



INGLEWOOD

CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH

growing together as disciples of Jesus Christ

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Church Information

Name:	Inglewood Christian Reformed Church
Location:	12330 113 Ave NW, Edmonton, AB T5M 2W4
Website:	www.inglewoodcrc.org
Pastor:	Rev. John Ooms
Worship Director:	Rev. Jim Reynolds
Administrative Assistant:	Linda Devos
Classical Church Counselor:	Rev. Cecil VanNiejehuis

Search Committee Contact(s)

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History

Inglewood Christian Reformed Church (CRC) was established in 1952 as Third Christian Reformed Church. It had 178 founding members, almost all of whom were recent immigrants to Canada, following a post-WWII diaspora from the Netherlands. The early years in Canada were years of resettlement for these new Canadians and resources tended to be stretched. However, even at some financial sacrifice, the founders did not question the requirement of establishing churches.

The new congregation met in a rented former synagogue for the first two years, but then purchased a large old church which had been the Central United Church in the inner city.

In 1970 the congregation sold the downtown building and moved to what was then the suburbs and entered a sharing arrangement with the St. James United Church congregation in a large building that was in the McQueen neighborhood, where many of the congregation had moved to be close to the West Edmonton Christian School. This arrangement lasted for as long as the St. James congregation remained viable. When St. James dissolved the congregation purchased and substantially renovated the present building on 124 Street in the Inglewood community where it has resided since 1991. It was upon its move to the present building that a formal name change was effected from Third Christian Reformed Church to Inglewood Christian Reformed Church.

Starting out as a small immigrant church Inglewood CRC quickly ballooned in size and by the late fifties it became one of the largest CRC churches in Canada with 260 families. Under the one pastor model, which was prevalent in those days, the solution to outgrowth was to establish daughter churches, and several other CRC churches in Edmonton are the progeny of Third. In addition, Third CRC sponsored a church plant in 1961.

Throughout its history, the size of the congregation has ebbed and flowed. The moves to different locations contributed to the loss of some members, as well as some of the denomination-wide changes in outlook and theology. However, throughout its history and wherever God led, Inglewood CRC has always been a vibrant community with a viable presence.

Vision and Mission Statement (2008)

INGLEWOOD CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH

growing together as disciples of Jesus Christ
through worship through fellowship
through reaching out beyond ourselves
through congregational care

Core Ministry Values

Preaching

We believe preaching must plainly and boldly bring God's Word to all people.

Prayer

We believe prayer must begin, support, and complete everything we do.

Worship

We believe our worship services should draw from the richness of Christian worship practices in order to encourage heartfelt and joyful response to God.

Education

We believe our education ministry must nurture children, youth, and adults in Christian discipleship, as well as meet the needs of those searching for God, of new believers, and of long-time Christians.

Church & Kingdom

We believe we must help each other recognize how the Holy Spirit leads us to live in our society as members of God's Kingdom.

Service

We believe we are to serve God in every task we perform.

Gift-based Ministry

We believe that our ministry must be relevant to our times, biblically faithful, and take full advantage of the variety of gifts the Holy Spirit has distributed to all our members.

Gift-based Leadership

We believe God guides the church to appoint leaders according to their spiritual gifts and spiritual maturity rather than according to their gender, race, age, social position, economic standing or years of membership in the congregation.

Growth

We believe that attention given to membership numbers and dollars must be done within our primary focus of growing as faithful and loving children of God.

Evangelistic Outreach

We believe God calls us to minister to inactive members, unbelieving people, and all those seeking salvation.

Diaconal Outreach

We believe we must serve our neighbors in need with appropriate assistance and by advocating stewardship, justice, and compassion in our society.

Caring Community

We believe that loving and caring relationships should permeate every aspect of our congregation's life.

Facilities

We believe modest and aesthetically pleasing physical facilities can serve our ministries and will allow us to use time and money for major people-ministries.

