



GRANDE PRAIRIE
Alliance Church

Leading people to become fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ.



PROFILE PURPOSE

This Lead Pastor profile has been developed to assist prospective pastors with getting to know Grande Prairie Alliance Church and the Grande Prairie, Alberta region.

As we seek to hire a Lead Pastor, may this profile help you learn the needs of our church, and the pastoral qualities we prayerfully believe would be a good fit.

INTERESTED CANDIDATES

Pastors interested in learning more about this opportunity are invited to contact:

Rick Friesen
Search Team Chairperson
Email: rick@mfcacorp.ca

Rev. Graham English
Director of Field Engagement North
Western Canadian District
Email: genglish@transformcma.ca

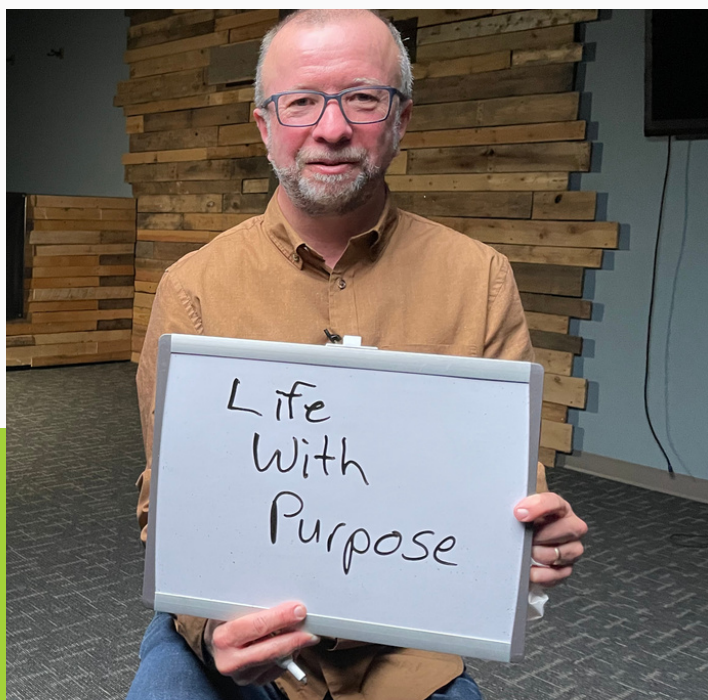


TABLE OF CONTENTS

WEBSITE

gpalliance.ca ✨

- 4 Introduction
- 5 Who were we?
- 7 Who are we now?
- 14 What about Grande Prairie?
- 16 What kind of a Lead Pastor do we need?



SOCIAL MEDIA

[Facebook](#)
[Instagram](#) ✨

INTRODUCTION

Grande Prairie Alliance Church has been without a Lead Pastor since August 2021. The Board of Elders invited a Transitional Coach to pursue a prayerful transition process that would help the church review our past, celebrate it, and say goodbye so we could move into the next phase healthy and united.



A JOURNEY OF FAITH, HOPE & LOVE

This Lead Pastor Profile has been developed as a part of a transitional process. This document you are reading reflects many hours of prayer, research, evaluation, surveys, and collaborative exploration to address the four key questions listed in the Table of Contents.



WHO WERE WE?

In the spring of 1949, The Christian & Missionary Alliance (C&MA) head office in New York contacted Pastor Norman Galbraith at the Alliance Church in Beaverlodge, to express their desire to see a work started in Grande Prairie.

In June, this proposal was presented at the District Conference in Calgary. The Galbraiths were appointed to move to Grande Prairie and begin laying the foundation for an Alliance congregation here.

"Loving, warm and welcoming church! I'm so proud to be a part of GPAC and everything it does for my family and the community!!"

**- NATALI MATIER
FACEBOOK REVIEW**



OUR PASTORS

1949-1950	Norman Galbraith
1951-1953	Norman Dreger
1954	Grant Hastie
1955	G.C. Dean
1956-1958	Robert Reid
1959-1965	C.R. Alton
1966-1967	H.D. Craig
1968-1977	G. Beavan Jones
1978-1983	Delbert McKenzie
1984-1990	Victor Zacharias
1991-1994	Vergil Schmidt
1995-1998	John Currie
1999-2006	Ken Schamuhn
2008-2021	Anthony Bulmer

Shortly after the Galbraiths had moved into Grande Prairie, Pete Toews and John Wiebe agreed to act on the new Executive Board. By the time the summer had ended, a property had been purchased, and a building had been purchased and moved onto it (the building was the old McLaurin Baptist Church). This inaugural location was near the corner of 100 Street and 102 Avenue, which today is the parking lot of the Re/Max building. On August 14, 1949, the opening service was held, with 140 people in attendance.

