

Maranatha Christian Reformed Church Church Profile Cover Letter

A Snapshot of Our Church History:

York Maranatha CRC is situated in the small village of York, in Haldimand County. We are mere steps from the Grand River, just south of Hamilton. Our membership is spread throughout a large rural area from the various nearby communities.

Maranatha CRC was formed in 1957 following the growth of Ebenezer CRC Jarvis, our Mother Church. From a meeting in March 1957 to introduce the possibility of starting a new church to just seven months later, Maranatha CRC of York was formed on October 4th. Some 26 families purchased a small school house which were the humble beginnings of Maranatha CRC. Just as we read in the book of Acts on several occasions that the church was growing, God answered our prayers as growth was taking place. Within a few years an addition to the building was needed, followed by a new building in 1970 and a major expansion in 2015. Throughout our existence, we have been blessed with caring, kind and compassionate pastors. Our last three were: Reverend John Postuma from 1989 to 2001, Reverend Martin Dam from 2002 to 2014 and Reverend Ben Ponsen from 2017 to 2024.

We have experienced God's amazing grace and faithfulness through the life of the church for all these years.

Our Strengths at Maranatha CRC:

We thank the Lord for each other, for He has joined us not only to Himself, but also to a loving and caring body of believers. The members of York Maranatha care deeply for one another as we are quick to rally around each other in times of joy as well as sorrow. We visit and pray for each other in times of need. With the leadership and encouragement of our Pastoral Care Committee and Social Committee, we care for and live in community with each other through meal trains, prayer, potlucks, special social events, and more. Our congregation is much like a supportive, multigenerational family. There is closeness and trust amongst our members.

We have shown that through the years we have the ability to get along through challenging times. Whether it was the church splits within the denomination some twenty or more years ago, or more recently the difficulties and challenges that COVID brought, we are a stable and committed group that stays together.

Also, because of our care and concern for each other, we have four generations participating together in worship. As individuals we have various preferences of music, however, we encourage members of all ages to participate in services and church ministries. We are particularly proud of our youth ministries, including our Children's Praise Team which allows some of our youngest members to regularly lead us in worship.

We are thankful for the educational programs within our church especially with the fact that more than 28% of our congregation is under the age of eleven. The Cadet, GEMS, and High School Ministry programs are actively attended by youth from our church and from the local community under the guidance of our Youth Director Cody Miedema. Our annual Vacation Bible School program typically ministers to more than one hundred children from our congregation and throughout the community. With a high percentage of children and young people within our congregation, we are blessed to be able to support three Christian Elementary schools located in Dunnville, Hamilton and Jarvis, a Christian High School in Hamilton and a newly formed Christian High School in Hagersville, as well as Redeemer University in our vicinity.

Our Needs at Maranatha CRC:

Maranatha CRC is seeking a full-time pastor who will deliver bold, Biblical preaching that challenges and nurtures spiritual growth for the congregation, engage with members of all ages, enhance community involvement, work collaboratively with our youth director to strengthen the faith formation of our youth, and collaborate with church members and leaders to embrace Maranatha's vision and calling. He will lead our multi-generational church in our mission to love God, love each other and be a light in the world.

Our Prayer for Our Congregation:

In John 17: 20, Jesus prayed for all who would follow Him, including those who come to the Lord through the message of the Church. He prayed for unity, holiness and protection from the evil one.

The prayer of Maranatha is the prayer that Jesus prayed for the church, and as it says in 2 Peter 3:18 that each one of us, from the youngest to the oldest, would grow in grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.