Partnership in Ministry

We are committed to playing a significant role in the ministry of the Christian Reformed Church In North America, and in being partners with a variety of cultural and social organizations (examples: Christian schools & colleges, Christian Labour Association of Canada, Citizens for Public Justice; Rehoboth Christian Ministries, Edmonton Community Food Bank, WECAN Food Co-op, 124th Street Project, Mustard Seed Church)

Affiliations and Associations

- A member church in the bi-national denomination called the Christian Reformed Church in North America (CRCNA) with its head office in Grand Rapids (MI) and its Canadian office in Burlington Ontario
- One of 34 member churches of Classis Alberta North of the CRCNA. The Classis stretches from the city of Red Deer in the south, to the town of Fort McMurray in the north
- One of 12 Christian Reformed Churches in the City of Edmonton
- A member of an ecumenical association of churches in West Edmonton called Westmount Christian Council which has members of the Lutheran, Anglican, Roman Catholic, Presbyterian and Wesleyan denominations
- Supports the University of Alberta Christian Reformed Campus Ministry
- Commissioned Pastor of Inglewood CRC who serves as the Director of the Edmonton Native Healing Centre

Staffing – History, Development, and Present Model

Inglewood CRC has gone through an evolution of its staffing model over the years from sole pastor to a ministry team. The staffing needs have recently been reviewed again in preparation for looming retirements.

The following ministry roles have been filled at various times in Inglewood CRC:

Senior Pastor

After a short interim served by Rev. Henry Van Til from Grand Rapids MI, Inglewood CRC has had nine senior pastors over its history:

- 1953-55 – Dr. Martin Woudstra
- 1956-65 – Rev. Bastiaan Nederlof
- 1965-69 – Rev. Francois Guillaume
- 1971-75 – Rev. James Joosse
- 1976 -78 – Dr. Sidney DeWaal
- 1978-84 – Rev. Robert De Moor
- 1984-88 – Dr. Sidney DeWaal
- 1988-93 – Rev. Jack Westerhof
- 1994-present –Rev. John Ooms

Youth Ministry

In the 1970s, Council identified a need for special concentration in youth ministry and appointed a position of Youth Pastor. Though this position has gone through a number of iterations and descriptions (including an expansion of the description to “Director of Youth and Intergenerational Ministries”) throughout the years, and is presently not filled, there has been, with some gaps a more or less consistent staffing of youth ministry. The position was vacated in 2018 and there is presently no youth ministry staff.

Music/liturgical/Worship

In its early years the music and worship needs of the congregation were filled by gifted volunteers. However, in the mid-1980s ICRC hired its first part-time professional musician/liturgist. This position, again with some job-description amendments, has remained in place to the present day, with the present 20 hour per week position called “Worship Director” held by Jim Reynolds.

Outreach Director

Starting in the year 2000, the congregation funded an Outreach Directorship. This position which had a period of flourishing is presently not filled.

Administrative

ICRC presently staffs its church office with an Administration Assistant who occupies a part-time position; six hours per day from Tuesday to Friday.

Staffing Review and Findings

To address foreseeable changes in circumstances (i.e., looming retirements) and evolving ministry foci, Council created a Leadership Planning Task Force (LPTF) in 2017 to study and develop a staffing and human resource plan for Inglewood CRC for the next five years. On November 26, 2018 the LPTF

presented a Final Report, which was adopted by both Council and the Congregation. The ultimate recommendation was that:

“ICRC move towards a co-pastor model by the year 2023 and that two pastors complement each other so that they can lead the congregation in most/all of our key ministry priority areas. Both pastors will be ordained in the CRC and have formal reformed theological training equivalent to a M.Div.”

Governance

Council

As with all Christian Reformed Churches, Inglewood CRC operates under the Presbyterian church governance model, in which ultimate authority (other than authority reserved to the membership by civil statute) over matters of polity and governance resides with the Council of the Church. Council is comprised of the Consistory and the Diaconate. The members of Council are elected on a rotational basis by the Congregation for a three year term. There is an appointed standing Stated Clerk of Council who serves at the pleasure of Council for an indefinite term. Council meets monthly on the third Monday of the month, 11 times per year. There are currently 16 members on Inglewood CRC Council, plus the Pastor, plus the Clerk, for a total of 18 participants.

Consistory

The consistory is comprised of all the elders elected by the Congregation and whose responsibilities are divided between Administration and Pastoral Care. Consistory meets monthly on the third Monday of the month, 11 times per year.

Diaconate

The diaconate is comprised of all the deacons elected by the Congregation. The Diaconate meets monthly on the third Monday of the month, 11 times per year

Executive Council

Certain Council duties are delegated to a smaller group called Executive Council.

