Rosewood Church in Bellflower, originally called Third Christian Reformed Church (CRC), was started in 1950 by a group of young families from a neighboring CRC. Once a primarily Dutch-American congregation, the church is now a greatly diverse family with people hailing from approximately 15 countries of origin. Rosewood is an outreaching church with a well-functioning staff team that eagerly desires another Spirit-filled pastor to partner with them in ministry.
Rosewood is located in Bellflower, a city of 75,000 people, surrounded by the cities of Lakewood, Cerritos, Downey, Norwalk, and Long Beach (part of the Los Angeles urban sprawl). Bellflower’s zip code is one of the most diverse in the United States, with the highest percentage of people identifying as Hispanic. Rosewood reflects the community well in terms of political, socio-economic, and cultural diversity.

There are approximately 50 churches in Bellflower. We partner with Kingdom Causes Bellflower (KCB), a Christian community development organization that strives to catalyze the churches in addressing the issues of unemployment, homelessness, and poverty. One of our global ambassadors works full-time for KCB.
Rosewood has two Sunday morning worship services at 10:00 a.m., one in English and one in Spanish, which last 75-90 minutes each. Attendance at the English service averages 180 including children, and attendance at the Spanish service averages 35. We have combined children’s ministries during the service. Our services receive an average of 100 views on our weekly livestreams (English & Spanish).
Pastor Bonny has been the primary preacher for the English services during the past year and a half (she previously preached about once a month). Pastor Fernando preaches at all of the Spanish services. We hold a combined English-Spanish worship service every 6-8 weeks, with live translation into headsets for Spanish speakers.

Our worship is mostly contemporary, with a traditional hymn included most weeks. Worship is led by Brad Winchell on the bass guitar, along with a band of piano, electric guitar, drums, and occasionally acoustic guitar. Brad leads the vocals with two (alternating) vocalists from the congregation. Our sermons typically last 25-30 minutes.

Sunday morning attendance includes up to 35 youth and young adults, many of whom are involved in ministry. Most of them have come up through our children’s & youth ministries. We have an average of 30 children from infant-6th grade, out of a potential 50. The children are dismissed from the service at greeting time to have their own age-appropriate teaching time. We view this as a priority since many of our children do not attend Christian school and/or their families are fairly new to the Christian faith.
Rosewood has approximately 220 active adult professing members, plus around 80 regular attenders, for a total of 300 people. This includes those who participate in midweek ministries. Our church database shows 342 professing members (including inactive), and 12 non-professing.

We are a diverse church community, which includes an active Spanish-language ministry that is part of the larger Rosewood body (we are all one body with a full-time pastor dedicated to Hispanic Ministries). We are also an enfolding church for people from various church and life backgrounds, including addiction, abuse, spiritual warfare, mental health issues, and various kinds of brokenness.

Our church family includes several nurses, a few teachers and professors, some in managerial or sales positions, a few business owners, and maybe half in blue-collar or service-oriented jobs.

The following charts reflect our membership in ethnic diversity, longevity at Rosewood, and age.
CHURCH DEMOGRAPHICS

ETHNIC DIVERSITY

- White: 47%
- Hispanic: 35%
- African American: 7%
- Nigerian: 6%
- Asian: 4%

LENGTH OF MEMBERSHIP

- 0-5 years: 7%
- 5-10 years: 17%
- 10-20 years: 39%
- 20+ years: 37%
- 0-5 years: 7%
During the school year, Rosewood has thriving midweek ministries for children and youth, plus a variety of small groups for adults.

- The **GEMS ministry** includes around 25 girls, mostly from the community; the **Cadets ministry** includes around 30 boys. Our **middle-school group** includes 14 youth, and the **high-school group** around 14.

- We offer a **college-age women’s group** on Monday nights.

- We have a **young adult** women’s group and a young adult men’s group (in their 20s and 30s) on Tuesday nights, many of whom have small children.

