



RIVER PARK CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH

CHURCH INFORMATION:

Name: River Park Christian Reformed Church
Location of church: 3818-14A Street SW Calgary, Alberta T2T 3Y2
Classical Church Counselor: Rev. Case Vink

SEARCH COMMITTEE CONTACT:

Name: John Sieswerda
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COMMUNITY SETTING:

Location: Metropolitan, Inner City

Function: College/University, Recreational, Industrial

Growth: Static

Population of Metropolitan Calgary: 1,336,000 people

CHURCH PROFILE:

We are open to: Male and Female Pastors

List of all staff positions: Pastor - open
Pastor - Intercultural Ministries Pastor Harrison Cho
Administrator (part time) - Donna Spronk
Secretary (part time) – Tamara Kielstra
Worship Coordinator (part time) – open
Youth group leaders (part-time) – Luke and Cheryl Abma
Denominational Coordinator (volunteer) – Ruth Krabbe
Janitor- contract position

Position Available: Pastor of Preaching, Care and Spiritual Formation

Date of Vacancy: June, 2018

GENERAL POSITION DESCRIPTION:

River Park CRC is seeking a **full time** Pastor of preaching, care and spiritual formation. We are looking for a Pastor to inspire us to "Reach Out, Draw in and Create Community".

Bi-Vocational Position? No

Number of years preferred of ministry experience of potential candidate: Open

Required Languages: English

List the last three persons in this position:

1) Rev. Derek Van Dalen	2015 - 2018
2) Rev. Mike Koot	2004 - 2013
3) Rev. Phil Reinders	1997 - 2010

CHURCH DEMOGRAPHICS:

Average Sunday Attendance: 205

Active Adult Professing Members: 167

Profile of church members:

Ages:	7.5% = 0-11yrs	7.5% = 12-18yrs	3% = 19-24yrs
	8% = 25-34yrs	13% = 35-49yrs	25% = 50-64yrs
	36% = 65+yrs		

Occupation:

RPC represents a variety of industries and professions. Many working in the private sector as trades and professionals, largely within the oil and gas industry. The public sector including education, medical and public services is also well represented. Finally, we have a large representation of members who have retired.

Duration of current members belonging to the congregation:

Less than 5 years:	5 %
5-10 years:	10 %
10 or more years:	85 %

Racial/Ethnic composition of congregation and surrounding community:

The congregation is 84% Caucasian, 15% Asian background, 1% African and other

WORSHIP:

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

RPC has a part-time worship coordinator (currently vacant, but we are actively looking to hire an individual for this role) - at times paid and at times volunteer. This person schedules worship team members and organizes special services. Songs are chosen by the worship leader (there are currently 3). A variety of people are involved in vocals, music, congregational prayer, children's messages, and A/V support.

Describe the worship services in your church:

Services are friendly, casual and meaningful. Worship songs are a blend of contemporary and traditional with a bias toward contemporary. Services give expression to our worship through singing and instrumentation, listening to the Word, giving gratitude through our offerings and through prayer. Sunday school children are usually dismissed after the worship songs. The Banner committee's art work enhances the worship service.

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

Sunday school (Pre-K- Gr. 4) and Jacob's ladder (gr. 5,6) meet during the service. Youth meet together with youth from other local CRC churches on Sunday evenings. Other ministries support the discipleship of women and men. Some members meet in small groups. Presently there is a focused discipleship meeting for those who completed the Alpha program. The multicultural ministries include meetings with newcomers, beginners, Bible study and discipleship. "Friendship" meets on Thursdays to support people with disabilities.

