



The River Conference

of the Free Methodist Church

Opportunity for Lead Pastor

Spokane First Free Methodist Church, located in Spokane, Washington, is seeking a Lead Pastor to begin June 12, 2026. Spokane First Free Methodist Church is over 135 years old and has been worshipping in its current location for the past 55 years. Its pastor for the past 20 years is transitioning into a conference and denominational leadership role.

Spokane First is a small-to-medium-sized, community-oriented congregation that exemplifies the Free Methodist Way. A typical Sunday worship service has approximately 80 adults including 7-10 kids and 7-10 teens/young adults. Midweek small groups and Bible studies engage approximately 80 adults. The church is encouraging toward women in leadership at multiple levels, including its clergy. Currently, the church is staffed by a full-time lead pastor, associate pastor, and part-time worship director.

Spokane First's worship facility seats 175, along with a fellowship hall that seats 80. There are five classrooms and a pastor's study. The worship property sits on nearly three acres in a stable residential neighborhood. The congregation has been very generous, with an annual budget of over \$325,000, 20% of which is devoted to lead pastor support and benefits. Spokane First does not have a parsonage.

Spokane, Washington, continues to grow and boasts a population of 230,000 in the city, with nearly 470,000 in the county in the northeast region of Washington. Spokane has some ethnic diversity, but most residents (78%) identify as White. The remaining 22% are a diverse mix, with no group accounting for more than 5%. The community is economically diverse, with approximately 14% of residents at or under the poverty line. Agriculture, education, and healthcare are the leading employers. There are many universities nearby: Whitworth University, Gonzaga University, Washington State University – Spokane, University of Washington – Spokane, Spokane Community College and Spokane Falls Community College, and Eastern Washington University. This church has significant opportunities for growth.

Prospective lead pastors should have excellent communication skills, a deep commitment to disciple making, and experience in expanding multi-generational communities of Jesus followers. The ideal candidate has a passion for leadership development, particularly among young adults. The congregation recognizes that most of its families are older than those in the surrounding neighborhood and thus seeks leadership that can engage young families while developing a unique multigenerational community. The congregation also recognizes that its growth (Attendance and new births) over the past ten years has been mild and consistent. They desire to be led to a new level of growth by a pastor with a proven record of ministry growth and fruitfulness in multi-generational contexts.

If you are interested in exploring this opportunity, please send a recent ministry CV/Resume to Superintendent Michael Traylor at drmichael@theriverconference.org. The initial round of interviews for this position will begin as soon as applications are received with the initial window closing by March 10, 2026.

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