- For **adults**, we have several adult Bible study groups in English and Spanish on various mornings and evenings.

Rosewood places a strong emphasis on **community outreach**, which is done primarily through several big events including:

- Outrageous Pumpkin Party on October 3rd which draws an estimated 3,000 people to our campus
- Christmas Toy Store in partnership with other area churches, which serves approximately 200 families from our community each year.
- Easter Egg Hunt and Carnival with pancake breakfast the day before Easter, which draws around 700 people
- Summer Family Nights, a five-week summer ministry on Wednesday nights for all ages.
Summer is a busy time for ministry at Rosewood:

- **Summer Family Nights (SFN)** -- For five weeks of the summer (late June through the end of July), we host SFN, which is an intergenerational ministry for people in the church and new to the church. The night includes dinner, intergenerational worship with music and drama, and small groups for preschool through adults. The offerings for adults include six classes (one in Spanish). SFN usually attracts around 60 adults, 50 children/youth, and 35 volunteers.

- **Renew and Destination Rehoboth** -- Our youth and young adults (ages 14-21) are involved in a week-long service and worship week – either Renew @ Rosewood or Destination Rehoboth (NM) on alternating years. Hosting Renew is a big undertaking, with around 60 participants plus all of the volunteers.

- **Camp Dunamis** -- This is a camp for middle school youth, hosted by our classis, focusing on racial reconciliation. Around 150 youth attend this camp from various churches in Southern California and New Mexico. Rosewood has played a big role in leadership and staffing of the camp over the past 30 years.
Rosewood also hosts a **Food Pantry**, which opens every Friday afternoon. The food is purchased from the Los Angeles Food Bank, and supplemented with donations from some local food establishments. Church members support this ministry with donations. Last year, this little pantry served 2,108 families, which includes 9,174 individuals. Pastor Fernando leads a team of 18 volunteers who bless this community.
MEET THE TEAM

REV. BONNY MULDER-BEHNIA  
Pastor of Congregational Life & Ministry

Pastor Bonny has been on staff for 21 years, initially as family ministries pastor and for the past 7 years as executive pastor. Her areas of primary responsibility include ministry and staff oversight, pastoral care and coordination, and administration. She shares in the preaching and outreach, and serves on the Governing Board, Shepherding Elders, and Ministering Deacons.

REV. FERNANDO VALENCE  
Pastor of Hispanic Ministries

Pastor Fernando is responsible for all of the preaching and worship for the Spanish services. He also leads Bible studies and discipleship groups, directs the Food Pantry, pitches in with almost all ministry events, and does most of his own IT work. He serves on the Governing Board and Shepherding Elders. He has been on staff for 16 years.

OPEN POSITION  
Pastor of Preaching & Next Generation

This pastor will have primary responsibility for preaching, next-generation ministries (youth, young adults, and young families), and community outreach and evangelism. Shared responsibilities include pastoral care and spiritual formation. He will serve on all 3 council groups. (See page 18 for more details.)
MEET THE TEAM

DENISE TAMMINGA
Director of Adult Discipleship (20 hrs)

Denise has been on staff for 20 years, and coordinates the adult small group ministry and connects adults to spiritual growth and ministry opportunities. She shares responsibility for planning community-building and outreach activities and events. She is a trained spiritual director and is working on her masters in spiritual formation and soul care.

RACHEL SHUGART
Director of Children's Ministry (20 hrs)

Rachel joined our staff 15 years ago. She coordinates all children’s ministries, focusing especially on GEMS girls club, Promiseland (Sunday mornings), Summer Family Nights, and is a key member of the outreach event planning team.

BRAD WINCHELL
Worship Leader (10 hrs)

Brad works with the preacher to prayerfully select songs that match the theme/mood of the service. He is a professional bass player, steel-drum player, and lead vocalist.

