

Park View Mennonite Church Profile
by Bruce Stambaugh
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Contacts

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Park View Mennonite Church was organized in 1953.

Membership and Attendance

Average Sunday worship attendance in the last 12 months:

170 in person,

150 livestream.

Highest attendance: 275 in person

Lowest attendance: 75 in person

Total current members: 234 (as reported to VMC and MC USA)

Since the worship services are livestreamed on YouTube and on the closed-circuit TV at VMRC, it is difficult to identify non-resident members.

Children:

Age of members and children given in total numbers and percentages

0-12: 13 13-18: 28 19-30: 28 31-45: 28 46-64: 54 65+: 186

Occupational profile totals (ages 19-70):

Business/manager/proprietor: 10%
Homemaker: 5%
Education/administration/teacher: 40%
Clerical/sales: 1%
Craftsman/laborer/operative: 11%
Student/VS: 10%
Medical: doctor/nurse/administration: 10%
Farmer/rancher: 3%
Church institution/administrator/minister: 10%

Education level of adults (in percentage):

Up to and including high school: 5%
Some college or college graduate: 45%
Graduate school: 50%

Racial or ethnic composition of the congregation:

The congregation is predominantly white with some people of color from various ethnic backgrounds.

Leadership:

1. Identify the present staff position for which you are seeking a candidate:
[Pastor - position description.](#)
2. Two previous
3. persons filled the position roles: (This is a new position in a new collaborative leadership team.)
The congregation has worked with Steve Slagel as the intentional interim pastor for two years. A Transition Team was formed and developed the collaborative pastoral leadership model, which moves away from the standard silo approach to pastoral leadership. Please review the [Collaborative/Hybrid Leadership Model](#) and the [Proposed Staffing Allocation](#).
4. The congregation follows the Pastor Salary Guidelines.
5. John Stoltzfus is the pastor focusing on worship and preaching (.6 FTE). He begins on September 1, 2026; Paula Stoltzfus is the pastor focusing on pastoral care (.65 FTE). She has been in this position for nine years; Carissa Gredler is the director of youth (pre-K-5) (.25 FTE). She has been in this position during the transition time. Other staff members include a music director and a choir director (both hourly and part-time), an operations manager, and an office secretary. Custodial services are contracted out.
6. The housing allowance for pastors is \$30,000 per 1.0 FTE.

Interpretation

- A. The Park View Mennonite Church's commitment to Anabaptist/Mennonite theology has been, is, and will continue to be strong and supportive. We strive to share that faith far beyond our own circles.
- B. See [Our Congregational Vision](#).

- C. See [Pastor Position Description](#).
- D. See [Future Reality Statements](#)
- E. During the transition after Phil Kniss's retirement in August 2024, congregational morale has not wavered from its strong Anabaptist values and service to church members and the community. The congregation has adopted a collaborative pastoral leadership team, approved a new welcoming statement, and approved five reality statements. While completing those important processes, the congregational numbers have remained steady. The approval for John Stoltzfus to join the pastoral leadership team was 98.6%.
- F. The congregation recognizes that we are aging. We also desire to renew our emphasis on welcoming others into our congregation, especially focusing on youth, college students, young adults, families, and outreach. Our desire for the new pastor(s) is for a dynamic leader who can inspire and relate to the young people we will need in the near future to ensure our congregation thrives. (Other comments are in the job description.)

Organization/Ministry

- A. Church Structure
 - 1. Primary governing body: Congregational Council, which meets monthly. Council currently has five men and five women with an average age of 48.
 - 2. Identify five other significant leadership/programming bodies and how often they meet.
 - a. Elders meet monthly. Elders include 1 male and 4 women with an average age of 48.
 - b. Worship Leadership Team, comprised of 4 men and 8 women, meets quarterly.
 - c. Nurture Team meets 6 times per year with 9 members, 3 men and 6 women.
 - d. Finance Committee, with 3 men and 2 women, meets quarterly.
 - e. The Care Ministry Team meets quarterly with 14 members, 5 men and 9 women.

