

EAGLESHAM COMMUNITY CHURCH

Eaglesham, Alberta

PASTOR PROFILE

This document has been created to provide prospective pastors a fuller understanding of Eaglesham Community Church (Eaglesham, AB) and the Pastor the church is seeking to hire. Interested pastors can apply to the email address below with a cover letter and resume.

Contact Information:

Eaglesham Community Church

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I. INTRODUCTION

Eaglesham Community Church, an Evangelical Free church, is looking for their next Pastor. The Board of Elders invited a transitional pastor (Rev. Andy Wiebe) to pursue an intentional transition process that would help prepare the church for a thoughtful pastoral search from a posture of health. A Pastoral Search Profile has been developed as part of this transitional process. It reflects many hours of research, evaluation, surveys, prayer and collaborative exploration to address four key questions in order to create a comprehensive Pastoral Search Profile as identified in the contents below.

II. WHO ARE WE?

As Image-bearers of God, we value:

1. Steadfastness
2. Sincere love
3. Christ-centered families
4. Mercy and generosity
5. Biblical truth and authority
6. Fun-loving

Mission Statement:

To Know Christ and Make Him Known

Vision

We are a community church

...that welcomes all people, uniting around the gospel of Jesus

...that intentionally serves in the community and connects with others in order to share Christ

...that supports each other as we interact with those who do not yet know Christ

...that disciples families and encourages each other in our seasons of life

...that lives with quiet faithfulness

...that disciples new believers through intentional relationships

Resources

1. **Staff:** ECC is led by one full-time pastor.

2. **Average Attendance**

<u>2020</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2024</u>
85	85	85	85	95 *plus approximately 20 children

3. **Membership**

<u>2020</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2024</u>
46	49	46	46	43

4. Our Ministries:

- Jr. Youth
- Youth Ministry
- Sunday School for Children and Adults
- Occasional Small Groups
- Women's Bible Study
- Mothers Who Pray

Community Church Collaboration

- Good Friday Service with Bethel Gospel Church in Wanham (25 minutes west)
- Youth Retreat with Bezanson Community Church

5. Facilities:

Our sanctuary has adequate space with seating for around 150 people and plenty of parking to go with that. In the basement, you will find a well-equipped kitchen as well as ministry space.

6. Finances: General Fund:

2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Proposed Budget/ Actual Expenses	Proposed Budget/ Actual Expenses	Proposed Budget/ Actual Expenses	Proposed Budget/ Actual Expenses	Proposed Budget/ Actual Expenses
132,650/ 120,602	130,400/ 124,919	162,476/ 146,958	160,182/ 135,166	147,500/ -

**We value fiscal responsibility and keep up to date on all our expenses.*

Church Health

1. Church Assessments and Audits completed:
 - a. A Church Health and Vision Assessment was completed.
 - i. This helped guide the Elders Board as they worked on Vision and Values
 - ii. The assessment also guided the work of the Transition team
2. Prayer initiatives experienced:
 - a. Prayer focus with a guide
 - b. Special Prayer Sunday
3. A Congregational Vision Town Hall was held:
 - a. The congregation affirmed the Mission Statement: To Know Christ and Make Him Known
 - b. They also contributed to further development of the Values and Vision

III. History: The Story of Eaglesham Community Church

The Eaglesham Community Church history in the current location began in May 1964.

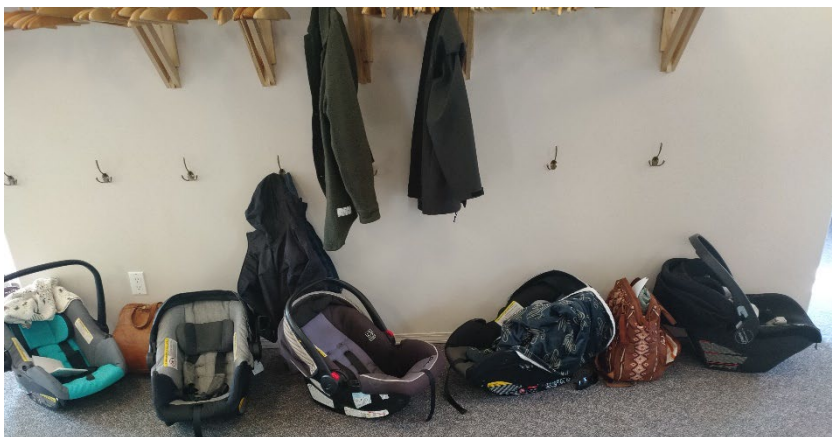
Below are listed the pastors and years they served.

