

**CHURCH PROFILE FORM**  
**Reformed Church in America**

**Section A. Background Information**

Today's Date: 17/06/02

Position to be filled: Pastor

**1. Name of church:** Bethel Reformed Church

**2. Web address:** www.bethereformed.ca

**3. Mailing address:** 506 West Street  
Street

Brantford, Ontario, N3R 3W7  
City / Province / Postal Code

**4. Telephone:** (519) 752-111      **E-Mail address:** pastor@bethelreformed.ca

**5. Classis:** The Classis of Ontario, Inc.

**6. Classis Supervisor:** Rev. Stan Seagren

Address: Street 201 Paradise Road North

Hamilton, Ontario, L8S 3T3  
City / Province / Postal Code

Telephone: (905) 527-0998      **E-Mail address:**  
office.westdalereformed@gmail.com

**7. Chair of search committee:** Guido Groeliker (for now)

Address:  
Street 32 Clara Crescent

Brantford, Ontario, N3S 7C9  
City / Province / Postal Code

Telephone: ( 519 ) 753-1621 or 755-8113 (Cell)      **E-Mail address:** ggroeliker@gmail.com

**8. Membership:**

	Five years ago	Today
Active Confessing Members	125	116
Inactive Confessing Members	1	11

Comment on significant changes:

**There has not been a significant change over the past five year**

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**9. Age of all active members (baptized and confessing)**

25	%	0-20 years old
8	%	20-34 years old
7	%	35-49 years old
6	%	50-64 years old
54	%	65 years and older

**10. Racial/Ethnic composition of congregation:**

1	%	African American
1	%	Asian
98	%	Caucasian
na	%	Hispanic
na	%	Other: please specify)

**11. Worship schedule: Average Attendance (includes adults and children)**

Time of worship	Average attendance	Average attendance
	Five years ago	Today
10 am	125	100

Comment on significant changes:

**Audience has dropped 25 members in the last 5 years. Congregation has gotten older and it is harder for some people to make to church of a regular basis**

**12. Describe a typical worship service** (order of worship, music, etc.) What is your congregation's preferred style or styles of worship? Attach a bulletin, if available.

**We had blended worship with new and older songs. We stick with the RCA liturgy. We have the praise team lead in two services a month. In the second of these, the team leads all the songs of the service, and is involved in the liturgy as well.**

**13. Financial Information:**

Attach a copy most recent Consistorial Report and Annual Budget if available.

	Five Years Ago	Today
Total RCA related contributions	\$	\$
Total other contributions	\$	\$

Percentage of total budget contributed by living donors:

100-90 %	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
75-89 %	<input type="checkbox"/>
60-74 %	<input type="checkbox"/>
45-59 %	<input type="checkbox"/>
44 % or less	<input type="checkbox"/>

(Please include a copy of your annual budget)

**Congregational Giving:**

Number of those whose annual contribution is:

Less than \$500	12
\$501- \$1,500	23
\$1,501- \$2,500	13
\$2,501-\$3,500	8
Greater than \$3,500	18

**Financial assistance:**

Do you receive financial assistance beyond the congregation? (rents, etc.)

Yes  No 

If yes, amount received last year: \$

List other fundraising programs that support the church:

**14. Church/Sunday School:****Average Attendance**

Average attendance Five years ago	Average attendance Today
20-25	14

**Comment on significant changes:**

Families have moved away, families do not come every week like they used to, and some have lost interest in church all together.

Describe briefly all educational programs (including children, young adult, adult).

Sunday School JK - Grade 6 leave after the morning sermon

Youth Group Grades 7-12 meets twice a month on Friday nights

Fusion Family Parents and children meets once a month on a Sat. Night

Tuesday Night Bible Study – mainly for adults – about 10 members

Our Sunday School materials come from Great Commission Publishing and is connected to the Catechism.

