

Marley Community Church

Profile 2025



GOD'S LOVE AT WORK

Marley Community Church

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<https://youtu.be/5eVBSXiBXTQ>

PROFILE

We are excited to present a profile of the Marley Community Church. It is designed to present the church's status and needs in seeking a new pastor after the retirement of a long-serving minister of over 38 years. Many clergy have found a home here, and many seminary interns have served and continued their training here.

The information contained in this profile is intended to provide an accurate picture of the church in 2025. It is a guide to describe the responsibilities and expectations for a pastor position at Marley Community Church.

We seek a pastor who will lead our membership in challenging spiritual growth.

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

Our Mission...

As people who are created for God's purpose, we are compelled by Christ's love to provide a home for believers and seekers who grow together as we:

- Celebrate** God through Joyful Worship
- Communicate** the Message of Salvation through Jesus
- Connect** with one another through the Holy Spirit
- Cultivate** followers of Jesus Christ
- Care** for our Community and our World



OUR HISTORY

The Marley Community Church is a very special place of worship, unique because of its heritage of 190 years of service in a rural community. It was first organized as the O'Plain Baptist Church on October 5, 1833 in a pioneer settlement located approximately thirty miles southwest of the then small town of Chicago which had formed less than two months earlier. It was the first church of its denomination to be organized in Northern Illinois.

The church is also unique in its adaptability, once serving in a rural area which has now become a suburban community. This is largely because of the ability of its members to face the changes necessary for its survival and their ability to adjust to those changes. The church has moved twice from its humble beginnings in a log cabin and currently worships in a beautiful structure built in 1900 in the peaceful community of Marley. The building has been expanded and upgraded several times throughout the years.

The church has adapted to constitutional revisions and five name changes including Marley Baptist Community Church. It was the only church in the community at the time and was dependent on the people within that community for survival. The decision was made to remove the constitutional barrier which only allowed baptism by immersion in order to accept the dedicated workers in the church who would otherwise have been excluded from membership because of their mode of baptism. The current name, Marley Community Church, reflects our desire to welcome people of various denominational backgrounds to join in Christian worship.

A brief history of this sort cannot capture the heart and soul of the people who for the love of their Lord sought a place of worship for themselves and others. It cannot tell all the stories of loss and pain or of triumph and joy. The congregation that we are is the evidence that the living Spirit of God has dwelt among us. The prairie that families came to tame and farm is largely gone now. In its place is a new frontier; thousands of homes and families, presenting many challenges. As each generation at Marley Community Church has tried to faithfully meet the needs of its community, so now, we are challenged and commissioned to create opportunities to share the Good News and become a credible presence of Jesus Christ in the world.

CHURCH DEMOGRAPHICS

Marley Community Church Area:

