

CHURCH PROFILE FORM

Church Information:

Name: Maranatha Christian Reformed Church

Location of Church [City, State/Province]: 4561 Langstaff Road Woodbridge, Ontario Canada L4L 2B2.

Classical Toronto Church Counselor: Rev. John Tenyenhuis

Search Committee Contact:

Name: Wilbert Lise - Chairman

Address: 24 Snaresbrook Drive Etobicoke, Ontario. Canada. M9W 2N4

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Community Setting:

Location	Function	Growth
<input type="checkbox"/> Rural	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Growing
<input type="checkbox"/> Small Town	<input type="checkbox"/> College/University	<input type="checkbox"/> Static
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Metropolitan	<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Declining
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Suburban	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Recreational	
<input type="checkbox"/> Inner City	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	
<input type="checkbox"/> Small City	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Bedroom Community	

Approximate population of community: Vaughan - 312,716
Greater Toronto Area – 6.8 million

Church Profile:

We are open to:

Male and Female pastors: NO Female pastors only: NO Male pastors only: YES

List all staff positions: Pastor only

Position Available: Pastor, available immediately

Date of vacancy: 05/24/2017

List the last three persons in this position:

1. Pastor Nate Van Denend
2. Reverend Hendrik Bruinsma
3. Reverend John W. VanStempvoort

General position description:

The pastor is responsible for conducting worship services, proclaiming God's Word, providing spiritual leadership, and promoting spiritual growth of the congregation. The pastor is responsible for assisting the elders and deacons in providing pastoral care where needed in the congregation. The pastor will provide leadership in facilitating programs and relationships to enable the making, nurturing, and maturing of Disciples of Christ. The pastor will also foster an environment within the church where the Holy Spirit can work in the heart of the congregation to affect a passion for evangelism. The pastor will adhere to the reformed comprehension of the Christian faith. The pastor must be teachable, humble, responsible, have good communication skills, and a heart for leading God's people to reach the lost.

Church Demographics:

Average Sunday attendance: 50

Active adult professing members: 62

Profile of church members:

Age:

0%-0-11 1%-12-18 13%-19-24 15%- 25-34

10%- 35-49 29%- 50-64 32%-65+

Occupation:

10%-Business 27%- Professional 16%- Trades 0%- Stay-at-home parent

0%-Agriculture 30%-Retired 12%-Student 5%-Other

Percentage of members belonging to the congregation:

14%-Less than 5 years

6.25%-5-10 years

79.75%-10 or more years

Racial/Ethnic composition of congregation and surrounding community:

Maranatha is located in an ethnically diverse community. Our membership reflects some of this diversity, but our regular attendance on Sundays, including regular attendees and community members, certainly reflects the diversity of our community. The following is a breakdown of ethnicity of our professing members in percentages: Canadian Caucasian 52%; Dutch 32%; Filipino 7%; Indonesian 3%; Irish 2%; Chinese 2%; Jamaican 2%

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

Worship music – Leading Musicians are involved with the pastor in choosing songs (especially special services)

Special services - Reading, praying, additional music, etc. involvement from other members

Liturgy - Led by pastor

Describe the worship services in your church:

Traditional CRC liturgy - Responsive readings, etc. (copy of liturgy made available upon request)

Traditional & reverent

NIV; Grey Psalter Hymnal; Sing a New Creation; Popular Christian Contemporary

Licensing Incorporated

Service length ~60 to 70 minutes

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

LIFT, prayer group, Friday night Bible study, Saturday breakfast Bible study

Ad hoc Sunday school program

We make our church available for the following community needs: Alcoholics Anonymous, Cocaine Addicts Anonymous, York Regional Autism Organization, Korean Presbyterian Church and Kumon reading and math. Membership is encouraged to be involved in ministry.

Building/Financial**Describe facilities:**

1977 church building retrofitted to be accessible; with nursery, council room, classroom, and kitchen; sanctuary seats ~150; 3.7 acres including parsonage including land that is rezoned for a seniors complex

Is a building program projected? Yes

If yes, describe what and when: Kitchen renovations soon.

Location of office or study: Church building council room or parsonage

Narrative

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

In what ways does your church participate in ecumenical activities?

Open to this but not active in it.

Reflect on your strengths/gifts as a church:

Remaining faithful and dedicated to serving God; discerning of the Bible; warm, inviting church, welcoming to visitors; accepting; creative; large property available for church use

Reflect on your passions as a church:

The Word and preaching; Celebrating Jesus & the Spirit in our lives; Pastoral care is highly valued. Members are welcoming and reach out to visitors.

List specific problems with which your congregation struggles:

Our members are geographically spread out, not located close to the church. It can be difficult to meet regularly for programs or discipleship practices (Traffic is a significant challenge). Age gaps i.e. not having sufficient people in different age groups to run certain programs.

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

Most interesting: New members and more diversity — learning to engage together in a new community dynamic; Challenging: Losing our pastor — we cared for him and his family deeply and were happy with him; \$100,000 roof in 2016 — satisfied with faith promises initiative. Many members volunteered using their gifts came together in the Fall of 2018 and completely renovated the main sanctuary with new carpet and sound system

List major goals that this congregation has set for itself or opportunities the congregation anticipates:

Discern God's sovereign plan and will; Follow God's purpose, watch him work, wait on him, be ready to serve; The Great Commission (our church's mission) — bring the gospel into our community, build community & increase congregational involvement including regular attendees

Describe what being Christians of Reformed accent means to you:

Strong sense of the sovereignty of God, authority of Scripture, discipline of Christian life, Christianity religion of kingdom, Christ as Lordship over all creation; Christians do not earn salvation, but a gift from God (only through Christ can we be saved); good works are a Christian response to that gift (what we do we do in gratitude to God, but we do it imperfectly, needing forgiveness and grace through Christ); founded in Calvinism; Scripture is the infallible word of God; our faith is real and we want to live that faith—that's where our desire to serve our community comes from—we love the Woodbridge community and want to share our love for them and for Christ with them; We are doing God's work for his glory

Describe your understanding of the relationship between the local church and the Christian Reformed denomination:

Local church is autonomous within the broader interpretation of Scripture as set out in the three forms of unity in the CRC. Three forms of unity are good summaries of Scripture. We practice autonomously though--our council is the ruling authority of our church. If we err, that goes to Classis and then Synod etc.

Identify some of the cultural challenges facing Christians and Christian churches today:

Diversity of religion and pervasive "tolerance"; Our local community is largely Catholic and not looking for another church home; Affluence and comfort--a very wealthy community that we're located in; Among the church ourselves, we're comfortable and don't have the thirst or appetite for the Lord and Scripture as much as we could/should as a result of our comfort

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

The birth, death & resurrection of Jesus Christ! We celebrated 50 years of existence, in the last 7 years we experienced increased representation of our local community joining as members (baptized & making profession of faith) and worshiping as regular attendees; We have always been blessed by wonderful pastors; Welcoming Steve & Sandy Frieswick as missionaries in our church and community

Leadership

How many council members does your church have? 4. Would like more but small church

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

How often does the full council meet? Once per month

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

Deacons - currently only 1 deacon, no formal meetings held

Elders - held as required

Elder & deacon issues get brought up to the full council

Administration committee (meet ad hoc), building committee (quarterly), musicians, special services committee (meetings aligned with church calendar)