Name	Duration
Lloyd King	1962- He switched to farming.
Interim Pastors for a time	
Elton & Esther Kauffman	1976 - They switched to farming.
Tom & Faith Peachey	1988 -1994
Rod & Elizabeth Fehr	1994 -1995
Dave & Barb Squires	1995 - 2024

Two churches joined into one, the Four Mile Creek Mennonite Church and the Fox Creek Evangelical Church under the umbrella of the Mennonite Church. In 1990 the congregation voted to become the Community Church under the umbrella of the Evangelical Free Church.

The Church met in the original building in the current location from 1964 until 1999. At this time a large addition was completed. A foyer, larger basement, library, kitchen, and nursery were all added.

The Church has several young families, as children have left home only to return some years later with their spouses to begin raising their families in Eaglesham.



Transition Pastor's Assessment

Eaglesham Community Church is a great community church which maintains a steady and faithful witness to its town and the surrounding community. The members enjoy each other's company and serve willingly. They come alongside those who are hurting and needing encouragement. They have an interest in the work of the Holy Spirit and listening to God. There are many young families; so many little children are running around and adding life to the congregation.

- Transition Pastor – Andy Wiebe

IV. WHAT IS OUR COMMUNITY CONTEXT?

History of the Area

Eaglesham started as a railway siding in 1916, named after a village in Scotland. There was a ranch nearby and many cattle were shipped from there. By the winter of 1928 -1929, four households lived in Eaglesham.

Homesteaders started to arrive in the late 1920's, Norwegians from North Dakota and Ukrainians. By the late 1940's veterans arrived to settle on the "Lassiter Project" (a government project to break the land).



Eaglesham expanded to include stores, a dealership, and a Post Office. A school came next, then a hotel by 1953. The 1950's brought electrical power, sidewalks, a curling rink, and United and Mennonite churches. Next came a hall, in the late 1960's, along with sewer and water. The Recreational Board was developed. There is a local volunteer fire department and a Senior Social Centre. Along with the Community church is a Catholic Church.

About Eaglesham Community

Welcome to Eaglesham. We are an agricultural community that holds fast to the things of life that matter most. Here, everyone has a name, and with that, everyone's invited to have a place at the table. It's a place where, if you show up, you will be connected. Our community seeks to hold on to the values and work ethic of the generations that have gone before us. Here, technology is a tool and not a way of life. We desire to raise our kids on the land and not on a screen.

Our youth here are valued, and as a community, we strive to instill within them resiliency and a robust appreciation and love for life. We have a thriving 4-H club with a focus on adventure that gives our kids eyes to see all that our community and county have to offer.

The West Smoky Recreation Centre is just across from our school parking lot. In many ways, it is the hub of our community. Year-round, you will find activity here. Through the winter months, there is recreational hockey, skating lessons and pond hockey. Throughout the year, there is access to a well-equipped weight room as well as pickleball courts. Affordable access and a welcoming atmosphere make the arena a place we all hold dear.

For the outdoor enthusiasts, our county is teeming with adventure. Wilderness abounds, rivers run, the northern lights dance. With ample access to crown land, there are lots of opportunities for 4x4ing, hiking, fishing, hunting, and foraging. The county boasts many unique opportunities that you will not find on a map. Our locals will eagerly help you access all that our county has to offer.

Local to Eaglesham, there is a beautiful golf course that attracts golfers and campers from around the Peace Country. Within "city limits," you will find a public library, bank, volunteer fire hall, two churches, a post office, as well as the local restaurant/bar/motel. Within reach of our community, there are outdoor/indoor swimming pools in neighbouring towns. An hour's trek will also get you to several family-friendly ski hills.

