



# **Maranatha Christian Reformed Church**

Woodstock, Ontario, Canada

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***Finding Joy in Following Jesus***

Church Profile  
in search of a Lead Pastor

# Executive Summary

Maranatha is a congregation of 526 members, situated in a young urban area of a small city. We are seeking a full-time Lead Pastor (male or female), preferably with 5-10 years of experience, who can provide leadership and journey with us as we seek to fulfill God's mission for our church. We have a further goal of calling a second pastor in the future.

## What's in the profile:

Who We Are

Our Mission

Living out our mission,

- In Worshiping our God

- In Loving our neighbours

- In Going out and living lives that point to Jesus

- In Helping others find their place and gifts

- In Building believers up as followers of Jesus

Our Leadership & Staff

The Lead Pastor

Our Facilities & Finances

Challenges and opportunities to living out our mission

Contact Information

## Who we are

### Our History

With very humble beginnings, Maranatha Christian Reformed Church has been worshipping and serving God in Woodstock, Ontario for over 70 years.

After World War II, a large number of Dutch immigrants moved to Canada with many settling in the Woodstock area to farm. Several of these families gathered on Sundays in their various homes to worship together. As the group grew, they began to talk about organizing and becoming a church, and on May 29, 1949, the Christian Reformed Church in Woodstock-Ingersoll was officially formed. As their numbers continued to increase, it was evident that a worship space was needed, and so, by God's Grace and with limited funds they began building the basement portion of what would be their new church.

The following years were years of growth and building. In 1953, 24 families from the neighbouring town of Ingersoll, left to form a church closer to their homes. The remaining 100 families then became First Christian Reformed Church of Woodstock. In 1954, a new building project was begun along the future 401 highway. During this time, the church also took on the building of a Christian school. In 1973, 40 families left to form the Second Christian Reformed Church of Woodstock but in 1977, it was decided that these two congregations would instead divide themselves geographically to serve the north end (Covenant CRC) and south end (Maranatha CRC) of Woodstock.

In August 1979, a tornado struck Woodstock and destroyed both Maranatha's church building and the Christian school. Knox Presbyterian Church of Woodstock graciously shared their facilities with us following the tornado until we could rebuild. Exactly one year later, the cornerstone of Maranatha's new building was placed in the front wall and the dedication service took place in November 1980.

God has continued to bless us and we outgrew the facility along the 401. With changes to our ministries and the limited versatility of our existing facilities, we decided to relocate and build a new facility in 2009. This move took us out of the increasingly commercialized area near the 401 and into a developing neighbourhood where we could better reach out and serve in our community. We started ministry in the new facility in May 2010 and with the Lord's blessing continues to be our home.

## Our Community

Woodstock is a small city (population ~40,000) surrounded by rural counties and smaller towns. Its location along the 401 corridor (Canada's largest and busiest highway) makes it a popular area to live for commuters. Driving 45 minutes in either direction leads you to three larger cities (London, Hamilton, and Kitchener/Waterloo). Woodstock has expanded beyond its rural roots in recent years, becoming a hub for some major industries and factories. Combined with the existing thriving agricultural community, many residents also find employment locally. There is also a growing number of entrepreneurial businesses. Maranatha's facilities are situated in the suburbs of Woodstock.

## Membership and Demographics

The City of Woodstock has not traditionally been very multi-cultural and Maranatha generally reflects this composition. In recent years, Woodstock has seen substantial growth and is quickly becoming a more culturally diverse community. Likewise, even though our congregation still largely reflects its Dutch roots, we are beginning to see a broader diversity within our membership.