**Church groups/organizations:** Briefly describe ministry purpose of each group.  
(use separate sheet if necessary)

Name of group	Frequency of Meeting (i.e. weekly, bi-monthly, etc)	Attendance
RCWM	every other week	12-14
Coffee Hour	every other week	12-14
Women of the Word	every other week	4-8
St Joe's Ministry	once a month lead in singing with residents	8-12

Blessing Centre	Once a month Soup kitchen	6-10
Men's Breakfast	Once a month	8-16
Ridder Leadership	Weekly later	6
Diaper Sewing	Once a month for nations in need	
Thursday Night Prayer Group	weekly	4-8
VBS	Once a year	45-75
Kentucky Trip	Every other year Homes Inc.	
Operation Christmas	Once a year	

List one event or experience over the last year that has significantly contributed to the spiritual life of the congregation.

**The Good Friday Services 2016 when the young people led the service. The VBS 2016 was a huge success, and our beginning relationship with an elementary school nearby.**

**15. Buildings:**

Please describe church-owned or rented buildings and purpose.

**The Parsonage: depending on our new pastor the parsonage might be sold if he/she desires to buy own home.**

**The Church facilities**

Do you plan any capital expenditure during the next five years? Yes  No

If yes, please explain briefly:

**Only if something comes us, i.e. the furnace**

Is there a mortgage indebtedness? Yes  No

Amount: \$

Of how long standing?

Annual rate of repayment

Pastor's study:

In church  in parsonage  Other  Not Provided

**16. List all paid staff in addition to the pastor:**

Position	
	Full time <input type="checkbox"/> Part time <input type="checkbox"/>
	Full time <input type="checkbox"/> Part time <input type="checkbox"/>

**17. Consistory Membership:**

What method is used in selecting members?

The Consistory considers the names offered by the congregation. They make up a slate which is voted on by the Congregation.

**18. Please list present Consistory members**

Put a check in the box where appropriate:

Elder	Deacon	Male	Female	Occupation
✓	<input type="checkbox"/>	✓	<input type="checkbox"/>	Retired
✓	<input type="checkbox"/>	✓	<input type="checkbox"/>	Retired
✓	<input type="checkbox"/>	✓	<input type="checkbox"/>	Retired
✓	<input type="checkbox"/>	✓	<input type="checkbox"/>	Retired
<input type="checkbox"/>	✓	✓	<input type="checkbox"/>	Team Leader – MFG Plant
<input type="checkbox"/>	✓	✓	<input type="checkbox"/>	Technician – MFG Plant
<input type="checkbox"/>	✓	✓	<input type="checkbox"/>	Accountant
<input type="checkbox"/>	✓	✓	<input type="checkbox"/>	Welder/pipfitter

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**19. What leadership roles do women currently fill in your church?**

Our Consistory is currently all men, but women have served in the capacity over the years.  
 Women's groups      Fusion Group      Youth Group      Blessing Centre  
 St Joe's Ministry      VBS      Diaper sewing

**20. In our congregation...(please check appropriate box)**

	Few have...	Many have...	Most have...
Had up to twelve years of formal education			✓
Had some education beyond high school		✓	
A college degree	✓		
A graduate degree	✓		

**21. In our congregation...(please check a box)**

	Few are...	Many are...	Most are...
Scientists & Engineers	✓		
Farmers	✓		
Business People	✓		
Students & Teachers		✓	
Industrial Workers		✓	
Office Workers	✓		
Other:		✓	

**22. Special training/experience desired: (Describe briefly)**

A pastor who is willing to minister to our young families

**23. Languages:**

Should your pastor be fluent in any language other than English?

Yes  No  If yes, please explain.

**24. The salary we are prepared to offer our new pastor is according to the Canadian Ministers Salary and Benefits Guidelines, which are enclosed.**

The average annual increase to our pastor over the past three years was \$  
Please see the current budget which is enclosed.

**25. Is a parsonage provided? Yes  No**   
**Although the church is planning to sell. It will depend on the new pastor**

If so, is it on site with the church? Yes  No

If the parsonage is not on site with the church, how far from the church is it located?  
**about 5 Kilometers**

Is a Minister's housing allowance in lieu of a parsonage a negotiable option?  
Yes  No

**26. The benefits/business expenses we will provide our pastor are:**  
(Please check those provided or give amount as requested.)

These are all based on the Salary Guidelines as given by the Regional Synod of Canada.

The Guidelines are enclosed.

