

# Church Profile – Kanata Community Church

04-Mar-2026, version 4-1

The pastorship at KCC is currently vacant. We are praying that the Spirit may lead a compassionate, relational and community minded person to join us.

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## Our Leadership

Kanata Community Church is guided by a collaborative leadership model rooted in shared discernment and mutual care. Our Council of nine members, a diverse group of people, serves as the primary leadership body.

### Subgroups of Council:

- **Pastoral Care Team:** Currently, six members (four from council and two from the congregation) provide compassionate, relational support. Visiting Elders, former Elders, and other gifted volunteers make up this committee alongside the Pastor.
- **Deaconate:** The deacons help to ‘demonstrate the work of the Lord’ by helping those in need in the community and within our congregation. Within our congregation, they organize meals for those who are sick, provide grocery cards to those in temporary financial need, organize driving, help with moving, and identify financial counselors. In the community they lead the congregation to make progress on food security, and social inclusion in Kanata.
- **Administration Board:** Oversees facilities, rentals, and day-to-day operations. Meets every month or two (excluding summer) with a strong focus on stewardship and accessibility. Administrative Elders and Deacons serve this committee.
- **Treasurer:** Steward of financial transparency and responsibility.

Our surrounding neighbourhood is richly diverse in racial and ethnic composition, and we aim for our leadership and ministry to reflect that mosaic more fully.

### Most Recent Past Pastors:

- Rev. Joan Devries (interim from June 2025–January 2026)
- Rev. Chris Schievink (2016–2025)

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## Our Worship Life

While our worship has a formal structure and is grounded in thoughtful teaching, it is also informal, enthusiastic and participatory. We embrace a posture of exploration—open to questions, receptive to new ideas, and committed to learning the way of Jesus together.

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## Recent Challenges and Transformative Moments in the Last Three Years

- Completing a thoughtful and transparent disaffiliation from the Christian Reformed Church (2025).
- Grieving and celebrating the ministry of our departing pastor (June 2025) for personal reasons.

These experiences have strengthened our values, clarified our identity, and renewed our commitment to an inclusive Christian community.

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## Our Vision & Core Values

Kanata Community Church is dedicated to being a community-oriented, spiritually vibrant, and radically welcoming congregation. Our mission is captured in the statement:

### Living Faith for Real Life: Authentic, Inclusive, Engaged.

- **Authentic:** Questions are welcome at KCC. Come as you are. No pretenses; no artificial expectations. Worship services are planned to allow anyone to join in praising God through various means. In worship services, fellowship and small groups, we learn together what the love of Christ means today; for us, for others, and for the creation in which we live.
- **Inclusive:** Every person is created in the image of God and is worthy of respect, care, and a place in the family of God. We believe God welcomes all who seek to know more about God's love. We try to create a safe and supportive space for people of all races, cultures, sexual orientations, gender identities, ages, and relationships. When we fall short of that goal, we want to be reminded, quick to apologize, and adjust to avoid harming anyone. We try to embody our regular welcoming statement, "*You are loved by God, you are valued, and you are welcome here.*"
- **Engaged:** While our building is on a hill, our hearts and minds are in the community. We take seriously God's call to do justice and love our neighbour as much as we love ourselves, locally and globally. We participate in the causes we believe in. This finds expression in various ways, from volunteer work in the community to support for organizations that work around the world.

Our vision is simple and bold: to build community and love our neighbours.

We do this through weekly worship, small groups, children's programs, community service, and partnerships that extend compassion beyond our walls.

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## **Our Identity**

Being a reforming church with a reformed history means belonging to a rich, living Christian tradition that celebrates the breadth and depth of the global church. It also means that we continually ask how we can better reflect God's vision of justice, mercy, humility, and love in a changing world.

We honour where we came from, while moving forward into a future aligned with our values of inclusion and openness to follow where God is working. We do this by continuous learning and spiritual discernment, in ministry that is adaptive.

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## **Partnerships**

We are deeply committed to collaboration across traditions.

Our key partnerships include:

- Participation in local ministerial groups and local inter-faith initiatives.
- Ottawa Campus Chaplaincy,
- Open Tables with Kanata Baptist Church,
- Shared support, alongside other churches, for Kanata Food Cupboard and other local social-service organizations.