So if you are looking for room to breathe, a place to put down roots, or a place to grow a garden and a family, we would love to meet with you. As is the nature of Eaglesham, there is far more here than what meets the eye. We are a long way from town, but we would love to have the opportunity to show you that there are sustainable ways to access all that you need out here. A Google search will fail to tell you all that is out here, but the resourceful members of our community most certainly will!

We hope you'll come and experience the goodness of our community.

General Population of Eaglesham

Eaglesham is a hamlet with a population under 100, in Birch Hills County which boasts a population of just over 1500.

How far is Eaglesham from...

479 km northwest of Edmonton

125 km northeast of Grande Prairie

125 km southwest of Peace River

Education Factors

EAGLESHAM PUBLIC SCHOOLS

- a K-12 school

(a number of families in the church and community are choosing homeschooling)

NEARBY POST-SECONDARY SCHOOLS:

- Northwestern Polytechnic Grande Prairie Campus (125 km)
- University of Alberta (479 km)
- Northern Lakes College-Peace River Campus (107 km)
- Northwestern Polytechnic Fairview Campus (104 km)



HEALTH CENTRE

Sacred Heart Community Health Center
- McLennan, AB (70 km East)



Central Peace Health Center
– Spirit River, AB (70 km West)

Spirit River also has a Medical Complex that hosts a variety of medical practitioners.



Falher Medical Clinic
-Falher Medical Clinic (53 km)



RECREATION AND FACILITIES

West Smoky Rec. Centre

- Gym
- Pickleball
- Ice Rink

Other Recreation and Facilities:

- Lakeside Golf and Country Club
- Eaglesham Park
 - Ball Diamonds
 - Walking trails
 - Overnight Camping
 - Horse Arena
 - Etc.
- Eaglesham and District Agricultural Society
- Eaglesham 4 H Multi Club
- Eaglesham Senior Social Centre
- Lots of Public Land to explore and enjoy
- Quadding
- Hunting
- Riverboating



Community Churches

- St. Francois Xavier (Catholic Church)
- Eaglesham Community Church

V. WHAT KIND OF PASTOR DO WE NEED?

Job Title: Solo Pastor

Summary

Eaglesham Community Church (an Evangelical Free Church) is seeking a pastor who will fit our northern Alberta community. He will enjoy serving in a rural community. He will lead the church into a fuller expression of its vision of knowing Christ and making Him known. This is a true community church, consisting of people from various backgrounds, where all are welcome and we respect each other's differences even as we learn from each other.

Reports to: the Elders Board

Core Responsibilities

Core Responsibility # 1 – Preaching and Teaching (30%)

- Preach on Sundays
- Ensure preaching is covered when absent
- Equip the church in their walk with God and in serving Him

Core Responsibility # 2 – Congregational Care (30%)

- Engage with the congregation to get to know them
- Provide encouragement in times of need
- Offer pastoral counselling when needed
- Visit the sick

Core Responsibility # 3 – Community Connections and Outreach (30%)

- Be involved in the community in various ways
- Become the pastor to the community
- Equip and lead the congregation to connect with and reach out to those who need Jesus

Core Responsibility # 4 – Administration (10%)

- Handle your own office work
- Ensure required paperwork is taken care of
- Various other duties

Key Character Traits – what the pastor is like

- A man of prayer
- Led by the Spirit.
- Motivated.
- Humbly Confident.
- Flexible.
- Loves connecting with people of all ages and backgrounds.

Key Competencies – what the pastor is able to do

- Manage his own time.
- Collaborate with others to get things done.
- Recognize the need for certain decisions to be made by the membership, as we are a congregational church.
- Preach biblical and relevant sermons that inform and challenge the congregation.
- Equip the congregation to grow to become more like Christ.
- Help the vision of the church become its reality.
- Agree with the Evangelical Free Church of Canada Statement of Faith, Character and Calling Statement, and Covenant of Personal and Professional Ethics.

VI. Appendix 1

THE EFCC'S OFFICIAL STATEMENT OF FAITH

The Evangelical Free Church of Canada is an association of autonomous churches united in a common commitment to God's evangel—the gospel of Jesus Christ, who died and rose again to give us eternal life. To God's glory, the gospel is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes. Our essential theological convictions are vitally connected to this gospel.

