

# Grace Church Newmarket

221 Carlson Drive, Newmarket, ON



***A REAL Family of Families for God***

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## 1. OUR VISION

“To be a family of followers of Jesus Christ from all walks of life; committed to Biblical teaching, discipleship, prayer and worship; showing those in our community and beyond the love of Christ; all for the Glory of God.”

### TO BE A ‘REAL’ FAMILY OF FAMILIES FOR GOD

REAL is an acronym. Explained in our Mission Statement.

#### Family

- Many churches in our culture have adopted a philosophy of ministry that focuses on attracting people, both church and unchurched, through performance. This philosophy creates a congregation of CONSUMERS/CUSTOMERS. However, ...

The Family model for ministry, is the opposite to that CONSUMER/CUSTOMER philosophy of ministry. Families include all kinds of people – singles, married, married with kids, divorced, single parents, some with disabilities or even some with odd behaviours. Yet, there is a bond within families that creates a sense of relational connectedness. Within a family, there is acceptance and members relate to one another in a healthy way. We encourage our family members to be PARTICIPANTS, to share the responsibilities as family members and not just to be spectators. In this way, our family members become active DISCIPLES of Jesus as we share and grow together in ministry.

- Biblical support for this model:
  - Mark 3:33-35 - Jesus spoke about his followers and those who did God’s will as “his brother, and sister, and mother”
  - Rom.12:1; 1 Cor.12:1; Rom.16:1; 1 Tim.5:2 - Paul frequently uses familial terms to describe “believers” – brothers, sisters
  - 1 Cor.12-14 - Paul describes the body of Christ as made up of many different members each with unique gifts and abilities but all needed to work together
  - Eph.4:1-6 - Paul also emphasized the unity of believers in their identity in Christ.

#### Of Families

- Grace Church is a Family comprised of a number of different kinds of “family units.”
- These family units include nuclear families (parents & kids); singles; single parent families; empty nesters; seniors & young adults.

#### For God

- This is our motivation for all ministry
  - Obedience to Him
  - Love for Him
- The Holy Spirit empowers us to accomplish this

## **OUR MISSION**

**REAL** - It does not define who we are but provides the mechanism for how we do ministry.

**R** – REPRODUCING DISCIPLES – DISCIPLESHIP

**E** – ESTEEMING GOD ABOVE ELSE – WORSHIP

**A** – ANNOUNCING THE GOOD NEWS – EVANGELISM

**L** – LIVING FOR OTHERS – SERVICE

### **Reproducing Disciples - DISCIPLESHIP**

- Key: Producing Disciples - Not Consumers or Customers
- We desire to see people grow in their knowledge and understanding of God's Word through discipleship. We promote a developmental discipleship model of moving individuals through the spiritual phases of "infant, adolescent, young adult, adult (multiplier)"
- We desire to see Grace grow, not just through *birth* – the discipling of those we personally lead to Christ, but also by *adoption* – the discipling of other individuals in our church or community who need spiritual mentoring.

### **Esteeming God Above All Else - WORSHIP**

- Everything we do focuses on God, even if it costs us
- We do not seek cultural approval but rather desire to honour God in our worship and ministry

### **Announcing the Good News - EVANGELISM**

- We desire to equip people at Grace to be able to share the gospel themselves beginning with the people God has already put in their lives
- We seek to provide opportunities for families of Grace to invite their friends, co-workers, neighbours, family to hear the gospel. We bring our identity – "a family of families" to our action of evangelism as we proclaim the good news "from our family to yours."

### **Living for Others - SERVICE**

- John 13:15 – they will know we are disciples by the way we treat one another
- We want to develop a culture where those attending Grace see themselves as an integral part of a family – "we are part of Grace Church" NOT "we go to Grace Church"
- Practically demonstrating love and care for one another

## **2. OUR BELIEFS**

**The Scriptures** — We believe that the Bible is the inspired word of God and the final authority for all matters of faith and life.

**God** — We believe in one living and true God who is the creator and sustainer of all things. He exists in three equal persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

**Jesus Christ** — We believe that Jesus Christ, the Son of God, is true God and true man. He existed from eternity past with God the Father, became man through conception by the Holy Spirit, was born of the virgin Mary, lived a sinless life, and died on the cross to pay the penalty for all sin. He arose bodily from the dead and ascended into heaven.

**Humanity** — We believe that God created the human race in his image. Humankind was originally perfect until the first people, Adam and Eve, sinned against God in an act of rebellion and disobedience. As a result of this sin, the entire human race is separated from God, condemned to spiritual and physical death and unable to restore their original, perfect relationship with him without the saving work of Jesus Christ.

