



## EVANGELICAL FELLOWSHIP CHURCH

An Evangelical Covenant Church of Canada

“We strive to follow, love & share Jesus by being a community of care”

### Feedback on the new EFC Church Profile

January 30, 2022

Hello EFC Church Family,

Our pastoral search process is now in full swing, and we're planning to advertise the Senior Pastor position in February. We're following a pastoral search process that aligns with ECC's pastoral search process. This process required us to complete a Church Profile.

The Church Profile is intended to help us prayerfully reflect on, and better understand, EFC's current situation, our rich past, and the future into which God is leading us.

The Church Profile is a tool to help us identify what kind of pastor we need. The Church Profile is also a tool to help pastors looking for a new church to know whether God is calling them to EFC.

Your Church Council needs your help. We need feedback from the congregation about the information contained in EFC's new Church Profile. The Church Profile is attached to this letter.

Please read the information under each of the headings and consider the following two questions.

Do you believe the information accurately describes EFC's past, present, and future?

Do you believe the information accurately describes our congregation's expectations of EFC's future senior pastor?

Please use the Response Worksheet at the end of the Church Profile to record your feedback. If you have any questions, please talk to any Church Council member.

In Christian love,

*Your Church Council*

**Please continue to the next page for EFC's Church Profile and the Response Worksheet.**



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## EFC Church Profile

The following headings and wording are in the EFC Church Profile Church Council. Please review and provide your feedback on the Feedback Form.

### **DESCRIPTION OF CHURCH SETTING:**

Evangelical Fellowship Church (EFC) is a church situated among the treelined boulevards of a mature mixed-residential neighbourhood that also provides rental housing to many of the students attending the nearby University of Alberta. The neighbourhood is in close proximity to a popular and vibrant shopping, gastronomy, cultural and entertainment hub (Old Strathcona) that attracts visitors from outside the area and is the venue for various summer and winter festivals. The church is also within easy walking distance of Edmonton’s river valley and its many walking and recreational trails.

### **THEOLOGICAL, CONGREGATIONAL, HISTORICAL, AND CULTURAL DISTINCTIVENESS OF EFC:**

Evangelical Fellowship Church (EFC) was founded in 1953 as a Lutheran-based church serving a growing population of German-speaking immigrants. English is now the dominant language of the church. However, many members of the congregation are still German speakers and proudly celebrate their German heritage and traditions. First Advent Services often have a German language component, and Christmas Eve Services typically provide individual congregants the option to join in the singing of *Silent Night* in English or German.

The church has historically been very active in both internal and external ministries, including supporting Liberty Corner Mission (see <https://www.lcmisionusa.com/>) and missionaries in Japan and Taiwan, and holding Christian summer camps for the church’s children and youth as well as young people who are not affiliated with any church. EFC is uniquely positioned to provide various supports, including spiritual supports, to members of our diverse local community, and we as a church are presently working to enhance our presence in the community, expand our connections with neighbours and our external ministries.

### **FOCUS OF OUR CHURCH MINISTRY:**

The church has a renewed focus on community outreach. The focus of the church’s ministry needs to be equally on external seekers within the local community and internal believers. The pastor would be expected to play a leading role in engaging the local community to bring people into a personal relationship with Christ and bringing them into to the church.

## **CHURCH FACILITIES:**

We have a formal church sanctuary, kitchen and banquet hall (Fellowship Hall) with additional meeting spaces and a parking lot. Next door is a residential building that in the past served as the parsonage. Our church gets requests from time-to-time from other congregations to host their services in our church building, and we are open to sharing our facilities with other congregations. Currently (2022), a Spanish-speaking church holds services and functions during times when our church would normally not be in use.

Our church also owns a summer camp in the hamlet of Evansburg about an hour's drive from Edmonton. The camp has a fully serviced building with kitchen, dining hall, dormitory-style sleeping quarters and a storage garage situated on a parcel of land with both grass-covered and wooded areas. The camp is used for various functions of the church, including annual summer camps for children and youth from our church and from families who do not presently attend any church. The camp is also used by various other groups, such as Scouts, the Evansburg seniors and other local community groups, as well as EFC church family groups. The pastor would be expected to plan, organize and run EFC's Christian summer camp programs, assisted by volunteer kitchen staff and camp counselors from the congregation—provided that these responsibilities have not been assigned to another staff position.

