



## Alliston Alliance Church Information Package 2020

### Our Church:

Alliston Alliance is one of the churches within the Central Canadian District of the Christian and Missionary Alliance in Canada.

We are a multi-generational Christian community serving in the Town of New Tecumseth (Alliston, Beeton and Tottenham) and other nearby areas in southern Simcoe County. As the town of New Tecumseth expands, AAC is becoming a more multi-ethnic church family.

Links:

Our church website: [allistonalliance.org](http://allistonalliance.org)

Our District website: [cmaccd.com](http://cmaccd.com)

Our National Office websites: [cmaacan.org](http://cmaacan.org)



The Christian and Missionary  
Alliance in Canada

### Our Mission:

We believe AAC exists to be:

Building believers

Equipping workers

Loving seekers



### Our Vision:

We will be dedicated followers of Jesus Christ who live as Christ wants us to live.



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## **Our Facilities**

Dedicated in 1985, the building that is the Alliston Alliance Church home has served us well over the years. The front doors of the church open onto a foyer off of which is the office, a washroom and the entrance to the sanctuary, which seats 180 and contains a large platform and an audio booth. Access to the pastor's office is from the sanctuary. The lower level contains two washrooms, a maintenance room, kitchen, a large hall off of which are Sunday school/meeting rooms, an office and nursery. While there is no wheelchair access to the basement at this time, there is a ramp from the parking area to the front door, leading into the foyer and the sanctuary beyond it. Public functions are held in the sanctuary.

The parking area is a good size. There is also an unpaved, grassed overflow parking lot nearby. Ample grassed areas around the church building allow for church barbecues.

In addition, there is a school portable on the property adjacent to the parking area, which is used for youth Sunday school as well as an additional meeting room.

## **Sunday Morning at AAC**

Our Sunday morning service begins at 10:30 am. Children from JK – High School are dismissed for Sunday school from the service. Nursery care is provided for children up to the age of three. At AAC, we adhere to the Plan to Protect program.

Lively worship with a strong contemporary music and praise emphasis and a full complement of instruments and singers, is a large part of the Sunday morning service at AAC. Our Pastor, or occasionally a guest speaker, brings a message from God's Word. On the first Sunday of the month, we share in Communion together. The service usually lasts approximately 1 ½ hours.

The dress code is relaxed and everyone is encouraged to stay after the service for fellowship. Coffee is provided at the back of the sanctuary.

## Our Sunday AM attendance over the past 7 years

Year	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Average Weekly Attendance	123	114	102	97	86	80	88
Sunday school (nursery to high school) average weekly attendance is roughly 20% of the weekly Sunday attendance.							
Membership at the end of 2019 was 48, which is higher than it has been in many years.							

## Our family atmosphere

We enjoy sharing meals together. At the moment, our favourite is a Sandwich Sunday, where, on designated Sundays, we bring plates of sandwiches, snacks or desserts for a time of fellowship after the Sunday service.

Everyone is encouraged to be in a small group. Presently, there are 10 small groups with approximately 64 people attending, either weekly or bi-weekly. Some groups have chosen to study and discuss points from the sermon of the previous Sunday.

We have been told that we are a friendly church. In this period of transition we are learning more about who we are and who God calls us to be. With His help, we look forward to becoming all that God wants us to be.

## Our History

Alliston Alliance Church (AAC) began when a few families met together in April 1976 to discuss organizing a new church in Alliston. A few weeks later, 7 couples, along with 15 children met for their first service in the Orange Hall.

On April 23, 1976 the church became a developing church of the Christian and Missionary Alliance and on May 28, 1978, officially became an organized church of the C&MA, belonging to the Central Canadian District.

The church continued to grow and in January 1977 appointed its first pastor, Don Smith. During Don's ministry, summer drive-in services were held in what is now known as the former TSC parking lot. Nursery and Sunday school for all ages as well as an adult fellowship were held in various member homes. Participation in the annual Potato Festival parade with a float was always a highlight and a great opportunity to add awareness within the local community. Early in its growth, the congregation demonstrated a great heart for missions and Harold Catto and his wife, on furlough from Irian Jaya, were the first of many missionaries to visit and participate in the annual missionary conference. Don Smith served at AAC until December 1980.