Base Salary	\$
Housing Allowance	\$
Parsonage provided? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Travel Reimbursement	\$
Social Security (Amount)	\$
Book Allowance (Amount)	\$

Continuing Education Allowance (Amount)	\$
Provision for Sabbatical	\$
Other (Specify Below)	\$
<b>TOTAL</b>	\$

Yes  No  Retirement  
 Yes  No  Major Medical Insurance  
 Yes  No  Health/Hospital Insurance  
 Yes  No  Life Insurance  
 Yes  No  Dental Insurance  
 Yes  No  Unemployment Insurance  
 Yes  No  Disability Insurance

**All of these are included**

Annual Vacation (Number of Weeks)  
 4 Weeks including four Sundays

Necessary Comments regarding above:

**27. Community served: (please check one)**

Rural: Under 2,500	<input type="checkbox"/>
Town: 2,500-9,999	<input type="checkbox"/>
Small City: 10,000-49,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
Metropolitan-Suburban: 50,000+	<input type="checkbox"/>
Metropolitan-Urban: 50,000+	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Metropolitan-Inner City: 50,000+	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other:	<input type="checkbox"/>

*Cooperative ministry:*

In what ways have you cooperated with other churches in your community during the past year?

Church services with Hope CRC as well as with ONEchurch (Ministerial)  
 Proclamation – the reading through the Bible  
 Chaplain at the Hospital  
 World Day of Prayer  
 VBS  
 Ministerial (ONEchurch)

*Community involvement:*

In what community programs or projects have you participated during the past year?  
 (As an organization, not as individuals.)

St Joseph's Music Ministry      Prince Charles Elementary School  
 Blessing Centre (Soup Kitchen)      Brantford Christian School  
 Camp Shalom      Layettes      RCW making soup mix for people in need  
 Joy and Hope of Haiti

What denominations or religions are present within three miles (in rural areas, consider the county) where your church is located?

CRC	Roman Catholic	Baptist	Presbyterian
Mormon	Pentecostal	Sikh	Lutheran
Church of Christ	Anglican	Islam	

**28. Outreach:**

What is your strategy to reach un-churched people in your community?

- We are refocusing our mission and vision statements to help focus on the neighbourhood
- BBQ nite during VBS

**29. The income level** of the people in our congregation tends to be: (please check one)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	About average for our community
<input type="checkbox"/>	Somewhat below the rest of the community

<input type="checkbox"/>	Somewhat higher than the rest of the community
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**30. Describe the community and school system:**

(Provide website links were appropriate.)

The closest school to the church is Prince Charles Elementary School

<http://www.granderie.ca/schools/princecharles/Pages/Homepage.aspx#.WTLqCMa1tEY>

The closest High School is North Park

<http://www.granderie.ca/schools/npcvs/Pages/default.aspx#.WTLqisa1tEZ>

Brantford Christian School

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

There are other schools in the area as well, but these are in located near the church.

**31. Record of last three pastors:**

Name	Dates
Abram Blaak	2002 to present
Tom VanderSchaaf	1997 to 2000
Rev Dr John Muller	1994 to 1997

**32. Please complete your profile with the following contacts:**

<b>Name</b>	
Simon deBoer 519-752-9433	<u><a href="mailto:Ssdeboer@rogers.com">Ssdeboer@rogers.com</a></u>
Rev. Stan Seagren (905) 527-0998 <u><a href="mailto:office.westdalereformed@gmail.com">office.westdalereformed@gmail.com</a></u>	Vice President, Consistory  Classis Supervisor

## **Section B. Reflections**

Please answer the following questions, adding your own experiences where appropriate.

**1. What is the stated mission, vision or purpose of your congregation?**

The mission Statement reads: Sharing Christ in Community.

This new Mission emphasizes our need to worship and serve our Saviour **communally** (together as a congregation) as well as our **responsibility** to share our Saviour with the **community** around us.

The following Vision for Bethel describes some ways how we will become an effective church in carrying out that Mission:

**Vision:** As a congregation, in everything we do, we will strive to be welcoming and compassionate to those who have none or limited understanding of Christianity.

Our Worship services will be welcoming, relevant, celebratory, engaging and understandable to all, including those new in the Faith.

Our special events will be welcoming, fun and inclusive, particularly to young families. We will **seek out** opportunities to include and invite the unchurched.

We will have a range of engaging and intentional small groups to help us grow in faith, wisdom and community.

