



Maranatha Christian Reformed Church

Woodstock, Ontario, Canada

Finding Joy in Following Jesus

Church Profile
in search of a Co-Pastor

Executive Summary

Maranatha is a congregation of 540 members, situated in a young urban area of a small city. We are seeking a full-time Co-Pastor (male or female), who can partner with our current pastor and journey with us as we seek to fulfill God's mission for our church.

What's in the profile:

Who We Are

Our Mission

Living out our mission,

- In Worshiping our God

- In Loving our neighbours

- In Going out and living lives that point to Jesus

- In Helping others find their place and gifts

- In Building believers up as followers of Jesus

Our Leadership & Staff

The Co-Pastor Role

Our Facilities & Finances

Challenges and opportunities to living out our mission

Contact Information

Who we are

Our History

With very humble beginnings, Maranatha Christian Reformed Church has been worshipping and serving God in Woodstock, Ontario for almost 75 years.

After World War II, a large number of Dutch immigrants moved to Canada with many settling in the Woodstock area to farm. Several of these families gathered on Sundays in their various homes to worship together. As the group grew, they began to talk about organizing and becoming a church, and on May 29, 1949, the Christian Reformed Church in Woodstock-Ingersoll was officially formed. As their numbers continued to increase, it was evident that a worship space was needed, and so, by God's Grace and with limited funds they began building the basement portion of what would be their new church.

The following years were years of growth and building. In 1953, 24 families from the neighbouring town of Ingersoll, left to form a church closer to their homes. The remaining 100 families then became First Christian Reformed Church of Woodstock. In 1954, a new building project was begun along the future 401 highway. During this time, the church also took on the building of a Christian school. In 1973, 40 families left to form the Second Christian Reformed Church of Woodstock but in 1977, it was decided that these two congregations would instead divide themselves geographically to serve the north end (Covenant CRC) and south end (Maranatha CRC) of Woodstock.

In August 1979, a tornado struck Woodstock and destroyed both Maranatha's church building and the Christian school. Knox Presbyterian Church of Woodstock graciously shared their facilities with us following the tornado

until we could rebuild. Exactly one year later, the cornerstone of Maranatha's new building was placed in the front wall and the dedication service took place in November 1980.

God has continued to bless us and we outgrew the facility along the 401. With changes to our ministries and the limited versatility of our existing facilities, we decided to relocate and build a new facility in 2009. This move took us out of the increasingly commercialized area near the 401 and into a developing neighbourhood where we could better reach out and serve in our community. We started ministry in the new facility in May 2010 and with the Lord's blessing continues to be our home.

Our Community

Woodstock is a small city (population ~46,000) surrounded by rural counties and smaller towns. Its location along the 401 corridor (Canada's largest and busiest highway) makes it a popular area to live for commuters. Driving 45 minutes in either direction leads you to three larger cities (London, Hamilton, and Kitchener/Waterloo). Woodstock has expanded beyond its rural roots in recent years, becoming a hub for some major industries and factories. Combined with the existing thriving agricultural community, many residents also find employment locally. There is also a growing number of entrepreneurial businesses. Maranatha's facilities are situated in the suburbs of Woodstock.

Membership and Demographics

The City of Woodstock has not traditionally been culturally diverse and Maranatha generally reflected this composition. In recent years, Woodstock has seen substantial growth and has become multicultural. Likewise, even though our congregation still largely reflects its Dutch roots, we are beginning to see a broader diversity within our membership.

