

Bloomingtondale Mennonite Church

Job Description

Pastor

Full Time Equivalent: 0.75 (negotiable)

Bloomingtondale Mennonite Church is a small rural congregation located 15 minutes from Waterloo with an average attendance of 40-60 individuals who range from young families to seniors. Following the Anabaptist Mennonite tradition we seek a pastor to shepherd our congregation into living out our call as a faith community.

We understand our congregation to be:

- Engaged in a dynamic relationship that experiences wholeness by growing in a personal relationship with God through Jesus Christ;
- Nurtured as a faith community, responding to needs beyond our congregation and inviting persons to experience God's friendship within a faith community;
- A House of prayer and a Community of grace;
- Striving to be a welcoming, invitational, and inclusive congregation that practices hospitality, and provides a safe atmosphere to take risks;
- Desiring to be a visible presence in the community that articulates faith and expresses a faith commitment; and
- A place where we willingly accept and use the gifts of all who want to be part of our community of faith.

Priorities of the pastoral role among us are:

Worship and Leadership:

The pastor, along with the worship committee, will plan meaningful, spiritual and innovative worship services. We care deeply about our intergenerational Sunday worship services and the meaning and direction they give to living out our faith throughout the week.

The pastor will achieve this end with:

- Strong preaching and passionate teaching skills with good Biblical insight
- Cheer-leading and encouragement of the congregation (priesthood of all believers) in their worship gifts and abilities. The capacity to also discover hidden gifts of our congregation.
- Sharing a vision for an inclusive virtual ministry.

Activities include:

- Along with the Worship Committee, seasonally plan worship services according to themes, the Lectionary or other resources.
- Develop worship services that include and speak to members of all ages.
- Lead and/or participate in worship response time after the worship service.
- Officiate at Baptisms, Communion, Weddings and Funerals and other rites of the Church as needed by our congregation
- Sit on Ministry Team (elders) and Joint Leadership Team

Relationships and Fellowship:

BMC is a family-sized intergenerational congregation. We seek a pastor who values relationships and is sensitive to intergenerational dynamics.

The pastor will achieve this end with:

- Strong interpersonal and active listening skills;
- By being supportive and encouraging of lay leaders within the congregation; and
- Able to relate to people from varying denominational backgrounds and will aid the congregation in working through differences that may arise.

Activities include:

- Fostering fellowship among Church members, neighbours, and wider community.
- Encourage the congregation to apply Jesus' teaching in our lives and relationships.
- Taking time to be mindful and watchful about "busyness" and guard against volunteer and pastor burnout.

Pastoral Care:

BMC is a faith community that loves God and one another. Each member is valued, loved and appreciated for who they are and where they are on their faith journey. Each member of our family matters. Whether they are a young child, a new parent, a grieving spouse; whether they attend every week or are no longer able to attend services because of family or health situations.

The pastor will achieve this end with:

- An engaging disposition who is willing to accompany individuals and the community on the journey of faith.

Activities include:

- Visit those in hospital, long-term care or those convalescing at home
- Available for crisis ministry and/or refer to outside counselling services as needed
- Open to visit those in need or who request a visit
- Will share scripture, prayer and Communion as appropriate to those who cannot come to church
- Enable and encourage the congregation to support each other in mutual care and concern

Continuing Education and Self-Care:

The pastor will be encouraged to take adequate time for rest, reading and continuing education. We anticipate the pastor having significant education from a Mennonite seminary, or equivalent and who exhibits the qualities of a life-long learner.

- Preferably at least ten years of experience in pastoral ministry, service or other equivalent work.
- Eligible for licensing and ordination within Mennonite Church Eastern Canada

Accountability:

The pastor is accountable to the congregation who provides direction for the pastor through the Joint Leadership and Ministry Teams