relationship with God!

Number of members: 3 Groups of 6-10 people

Frequency of meetings: Biweekly

North Oshawa Church Plant

Lead by Pastor Jana Koh, Zion is endorsing a CRC church plant in North Oshawa. Pastor Jana has established a small core group that is committed to the plant and is now worshiping once a month in her home.

Relationship with the Denomination:

The congregation is very committed to the CRC denomination. It regularly sends delegates to the Classis meetings, and most members read the Banner Magazine. Zion has not always been able to pay the full denominational shares owing, but it has been able to pay 100% of the Classis Quinte shares, and keeps striving to improve its giving. The congregation has appreciated the insight of classical Church Visitors over the years, and also appreciates the pulpit supply it has received from Classis during its pastoral vacancy.

Church Strengths:

- Friendliness, welcoming
- Hospitality
- Prayer networks
- Outstanding, intentional, blended worship with lots of involvement using the skills and gifts from the congregation
- People frequently emphasize that Zion feels like a safe place and a personal place.

Zion is passionate about prayer groups, their Food Bank, St. Vincent's Kitchen (community organization that feeds homeless), Music, Prayer and community with each other. Zion often holds social events such as breakfasts before the Sunday service, birthday celebrations after Sunday service, pot lucks and Euchre tournaments.

Church Challenges:

- The church has a shortage of people willing to be leaders within consistory, committees and cell groups.
- We are a diverse congregation that is working to find a more unified direction.
- The church needs to be more consistent with our care for sick and ailing
- Discipleship and outreach

Goals/Areas for Growth:

- To keep building upon and encouraging Community Groups so that this initiative continues to work well for the congregation and the community at large.
- To find additional ways in which we can serve the community.
- The hiring of a Children's Ministry Leader to help form a ministry that will help current (though few) children at Zion grow in their relationship with Christ, and that will reach out to our community much like Vacation Bible School.
- Supporting leadership development and growth within current congregants

CHURCH HISTORY

Our Story

On June 1, 1963, the congregation of Hebron CRC in Whitby, Ontario accepted the recommendations of its council to birth a new congregation consisting mainly of members living in the city of Oshawa. The organization of this new church took place on June 27. The memberships of 96 families and 11 single persons were received. Elders and deacons were installed.

Zion extended a call to Rev. D.N. Habermehl from Newmarket, Ontario to be our first pastor in November 1963. He accepted the call and was installed on February 23, 1964. Only two days later council met to take steps to find a place for worship within the city of Oshawa. From the beginning, preparations were underway to have a building of our own. In January 1965, congregation decided to buy a site for the new church building on Adelaide Ave. E. An architect was selected and construction began in May 1965. On December 19, we held our first worship service in the new building.

In the spring of 1977 Rev. Habermehl left us to take up a Home Missions ministry at Hope Centre in Winnipeg, Manitoba. Rev. Peter DeHaan from Hospers, Iowa moved to Oshawa in the fall of 1977 to become Zion's second pastor. September 1983 saw Rev. DeHaan leave for Maranatha CRC in Woodstock. After John Groen served as student pastor for the summer of 1984, Dr. Henry Wildeboer from First CRC in Calgary, Alberta became Zion's next pastor in August of 1984.

The mid-1980s saw much of God's blessing upon Zion as more and more people joined our fellowship. The growth resulted in council deciding in the spring of 1985 to participate in the internship program of our denomination. Three seminarians served us consecutively for one year, each with primary focus in ministry to youth and singles. In 1988, after he was declared a candidate by Synod, Rev. Karl House was called as Zion's second full-time pastor to work with the youth and educational programs of the congregation and stayed with Zion until 1994.

Rev. Arlan Koppendrayer joined Zion to carry the torch as Zion's second full time minister. After 14 fruitful years, Dr. Henry Wildeboer left Zion to pursue a position with CR home missions. Rev. Koppendrayer took over as Zion's lead pastor.

Under the leadership of Rev. Henry Wildeboer, Zion had grown to the point where the church facilities could no longer accommodate the people and ministries of the church. For many years the Zion congregation believed the Lord was leading them to sell their facilities and build a much larger church building in Oshawa. After a number of unsuccessful attempts at taking this step, the congregation went through a "Scenario of Choice" process with Dirk Hart. In 1999, after much deliberation and prayer, the congregation opted to divide. Members could choose to stay with Zion or join the new congregation, capital assets were divided proportionally; Hope Fellowship CRC was born out of the split. Rev. Koppendrayer became Hope Fellowships first pastor.

The years after the split were a struggle for Zion as many people that had functioned in the role of leadership had left to Hope Fellowship. Due to this gap, Zion had difficulties in discovering what her gifts are and in what direction it was being led. During time of flux, Zion leaders expedited the process and hired a minister versus the profiling process. The following years were a slow process of discovery for

Zion; we have seen some long time ministries come to an end and had mixed success with new ones. It has been a challenge for us to find people willing to take up positions of leadership.

Last Three Pastors:

1. Rev. Daniel Zylstra (2009-2015)
2. Rev. John Veenstra (1999-2007)
3. Rev. Arlan Koppendrayer (1994-1999)

What has been the most interesting and challenging event in the life of your church in the last three years?

Hiring a Specialized Transitional Minister was an interesting experience for our church, as it involves an implicit acknowledgement that we do not wish to go immediately from one pastor to another, but wish to take some time out to think about who we are and what we should do. We officially embraced that we need to go through a time of change and reflection which was a unique new challenge for us. Secondly, deciding to put a concentrated, renewed energy into the direction of having “Community Groups” so we could have a place where people could get to know each other and discuss spiritual topics with trained leaders and each other, was a brave, bold step for our church. We had tried in earlier years and the efforts waned, but this time, we made it a major, primary movement. Thirdly, making the decision to replace all the windows and doors in the church as well as reconstructing the kitchen so that it could sustain larger, civic functions (also legally) was a big decision.

What have been the three most important events in the history of your church?

1. The calling of our first pastor, Rev. Habermehl, left a lasting mark on us in terms of his openness and kindness to others. He likely shaped the core characteristics of the congregation.
2. The years of rapid growth during the time of Rev. Wildeboer were exciting and perhaps even somewhat overwhelming.
3. The decision in 1999 to birth a second congregation, Hope Fellowship in Courtice, was in many respects also a traumatic event, as we lost a large number of our members.