In all we do we will be open to what is relevant and effective in the current culture, as long as it is in accordance with Scripture and our Reformed creeds.

**2. What goals have been developed from your mission and vision over the next 5 years?**

(Example new programs or outreach ministries.) Include long range or strategic plan.

We have just begun the process of developing goals. A Committee is being set up, along with our Ridder Leadership Team, to discuss and search out the goals we might need to set up.

**3. Describe the strengths of your church, the best of what you are as a community, and what you can offer a new pastor.**

Worship, fellowship times, working together on projects, good volunteer base, strong inter-generational bonds, the new pastor (and family) will be part of the greater family, welcoming to new people, supportive and encouraging in giving people space and place to grow.

**4. Explain the strategies or ideas that most excite your church in becoming or remaining missional.**

Have someone work with families both inside and outside of the church  
Serving the needs of the community  
Contact with Missionaries

**5. Name three of your church's most passionate hopes and why they are significant.**

Keep and grow young families while remaining faithful to God's Word  
Get out into the community  
Influence the local public school (Prince Charles)

**6. How do you hope someone who visits your church would describe what s/he considers to be most important?**

Welcoming, good sermon, scripturally based, uplifting music  
services are on the screen  
that we teach truth, and don't fluff up the Gospel to bring in new members  
people feel welcomed and have a sense of our fellowship

**7. Name at least one challenge facing your new pastor.**

The different needs and wants when it comes to generations  
Leadership training, and more willingness by people to be trained

**8. Describe your vision and hopes for your church and your pastor over the next 5 years.**

To keep and grow the people who are here already  
to grow people into discipleship  
programs for our youth  
Elders visits to our homes

Community involvement  
make some changes in music and praise team involvement

**9. Explain what ever else you would like your potential pastor to know about your church.**

Bethel Church is firmly established, but is willing to change where it needs to  
Blending of hymns and praise songs in each service  
Have structure in worship, but freedom to make changes in the service (Testimonies, awesome God stories, etc)  
There are cliques in the church which can make things uncomfortable at times  
There is a great need for our new pastor to be youth focussed (children, youth and families)  
It is time for Bethel Church to step out of the “box” and become daring  
We love and appreciate our pastor.

Reformed Church in America  
Office of Ministry Services

Release Statement

We, The Consistory of the Bethel Reformed Church of Brantford, Ontario, acknowledge that the information in this Church Profile is accurate and complete. We authorize the Office of Ministry Services (OMS) to release this profile to designated recipient(s) seeking positions as ordained Ministers of Word and Sacrament, including posting of this profile on the RCA website.

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Signature of Search Team Chairperson or Designated

Date

## The road ahead for Bethel?

The question mark in the title is there for a reason. Our Small group (Pastor Bram, Simon, Bert, Mike, Gloria and I) has been praying and thinking and conversing about our congregation for the past six weeks and prior to that as the Ridder team. It is time to present to the congregation what we believe is the God intended road ahead for Bethel. By listening to this presentation we hope to mobilize you into thinking and praying and conversing about Bethel **with** us and that together we may develop a new Mission and Vision for Bethel, in accordance with God's Will.

In order to determine where God wants us to go it is wise to establish first where we are today. We call that our 'Current Reality'.

Bethel started over six decades ago as a typical Immigrant church. Mostly new Dutch immigrants looked for a place to worship God in the Reformed tradition, much the same as they did in the 'Old Country'. The influx of immigrants was steady and growth of the church followed. Families were blessed with many children and the church continued to grow. There never was a need to look too far beyond our walls because growth was almost automatic.

Our Mission work consisted of mostly financial support of various local and Missions abroad, and of course, in good Dutch tradition, hard work at various local Missions. Most of us have never been too eager to go and share our Faith in a personal way with strangers, or even friends and neighbours.

Our Congregation was blessed and has been a blessing in many ways over those decades. However, reflecting honestly we must admit that some things have not gone so well. As a congregation we failed to instill the need in many of our children to worship communally and many even wandered away from the Faith. Families also became smaller and as a result we are now a very typical declining church. In our *Current Reality* we are not equipped to attract new members, and young families in particular.

