

# ASSOCIATE & MEMBER CHURCH Introductions

We're excited to introduce three churches being recommended by the Provincial Faith and Life Team and Board of Directors to join ONMB as Associate Member Churches. This is the status whereby churches and ONMB commit to becoming familiar to discern if God is leading toward full membership with this family of churches.

We're excited that these three Associate Church recommendations consist of a C2C Collective church plant from an ONMB church, a new immigrant church, and an initiative of second-generation Canadians. Two of these consist primarily of ethnicities different from the historic ethnic make-up of Mennonite Brethren in Ontario. We believe that God is forming our family of churches in important ways as we give and receive gifts with these new churches. Praise God!

## Bytown Community Church

Planted in 2021, Bytown Community Church is a congregation in The Glebe neighbourhood of Ottawa. Dan Chook Reid is the planting pastor, following many years on staff with InterVarsity in Ottawa. His wife Melody serves alongside him and continues to work with InterVarsity. The Gathering - Ottawa serves as the planting church, with Bytown CC under their charitable status and Dan as their staff member. The church meets at 4 pm Sundays in a beautiful Presbyterian church building. Trevor Seath and C2C Collective have played a key role in supporting and coaching the church from its inception.

Beginning as a bible study meeting in parks during the covid-19 pandemic, the church is experiencing slow, steady growth toward becoming a sustainable, independent church. The church reaches many university students and is excellent at engaging seekers and believers with questions and uncertainty, pointing them toward faith.

Establishing Associate Church Member status formalizes a relationship that has already existed for several years.



# Christ Like Church

In 2024, Yelshaday Baraki approached ONMB seeking support in planting a multi-ethnic church in Kitchener. What started in his home as a Bible Study to engage Ethiopian and Eritrean young adults who were drifting from their parents' churches had turned into a 70+ person gathering in a church basement. As this group grew, God gave them a desire to grow a church of many ethnic backgrounds, reflecting their schools and shopping centres.

This Sunday evening group began meeting at the WMB - Waterloo site and Yelshaday began a church planting apprenticeship. In June 2026 they shifted to 1 pm, worship gatherings at KMB. In October 2025, the official church launch was held. The charitable status from New Living Church (an ONMB church which closed in late 2024) is being transferred to Christ Like.

Christ Like is seeing growth, including young adults from Muslim background, as they engage people with the Gospel. A strong internal leadership team has been established as they receive counsel from an external advisory team. Yelshaday is shifting to a .8FTE employment role early in 2026. We're grateful for the support from Central West churches, particularly WMB, Maple View and K-ZMC for their generosity of space, people and finances.



## Mission Pentecostal Rehoboth Church

Planted in March 2025, by Pastor Landware Simugabo, Mission Pentecostal Rehoboth Church is located in Hamilton. The church consists of African immigrants, primarily Congolese folks. There are approximately 40 people who gather for worship on Sunday afternoons in a church building.



Pastor Landware was introduced to ONMB by Pastor Athanase Chiruzza, an MB pastor he served under while living in Saskatchewan and whom he has been mentored by. Doug Hiebert, a Multiply Regional Leader from Cornerstone Community Church in Niagara-on-the-Lake, has also provided encouragement and support. Pastor Landware also joined the EQUIP Conference in October, sharing in a panel discussion with insight on how MBs can engage immigrant churches well.



## Southeast City Church

Planted with C2C Collective and ONMB in 2019, Southeast City Church in Ottawa receives leadership from David and Diana Hood. With weekly gatherings starting only months before the covid-19 pandemic hit, it is a miracle that this church has survived and is growing. Praise God!

Southeast City Church has had significant presence in their neighbourhood, coming alongside the people of Russell Gardens, a low-income housing community. This included initiating and operating a foodbank there for four years before it was taken over by the community housing organization. Because of their presence over time and the trust built, they've had many opportunities for Gospel witness. They engage in weekly prayer outreach where they also watch and discuss The Chosen video series with residents and extend pastoral care. They've also begun Community meals in the neighbourhood. This has become a rich partnership between the church and Russel Gardens.



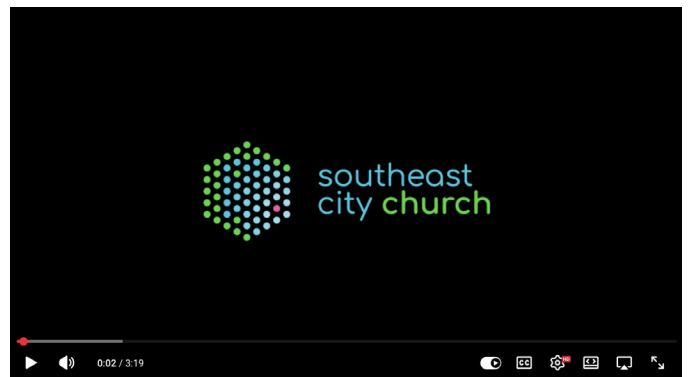
Southeast City Church has also become the church that men from Jericho Road, a Christian addictions recovery program, attend as part of their program. As a result, they baptized nine of these men in 2025. Sadly, not all the men have continued in recovery since and so Southeast is challenged to walk with grace, humility, and faith alongside folks facing huge challenges. The presence of these men adds a beautiful, raw and honest dynamic to the church family.



'Soul Care' is a significant ministry where people find deep spiritual healing. Vacation Bible School with over 40 kids has also been a draw. A collaborative youth group with a nearby church has also developed.

David reports, "Church is growing. Our Sunday attendance is growing, as well as our Children's Church and nursery. People are having babies and some families with older kids have been coming and leaning in. More people are serving and becoming members too. It has been slow at times, we have received a lot of people with serious church hurt and pain, but they seem to be finding healing with us."

What the 3-minute video, '[Who is Southeast City Church?](#)' for a window into their story.



We're excited to receive Southeast City Church as a significant next step in their steady development toward becoming a healthy, sustainable and multiplying church. God has been at work!

