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## **ABOUT OUR CHURCH**

Westney Heights Baptist is a church of evangelical Christian believers in the Town of Ajax, Ontario. Westney started out as a small body of believers in 1990 and has grown to a church of +400 Sunday morning worshipers. At Westney it is our Mission to "Lead others to Jesus as we become more like Him" and our Vision to "Encourage all people to pursue a lifelong, joyous relationship with Jesus Christ." This Vision and Mission are supported through our five 'Pillars'; Biblical Teaching, Authentic Worship, Loving Community, Compassionate Service and Effective Evangelism.

Our current lead pastor, Don Symons, who emphasizes Biblical Teaching in his ministry, will be retiring at the end of 2025 after fourteen fruitful years among us. Our average Sunday attendance ranges from 300-400 people, with room to grow in our building which seats a maximum of about 500. The church has a healthy age demographic, with a wide age range of individuals and families attending. The congregation is very diverse with many cultures represented. Our Sunday children's ministry has approximately 40-50 children attending and is led by our children's ministry director Elicia Hannah and by volunteers from our church. Our youth and young adults ministry is led by our youth pastor Bob Donald and volunteers and has approximately 40-50 youth attending. The worship and AV ministry is led by our worship director David Szanto and volunteers. Our connection director, Malachi Brown, leads our church connections and outreach ministry. The Church was built in 2002 and features the main auditorium, overflow room, lobby, kitchen, office space, library, classroom space, and a youth room. It is well maintained and we continue to work on upgrades such as an interior refresh of the lobby. WHBC is governed by a board of deacons who are elected by the church membership at one of our two annual business meetings.

Currently the paid staff consists of a lead pastor, youth pastor, children's ministry director, worship director, connections director, a part-time administrator, a full-time bookkeeper and a part time theologian-in-residence. The board of deacons provides financial and general oversight of the church while the Lead Pastor and staff are expected to lead and oversee the day-to-day ministries of the church.

## ABOUT OUR COMMUNITY

Ajax is a growing city of 130,000 people and is located in the Durham Region. Durham features a wide range of amenities such as public, Catholic and Christian schools, plenty of shopping, and a variety of chain and boutique restaurants. The community also features ample park space, ice rinks, community centres and other recreational and learning spaces. Hiking, swimming, sports and other outdoor activities are readily available. The Durham Region is home to several major universities and colleges. Industries include a broad mix of manufacturing, public services, and technology. Westney Hights Baptist Church is near the Seaton Land developments which are currently under construction and will feature thousands of residential houses, 3 high schools, 14 elementary schools and other public amenities. While there are many other churches in the area, the majority of residents do not profess faith in Jesus. There is much opportunity for our church to evangelize and grow in this vibrant and developing community.