**Salvation** — We believe that salvation is a free gift of God's grace that restores the broken relationship between humans and himself. Salvation comes to a person who responds to this free gift with repentance from sin and acceptance by faith of who Jesus is and the work he did on the cross to pay the penalty for one's own sin.

**The Church** — We believe that the church is a community of those who have put their faith and trust in Jesus Christ. These believers are united together before God for the purpose of worship, mutual encouragement, caring, evangelism, and social action.

**Christian Life** — We believe that every Christian, with the help of the Holy Spirit, should live in love and holiness, exhibiting qualities of honesty, integrity, forgiveness, and kindness.

**Future Things** — We believe in the personal and bodily return of the Lord Jesus Christ who will judge both the living and resurrected dead.

### 3. OUR FAMILY

#### 'A few comments from some within our family'

##### Matthew, Elizan and Daniel Strauss



"We love Newmarket for its small-town feeling, close to nature, even though it has all the amenities of a big city. It is a safe and friendly community where it is easy to connect and make friends. We moved from South Africa to Canada 16 years ago and have no family here. Grace church's mission of being a family of families for God is therefore especially meaningful to us, since all age groups are drawn into this family of God through a variety of spiritual and fun activities. Grace church is a very welcoming place and we felt loved and cared for right from the start. **Also very important to us is the focus on Truth, with strong Bible teaching for all age groups.** Both Matthew and Elizan were baptized here as adults at Grace which led to deep further spiritual growth for both. Daniel, our 14-year old son, really appreciates the youth leaders who love our youth and reach out to them enthusiastically, even now during covid. Matthew is grateful for the excellent Biblical leadership training he received, both in the men's fellowship and the elders' training, and Elizan loves the active women's fellowship who meet for Bible Study or socially in various ways. We must also mention our appreciation for Grace church's staff who work together as such a solid team, passionate in their love for the Grace people, strong in Bible teaching and prayer and very resilient even in the tumultuous times of covid. We are deeply thankful that the Lord led us to join this family of families for God!

##### Larry and Joanne Clements



Our journey with Grace Church began in the 1980's when they added us to their long list of supporting missionaries. They continued supporting our work in Africa for the next 20 years until we retired from the field. Grace Church had a huge impact on our family and our faith. Their love for missions was evident. The people were friendly, caring, and committed. They kept in touch with us through letters, cards, and their prayers. When we were facing times of trials, we knew we could count on them. During Home Assignments, we were fed spiritually so were recharged spiritually when we returned to the field. Hence, Newmarket became our new home base and we have lived here ever since! We have been so blessed!

## **Sarah Barclay (Young Adult)**



Grace has greatly impacted my journey of faith. Being my home church for most of my life, it has taught me the importance of having a solid faith, one built on prayer and studying the bible. It has also shown me the benefits of a good Christian community, as well as taught me to be open in my struggles. I have had so many good role models within the church who have encouraged me at different points in my walk with Christ. Grace has challenged me over and over to take the step of faith and trust God's plan for my life.

One thing I like about the Newmarket community is the smaller town feel that it gives. It's like having the convenience of a city (even better because there's less traffic), but there are also opportunities to get involved and serve others making it easy to minister to people outside Christian circles.

## **Bella Thangthong (Youth)**

Grace has impacted my walk with God by the ministries, including youth and Awana which I used to attend before I graduated. Grace has impacted me with great encouragement and the ways they make it fun to learn about the word of God.

Something I like about Newmarket is how it's not super big and not super small so we can travel to places quickly.

## **Logan Knights (Youth)**

Grace has impacted my walk with God through youth group. Attending youth has impacted me greatly and the events we do each week are always lots of fun. They are the best part of my week.

What I like about Newmarket is all the good restaurants. They have great places to eat with lots of great food!

## **OUR COMMUNITY**

### **Newmarket well beyond the ordinary**

The town of Newmarket is placed in a prime spot in Ontario, located only 40 minutes from the City of Toronto and a short journey north to gorgeous cottage country. Newmarket is a place where all interests can be found: from small town features like historic Main Street and beautiful trails to high end shopping stores, restaurants and great health care facilities. The award-winning Farmer's Market and Fairy Lake area are popular among Newmarket residents. Indeed, Newmarket is a great place to call home and Grace church is one of the many reasons. Because of the efforts of the Christ-centred people at Grace church, the Grace church daycare and the Newmarket District Christian academy, the lives of multitudes of people in the Newmarket community have been blessed over the years. "Newmarket, with its vibrant small-town feel creates a fantastic opportunity to introduce Jesus to the multicultural and multi faith environment in which Grace church serves."