Mokena—New Lenox—Frankfort—Orland Park - Homer Glen

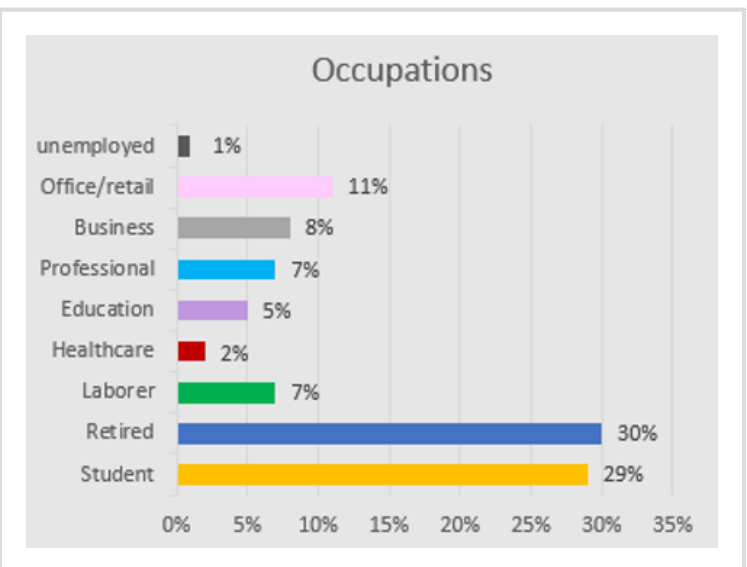
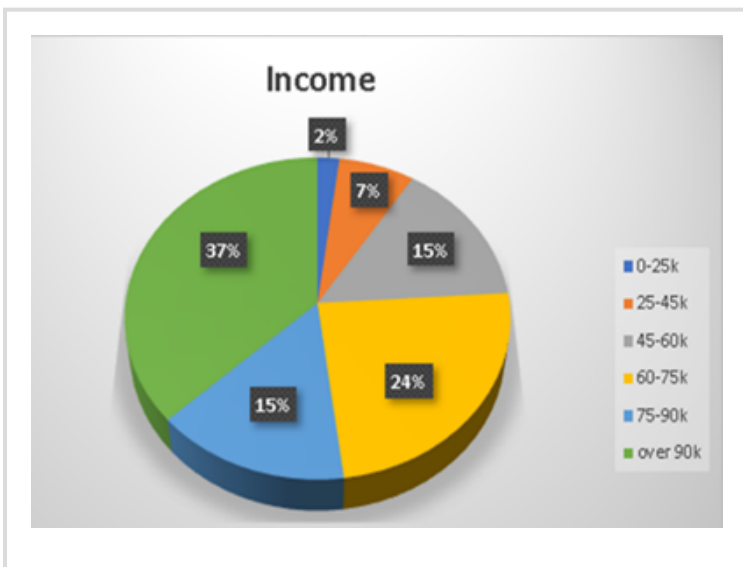
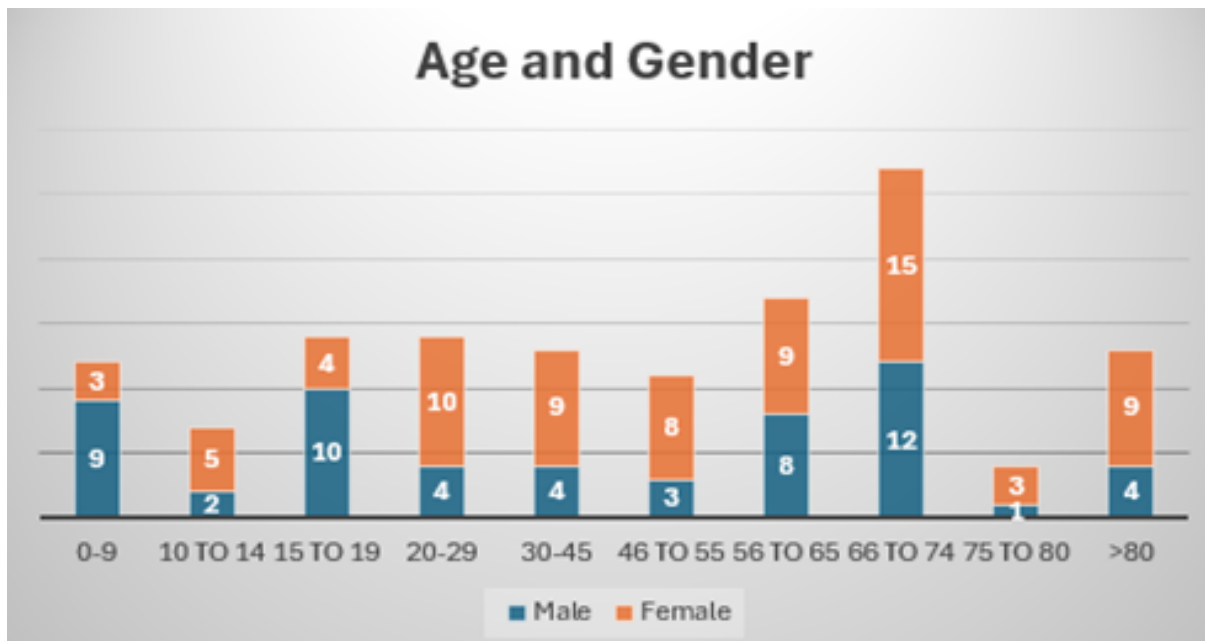
Marley Community Church is located in the southwest suburban area of Chicago. Although located in the quiet and unincorporated community of Marley, it is nearby many vibrant suburban villages. Towns in our community have many parks, biking and walking trails, restaurants, concerts, community events, recreational programs, and excellent school systems. Area expressways and airports are easily accessible. Our community also has many support services available for those with needs or identified challenges.

