

Wolfville Baptist Church Pastor Position Description June 2026

Wolfville Baptist Church is looking for a full-time Pastor to lead the congregation.

Contact Information

Please communicate interest in this position and forward CVs to the Search Committee co-chairs:

Barry Whatley and Wendy Donovan

Email: wbcsearch2026@gmail.com

The review of applications will begin September 1, 2026.

Our Church

As Canada's oldest continuing Baptist church, Wolfville Baptist Church will celebrate 250 years of faithful ministry in 2028. Located in the heart of Wolfville, adjacent to Acadia University, we strive to be a beacon of God's love in our community and throughout the beautiful Annapolis Valley. This motto captures the essence of our mission: "We are in the heart of the community, with the community at heart."

Our congregation is a mosaic of believers that bring together multiple generations, cultures and Christian traditions. We are rooted in our commitment to demonstrate the love of God through the teachings of the gospel, and to deepen our faith through valuing spiritual growth, and to make our faith relevant to today's challenges. Believers from many different nations enrich our liturgies, worship and expression of spiritual formation. Average weekly attendance for Sunday morning worship is approximately 140, including 120 attending onsite and 20 online. This includes 12–15 children and 14–17 youth.

One expression of this multigenerational community is our thriving youth ministry, with 18–23 teens (Grades 6–12) participating weekly. This year, 17 youth attended One Conference and 14 participated in Camp InterMISSION. At the other end of the age spectrum, our congregation includes nearly 20 people aged 90 or older. While many are no longer able to attend worship in-person, they remain a valued and important part of our church family.

Our historic church building, constructed in 1912, has recently been renewed with a fully accessible entrance, reflecting our commitment to ensuring that all people can participate fully in worship and church life.

We are seeking a pastor who will build on our solid foundation: to inspire us through strong preaching and teaching; to shepherd our pastoral care ministries; to encourage the many creative and willing individuals committed to serving; and to lead our beloved church into the future that God is preparing for us.

Wolfville Baptist Church is affiliated with the Canadian Baptists of Atlantic Canada (CBAC), the Canadian Association for Baptist Freedoms (CABF), and the Wolfville Area Inter-Church Council (WAICC).

Our Community

Wolfville Baptist Church is in the heart of Wolfville, a vibrant and welcoming town in Nova Scotia's Annapolis Valley. Situated along the shores of the Minas Basin, an inlet of the Bay of Fundy, Wolfville offers an exceptional quality of life shaped by natural beauty, a temperate climate, and a strong sense of connection. In partnership with neighbouring communities across Kings County, including New Minas, Kentville and Berwick, the region provides excellent amenities including public transit, shopping, and regional healthcare. Surrounded by vineyards, orchards, and farms, and framed by the North and South Mountains—remnants of the Appalachian Range—the area is known across Canada for its agriculture, wineries, tourism, and warm welcome.

Wolfville's population of just over 5,000 is enriched by the presence of Acadia University, a liberal arts university of approximately 3,600 students, including about 500 international students. Together, the town and university foster a setting rich in intellectual life, cultural diversity, and youthful energy. Local cafés, theatres, music and sports venues, festivals, and seasonal events reflect the warmth and creativity of East Coast culture and contribute to a lively and engaged atmosphere.

Wolfville Baptist Church is known for its welcoming and active presence in the region. Students regularly participate in congregational life. The church is home to the Wolfville Area Inter-Church Council's food bank, hosts children's programs during school professional activity days, and has provided space for community Christmas dinners for those who might otherwise be alone. Music concerts, commissioning services, and support groups also find a home within the life and ministry of the church.

Position Description

The Wolfville Baptist Church Pastor has the following role: “The Pastor of the Congregation shall care for the Church and provide overall leadership to the Church in its fellowship and outreach to the community” (By-laws). The Pastor reports to the Congregation through the Board of Deacons. As the spiritual leader, the Pastor guides the congregation in crafting and pursuing

an engaging vision that reflects God’s heart for the church and the broader community. As the shepherd of the community, the Pastor prayerfully oversees the pastoral care ministries.

We are looking for a leader who will serve with the following qualities and experience:

Strengths and competencies:

- An authentic and mature Christian whose life, relationships, and ministry testify to both solid character and spiritual depth.
- A pastor with a history of fostering outreach and growth (experience in ministry to youth, young adults and families is an asset).
- An astute and visionary leader with spiritual discernment.
- A theologically astute pastor who is also a practical theologian.
- A gifted communicator whose preaching and teaching is an “overflow” of spiritual vitality.
- A collaborative leader who builds and equips others.
- A relational leader who is welcoming and able to connect with a broad and diverse community.

Qualifications and experience:

- At least five years of experience in local church ministry (inter-generational and intercultural ministry experience is an asset).
- Significant experience in leading congregational change and growth.
- Proven ability to engage, mentor, and equip individuals to lead and assist with various ministries in the church.
- Education: Master of Divinity or equivalent (significant church experience and theological maturity may be considered in lieu of full formal educational qualifications).
- Demonstrated commitment to personal spiritual formation and ongoing growth in Christian discipleship.
- Ordained or Candidate for Ordained Pastoral Ministry.
- Professional Certification required for licensed clergy within the CBAC or other credentialing bodies of Baptist Congregations.
- Able to meet Wolfville Baptist Church’s legal screening requirements (including Criminal Record Check and Child Abuse Registry Check) for working with children and youth.

Key roles and responsibilities:

A. Worship and spiritual guidance:

- Leading worship services that honour God and appeal to a broad demographic.
- Providing inspired, relevant and transformative preaching and teaching.

- Building a community of Christ-followers, growing in spiritual depth and exercising their gifts.
- Provide oversight of church staff as per the church by-laws.

B. Leadership

- Casting vision and inspiring engagement in that vision.
- Fostering a collaborative, prayerful and healthy church culture and ministry environment.
- Pursuing ongoing professional and spiritual development to better meet the needs of the ministry of WBC.
- Providing oversight of church staff as per the church by-laws.

C. Outreach

- Communicating and modeling the vision of a church “on mission”.
- Encouraging effective outreach programs.
- Mobilizing the congregation to reach out to and partner with community organizations.

D. Pastoral Care

- Navigating pastoral care needs creatively with Christian compassion.
- Equipping lay leadership to attend to a broad spectrum of needs.
- Understanding and valuing professional ethics in care ministries.
- Sensitivity to the pastoral needs of aging congregants.

E. Other areas of involvement

- Active in the Wolfville Area Inter-Church Council (WAICC).
- Potential participation in community organizations that enhance the mission of WBC.
- Other responsibilities, such as roles within the denomination, with approval of the Board of Deacons.

Salary and Benefits

Wolfville Baptist Church offers a salary consistent with CBAC guidelines, with the proviso that Wolfville qualifies as an “urban” church.

Wolfville Baptist Church employees participate in group insurance benefits and the Canadian Baptist Pension Plan available through the Canadian Baptists of Atlantic Canada (CBAC), when eligible.

The church’s compensation package for the pastor includes four (4) weeks’ paid vacation, continuing education leave, and allowance for tuition and/or books.