BUILDING / FINANCE:

Present annual Budget: \$570,000

Last year's annual budget: \$623,640

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

Budget	100%
Denominational Ministry Shares	56%
Classical Ministry Shares	100%

List of ministries contributed to above budget and ministry shares: \$137,850
(As per 2019-2020 AGM Agenda, Budget and Ministry Report)

- Christian Education/Publications
- CRC - denominational ministries
- CRC – Resonate
- Community ministries
- Diaconal Ministries (General, Refugee)
- Mission Fund
- Sonshine Christian Community Services
- World Renew

FACILITIES:

Located in a vibrant urban community, it is a large building with ample classroom, office and meeting space. Auditorium has seating for 550 people. Contains gym and basement fellowship hall. Fully renovated in 2004/5. The facility is extensively rented out to community groups.

Are your buildings adequate for your ministries? YES

Is a building program projected? NO

Does the church own a parsonage? NO

Location of office or study: Well lit basement office area

COMPENSATION:

The salary range we are prepared to offer our new pastor is based on the CRC Minister Compensation Survey for our area.

The average annual increase for this position over the past three years is 2%.

Housing:

Housing allowance	YES
Parsonage only	NO

Benefits and expenses:

- Pension
- Medical Insurance
- Life Insurance
- Social Security or Canada Pension
- Travel/Mileage
- Continuing Education funds
- Continuing Education time allotted
- Sabbatical policy in place
- Annual vacation

CHURCH CHARACTERISTICS:

Presently, the **FOCUS OF OUR CHURCH'S MINISTRY** is equally community & current members/participants.

In our church, the **WORSHIP SERVICE IS DESIGNED FOR** emphasis on believers.

In our church, the **STYLE OF MUSIC** used in the worship service is mostly contemporary.

In our church, **LEADERSHIP** is generally provided by the lay leaders and pastor staff sharing leadership.

Our church seeks to **ENCOURAGE SPIRITUAL GROWTH** through ministries for most groups.

In our church, **EVANGELISM STRATEGIES AND METHODS** are generally planned.

Our church is **mostly** representative of the **ECONOMIC DIVERSITY** of our community.

Our church is **moderately** representative of the **ETHNIC DIVERSITY** of our community.

Our church's RESPONSE TO COMPASSION, MERCY AND JUSTICE NEEDS is church based and personal action.

Our church's **MISSIONAL FOCUS** is equally local and global.

NARRATIVE:

In what ways does your church participate in ecumenical activities?

At this point we do not have a lot of participation in ecumenical activities although we did in the past.

Reflect on your strengths/gifts as a church:

We have:

- a caring, multi-generational community
- a lot of capable, involved people who don't hesitate to use their gifts within church ministries and in the broader community.
- a respect for tradition and an openness to new things
- a long-standing strong refugee and missionary support
- a very large, useful facility rented to many groups in the area.
- Intercultural ministry with designated pastoral staff
- Monthly fellowship lunches
- Stampede breakfast to introduce community members to our church.

Reflect on your passions as a church:

- We have a passion for connectivity and including all people
- We love to support each other, through meeting monthly for fellowship lunches and blessing struggling families in the congregation.
- We have a great desire to share the love of Jesus globally, through missions, refugee sponsorship and multiculturalism in the congregation.

List specific problems with which your congregation struggles:

- The decline in congregational size over the past 8 years has been hard on people remaining. We are starting to accept that we are now a smaller church but over the past years have grieved and yearned to "go back" to the vitality of 10 years ago. In the previous few years, we were focused on the institution of the church but in the past year we are awakening ourselves through a new beginning to the true love of Jesus and expressing that in our lives. We are a church in transition.
- We are a multicultural church with a distinct Korean ministry and a variety of attenders from around the world but struggle to be one community.
- As with most Canadian churches we are having difficulty engaging the younger generations. In the past year our youth group has combined with other CRC churches with a strong group of 50-80 youth.

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

- In the spring of 2018, we separated with our Pastor under article 17. There was much hurt left in the congregation. In the fall, we held a service of lament, it became a time of confession and renewed hope. Since then, the council has been working very hard with the congregation through town hall meetings and over lunches to develop a new vision for the church (as described below). We look forward to the possibilities that await as we begin to incorporate this vision into all the ministries of the church.
- An encouraging event was the participation in the Alpha program where we saw growth in new Christians, from various cultural and religious backgrounds and the continued discipleship of those involved.

