



LEAD MINISTRY OPPORTUNITY PASTOR

“Now to Him who is able to do far more abundantly beyond all that we could ask or imagine, according to the power that is at work within us, to Him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations forever and ever. Amen.”
Ephesians 3:20-21

The signs are all around us that we live in dark and difficult times, but as the people of God at First Baptist Church in Tillsonburg, Ontario, we find hope in knowing that if we step out into this uncertain future in faith and obedience, our good and powerful God will go before us, beside us and behind us, and He will do what only God can do - beyond anything that we could possibly ask or ever imagine for our future. It's a scary prospect, but we are excited to see what He has in store ahead!

OUR CHURCH

We are prayerfully and expectantly looking for a Lead Pastor who will give vision, direction and leadership as we look to God for our next steps as a congregation. Our capable and dedicated ministry teams are enthusiastic about the possibilities for spiritual growth within our congregation, and the opportunities to share the good news of the gospel with our community. As Lead Pastor you will work as part of a team with our Deacons, Directors and Ministry Team Leaders as we seek God to see lives transformed by Christ.



OUR COMMUNITY

Admittedly we are a bit biased, but we think Tillsonburg is a great place to live. Our beautiful town is located in the heart of Southwestern Ontario, just north of Lake Erie, and embraces its rich agricultural history, while being the third fastest growing community in Canada. We enjoy the benefits of peaceful and relaxed small town living, yet are just a short drive away from several major urban centres and all that city life has to offer. It really is the best of both worlds! Access to the Great Lakes, the US Border and International Airports is also within easy driving distance. Parks, well maintained trails and indoor and outdoor sporting facilities showcase God's creation and allow residents to enjoy the great outdoors year round. Tillsonburg has always boasted a strong sense of community, and residents never lack for opportunities to be involved in community events and activities.

GATHER
to worship God



GROW
to maturity in Christ



GO
as missionaries into our world



who we were

It all began on Christmas Day in 1853 when 17 people gathered to establish a Baptist church. A year later they joined the Regular Baptist Missionary Convention of Canada West, which later became CBOQ. We don't know much about the first few years, but in 1858 the congregation reorganized with 11 members, and began meeting in the school house. Since then God has been faithful to grow His church.

In the early 1870's our first building was purchased. Since then we have called several buildings home, but through every building project people gave generously and the church has never been in debt for long.

FBC has always desired to reach out into our community, and one of the significant ways this was accomplished was through opening a Day Care Centre in 1971. It immediately saw children enrolled, and grew to have a positive reputation in our community. Adults that attended as children still remember going

there and see us as a friendly, safe church.

Over the years there have been ups and downs in attendance, but God in His grace has always brought growth. By the late 1990's we were holding 3 Sunday morning services in order to accomodate everyone. Desiring to unify the congregation into one service, land was purchased in 2012 for a new building, and in 2017 the Bidwell Street church was sold. We went through a time of transition as we moved to the community centre where we worshiped together as a whole congregation for the first time in years. We patiently waited through the construction of our new building, and fittingly, on Christmas Eve 2020 our first service was held in our present location.

We are grateful for all that God has done through the different seasons in the life of our church.

*To Him be the
glory in His church!*





who we are

God has brought together our congregation from all walks of life, places and backgrounds for His glory in this particular time and place. We see ourselves first and foremost as followers of Jesus, who choose to associate with CBOQ. We are an active, growing congregation, with a regular attendance of between 100-125 faithful people.

This past spring, we rejoiced to announce that our new building has been fully paid for through the generous giving of our people. What a wonderful testimony of God's work among us! We strongly believe that we, the people, are the church, and we value this building as a home base where we can gather as a family to worship God together, minister to each other and be a light to our community.

Small groups meet regularly to study God's word together, a committed weekly prayer group lift us up in prayer, the Hilda Lindsay Mission Circle join in fellowship together monthly, and the men gather for a weekly coffee time. It has been a great blessing this year to have over

half of our congregation reading through the Bible, meeting monthly to discuss what God has been teaching us through this. God is moving and we are eager for Him to lead us.

Our Care Team demonstrate the love of God in practical ways by meeting needs within our congregation, hosting family dinners for care groups (everyone who attends is part of a care group), sending cards, praying, visiting, and more. There is a sense of family amongst us, and we enjoy looking after one another.