In November, 1950, the Charter Membership of the Alliance Tabernacle was formed.

The church relocated in 1955 to the corner of 101 Street and 109 Avenue, and then again in 1963, when they built a new building at the corner of 100 Street and 108 Avenue (current location of Believer's Bible Fellowship).

During the late 1970's, the church experienced such growth that plans were made to build again at 7702 100 Street under the leadership of Rev. Del McKenzie. The church dedicated its new home on June 10, 1979.

In 2010, we built a new 60,000 sq. ft. building just north of the city limits at 15502 102 Street. An expansion was added in 2017.

Through all of these changes, years, and locations, God has led us and blessed us. We look forward with great anticipation to the years to come as we serve the Lord in Grande Prairie and the surrounding area.

We are deeply thankful to be celebrating 73 years of making Jesus known!

VISION

Make Jesus Known

PURPOSE

Lead people to become fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ.

VALUES

We are committed to these key values:

Our Hope

Heaven, and the inheritance given to us there, by Christ.

Equipping

Training people to effectively use their spiritual gifts, time, and resources to serve God in their church and world.

Evangelism

Proclaiming the gospel of Christ locally, regionally, nationally, and globally.

Christ-likeness

Being like Christ in all of our thoughts, emotions, and actions.

Teaching the Bible

Accurately interpreting and applying God's Word so that hearers are called to believe and obey it.

Fellowship with the Church

Relationships of love, unity, and mutual honour, care, and accountability with God's people.

Prayer

Reverently addressing God to praise and thank Him, seek His will and intervention, and confess our sin.

The Family

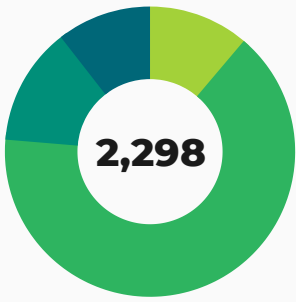
Our most important relationships and God's primary environment for expressing love and making mature disciples of Christ.

Worship

Declaring with our whole being, through the forms prescribed in Scripture, the incomparable worth of the one God who exists eternally in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

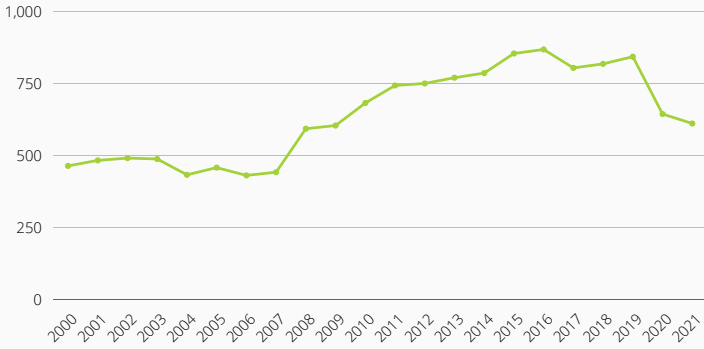
The Faith

Personal possessions of faith in Christ, and the truths that define it, as contained in our Statement of Faith.