David Dent, a recent graduate from Canadian Theological Seminary, arrived in June 1981 as the new pastor. Under David's leadership, property was purchased for a permanent church home. The current site of 4.5 acres, bordering the north side of Highway 89 and backing onto treed conservation lands of the Boyne River, was purchased and through the faithfulness and sacrifice of the members, the mortgage on the land was discharged in 30 months and a plan to build moved forward. The building was started with the sod turning in May 1983, with a general contractor and many volunteers participating to have the building ready for its dedication on September 23, 1985. The new facility allowed an increase in activities and soon many groups including Alliance Women, Pioneer Clubs, Alliance Youth, Women's craft mornings and Men's fellowship breakfasts were flourishing. At the same time, home study groups were functioning in Alliston, Everett and Cookstown and the church not only grew in numbers but saw great spiritual growth. David served at AAC until August 1989.

By November, 1989, David Whitman had arrived from the USA to serve as pastor for a short period through October 1991. During this time, Bible study classes were started in Angus, Beeton and expanded in Alliston.

In July 1992, Pastor Eugene Neudorf arrived to take up his duties. Under Gene's leadership, many new opportunities were explored and drama became a part of the church ministry. The sign was erected at the front in 1994 and at the same time, the Church participated with Campus Crusade for Christ and the Jesus Film. By February 2001, AAC celebrated its mortgage burning and in November of the same year celebrated its 25th anniversary. In anticipation of growth, a neighbouring lot was purchased to be used for future parking and expansion. Gene served until August 2001 and stepped down due to ongoing health problems.

Bob Vetro became AAC's fifth pastor in June 2002. Under Bob's leadership, the church experienced much new growth. The annual outdoor Park Service, an outreach to the community in May or June, began early in Bob's time at the church. Improvements were made to the church; fresh paint inside, a new roof and a school portable was purchased to be used as an additional meeting and Sunday school room. Several youth and adult short-term mission trips were undertaken during these years as well as two outreach initiatives; a March break Kidz Day, which drew children from all over New Tecumseth and ran for several years, and the well-attended Suppers for Seniors, which was offered for two years before Bob moved on to pastor a new satellite church of Georgetown Alliance in the summer of 2011.

John Stouffer became Youth Pastor in October of 2005 and Associate Pastor in 2011. John served until April 2014 when he moved to Collingwood to start a new church plant. Megan Elford was the Director of Children's Ministries between 2005 and 2007. Lillian Dick began as Music Director in 2007 and continues to serve, ministering to our congregation and to the Worship Team.

Hany Abdelmasih arrived from England in December 2012 to be become senior pastor of AAC. During his time at the church, Hany introduced the Walk of Witness each year on Good Friday and again during Advent. Some of the Alliston churches also joined in as a large wooden cross or star was carried through the downtown area of Alliston, stopping along the way for scripture reading, song and prayer, all with the intention of bringing an awareness of the true meaning of the season. At this time also, improvements were made to the church basement when permanent walls were added to the Sunday school area. In 2017, the church parking area was altered for a new drainage system mandated by the town of New Tecumseth and Conservation Authority, in order to stop erosion of the land around the parking area. A large debt was incurred to pay for this; however, through faithful and generous giving, it was fully paid by 2019. Hany served at AAC until December 2018, when he returned to England.

## **Our District partnership**

In 2012, Alliston Alliance Church partnered in a five-year District initiative known as The Georgian Bay Network, which also included Alliance churches in Orillia, Barrie, Midland and Owen Sound, to encourage and fund church planting in the region.

## **Our present transition**

Currently, our Transitional Pastor, Brian Reynolds, is leading the Elders, Staff and congregation through a time of reflection, spiritual renewal and vision discernment, in preparation for a new Lead Pastor. We are looking forward to what God has in store for us, as we embrace and implement our common Mission, Vision and Core Values. The Transition Team, Staff, Elders and many in the AAC congregation have been reading the book *Simple Church, Returning to God's Process for Making Disciples* by Thom S. Rainer and Eric Geiger. In the words of our Transition Team, "We recognized through reading this book together, and discussing how it might apply to AAC, that our church has focussed on programs, but not necessarily on the process of developing disciples. We believe we need to correct that. The goal is to be process-centred rather than program-centred. We want to focus on new options rather than new programs to draw more people into the process rather than create more things to do for the people already in the programs."

## **Our Governance**

Alliston Alliance Church follows the local Church Constitution of the Christian and Missionary Alliance in Canada. The congregation elects a Board of Elders from among the voting membership, which is responsible for the affairs of the church between annual meetings, in accordance with governing bylaws. The Board works with the Lead Pastor to oversee church operations, and is amenable both to the membership and to the District Superintendent as constitutionally defined.

### **Responsibilities of the Elders:**

The Elder's Board is an elected body of five (presently) members plus the Transitional Pastor, who oversee the governance of AAC. We are currently moving from a "management-type" board (who oversee ministries) to a "policy governance" board who oversee the mission and vision, holding the staff accountable for fulfilling them through the values, policies and practices of our church.

