



Pastor Search Profile



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Waterdown, ON



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## Dear Pastor,

Thank you for considering the opportunity to be our next pastor at Bethel Christian Reformed Church! We can't wait to see what God has in store for us together.

Enclosed in this document, you will find more detailed information about Bethel Church, and our community and ministries. We look forward to the possibility of welcoming a new pastor who will inspire and guide our church family in fulfilling God's calling.

At Bethel Church, we are committed to fostering a loving, vibrant community rooted in faith, outreach, and service. Our vision is, "Delighting in God, Delighting in One Another, and Delighting in our Neighbours," and this guides our church life and ministries.

We are praying for the right Pastor to step into this important role and are excited to see how God will continue to use Bethel Church in our community.

### The Calling Committee

Randy Glasbergen

Darlene Van De Kemp

Len Vander Lugt

Teresa Groen

Erica Van Hoffen

Ed VanderVelde

# Our Vision

## **Delighting in God:**

Highlights our commitment to worship and spiritual growth, encouraging a deeper relationship with God through prayer and Scripture. We aim to create an environment where individuals can experience His love and grace, inspiring everyone to seek Him joyfully.

## **Delighting in Each Other:**

Underscores the importance of fellowship within our church. We are called to support and uplift each other, fostering genuine relationships that allow members to share their lives and cultivate a strong sense of belonging.

## **Delighting in Our Neighbours:**

Encourages us to extend our love beyond the church, engaging with and serving our local community. Through outreach and acts of kindness, we can share the hope and joy of Christ with those around us.

# Our Values

Our values are guideposts that keep us rooted and directed toward the unique work that God has called Bethel to. The values are as follows;

**Bethel strives to:**

- Work together in unity.
- Demonstrate Christ's love by being welcoming, just and caring to all.
- Have vibrant worship that brings the message of Christ through Biblical preaching and inspiring music.
- Have ministry/discipleship programs/small groups for all ages to grow in faith and their love of Jesus.
- Intentionally draw others to Christ to grow the church.
- Purposely engage our community in acts of service that point to the gospel message.
- Utilize our building and property to bless others and build God's kingdom.

# Our History

Recently celebrating its 55th anniversary, Bethel Church originated as Aldershot Christian Reformed Church in September 1969, emerging from the fruitful congregations of Dundas CRC, First Hamilton CRC, and Burlington CRC. From the very beginning, Bethel was a welcoming and vibrant community, initially meeting at a local school. Early ministries found homes in church basements, borrowed facilities, and even outdoor services during the summer months.

Bethel Church has a rich history of hospitality, beginning with its tradition of warmly greeting worshippers at the door and coffee gatherings after worship. Over the years, the church has nurtured connections among its members through regular gatherings, while also implementing community outreach programs such as Vacation Bible School, the Community Garden, Alpha, and many other initiatives. This dedication to building relationships and serving others has been a cornerstone of Bethel's mission from its inception.



**BETHEL CHRISTIAN  
REFORMED CHURCH**

Highway No. 5 and Kerns Road  
Waterdown, Ontario



# Our History

In 1974, the land for the church building was generously donated, envisioning a new place of worship at the corner of Kern's Road and Highway 5. Construction of the church began in 1977, featuring a design that resembles a tent pitched on a hilltop, with hands lifted in prayer. In 2000, an addition was made to the church to accommodate a growing congregation, with further renovations occurring in 2012 to update our space.

Sadly, Bethel has had a history of conflict and tension which has not always been handled well. In the past 20 years, there have been multiple reasons for this conflict, including tensions with the Pastor, the COVID-19 pandemic, the Human Sexuality Report, and others, which have led to a decline in membership.

In 2022, Bethel completed a Crossroads Discernment Process with Resonate Global Missions to help reflect on what God has done in our past and what he is doing in the present in order to discern what God is calling us towards in the future. This process gave new hope and has helped to identify future ways we can bless each other and our community.

In 2023, two significant things happened; first, Bethel invited Pastor Derek as a Specialized Transitional Minister to continue in the process of rejuvenating the church. In addition, the closure of New Street CRC after seven decades of ministry led to new members joining Bethel, further enriching the church's community. Through the years, Bethel Church has remained committed to its mission of connection, outreach, and nurturing faith, celebrating a rich history while looking forward to the future.

# Fellowship and Outreach:

## Bethel's Ministries

**Sunday School:** A lively program for children aged 3 to grade 4, with attendance of apx. 5-10 children weekly, offering engaging Bible lessons that lay the foundation for their faith journey.

**GEMS and Cadets:** Clubs for girls and boys that meet weekly with attendance of apx. 25 children, providing a mix of Bible study and fun activities to encourage friendships and introduce them to the basics of Christian faith.

