



The River Conference
of the Free Methodist Church

Opportunity for Lead Pastor: Freedom Church

The River Conference of the Free Methodist Church USA is looking for the next Lead Pastor at Freedom Church (a.k.a. Freedom Motorcycle Church) in Rapid City, SD (<https://fmcrc.net>). Rapid City is a city of 86,000+ people, with the 'metro area' estimating 156,000+ people. It is the county seat of Pennington County and the second largest town in South Dakota. Rapid City sits on the edge of the Blacks Hills, within easy driving distance to Mt Rushmore and the famous Sturgis motorcycle rally. Freedom Church's current pastor is retiring after more than a decade of leading the church.

Freedom Church started as a mission to downtown Rapid City in 1929. It is now 97 years old, having been located at its current building for the last 74 years. The church averages 110-120 people at a Sunday morning worship service, with a wide range of ages and stages in life that are active participants. The congregation's largest age demographic is Gen X, followed closely by Baby Boomers and Millennials. They have active and vibrant Children's and Youth Ministries. Church members are part of the local community, working in agriculture, construction, government, business, education, health care and food services.

Freedom Church, as seen in their nickname "Freedom Motorcycle Church," is a down-to-earth group of people with a thriving motorcycle ministry, as well as being very active in other local and global ministries. The church supports Cornerstone Rescue Mission, Forgotten Elderly, Young Life, Saturday Night Alive, KSLT Alive, Hills Alive, YFS Kids Fair and a Burundi Food Fund (through ICCM).

The Church has really made their worship space their own, creating a welcoming sanctuary that seats 132, a fellowship hall that holds 80, six Sunday School rooms and the pastor's office. There is a 4-bed, 2-bathroom parsonage next door to the church that could be made available, though it currently is being rented. In addition to the full-time co-pastors, there are two associate pastors, an administrative professional and a custodian all serving in part-time roles. Expected total salary package, evaluated annually by the local Board of Directors, will range from \$55,000 - \$65,000, depending on experience. This includes base salary, housing allowance, life/health/dental benefits, a pension, as well as a ministry budget.

The next lead pastor(s) at Freedom Church needs to have excellent leadership skills along with pastoral and teaching gifts. This pastor must be biblically sound, willing to engage and love all people, be able to speak Scriptural truth while maintaining a humble posture, emphasize discipleship, all while fitting in with the culture and context of this town and this church. Riding a motorcycle is optional but being able to will win instant friends!

Interested candidates should send a letter of interest, a recent ministry resume, and 3 references, at least one of whom has observed your ministry directly in a supervisory role, to james@theriverconference.org.

Updated August 25, 2026.
Position available until filled.