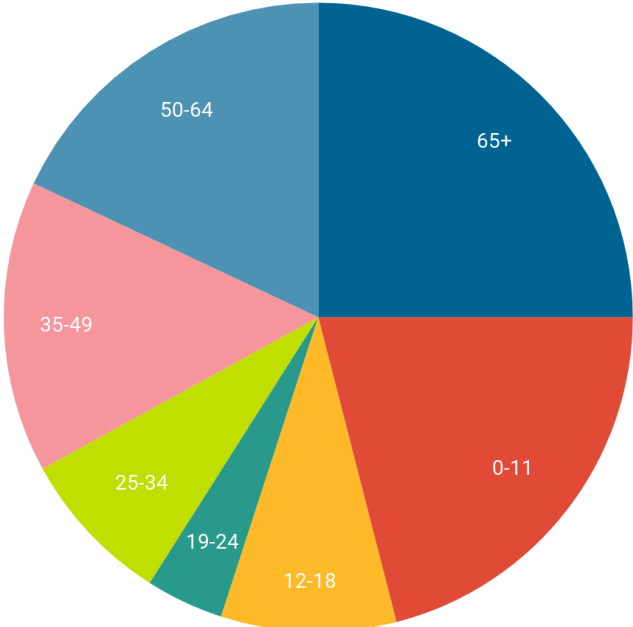
Average Sunday attendance

350

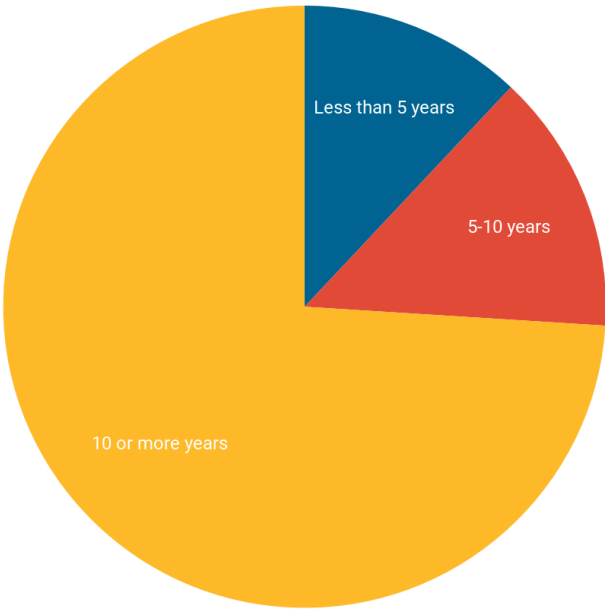
Active adult professing members

293

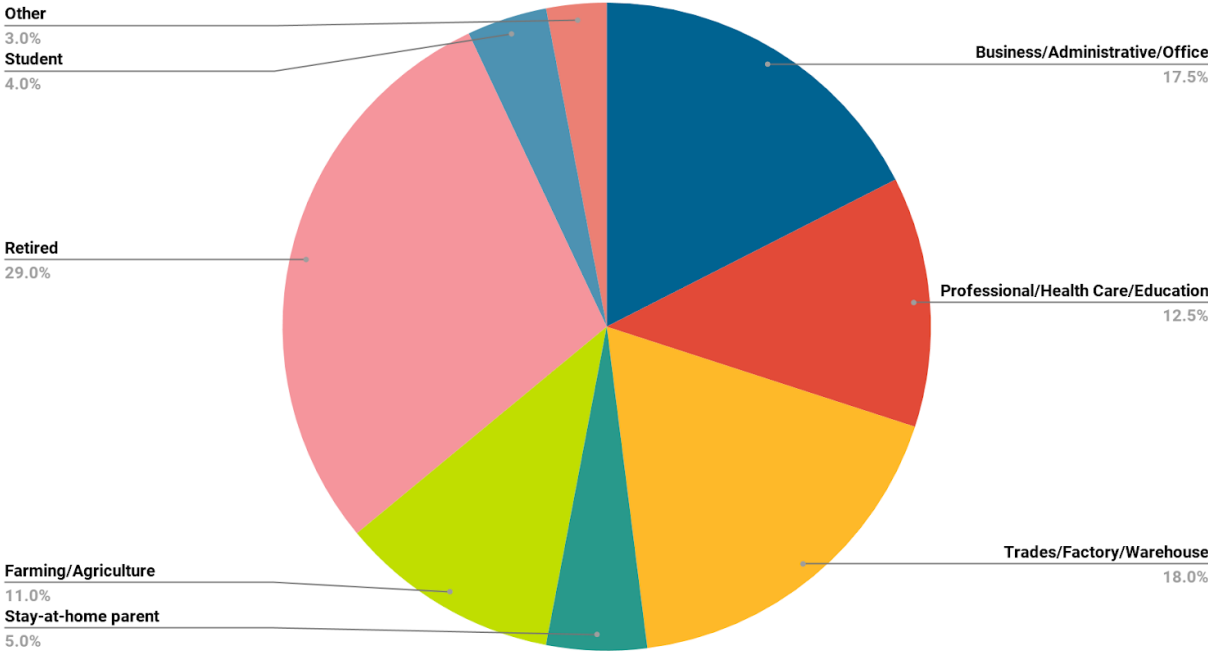
Demographics



Age groups



Years of membership



Occupations

Our Mission: Finding Joy in Following Jesus

How did Christ set this mission upon us?

Our mission statement of "Finding Joy in Following Jesus" speaks to both our gift (joy in Jesus) and our task (following Him).

- It inspires us to consider what joy we have found in Christ and to share it.
- It challenges us to move toward deeper joy in our walk with God.
- It clearly communicates to our neighbours Maranatha's purpose.
- It is solidly biblical. Jesus said "I have told you this..." (about living in the Father's love for us) "so that my joy may be in you and that your joy might be complete." (John 15:11)
- It is deeply reformed. Our catechism asks: What is the coming-to-life of the new self? The answer: "Wholehearted joy in God through Christ and a love and delight to live according to the will of God by doing every kind of good work." (Lord's Day 33, Q&A 90)

Our continued prayer for Maranatha is that in all of our lives, we experience the deep comfort of God's presence and love – for growth, unity and the fullness of Jesus' joy in us.



Living out our mission

Worshipping our God

Worship