The ladies of Hands In Mission distribute handmade hats, blankets etc. here and around the world. Our teens' Grow Hope garden raises money each summer for local charities. Last year they raised \$6000. Every weekday throughout the school year you will find our dedicated Lunch Bunch in the kitchen preparing school lunches for children in our community who don't come to school with lunches. They deliver over 200 lunches to Tillsonburg's schools every week.



We want to be a people who seek the face of God, follow Jesus wholeheartedly and live lives transformed by the grace of God. We have a deep desire to leave a legacy of faith for the next generations, 10, 20, even 50 years from now, and beyond. We envision a thriving multigenerational, multicultural congregation that worships together, cares for one another, passes on our faith, and goes out into our community, reaching the lost. We recognize that people are looking for answers, and we are seeking ways to go out and share the gospel with them. We have a heart to see our children and grandchildren follow Jesus, and would love to see more young families coming to Christ

and joining our church family. We also recognize that the world has changed, and that this presents challenges for us, but we are open to learning and growing so that we can shine the light of God into our dark world.

Our relationship with God, faith, beliefs and values are important to us and we long to build a culture where these things are so ingrained in us that we naturally pass them on. We want to create an atmosphere where we enjoy doing life with each other outside of our corporate gatherings, and easily integrate new believers into our family. We always want to be growing in our walk with God, continually being discipled and discipling others.

who we want to be

ABOUT THE ROLE

Serve AS VISIONARY LEADER

As we consider the future, we believe that God is calling someone here to be a visionary leader, someone who sees beyond who we are now to who we can become, through the power of Christ at work in us.

We are prayfully looking for a pastor who can:

- with discernment and by the leading of the Holy Spirit, help us develop a clear ministry vision for both the near and distant future
- see the end goal and initiate steps and means to get there
- bring the vision to life through clear communication with the leadership and congregation
- continue building up our ministry team by engaging with and developing our ministry leaders and their teams, helping them grow in God's calling and gifting in their lives
- empower the congregation to go out and implement the vision
- encourage a culture of growth and future thinking

Serve AS SPIRITUAL & THEOLOGICAL LEADER

The spiritual health of our congregation is of highest importance. We are looking for a pastor who senses a strong calling to pastoral ministry, has a heart for shepherding God's people, and leads by example.

As a spiritual and theological leader you will:

- preach and teach the Word of God as the primary pulpit communicator
- ensure teaching/preaching aligns with the values, vision and Statement of Faith of FBC
- set an example by investing in personal spiritual growth and renewal through established spiritual practices
- spend intentional time in prayer and listening for the voice of God to discern direction for the church
- lead in shepherding and caring for the spiritual well being of church members

QUALIFICATIONS

Recognizing that no one person will excel in every area, we are trusting God has prepared someone with the following qualifications:

- a born again, passionate follower of Christ, who exhibits a love for God born out of close relationship with Him
- a person of integrity who meets the biblical requirements of character for leadership and reflects a devotion and obedience to God
- well developed habits of spiritual discipline, commitment to prayer, a lover of God's Word and a joyful worshipper
- a minimum of 5-7 years pastoral experience, with demonstrated leadership/visionary skills
- a diploma or degree in biblical studies or theology from an accredited post-secondary institution
- alignment with our Statement of Faith, and credentialed with CBOQ or willing to acquire accreditation
- willing to relocate to Tillsonburg

We value you and your family in your calling to ministry. Here are some of the ways we'd like to invest in you and your family, for your spiritual, professional and personal growth, as well as to help you maintain a healthy balance between ministry and life.

- a commitment from us to pray for you, encourage you, support you, take to heart your teaching, and trust your leadership
- a commitment from us to pray for, encourage, support and love your family
- a full time competitive salary
- health benefits and pension
- vacation time and sick days
- professional and personal development through continuing education, conferences, mentorship, courses etc.
- sabbatical program
- ministry tools, book allowance etc.

OUR INVESTMENT IN YOU

HOW TO APPLY

If you feel God might be leading you to minister to us, we'd love to hear from you! Applications should be emailed to:
Deb Young, Pastoral Search Team Chair at:
pastoralsearchfbct@gmail.com

Please include the following:

- 1 your resumé and cover letter
- 2 three references
- 3 your written testimony, including conversion and call to ministry
- 4 your philosophy of ministry
- 5 a link to three recent sermons you have preached
- 6 links to any blogs, podcasts, or published materials you may have

