

# Erin Village Alliance Church

## Church Profile

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**Our Vision:** Erin Village Alliance Church (EVAC) has a new vision; *“to be disciple makers who love God and love others”*. As such, we want to strive to become Genuine Followers of Christ; fully centred on Christ, empowered by His Spirit, and focused on His Mission. For a full description of our new Vision, Mission and Core Values, check out this link [erinvillage.ca/pastorposting](http://erinvillage.ca/pastorposting)

**Our History:** Erin Village Alliance began in 2001 as a church plant of Georgetown Alliance Church with the goal of “having a great church close to home”. It was officially recognized as a formal church on January 20, 2003. We are a member of The Christian and Missionary Alliance (C&MA) in Canada ([www.cmacan.org](http://www.cmacan.org)), belonging to the Central Canadian District ([www.cmaccd.com](http://www.cmaccd.com)).

Our founding pastor, Jacob Birch, gave leadership to the church until 2007. During his tenure the church purchased 5 acres of land. In 2008, Tim Bax was appointed as the Lead Pastor, and transitioned the church from the high school gymnasium where we had been meeting, to a leased location in the heart of Erin, owned by the Pentecostal Assembly of Canada. At that time we were a church family of 140 attendees. In 2015, Darryl Buckle became our pastor and provided leadership until June of 2020. During this time, we sold our land (which, due to complications, would have been too expensive to build on), and moved to 155 Main Street (Burns Presbyterian Church), located in the heart of the community. We were able to purchase this historic church building in the winter of 2020 just as the Covid-19 restrictions began. We are pleased that God provided us with a permanent home that is mortgage free.

EVAC has always had a strong core volunteer leadership base, including our current Governing Team, and other diligent and compassionate Ministry Leaders. In addition, we have also been committed to missions work with Canada’s First Nations, sending adult and youth missions’ teams to implement a VBS program at God’s River First Nations in Manitoba; something we hope to continue when restrictions are lifted.

The church has a rich history in praying for people’s healing and sharing real faith stories as a community. Over the years, EVAC has placed great emphasis on the importance of prayer, worship, small groups, and children and youth ministries (Grades 6-8 and 9-12). Historically, EVAC has invested disproportionately in our youth, leading them to Christ and providing them with opportunities to serve (i.e. worship, Sunday Children’s programs, Mission Trips, Bible Quizzing and partnering with the local chapter of Youth for Christ).

**Our Current Ministry:** Our worship music is contemporary, with traditional hymns and country gospel sometimes included in the praise time. EVAC has traditionally been known for a strong but welcoming worship team often invited to lead during community services. We are a very informal church family in terms of dress and strive to remove barriers despite our location in a historically designated church building.

Although ministry during the pandemic has been somewhat curtailed, we have continued with an active on-line weekly service, ladies weekly prayer times, on-line Bible quizzing for youth, a care

ministry to stay in touch with the church family, and children's ministry. We are blessed to have a part-time children's worker who began her ministry just prior to Covid-19. In addition we have begun to explore how to modernize a historical building for future ministry opportunities.

Although we are excited about implementing our new Vision, Mission and Core Values, we would be remiss if we didn't mention the fact that the church has been in decline over the last number of years. This was due, in part, not only because of families moving out of the community, but also due to a lack of unity within the church. As a result, when our last pastor moved on to another ministry, in October of last year, we contracted with a Transitional Pastor and Church Health Consultant, Eugene Neudorf. He has been working with us to bring a greater sense of Spiritual, Relational, Vision and Structural Health to our church family, and as a result, we are ready to start over as a congregation.

Currently we are a core group of approximately 20 families that are committed to the work of Christ and growing his Kingdom in Erin. We have 28 members that support both an in person and online ministry with a typical Sunday attendance of between 60-80 individuals. We are committed to reaching the hurting and marginalized in society, both in our community, our country and around the world. In addition, we are committed to supporting our District ministries (District Ministries Fund) and our National and Global initiatives (Global Advanced Fund). Finally, through partnerships with others, we are currently sponsoring five refugees. We welcomed one in 2020 and have four additional individuals still in process.

Our congregation is primarily of European descent and reflects the community of Erin. There is an Islamic Cultural Centre that opened up recently in our town, so we are hopeful that as the community grows in numbers and diversity, that our growth and diversity will reflect our changing community. EVAC draws from a large geographic area, well beyond the boundaries of our town, reaching as far south as Brampton and as far north as Orangeville with several communities in between.

Although our numbers are down over recent years and our financial numbers reflect that, EVAC has significant assets as a result of the sale of our property. This includes invested cash holdings, held in trust by the District. For a more detailed picture of our day-to-day financial situation click here [erinvillage.ca/pastorposting](http://erinvillage.ca/pastorposting) and look for the "EVAC Finances" link.

**Our Future:** We believe the best is yet to come and are excited about starting over as a church - beginning a new chapter in the life of our church family as we reach our community for Christ in a variety of ways. In short, we are looking forward to what God has in store for us as we embrace our new Vision, Mission and Core Values and together with our new pastor, implement it.