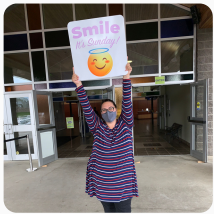


- 257 MEMBERS**
- 1,497 ADHERENT**
- 302 AGES 0-11**
- 242 AGES 12-18**

ATTENDANCE



MINISTRIES



Connections



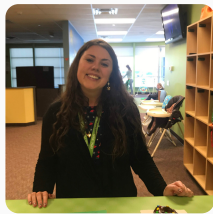
Emerging Adults



Faith In Deed



Global Impact



GPAC Kids



GPAC Youth



Life Care



Prayer Ministry



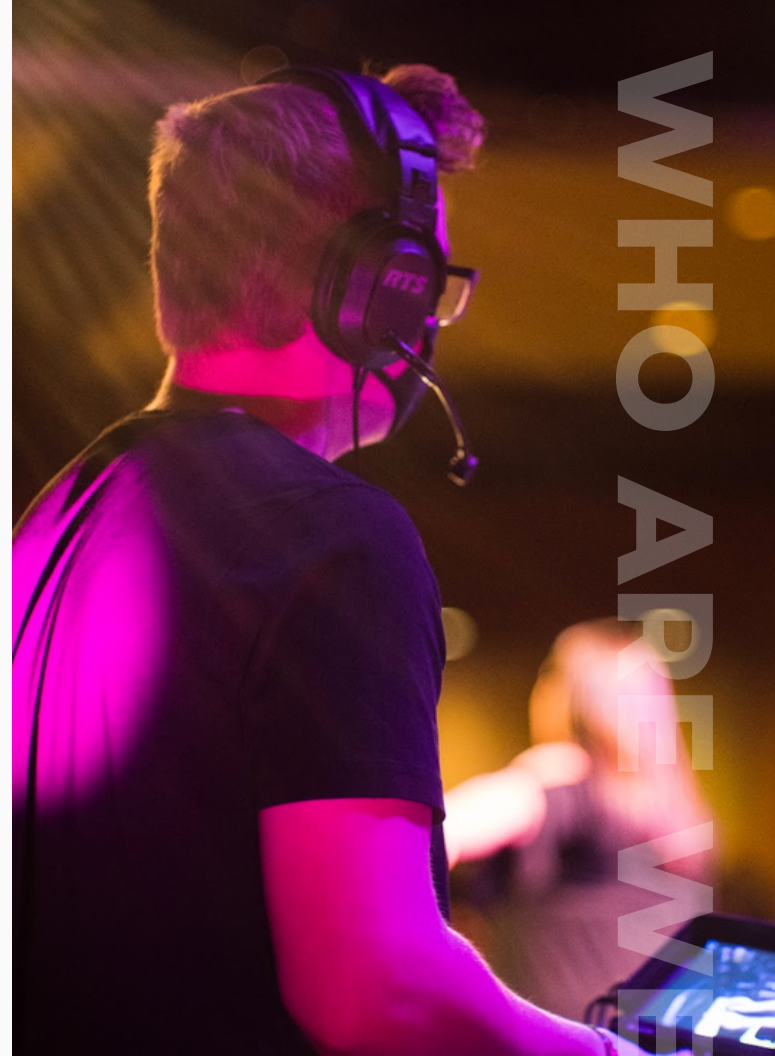
Women's Ministry



Worship & Creative/
Technical Arts



Young At Heart
50+



WHO ARE WE NOW?

MINISTRY STAFF

- Executive Pastor
- Director of Children's Ministry
- Pastor of Worship
- Director of Global Impact
- Pastor of Worship & Technical Arts
- Faith In Deed Director
- Director of Student Ministries
- Connections Pastor
- Assistant Director, Elementary Ministry
- Life Care Pastor
- Assistant Director, Preschool Ministry
- Director of Women's Ministry
- Assistant Director, Junior Student Ministries

SUPPORT STAFF

- Executive Assistant
- Communications Director
- Facility Rental & Administrative Support
- Reception
- Custodian
- Children's Ministry Administrative Assistant
- Bookkeeper
- Facility Manager
- Assistant Technical Director
- Administrative Support

73,942 SQ. FT

Total Building Square Footage

497

Parking Stalls



WHO ARE WE NOW?



