

CANADIAN BAPTISTS OF ATLANTIC CANADA

Ministry Opening

CHURCH / MINISTRY ORGANIZATION

Oxford United Baptist/Little River United Baptist

PO Box 66
89 Rideau Street
Oxford, Nova Scotia
B0M 1P0

AVERAGE SUNDAY ATTENDANCE

Less than 49

PASTORAL POSITION

Pastor

REQUESTED CREDENTIALS

Open to various credentials

RATE OF PAY OR SALARY RANGE

To be discussed with candidates during the interview process. In addition to a financial salary, we do have a house that is included as a benefit. It is a 3-bedroom bungalow in a quiet subdivision within the town limits. It comes with appliances, including a washer and dryer, fridge, and stove. The home has a finished basement as well as an outside entrance to it. It is heated with oil. All expenses are paid pertaining to the home. It is classified as a taxable benefit of \$800 per month. We do not owe any mortgages or payments for this property nor for our two churches.

POSITION DESCRIPTION

We are seeking a pastor who is Christ centered, biblically grounded, and community mission minded. Someone who loves people of all ages, races and diversity and who is willing to reach out and engage people at the point of their needs. Someone who is able to challenge our congregations to live for Christ to their fullest potential and not be afraid to try new ideas and methods of outreach.

We are a two-church pastoral field. Little River Baptist is located approximately 5 km from Oxford, in a beautiful rural community. At present 15 -20 people make up their congregation that consists mostly of retired adults. Little River holds Sunday morning services at 9:15 am. A Ladies Circle group also meets on the 1st Wednesday of every month.

Oxford Baptist is in the heart of Oxford and at present has about 25-30 people attending regularly. Oxfords hold their morning services at 11 am Sunday mornings, with the service being broadcast on Zoom as well as live streamed. While most of our attendees are retired, we do have a middle-aged group between 40- 60. Within the last few months our Sunday School, which only consisted of one, has grown to about 7 each week. We have been blessed to see children coming as this is the future of our church.

Both of our churches are great supporters and believers in Camp Pagweak, and the work they do within our



area. They are located 20 minutes from Oxford, on the outskirts of Pugwash. More information can be found at <https://www.pagweak.org/>

It is our desire to reboot our spiritual growth and footprint within our local communities. We need someone to partner with us and to following God's leading as we reach out, grow, and mature as we take a leap of faith into God's magnificent plan, we know he has for our two churches. Are you that person?

CLOSING DATE

Flexible: open for applications until the position is filled

SEND RESUME / CV TO

kwmills@ns.sympatico.ca

Position opening April 1, 2025

About Us

Oxford is located just off the Trans Canada Highway 104 and is 25 minutes from Amherst, 1 hour 20 minutes to Stanfield International Airport, 1 hour 45 minutes to downtown Halifax as well as one hour to Moncton's Romeo LeBlanc International airport as well as the city of Moncton. Oxford also sits centrally to PEI, being 1 hour and 30 Minutes to Charlottetown and Cavendish, the warmest beaches north of the Carolina's. If you wish to travel to the USA, we are 3 hours 10 minutes to Calais Me.

Our population as of 2021, Stats Canada, consisted of 1170.

Oxford is considered the wild blueberry capital of Canada as it is centered in a large blueberry growing region. Oxford Frozen Foods Ltd., a wild blueberry processor, is the largest employer in the town. The plant and over 12,000 acres of blueberry land are owned by local businessman from Collingwood, NS John Bragg. The Bragg Food Group owns and operates farming and processing facilities in Oxford, Parrsboro, the Valley, PEI and the Acadian Peninsula of NB. The Food Group also owns and operates farms and factories in Maine, USA.

The heart of the community is the school. Oxford Regional Education Centre (OREC) in Oxford, Nova Scotia has around 500 students. OREC is a school that serves grades primary through 12 and was formed in 2010 by combining Oxford Regional Elementary School (ORES) and Oxford Regional High School.

OREC school district includes students who are bused from the surrounding communities of River Philip, Collingwood, Westchester, Kolbec, Wentworth, Little River, Leicester and Black River.

The religious community includes several functioning Christian denominations which include Baptist, United, Nazarene, Presbyterian and Anglican.

Oxford does have a small Muslim and Hindu community that worships outside of town.

Oxford is served by a few privately owned restaurants and merchants. Most necessities are available in Oxford with a grocery store, a market, gift store, florist, pharmacy, and hardware store. There is an Irving Circle K, Tim Hortons and a Subway.

Scotiabank, Connie's Financial and Black's Accounting handle the financial needs of the community.



