

Church Profile & Lead Pastor Position Description

Position Available: **LEAD PASTOR**

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MISSION STATEMENT

To glorify God by becoming like Christ and proclaiming His truth.

VISION

To see members of LWCC grow in maturity in their walk with the Lord, manifested in love and service for fellow brethren and carrying out the mission by reaching out to the lost with the Gospel of Christ.

CHURCH HISTORY

July 2002 – December 2002

Living Word Christian Church (LWCC) had its beginning on July 28, 2002 when Pastor Gilbert and three families gathered with some friends in Surrey, BC to seek God's direction for a new church plant in Langley, BC. God led Pastor Gilbert and his wife Luz to bring a group to a Church Planting training in Vancouver, WA where they received direction and encouragement about the viability of a new church in Langley. An application was submitted and later approved by the BC Baptist Conference. The first public worship was held at Timms Community Center in Langley City on October 20, 2002 where about 50 people joined the celebration of God's goodness to the new church plant.



2002 - Timm's Community Centre

January 2003 – September 2010

The young church then moved to Brookwood Baptist Church where regular afternoon Sunday worship services were held beginning January 5, 2003. LWCC had witnessed at least 25 people who committed their lives to follow the Lord Jesus in water baptism during this time at Brookwood.

Highlights of the Living Word family during this time included the annual church family camp held at Camp Luther (2003 to 2008), Othello Tunnels Campground (2009) and Camp Hope (2010) with an average of about 25 families in attendance.

The children and youth ministries flourished with regular Sunday school class-



2003 - Brookwood Baptist Church

es for 30 children and about 12 young people every Sunday in 2005. Children's musicals like Angel Alert, Jailhouse Rock and Joyland provided excellent opportunities for Living Word to train our children for service and to share the gospel story to those who attended these outreach events. In the summer of 2010, about 10 of our young people participated in their first missions trip to Mexico.

October 2010 – June 2020

Through God's providence and gracious provision, LWCC acquired a property located at 20178 72 Ave in Willoughby in October 2010. About 40 families (120 individuals including children) gladly gathered in the morning for the worship service. Despite the limited space, the church continued to seek ways to equip people for ministry through Equip to Serve Training (ETS), care groups, Fundamentals of the Faith (FOF) class, and The Way of the Master Evangelism training. Annual family camps at Camp Hope continued to strengthen body life and relationships. The church also rejoiced to see new believers and young people getting baptized each year during our family camp.

Highlights of the church's ministry was community outreach through Vacation Bible School with an average attendance of 45 children. The church began to share the love of Christ to the seniors in two nursing homes in Langley (2013) and



2010 - Relocated to a property in Willoughby



2019 - Annual Family Camp at Camp Hope

the prison chapel ministry in Abbotsford (2014). LWCC also hosted the Independence Day celebration in 2015 to reach the Filipino community.

In 2017, the church decided to hire its first Youth and Young Adults Pastor, Austin Jorge Ballesterros in order to address the growing needs of the church. In 2018, the church submitted its newly revised Constitution and Bylaws to the BC government and completed for the first time the LWCC Membership Manual.

Just like any church, LWCC faced some challenges. It was a time to reaffirm the church's submission to the authority of its head, the Lord Jesus Christ and the sufficiency of His Word, to guide its leaders. After a series of God-ordained circumstances and much prayer, the congregation approved the Board of Elders' recommendation to sell the church's property in September 2019. Six months later, the Lord provided another facility but the move was delayed and the church was allowed to use the sold property until June 2020.

Despite the Covid-19 crisis that started in March 2020, the church remained resilient and took on a new challenge by providing live-streaming online worship services and continued small group Bible studies and prayer meetings virtually.

OUR CHURCH AS IT IS NOW

July 2020 – Present

For 18 years, LWCC has thrived in the midst of challenges in the pursuit of accomplishing its mission.

Currently, the church consists of 38 families with 60 active members out of 108 worshippers (including children) with an average attendance of 80 every Sunday. Out of 108 people, about 56% are first generation immigrants with Filipino ethnicity and 36%, second generation. Eight percent are from other ethnicities.

