

# Congregational Profile of Bonavista Evangelical Missionary Church (Bonavista Church) 2021

## History

Bonavista Church started as a Sunday School mission meeting in Andrew Sibbald School in 1972. Rev. John Gamble, then western District Superintendent of the Missionary Church, led the work. The church hired David Crouse in 1975 and began a building project in 1977. Murray Swalm, who had been the assistant pastor since 1984, became the senior pastor in 1986 and served until he ended his ministry in 2020. The Missionary Church of Canada merged with the Evangelical Church of Canada in 1993.

Over the years, the church has paid staff in various positions – youth, children, worship, pastoral care; as well as secretarial and janitorial. The following list shows the senior and assistant/associate pastors:

John Gamble (church planter) 1972-1975

David Crouse (senior) 1975-1986

Virgil Stauffer (assistant) 1981-1982

Murray Swalm (assistant) 1984-1986

Murray Swalm (senior) 1986-2020

Rob Johnson (assistant) 1986-1989

Bruce Archer (assistant) 1990-1998

David Crouse (associate) 1999-2004

Fred Friesen (associate) 2005-2011

Lori Glass (pastoral care) 2012-2013

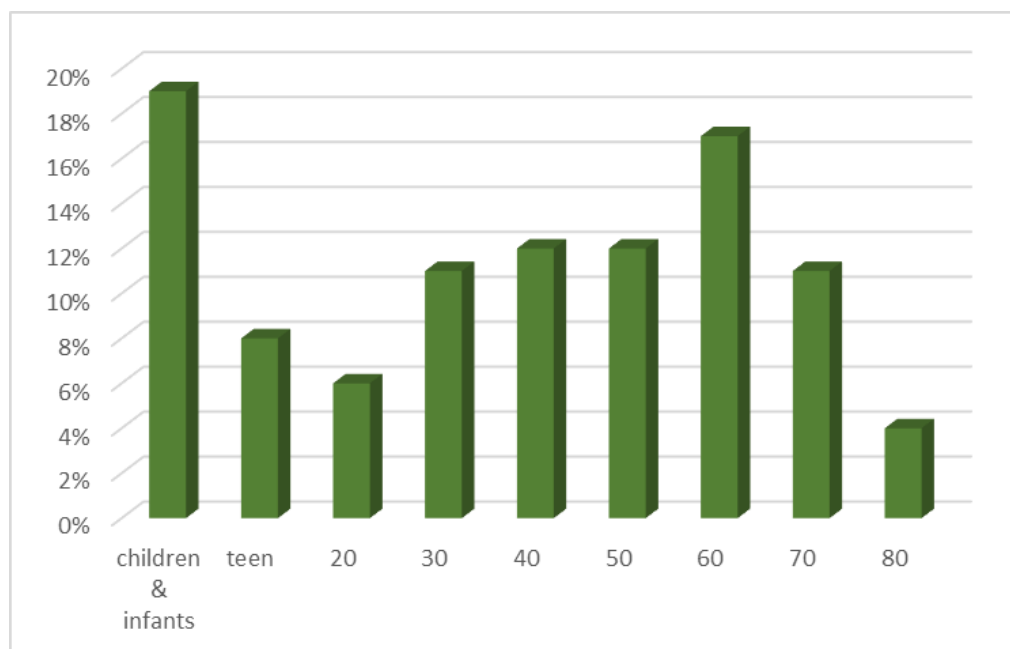
Troy McKnight (associate) 2013-2014

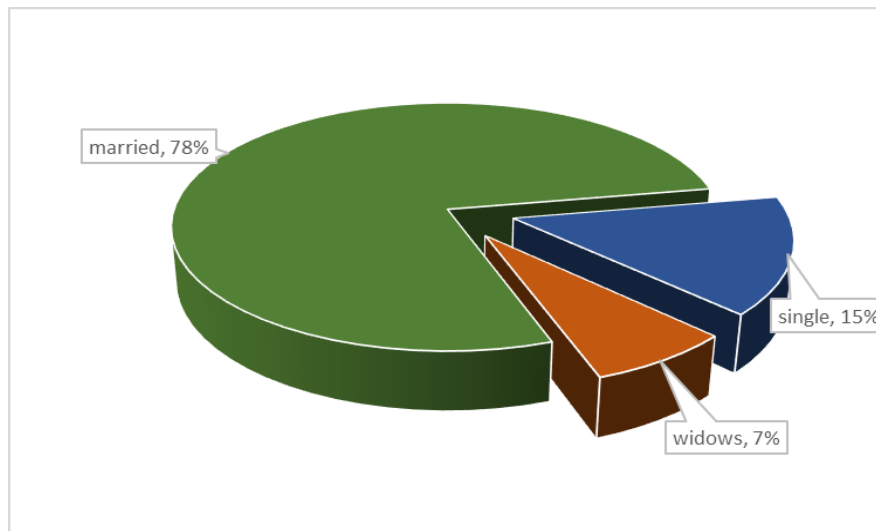
Colin Creighton (associate) 2014-2018

Marco Boet (associate) 2018-2021

## People

The following two charts show the current basic demographics according to age and marital status.





