



# EXETER

CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH

## Exeter Christian Reformed Church Sole Pastor... *Soul Pastor*

### Could This Be You?

Do you desire to use your Spiritual Gifts to further God's Kingdom as the sole Pastor of a church? Are you passionate about explaining and applying God's Word (the Bible) to people in a way that nurtures their relationship with Jesus Christ? Do you want to experience the fellowship of believers who strive to be united in purpose and mission to spread the Gospel to all?

The Exeter Christian Reformed Church (Exeter CRC) in Ontario, Canada, is prayerfully seeking the next Pastor God has prepared for us – A Pastor called to dwell among and lead a people that desire to *devote themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer*. We are on a journey to achieve that end, and we see ourselves as an imperfect church looking for an imperfect Pastor who will be the perfect fit in our multi-generational congregation.

If you are interested or intrigued in this position, please read on.



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## Who We are – Executive Summary

### Community Information:

Exeter is a rural community nestled in the Great Lakes basin of southwestern Ontario and located 40 minutes north of London (pop 540,000). It is both an agricultural hub in the Municipality of South Huron as well as a bedroom community to the city of London.



For more info on the area: [Experience Exeter](#)  
[Municipality of South Huron Community Profile](#)

### Church Information:

Our church is truly multi-generational – with core members who are committed to our church. These strong ties result in a supportive church family that encourages accountability. When needs arise, we respond. Our members give generously of both time and finances. Whatever the need or project, we work well together and in unity.

Our church strives for relevance. How can our programs and ministries best impact our church members and the broader community? Faith formation is a priority particularly with the children and youth in our care. When we gather to worship, our congregation loves to sing and raise our voices in praise.

But, like many churches, the pandemic has impacted our regular Sunday attendance, and we currently enjoy the fellowship of 105 to 120 in person worshipers and 25 to 40 online worshipers each Sunday. The average age of our church membership is younger than our community, which is exciting in the context of revitalizing our church. (A good sign according to Lee Kricher, the author of For a New Generation). While our community has fewer than 5% visible minorities, our church does enjoy a balance in diversity of occupations, with 25% Business and Professionals, 27% Agriculture and Trades and 30% Retired.

Our church building is 25 years old, modern, maintained and mortgage free! It includes a Sanctuary with pews for 400, offices for the Pastor and Administrator, a Gymnasium, a Kitchen, an Education wing and dedicated rooms for Nursery, Youth, and Cadets. Financially, we started 2022 with an accumulated surplus of just over \$68,000 and our annual budget for this year is \$372,750.





## Our Story

### Worship:

We have one worship service each week on Sunday mornings. The services are a team effort, planned by the Worship Committee with the Pastor and Council's direction, involving volunteer musicians and song leaders and even choirs on several occasions each year. The worship music is a blend of contemporary songs and traditional hymns and our service flows smoothly from God Gathering Us in His Presence – Renewing Us in His Grace – Speaking to Us through His Word – Calling Us to Respond with Prayers and Offerings – and Sending Us Out to Serve with His Blessing. Following a special children's message right before the sermon, the children break into their Sunday school classes for the rest of the service.



A Digital Team provides all audio/visual needs and we have been recording and broadcasting our services on local cable TV for over 25 years – which prepared us for a quick response to the pandemic as we transitioned seamlessly to live-streaming services on YouTube and Facebook platforms for the last 4 years!

We celebrate the Lord's Supper regularly with believers of all ages. When children express an interest to participate, parents are encouraged to enter into conversation with their children about the Lord's Supper, discussing its purpose, symbolism, and significance before their children participate.

### Programs & Discipleship:

Our goal at Exeter CRC is to make discipleship programs available to all ages, welcoming interested members of the community to join as well. The Faith Formation Committee promotes Sunday School, Cadets & Gems for pre-school and elementary school ages, Youth Group for high school ages and Living Small Groups for all other ages! We enjoy the passion of leaders of these programs and have seen the fruit of believers united in these discipleship programs.

We also recognize the importance of being the light in our community – partnering with other churches in meeting the needs of our community. There is an active Inter-Ministerial fellowship of the Pastors/Church leaders – the churches take turns rotating through area Nursing/Senior Homes providing mid-week services. Combined prayer and worship services have resulted from the Inter-Ministerial partnership along with a Christmas project called "Bethlehem Journey" [The Banner-online article](#).