LOCAL STRATEGIC PARTNERS



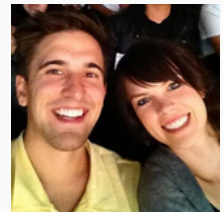
GLOBAL STRATEGIC PARTNERS



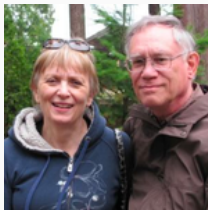
James & Kristina Braims



Tristan & Ashley Kruse



Andrew & Julie Hawkes



Keith & Ruth Snider



Herman & Bernice Wiebe



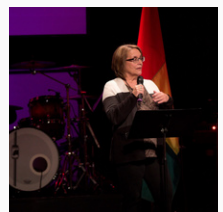
Joel & Shaylynn Hurst



A & J



Tijuana Church



Colette Baudais

TOTAL INCOME/EXPENSE

2019-2020

\$2,815,959
Income

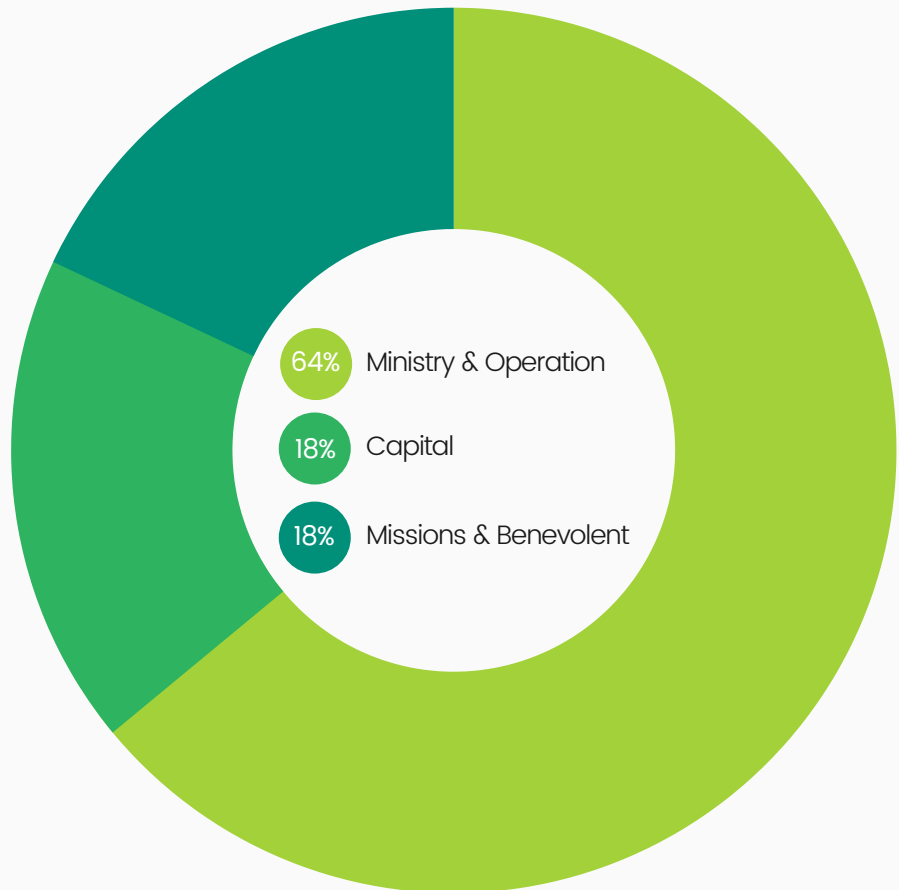
\$2,563,677
Expenses

2020-2021

\$2,627,503
Income

\$2,689,853
Expenses

2020-2021 FINANCIAL OVERVIEW



WHO ARE WE NOW? FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

BENEVOLENT FUND

Faith In Deed Ministry strives to be the hands and feet of Jesus to the hurt, lonely, and financially struggling through practical assistance.

\$106,602

Total Aid Given Away September 2020 to August 2021



BUILDING LOAN

\$406,092
Income

\$312,313
Principal Payments

\$107,688
Interest Payments

RENTAL REVENUE

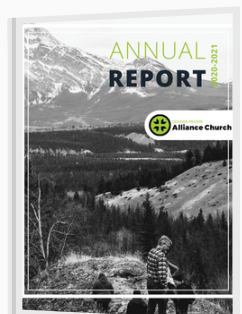
\$68,303
Total Income

7
One-Time Rentals

140
Multi-Time Rentals

147
Total Rentals

2020-2021 ANNUAL REPORT





CHURCH ASSESSMENTS

ONLINE ASSESSMENT (DECEMBER 2021)

Report Available

ASSESSMENT (MARCH 2022)

Vision Town Hall Meeting:

STRENGTHS

- We are a loving and accepting church.
- We are missional in our ministries.
- We have great capacity and resources.
- We have gifted leaders and servers.

OPPORTUNITIES

- Accessible, welcoming facility for use.
- Untapped demographic groups.
- Targeted spiritual needs.
- Practical community needs.

ASPIRATIONS

- Engaging in/and meaningful God-focused worship.
- We aspire to God's vision for GPAC.
- Biblically and spiritually deep teaching.
- An activated Body.

RESULTS

- Through the transformational leading of the Spirit, we will be:
 - Spiritually Strong,
 - Invitational,
 - Missional,
 - Relational.

MINISTRY ASSESSMENT (APRIL 2022)

Ministry Match Town Hall Meeting:

[SOAR Summary for 10 Grande Prairie Alliance Church Ministries](#)

PLAN OF ACTION

COMPLETED OR CURRENTLY BEING EXECUTED

STEP 1

FAREWELL & INITIAL PLAN

- Transitional Coach search.
- Personal and corporate call to prayer.