<https://newmarketmainstreet.ca/>

### **NEWMARKET RIVERWALK COMMONS**



Colleges and universities within 100km of Newmarket:

- Humber College of Applied Arts and Technology
- Seneca College
- York University
- Canadian College of Business, Science & Technology
- Tyndale University
- University of Toronto
- George Brown College
- University of Guelph Humber
- Ryerson University
- Centennial College

The town of Newmarket has exceeded York Region's growth rate of 1.7%, making Newmarket a fantastic opportunity to continue to grow a thriving church.

Please see [Yorkregion.ca](http://Yorkregion.ca) for further information

<https://www.newmarket.ca/Business/ecodev/locatehere/Pages/Labour-market.aspx>

| Demographic characteristics 2016              | Newmarket Population |
|---|----------------------|
| <b>Population characteristics</b>             |                      |
| Total population                              | 84, 224              |
| Below age 25                                  | 26, 770              |
| Between 25 and 44                             | 20, 170              |
| Between 45 and 64                             | 25, 750              |
| Over 65                                       | 11, 545              |
| Median population age                         | 40.9                 |
| Population (15+) with postsecondary education | 57%                  |
| Population born outside of Canada             | 28%                  |
| <b>Household characteristics</b>              |                      |
| Total number of households                    | 28,670               |
| Owned   | 79.5%                |
| Rented  | 20.5%                |
| Average household income                      | \$116,456            |

## **4. OUR GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE**

### **GOVERNANCE DOCUMENTS**

As a Federally Incorporated Entity, Grace Church Newmarket has an approved set of General Operating Bylaws (General Operating By-law Number 1) which defines why we exist, who we are, what we believe and how we will carry out our plan. Within this document, the roles and responsibilities of those in authority in the Corporation are identified and explained. The Board of Directors of the Corporation and the Board of Elders of the Church are identified as one in the same Board who have executive authority in spiritual and material matters as vested by the congregation.

### **GOVERNANCE MODEL**

Grace Church is governed by a Board of Elders, in a Shepherd-Servant model of leadership. It is clear from scripture that the New Testament Church was to be governed by a plurality of Elders. Shared leadership; leaders together, acting as a ruling body of one. At Grace, the Senior Pastor automatically serves as a nonvoting Elder on the Elder Board and should be gifted primarily to serve as a preacher/teacher and leader and yet as an equal with all serving Elders.

God's word is very clear about the role of Elders in His Church. As we look to scripture as our guide, we have also been using Alexander Strauch's book, "Biblical Eldership", as a training tool to assist in developing and strengthening current and future Elders of Grace Church.

Elders are to: shepherd, oversee, lead and care for the local church. (1Tim 5, Titus 1, 1 Pet 5)

Jesus led with the characteristics of a Shepherd.

The Elders are to provide spiritual leadership to God's people. The elders' mission is to lead, teach, protect and love those under their care the way shepherd's care for the sheep in a flock, so that they will grow up into spiritual maturity (Ephesians 4:11-13).

Jesus also demonstrated Servant Leadership.

Every elder is committed to working together, by the power of the Holy Spirit, in humble Christ like love. Jesus came not to be served, but to serve. He illustrated the humble, servant role that is so basic to the ministry of those that follow Him by washing the feet of His disciples (John 13:14-15). As Christ did, we are to sacrifice our time and energy for the good of others. The unity of the body of Christ is dependent on the Elders leading as servants, as equals, serving our brothers and sisters.

## 5. OUR PROGRAMS & MINISTRIES

(see attached flyer for program details and schedules)

| MAJOR MINISTRY HEADCOUNTS (pre Covid) |              |            |
|---------------------------------------|--------------|------------|
| Ministry                              | PARTICIPANTS | VOLUNTEERS |
| Sandbox (nursery) & Pebbles (2's&3's) | 15           | 32         |
| The Rock JK-Gr 5                      | 45           | 35         |
| Boulders (Gr 6-8)                     | 10           | 8          |
| Youth (BT Jr High & MTV Sr High)      | 30           | 12         |
| Awana                                 | 70           | 30         |
| Young Adults                          | 24-30        | N/A        |
| Men's                                 | 15-20        | 2          |
| Women's                               | 30-35        | 5          |
| SOS Seniors monthly luncheons         | 35-40        | 8 to 10    |
| Worship & Tech                        | N/A          | 25         |

### Additional Church Ministries

- Prayer Ministry
- Meal Program

### Community Events that Grace participates in

- Santa Claus Parade
- Kanata Canada Day festival

Number of people who call Grace Church their home church: 345

Average Sunday morning attendance (pre Covid): 205

Number of members: 102

## **6. OUR HISTORY**

In December 1931, Rev. John McLeod was sent out partially supported by Peoples Church in Toronto, to conduct evangelistic meetings in the Queensville, Newmarket area. Street meetings were in Newmarket, souls were saved and a nucleus formed for a church witness. A hall was rented for one service per Sunday.