Various government offices and services include the NSLC, Lands and Forest, EHS, Canada Post and RCMP.

The local medical center includes a dentist and doctor. Oxford is also fortunate to have a Chiropractic practice, several massage therapists as well as a nail technician. There are several hairdressers and estheticians that call Oxford home.

Oxford has minor baseballs teams, a variety of school sports as well as a summer soccer program. The arena has recreational and minor hockey, figure skating and ringette. We have many service groups in town including; The Oxford and Area Food Bank, The Oxford Exhibition, Legion Branch #36 is active and holds a community night every Friday, The Lions Club, Oxford Fire Department, singing groups, "The Funtones" and as well as an established dinner theater, Church Mouse Players, that produces two productions a year.

Oxford is centered in the middle of Cumberland County and boosts lots of recreational opportunities for those looking. There are numerous golf courses, we are 20 minutes from Ski Wentworth for winter skiing and summer bike trails, and many waterfalls and walking trails are accessible to hike within Cumberland, the Trans Canada Trail goes by Oxford and is accessible at many points for walking, SXS, ATV's etc. Oxford just became SXS friendly and main Street, and portions of Water Street are accessible for ATV and SXS. Salmon Fishing is famous in our town. We are also located within 20 minutes of the warmest saltwater beaches north of the Carolina's,

Effective Preacher: Our new pastor will be enthusiastic about studying and sharing God's word in preparing their messages, that are Christ-centered, and life changing. They will share biblical and theological ideas in ways that people of a wide educational, socio-economic and a variety of age backgrounds can clearly understand and relate to. We believe that our new pastor will also help encourage our people to mature within their Christian lives and encourage believers of all ages to apply their faith within their daily lives. Our new Pastor will be able help our people discern their spiritual gifts and talents and encourage them to use them for God's glory.

Spiritually Mature Leader: Our new pastor will be a person that has a deepening relationship with God and whose capacity for leadership is growing in Christ. Our church has believers of all stages and ages of Christian maturity. We feel that it is important as an effective leader to be able to effectively delegate responsibilities that will alleviate some pressure on the pastor to focus on more pressing issues as well as to involve members of the congregation in various areas of ministry. We also would like a candidate who would be open to new ministry and outreach ideas. Our new pastor will also be a careful shepherd who can help guide people heal from individual and group hurts. It would also be important to have good conflict management skills. Another key factor in a spirit filled leader would be not only to be emotionally mature and confident, but kind, compassionate, caring and a person of trust that can hold the trust and confidences of those who seek guidance.

Helping Us Adapt: The world around us is changing so fast. Our new pastor will not be afraid to challenge us to engage those changes in meaningful and mission important ways. We value our heritage, and we are open to moving with the Lord as he leads us in new paths for the future. We do have a mission leader that in the past held monthly evening mission services, but due to covid and a drop in attendance led that program to be suspended. Missions do hold a Sunday morning service once or twice a year.

Culturally Sensitive: Our new pastor will need to help guide the congregants into a new era of cultural change within our geographical area. Since Covid, the main industry within our town, Oxford Frozen Foods, have employed many foreign workers causing the population in town not only to increase with many new families, but those who are culturally different that the attendees at church. People come from a variety of countries including India, Nigeria, Philippines, Syria, and Mexico. A huge mission field exists right outside the church doors. With a new pastor, and a new perspective and with God's leading – people need to be reached, loved and accepted.

Network Connector: Our new pastor will love people and connecting them with each other. We believe strongly that people connections and the thread that holds them together has been severely severed during the covid lockdowns. Visitation and re-connecting with these lost and cut off people, mostly our seniors, has led to a great loss of spirituality within our church and community. Our new pastor will coordinate efforts to visit with active members of the church as well as connecting with congregational shut-ins. They will attempt to connect the people of the church in new ways that add vibrancy to our community. We believe that this is not the sole role of the pastor, but one that needs the entire congregation involved as well.

Committed to Faith-Community Life: Our new pastor will be committed to helping grow the community life of our church. They will help our people discover their spiritual gifts and find ways to use them. Our new pastor will lead community connecting points such as baby dedications, baptisms, funerals and the Lord's Supper. They will oversee our efforts to make positive kingdom impacts in the lives of our children and youths, in whatever way God leads them.

Community Involvement: We believe that in order to know a community, it's people and its heart, community involvement is a necessity. Our new pastor will find ways to meet people within our local community, whether it be watching sport games that our church kids play in, attending community events and functions or in whatever manner leads them to be involved within the community.