The Board of Elders meets at least once each month, sub-committees meet more often.

### **Staff Responsibilities and Relationships:**

The size and complement of the staff have varied, historically, with the ministry needs and resources of the congregation. The staff is led by the Lead Pastor, who, with the team, is accountable to the Elders.

### **Lead Pastor (Full-time):**

The Lead Pastor is responsible for the ministries of the church, and as such leads staff (lay, volunteer) and congregation in fulfilling the mission and reaching the vision through ministries set up for those purposes. The Lead Pastor is the primary preacher/teacher for the church, and gives leadership and oversight to the staff to facilitate the work of the ministries. The Lead Pastor works in cooperation with the board to build community and manage resources.

### **Music Director (Staff role, Part-time):**

The Music Director prayerfully plans, develops and organizes the music for each Sunday's service, ensuring the music complements and confirms both the scripture text and sermon, while at the same time working to build and nurture the worship team in order to create unity and an attitude of worship.

### **Office Administrator (Staff role, Full-time):**

The Office Administrator manages and coordinates the day-to-day business of the church and its facilities.

## Our Community profile

Less than an hour from Toronto, Alliston Alliance Church is located within the Town of New Tecumseth. New Tecumseth is an amalgamation of the Towns of Alliston, Beeton and Tottenham with a population of 34,000 (Census 2016).



With 13 proposed new home developments, the area is poised for further growth in population and services to support those new communities.

While the town is a rapidly growing multi-ethnic community experiencing a surge in population and an influx of new businesses, Alliston continues to be a productive agrarian area as well.

Alliston is home to Honda of Canada Manufacturing, Baxter Corporation, Oetiker Limited, Warren Gibson Transport and many supporting auto related businesses. Despite these valued employers, many still make the quick commute to jobs in the near by cities of Barrie, Vaughan and Newmarket.



Alliston itself does not have public transportation at this time, however taxi services are available. Access to GO Transit as well as commuter parking lots is available in Barrie, Bradford and Vaughan.

Included in the area is a well-respected hospital, poised for expansion, numerous social and service clubs. New Tecumseth boasts 29 churches of various denominations, with 15 in Alliston, 4 in Beeton and 10 in Tottenham as well as a local ministerial serving over 12 churches in the area (Canadian Church Directory 2020).

Of note are the recent additions of satellite church branches of Connexus and the Meeting House, with the addition of a branch of Hope Bible Church also envisioned in the future.

The area boasts numerous schools – Public, Catholic, French, Private and Christian. Banting Memorial High School is one of the largest outside of the GTA with enrollment of 1370 students and 128 staff. Many Post Secondary institutions are located within a 2-hour radius (Georgian College, Seneca College, Humber College, Lakehead University, University of Toronto, Tyndale University College and Seminary, McMaster University and Divinity College, Redeemer University College, Heritage College and Seminary, etc.)



Community services and ministries in the area include Out of the Cold, The Door, The Well, My Sisters Place and Matthews House hospice. Retirement facilities include Simcoe Manor in Beeton: Riverwood, Good Samaritan and Kingsmere in Alliston. There are several successful phases of retirement and senior living communities in Briar Hill and Green Briar catering to a large, active and aging demographic.



For sports enthusiasts there are plenty of recreation and fitness facilities available. There is the multipurpose New Tecumseth Recreation Centre (pictured above). There are numerous hockey arenas, baseball diamonds, pools, hiking trails, skateboard parks, lacrosse, gymnastics, as well as an indoor soccer pitch to complement the many outdoor facilities.

If you're a skier, cross country trails and alpine slopes area just moments away, and for the golfer, there are courses galore in the area. To keep up on culture, there is The Gibson Centre, Black Horse Theatre and South Simcoe Theatre which hold numerous live theatre performances, events and exhibits throughout the year, as well as the Circle Theatre and Imagine Cinemas for a movie close to home.

There are numerous coffee shops, restaurants & cafes to hold informal meetings, as well as the Nottawasaga and Red Pine Inns. For the shopper, there is a local outlet mall in Cookstown, with a shopping centre area a short 30-minute drive to either Barrie or Newmarket.



Links for further information:

- Simcoe County <https://www.simcoe.ca/>
- Town of New Tecumseth <https://www.newtecumseth.ca/en/index.aspx>
- Simcoe District school boards for public schools <https://www.scdsb.on.ca/> and catholic schools [smcdsb.on.ca](http://smcdsb.on.ca) .
- Colleges and Universities <https://www.ontario.ca/page/ministry-colleges-universities>
- Canadian Church Directory <http://churchdirectory.ca/browse/?p=ON&a=&c=Alliston>



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