## Average Sunday attendance

**Pre-COVID:**

350

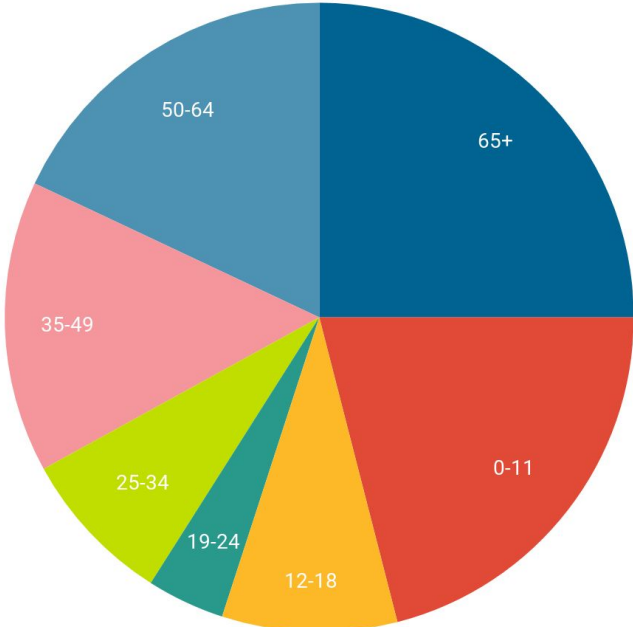
**When allowed 30% capacity during COVID:**

