



The River Conference

of the Free Methodist Church

October 21, 2024

Re: Springs of Living Water Free Methodist Church Bonners Ferry, Idaho

The River Conference of the Free Methodist Church is searching for candidates for **Lead Pastor at Springs of Living Water Free Methodist Church in Bonners Ferry, Idaho** (www.bonnersferryfmc.com). Its current lead pastor is retiring after over 10 years of ministry.

Bonners Ferry is in northern Idaho, 27 miles south of the Idaho-Canada border, 80 miles northwest of Coeur d'Alene, ID, and 110 miles northwest of Spokane, WA, its closest major metropolitan area. Bonners Ferry has a stable population of approximately 2500 without significant change in the preceding 20 years. It is the county seat for Boundary County which has a total of 8500 residents. The economy is driven by agriculture, lumber, and recreational activities. The city is ethnically homogeneous with a wide range of socioeconomic diversity. Within its boundaries is the Kootenai Reservation; however, there are no church-related ministries there. The political environment of the city of Bonners Ferry is described by its current pastor as very conservative.

Springs of Living Waters is over 50 years old. It has a weekly worship of approximately 35 but a weekly reach of about 50 people, including those in mid-week and youth ministries. It is a small rural church that has been stable with strong leadership over the past decade. Currently, the church is split evenly between baby boomers and Gen-Alpha with a Gen X couple. Springs of Living Waters has a beautiful sanctuary that holds 200 as well as a separate building used for youth activities. The Church has a well-kept parsonage that has 3 bedrooms and 2 bathrooms. The church currently has no debt.

We are looking for pastoral candidates who are excellent communicators, with shepherding and teaching gifts (using APEST terminology). The ideal leader for Springs is a passionate follower of Jesus who wants to lead the church in a dynamic engagement with the community, understanding the entire county as its parish. The current leadership of Springs of Living Water describes their desire for future leadership as one who can "provide enthusiastic care for a changing community." Springs of Living Water has never had a female pastor, and the retiring pastor is unclear on how supportive the congregation is of the Free Methodist Egalitarian approach to Pastoral appointments.

The current compensation for the lead Pastor is approximately \$22,400 (total) along with the use of the parsonage. The lead pastor is the only paid staff. The 2023 annual revenue for the church was a little over \$46,000.

Interested Pastors should send an email of interest along with a ministry resume to drmichael@theriverconference.org.

Posted by Superintendent Michael Traylor, The River Conference of the Free Methodist Church