**Coffee Break:** A welcoming weekly social group for women, creating a space for connection, conversation, support, and Bible study, with weekly attendance of about 25 women.

**Small Groups:** Intentional gatherings designed for members to come together, study the Bible, and engage in meaningful discussions that strengthen relationships. Currently there are 8 small groups meeting from Bethel members.

**Bethel Community Garden:** An outreach initiative that fosters connections with the greater community while celebrating the beauty of God's creation and promoting stewardship through Bethel's 40 garden plots.

**Vacation Bible School (VBS):** A week-long summer outreach program filled with fun activities and engaging lessons aimed at introducing children to the love of Jesus, with attendance of about 50 children from Bethel and the community.

**Youth Group:** Bethel is working to restart our youth program as a monthly social gathering with the hope to grow it into something more.

## Ministries We Support

- Atwell Centre
- Burlington, Flamborough, and Waterdown Food Banks
- Carpenteros and Friends
- City Kidz
- Eagles Nest
- Hamilton District Christian High
- Indwell
- Living Rock
- Ontario Christian Gleaners
- Providence Christian School and Trinity Christian School
- Shifra Home
- SOCO Beach Project
- Teen Challenge
- Youth for Christ Waterdown

## From Our Members:

For nearly forty years, Bethel Church has been more than just a place of worship for me—it has been a family, a home, a source of strength, and a community where faith is nurtured and tested. This place—these people—have been a steady, unwavering presence in our journey of faith.

As I look back over the years, I'm grateful for the ways God has worked through Bethel Church to shape my life, my family, and the community we've been a part of. From the Alpha program to small groups to advocacy for women in leadership, Bethel has been a place where faith is challenged, encouraged, and grown. It's a place where we've experienced God's love in profound ways, and a place where we continue to be shaped by the people and the community that make up this family.

I'm thankful that Bethel has been there for us, just as we've sought to be there for others. It truly is a family—a family that has helped us grow in faith, rise to challenges, and experience the goodness of God in every step of the journey.

And as we look ahead to the next chapter, we are excited to continue to walk alongside one another, growing together in faith, hope, and love. Because at Bethel, we are more than just a church. We are family.

**Peg VanderMeer**



## From Our Members:

My name is Dianne Berends-Crossen. From the time I was a young child my family were members of the Burlington CRC, later known as New Street CRC. It was very emotional when the New Street CRC shut their doors. This of course led me to search for a new home church.

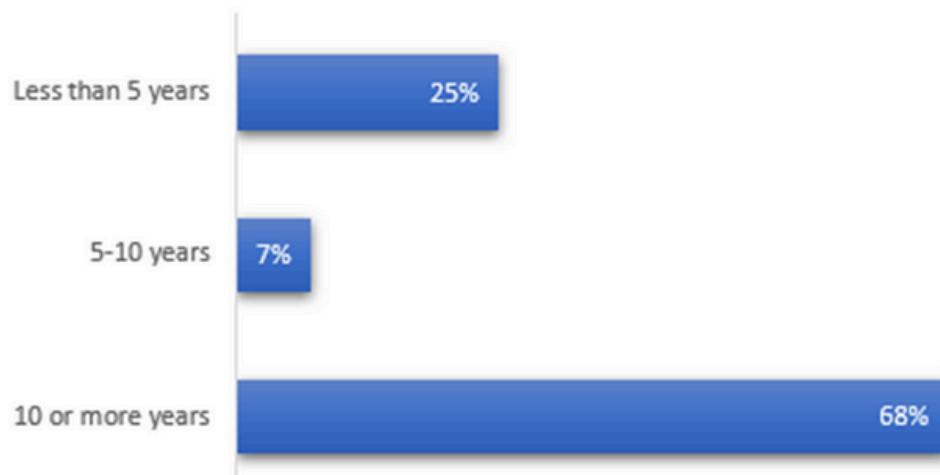
Bethel CRC community openly welcomed my husband and I. We both knew a number of people at Bethel which helped in our decision to become members. There seemed to be a joyful buzz of excitement at Bethel. It was also a rich blessing to have Pastor Derek Bouma leading us in worship.

Bethel CRC is starting to feel like a home church.

