



CHURCH PROFILE

The Vienna Community Church (VCC), founded in 1957, is located in the heart of Vienna. The VCC is an international, inter-denominational, ecumenical spiritual haven and English-speaking congregation in Vienna. The VCC embraces various denominations and cultures, focusing on a diverse gospel mission and worship styles. In 1995, VCC became an international Protestant congregation under the auspices of the Austrian Protestant Church, affording VCC legal status under Austrian church and civil law.

We offer a big tent inside a small church, serving as a refuge for English-speakers far from home, people who did not feel included or respected in the church they grew up in, and actual refugees who have fled violence or social injustice.

Our congregation gathers every Sunday at 12 noon in person and over Zoom for an hour-long joyful and uplifting service filled with worship, prayer, and teaching from the Word of God. We worship with hymns and some praise songs and a sermon. Blessed with so much musical talent in our congregation, our Sunday services are filled with music from our choir, soloists and instrumentalists on the organ, piano, violin, and flute.

We believe in fostering a spirit of unity and fellowship, where people from all walks of life can come together to worship and grow in faith and fellowship. It is of particular importance to our spiritual leadership and congregation that we create a space where everyone, regardless of their Christian background, can worship and grow spiritually.

OUR VISION

The Vienna Community Church is an English-speaking Protestant corporate congregation of the Austrian Protestant Church. Our congregation is international, interdenominational, ecumenical, welcoming and inclusive. As a congregation, we are part of the Body of Christ and with the help of the Holy Spirit our mission is to fulfil the Great Commandment and the Great Commission according to the will of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

OUR MISSION

We Praise God by seeking to live as Christian examples to reach people for Christ! **The Vienna Community Church** is a Christian spiritual haven and our members contribute to identified needs in Vienna, the surrounding regions, and other parts of the world as our resources allow. Our purpose is to praise and worship our Heavenly Father, follow His commandments, live our lives in accordance with our Mission and Vision Statements, pray for and comfort one another, live in love and be kind and compassionate to one another, have fellowship with one another and with other Christians, support and enhance the spiritual and physical lives of those living and working within our reach who are in need and welcome those who have not yet found God.

60-100 MEMBERSHIP	17 NATIONALITIES	35 - 60 AVG CHURCH ATTENDANCE
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VCC TODAY

“WE PRAISE GOD BY SEEKING TO BE CHRISTIAN EXAMPLES TO REACH PEOPLE FOR CHRIST!”

- VCC Vision Statement

SUNDAY SERVICES

Our Sunday services are held in the centrally located 18th-century Baroque Reformed Church. We have an average attendance of between 35 and 60, with as many as 100 for special events, such as baptisms, confirmations, Easter and Christmas services. We regularly welcome visitors from all over the world who are in Vienna for short or long-term employment, holidays, or studies.



MEMBERSHIP

Over the years, our membership has fluctuated between 60 and 100+ members. Presently we have 87 members, ranging from young families to retirees (60 full voting members, 5 associate members, and 22 children) from 17 different nations.

The congregation spans the complete age range from babies to the elderly and comprises about 50% American, 40% European, Asian 4%, 5% African, and 1% Australian. We have core of long-term members – over 30-year membership – who make up about 10% of the congregation.

Our members and regular attendees include academics, professionals, musicians, diplomats, UN and Austrian civil servants, and retirees.

LEADERSHIP STRUCTURE

We recognise the importance of our spiritual leadership in the pastor and see the pastor's input in strategic and important decisions. The everyday administrative tasks are vested in our administrative leadership. This leadership structure consists of a Presbyterium, which must have a legal minimum of 6 people: Moderator, Vice-Moderator, Clerk, and Treasurer, Membership Chair, and Music Chair. We encourage teams of volunteers to serve in the areas of fellowship, communications, worship, stewardship & finance, Christian education and property. Presbyterium members are elected annually and, together with the pastor and team leaders, strive to organise and implement the mission and vision of the congregation through consensus. Important decisions are usually brought to the members in our Annual Congregational Meeting, who vote on the Presbyterium and approve the annual church budget as governed by our Constitution.

FINANCIAL

VCC does not belong to a designated denomination. Our dynamic church is dependent on the generosity of its members and others who share their time, talents and resources. We also earn extra income by renting out VCC-owned meeting rooms called The VCC Meeting Point to our community and outside groups, and hold events that raise funds for designated needs or activities. In 2003, the VCC began a formal relationship with the American Foreign Christian Union (AFCU), which supports its mission, future planning, and outreach to alumni in the United States. US-based VCC alumni and members subject to U.S. tax contribute significantly to VCC's budget. The AFCU/VCC ReachOut! Initiative maintains robust contact with our alumni via an annual alumni newsletter and annual Zoom Get-Together.