[HTTPS://WWW.NEWLENOX.NET/](https://www.newlenox.net/)

[HTTPS://WWW.SILVERCROSS.ORG/](https://www.silvercross.org/)

[HTTPS://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/GROUPS/684577938344638/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/684577938344638/)

[HTTPS://WWW.MOKENA.ORG/](https://www.mokena.org/)



Current Practices

Marley Community Church regularly observes the Lord's Supper on the first Sunday of every month. All Christian believers are invited to participate. The church practices both believer's baptism and infant baptism. The church also practices a service of infant dedication whereby the parents may bring their children before the congregation to dedicate them to God. Our church facilitates weddings, funerals, and memorial services for our church family.

Church membership is awarded to those who: confess faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, give evidence of living an acceptable Christian life, and are in substantial agreement with the faith and practices held by our church. Marley Community Church is affiliated with the American Baptist Church of the Great Rivers Region.



OUR PHILOSOPHY

Faith is more than what happens on Sunday mornings. It's part of who we are, inside and out. At Marley Community Church, we believe in sharing the joy of the gospel daily and living a life that embodies the spirit of Christ.

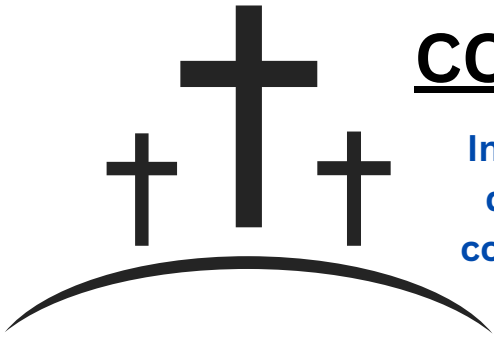
CHURCH LIFE

Currently we offer the following:

- Weekly 10:00 Sunday Worship Service, which includes traditional hymns as well as praise music led by our praise team. Video screens are utilized during the service.(average attendance: 50)
- Sunday School for adults before the worship service
- Childcare during worship service
- Kids Club on Wednesday evenings during the school year
- Youth Group on Wednesday evenings (Kids Club and Youth Group average attendance: 30)
- Quest church camp for our youth
- Bi-Weekly Men's breakfast at a local restaurant
- Sunday night men's group
- Monthly Women's breakfast
- Bible studies
- Fellowship coffee hour after the worship service every Sunday
- Daytime luncheons and pot luck dinners at various times
- Annual Flea Market
- Annual HeART in the Park
- A beautiful park which offers a pavilion, Caleb's Corner playground, picnic tables, and "The Little Library"