Members and adherents of Bonavista Church speak predominantly English, but numerous other languages are represented as first languages, most commonly Spanish. Though most were born and raised in Calgary or Canada, many countries of the world are represented in the congregation. Some families are new to Canada in the last 10 years.

There is a balanced mix of those employed in the trades and those in professional occupations. Unfortunately, a number are currently unemployed. Education level ranges from not completing high school to numerous post-secondary degrees.

Health issues faced by the congregation include Down's syndrome, autism, dementia, and numerous chronic physical illnesses.

Most people have attended Bonavista Church for at least three years and many for more than 20 years. (2020 Church health survey: 40% respondents (66/152) have attended over 20 years; 50% respondents (80/152) have attended between three and 20 years).

Current attendance is difficult to measure with Covid restrictions. In 2019, the average weekly attendance was 258 (189 adults/69 children and infants). There are 119 active members.

Known as a friendly and welcoming church, Bonavista Church has a small but strong core group of volunteers.

#### Current Staff

Transitional Pastor – (40 hr/week) Ken DeMaere

Director, Admin and Finance – (40 hr/week) Edith Green

Director, Children's ministries – (20 hr/week) Nora Vasquez

Director, Worship – (15 hr/week) Leanne Keegstra (maternity leave started mid- April)

Director, Youth – (15 hr/week) Justin Fox – over summer 40 hr/week, overseeing worship.

## Ministries

*Elders* – Responsible for the overall organization, administration, and spiritual health of the body. Functionally, staff report to lead pastor, who reports to the elders, who report to the membership. Membership elects elders for three-year terms (maximum two consecutive terms, then a mandatory one-year break). Currently, the board consists of eight elders, six men and two women.

*Worship* – We desire to glorify God and draw worshippers closer to Him. Implemented weekly live-stream services in March 2020. In-person gathering re-started in June 2020 and continued uninterrupted until May 2021. A large team of volunteers make weekly worship services happen live and online.

*Children & Family ministries* – We help children, in the context of their families, to know and love Jesus. Nursery and Sunday morning program for preschoolers through grade 6, run concurrently with worship service. In 2019, we served 34 families (65 children and infants). Currently, 19 families (30 children and infants) are involved in weekly kids Zoom, attending worship services in-person, or using online lessons at home. Pre-Covid: Organized numerous family and community events.

*Youth* – We seek to disciple young people in the way of Jesus. In 2020, 20-25 attended; in 2021, 15 attended. One third of these 15 youth come from families who do not attend Bonavista Church. In the past, Friday evening activities were held bi-monthly and Sunday evening small groups were held weekly. During Covid, youth meet weekly via Zoom, and in person when possible.

*Seniors* – We want to encourage, exhort, and support these faithful followers of Jesus. Pre-Covid: Held monthly meetings with 25-35 people attending.

*Missions* – We support missionaries and projects, to further God's Kingdom and serve others, ensuring missions is a visible priority of our church. We encourage everyone to personally support and participate in missions work, both in our city and around the world. As mandated by the Board, 16% of non-designated revenue goes toward missions.

*Prayer* – We understand our essential need for God, His direction, and His care, and so aim to permeate Bonavista Church with prayer. This ministry assists nine groups (Tuesday evening, Sunday morning pre-service, Sunday morning post-service, emergency team, small groups, seniors fellowship, elders, staff, and the congregation) with requests and focuses for prayer.

*Small Groups* – We desire to provide authentic community for life transformation, acknowledging that we must first be disciples to build disciples. In 2021, 80 adults were involved in 9 small groups. A Church-wide Bible reading/study guide was used during Lent, with at least 50 people meeting weekly in groups of three to share what they learned and to pray. Pre-Covid, we held an annual Stillness retreat to seek God, with 15-20 people attending.

*Outreach and Service*– Bonavista Church highly values service to the community. Food pantry (monthly), Stampede Breakfast (annually), Café n Play (twice weekly), Play at the park (twice weekly in summer), Sports Camp (one week in summer), Men's golf tournament (annually), Women's Christmas tea (annually), community clean-up (annually), assisting with community BBQ (annually). Most of these activities started with a strong evangelical purpose but some need to regain that focus.