Membership of Executive Council:

- Chair and Vice-Chair of Council
- Chair of Deacons
- Council Members at large -2
- Senior Pastor
- Stated Clerk

Meetings of Executive Council:

- Once per month on the first Monday of the Month

Business of Executive Council:

- Receive Committee Reports
- Process Membership transfers
- Committee appointments

- Routine correspondence
- Draft and Recommend Policy to Council
- Propose Office-bearer nominations to Council
- Together with Treasurer and Finance Committees, prepare budget for Council/Congregational approval
- Set Congregational Meetings and Agendas for Council approval

Congregational Meetings

Congregational meetings are called as necessary, but no less frequently than once per year in February for the Annual General Meeting.

Worship Frequency, Times, and Worship Styles

The Congregation gathers for worship once per Sunday at 10:00 am. In addition, special worship services are held on the following special days in the Church calendar: Good Friday, Easter Sunday, Ascension Day, Thanksgiving, Candlelight Service prior to Christmas Day, and Christmas Day.

The worship style of Inglewood CRC combines traditional and contemporary elements. The sanctuary contains a nine-foot grand piano, a large pipe organ, soundboard, microphones and monitors, drum kit and an integrated computer operated projection system. Hymns and songs are projected onto a screen. There are three praise teams that often but not always, lead congregational singing. There is webcast capacity to broadcast worship services to congregation members who for reasons of health or age cannot attend the service.

Worship services are planned by the Worship Director assisted by the Worship Committee. Under their direction, lay leadership is encouraged to conduct the praise, reconciliation and prayer components of the services.

Congregational Profile and Demographic

The congregation membership for active baptized and confessing members is as follows:

Age	Count
0-14	49
15-19	10
20-45	70
46-59	45
60+	99
Total: 273	

All 189 professing members (count as of Fall 2019 and assumes regular attendance) of the congregation are eligible to hold the offices of Elder and Deacon. Any persons ordained or granted licensure to preach in the Christian Reformed Church is eligible to exhort. On occasion gifted persons who are neither ordained nor licensed, have been granted preaching privilege with the prior consent of Council.

Children are encouraged to participate in the Eucharist.

Community Profile and Resources

Inglewood CRC is located within the Inglewood Community in west/central Edmonton. A community profile has been canvassed and is available on request. Inglewood community is considered an inner-city neighborhood and is comprised of a mixed socio-economic base. The church is located on a major street and is surrounded by single-family housing which tends to be stable, and by multi-family walk-up apartment buildings which tend to be more transient. The community contains an active Community League, Public School, and many service businesses. Inglewood community has been served by a church on our property since 1952, when it was built by the former Westminster United Church congregation. ICRC succeeded Westminster.

The City of Edmonton is the capital City of the Province of Alberta. The population as per the 2016 census is 932,546 within the City and 1,321,426 in metro Edmonton. As a major City, it contains all the amenities that could be expected, among them:

- Two major public universities: The University of Alberta and MacEwan University
- A Christian university: The King's University, of which Inglewood CRC is part of the supporting community
- A publicly funded Christian School System containing two K-9 and one high school which is part of the Edmonton Public School System but also aligned with Christian Schools International
- A CRC sponsored Seniors Residence called Emmanuel Home. The not-for-profit Society which operates Emmanuel Home on the north side of the city has just recently purchased a property in the Inglewood neighbourhood for expansion purposes
- A Christian Credit Union

Additional Information

The following information may also be helpful community context for those interested in engaging in a conversation with the Inglewood CRC Search Committee. As follows:

Congregational Life

- there are ample programs and committees (e.g., Bread, Building and Property, Cadets, District Visitors, Foodbank, Finance, Gems, Honduras, Library, Neighbourhood Table, Nursery, Outreach, Power Hour, Praise Groups, Prayer Ministry, Refugee Sponsorship, Safe Church, Soccer Camp, Sound, Visual Arts, Ushers and Greeters, Welcome, Worship) that utilize and enable members from within the congregation to practice the ministry of growing together as disciples of Jesus Christ
- several pictorials have been published, sometimes accompanied with personal and family stories
- we have committed to payment of 90% for both the denominational and classical Ministry Shares; in 2019 we paid 100% of both

