

Church Profile Form

Church Information:

Name: Maranatha Christian Reformed Church

Location: Edmonton, Alberta, Canada

Associate Pastor Search Team Contact:

Name: Carolyn Woudstra

Address: 3843 109 Ave, Edmonton, Alberta

Phone: 780-474-2304

Email: fcwoudstra@shaw.ca

Community Setting:

Location: Metropolitan

Growth: Static

Approximate population of community: The metro area of Edmonton had a population of 1,491,000 at the beginning of 2021

Church Profile:

List all staff positions:

- Lead Pastor
- Administrative Director
- Custodian
- Bulletin Editor
- Worship Assistant

Position available: Associate Pastor of Congregational Life

Date of vacancy: This is a new position commencing October 1, 2021

We are open to: Male and Female Candidates

Bi-vocational position: No

Number of years preferred of ministry-related experience and education of potential candidate:

at least 2-4 years of post-secondary education in Bible Studies, Theology, Christian Ministry or Youth Ministry, AND at least 2 years of ministry-related experience (including volunteer work or internships)

Required languages: English

General position description: Full-time Associate Pastor of Congregational Life for a multicultural church with at least 7 distinct cultures including Karen (Myanmar), African, and Asian members.

Please see attached job description for further details on Tasks and Responsibilities of the position, and Characteristics and Attributes of the candidate.

Church Demographics:

Average Sunday attendance: 250

Total number of people connected to Maranatha: approximately 420

Active participants: 320

Profile of church members:

Age:

- 0-11: 16.9%
- 12-18: 10.8%

- 19-24: 9.7%
- 25-34: 13.8 %
- 35-49: 15.8%
- 50-64: 14.7%
- 65+: 18.1%

Occupation:

- Business: 10%
- Agriculture: 5%
- Professional: 20%
- Retired: 20%
- Trades: 10%
- Students: 10%
- Stay-at-home parent: 10%
- Other: 15%

Percentage of members belonging to the congregation:

- Less than 5 years: 5%
- 5-10 years: 12%
- 10 or more years: 83%

Racial/Ethnic:

- Caucasian (mainly Dutch heritage): 64.3%
- Karen (Myanmar): 24.5%
- African: 9.6%
- Asian: 1.3%
- First Nations: 0.3%

Worship

How are members involved in planning and participation in the liturgy/worship?

- A Worship Committee is involved in planning special services (Lent, Advent, etc.)
- The Lead Pastor and Worship Assistant plan regular services
- Praise team participants involved in leading services (a variety of instruments and singers), with active congregational participation in singing.
- Occasional readers and prayer leaders
- Council members share leading the congregational prayer, which will also be shared with the Associate Pastor of Congregational Life

Describe the worship services in your church:

- We have one worship service every Sunday morning, about an hour in length.
- Reformed order of worship
- Several songs and special music made of a mixture of hymns and contemporary music. We love singing!

Describe the discipleship practices in your church for all ages of members and attenders:

- Due to the recent influx of refugees, much of our discipleship is geared to them. We offer many faith formation activities such as GEMS, Cadets, Coffee Break, Catechism, Sunday School, Homework Club and Food Bank.

Compensation:

See attached job description for further detail.

Church Characteristics

Presently, the FOCUS OF OUR CHURCH'S MINISTRY is:

	Community exclusively	Community primarily	Community and current members/participants equally	Current members/participants primarily	Current members/Participants exclusively	
External				X		Internal

In our church, the WORSHIP SERVICE IS DESIGNED FOR:

	Designed for the unchurched	Emphasis on unchurched	Unchurched and believers	Emphasis on believers	Designed for believers	
Unchurched				X		Churched

In our church, the STYLE OF MUSIC used in the worship service is:

	Contemporary	Mostly contemporary	Blended	Mostly tradition	Traditional	
Contemporary			X			Traditional

In our church, LEADERSHIP is generally provided by the:

	Predominantly lay leaders	Frequently lay leaders	Lay leaders and pastoral staff share leadership	Lay leaders function under pastoral staff	Predominantly pastoral staff	
Congregational members			X			Pastoral staff

Our church seeks to ENCOURAGE SPIRITUAL GROWTH through:

	No specific ministries	Ministries for a few groups	Ministries for selected groups	Ministries for most groups	Ministries for all groups	
Informal				X		Formal