*Greeting* – First impressions matter. Greeters, the welcome centre, and a coffee bar meet, direct, and make both visitors and regular attenders feel noticed and valued.

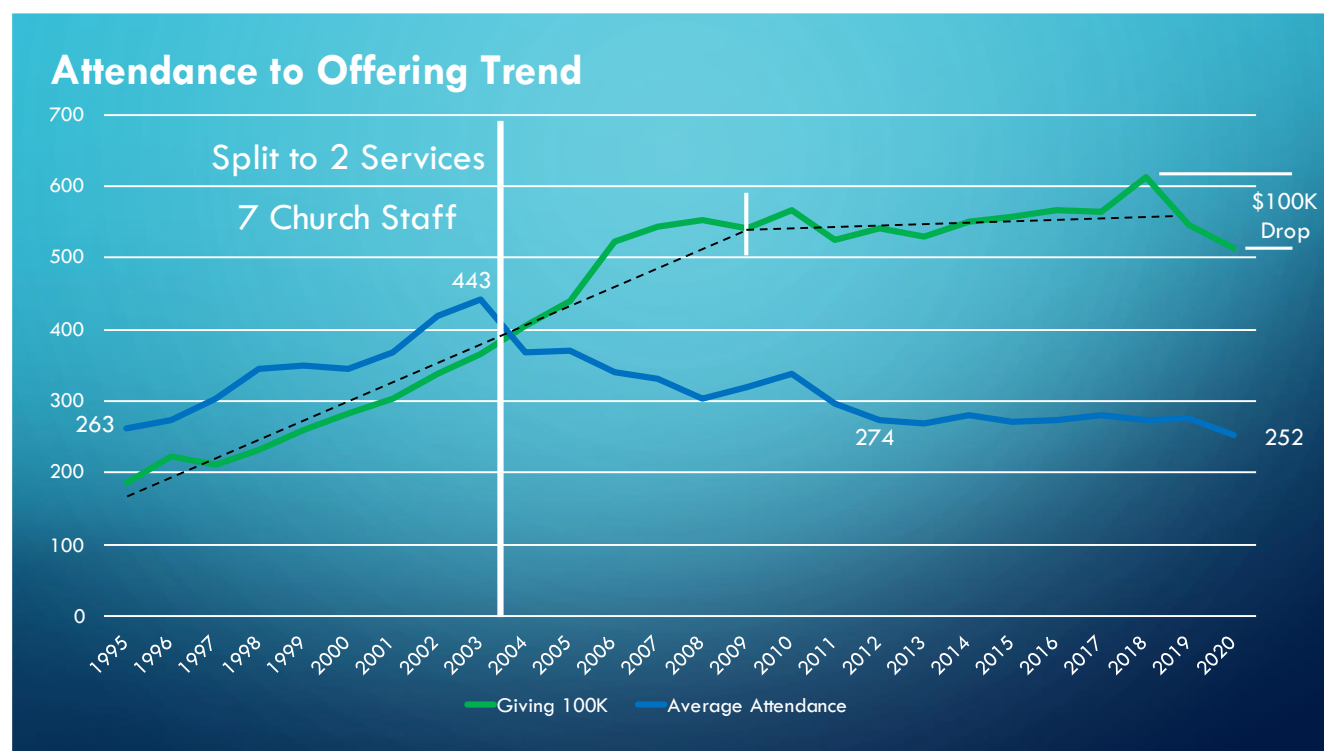
## Building

Located at 1509 Lake Ontario Drive SE, in Lake Bonavista, in southeast Calgary. Built in 1977, with numerous renovations and additions. The current size is 49,623 square feet and is valued at \$2.65 million (Property Tax assessment 2021). The sanctuary seating capacity is about 450 people.

## Finances

Bonavista Church's annual budget has been between \$500,000-\$600,000 for the last decade. Although not always meeting the budget, the staff work to keep expenditures below receipts and thus we have rarely had a cash deficit for the year. Comparing income with expenses, 2019 showed a \$20,000 deficit and 2020 a \$7,000 surplus (after budget cuts). We carry no debt and have an operating reserve of three months.

Key to understanding Bonavista's current situation is the following historical chart. Both attendance and staff reached an all time high in 2003. Unfortunately, attendance dropped with the move to two services. Staffing levels remained the same, even though attendance continued to decline after the return to one service. Attendance to staff ratio in 2003 was 88:1 and in 2020 was 60:1. In January 2021, the associate pastor (40 hr/week) was laid-off in an attempt to correct this imbalance.



Currently, we are tracking below 2020 for this time of the year. Both the five-year and one-year projection trends have us falling below our 2021 budget (See chart below). Projected year end income will be in the \$460's vs a budget of \$550K.

## May 2021 Giving Projections