In hearing the gospel, we are growing in our relationship with Christ. We value biblical preaching that is relevant, challenging and encourages personal growth in the context of community. We love to worship God together, offering our praise and thanksgiving in the fellowship of believers to feel grounded and prepared for the week ahead.

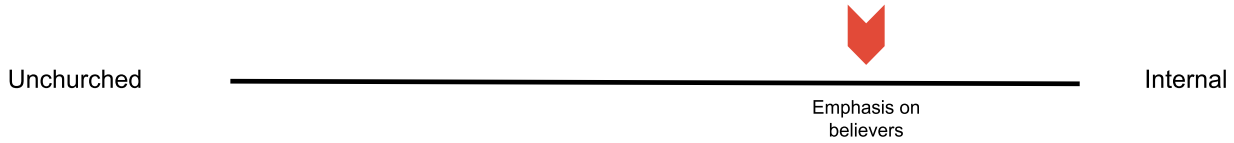
The Director of Worship and Music does the majority of planning and preparation for each service, in collaboration with the pastor, other staff members and church leadership. Maranatha follows a traditional order of worship each week with a blend of traditional music/hymns as well as more contemporary style music. Under the leadership of the Director of Worship and Music, a praise team leads the singing and spoken parts of the liturgy and is accompanied by various instruments. Throughout the year, our congregation looks forward to special services that are planned and led by some of our ministries such as GEMS, Cadets, Youth Group, Sunday School and Friendship. We enjoy and seek out multi-generational participation in our services.

Ecumenical Activities

- Various combined services such as Reformation Day and Palm Sunday with Knox Presbyterian Church, Emmanuel Reformed Church, and Covenant CRC

- Our current pastor is reaching out to other church leaders in Woodstock and surrounding area and building rapport with them.

