

Downtown Toronto Lead Pastor

Status: Full-time

Working Days: Sunday – Thursday (typically), but a spirit of flexibility is expected

About The Meeting House

We feel God is calling us into a new vision: *Introducing spiritually curious people to the Jesus-centred life through a movement of Jesus-centred churches*. What does that mean? Through our Meeting House parishes and expressions across Southern Ontario and the Jesus Collective network, our desire is to honour God by proclaiming the irreligious message of Jesus and fostering loving communities of fully committed Christ-followers in a way that makes sense for that local context. We are all about Jesus first, which we believe results in our values of peace, simplicity, community, and mission. We are reimagining what it would look like to be a church that is fully activated for mission and engaging the spiritually curious around us. We are committed to evangelism and kingdom growth within our existing footprint and uniting with other Jesus-centred churches to amplify our Kingdom impact beyond our footprint in ways we have not imagined before. We need people who share excitement about this spirit-led vision and want to contribute their gifts, skills, expertise, and heart to this transformation! Check out our website for more details:

www.themeetinghouse.com

Role

The Lead Pastor provides spiritual leadership and vision for the local parish through integrating new people into community, developing strong home churches, and mobilizing the parish as part of our shared mission. He/she stewards the overall mission and vision of The Meeting House while developing a local vision for the parish. At The Meeting House, our goal is to encourage spiritual growth through the Sunday morning service and home church! The Lead Pastor's primary responsibility is to lead and equip people in discipleship; helping people take their next steps with Jesus. Pre COVID, there were approximately 200-400 people at the parish on Sunday morning.

What does a Lead Pastor do?

- Develop a strong Leadership Team at the parish, which will bring wisdom and advice, while helping steward the vision of The Meeting House towards creation of a compelling local vision to make a difference in the community
- Cast vision for reaching spiritually curious people, create a healthy culture, generate excitement, motivate leaders and multiply home churches in the parish
- Work as part of the regional Toronto team to pray, resources each other and share ideas
- Equip and encourage leaders and volunteers in the parish to lead out of their gifts & passion, and love for Jesus
 - The primary goal is discipleship of leaders, who in turn disciple and lead others, to live out our vision together
 - The secondary goal is to support them towards strong execution of home church, Sunday morning gatherings and local compassion initiatives
- Provide intentional leadership development for the parish leadership team (home church elders and ministry coordinators)
- Facilitate the pastoral care needs of the parish primarily through home churches, as well as other appropriate means
- Provide Sunday morning teaching 5+ times a year
- Lead and engage the local parish to live out our Jesus centred values of Peace, Simplicity, Community and Mission
- Provide upfront pastoral leadership on Sunday mornings and at other parish-wide events
- Oversee execution of key administration related to effective delivery of key programs and initiatives

Practically, how does a Lead Pastor spend his/her time?

- Pray for individuals, the church and the region
- Development of vision and strategic plans for the parish aligned with the overall TMH vision
- Team and one-on-one meetings with home church Elders and Coordinators, focused first on discipleship and then on ministry delivery and execution
- Equip all leaders for pastoral care in the parish community
- Provide triage in pastoral care situations requiring additional support
- Sunday “face of the place,” leading the service and providing overall pastoral leadership
- Prepare and communicate Sunday morning teaching several times a year
- Lead meaningful times of communion aligned with the teaching series
- Oversee the management of parish administration and tasks
- Participate in regular meetings with other Meeting House pastors and staff to learn about what’s happening, share ideas, encourage and pray together
- Regular meetings to integrate newcomers to the church, help others take their next step in community and help seekers explore questions of faith
- Train and equip future leaders
- Special services such as baptisms, child dedications, weddings and funerals
- Other duties as assigned (which in the past has included participating in a flash mob, being an extra in a promotional video and wrapping a trailer for a Christmas parade)

Requirements

- **A maker of disciples** - You invest in people, and they catch that vision and go on to disciple others.
- **A heart for seekers and the unchurched** - You care about seeing others come to know Jesus. You love Jesus more than religion and can talk without using Christian lingo.
- **Spiritual maturity** - You convey a sense of spiritual wisdom, regardless of your age. People come to you for insight into problems and challenges. You are a person of depth.
- **Self-leadership** – You take ownership for your own growth and development as a Pastor, Mission focused Leader, and Spiritual Guide. You seek to lead from your own transformation and you are humble and hungry to learn and grow.
- **Leadership gravitas** - You can speak comfortably and naturally in front of large and small groups. Your own personality comes through. People look to you as a leader.
- **Relational warmth** - People find you approachable and easy to talk to. You are warm and engaging, and clearly care for people.
- **Value of team** – You understand that working in team, so each can work out of the best of their strengths is living out the body of Christ.
- **Organizational Leader** – You take the responsibility to give overall directional leadership to the health and growth of your congregation. You have a holy discontent to see a vision come into being at the overall and local levels. You work through others to see the gifts in the Body of Christ developed in concert with the Spirit, for the good of your parish and city.
- **Energy** - Whether you’re an introvert or extrovert, being around you energizes people. You can cast a vision that gets people excited and motivated.
- **Self-starter** - You have an ability to get things done. You’ve got a system in place to make sure things don’t fall through the cracks. You follow through on things you say you’ll do. You respond promptly to emails and phone calls.
- **Alignment with the core values and beliefs** of The Meeting House and our denomination, the Be In Christ Church of Canada (canadianbic.ca). Among other things, we are a peace



church, believe in simplicity and fully affirm women in leadership (we allow men to lead too!). You must become credentialed with the BIC.

- **Sense of humour** - We take Jesus and His message very seriously, but not ourselves!

What We Offer

You will lead and work alongside amazing people in our community who love Jesus and are learning to put into practice what it means to follow Him. You will join a staff team who genuinely care for each other, love what they do and strive to work to the best of their abilities. None of us are superstars; we just try to authentically follow Jesus together. We are a fast-paced organization and are willing to try new things and experiment if we think something else will be more effective. We often fail first before finding what works best.

We offer a competitive benefits and pension plan, encourage and support professional development and continued learning, and provide the technological tools required to do the job, including a laptop and smartphone.

The Lead Pastor's office is flexible! They can work from home or from the local coffee shop – wherever makes sense for meetings, planning and getting administrative tasks done.

Hiring Statement

We believe that the body of Christ is unified when each of us is encouraged, recognized, and able to serve out of our gifts, and that the church is at its best when church leadership represents the communities in which we serve. At The Meeting House, we want to do better. We strongly encourage women and men, and people of all ethnicities and abilities who love Jesus and are aligned with our vision and values, to consider applying for a staff role.

We strive to achieve equality in the workplace, which means no one will be denied employment opportunities or benefits for reasons unrelated to fit for a role. We also understand employment equity means more than treating individuals in the same way but requires special measures and the accommodation of differences. In this way, we are following Jesus in our hiring practices to create a diverse and inclusive workplace reflecting the body of Christ.