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

- We have a recently articulated vision statement and values for ministry.

**Reaching Out.
Drawing In.
Creating Community.**

Believing in God the Father as our Creator, Jesus as our Redeemer and the Holy Spirit as the One who renews us, we are intentional in:

Reaching Out. Grounded in God's grace and love, we will build relationships and meet needs of our community, embracing each other's unique being, ethnicity, background and ideas while recognizing that we can't do life by ourselves.

We value integrity, humility, serving, social justice and thoughtfully impacting our culture.

Drawing In. With creative and heartfelt worship to God and authentic and empowering ministries, we will be intentional in creating room for all.

We value trust, curiosity, being relevant, hospitality, mutual acceptance, and transparency.

Creating Community. In seeking a deeper relationship with God, we will be a place where people of different cultures, backgrounds, gifts and abilities can find belonging and contribute to our life together and God's world.

We value inclusion, diversity, authenticity, compassion, openness, and vulnerability.

In all of this we are grounded in and guided by the Word of God.

- We carry on despite challenges, continuing as the body of Christ nurturing the community of believers and reaching out.

Describe what being Christians of Reformed accent means to you:

- We rely on grace as revealed in God's word. We believe that we are saved by God's grace and are guided by God's Word, the Bible, in daily living and faith. We are grateful that God's grace is unlimited in its reach into our lives and community and we try to move forward in this grace to join in impacting others locally and globally with Christ's love.

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

- River Park Church holds the same beliefs and values as the Christian Reformed denomination that it is a part of. However, we have characteristics and a culture unique to ourselves. We have a culture of service and we are less emphatic about how each person should express their faith, giving people the space and encouragement to grow in Christian faith and values. We have a lot of "leaders" within the congregation which has enabled our ministries to thrive and the congregation to carry on without a pastor.
- River Park is connected with other CRC churches (Classis) as well as the larger CRC governing body (Synod), for guidance, support, and accountability as was evidenced in our journey of the last few years. In the past RPC has been supportive of other Calgary CRC church plants. RPC works with other Calgary churches in youth programming, gems and boys club. Invitations to men's retreats are usually extended to all CRCs in Calgary.

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

- The culture of the world is often very different from church culture so we have to wrestle with the question of how to live in this world as Christians. Rather than avoiding or denying controversial or difficult topics, whether they be so for adults or youth, topics such as LGBTQ+, Relationships + Sex, Abortion, and Decision-Making (including finances) need to be discussed.
- Pace of society which makes 2x/ month church attendance the new normal
- Discerning how to share Christ's love in ways that are relevant for millennials and those younger.
- Embracing technology as an effective communication tool.

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

- Late 70's/ early 80's - charismatic movement and a new worship style resulting in number of people leaving the congregation including the most charismatic and the most traditional. The church also established a women's shelter, Sonshine centre.
- 2000's - the dream of a multicultural church and the beginnings of a Korean ministry.
- 2005 – purchased, renovated and moved into a larger building, changed the name from First CRC to River Park CRC, and made an intentional effort to reach out to the community with high church engagement resulting in new ministries, the beginning of Marda Loop Justice Film Festival.

LEADERSHIP:

How many council members does your church have? 9

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

How often does council meet? Monthly

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

- Deacons – monthly meeting with minutes forwarded to council (involves benevolence, refugee sponsoring, visiting of seniors)
- Pastoral Care Elders – monthly meeting with minutes forwarded to council, have a council liaison (involves visit and care for the ill, the dying and those in need of spiritual support)
- Prayer meeting every Wednesday morning
- Worship – meets as needed
- Administration – meets as needed
- Education (Nursery, Sunday School, Jacob's Ladder, Boys Cub, Gems, Youth) meets as

needed.

- Outreach (Go Local, Alpha, ESL, Missions, Men's Ministry, Women's Ministry)– as needed
- Safe church – as needed