

Ottawa Mennonite Church The Role of Lead Pastor

Accountability: The Lead Pastor is accountable to the congregation through the Church Council.

Responsibility: In keeping with the Believers' church tradition, we subscribe to the priesthood of all believers, in which everyone is responsible for furthering the kingdom of God.

We call an individual to service among us to both lead and enable us.

What follows are our aspirations as a congregation and the supporting tasks for the Lead Pastor. The [Ottawa Mennonite Church \(OMC\) Covenant](#) provides another relevant expression of our aspirations.

1. Worship and Preaching

Ottawa Mennonite Church is an inclusive and welcoming place of Christian worship, where all who participate experience the welcome of the Christian community and feel included. OMC is located on the unceded, unsurrendered Territory of the Anishinaabe Algonquin Nation. We are committed to the transformative and ongoing work of nurturing a church where God's love transcends all barriers. We believe that every human being is created and gifted by God. As people of diverse gender identities and sexual orientations, we affirm LGBTQ+ persons in church membership, baptism, marriage, congregational leadership and pastoral ministry. We seek to love all as Christ first loved us.

Ottawa Mennonite Church is a place where we learn about the Christian faith and its Anabaptist expression. We are encouraged to greater love, service and communion with God and neighbour.

The Lead Pastor practices leadership in worship by:

- Collaborating with the Worship and Ministerial Committees to plan worship services that include the reading and teaching of scripture and the practice of sharing and prayer
- Managing the preaching calendar and preaching sermons approximately three times a month
- Preaching sermons structured by the Lectionary or a thematic approach
- Encouraging and supporting the ongoing use of music and an active music program, including communal singing, and other art forms, as integral and integrated parts of the worship experience
- Coordinating, planning, and presiding at special services such as communions, baptisms, marriages, child dedications, and funerals
- Modeling and teaching a life of faith and the practice of spiritual disciplines, sharing with members in the joys and struggles to develop an authentic spiritual life.
- Teaching in settings outside of worship (e.g. catechism classes, small groups, Christian Education)

2. Pastoral Care

OMC will be a place where people feel loved and supported at all times but particularly when they experience serious personal issues, health crises and major life transitions, or when close family or friends live with these experiences. The Lead Pastor will respond to those in need in the following ways:

- Collaborating with the deacons to foster a caring community and to respond to specific situations
- Working with the Associate Pastor and deacons to maintain an active ministry of visitation
- Providing confidential and wise counsel to congregants, as requested
- Referring individuals to community services when the need is complex and ongoing

3. Church Ministry Oversight and Inspiration

OMC will be a place where, in relation to shared tasks, ministries and activities, the congregation will appreciate the past, find encouragement for the present, and receive inspiration for the future. The Lead Pastor will assist the congregation in the following ways:

- Collaborating with Church Council and other relevant committees to evaluate programs and create a vision for the future
- Meeting regularly with the Associate Pastor to discuss shared responsibilities and enable mutual accountability and learning
- Promoting lay leadership and service within the congregation
- Listening well to various voices within the congregation and the broader community
- Assisting the congregation in grappling with difficult social and spiritual issues
- Encouraging good communication within the congregation

4. Administration

The Lead Pastor will provide direction for and supervision of the work of the Church Office Assistant for the Ottawa Mennonite Church, which work includes clerical, filing, and operational duties.

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