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## **Our Strengths**

- We are welcoming to all who come to us.
- We provide a place in which the safety and personal rights of all are respected.
- We welcome community engagement through annual spring plant sale and September neighbourhood barbeque.
- The Community Garden, fostering food security, friendship, and ecological care.

We are a congregation that values authenticity, relational warmth, and practical ministry.

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## **Future areas of possible growth**

- Attracting and engaging a more ethnically diverse community.
  - Building stronger connections with young families.
  - Building stronger connections with young people.
  - Ministering well to an aging membership and aging community is both an opportunity and a challenge.
  - Adapting to rapid cultural and technological changes (ex. running virtual church services).
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## **Challenges Facing Our Church Today**

In 2025, we disaffiliated from the Christian Reformed Church in North America. The process was conducted carefully, transparently, and in accordance with both our bylaws and denominational requirements. We are currently undergoing a process of deconstruction and reconstruction as a result of disaffiliation.

On the local level we work to respond well to: an aging population, isolation, food insecurity, mental health awareness, growing inequity in Kanata and Ottawa and growing polarization between the expanded diversity of groups in our society. Ottawa has a large population of high-tech workers and government-employees, with high transition rates, which makes community-building more important and also more challenging.

Kanata Community, which is very alert to national and global trends, also engages in discernment about larger societal trends, such as:

- Increasing secularism and materialism,
- Biblical illiteracy,
- Changing family structures,
- Social media and digital overload,
- Evolving conversations about gender and sexuality,
- Ongoing struggles against patriarchy, colonialism and injustice to Indigenous peoples, and marginalization.

We face these new challenges not with fear but with curiosity, courage, and a commitment to justice and compassion.

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## **Significant Events in Our Church's Story**

1. Founding through Christian Reformed Home Missions (1981), an era of intentional suburban church planting.
2. Construction of our church building (1992)
3. Disaffiliation from the CRCNA (2025), entering a new chapter of mission and identity

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## **Church demographics**

Average weekly attendance: 45

Active Adult professing members: 68

Congregation Age Composition							
Age	0 - 11	12 - 18	19 - 24	25 - 34	35 - 49	50 - 64	65+
Percentage	5%	7.5%	5%	7.5%	10%	17%	48%

Ethnic composition of surrounding community					
Ethnicity	White	Chinese	South Asian	Black	Other Groups
Percentage	66%	8%	7%	4%	15%

KCC, which is a majority white congregation, has welcomed individual members and families of diverse cultural groups, but struggles to retain them and reflect the cultural diversity of the community, which is our goal.

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## **Discipleship & Community Engagement**

We cultivate a culture of lifelong learning and service, with opportunities for all ages to grow in faith and community. Some examples of small group and outreach programs are:

- Weekly Prayer Group,
- Sunday School for Children,
- Coffee Break Women's Study,
- Monthly Potluck Lunches,
- Monthly Craft Group,
- Open Tables (shared with Kanata Baptist Church): hearty meals for the whole community,
- Annual September Community Barbecue,
- Community Gardens for Kanata South,
- Annual Spring Plant Sale,

## **Missional and Benevolent Giving**

- Participation in Kanata Food Cupboard (volunteers + financial support),
- Hazeldean Food Share Stand,
- Shepherds of Good Hope,
- Chrysalis House, a women's shelter in Kanata,
- West Ottawa Community Resource Centre,
- Ottawa Campus Ministry (including meal support),

## **Our Building Use for the Community**

Our building is a multi-functional, adaptable space used for worship, community outreach, and partner-supported programming. Currently other groups sharing our facility for their worship services are the Apostolic Faith Church and Ottawa Mandarin Wesleyan Church.

Regular rentals are: Bloom, Alcoholics Anonymous, Gamblers Anonymous, Happy Empty Nesters Group, Kanata Board Gamers, Kanata School of Music, Sonya's Lactation Care.

Occasional rentals include: Ambassadors Christian School, Art of Living, Baby College Ottawa West, Catch the Fire, Election's Canada, Jamming Group, Jubilee, Tweedsmuir on the Park.

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