

Rockway Mennonite Church

Kitchener, ON

Seeking a New Pastor

An open and welcoming faith community seeking to live Christ's wisdom and peace in the world.

Following a long and happy relationship with its pastor for over 20 years, and after almost a year of interim leadership and reflection, Rockway Mennonite Church is seeking a new Pastor to begin prior to September 1, 2023 if possible.

Who we are as a congregation and faith community

As a congregation, it is Christian faith that centres us, compelling us towards the pursuit of peace and wisdom; it is community that binds us, where fellowship, camaraderie, and care for one another supports and energizes us.

Our members and active adherents come to church for connection to a community of like-minded seekers. They come for inspiration and challenge and learning and grounding. They place high value on beauty in worship, and especially beautiful music. We are looking for a Pastor who can challenge and stimulate our thinking, engage with us in our growth as a faith community, and be a seeker alongside us. As a group, we are unafraid of doubt and questions, and rigorous in how we seek wisdom together. We want to engage in difficult conversations around faith, Anabaptist theology and current issues.

We are an open and welcoming faith community, welcoming LGBTQ2S+ people into all aspects of congregational life. The congregation works actively on refugee resettlement and has active working groups striving to address issues of climate justice, anti-black racism and indigenous reconciliation.

Our community members are very involved in the activities of Silver Lake Mennonite Camp, Rockway Mennonite Collegiate, and Conrad Grebel University College.

The Role of Pastor at Rockway

Rockway is an engaged congregation of many talents. The Pastor at Rockway has many resources to draw upon in the form of musicians, speakers, and active participants in worship. The Pastor must animate, and engage, and coordinate those talents in supporting Sunday worship. The Pastor need only preach two or three times a month, otherwise drawing on local and community resources.

Pastoral care duties currently require about a day a week in our congregation. The Pastor works with the congregation's Ministry Council to identify needs and care strategies. Most formal visitation activities are performed by our Pastor. Pastoral care encompasses connecting with and supporting our congregants throughout the various stages of life, walking alongside our children, our teens and young adults, our middle-agers and our seniors. Direct Pastoral relationships and engagement with young people and Christian formation through Sunday School and junior youth and youth events has proven both powerful and important to us and our children.

In addition to leading the worship life of the church and providing pastoral care, Rockway's Pastor oversees the church office and congregational administration and stays connected with the wider Mennonite community.

Qualifications

Rockway is seeking candidates with:

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- Demonstrated Christian commitment
- A well-developed (and still developing!) Anabaptist theology. Relevant graduate training is an important asset (e.g., M.Div, MTS, MA in related domain, PhD in related area, etc.)
- Excellent oral, written, and inter-personal communication skills
- Strong conflict resolution skills
- Strong administrative skills
- The ability to work independently, and the desire to work collaboratively
- Pastoral care skills and experience

Rockway is open to candidates who may still be developing some of these skills or are willing to develop and execute on a plan to do so.

Rockway requires a full-time pastor equivalent. However, the congregation is open to considering alternative arrangements and role structures. If you have an interest in providing pastoral leadership to our congregation, whether as a sole pastor or as some part of a part-time collaborative configuration, we would welcome your application with accompanying details on your thoughts and vision.

Our search committee will begin reviewing applications on March 25, 2023.