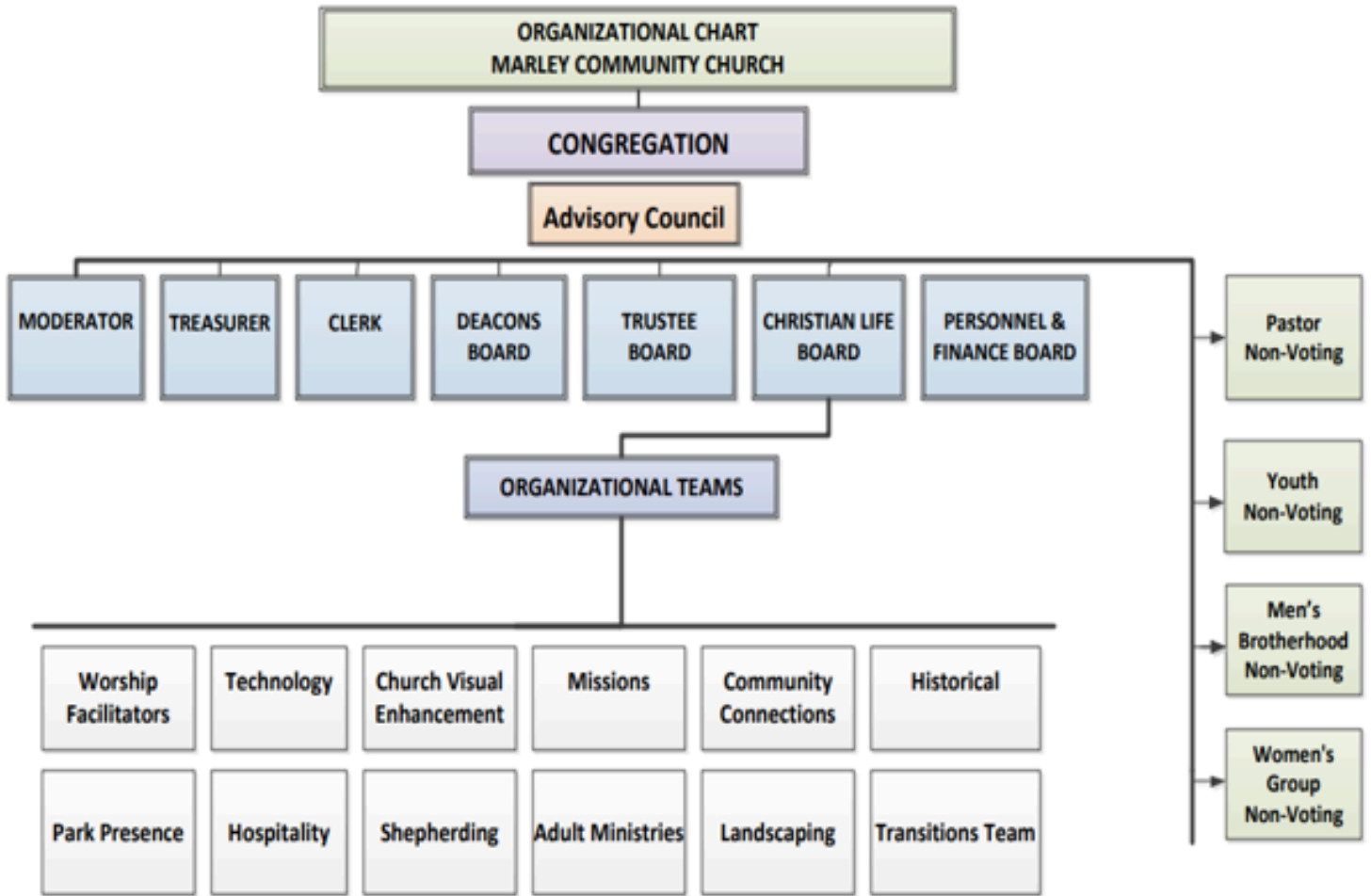


CONGREGATIONAL STYLE

In our desire to welcome people of various denominational backgrounds, our active congregation includes many different ages, income levels, and careers.

Leadership	Our church has a shared leadership model with collaboration between the congregation and the pastor.
History & Tradition	Marley Community Church is grounded by our history and traditions, but we also strive to be adaptable.
Social Issues	Our church's approach to social issues is Biblical and orthodox leaving any action to individual conscience. We have not been faced with some of the current social issues and will look to our new pastor to help us navigate these challenges as they present.
American Baptist Churches (ABC)	Our church is affiliated with ABC. We benefit from their advice and guidance and utilize their resources. We contribute to the three main ABC mission offerings. Being affiliated with ABC is not a requirement for our pastor.
Community Involvement	Our church participates in several community activities and also strives to assist those in need in various ways, including supporting Morning Star Mission and contributing to local food pantries.
Church Structure	Several boards and teams share responsibility for our church organization, and the church is ultimately governed by the congregation. The pastor gives overall guidance for the vision of the ministry. A church constitution provides formal guidelines.

Organizational Structure



Operating Budget

Our Operating Budget for 2025 is approximately \$164,000. This includes all operational expenses including pastoral, custodial, and secretarial services.