There are many other reasons for the very typical decline that we are in: We all have witnessed our Canada change rapidly into what some call a 'Post Christian' society. Around us live thousands upon thousands of people who do not know Christ and do not even know what it means to be a Christian. Our children are bombarded with counter Christian messages and activities and most adults (including us) have found a busyness and level of distraction with modern life that has taken us away from what we know is most important.

The conclusion appears to be obvious: If we, as the Bethel congregation, keep doing what we have been doing and in the way we have been doing it, the writing is on the wall. The Question is: 'Are we OK with that?'. Our small group, through prayer and discussion, has arrived at our answer to that question. It is a resounding 'No'. We have come to believe that God still has a fruitful and wonderful future in mind for Bethel and we hope you will agree wholeheartedly.

At first glance the future may seem bleak but Christ still reigns! He told us that 'the harvest is plentiful but the workers are few'. All around us is a huge harvest, which includes our community as well as our children and our children's children. What we need to become is effective disciples in today's society!!

Some churches have understood this much sooner than we have. They were able to freely and objectively look at today's harvest and figure out how to convey Christ's message in a clear and relevant way to them. They were willing to lose any and all traditions that had become a stumbling block to the lost.

If we are to flourish again as a congregation we also have to shake off the old and start anew with the Gospel and Christ's leading as our only guide. None of our human traditions may hold us back in becoming a congregation who draws back those who have left and draws in those who have never heard .

As a small group we have read and studied some excellent books on why so many churches today are failing and what can be done to become an effective and fruitful church in this present age. We would love to share what we have learned in a Visioning meeting that we have scheduled for ..... In that meeting there will also be plenty of time for discussion and sharing of ideas. We strongly encourage you to participate in that meeting! Your input and support is very much appreciated!!

Now, in preparation for that meeting and as food for thought let us present to you our preliminary thoughts on a new Mission and how we think we could accomplish that Mission:

Bethel's Mission statement today: Bethel Reformed Church is a family of believers committed to encouraging one another to boldly follow Christ, bringing the Gospel to a lost and suffering world. By using our God-given gifts and resources in obedience to God's Word, we will give Him glory!

Proposed new Mission statement: Sharing Christ in Community

We like this new Mission; it is short, simple and emphasizes our need to worship and serve our Saviour **communally** (together as a congregation) as well as our **responsibility** to share our Saviour with the **community** around us.

The following Vision for Bethel describes some ways how we will become an effective church in carrying out that Mission:

Vision: As a congregation, in everything we do, we will strive to be welcoming and compassionate to those who have none or limited understanding of Christianity.

Our Worship services will be welcoming, relevant, celebratory, engaging and understandable to all, including those new in the Faith.

Our special events will be welcoming, fun and inclusive, particularly to young families. We will seek out opportunities to include and invite the unchurched

We will have a range of engaging and intentional small groups to help us grow in faith, wisdom and community.

In all we do we will be open to what is relevant and effective in the current culture, as long as it is in accordance with Scripture and our Reformed creeds.

## The Road Ahead For Bethel – part II

As you all know we have congregated here today to explore further 'The Road Ahead For Bethel'. We hope to adopt a new Mission and Vision and initiate implementation. This is the agenda we plan to follow for this meeting:

1. Summary of what was discussed in our Congregational Meeting
  - Our current reality
  - God's intended future
  - Proposed new Mission and Vision
2. Examples of how our church may change
3. The level of commitment it will take from all of us
4. Motion to adopt the new Mission and Vision for Bethel
5. Question and Discussion period
6. Implementation task force
7. Celebration

**Our Current Reality:** For many reasons we have become a declining church which, like so many others, will struggle to be around in 10 years. In our current state we simply are not effective in carrying out our responsibility to be disciples and make disciples in the world today!

In our discussion time later on we can talk about some of the ways the culture around us has changed and why these changes require a different approach to discipleship.

**God's Intended Future:** We believe that God expects us to become relevant and effective in the culture, community and times in which we live. We strongly believe that our Theology is relevant today and will stand firm and unchanged. **What** we do as a church and **how** we do it, is what has to change so that we may reach and reap the harvest.

Proposed new Mission statement: **Sharing Christ in Community**

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## **2 Examples of how our church may change:**

In the most recent RCA today was an article about Fellowship Reformed Church in Michigan, a church much like ours. Through God's providence and the Spirit's leading this church has become an incredible blessing to the disabled community in Muskegon.

