

During the first half of the 19th century, Presbyterians living in the Thornhill area travelled to Richmond Hill to attend church services. In May 1849, Rev. James Dick oversaw a congregation of more than 400 in Richmond Hill. 23 members representing 11 families were from Thornhill. At this time, he organized them into a separate pastorate and the “United Presbyterian Congregation of Thorn Hill” was created. The congregation purchased property on Yonge Street in Thornhill and moved a vacant British Methodist building to the property.



Thornhill Presbyterian Church, 7788 Yonge Street
Circa 1917



Last Sunday Service in the Yonge Street Church
March 1, 1959



Interior of Yonge Street Building

The chancel furniture was moved to the new building. The pulpit and communion table can be found in the chapel. The Minister’s chair and side chairs are located in the present sanctuary.



In 2014, the Yonge Street building is a commercial property. The Town of Vaughan designates it as a heritage building.



The Yonge Street building became too small for the congregation, which had grown to 262 members and 25 active adherents. On March 8, 1959, the congregation moved to our present location at 271 Centre Street. The total cost of the new church and land was \$183,555. The mortgage was discharged in April 1975. Members donated most of the interior furnishings. These included the pulpit, lectern, communion table, organ, hymnbooks and the pews.



Originally, the sanctuary interior was slightly changed with the pulpit placed directly in the centre. Initially, the building was not completely finished and the last 9 rows of pews and the entire gallery were completed at a later date.



New offices, a chapel and a large fellowship hall were added in 1997. The mortgage for this addition was discharged on Great Day, May 25, 2008.



At the end of December 2023, membership at Thornhill Presbyterian Church includes 199 members and 80 adherents representing 168 households. The Rev. Dr. Heather Vais is the minister.

SAVE THE DATE

On May 26, 2024, Thornhill Presbyterian Church will celebrate the 175th anniversary of the founding of the congregation. We hope you all will be able to be present for this celebration. An invitation is also extended to former members to come and help us celebrate this special event together.