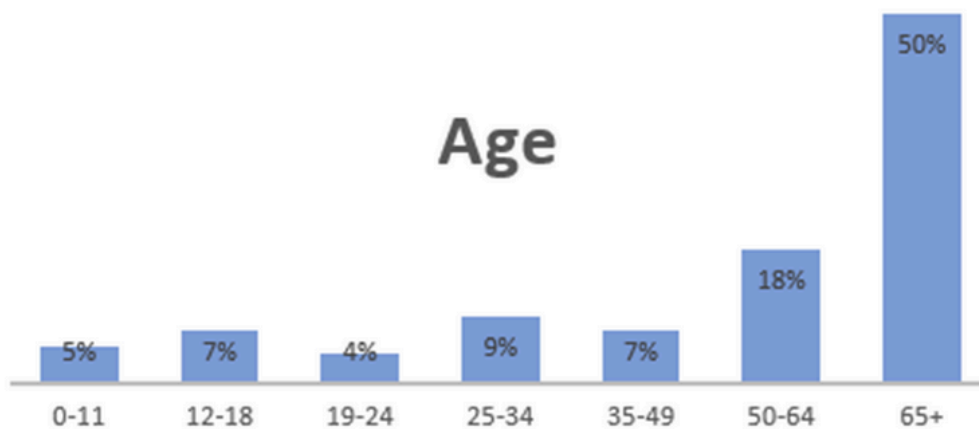
**Diane Berends-Crossen**

# Understanding Our Community: Our Demographics

## Length of Membership



## Age



# Our Staff

**Lizette Gouws, Administrative Assistant:** Bethel has been my church family since 1999. Since January 2012 the Lord blessed me with the privilege to serve Bethel as Administrative Assistant. I believe that Bethel's variety in ministry and worship styles welcomes people from all walks of life. Being part of this community of faith has been one of the most precious gifts that I ever received. Every day is an opportunity to serve God and His church with joy and I am thankful for that. My prayer for Bethel is that we shall grow in knowledge and understanding of how to serve our Lord and the community where we are called to proclaim the gospel. Thanks be to God.



**Pastor Derek, STM:** Pastor Derek has joined Bethel Church as a Specialized Transitional Minister (STM). His role as an STM is to help Bethel work through some of the challenges they are dealing with at this time. This involves spending time listening to the congregation to get a sense of the struggles they are facing, and then, with God's help, offering them some direction and encouragement toward healing and wholeness as they seek to move forward into thriving ministry following God's lead.



**John Turner and Family, Custodian:** Bethel's custodians keep the building clean and well-maintained.

**Part-time Ministry Mobilizer, Currently Vacant:** This role would lead the organization of Bethel church events and support Bethel's ministries.

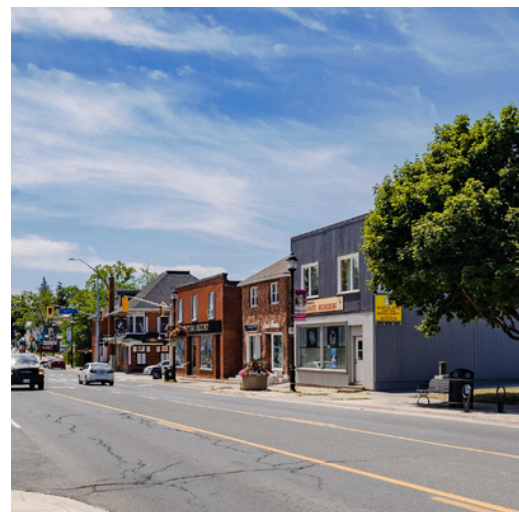


# Waterdown

Waterdown is located at the tip top of the Niagara Escarpment. It started as a thriving milling community, thanks to the Grindstone Creek, eventually helping morph living in Waterdown to what it is today – a quaint enclave that is always growing.

Waterdown still has a village feel, the downtown area is the perfect place to spend an afternoon – with independent shops, boutiques, restaurants and cafes. There’s also plenty of parks, and even the Bruce Trail for adventurers.

As a growing community, it has new subdivisions, with condos, townhomes and newly-built homes. These growing communities are rich in cultural diversity.