LWCC moved to the new facility at Willoughby Christian Reformed Church on July 1st and started Sunday worship service at 1:30 pm on July 12, 2020. As we started to hold in-person Sunday worship service at our new location, there is a growing sense of excitement among our members that God is at work in and through us towards becoming the church that He wants us to be. The church looks forward with confidence to a new chapter as God unfolds His plan in the days ahead and, the Lord-willing, will welcome a new Lead Pastor in the coming year.



2020 - Relocated to Willoughby Christian Reformed Church



July 12, 2020 - First Service at Willoughby Christian Reformed Church

CORE VALUES

Scripture-based and Spirit-led ministry

We value accurate teaching of the Word of God and the leading of the Holy Spirit as the primary foundations for the ministry of LWCC. To be led by the Holy Spirit is to have the Spirit of God working in us, through the proper understanding and application of the Scriptures. We value obedience to God's Word in the power of the Spirit as the primary means to produce growth in personal holiness, spiritual maturity of our church and accomplishment of our ministry goals.

Life Worship and Effective Prayer

We value worship as the expression of one's life. True worship is a valuing or treasuring of God above all things – so everything we say and do is an act of worship to God. Corporate worship at LWCC seeks to incorporate a comfortable blend of traditional and contemporary styles of music because we value creative ways of worship that pleases and glorifies God. We value effective consistent prayer because it is a reflection of our growing relationship and dependence on God. All ministries and activities at LWCC are characterized by a reliance on prayer in their conception, planning and implementation.

Christ-centered Evangelism and Discipleship

We value the proclamation of the Gospel and discipleship of believers that is focused on Jesus Christ. To "make disciples" involves presenting the biblical gospel so that people get converted to Christ and training them to become more like Christ. Becoming a faithful disciple is a lifelong process, both as an individual and community experience. At LWCC, we believe that disciple-making starts in the home, so we find ways to equip parents on how to disciple their own children. We also seek ways on how various kinds of biblical disciple-making find expression in our church.

Building Community and Meaningful Connections

We value developing healthy relationships with God, family, church and our community. We value building solid marriages and strong families. We value making meaningful connections with one another through care groups and connecting others to Jesus through outreach ministries locally and globally. We value developing leaders and effective ministry teams that connect well with our church family and community in order to accomplish our desired outcomes.

WHAT WE BELIEVE



1. About the Bible

We believe that the Bible is the Word of God fully and verbally inspired by the Holy Spirit. We believe that the Bible in its original writings is free from all falsehood or mistake and so is entirely true and trustworthy in all its assertions on all matters of natural and theological fact. We also believe in the sufficiency of the Bible and that it has supreme authority in all matters of faith and conduct.

2. About God

We believe that there is one living and true God, eternally existing in three persons; that these are equal in every divine perfection, and that they execute distinct but harmonious offices in the work of creation, providence and redemption.

3. About Jesus Christ

We believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, conceived by the Holy Spirit. We believe in His virgin birth, sinless life, miracles and teachings. We believe in His substitutionary atoning death, bodily resurrection, ascension into heaven, perpetual intercession for His people, and personal visible return to earth.

4. About the Holy Spirit

We believe in the Holy Spirit who came forth from the Father and Son to convict the world of sin, righteousness, and judgment, and to regenerate, sanctify and empower all who believe in Jesus Christ. We believe that the Holy Spirit indwells every believer in Christ, and that He is an abiding helper, teacher and guide.

5. About Salvation

We believe that all men are sinners by nature and by choice and are, therefore, under condemnation. We believe that salvation is wholly of God by grace on the basis of the redemption of Jesus Christ and the merit of His shed blood, not on the basis of human merit or works and is received through personal faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. We believe that salvation is a past, present and future reality. The past, being our justification, freed us from the penalty of sin; the present, being our sanctification, frees us from the power of sin; and the future, being our glorification, will free us from the presence of sin.