## **WHO EFC WORSHIP SERVICES ARE DESIGNED FOR:**

Currently, the worship service is designed more for believers. However, the church is transitioning to include a strong focus on external community engagements in an effort to attract non-believers and seekers from the local community. The pastor would be expected to structure worship services to take into account the needs of attendees who may be new to EFC, and perhaps new to attending church in general, and who may have less Biblical background knowledge and related vocabulary than longer-attending congregants.

## **WHAT EFC WORSHIP SERVICES ARE BASED ON:**

Services are based on Bible books or on topical series and are planned in a way to be responsive to the needs of the congregation at any point in time.

## **STYLE OF MUSIC:**

The church has traditional music (hymns accompanied by piano and organ) as well as contemporary music provided by different worships teams. Although certain Sunday services may have more traditional music while others may have more contemporary music, Sunday services generally have a blend of both styles of worship music.

## **PURPOSE OF THE SERMON:**

Overall, the purpose of sermons is balanced between evangelism & spiritual formation. Although the sermon is a vital communication tool—as well as Sunday Services being the primary communication event for engaging all members of the congregation—the church considers other communication events and opportunities that are focused on the needs and interests of specific groups within the congregation to be equally important for fostering engagement, biblical learning and discipleship.

## **CHURCH LEADERSHIP:**

The church council is responsible for providing the vision and overall direction of the church in collaboration with the pastor who is an ex-officio member of the church council. The pastor leads on matters of faith and interpretation of scripture and in serving the spiritual needs of the congregation. The pastor also plays a critical role in identifying the God-given talents and gifts of members of the congregation and providing them with encouragement and opportunities for growth and church leadership development.

## **ENCOURAGING SPIRITUAL GROWTH:**

Some of the informal and formal groups and events that our church supports and participates in include: in-home congregant-led Bible studies, pastor-led Bible studies, informal and formal prayer groups/chains, Ladies' Retreats, Birthday Luncheons and Prayer Buddies, annual church summer picnic (mostly congregant-organized but involving the entire congregation and guests), pot-luck lunches, annual Christmas Banquet, dinner auctions (to encourage mixing of generations and allowing congregants to get to know each other better), intergenerational Coffee House socializing events, Sunday School for children, Sunday School for adults, Youth Ministry, Young Adults Ministry, and Christian Summer Camps for children and youth.

## **EVANGELISM STRATEGIES AND METHODS:**

Some past strategies for external engagement have included:

- Door knocking in the neighbourhood
- handing out bottled water or frozen treats (individual ice cream cups, popsicles, etc.) to passersby on extremely hot days
- having young people involved in the Youth Ministry shovel snow for older members of the local community
- volunteering at the Mustard Seed's Strathcona Neighbour Centre (a Christian non-profit organization caring for individuals experiencing homelessness and poverty)
- having a pastor active in the neighbourhood community league.

An idea for future engagements is holding community summer BBQs on the church parking lot. We want our church to be noticed by members of the local community for its caring and thoughtfulness and for demonstrating a joyful Christian life and having a sense of fun.

## **ECONOMIC DIVERSITY:**

In terms of economic diversity, our congregation is mildly/moderately representative of the local Queen Alexandra community. Like our local community, members of our congregation have a wide range of individual and family incomes, ranging from lower to upper middle class. There are individuals who fit the following categories: attending school, employed, semi-employed, self-employed, employers and retired or semi-retired. Some who are working at part-time jobs or attending post-secondary schools may not have much disposable income, and there are members of the congregation on fixed incomes who sometimes find it challenging to make ends meet. Fortunately, all members of the congregation have housing, which is not the case for everyone in the local community. Our church neighbourhood has many rental properties and apartment buildings and also has a concentration of individuals experiencing homelessness.

## **ETHNIC DIVERSITY:**

Many members of the congregation have German heritage and still speak German. However, there are members with different linguistic, ethnic and cultural backgrounds as well which reflect the diversity found in Alberta and in the local community. English is now the language used in church services and functions. However, German, especially in the form of traditional German hymns and carols, is used for parts of certain special events, for example around Christmas. The church is increasingly outward focused and seeking to attract and become the home church for members of our diverse local community.