STEP 2

ASSESSMENT & EVALUATION

- Transitional Team formation.
- Assessment & Evaluation
- Town Hall Meetings
- Prayer for insight, understanding, and wisdom for the leadership and congregation.

STEP 3

VISION & CLARIFICATION

- Focus group values survey.
- Profile and Search Team roll out.
- Prayer for leadership, vision clarity, and unity.

STEP 4

TRANSITIONING

- Pastoral Search
- Prayer for Holy Spirit leading, unity, missional energy.

STEP 5

DISCERNING & NEW START

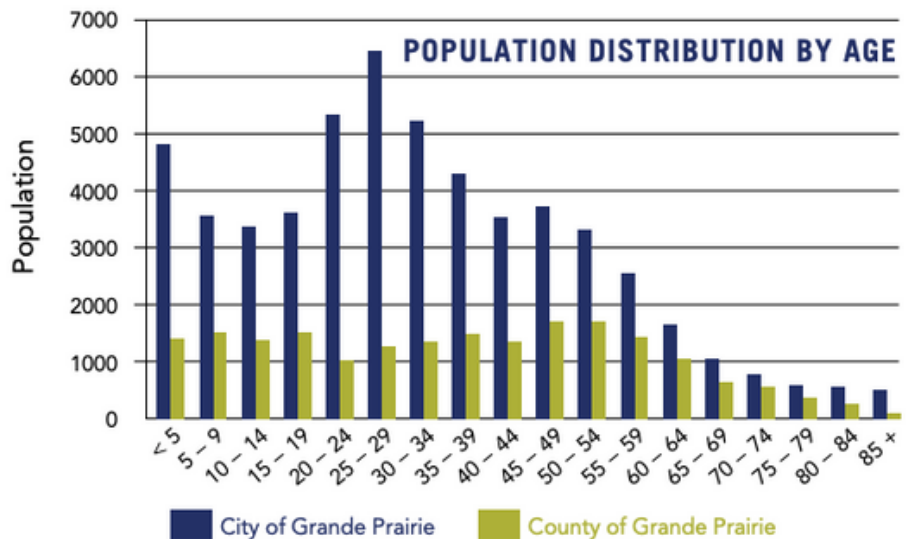
- Candidate meetings.
- Welcoming and installation.
- Prayer for discernment and a great new beginning.



WHAT ABOUT GRANDE PRAIRIE?



Grande Prairie is located in Northwestern Alberta, in the heart of the Peace Region. It is the largest city North of Edmonton, Alberta's capital city. It is a thriving young city full of continuous growth and opportunity. It's growing and youthful population includes representation from more than 80 different cultural and ethnic groups. Grande Prairie acts as a regional hub serving an additional 281,000+ people from across Northern Alberta, Northern British Columbia, and the Northwest Territories. Grande Prairie's economy is based on four pillars: oil and gas, forestry, agriculture, and retail. This diversity provides great opportunity for workers across a variety of industries.



2018 Municipal Census

Several smaller communities bring the total trading area population to approximately 288,496 people.



The median age of the community is a youthful 31.9

(National Average: 40.8)

92.1% POPULATION INCREASE (2000-2018)

3.69% POPULATION GROWTH RATE (2000-2018)

5.2% UNEMPLOYMENT RATE (March 2022)

SCHOOL DISTRICTS (Kindergarten-Grade 12)

- [Grande Prairie Public School Division](#)
- [Grande Prairie and District Catholic Schools](#)
- [Peace Wapiti Public School Division \(County Schools\)](#) 

ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS	GRADES	PROGRAM
Alexander Forbes School	K-8	
Aspen Grover School	K-8	
Avondale School	K-6	
Crystal Park School	K-8	
Derek Taylor Public School	K-8	
École Montrose	Pre-K to 8	French Immersion
École St. Gérard Catholic School	Pre-K to 7	French Immersion
Grande Prairie Christian School	K-9	Christian Education
Harry Balfour School	Pre-K to 8	
Hillside Community School	K-6	
Holy Cross Catholic School	Pre-K to 8	
I.V. Macklin Public School	K-8	
Isabel Campbell Public School	K-8	
Maude Clifford Public School	K-6	
Mother Teresa Catholic School	Pre-K to 8	
Parkside Montessori	Pre-K to 6	Montessori Program
Riverstone Public School	K-8	
Roy Bickell Public School	K-8	
Swanavon School	K-6	
St. Catherine Catholic School	Pre-K to 8	Integrated Fine Arts
St. Clement Catholic School	Pre-K to 8	
St. Kateri Catholic School	Pre-K to 8	
St. Patrick Catholic School	Pre-K to 8	
Whispering Ridge Community School	Pre-K to 8	