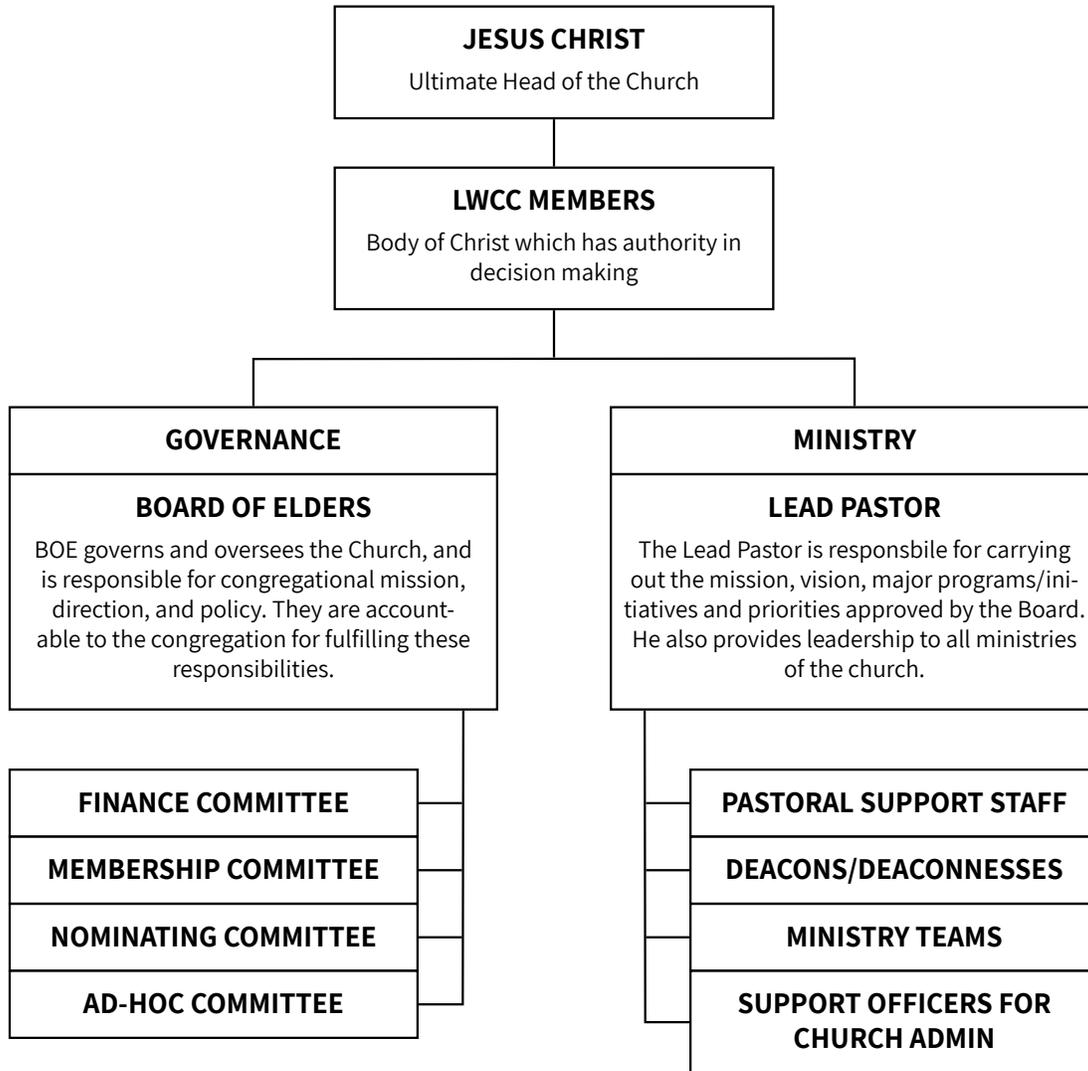
6. About the Church

We believe in the universal church; a living spiritual body of which Christ is the head and all regenerated persons are members. We believe in the local church, consisting of a company of believers in Jesus Christ, baptized in a credible profession of faith, and associated for worship, work and fellowship. We believe that God has laid upon the members of the local church the primary task of giving the Gospel of Jesus Christ to a lost world.