Pastoral Qualification & Compensation

Marley Community Church is looking for a full-time pastor with a bachelor's degree or above who is an ordained minister or plans to be ordained within two years. Included in this Profile are the responsibilities and strengths we are looking for in a potential candidate.

We at Marley Community Church believe strongly in providing our pastor with a compensation package that is generous, customized to the needs of the candidate and reflects good stewardship of the regular offerings from our church attendees. Aspects such as MMBB enrollment (401K, disability, and life insurance), housing allowance, and salary will all be considered in the total compensation package.

Our total compensation package (which includes salary, MMBB retirement & insurance enrollment, housing allowance, medical insurance, vacation time, and any other option agreed upon by the candidate and the church) will be negotiated. The candidate's experience, education, oratory skills, and intangible qualities will determine the final agreed upon total compensation package.

Missions

The support for missions outside of the church is deeply embedded in our DNA. **In 2024, the total given to missions was over \$65,700**, or approximately 26.5% of the total church offerings. The recipients of these mission dollars vary from year to year and are first vetted by a leadership team for their appropriateness.

Organizations receiving funds include:

Morning Star Mission homeless shelter, Samaritan's Purse, Under His Wings home for women, Northern Baptist Theological Seminary, Quest Youth Camp, missionaries Robin & Heather Allen, and Trinity Services for the developmentally disabled. We also contribute to three ABC offerings: America for Christ, One Great Hour of Sharing, and World Mission Offering.



The congregation supports several local organizations such as community food pantries through donated items that are not reflected in the financials. In addition, the church is engaged in several 'hands-on' activities. Members of our congregation have partnered with the Feed My Starving Children organization to contribute to both the funds and volunteer hours needed to locally pack food to send overseas. The number of meals packed at our community mobile packing event over the past several years is approaching two million.

Another significant accomplishment was the creation of a 12-bed assisted living facility adjacent to the church property. Marley Oaks Assisted Living Residence opened its doors in 2005 and has served well over a hundred seniors from the community. It is a not-for-profit, self-sustained, Christian entity. Interaction between the church volunteers and these residents is a blessing to all.



OUR BELIEFS

We believe God's love for humanity is demonstrated in the life, death and resurrection of His Son Jesus Christ, and that personal faith in Him restores our relationship with God and with people.

God's Word, the Holy Bible, is our foundation and we are committed to its study and application.

As God's family we are meant to grow and learn in community; worshiping and serving in the name of Jesus, who is the head of the church.

The Holy Spirit connects us with God and with one another; confirming God's saving grace and giving us gifts that bind us together.

We are called to live in such a way as to give Jesus Christ a visible presence, sharing the Good News of God's love and mercy so that others may come to know Jesus and grow in faith.

Faith calls us to encourage and help those who are in need. We serve the Lord by doing our part in the family of God, and by caring for the communities in which God has placed us. Our faith calls us to demonstrate God's love, justice, and peace.

Faith compels us to cherish life and creation as we honor God as Creator. We are a people who are dependent upon the goodness and trustworthiness of God, the love and grace of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, and the filling and fellowship of the Holy Spirit.

Our faith is foundational and calls us to exemplify the Lord in every aspect of life.



WHAT OUR CHURCH NEEDS AT THIS TIME IN OUR HISTORY

Preaching	A pastor who will preach Biblically based sermons in a personal, relational style with clear applications to everyday life.
Sharing the Gospel	Equipping our church family biblically to lead people to eternal salvation through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Teaching	Mentoring church leaders by providing guidance and resources for the purposes of leading Bible Studies and discipleship programs.
Pastoral Care	Being attentive and responsive in the lives of our church family, as well as visiting those who are shut-in or hospitalized. Encouraging others in the church to support one another as well.
Leadership Development	Create leadership opportunities in various ministries and encourage people to consider and respond to their calling.
Community Involvement	Represent the church, and along with the church family, become more visible and engaged in the community.
Outreach	Find ways to attract and provide discipleship to younger families, while not neglecting the needs of our longtime faithful members.