COMBINED	GRADES	PROGRAM
Crossroad Classical Christian Academy	K-12	Classical Education
St. John Bosco Catholic School	K-12	Online Learning & Home Education

SECONDARY SCHOOLS	GRADES	PROGRAM
Bridge Network Outreach School	9-12	Alternative Program
Charles Spencer High School	9-12	
Grande Prairie Composite High School	9-12	
St. John Paul II Catholic School	9-12 English	
• Faculté St. Jean-Paul II	8-12 French	French Immersion
St. Joseph Catholic High School	9-12	

POST-SECONDARY SCHOOLS

- Northwestern Polytechnic (formerly Grande Prairie Regional College)
- Northern Lakes College
- Peace River Bible Institute



NEW HOSPITAL



"Grande Prairie Regional Hospital opened Dec. 4, 2021 and includes a wide-range of services including surgery, cancer care and emergency services... There are two radiation vaults in the new state-of-the-art cancer centre, bringing radiation therapy services to the community and the surrounding region. This is a first for Northern Alberta... In partnership with Northwestern Polytechnic, an educational area at the new hospital will be used for the education of nurses and other healthcare professionals. There's also a five story parkade with parking for the public and staff at the hospital in addition to surface parking." Alberta Health Services

SPIRITUAL CLIMATE

- Abundant Life Church
- Anglican Church of Canada
- Believers Full Gospel Assembly
- Christ Community Church
- Christ Covenant Church
- Christian Fellowship Assembly
- Church of Christ
- Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints
- Coram Deo Baptist Church
- Covenant Reformed Church
- Eastside Church of Christ
- Faith Family Fellowship
- Faith Lutheran Church
- Forbes Presbyterian Church
- Generations Church
- Grande Prairie Hindu Association
- Grande Prairie Sikh Gurudwara
- Harvest Baptist Church
- Highland Park Church of Christ
- Islamic Association of Grande Prairie
- Jehovah's Witness
- Lutheran Church of Canada
- McLaurin Baptist Church
- Members Church of God
- Mission Heights Church of Christ
- Native Bible Fellowship
- People's Church
- Redeemed Christian Church of God
- Salvation Army
- Seventh Day Adventist Church
- Shining Arrow Ministries – First Nations
- St. Joseph Roman Catholic Church
- St. Pauls United Church
- The Oasis Church
- The Worship Center
- Trinity Lutheran Church
- Ukrainian Catholic Church
- Victory Church On The Rock
- Westpointe Community Church



LOCAL ATTRACTIONS

- Art Gallery of Grande Prairie
- Bonnetts Energy Centre
- Centre for Creative Arts
- Crosslink County Sportsplex
- Douglas J. Cardinal Theatre
- Eastlink Centre
- Grande Prairie Live Theatre
- Grande Prairie Museum
- Grande Prairie Public Library
- Grant Berg Gallery
- Kleskun Hill Park
- Montrose Cultural Centre
- Muskoseepi Park
- Nitehawk Year-Round Adventure Park
- Outdoor Pool
- Philip J. Currie Dinosaur Museum

WHAT KIND OF A LEAD PASTOR DO WE NEED?

CORE COMPETENCIES

- A leader who consistently motivates and inspires others.
- A leader who listens to all points of view and is able to find a common ground solution.
- A leader who can delegate effectively.
- A leader who prefers to collaborate and build consensus.
- A leader who can make plans and follow through.

CHARACTER

- Dependence on God that inspires others to do the same.
- A life of spiritual growth, vitality, and prayer.
- Integrity – is reliable, keeps his promises, trustworthy
- Sincere love for people in the church and the community.
- Courageous – willing to take a stand when needed, not easily intimidated

COMPETENCIES

- Preaching – above average skills to consistently preach authoritative, inspiring Bible-based messages
- Leadership – able to make decisions, to lead and inspire people to follow, to stay on course
- Teaching – the ability to explain the Word and develop others who can teach as well
- Encouraging/Motivator – able to nurture, build up and inspire people
- Team Builder – able to develop effective leadership teams, staff, board, and lay ministry

REQUIREMENTS

- Applicants are required to be licensed with the Christian and Missionary Alliance and ordained, or prepared to pursue ordination, with the The Alliance Canada.
- A willingness to sign The Alliance Canada “A Call to Excellence” document.
- A deep commitment to the core values and theology of the The Alliance Canada and a desire to participate in denominational initiatives.
- Educational requirements in keeping with The Alliance Canada policy (theological training at a Bachelor degree level or higher from an accredited school, or acceptable equivalents).