GOD'S GOSPEL ORIGINATES IN AND EXPRESSES THE WONDROUS PERFECTIONS OF THE ETERNAL, TRIUNE GOD.

We believe in one God, Creator of all things, holy, infinitely perfect, and eternally existing in a loving unity of three equally divine Persons: the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Having limitless knowledge and sovereign power, God has graciously purposed from eternity to redeem a people for Himself and to make all things new for His own glory.

GOD'S GOSPEL IS AUTHORITATIVELY REVEALED IN THE SCRIPTURES.

We believe that God has spoken in the Scriptures, both Old and New Testaments, through the words of human authors. As the verbally inspired Word of God, the Bible is without error in the original writings, the complete revelation of His will for salvation, and the ultimate authority by which every realm of human knowledge and endeavour should be judged. Therefore, it is to be believed in all that it teaches, obeyed in all that it requires, and trusted in all that it promises.

GOD'S GOSPEL ALONE ADDRESSES OUR DEEPEST NEED.

We believe that God created Adam and Eve in His image, but they sinned when tempted by Satan. In union with Adam, human beings are sinners by nature and by choice, alienated from God, and under His wrath. Only through God's saving work in Jesus Christ can we be rescued, reconciled and renewed.

GOD'S GOSPEL IS MADE KNOWN SUPREME IN THE PERSON OF JESUS CHRIST.

We believe that Jesus Christ is God incarnate, fully God and fully man, one Person in two natures. Jesus—Israel's promised Messiah—was conceived through the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He lived a sinless life, was crucified under Pontius Pilate, arose bodily from the dead, ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father as our High Priest and Advocate.

GOD'S GOSPEL IS ACCOMPLISHED THROUGH THE WORK OF CHRIST.

We believe that Jesus Christ, as our representative and substitute, shed His blood on the cross as the perfect, all-sufficient sacrifice for our sins. His atoning death and victorious resurrection constitute the only ground for salvation.

GOD'S GOSPEL IS APPLIED BY THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.

We believe that the Holy Spirit, in all that He does, glorifies the Lord Jesus Christ. He convicts the world of its guilt. He regenerates sinners, and in Him they are baptized into union with Christ and adopted as heirs in the family of God. He also indwells, illuminates, guides, equips and empowers believers for Christ-like living and service.

GOD'S GOSPEL IS NOW EMBODIED IN THE NEW COMMUNITY CALLED THE CHURCH.

We believe that the true church comprises all who have been justified by God's grace through faith alone in Christ alone. They are united by the Holy Spirit in the body of Christ, of which He is the Head. The true church is manifest in local churches, whose membership should be composed only of believers. The Lord Jesus mandated two ordinances, baptism and the Lord's Supper, which visibly and tangibly express the gospel. Though they are not the means of salvation, when celebrated by the church in genuine faith, these ordinances confirm and nourish the believer.

GOD'S GOSPEL COMPELS US TO CHRIST-LIKE LIVING AND WITNESS TO THE WORLD.

We believe that God's justifying grace must not be separated from His sanctifying power and purpose. God commands us to love Him supremely and others sacrificially, and to live out our faith with care for one another, compassion toward the poor and justice for the oppressed. With God's Word, the Spirit's power, and fervent prayer in Christ's name, we are to combat the spiritual forces of evil. In obedience to Christ's commission, we are to make disciples among all people, always bearing witness to the gospel in word and deed.

GOD'S GOSPEL WILL BE BROUGHT TO FULFILLMENT BY THE LORD HIMSELF AT THE END OF THIS AGE.

We believe in the personal, bodily and glorious return of our Lord Jesus Christ with His holy angels when He will bring His kingdom to fulfillment and exercise His role as Judge of all. This coming of Christ, at a time known only to God, demands constant expectancy and, as our blessed hope, motivates the believer to godly living, sacrificial service and energetic mission.

GOD'S GOSPEL REQUIRES A RESPONSE THAT HAS ETERNAL CONSEQUENCES.