For Bethel, God's intended Mission may be similar, yet entirely different. For several years now we have agreed as a congregation that Youth and young families should be our passion and focus. We have taken some small steps toward that and must ensure we continue to move forward.

God may already have presented us with a new opportunity; We have started to support Prince Charles School in various ways and it may have opened the opportunity to share Christ with many children and their (often single parent) families.

Since we agree that Youth and young families are our future, we should pay particular attention to what they have to say about engaging worship services, small groups and children ministries. If this means we have to leave behind some of our beloved traditions, we must be prepared to do so, if we like it or not.

We may have to abandon longstanding and very worthwhile missions in order to free up time, energy and resources for more effective and relevant activities for the here and now and the future.

## **3 The level of commitment it will take from us**

As a congregation we have already reached a point where resources are limited. Those who are actively involved in the church are often involved in other ministries as well. Many of our members are 'advancing in age' and feel they have little left to give. Most who serve feel like they are already stretched to the limit.

When we commit to our new Mission and Vision we have to understand as a congregation that we also commit to:

- making Bethel a priority in our busy schedules,
- being intentional and strategic in our efforts to carry out the Mission,
- being helpful, positive and open towards our Mission,
- actively invite and try to involve friends and family in our church.

## **The Motion: Motion to adopt the new Mission and Vision for Bethel**

### **Questions, Comments and Discussion**

### **Invitation to join the task force for implementation**

### **Celebration**

## **BETHEL REFORM CHURCH, 506 WEST STREET BRANTFORD ONTARIO.**

**Brantford is a city in southern Ontario with a population of approx. 100,000 people. It is surrounded by Brant county which has a population of approx. 40,000 people. HWY 403 runs through Brantford which gains you quick access to Toronto (1hr), Buffalo NY (1.5 hrs), and Detroit which is 3 hrs away. Brantford is also close to London, Kitchener and Hamilton. There is also the GO bus service link from Brantford to the Aldershot train station.**

**Brantford has lots of shopping including stores like Sears, Wal-mart, Zehrs, Canadian Tire, Lowes, Home Depot, and many others.**

**Brantford school boards include the Brantford Christian school (grades K-8). There is the Hamilton District Christian High School in Ancaster (28 mins from Brantford. The Grand Erie Board (Public schools) and the separate board.**

**Brantford has a wide variety of restaurants that serve Canadian, Italian, Greek, Chinese, Thai, Vietnamese, and Indian food.**

**Brantford has 1 University- Wilfred Laurier**

**Brantford has many parks and bike trails around the city that follow the Grand River which goes right through the entire city.**

**Brantford is also close to Lake Erie where numerous beaches can be found in Port Dover, Turkey Point and Long Point which can be reached from Brantford in under an hour.**

**The Sanderson Centre for the performing arts is a heritage theatre and concert hall. It hosts a variety of musical acts and theatrical performances throughout the year. Harmony Square which is located across from the Sanderson Centre has free skating in the winter and hosts numerous community events throughout the year. Earl Haig is a seasonal water park run by the city that all kids and adults enjoy on those hot days. There are numerous golf courses in the area.**

**Brantford has hockey, baseball, soccer, lacrosse and football leagues for all ages. We are the hockey tournament capital of the world!!!**

## **Brantford is only 25kms from Countryside Camp (Camp Shalom).**

13197 10th Street and 3731 11th Street Brantford  
2794-2796 3333 3335 3337 3339 3341

20000+ acre park featuring a mix of modern amenities and traditional  
camping in a natural setting and there are over 1000 sites available.  
Whether you're looking for a quiet campsite or a group campsite, there's something for everyone.  
There are also many facilities available including a swimming pool, a beach, a  
campground, a playground, a boat launch, and a golf course.