APPENDIX

GPAC REFLECTIONS: OUR STORY

Written by Robert Peters, GPAC Member Since 1970

The first service of Grande Prairie Alliance Church was in 1949. The building with its pews had been purchased from McLaurin Baptist Church and moved just west of the corner of 102 Avenue and Clairmont Road. I was a Junior in Sunday School and my teacher was Peter Toews. I got to sit in the balcony as far back as possible. Our pastor was Norman Galbraith and his gold tooth fascinated me. Also, he drove a nice car because he worked at Thompson Motors as a salesman. What fascinated me most, however, were the long iron rods which held the two outside walls of the church together. The church building needed reinforcement. The congregation was officially organized under the name of the Alliance Tabernacle, of the Christian and Missionary Alliance with 17 charter members. Pastor Galbraith's key Bible verse was Psalm 32:8. "I will instruct thee and teach thee in the way you should go: I will guide thee with mine eye." As I reminisce about that first service and think of those structural rods I wonder what it is that has held the church together all these many years and led us to an unbelievable facility with an on-going ministry. No, not structural rods but spiritual entities that kept us together and made us a witness in Grande Prairie and to the world. I will reflect upon the rods that I perceive to be pivotal.

THE ROD OF MEMORIES (Dedication and Commitment)

The congregation was very small. In our home, going to church was essential. The church needed us, and we the church. On one occasion when I didn't want to attend I pretended that our cows were lost and this delayed my getting ready. I stalled until I thought it too late to get ready and returned to the house. The family was waiting and my father said, "Hurry up and get ready. We'll wait for you." With my father it wasn't a multiple choice decision. My mother always had our clothes ready, washed, ironed, and patched. The original attenders, the Wiebes, owned property close to where the church now stands and as a teenager I drove our horses on my dad's threshing crew. Also, together with some of the men of the church I helped haul fire wood for the potbellied stove in the church. Our young pastor, Pastor Dean from Nyack, New York told Mr. Toews, "If I use paper to light the fire it burns much better". He was inexperienced and unprepared to face the rigours of this north country. Much was expected of our pastors for little pay.

The manse was part of the church and was used for Sunday School. It was jokingly said that to "keep the pastor poor would keep him humble". Of course nobody really believed that. When Bob Reid was pastor the evening

offering provided the pastor's salary. Few people attended the evening service so the offering was lean. One time when the church needed money the men of the church worked for Standard Roofing and gave their wages to the church. Pastor Alton was featured in the Grande Prairie Herald Tribune as "A man of many collars" as he also did carpentry work in the church during the week. Sometimes the Alliance District could call on "Minute Man", where committed people were asked to contribute one dollar each to help four times a year when a church needed it.

In the summer of 1955 an agreement was signed with Mr. McLaughlin of the Half Way Motel to move our church building to 101 Street, between 108 and 109 Avenue. We became more modern with a fully developed basement with centralized heating.

Several building expansions followed. A new church was built on 10711 100 Street and 108th Avenue, which is now Believers Full Gospel. The sod turning ceremony took place in 1963. Later we built a new church on the south side of Grande Prairie, now Victory on the Rock. The official dedication was on June 10, 1979. Pastor Del McKenzie indicated: "It is another milestone in the ongoing work of God. Our primary purpose is to glorify God in everything we do. May this in reality be a house of worship." For a short time while building the new church we met in the Composite High School. One time I got locked in a room when I was supposed to be leading the song service. It was frustrating. Pastor Del waited for me until someone opened the door.

As the congregation increased we needed more Sunday School space so we purchased some portables from the Grande Prairie Christian School.

When the economy went bad in the 1980s with high interest rates it became very difficult to meet our financial obligations. Besides, our promotions chairman John Bergen and family, were in a bad car accident but by the grace of God survived. Pastor Victor Zacharias followed Pastor Del and lacked no apology to ask for money to pay our debt. "Get those cheque books out" he would say and eventually the debt was paid. It became necessary to expand again. Options were considered. 1) Move to a second service on Sunday AM which we did, 2) Expand and renovate the existing site, and 3) Sell and build a larger church to seat about 1200 people to accommodate our large crowds for special events such as Singing Christmas Tree. The Starkey property to the south became available and we purchased it. We also discussed starting a second church. Eventually we chose to relocate and build. The move into our present facility was May, 2010. We added more space by building the Landing.