We believe that God commands everyone everywhere to believe the gospel by turning to Him in repentance and receiving the Lord Jesus Christ. We believe that God will raise the dead bodily and judge the world, assigning the unbeliever to condemnation and eternal conscious punishment and the believer to eternal blessedness and joy with the Lord in the new heaven and the new earth, to the praise of His glorious grace. Amen.

VII. Appendix 2 EFCC Character and Calling

OUR CHARACTER

The Kingdom of God is His eternal possession, and is present in part but not fullness in the world today. By God's decree, under His direction, and empowered by His grace, the universal Church is responsible for the care and expansion of that Kingdom. Every local church, denomination, and ministry organization is a part of that Kingdom and carries some responsibility in the work of the Kingdom. As a part of that Body of Christ the Evangelical Free Church of Canada (EFCC) desires to understand and fulfill its particular calling in the work of the Kingdom. The EFCC will seek to live out our calling to be a New Community in Christ, reflecting the fullness of His vision for the Kingdom of God "on earth as it is in heaven." We will do this by putting aside the prevailing values of our time and replacing them with the radical demands of the gospel of God's grace.

OUR CALLING

In Essentials Unity; In Non-Essentials Charity; In All Things Jesus Christ

The calling and spirit of the EFCC is summed up well in this famous motto. It both defines our call and expresses our aspirations for the 21st century.

IN ESSENTIALS UNITY

Essential Truths: We are called to embody and proclaim the essential truths of Christianity as articulated in the Word of God, expressed through the centuries in the great creeds of the church and defined for us in our Statement of Faith. We continue in the tradition of our EFCC forefathers who said; "Where stands it written?" These truths have led us to Jesus Christ who said "he is truth" and that the "truth would set us free."

Spiritual Unity -This calling is to a spirit of unity in Jesus Christ, with an affirmation of the priesthood and ministry of all believers, congregational government in the local church where He is Head, meaningful involvement within our fellowship of churches, and cooperation with all who share our call to these essential truths.

IN NON-ESSENTIALS CHARITY

Generosity of Spirit: We are called to a generosity of spirit that frees us to embrace a wide variety of Christian brothers and sisters — "simply believers" — some with whom we will not agree in matters that are outside our Statement of Faith. Our spirit is one of warm welcome to all believers who share our commitment to our Statement of Faith and who seek to follow Jesus' command to love God and love our neighbour as ourselves.

Kingdom Minded: This generous spirit encourages us to joyfully work with those outside our own denomination, those of "like precious faith" who endeavour to expand the kingdom of heaven.

IN ALL THINGS JESUS CHRIST

The Great Command and Great Commission: We are called to a personal relationship with Jesus Christ, who is the Lord God. Through His grace and through His Spirit we seek to fulfill His command to love our neighbour by loving each and every person, especially the poor, the marginalized, and the oppressed. We seek to fulfill His great commission by making followers of Him from all people groups.

Godly Living: From the practice and teachings of Jesus, from the present ministry of the Holy Spirit working within us, and from the pietistic model of our forefathers, has grown a spirit that hungers for a closer relationship with Jesus Christ that will transform our hearts, our heads, our hands, and will reveal itself in a Christ-inspired value system and a holy lifestyle.

VIII. Appendix 3 EFCC Covenant of Personal and Professional Conduct

COVENANT OF PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL ETHICS

For those serving the Lord through the ministries of The Evangelical Free Church of Canada.

We believe that God calls all believers to be people of integrity, that He enables us to live for Him by the power of the indwelling Holy Spirit, and that He extends grace in our weaknesses. Therefore, by God's grace and in complete dependence upon Him, we enter into this Covenant of Personal and Professional Ethics as a guideline for my life as we serve Him. We enter into this covenant with our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ, with the fellowship of the Ministerial Association of the EFCC and with those whom we serve.