The Deacons work in partnership with the local churches and many members volunteer independently to support these targeted response initiatives for the needy in our community:

Exeter Food Bank and Huron County Distribution Centre

Coldest Night of the Year – United Way fundraiser for homelessness

Dove's Nest (thrift store)

Community Table

South Huron Community Angel Project

Huron/Perth Christmas Bureau

Refugee Team

Finally, along with other churches and denominations, many of our members work together in support of the K through 12 Christian schools in the area.

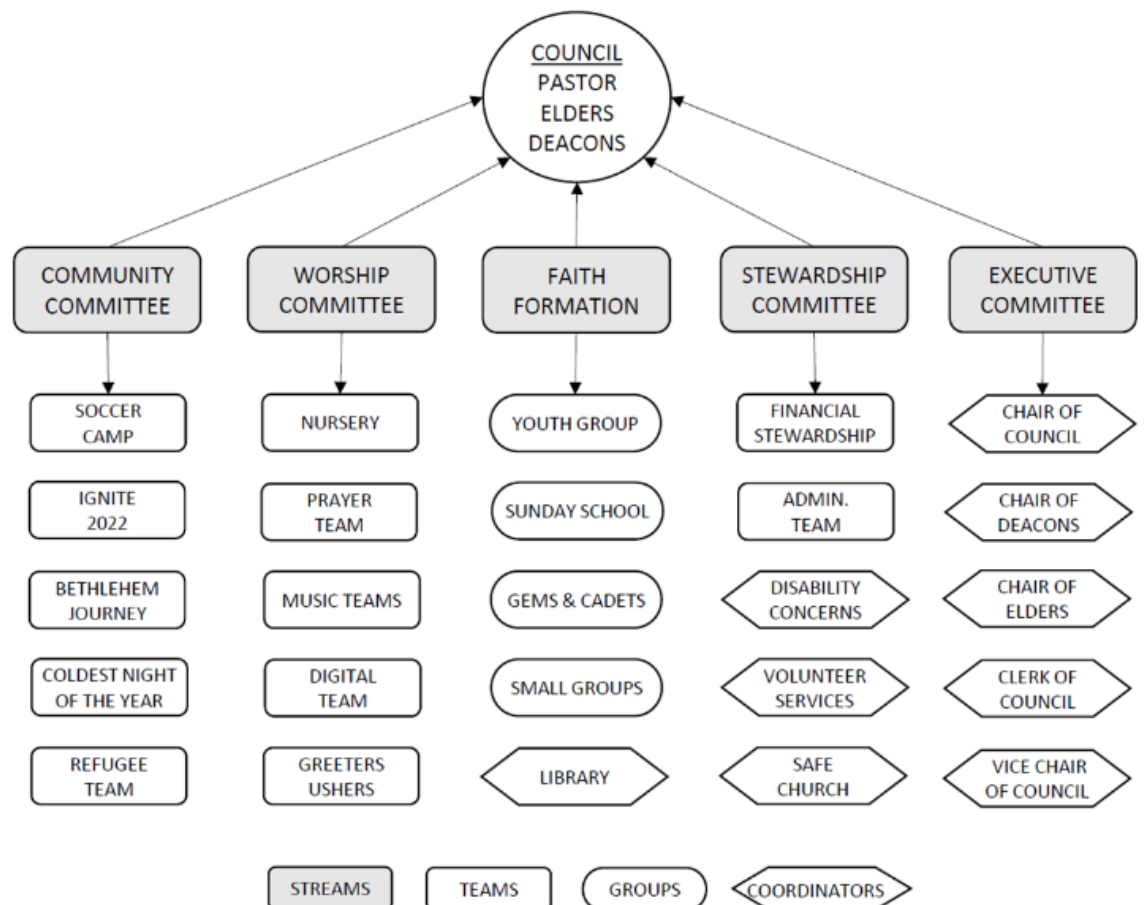


## Our Vision, the Playbook and our Governance Model:

**We are training to become a clear reflection of God’s glory within ourselves, towards others, and in our community.** This vision statement keeps us focused on our individual response to God’s gift of salvation, but it is not really that unique – it could be, and should be, the vision of every Christ follower. So, when it comes to the purpose of this Church – *in Exeter, in the 2020’s*, we have come to define ourselves in a method different than the traditional Mission-Vision-Values model. Following the method described by Patrick Lencioni in The Advantage, we have found clarity when we respond to six questions – four of which we have captured as the main elements of our Playbook and the fifth which helps us focus on a core theme for a period:

WHY DO WE EXIST?	HOW DO WE BEHAVE?	WHAT DO WE DO?	HOW WILL WE SUCCEED?	WHAT IS MOST IMPORTANT RIGHT NOW?
<p>We exist to glorify <b>GOD</b> &amp; share <b>CHRIST</b> through word &amp; example.</p>	<p>We behave as followers &amp; witnesses of <b>JESUS</b> with love, justice, humility, and hospitality to all people.</p>	<p>We live out loud the <b>GOSPEL</b> of <b>CHRIST</b> equipping <b>PEOPLE</b> to daily see &amp; serve the <b>LORD</b> in relationships and creation.</p>	<p>We will succeed by being <b>SPIRIT-led</b>: in building unity among each other, in corporate worship &amp; prayer, in being active participants in our communities and in our church.</p>	<p>Reigniting our call to be <b>SPIRIT-led</b> &amp; <b>UNIFIED</b> as we revitalize faith formation for all ages.</p>

Finally, the sixth question asks, “Who does what?” – and we are excited to share that we have answered that question with a new governance model to help us carry out our ministry. It is still being refined, but the essence is that we have identified five main “streams” of work to organize our ministry teams, groups, and coordinators. The committees that overlook these streams remain accountable to the Council, receiving guidance and sharing results in a strong two-way communication link. Following is a graphic of this new governance model:



## The Position:

To minister to the congregation of the Exeter CRC as together we discern God's vision and mission for our church and community. The Pastor of the Exeter CRC is a fulltime position (not bi-vocational) and is currently the sole ministerial staff position.

The Exeter CRC is seeking a servant-leader to fulfill the calling of the Minister of the Word "to proclaim, explain, and apply Holy Scripture in order to gather in and equip the members so that the church of Jesus Christ may be built up" (Article 11, CRCNA Church Order and Its Supplements).

God has given everyone different gifts and abilities... "There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them. There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work. Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good" (1 Corinthians 12:4-7). With the help of the Holy Spirit, and the support of the Exeter CRC congregation, it is our prayer that the new Pastor will be able to utilize and develop their unique gifts to further God's Kingdom in Exeter. Below is a framework for the role of Pastor at the Exeter CRC:

The preaching of the Word that faithfully reflects the Bible and relates to the needs of the listeners. In order for this to happen, you will need to develop personal connections with our church family. Through these relationships and with the Spirit's help, relevant sermons will be inspired. By your work on the pulpit, our church family will be encouraged and strengthened in their Christian walk.

Administer the sacraments of Holy Baptism and the Lord's Supper. This will be your privilege as Pastor to help us celebrate and remember the love of our covenantal God.

Together, with the Worship Committee and with the support of the Council, you will lead in Sunday morning worship services – for those who attend in-person, view the live-stream on YouTube, or watch pre-recorded broadcasts on YouTube or Exeter Cable TV.

Work together with the various ministries of the Exeter CRC in matters of faith formation, from the very young to the most senior of our members. As Jesus said to Peter, "Feed my lambs/sheep" (John 21). To fulfil this call, the Exeter CRC is looking to the Pastor for help and leadership as we maximize the effectiveness and impact of our church programs – moving our members to respond to the gift of salvation.

Faithfully shepherd the whole flock; the old and the young, the faithful and unfaithful, the healthy and the sick, the strong and the weak. "Rejoice with those who rejoice, and mourn with those who mourn" (Romans 12:15). This will include officiating weddings and funerals for our church members.

Promote the work of evangelism. As a church, we desire to not only share the gospel, but to care for the hungry, the thirsty, the strangers, the naked, the sick, and those in prison (Matthew 25:31-46). We will need you to encourage and challenge us in this mission.

## Next Steps...

Thank you for taking the time to review this Position Profile. As the Pastor Search Team, we remind ourselves often that the Lord Jesus has already decided on the next Pastor for our church – and if your curiosity has been piqued, **it might be you.**

If you are interested and perhaps feel the Spirit's prompting, we would love to hear from you!

In Christ,

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