7. About the Last Things

We believe in the personal and visible return of the Lord Jesus Christ to earth and the establishment of His Kingdom. We believe in the resurrection of the body, the final judgement, the eternal felicity of the righteous, and the endless suffering of the wicked.

LWCC ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE



LWCC is the Body of Christ and as a living organism, it is challenging to create a mental picture of how our church is organized in boxes, as they do not perfectly describe the workings of the church body. However, visual representations are helpful in understanding our church organizational structure, but the following explanation is included to avoid misinterpretation of the visual:

- Jesus Christ is the Ultimate Head of the local church. Our mission, vision, direction, guidance, programs and priorities should come from Him.
- To facilitate the decision-making process, the church elects Elders and includes the Lead Pastor to the Board of Elders and delegates all decision-making to the Board, except in approving budgets, sale and purchase of property, calling of the senior pastor and pastoral staff, and bylaw and constitutional changes.
- At the risk of oversimplifying, but to help differentiate the leadership roles of the Board (Governance) and Lead Pastor (Ministry), it can be said that the Board primarily concerns itself with “ends” issues (what is the church’s desired future, who are we serving, who we are reaching, what we want to accomplish) and deals with the future (where we are heading) while the Lead Pastor exercises leadership with the “means” to accomplish the “ends” and more present-oriented.
- What may not be captured in the diagram is the fact that people in the boxes under the Governance and Ministry headings are not static; they could be moving across boxes. It is therefore important that the functions of “boxes” or bodies rather than the persons be emphasized.

DEMOGRAPHICS

Langley Township Demographics

Source: <https://townfolio.co/bc/langley-township/demographics#:~:text=At%20present%2C%20Langley%20Township%2C%20BC,year%20from%202011%20to%202016>.

Langley Township Population

The sum of births plus in-migration:

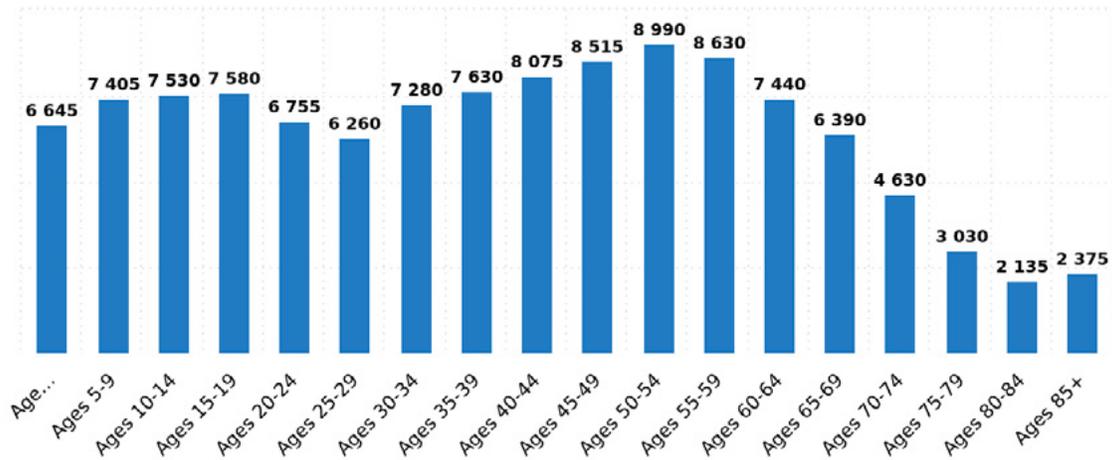
- 2016 - 117,285
- 2020 - 129,560 (estimated based on an average growth of 2.52% per year)

Willoughby Community:

The church is located in the Willoughby area in the Township of Langley, which is currently experiencing major transformation and development.