132 individuals in-person, 121 households Livestream

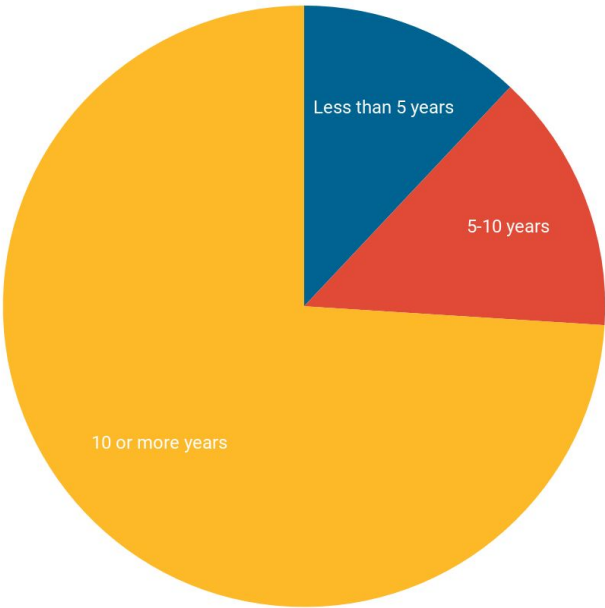
## Active adult professing members

280

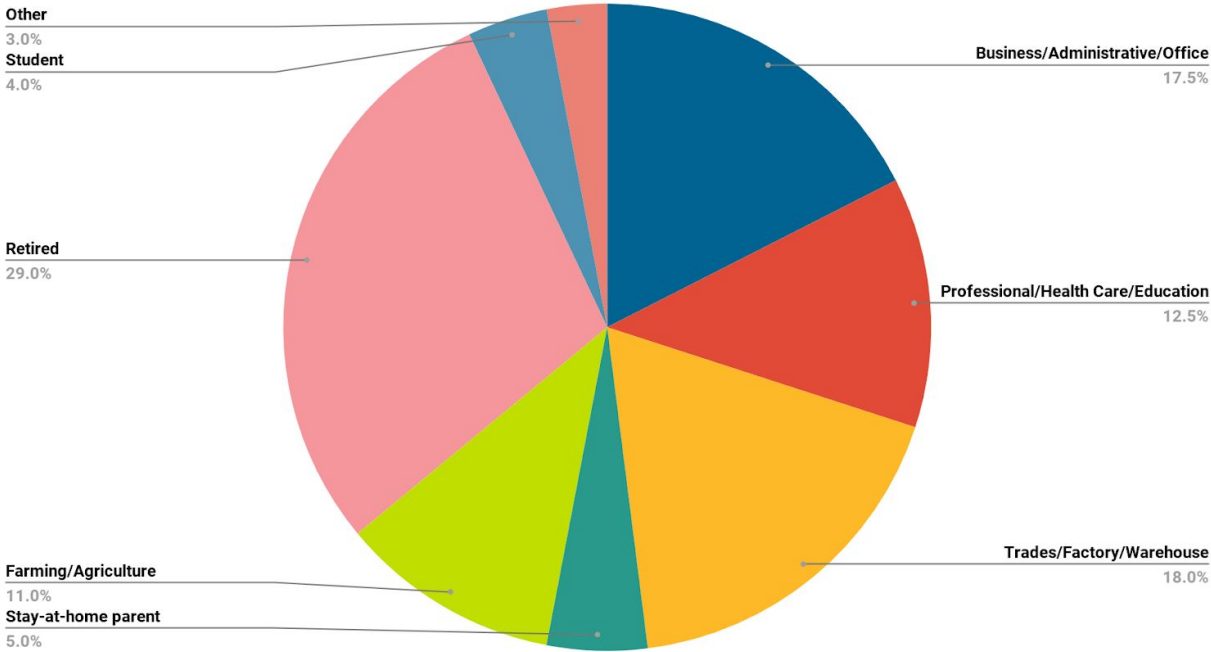
# Demographics



**Age groups**



**Years of membership**



**Occupations**

# Our Mission: Finding Joy in Following Jesus

## How did Christ set this mission upon us?

Our mission statement of "Finding Joy in Following Jesus" speaks to both our gift (joy in Jesus) and our task (following Him).

- It inspires us to consider what joy we have found in Christ and to share it.
- It challenges us to move toward deeper joy in our walk with God.
- It clearly communicates to our neighbours Maranatha's purpose.
- It is solidly biblical. Jesus said "I have told you this..." (about living in the Father's love for us) "so that my joy may be in you and that your joy might be complete." (John 15:11)
- It is deeply reformed. Our catechism asks: What is the coming-to-life of the new self? The answer: "Wholehearted joy in God through Christ and a love and delight to live according to the will of God by doing every kind of good work." (Lord's Day 33, Q&A 90)

Our continued prayer for Maranatha is that in all of our lives, we experience the deep comfort of God's presence and love – for growth, unity and the fullness of Jesus' joy in us.



## Living out our mission

### Worshipping our God

#### Worship

**In hearing the gospel, we are growing in our relationship with Christ.** We value biblical preaching that is relevant, challenging and encourages personal growth in the context of community. We love to worship God together, offering our praise and thanksgiving in the fellowship of believers to feel grounded and prepared for the week ahead.

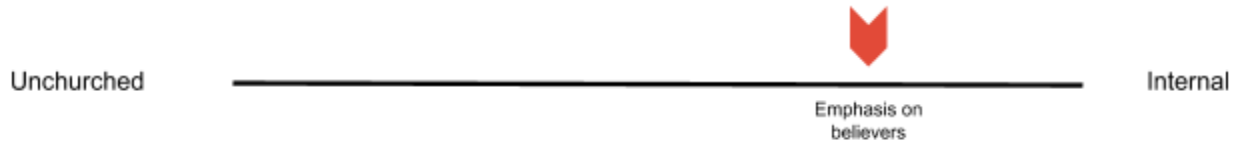
The Director of Worship and Music does the majority of planning and preparation for each service, in collaboration with the pastor and with the Worship Advisory Team. Maranatha follows a traditional order of worship each week with a blend of traditional music/hymns as well as more contemporary style music. Under the direction of the Worship Coordinator, a praise team leads the singing and spoken parts of the liturgy and is accompanied by various instruments. Throughout the year, our congregation looks forward to special services that are planned and led by some of our ministries such as GEMS, Cadets and Friendship just to name a few. We enjoy and seek out multi-generational participation in our services.

#### Ecumenical Activities

- Multiple combined services throughout the year with our sister congregation in Woodstock, Covenant CRC

- Combined service for Reformation Day and Palm Sunday with Knox Presbyterian Church, Emmanuel Reformed Church, and Covenant CRC

At Maranatha, **the worship services is designed for:**



At Maranatha, **the style of music used** in the worship service is:



## Loving our neighbours

*Helping those in need or in trouble*

- Grief Share for bereavement support
- Friendship ministry for developmentally challenged adults
- Community Kitchen (in collaboration with Fanshawe College and Indwell)
- Local Soup Kitchen – members of our church serve lunch for two weeks during the winter season
- Community BBQ hosted by Maranatha – many of our members volunteer and attend, as an opportunity to connect and share more about our church with those in our neighbourhood
- Diaconal Ministry
- Ministry Shares for Global Ministries