In our church, EVANGELISM STRATEGIES AND METHODS are:

	Predominantly unplanned	Generally unplanned	Equal emphasis	Generally planned	Predominantly planned	
Unplanned		X				Planned

Our church is representative of the ECONOMIC DIVERSITY of our community:

	Strongly representative	Mostly representative	Moderately representative	Mildly representative	Weakly representative	
High representation			X			Low representation

Our church is representative of the ETHNIC DIVERSITY of our community:

	Strongly representative	Mostly representative	Moderately representative	Mildly representative	Weakly representative	
High representation			X			Low representation

Our church's RESPONSE TO COMPASSION, MERCY, AND JUSTICE NEEDS is:

	Commitment to church-based action	Encouragement of church-based action	Church-based and personal action	Encouragement of personal action	Commitment to personal action	
Church-based			X			Personal
	All local	Mostly local	Equally local and global	Mostly global	All global	
Local			X			Global

Our church's MISSIONAL FOCUS is:

	All local	Mostly local	Equally local and global	Mostly global	All global	
Local			X			Global
	All local	Mostly local	Equally local and global	Mostly global	All global	

Narrative

Do you have a recently articulated mission/vision for ministry? Yes:

Our church participates in God's great mission in the world - the redemption of His whole creation:

- Our worship services enable people of all ages, backgrounds and abilities to glorify God while being motivated and equipped for His service;
- We intentionally reach out to our immediate community with a special emphasis on refugees and immigrants;
- Our ministries foster fellowship and discipleship; encourage growth and accountability; and help members discover and use the fruits and gifts the Holy Spirit has entrusted to them.

In what ways does your church participate in ecumenical activities?

- We offer use of our building for Remembrance Day
- We are involved in the Annual Day of Prayer

Reflect on your strengths/gifts as a church:

- We are a welcoming, multicultural congregation and open to new ideas. We have a faithful and large group of regular attendees.

Reflect on your passions as a church:

- We are passionate about helping refugees and immigrants
- We love music and singing

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

- The arrival of new refugee and immigrant members (54 over a three year period [between 2015-2018]) is a wonderful challenge.
- We are continually challenged with becoming a diverse congregation (both in terms of ethnicity, denomination, and age)
- We struggle to disciple our youth, keep youth engaged, and have effective youth ministries for our large number of youth

Describe what being Christian Reformed means to you:

- There is far more that we have in common with other churches and denominations than not. It's the things that we don't have in common that give each of us our own unique accent. Neal Plantinga, former president of Calvin Theological Seminary, writes:
 - Reformed Christians make a big deal of the need for disciplined holiness in our new life, a holiness motivated by gratitude, shaped by God's law, and practiced

through a daily “dying-away of the old self” and “coming-to-life of the new self.” As one member says, “to be Reformed is to be always changing our lifestyle so that it is pleasing to God.” Reformed Christians also take a huge view of the kingdom of God and of God’s sovereignty within it. God’s realm includes the church as chief instrument of the kingdom, but also government and law, medicine, sports, education, music, food production, social services, and any other arena you can think of. God is the author of all that is good in these things, the foe of all that is corrupt in them, and, one day, the perfecter of all—including us. Still, in the coming of the kingdom God has called us to play a role by celebrating what’s good, working for reform in what isn’t, and looking forward in hope to God’s redemption of all in the new heaven and earth. We’re “co-workers with Christ” in this. (*On Being Reformed*, by Neal Plantinga. <https://www.thebanner.org/features/2011/01/on-being-reformed-0>)

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

- Dutch immigrants built and started Maranatha in 1953
- Bethel CRC was daughtered in 1978, which caused a big decline in membership
- We sponsored our first Karen refugee family in 2007, which led to 86 new baptized members since 2007

Leadership

How many council members does your church have? 12-15

What is the length of term for council members: 3 years

How often does the full council meet? Monthly

What subgroups of council exist, how do they function, and how often do they meet?

- Executive: meets monthly, includes Lead Pastor
- Elders: meet monthly, includes Lead Pastor and Associate Pastor
- Deacons: meet monthly, includes Associate Pastor
- Other committees include:
 - Worship Committee (includes Lead Pastor and Associate Pastor)
 - Mission Committee
 - Finance and Administrative Committee
 - Refugee Committee
 - Youth Ministries Team
 - Integration Committee