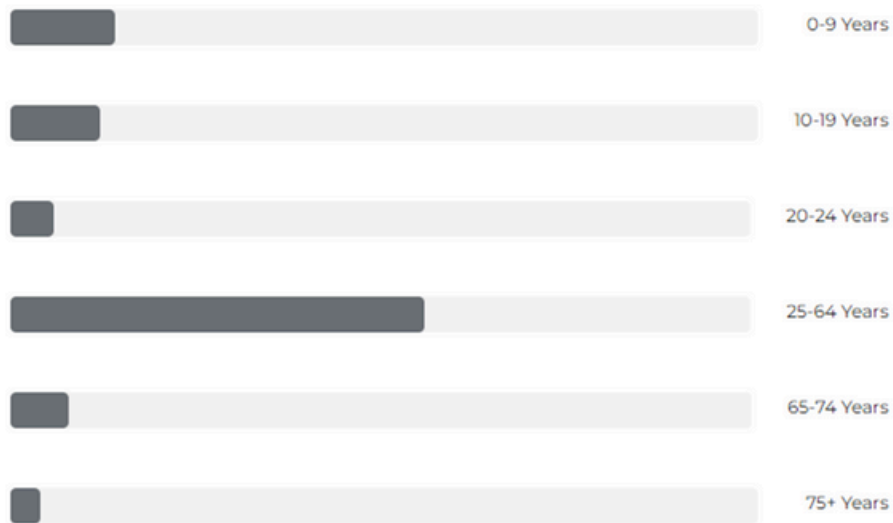
# Waterdown Demographics

21,177  
TOTAL POPULATION

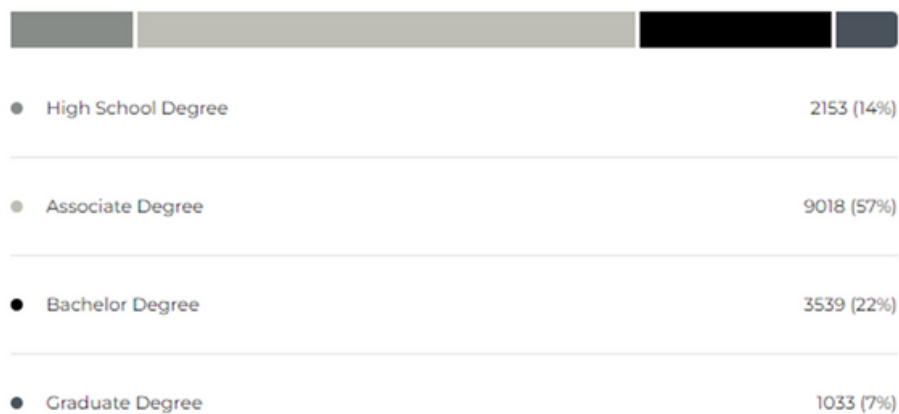
MEDIUM  
POPULATION DENSITY ⓘ

41  
MEDIAN AGE

## POPULATION BY AGE GROUP



## EDUCATION LEVEL





# Burlington

Burlington has fantastic local conveniences and amenities, a variety of real estate options, it's no surprise that Burlington is continually ranked among the top mid-sized cities to live in Canada. In fact, in 2019, Burlington took the top spot according to the annual list published by MacLeans.

Situated between two interesting geographical locations—the Niagara Escarpment and Lake Ontario—Burlington is an exciting and comfortable place to live. Whether you love being close to nature, or you prefer vibrant city life, Burlington has something for everyone.

As the largest of the four municipalities that make up the regional municipality of Halton, Burlington as a city takes pride in values like multiculturalism, community, and diverse economic offerings. With proximity to other west GTA cities and Toronto itself, Burlington is home to families, professionals, and retirees alike who want to stay close to the action and live in a safe and comfortable mid-size city environment.

# Local Christian Organizations Supported by Bethel

## **Trinity Christian School:**

Celebrating their 60th Anniversary in 2024, Trinity is a thriving community of teachers, students, and parents from almost 40 Burlington-area churches. Together, sharing a common goal:

*That our children will grow to become firmly rooted and faithful disciples of Christ.*

Trinity has served Burlington and the surrounding Halton Region for five decades. They continue to provide accessible, high quality education with Biblical values in a safe and caring environment.



## **Providence Christian School:**

Since 1961, Providence has been providing Christian Education to the Dundas and Flamborough communities. Their mission is:

*To Provide a Christ centered, quality education, develop the talents of God's children, and prepare them for Christian service.*

Their expectation is that our students will not only gain head knowledge of Christianity with a reformed perspective, but also take that knowledge and make a positive impact on their world in whatever path the Lord leads them.



# Local Christian Organizations Supported by Bethel

## **Hamilton District Christian High School:**

HDCH has been serving the Greater Hamilton community for over 65 years. Students at HDCH receive an excellent, Christ-centred education where all students are engaged, growing in intellect, skills, and character, being connected to their God-given purpose.

By character, we mean Christ-likeness, the image of God in us restored, which is God's ultimate purpose for every one of us: "to be conformed to the image of his Son" (Romans 8:29).

We consider character more important than grades as a predictor of success in life, by which we mean a purposeful, fulfilling life walking with God.

## **Redeemer University:**

Redeemer University is a private Christian liberal arts and science university located in Hamilton, Ontario. At Redeemer, education is about understanding a complex global world, thinking critically from a kingdom perspective, and following Christ's call to transform culture and communities. Rooted in a distinctly Christ-centred Core Curriculum, a degree in one of 35+ majors and streams offers experiential learning opportunities and a cross-functional set of knowledge.





# Local Christian Organizations Supported by Bethel

## **Maranatha Gardens:**

The Gardens is a 130 unit life lease apartment building in the heart of mature South Burlington. Continuing what began at Maranatha Homes over 35 years ago. The Gardens is home to a number of seniors that attend Bethel.