- we have a committed core of long-time members and some new and young families and singles
- occupations are diverse and include blue and white collar professions
- we have just completed an 8 year relationship (2012-2020) with La Avispa, Honduras, which saw a team travel to this community every year (24 Inglewood members have been part of at least one trip) to make Kingdom use of the \$57,000 donated by Inglewood members for concrete projects and community transformation
- in 2018 we sponsored a couple from war torn Syria in partnership with two other CRCs - the River Community Church in Edmonton and Ebenezer in Leduc, Alberta
- in 2019 we sponsored four young men (the fiancé of someone who has been attending Inglewood and three brothers from a refugee camp)
- we are a “record keeping” church, that is, there is plenty of information that illustrates the Inglewood journey (i.e., who we are, what occupies our time and attention, what we have decided, what we have accomplished, what we are planning)

Outreach Ministries

Outreach ministry has been a defining characteristic of ICRC throughout its history. Current examples of local outreach ministries being conducted are the following:

- Neighbourhood Table
- Food Bank depot and distribution
- Bread Program
- Collective Kitchen
- Interaction with local Edmonton Native Healing Centre
- Summer soccer camp in partnership with Athletes in Action

Facilities

- our facilities are adequate and there is capacity for growth
- no building projects are currently envisioned
- we have recently completed a major commercial grade kitchen renovation in the basement
- there is no parsonage; it is understood that the ministry team is responsible for their own housing quarters
- there are several pastoral studies on premise

Worship Services

- worship services are structured and consistent, and begin with God’s Blessing and end with Doxology
- choirs are initiated for Christmas and Easter services
- there are some traditions that we continue to honor (e.g. annual Christmas *Ere Zig God*)
- average attendance is 220 participants as confirmed in October 2019 and included in the 2020 CRC Yearbook

Pastoral Position Available

- our desire is to fill a full-time pastoral role

- our expectation is that the pastor maintains a high level of visibility and availability in the church facilities/office (sans planned visitations)
- our preference is for ministry experience as this position will require leading a ministry team
- our desire is to provide a period of transition with current staff; position availability is open for discussion with the Search Committee
- we are open to male and female pastors
- we meet the salary range for the CRC Minister compensation survey conducted for our area
- the pastoral position job description provides more detailed information as pertains to expectations and compensation

Other

- policies are captured in a Council Handbook that are provided to each new Council member to ensure continuity and context
- we maintain an organizational chart to foster lines of responsibility and accountability
- annual statement of financial position is provided to Inglewood CRC members at the AGM
- 2020 Annual Budget is approximately \$400,000
- 2019 External Ministry gifts approximately \$50,000

Where We Are Headed

Us

We are a deeply committed body of believers that seeks to honor our past and welcome our future. We believe we are placed where we are and with whom we are - growing together as disciples of Jesus Christ to do God's will.

Inglewood CRC has been blessed by God's servant, Rev. John Ooms for over 25 years. During this time together he has seen many of our children grow up and have children of their own. He has wedded and baptized many, and he has shared in our communal grief as we mourned the passing of family members and celebrated their impact in our lives.

With Pastor Ooms we have been in the same facility in the Inglewood community other than a brief few month's relocation in the West End Christian school gym while the church facilities were being remodeled.

We do not intend to leave the Inglewood community, but we have come to a time and a place where Rev. Ooms is nearing retirement from his calling and we wish for a healthy transition from his leading to the leadership of the next of God's servants in the subsequent chapter of Inglewood CRC's story.

We believe we have many strengths that are evidenced by the information we provided in this profile. We are also cognizant of the opportunities to address some challenges that are in front of us. Some of these challenges are not unique to Inglewood CRC. We recognize that we have an older membership, but we covet intergenerational community. Life is complex and demanding, and the energies of our volunteers are somewhat depleted. We have not been growing in numbers and have experienced a slight but steady decline in membership over the last few years.

We have seen similar challenges before and thus we are not overly distressed by them. We believe God is in control and that He has this too. But the challenges are real and must be faced with equal measures of leadership and gratitude. And we thought we should share them with you if you have come this far.

You

This brief profile has described Inglewood CRC. We hope and trust that it has provided you with the information you need as you seek to do God's calling in your life. But enough about us. If you believe you have found a church community of interest, then it is perhaps our turn to find out more about you.

Dated: Sept 15, 2020