Worship and Music

- 1. Park View Mennonite worships in a liturgical style, with an outlined order of service (i.e., Gathering, Hearing the Word, Responding, and Sending). Music is foundational for worship. Music ties the order of service together following the day's theme. Lay persons usually serve as worship leaders, assisted by children or youth to light the peace candle each Sunday. A committee provides appropriate seasonal and thematic worship art each Sunday. A music leader leads the congregation in hymns sung a cappella, with the piano and/or organ. Instrumental music is also used regularly. The Voices Together hymnal is the primary source of hymns. Scripture appropriate for the theme and sermon is read, usually by lay persons, including youth. Poems, responsive readings, and liturgical welcomes are given. A children's story is included, along with prayers, offering, announcements, and a benediction.

2. Music plays a primary part in each worship service. The service begins with a prelude on the piano or pipe organ, followed by an opening hymn. Other hymns are sung throughout the service, including the offering, and are often accompanied by string and wind instruments. We sing the Doxology in receiving the offering. The choir sings regularly during the school year, but takes the summer off. We also hold Music Sundays, a worship service filled with many hymns and no sermon.
3. We use the Voices Together, Sing the Story, and Sing the Journey song books.
4. The musical instruments vary according to the sermon and worship theme. The piano and pipe organ are used consistently, while other instruments used by members of the congregation and guest musicians include trombone, trumpet, violin, viola, bass guitar, cello, flute, bass, African drums, French horn, clarinet, tambourine, saxophone, banjo, maracas, and others.
5. The choir (30-50 members), quartets, ensembles (8-10), and music groups such as high school, college, and traveling choirs regularly provide inspirational music.

Christian Formation

1. Faith Formation
 - a. Children's classes: 1 (pre-K-5) Salt and Light Publishing during narrative lectionary; Shine materials, and annual use of Circle of Grace curriculum per Safe Church policy.
 - b. Jr. MYG: 1 (grades 6-8) (same as children)
 - c. MYF: 1 (grades 9-12) Curriculum set by teacher/pastor, often topical.
 - d. Adult classes: 3 ongoing. Often an elective is offered in the fall and spring. No set curriculum is used. Adult classes are autonomous.
2. The congregation attends to formation through worship, Bible Study, choir, service opportunities, mentoring, annual retreat, and intergenerational interaction.
3. Second hour electives include faith-based book studies and Bible Study, with periodic offerings to develop contemplative spirituality and intercultural awareness.
4. Park View supports youth in attending VMC conference retreats, MC USA convention, and service projects. Young people attend camp on their own, and the church supports those who work at a camp. Youth are involved in music, tech, and reading on an ongoing basis in the worship services. Young people are an integral part of the congregation. Youth serve as worship assistants, musicians, ushers, and help with tech for worship services along with other roles. A youth serves on the church council, and youth are invited to have a voice in congregational conversations.
5. There are approximately 10 small groups. Leadership helps facilitate the creation of small groups, and then the groups organize themselves. Some meet as book clubs. Others meet for mutual sharing and support.
6. There is a men's coffee group on Thursdays that meets at VMRC. A men's 60+ group meets for breakfast monthly. Mennonite Women meet monthly to facilitate MCC projects.

7. Kids Club meets on Thursday evenings twice monthly for children in the church and the neighborhood. We do not have an active ministry for 18+, but invite them to join in what is already happening.
8. In the next five years, we anticipate the membership to stabilize.

Outreach and Evangelism

1. Describe how you cultivate the visibility of your church in the community.

We have an Incarnational Witness Team consisting of 6 men and 6 women.

The church holds an annual block party for the neighborhood. A Kids Club for children in the community and congregation is held monthly during the school year. The VEER preschool and childcare is housed in the lower level of the church.

2. Describe how you connect and make new disciples.

We do so through relationships, faith formation, and small groups.

3. Describe your congregation's ministry in and with the community.

We support the school backpack program for food-insecure families at Bluestone Elementary School financially and with volunteers once per week through the school year. The church has supported immigrants in the community. We financially help multiple NGOs in the community. We work with VIA and house its VEER preschool and childcare center. The congregation financially supports students who attend Eastern Mennonite High School.

How does the church utilize technology in worship, in teaching, and in outreach in the community?

Park View Mennonite Church uses a variety of technology methods for worship, teaching, and outreach.

- a. The worship service is livestreamed on YouTube.
- b. The worship service is livestreamed via Virginia Mennonite Retirement Center closed-circuit TV.
- c. The worship service is broadcast live over WEMC radio.
- d. One faith formation class uses Zoom to include members who cannot attend in person.
- e. The church has a new electronic welcoming sign on Park Road to announce worship themes and church and community activities.
- f. Hearing-assistive devices are available for use.
- g. We show music to be sung and responsive reading via large screens in the worship meeting room. PowerPoint presentations have also been used. We have an outdoor speaker system and Zoom capabilities.