THE ROD OF MINISTRIES (Spiritual Gifts and Talents)

We had a variety of extended ministries. Much depended on the emphasis of pastors and volunteers available. Cooperation among evangelical churches brought in evangelists where folks were given opportunity to receive Christ as Saviour. Special services in our church included deeper life ministries with Roland Gray, Walter Boldt gave a series on heaven. Pastor Jessop from Lethbridge spoke on, "The righteous shall flourish like the palm tree". So good! Many missionaries would minister in our missions conferences in Global Advance.

Being a Senior High Social Studies teacher I would usually invite the missionaries to speak to my class. The missionaries were well received. We have also sent out many missionaries from our church. Pastor Jones, and Del and Phyllis Davis worked with a great bunch of young people, many who later attended Bible Colleges and some like Keith Snider and Ruth Mitchell (Nilsson) became career missionaries. One of the first missionaries from our church was Chester Throness whose remains are buried in Haiti where he served his Lord.

The church reached out to the community. Many folks found Christ at barbeque suppers at the Bergens farm with Dr. Terry Winter as speaker. RCMP Sunday and special recognition of our teachers honoured our community leaders. Sunday School, Day Camp, summer camps, children's meetings, and women's and men's ministries, and Disturbing The Peace reached out to many. Drama and music were focused on outreach. "If I had only one day more" was a drama taken to other churches. Ed and Elsie Schroeder and Mary Gray surrendered their lives to Christ. The Singing Christmas Tree and Bethlehem Live were highly successful and many prayed the prayer of faith. Today we serve our community through Faith In Deed and many other ministries. We send out and support International Workers. The life group ministry has helped to provide fellowship, teaching, and prayer.

THE ROD OF MESSENGERS (Word and Deed)

The Lord provided us with pastors of varied gifts and ministry emphasis. Most of the time the pastors chosen were a fit for that special time. A few went beyond the call of duty with simple and effective efforts. Some stand out to me, not to the discredit of others. Mrs. Galbraith connected with us when she would come to our place when we butchered pigs. Pastor Haste helped us bring in the harvest on our farm. Pastor Jones did detailed work such as set up Sunday School chairs and prepared the church bulletins. He even got up very early and came out to my farm before work and worked my summer fallow. A large chart of Daniel and Revelation was provided by Pastor Alton as he taught us prophecy. Pastor Del McKenzie was very structured and organized and introduced us to multiple staff leadership. The big man with the big heart and big arms was

Pastor Victor Zacharias. When he hugged you, you knew you were touched. He knew his God and was very wise in his application of Scripture. Pastor Vergil Schmidt led us through a detailed study of Nehemiah. Pastor Currie was moved from Pastor of Youth to Senior Pastor. After my brother died Pastor Ken Schamuhn met with some of our family members in a very caring way and indicated that it was OK to cry. Ken understood sorrow because he had lost his son in a vehicle accident prior to his coming to Grande Prairie. Pastor Anthony indicated how God had used an airplane crash that he experienced to open ministries through him.

THE ROD - THE MASTER BUILD (The Word of God and Prayer)

"Except the Lord build the house, they labour in vain that build it..." (Psalm 127:1) The Word of God was and is preached. It remains "powerful and sharper than any two-edged sword..." (Hebrews 4:12) Individual and corporate prayers are essential. A few weeks ago Shirley and I sat in our vehicle and watched families of varying ages entering the church door. On top of the church stood an empty cross reminding us of the Risen Christ who reaches out to all who will receive His gift of grace. What a potential to minister to this growing community. Jesus will come again. A.B. Simpson wrote: "Jesus only is our message, Jesus all our theme shall be; we will lift up Jesus ever, Jesus only will we see. Jesus only, Jesus ever, Jesus all in all we sing, Saviour Sanctifier, and Healer, Glorious Lord and Coming King". These symbols are visible in the entrance of our property and in the floor of our foyer.

CONCLUSION

We have had many blessings and challenges, and have made some mistakes. Some people have left our fellowship through death, relocation, discipline, wounds, and some have left the faith. Despite this, God is still building His Church. Our rods still hold us together in unity and purpose. Moses was told to use his Rod to part the Red Sea (Exodus 14:16) and David found comfort in God's Rod (Psalm 23). May we use our Rods to "Make Jesus Known" in these troubled and challenging times.