PERSONAL AND SPIRITUAL LIFE

I understand that God has called me to a life of righteousness, godliness, and growth in Christ-like character. In order to be what He wants me to be I accept the responsibility of exercising the spiritual disciplines necessary for growth, yielding every area of my life to the control of the Holy Spirit. As I bring my mind under His control, I will choose to fill it only with things that are true, noble, right, pure, lovely, and admirable. I will deal with sin by honest confession to God and those who have been affected by it. Fellowship with others is essential to growth, so I will avail myself of opportunities to be encouraged, instructed, and built up by others in the things of the Lord. As a whole person, I will seek to keep physically, emotionally, and mentally fit and will refrain from the abuse of alcohol, drugs, or any other habit that would harm my ability to do all I do for the glory of God.

FAMILY LIFE

I understand that my first responsibility before God is to love and care for the family He has entrusted to my care. I will be faithful to my spouse, guarding our relationship, investing in it, and working humbly together to keep it healthy, growing, and honouring to the Lord. The responsibility to love my children practically and to bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord is a great privilege and among my highest callings. As I plan and maintain my schedule, I will seek to keep my family as an important priority, and model for them by my attitudes, words, and actions, a healthy and positive view of the Church.

FINANCES

I believe that God is the provider and owner of all things and calls me to handle what He has put in my hands faithfully as a steward. As He provides, I will be content as I live within my means. Although unforeseen circumstances may arise, I understand that my goal must be to so order my affairs that others can rely on me to meet my financial obligations and demonstrate obedience to Biblical principles of Christian stewardship. I will demonstrate wisdom and discretion in handling financial matters with integrity and will avoid any financial or business arrangements that would deter me from being effective in fulfilling my calling to ministry.

SEXUAL LIFE

God calls his people to live lives of sexual purity and commitment in which sexual intimacy is practiced only within the context of a marriage between a man and a woman. Out of respect for the obligation to live a life of sexual integrity as a model for my children, my spouse, and my church, I

will refrain from any pre-marital and extra-marital relationships as well as homosexual activities. Recognizing the danger of impure thoughts, I will avoid any sexually-oriented, pornographic, or any other material that could tempt me to further sin. I choose to treat others with respect and will not be involved in sexual abuse, harassment, or assault of any kind, and accept my deep obligation to avoid acting in such a way that might tempt others to sexual sin.

PROFESSIONAL LIFE

I am called to be a servant of the Lord and His Church, and count this to be a great honour and profound expression of His grace. In reliance on His help, I pledge to uphold this trust and never bring shame to His Name. I will be diligent in my duties, remembering that I am a steward who will give account to my Master. I will be Biblical in my preaching, presenting faithfully the whole counsel of God, speaking the truth in forthrightness and with love. I am determined that I will never abuse my position for personal benefit or pleasure.

I will always seek to be known as one who promotes peace and unity in the Church and will resist any effort of activities to divide it. I will not knowingly build the ministry in which I am involved to the detriment of other ministries. I will avoid speaking disparagingly of others in ministry. I have a special obligation to exercise sensitivity and care in relation to those who precede or succeed me in ministry. I will exercise sensitivity when I may be present in a place I have left and where another is serving. It shall, in these situations, be my intention to strengthen the ministry of others and work for the well-being and unity of the church. Similarly, in pursuing a call to a new ministry or considering termination of a present ministry, I shall understand the need for wisdom, discretion, and honesty.

My calling obligates me to discretion and wisdom in relationships with others. I will avoid situations where being alone with a person of the opposite sex could in any way be misconstrued by anyone involved, directly or indirectly. If necessary, I shall willingly limit my freedom where its use could hinder the reputation of my ministry.

Knowing that my effectiveness in ministry will often hinge on whether others can trust me fully, I will always seek to maintain confidentiality, except where my silence might endanger others.

I will respect my relationship to the Evangelical Free Church of Canada and will seek to support it through prayer, participation, and promotion, always working in harmony with its doctrines, aims, and objectives.

CONCLUSION AND ACCEPTANCE

It is my desire to live according to this Covenant of Personal and Professional Ethics, and I willingly and voluntarily agree that it shall be a condition of my credenaling with the Evangelical Free Church of Canada. I want those whom I serve in ministry to be aware of this Covenant. Because I am seeking with God's help to live a life befitting a servant of Jesus Christ, I desire that the Ministerial Standing Committee, graciously encourage me by exhortation and, if necessary, loving discipline with a heart to restore.