

First Alliance Church Profile

Who We Are:

[First Alliance Church of Toronto](#) belongs to a group of approximately 440 churches across Canada in the Christian and Missionary Alliance denomination. We are a diverse multicultural and multigenerational church in the L'Amoreaux Community of Scarborough, Ontario. Our congregation reflects the diversity of the surrounding community and its socio-economic, ethnic, educational, and age trends. Significant growth in the Chinese population is especially prevalent over the past decade.

Formative History:

- First Alliance Church (FAC) has had a rich and godly heritage in the City of Toronto. Since its beginning in 1893, this first Alliance church in Canada established itself in a number of locations before settling in its present location in 1977. While another move was considered in 1994, leadership agreed that God had called First Alliance Church to remain on Finch Avenue.
- Prayer Ministry has been a part of the FAC's identity and approach to discipleship for many years, leading many to healing and spiritual freedom.
- The purchase of property sold to the church by Ontario Hydro in 1998 facilitated strategic thinking for the future of FAC and its building. In 2009, a campaign was launched to build a gym and renovate rooms throughout the church to provide more space for activities with the goal of becoming a place of belonging for the neighborhood.
- From 2014-2020, the 'Owning the Impact' vision encouraged the congregation to participate in the global mission of Jesus by prioritizing disciple-making and multiplying of leaders.
- A period called 'Discerning Next Steps' engaged pastors, elders and the congregation from 2019 – 2020 in a re-visioning of the future and exploring ways to support greater connectedness.
- Small groups have remained an important element of FAC's church life, functioning as important places of connection, discipleship and outreach.
- By 2020, the Mandarin speaking congregation of FAC had grown to about 50 people.
- The past two years have been a season of transition with the departure of the senior pastor, the downsizing of other pastoral positions due to budget constraints, and the realities accompanying COVID. Two interim co-lead pastors have led First Alliance over the past year and a half, caring for the congregation and leading the development of digital and online innovations to increase engagement, communication, and outreach.

Attendance, Membership, Financials:

Prior to COVID, attendance had declined to around 300, with the loss of members and adherents exceeding the newcomers. During the 16 months FAC was not open for in-person worship services, digital viewership averaged 140 live views per worship service. At present, since about 100 people are attending/serving at in-person services, our online viewership has dropped to 90 views per worship service.

There are long-term members and newcomers, making a total of 181 members.

In 2021, our church general fund income was \$814,290. This was a bit lower than 2020 when the general fund income was \$942,412, but due to the lockdowns, the expenses were lower. (Annual Report 2020 – 2021).

Strengths and Challenges:

Strengths

- FAC has gained momentum in ministry over the past 5 years with children, youth, young families, and the Chinese community.
- COVID restrictions forced a quick, successful pivoting to an on-line format for worship services, small groups, and other gatherings for a broader outreach.
- Small groups have allowed for deeper connections to one another
- People have been giving generously, even throughout the pandemic, and this has allowed us to give an additional \$65,000 towards paying off our expansion/renovation mortgage, of which \$ 1.7 million remains.
- Gymnasium – benefits of space and ministry potential

Challenges

- Recovery from the pandemic
- Increasing church growth
- Fostering unity and connectedness within church
- Connecting the church and community in meaningful, life changing relationship