In the spring of 1933, Mr. James Taylor came to assist in the work and after one year became its pastor. The work became known as The Gospel Tabernacle. It was interdenominational in its outreach and remained an independent work until 1940, when under the leadership of Rev. Len Copeland, it affiliated with the Associated Gospel Churches of Canada.

In 1948 Rev. A.R. Yielding became pastor. The work grew under his ministry and the church purchased property on Botsford Street and constructed a building which served the congregation well until 1975.

In the fall of 1964 Rev. Herbert Heppner became pastor and led the congregation in an aggressive missionary program. The work continued to expand under his leadership. During his time of leadership, the church purchased a 4.4 acre property on Carlson Drive where our present church is.

In October 1973 Rev. Grover Crosby began his ministry with Grace. The work continued to experience steady growth and the new building was completed in 1975. In 1976 the Grace Church Day Care Centre was started and has been an effective contact ministry in the community. In September 1979 the Newmarket & District Academy opened its doors with 69 children. It became obvious that more space was needed and in 1983 an addition was completed.

The people of Grace church have been faithful in sponsoring refugee families to Newmarket, beginning with 3 Laotian families in 1979-80. Soon after this a Laotian church was formed, where many made commitments to Christ. In 1988 Chan Saysinh, one of the welcomed refugees, became the pastor. Chan continues to pastor the Lao church here in our portable 32 years later. A refugee family from Iran (1999) and another from Syria (2017) have also been sponsored by Grace Church.

In 2003 Grace Church, with the vision of Steve Klassen, was instrumental in the start-up of Youth Unlimited in Newmarket in collaboration with a Christian philanthropist and other churches in the community. Together with Mark Dean, The Shop Vehicle Donation Program was established.

BridgeNorth, a ministry formed to address and prevent the unique problems faced by victims of sexual exploitation and human trafficking, was initiated by Cassandra Diamond, and set up in 2014 as a ministry of Grace Church under the direction of the elders. In 2017, Bridgenorth Women's Mentorship and Advocacy Services became its own charity and runs autonomously from Grace Church Newmarket.

In October 2014 a core group of families under the direction of Josh Davy, along with some Grace Church elders, began to meet in Oro-Medonte to form a church plant called Countryside Community Church. It is now a registered charity and functions autonomously from Grace Church Newmarket.

As a "Family of Families for God" we have looked for ways to love and serve God in creative ways in order to be salt and light in our community and beyond. In the past few years we have done this by engaging with people at the Annual Kanata Summer Festival and by driving our creatively embellished "Cool Bus" in the Santa Claus Parades. Supporting and connecting with our missionaries and sending out short-term mission teams continue to be our priority. Our Senior's Ministry works to include community seniors in good numbers and our "Helping Hand" frozen meals are readily available to take to neighbours in need. Our focus on Children's Ministry, including Awana, also helps us connect with community families. We continue to pray regularly as a church body for God's power and His Holy Spirit to lead and guide us for His glory.

Rev John McLeod 1932 - 1933  
Rev James Taylor 1933 - 1940  
Rev Len Copeland 1940 – 1946  
Rev Louis Lake 1946 – 1948  
Rev A.R. Yielding 1948 – 1963  
Rev Herbert Heppner 1964 – 1973  
Rev Grover Crosby 1973 – 1986  
Rev Don Hamilton 1986 – 1989  
Rev Ralph Thornton 1989-1991  
Dr John Howarth 1991 - 1997  
Rev Grant Gordon (Interim) 1997 - 1999  
Rev Kel Trudgian 1999 - 2004  
Rev Paul Kerr (Interim) 2004 - 2005  
Rev Russ Worrada 2005 - 2020  
Rev Win Bowman (Associate Pastor to Families 2014-2017; Executive Pastor 2017- to present)  
Rev Win Bowman (April 2020 to present - Interim Lead Pastor)

## 7. OUR STAFF

### *Meet our staff...*



**Win Bowman**  
Lead Pastor (Interim)  
Executive Pastor: Families & Facility  
[win@gracechurch.ca](mailto:win@gracechurch.ca)



**Dwayne Copson**  
Pastor of Youth & Young Adults  
[dwayne@gracechurch.ca](mailto:dwayne@gracechurch.ca)



**Anna Bowman**  
Children's Ministry Coordinator  
[annab@gracechurch.ca](mailto:annab@gracechurch.ca)



**Becki Friesen**  
Director of Worship  
[becki@gracechurch.ca](mailto:becki@gracechurch.ca)



**Charlene Jones**  
Administrative Assistant  
[info@gracechurch.ca](mailto:info@gracechurch.ca)

