



The River Conference

of the Free Methodist Church

Opportunity for Church Planting Pastor

The Free Methodist Church has had a presence in Nogales, AZ for over 50 years. In 2020, the border was closed due to global COVID pandemic which adversely affected the Nogales Free Methodist Church plant as its Pastor is a Mexican national. Following the pandemic, the border remained closed due to safety concerns. Efforts to apply for an R1 visa on behalf of the pastor failed as the visa application was denied. The church plant was closed in 2022, after the visa application was denied. The Conference is seeking to establish a Spirit-fueled movement in Nogales.

Nogales is a border town in southern Arizona with a population of about 20,000. It was typically understood as the sister city of Nogales, Sonora Mexico, which boasts a population of over 300,000. Much of commerce from Nogales Az, comes from partnered agribusiness based in Nogales Mexico. Nogales is home to the Nogales-Mariposa Port of Entry, which is one of the busiest ports of commerce in Arizona. 95% of Nogales residents identify as Latino. Spanish is the preferred language of the vast majority of Nogales residents, with less than 9% of residents speaking only English.

The River Conference is looking for a church planting pastor to develop a planting team and begin a new work in Nogales. Church planting will be supported by the conference, with collaboration with River Conference-Arizona region churches. Prospective church planters should have fruitful experience in church planting or ministry development. All prospective church planters in the River Conference undergo a church planting assessment and receive coaching from the Conference Multiplication Director.

Interested pastors should contact Supt Michael Traylor at drmichael@theriverconference.org. Please provide a ministry resume as well as references.