Maranatha's **response to compassion, mercy, and justice needs is:**



## Going out and living lives that point to Jesus

*Outreach*

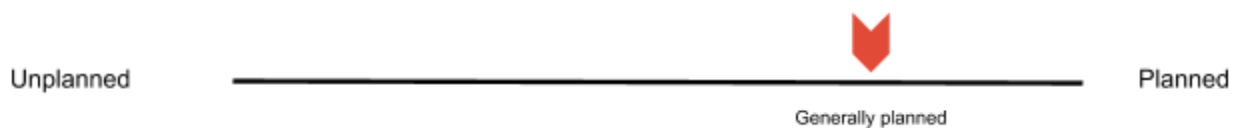
- Cadets hosts an annual road hockey tournament that draws in participants from the community each year
- Facility rentals to community groups
- Partnering with youth groups from other churches

- Community and mission projects such as Operation Sharing, Reverse Collections for Beginnings Pregnancy Care Centre, Teen Challenge Men's Choir, help for the homeless, Volunteering at Mission Thrift Store
- Ministry Shares for Global Ministries
- Participating in organized service and mission trips with Disaster Relief, World Renew, and Mission to Haiti and Children Of the Promise (Haiti), to name a few. Maranatha has both hosted and had youth go on SERVE trips which have always been a rewarding experience.
- The Community Partnership Team looks for ways to work with agencies and non-profits in our city. They are in the process of completing a Community Opportunity Scan (COVID has put this on hold) to seek out opportunities and define areas of growth.
- Building a relationship with the mayor of Woodstock who will attend special church events

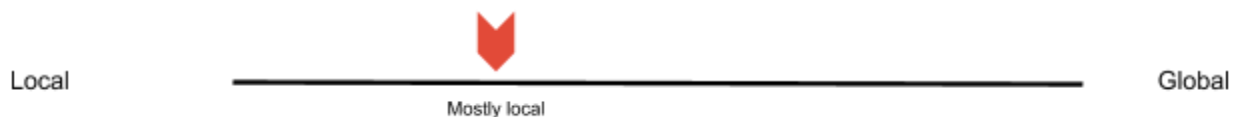
**Missionaries** we currently support:

- Joseph and Robinah Mutebi - World Renew, Uganda
- Alicia and Maynor Navarette - Nehemiah Centre, Nicaragua

At Maranatha, **evangelism strategies and methods** are:



Maranatha's **missional focus** is:



## Helping others find their place and gifts

**We care for one another.** Fellowship and pastoral care are our strength and bring us a lot of joy. Our shepherding elders and Care Team keep in touch with members and seek out opportunities to connect, especially with those in long-term care homes. There is a strong sense of community where members use their unique gifts to reach out, encourage growth, uphold one another in love.

**Community-building events**

- Newcomer's luncheon
- Fellowship luncheons/potlucks
- Community BBQ
- Senior's Socials

# Building believers up as followers & disciples of Jesus

We care and are passionate about our ministries, particularly in the area of the education and shaping of our children and youth. We wholeheartedly invest in these ministries with our time, prayers, and finances and see multi-generational participation in nearly all our ministries.

## Children

- Nursery (children ages 0-3)
- Kingdom Kids (age 3 - grade 3)
- Church School (grades 4-6)
- GEMS (girls grades 4-8); currently ~50% are children of our church
  - Option to continue as a Counselor-in-training (CIT)
- Cadets (boys grades 4-8); currently ~60% are children of our church
  - Option to continue as a Junior Counselor

## Youth

- Catechism (grades 8-10)
- Youth Group (grades 9-12)

## Young Adults

- Care package + blankets for out-of-town students
- [Young Adults group \(with other local CRC churches\)](#)

## Adults

- Women's Bible Study (weekly; childcare provided)
- Men's Bible Study (weekly)
- Small-Group Ministry
- OASIS Bible study group for seniors
- Prayer team (weekly)
- Pastor's Class/Profession of Faith Class
  
- Council retreats/training
- Young Adult Retreat
- Vacation Bible School





Marantha seeks to **encourage spiritual growth** through:

Formal



Ministries for  
selected groups

Informal

## Leadership & Staff

### Lead Pastor

*(Full job description available upon request)*

The salary range we are offering the Lead pastor is based on the CRC Ministry Compensation Survey for our area. The average annual increase for this position over the past three years is 1.86%