At Maranatha, **the worship services is designed** for:



At Maranatha, **the style of music used** in the worship service is:



Loving our neighbours

Helping those in need or in trouble

- Grief Share for bereavement support
- Friendship ministry for developmentally challenged adults
- Community Kitchen (in collaboration with Fanshawe College and Indwell)
- Local Soup Kitchen – members of our church serve lunch for two weeks during the winter season
- Family Fun Day - Community building
- Community Easter Egg Hunt
- Diaconal Ministry
- Ministry Shares for Global Ministries

Maranatha's **response to compassion, mercy, and justice needs** is:



Going out and living lives that point to Jesus

Outreach

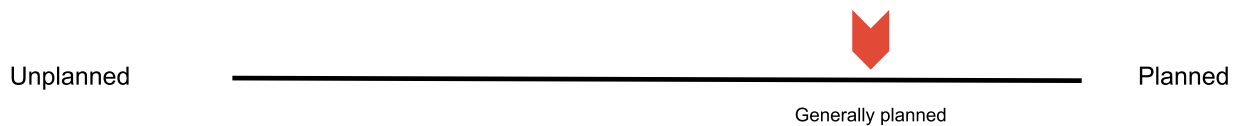
- Cadets hosts an annual road hockey tournament that draws in participants from the community each year
- Facility rentals to community groups
- Partnering with youth groups from other churches

- Community and mission projects such as Operation Sharing, Reverse Collections for Beginnings Pregnancy Care Centre, Teen Challenge Men’s Choir, help for the homeless, Coats for kids, School supplies for local students
- Ministry Shares for Global Ministries
- Participating in organized service and mission trips such as Disaster Relief, World Renew, and Mission to Haiti and Children Of the Promise (Haiti). Maranatha will be hosting and will be sending youth on SERVE trips which have always been a rewarding experience.
- The Community Partnership Team looks for ways to work with agencies and non-profits in our city.

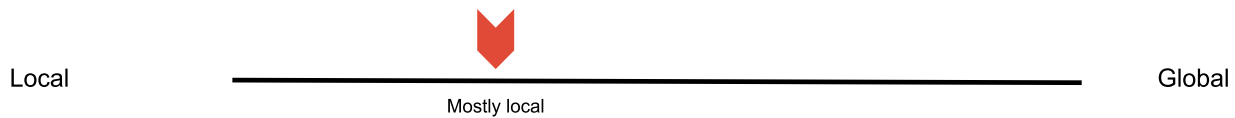
Missionaries we currently support:

- Joseph and Robinah Mutebi - World Renew, Uganda
- Alicia and Maynor Navarette - Nehemiah Centre, Nicaragua
- Anthony and Barbara Pennings - Daystar - Resonate Global Missions, Mindamoya, Ontario

At Maranatha, **evangelism strategies and methods** are:



Maranatha’s **missional focus** is:



Helping others find their place and gifts

We care for one another. Fellowship and pastoral care are our strength and bring us a lot of joy. Our shepherding elders keep in touch with members and seek out opportunities to connect about their spiritual lives. Our Care Team seeks to fill social and emotional needs and strive to build community for all members with various needs. There is a strong sense of community where members use their unique gifts to reach out, encourage growth, and uphold one another in love.

Community-building events

- Newcomer’s luncheon
- Fellowship luncheons/potlucks
- Family Fun Day
- Senior’s Socials
- Fundraising Dinners
- Coffee Social Groups

Building believers up as followers & disciples of Jesus

We care and are passionate about our ministries, particularly in the area of the education and shaping of our children and youth. We wholeheartedly invest in these ministries with our time, prayers, and finances and see multi-generational participation in nearly all our ministries.

Children

- Nursery (children ages 0-3)
- Sunday School (age 3 - grade 3)
- Church School (grades 4-6)
- GEMS (girls grades 4-8); currently ~50% are children of our church
 - Option to continue as a Counselor-in-training (CIT)
- Cadets (boys grades 4-8); currently ~60% are children of our church
 - Option to continue as a Junior Counselor
- Vacation Bible School

Youth

- Catechism (grades 8-10)
- Youth Group (grades 9-12)

Young Adults

- Care package + blankets for out-of-town students
- [Young Adults group \(with other local CRC churches\)](#)

Adults

- Women's Bible Study (weekly; childcare provided)
- Men's Bible Study (weekly)
- Small-Group Ministry
- Pastor's Class/Profession of Faith Class
- Council retreats/training
- Young Adult Retreat
- Friendship