JULIO & JOSIE MORALES
Director of Middle School Ministry (10 hrs)

DANIELLE SAMIA
Director of High School Ministry (10 hrs)
Our whole staff team pitches in and works together on most events, since our church does a lot of ministry. We must all be “generalists” rather than “specialists,” and we all help with set up, take down, clean up and anything that is needed.
We value our diversity in culture, which includes ethnicity, age, socio economic, church or non-church background, salvation stories, and more.

We value and seek to utilize the spiritual gifts of both men and women in every setting, including ordination of pastors, elders, and deacons. We work together as equal partners and team members.

We want to retain our young adults and young families; we celebrate their presence among us and their commitment to this church.
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<td>PRAYER IS THE AIR</td>
<td>LOST PEOPLE MATTER TO GOD</td>
<td>A MULTI-CULTURAL CHURCH REFLECTS GOD'S HEART</td>
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<td>OUR CHURCH IS A SAFE PLACE TO NOT BE OKAY</td>
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<td>MINISTRY IS THE CALL OF EVERY BELIEVER</td>
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Healing from the Pandemic -- As with churches everywhere, the COVID-19 Pandemic affected our attendance, and caused some division as people had varying opinions on how the church should have handled the health guidelines. In addition, COVID hit one month after our long-term senior pastor retired – during the transition between him and a new teaching pastor who had accepted a call. This took a toll on the new pastor and on our church. We also had some big losses (through death) of dear people in our congregation during that season.

Financial Creativity -- Many of the new people coming to Christ through Rosewood are not wealthy, but struggle to make ends meet. So we are always looking for ways to increase our income while decreasing our expenses, and to encourage God’s people to tithe. We strive to be good stewards of the financial resources God continues to provide.

Focusing on the Next Generation -- We have a good number of college-age young adults and young married couples with young children, which is such a blessing. The challenge: Our staff and leaders are discussing and praying about how to raise up more young leaders and ministries that would motivate and involve this age and interest group.

Sunday Schedules -- Many of our young adults must work in the service industry, which includes Sundays. Families with children are incredibly busy with sports, outings, and many other distractions, so attendance is irregular even among the most dedicated.
COUNCIL LEADERSHIP

GOVERNING BOARD
which oversees budget, policies, properties, and pastoral staff. This group includes 7 elders and the (3) pastors, and meets once or twice a month.

SHEPHERDING ELDERS
which oversees pastoral care, word and sacraments, and membership. This group includes 6 elders and the (3) pastors, and meets once a month.

MINISTERING DEACONS
which oversees senior singles, benevolence, missions support, and food pantry. This group includes 6 deacons and one pastor, and meets once a month.

The full council meets once or twice a year for training, information-sharing, and prayer.
**Areas of Primary Responsibility:**

**Preaching and Worship**
- Assume primary responsibility for preaching
- Partner with the worship leader to plan the services
- Plan sermon series and special worship events.

**Next Generation Ministries**
- Supervise and mentor youth group leaders.
- Develop an effective, multi-faceted ministry with young adults.
- Coordinate ministries to/with young families.

**Outreach and Evangelism**
- Develop new and build on current outreach strategies.
- Focus on community engagement and Global Ambassadors.
- Equip and mentor members in practical evangelism.
- Serve as pastoral liaison with the Ministering Deacons.

**Areas of Shared Responsibility**

- Pastoral Care & Counseling
- Spiritual Formation & Discipleship
- Multicultural Ministry/Diversity
- Leadership & Administration

**Relationships and Accountability**
The three pastors are accountable to the Governing Board, and mutually accountable to one another.

**Qualifications**
- Master of Divinity degree
- Ordination in the Christian Reformed Church or sister denomination
- Five years’ experience in ordained pastoral ministry.
- Experience with a team pastorate, multicultural ministry, outreach, evangelism, preaching, and youth and young-adult ministry.

**To inquire and receive a full position description, send email to:**
Ryan Ploeger and Ruby Reyes, Search Team Co-Chairs
governingboard@rosewoodchurch.com