#### **Benefits:**

- CRCNA Ministers Pension
- Consolidated Group Insurance Plan (CGI)
- 4 weeks of annual vacation

#### **Allowances/reimbursed expenses:**

- Housing allowance (no parsonage)
- Travel/mileage
- Continuing education funds

#### **The last three persons in this position:**

1. Rev. Daryl Meijer
2. Rev. Dirk Miedema
3. Rev. Dr. John Vanderborgh

### All staff positions

- Lead Pastor (vacant)
- Ministry Coordinator (100% position)
- Director of Music & Worship (50% position)
- Administrative Assistant/Secretary/Treasurer
- 2 part-time Custodians

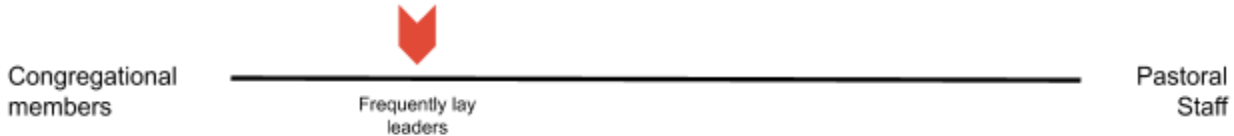
### Leadership

Presently, we have 22 council members serving 3-year terms. Full council meets 6-7 times per year.

## Council's subgroups

- Administrative Elders meet monthly
- Shepherding Elders meet 10 times a year
- Deacons meet monthly for matters of relief, benevolence, care
- Ministry Coordinator meets with ministry groups as needed, offers guidances where necessary
- Director of Worship helps to plan services, leads different praise teams and music groups

At Maranatha, **leadership** is provided by the:



## Facilities and Finances

### Our Facilities

Our current facilities are a one-floor, barrier-free building with a large sanctuary, a variety of classroom and meeting spaces, a library, gymnasium/fellowship hall, commercial kitchen, and office space for all staff.



### Our Finances

Present annual budget: \$603,574

Last year's annual budget: \$598,058

Percentage of financial obligations met (last complete year reported):

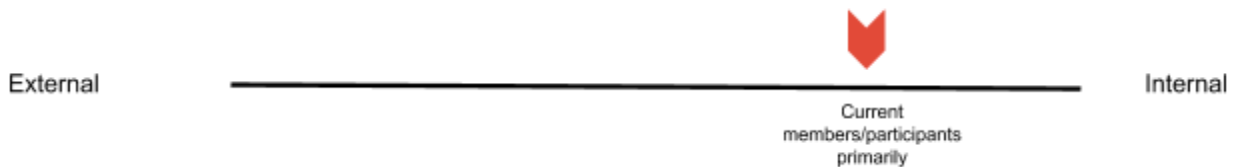
Budget: 93.4%

Denominational Ministry Shares: 100%

Classical Ministry Shares: 100%

Amount contributed above budget and ministry shares: \$125,385 (collections for special causes, mortgage)

Presently, the **focus of Maranatha's ministries** is:



# Challenges and opportunities in living out our mission

A few years ago, we went through a renewal process intending to achieve further spiritual growth in our congregation. This process helped us to identify and start to address some of the challenges our church is facing.

*Like many congregations, we experience the ebb and flow of our membership. How do we prevent a further decline? How can we meaningfully include young adults in our church, ministries and worship?*

*We are passionate about our ministries. How can we continue to have our ministries thrive without overcommitting or fatiguing our volunteers? How can we strengthen and build up our volunteers to coordinate these efforts and keep these ministries going strong?*

*Our church is great at fellowship and loving and caring for one another, but how can we encourage each other to grow as disciples? How can we grow our small group ministry?*

*We have a strong desire to further engage our community but need help in focusing our efforts. How do we meet our community where they are at and reach out to them? How can we best serve our community?*

*We are facing similar cultural challenges to that of other Christian churches such as human relationships, divorce and human sexuality. While not all are currently prevalent, how do we equip ourselves to minister in these situations in a Christ-like manner?*

**We are thankful to God for where he has led Maranatha and are excited to see where God is how God will use us to serve in his kingdom. We invite you to consider if Maranatha may be the church that God is calling you to as we too discern who God is calling to be our next Lead Pastor.**

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