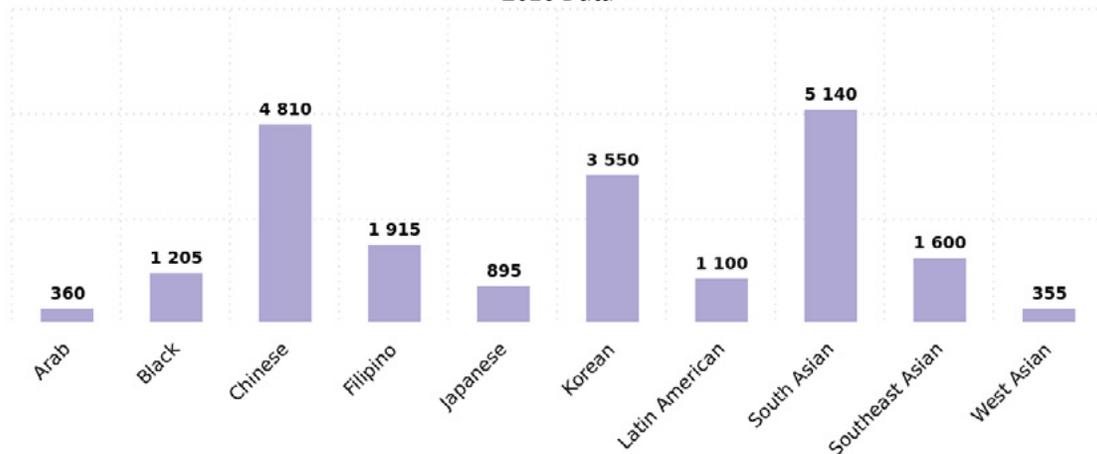
More information on Willoughby Community Plan is found in the link = [https://webfiles.tol.ca/CommDev/Community%20Plans/Willoughby%20Community%20Plan%20\(No.%203800\).pdf](https://webfiles.tol.ca/CommDev/Community%20Plans/Willoughby%20Community%20Plan%20(No.%203800).pdf)

Ages



Visible Minorities

2016 Data



MINISTRIES



Worship

One of the strengths we currently have at LWCC is our worship ministry. Since one of our core values is life worship, we encourage our people to have an attitude of worship and praise every day through the presentation of music that gives honour and glory to God. We subscribe to a blended style of worship music which is a combination of both traditional hymns and contemporary praise and worship songs. We strive to present music that is biblically sound, edifies and ministers to the people who worship with us, and that glorifies God.

Evangelism and Missions

LWCC is committed to obey the Great Commission by proclaiming the gospel and making disciples of our Lord Jesus Christ. The Mission and Evangelism Ministry exists to equip and mobilize our people to be effective witnesses of Christ locally and be involved in missions globally.

Children

We love all the 19 children (nursery to Grade 7) currently under our care at LWCC. Our main goal is to get the children excited in knowing Jesus as their personal Saviour and Lord and helping them grow as His followers. We want them to have a strong foundation in the Word of God and train them to share their faith with friends and family.

Youth and Young Adults

Under the leadership of our Youth and Young Adults Pastor, we currently have an active thriving ministry among our Grade 8-12 students and college & career group.

The focus of our ministry to the youth is to build a community that loves Jesus, loves the church, loves the Bible and loves the lost. The purpose is to learn, grow and mature in God's love and grace so that we might make an impact in the schools, clubs, and teams and other communities that we are in.

The Young Adults ministry seeks to build a community that aims for God's Word and the Spirit to permeate wholly in their lives, so that they can become more like Christ. Whether in school, work or in relationships, Jesus is Lord in every area and context.

Fellowship / Care Groups

All adult ministries at LWCC are aimed at developing closer relationships with the goal of building up one another to grow towards Christlikeness so that we can effectively proclaim the truth of the gospel to others.

We currently have 5 Care Groups meeting every week. Due to the pandemic, bible studies and prayer times are limited to virtual online meetings. As covid restrictions are eased or lifted, we hope to see care groups meeting regularly again in various homes.

Men's Ministry (MenOf3sixteen) and Women's Ministry (Mary-Martha Sisterhood) plan activities and events that help them become the men and women God wants them to be.

The Couples' Ministry endeavors to strengthen marriages in LWCC by leading and equipping them to be godly couples and godly parents to their children.

The Seniors Ministry (S.O.S. – in Season and Out of Season) was officially launched last year. We look forward to seeing this ministry grow as we develop and build meaningful connections to minister to our growing senior community within our church.