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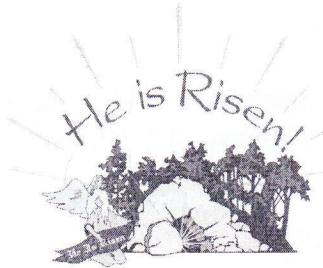
## Brief History of Bethel Reformed Church in Brantford

To accommodate the influx of the many Dutch Immigrants in the late 1940's and early 1950's – home Church services were held weekly in Villa Nova with 5-6 families attending. A minister from St. Catherines came weekly to lead the service. This was continued by a lay preacher Mr. Neil Eelmon. As the Church attendance grew the families then met at Bealton United Church for their service. This was in the Waterford area.

At about the same time a group of the Reformed faith was meeting together in Burford which is now (maybe was then) the Rebekah Hall. Their attendance too was growing with the large families immigrating to Canada.

An amiable separation took place with the Burford group – half going to Woodstock and the remaining Burford families joining the Bealton families to worship together at the YMCA in Brantford. This was for approximately 3 years. When the opportunity was right the Church on Cayuga Street in Brantford was bought and services were held there.

In 1984 a new Church was built at 506 West Street in Brantford and the Cayuga Street Church was sold.



**THE BETHEL  
REFORMED CHURCH**  
**APRIL 16, 2017**  
*Easter Sunday*

**Welcome to Bethel Reformed Church.**

Nursery is available for our young children. Sunday School for our children will meet after the morning sermon.

There are large print bulletins for those whose eyes need a bit of help; and ear phones for the hard of hearing.

**The Celebration God in Worship**

*The Prelude*

“Resurrection Joy”      “The Risen Christ”

John Romkes

*The Welcome to Worship*

\**The Call to Worship*

\**The Opening Prayer and God’s Greeting*

\**The Songs of Praise*      “He Paid the Debt”  
                                  “O Happy Day”      “In Christ Alone”

The Praise Team

*The Prayer of Confession and God’s Pardon*

*The Litany of Praise*

Isaiah 12 (Responsively)

*The Songs of Assurance*

# 225:1,2,3 (HWC)

“Worship Christ the Risen King”

**God Speaks Through His Word**

*The Children’s Time*

*The Prayer for Illumination*

\**The Scripture Reading*      Matthew 28:1-11

Simon deBoer

L. The Word of the Lord.

**P. Thanks be to God!**

*The Sermon:*      “I make everything new”

Isaiah 25:6-9

\**The Confession of Faith*

\**The Hymn*      “The Day of Resurrection”

# 226:1.3 (HWC)

**We Offer Our Prayers and Our Gifts**

The Prayers of the Congregation

*The Offertory*

\**The Offertory Prayer*

**Young People in College:**

Alex deVries

Nemy, Bersaly Dolciné

Maddy Henderson

Stephanie Mol

Charlene, Katrina and

Pamela Vellenga

**Missionaries**

Tom and Aïchatou

Johnston (Niger)

**Armed Forces**

Cpl Brian Blaak

Capt. John Hooyer

Cpl Josh Hooyer

**We Go Out With Faith in God**

\**The Closing Song*

“Thine is the Glory”

# 227 (HWC)

\**The Benediction*

“Christ the Lord is Risen Today”

# 217:1 (HWC)

\**The Response*

“Intrada and Choral”

## SERVING SCHEDULE:

### Greeters

April 16 Marianne Detmar, Fred and Maria De Vries  
April 23 Dina Foster, Guido and Gloria Groeliker  
April 30 Jeremy and Erica Henderson, Nellie Hooyer

### Coffee Time Cleanup

April 16 Henk & Minie de Boer, Jeremy & Erica Henderson  
April 23 Mike & Sandra Veer, Rinnie Lowe  
April 30 Anna Goettsch, Jim Devries

### Nursery

Apr 16 - Shelley Kouwen and Cheri Vlieger  
Apr 23 - Ginette Yeh and Sara Blaak  
Apr 30 - Carol Vellenga and Brian Zondag

### Visual

April 16 Sandra Veer  
April 23 John Vos  
April 30 Guido Groeliker

### OFFERING March 26, 2017

General: \$ 3,267.37      Camp Shalom: \$ 685.00  
Building: \$ 190.00      Teen Challenge: \$ 655.00

***The Mission for the Month*** of April is Countryside Camp and Conference Centre (Camp Shalom).

### Weekly Readings: "Easter Readings"

Monday	Acts 2:14, 22-28
Tuesday	Acts 2:29-32
Wednesday	Psalm 16
Thursday	1 Peter 1:3-9
Friday	John 20:19-23
Saturday	John 20:24-31

## ***This Week At Bethel***

### ***Sunday, April 16, Easter***

10:00 a.m. Christ the Lord is Risen!! Death cannot hold our Saviour. Neither does death have hold of those who believe that Jesus alone is the Resurrection and the Life! Our lesson comes from Matthew 28:1-10, that great Resurrection story.