Church Building and Property

1. The congregation owns the building and property.
2. The worship area seats 300+.
3. Date of original construction: 1968
4. Date of expansion: 1995. A renovation occurred in 2018 to remove mold and upgrade HVAC. A pavilion was added in 2026 for outdoor service, gatherings, and community use, including VEER. The current property improvements focus on landscaping, especially trees. The parking lot needs to be repaired or repaved.
5. Educational facilities are provided on the lower level, with some using the church conference room and the fellowship hall.
6. The fellowship hall is accessible from the main lobby and hallway to the church offices.
7. The church offices are located on the south wing of the church, with an office for each pastor and for administrative purposes. Computers, internet, and phones are all available.
8. The building and equipment meet the needs of the congregation. The building has an elevator and multiple entrances.
9. Loudoun Mutual via LD&B Insurance covers the church property, liability, and pastor liability.
10. Several other organizations use the church building. They include: Crossway Korean Mennonite Church; Valley Early Education Reimagined (VEER), a financially sustainable non-profit that operates an early education and childcare center each workday; the Rockingham Bird Club meets in the fellowship hall once a month; chair yoga is held twice a week; a men's prayer breakfast series is held in the fall and spring; Valley Village, a seniors organization, uses the church, as do many other community organizations for special events.
11. Private groups and weddings also rent the building from time to time.

Church Stewardship/Finances

1. View our [church spending plan](#).
2. The church debt is \$300,000 for the Fresh Air renovation.
3. Find our Welcome Statement and Who Are We?, on the [church homepage](#).
4. Chart the [Governance of PVMC](#). Please note this is currently being updated.
5. View PVMC's [Ministry and Mission](#). Note this too is currently being updated.
6. Review our [Church History](#).

Relationships

Community

1. Character of community your congregation serves or in which it is located:
City/county over 10,000
2. Which best describes this community? Growing

3. Harrisonburg had 51,000 residents. The city's racial/ethnic composition is: 64% White; 8% Black; 4% Asian; 24% Hispanic; 1% Native American, and 9% other. Rockingham Co. (not counting Harrisonburg) has 89,000 residents. The county's racial/ethnic composition is: 81% White; 4% Black; 2% Asian; 11% Hispanic; 1% Native American, and 1% other.
4. List two or three primary businesses in the community: agriculture, education, healthcare
5. Identify other Mennonite/Anabaptist churches in the community, if any. There are at least 15 different Mennonite/Anabaptist churches in the area.
6. What other faith groups are there? Jewish, Muslim, Russian Orthodox, and Universal Unitarian.
7. Name of nearest college/university: Eastern Mennonite University and James Madison University
8. In what ways does your church relate to this academic community? We link with EMU and Eastern Mennonite Seminary through their Faith and Spirit office. We continue to work to discover ways to connect with both students and faculty. The church financially supports high school students who attend EMHS. EMU coaches and players volunteered through our school backpack program to provide food for food-insecure families at Bluestone Elementary School.
9. Identify significant issues confronting your community. Poverty, food insecurity, housing shortage, ICE enforcement, political divides between the city and county
10. Distinctive assets of your community: two universities and one college, education of residents, arts and music events, social opportunities, safety, good government. The citizenry also actively interacts with government officials on community issues.
11. Park View's ministry in the community: VIA, VEER, school backpack program, financial support of several NGOs, Kids Club, Block Party, sponsorship of refugees, and Patch Work Pantry.
12. How does Park View work with ecumenical and interfaith efforts? VIA, VEER, Good Friday Stations of the Cross, hosting numerous musical concerts. An ecumenical pastors group meets monthly.

Area Church/Conference

The congregation has four delegates (2 men and 2 women), plus the pastors for Virginia Mennonite Conference.

Wider Church

The church has four delegates (1 man, 2 women, and a youth) to MC USA.

Conclusion

Complete the Congregational and Pastoral Priorities form

Bruce Stambaugh with assistance from Miriam Fairfield, Paula Stoltzfus, John Stoltzfus, Carissa Gredler, Laura Yoder, and Ed Yoder