## **RESPONSE TO COMPASSION, MERCY, AND JUSTICE NEEDS:**

Our church has an Evangelism & Social Justice Committee that has recently become inactive due to changes in church council and committee membership and the need to reallocate human resources. We need a pastor who is prepared to develop, support and lead church-based action in the area of compassion, mercy and justice. Our church's worship services encourage individual action to show God's goodness, love, compassion and mercy.

## **MISSIONAL FOCUS:**

Our church supports missionaries in various part of the world financially and through prayer in addition to supporting missions targeting the congregation and the local community. Our church's Christian summer camp ministry for children and youth provides an opportunity to reach families that we wouldn't otherwise connect with. There is a renewed focus at this time on connecting with the local community. In many respects, EFC's current focus on renewal and growth through bringing new people from the local community into a personal relationship Christ has much in common with a church plant. The new pastor would be expected to support and lead the new focus on developing and expanding external ministries.



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## EFC Church Profile - Response Worksheets

Please indicate whether you agree or disagree with the information. If you feel the information is incomplete or inaccurate, you can elaborate in the comments section.

### DESCRIPTION OF CHURCH SETTING:

Do you agree or disagree that the information in this section accurately describes EFC?

<input type="checkbox"/> Agree <input type="checkbox"/> Disagree	Comments (optional)
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### THEOLOGICAL, CONGREGATIONAL, HISTORICAL, AND CULTURAL DISTINCTIVENESS OF EFC:

Do you agree or disagree that the information in this section accurately describes EFC?

<input type="checkbox"/> Agree <input type="checkbox"/> Disagree	Comments (optional)
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### FOCUS OF OUR CHURCH MINISTRY:

Do you agree or disagree that the information in this section accurately describes EFC and the congregation's expectations of the new senior pastor?

<input type="checkbox"/> Agree <input type="checkbox"/> Disagree	Comments (optional)
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Continued on next page.

**CHURCH FACILITIES:**

Do you agree or disagree that the information in this section accurately describes EFC and the congregation's expectations of the new senior pastor?

<input type="checkbox"/> Agree <input type="checkbox"/> Disagree	Comments (optional)
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**WHO EFC WORSHIP SERVICES ARE DESIGNED FOR:**

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<input type="checkbox"/> Agree <input type="checkbox"/> Disagree	Comments (optional)
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**WHAT EFC WORSHIP SERVICES ARE BASED ON:**

Do you agree or disagree that the information in this section accurately describes EFC?

<input type="checkbox"/> Agree <input type="checkbox"/> Disagree	Comments (optional)
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**STYLE OF MUSIC:**

Do you agree or disagree that the information in this section accurately describes EFC?

<input type="checkbox"/> Agree <input type="checkbox"/> Disagree	Comments (optional)
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**PURPOSE OF THE SERMON:**

Do you agree or disagree that the information in this section accurately describes EFC?

<input type="checkbox"/> Agree <input type="checkbox"/> Disagree	Comments (optional)
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**CHURCH LEADERSHIP:**

Do you agree or disagree that the information in this section accurately describes EFC and the congregation’s expectations of the new senior pastor?

<input type="checkbox"/> Agree <input type="checkbox"/> Disagree	Comments (optional)
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**ENCOURAGING SPIRITUAL GROWTH:**

Do you agree or disagree that the information in this section accurately describes EFC?

<input type="checkbox"/> Agree <input type="checkbox"/> Disagree	Comments (optional)
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**EVANGELISM STRATEGIES AND METHODS:**

Do you agree or disagree that the information in this section accurately describes EFC and the congregation’s expectations of the new senior pastor?

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**ECONOMIC DIVERSITY:**

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**ETHNIC DIVERSITY:**

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**RESPONSE TO COMPASSION, MERCY, AND JUSTICE NEEDS:**

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**MISSIONAL FOCUS:**

Do you agree or disagree that the information in this section accurately describes EFC and the congregation's expectations of the new senior pastor?

<input type="checkbox"/> Agree <input type="checkbox"/> Disagree	Comments (optional)
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Please return to any member of the EFC Church Council or to one of the pastors by February 13.

Name (optional): \_\_\_\_\_

I want to talk to Church Council about my feedback. Yes No