There is NO Sunday School for our Children today.

### ***Monday, April 17***

9:30 a.m. Ridder Leadership Group meeting in Pastor's office

### ***Tuesday, April 18***

9:00 a.m. Layettes (See Marian VN if you are interested in going.)

7:30 p.m. Bible Study – Hebrews 6

### ***Wednesday, April 19***

9:30 a.m. RCW Lesson 8. Minie is doing the lesson. Lyn and Jannie VDH are hostesses.

### ***Thursday, April 20***

7:30 p.m. Prayer Night - all are invited to come.

### ***Saturday, April 22***

8:30 a.m. Men's Breakfast

### ***Sunday, April 23, The Second Sunday of Easter***

10:00 a.m. Easter celebrates the resurrection of Jesus, the Lord of life. For those living in the "fog of despair," how does this then become the Good News for life? Our lesson comes from John 20:19-31.

Sunday School meets after the sermon.

***NOTE: Announcements for the bulletin have to be in by Wednesday evening. Thank you.***

**Pray for the Regional Synod of Canada AGM April 19-21.** The Regional Synod of Canada is a network of RCA churches across Canada ([www.synodcanada.com](http://www.synodcanada.com)). Each year our executive board members gather for an Annual General Meeting to pray and plan for the mission and ministry of the synod. This year our board members from across Canada will meet with ecumenical guests and mission partners at Forestview RCA church in Grimsby, Ontario from April 19-21. Please pray for us: that God would direct our meetings through the power of the Holy Spirit; that we would have wisdom, vision, and joy in the work we do; and that everything would be for the glory of God and the furtherance of the kingdom.

**Youth of Yesterday Wednesday, May 3.** Please contact Katie Winter at 519-900-3451 to confirm you are going on our Field Trip to ... Ontario Christian Gleaners, 1550 Morrison Road in Cambridge for an Open House Tour. This wonderful ministry involves 40 to 50 volunteers gathering five days a week to prepare 4 million servings a year of dried soup mix from surplus food. Then, 38 different mission organizations use this product to feed the hungry in 22 countries! We return to enjoy lunch together at King's Buffet. We will be meeting in the parking lot at Hope CRC at 9:45 am to car pool.

**Time to celebrate with a wedding shower for Pamela and Justin** on May 3rd at 7pm at Bethel Reformed Church. There a signup sheet on the board. For gift ideas go to [MyRegistry.com](http://MyRegistry.com) under "Pamela Vellenga and Justin Bos". Be sure to update the registry if you purchase an item listed. See you at the shower!

**VBS Craft Supplies:** I am starting to collect supplies for crafts at Vacation Bible School. Right now, I am looking for the round metal lids from frozen concentrate juice cans. If you have some, you can drop them off in the container on the window sill in the kitchen. Thank you! Carol

**Christian Education for the Common Good, May 6 and June 2**

Dr. Andrew Bennett, Canada's first ambassador for religious freedom, will speak in Hamilton and Ottawa on the need for Christian education to shape Christian public voices. For more information, and to register, visit [www.redemer.ca/faith150](http://www.redemer.ca/faith150).

**There are many opportunities for community events on the bulletin board in the hallway.** We invite you to take note of them.

**How to Be in Touch with Us:**

Pastor Abram Blaak

519-758-0558 (H)

Phone: 519-752-1114 (C),

Fax: 519-759-8811 (C)

Cell: 519-732-3626

[www.bethelreformed.ca](http://www.bethelreformed.ca)

[pastor@bethelreformed.ca](mailto:pastor@bethelreformed.ca)

**Happy Easter**

Christ's empty grave is proof that no matter how bad things may seem, there is always hope for a new day. May

God revive all your dreams and hopes this Easter.

Rejoice in Easter.

[wordings.snydle.com](http://wordings.snydle.com)