Another important ministry that we have started and would like to develop is our Intergenerational Ministry where we foster meaningful relationships across generations.

Christian Education

The Christian Education (CE) Ministry at LWCC focuses on providing our church family with sound biblical teaching and discipling resources to help each individual grow toward spiritual maturity.

In collaboration with the Lead Pastor and Ministry Team leaders, we are still in the process of seeking God's wisdom on developing a discipleship plan that provides learning opportunities for everyone in our church family to grow and become reproducing disciples.

LEAD PASTOR PROFILE

We see our next Lead Pastor at LWCC as a loving shepherd called by God to lead us to become the church that He wants us to be. He understands our Master's plan for the church and through his example, leads the church to maintain firm standards of personal holiness, and to submit to the Lord Jesus Christ as our Head.

Considering our strategic location in the Willoughby community in Langley, an area that is growing rapidly and ministry opportunities abound, he has the leadership skills to engage our Living Word family in reaching out to the people around us so that we can become a vibrant multi-cultural church. He has the passion and skills to lead LWCC to be a healthy church, and to remain faithful in obeying our Lord's Great Commission to make disciples of all nations.

FUNCTIONS AND DUTIES

Preaching/Teaching

- Preach and teach the Word of God
- Exhort church members and refute erroneous doctrines

Leadership/Equipping

- Provide overall leadership to church administration and all church ministries
- Lead in the organizing, planning, directing, coordinating and evaluating church ministries
- Lead in equipping/ training church members to do ministry work
- Lead in training and developing leaders
- Lead in developing strategies and programs and aligning church activities and resources to ensure the accomplishment of the church mission, vision and priorities
- Provide leadership and supervision to pastoral staff and paid employees of the church
- Lead in the observance of church ordinances, perform wedding ceremonies, and conduct funerals

Pastoral Care/Shepherding

- Responsible for general oversight of the spiritual welfare of the church
- Provide pastoral care for church members
- Provide biblical counsel to those facing struggles in life

Other Responsibilities:

- Arrange for and conduct all public and regular services of the church
- Represent the church in civic matters
- Cooperate with the Baptist Conference of British Columbia and Baptist General Conference in matters of mutual concern

BIBLICAL QUALIFICATIONS

The Lead Pastor must meet the leadership qualifications for Elders laid out in I Timothy 3:1-7; Titus 1:5-9.

- He is a man of unquestionable character, a man of integrity, a model of godliness.
- He is sexually pure, self-disciplined, well-organized, and easily pardons human failure.
- He maintains a godly family, hospitable, well-respected by non-Christians.
- He is a mature Christian who adheres to sound doctrine with deep conviction, skilled in teaching, a discipler of men
- He is not a drinker, not a fighter, not quarrelsome, and not covetous.
- He is continually progressing in his spiritual growth

Personal Qualities and Skills

- Willingness to serve humbly
- Loves and deeply cares for people
- Effective communication skills
- Ability to relate to people of all ages and ethnic backgrounds
- Leadership abilities to motivate and mobilize Ministry teams
- Able to resolve conflicts biblically
- Faithful, committed to fulfill his calling

Other Requirements:

- Adhere to the Statement of Faith of LWCC
- Biblical training, holding at least a bachelor's degree in biblical and/or theological studies from an acceptable educational institution, preferably have completed a seminary degree or training in expository preaching
- Have at least 2 years previous pastoral experience in a church setting

If you believe God might be leading you to take the next step, we would like to hear from you. A candidate will be considered when we receive all of the following:

- Letter of introduction
- Resume
- Video(s) or link(s) to view three sermons or other teachings

In your letter of introduction, please include a brief response to the following question:

After reviewing both the church and pastor profiles, how has the Lord led you to believe that your specific calling, gifts, qualities, skills and experiences might be a possible fit to lead a church like LWCC into its next season of ministry?

Please email or send all materials electronically in PDF format to: info.livingwordcc@shaw.ca

We will confirm receipt of documents and contact candidates to determine next steps.