WAYS OF GATHERING

CHOIR AND MUSICIANS

Our congregation includes many gifted musicians led by our Music Chair, who oversees this aspect of our worship, and our Choir Director. They work as a team to offer wonderful music and organize excellent music programmes.

Music is at the heart of our worship and our small but excellent choir is one of the most cherished aspects of our church life. We frequently host guest musicians and choirs, who join our own choir, soloists, and instrumentalists to lead us in worship and praise, creating a powerful, moving experience.



SUNDAY SCHOOL

We aim to ensure that children receive a solid Christian foundation at the VCC. During the main service, we offer "Time with Children," a special children's sermon delivered by our pastor. This short, engaging message reflects the theme of the sermon, and is designed to teach children about faith in an interactive and fun way, setting the tone before they set off for lessons in Sunday school, which also reflect the message being delivered in the adult sermon. The children's sermons support children to adapt to a regular church service. Our services are in any case child-friendly, with even newborns welcome. For children who remain in church with their parents, we offer activity bags with fun, religious material.



FELLOWSHIP TIME

After each Sunday service, we gather for Fellowship Time over coffee, tea, juice, and snacks. This is an informal setting where members and visitors can engage in small talk, share ideas, discuss upcoming events, and get to know each other better. It's a time of connection, building relationships, and extending a warm welcome to guests.

PRAYER CIRCLE

The Prayer Circle meets on the first Sunday of every month in the Fellowship Hall directly following the service and fellowship. Everyone is encouraged to send their prayer requests to the Prayer Circle Host. Our dedicated Prayer Group prays for various needs and concerns, for healing from personal struggles, for love, forgiveness, unity, tolerance, and for a better world. This group is open to everyone, providing a space for heartfelt collective prayer.

CHURCH RETREATS

Each year, we try to organise a Church Retreat, where we travel together to a hotel for three days of spiritual renewal and fellowship. During the retreat, we participate in a variety of activities, including Biblical teaching, group play, outdoor exploration, team-building exercises, and shared meals. This time away allows us to deepen our relationships with each other, reflect on our faith, and grow spiritually in a relaxed and fun environment.

VCC HARVEST FESTIVAL

During this time, our church members bring donations to a designated charity. In the past, this has consisted of giving durable food items, cosmetic articles, and clothing to a shelter for homeless people in Vienna. VCC has long supported member initiatives in Romania, Ukraine, India, and Thailand.

PENTECOST SUNDAY

We joyfully celebrate our multicultural heritage by dressing in our national attire and reading a verse from the Bible in our native languages. This vibrant celebration reflects the diverse cultures within our congregation and honours the unity we find through faith. It's a beautiful reminder of the Holy Spirit's presence, bringing us together in one spirit while celebrating our differences.

BAPTISMS/NEW MEMBERS

Our congregation is growing organically and is stable. VCC welcomed five new members in 2023 (In 2020, 2021 and 2022 there were no new members due to COVID.) Since 2022, we have baptized six people.



CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

Children present a beautiful re-enactment of the Christmas story, showcasing the history and meaning of the birth of Christ. The beloved tradition is an integral part of our church life, bringing joy and a deeper connection to the season. This is one of the highlights of our Sunday school programme.

CONFIRMATION

Three Church teenagers were confirmed this year. It reinforces their role in the community and helps them put their faith into action. Friends, families and the congregation celebrated this milestone with the confirmands.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

This service is a highlight of our Church year and is one of reflection, readings and song, culminating with singing carols in candlelight in the Church courtyard. It is one of the best attended services in our calendar.

LONG NIGHT OF THE CHURCHES

Every year, Vienna's churches open their doors to an evening of musical programs. Under the auspices of VCC's Music Chair and Choir Director, visitors are treated to a feast of music and readings.

OUTREACH

Our congregation participates in an ecumenical Good Friday service and interfaith activities such as seminars, worship with other denominations and religious groups locally.

OTHER EVENTS

In 2016, VCC purchased meeting room facilities, which includes an office for the pastor. Our VCC Meeting Point is a versatile space used for Bible Study, meetings, movie screenings, parties, exhibitions, rehearsals, and other events. We offer Women of Faith Bible Study, Adult Bible Study Groups and The College & Career Group for students and young professionals. We also host our Thanksgiving or Harvest and Christmas banquets and fundraising events at our Meeting Point. Our activities reflect our diverse cultures and congregational initiatives. To better accommodate the needs of our community and guests, we are planning to add an additional toilet to the facility, making it more comfortable and functional for everyone.



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