Marantha seeks to **encourage spiritual growth** through:

Formal



Ministries for
selected groups

Informal

Leadership & Staff

Co-Pastor

(Full job description available upon request)

The salary range we are offering the Co-Pastor is based on the CRC Ministry Compensation Survey for our area. The average annual increase for this position over the past three years is 3%

Benefits:

- CRCNA Ministers Pension
- Consolidated Group Insurance Plan (CGI)
- 3 weeks of annual vacation

Allowances/reimbursed expenses:

- Housing allowance (no parsonage)
- Travel/mileage
- Continuing education funds

Current Pastor

- Rev. Ralph Wigboldus

All staff positions

- Co-Pastor
- Co-Pastor (currently vacant)
- Ministry Coordinator (100% position)
- Director of Music & Worship (50% position)
- Administrative Assistant/Secretary/Treasurer
- 2 part-time Custodians

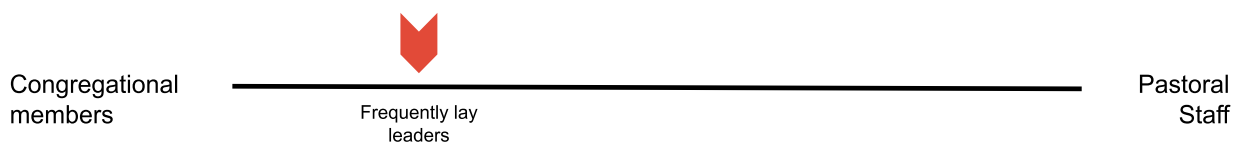
Leadership

Presently, we have 27 council members serving 3-year terms. Full council meets 6-7 times per year.

Council's subgroups

- Administrative Elders meet monthly
- Shepherding Elders meet 10 times a year
 - Youth Care Workers (youth elders) meet bi-monthly or quarterly as needed. Keep in touch with youth that are not regularly attending youth group and the young adults as they go off to college, university, apprenticeships or entering the workforce.
- Deacons meet monthly for matters of relief, benevolence, care
- Ministry Coordinator meets with ministry groups as needed, offers guidances where necessary
- Director of Worship helps to plan services, leads different praise teams and music groups

At Maranatha, **leadership** is provided by the:



Facilities and Finances

Our Facilities

Our current facilities are a one-floor, barrier-free building with a large sanctuary, a variety of classroom and meeting spaces, a library, gymnasium/fellowship hall, commercial kitchen, and office space for all staff.



Our Finances

Present annual budget: \$621 751

Last year's annual budget: \$606 214

Percentage of financial obligations met (last complete year reported):

Budget: 85.57%

Denominational Ministry Shares: 85.57%

Classical Ministry Shares: 100%

Amount contributed above budget and ministry shares: \$118 695 (collection for roof repair and mortgage)

Presently, the **focus of Maranatha's ministries** is:

External



Internal

Current
members/participants
primarily

Challenges and opportunities in living out our mission

A few years ago, we went through a renewal process intending to achieve further spiritual growth in our congregation. This process helped us to identify and start to address some of the challenges our church is facing.

Like many congregations, we experience the ebb and flow of our membership. How do we effectively welcome and enfold new members? How can we meaningfully include young adults in our church, ministries and worship?

We are passionate about our ministries. How can we continue to have our ministries thrive without overcommitting or fatiguing our volunteers? How can we strengthen and build up our volunteers to coordinate these efforts and keep these ministries going strong?

Our church is great at fellowship and loving and caring for one another, but how can we encourage each other to grow as disciples? How can we revitalize our small group ministry?

We want to have a presence in our community. How do we fit into a community that has faced significant change culturally, religiously and socially?

We are facing similar cultural challenges to that of other Christian churches such as relationships, divorce and human sexuality. How do we equip ourselves to minister in these situations in a Christ-like manner?

We are thankful to God for where he has led Maranatha. We invite you to consider if God is calling you here.

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