



Position

Lead Pastor, West Vancouver Baptist Church

Summarized Church Profile

West Vancouver Baptist Church serves the North Shore of Vancouver, British Columbia, which includes three municipalities: West Vancouver, North Vancouver City, and North Vancouver District. Combined population is about 150,000; despite our name, over half of our congregants come from North Vancouver. Current membership is 205.

In general, these communities are highly educated, affluent, and largely unchurched. They include significant Mandarin- and Farsi-speaking groups. West Vancouver skews older than the North Vancouver municipalities; housing affordability is a significant influence on demographics in this area.

WVBC began as a mission church in 1921; our church building, constructed in 1967, is architecturally distinguished. We are near the ocean and surrounded by forest. Looking out from the sanctuary during a service, one can hardly help connecting to God through the beauty of His creation.

A few years ago we undertook a congregational project to create a new Vision for our church. We achieved a high degree of participation in its development and enthusiastic ownership of the result. We outlined four main thrusts: the Mandarin and Farsi groups, seniors, who make up the bulk of the congregation, and youth, where we had some rebuilding to do. We also identified two support strategies: a team to research community needs and ministry opportunities that are not being currently addressed, and a team to consider how we can improve our communications, including the website and social media platforms. Since then, we have made progress on all of these initiatives, though youth has been the most challenging. The research team was paused at the start of the pandemic. All programs were intended to include an outreach component.

We have historically offered various helping ministries such as DivorceCare and ESL classes. Much of that will need to be rebuilt post-pandemic. We strongly encourage participation in small groups. We have sponsored two refugee families in recent years. Since 2004 we have had a rewarding partnership with Baptists in Rwanda through Canadian Baptist Ministries. We also have a long history of support for more local missions and ministries, such as Harvest Project, Keats Camps, and InterVarsity Christian Fellowship. The WVBC congregation includes many talented artists and musicians; we regularly celebrate them and encourage the use of their gifts in our ministry.

When the pandemic struck, programs had to be transformed. We shifted to holding services on Zoom, which has been very effective and well received. Various ministry groups are using that platform as well. We have recently begun meeting in person again on a phased basis, but we plan to continue some online activities.

General Position Description

West Vancouver Baptist Church seeks a collaborative Lead Pastor who will join, facilitate, and equip us to continue consolidating and realizing our ministry Vision. He or she will help us restage post-COVID-19 and mobilize our congregation in the work we feel we have been called to do, as well as providing ongoing support for the spiritual growth of our community. We recognize the responsibilities in this description are very broad and cannot all be done by one person alone. The successful candidate will be expected to extend his/her reach by bringing alongside, and delegating to, others with complementary abilities.