

Wesley Freedom United Methodist Church
Associate Pastor of Discipleship and Care

JOB POSTING SUMMARY: Wesley Freedom United Methodist Church, a large vibrant congregation in Eldersburg MD, is seeking an Associate Pastor who will serve in a pastoral role; “sharing the story of grace” through discipleship, caregiving, and occasional preaching. The AP serves under the leadership of the Senior Pastor in collaboration with a team of ministry directors. This 20-30hr per week position can be tailored to the gifts and availability of qualified candidates. The position may even be divided into two roles. Our priority in hiring is for a “teaching pastor”. Compensation will be based on experience, expertise, and ordination/licensing status \$25-\$38 hourly. To apply, submit a resume and cover letter to employment@wesleyfreedom.org

Adult Discipleship: 20hrs a week, Teaching Wednesdays and most Sundays

- Implement, communicate, and perpetually improve the Discipleship Pathway which provides opportunities for faith development, belonging, and empowerment for adults moving from curious to deeply committed disciples.
- Build empowered teams of lay persons who live their faith and utilize their gifts to facilitate classes and lifegroups at each level of the discipleship pathway.
- Serve as the primary pastoral teacher, leading 2-3 classes weekly.
- In collaboration with the senior pastor, produce resources for personal discipleship including weekly devotions, seasonal devotional guides, and e-devotionals.
- Leverage digital media as a means to expand discipleship through our on-line campus.
- Attend staff meetings, as able, for discipleship ministry coordination.

Preaching and Worship:

- Share in the preaching rotation and celebration of sacraments at the direction of the Senior Pastor. Including Sundays, and potentially Holy Week and Christmas.
- Attend worship planning meetings upon request.

Pastoral Care:

- Share in pastoral care responsibilities including scheduled shut in care, hospital, hospice, and rehabilitation visitation.
- Share on-call days with the pastoral care line.
- Preside at funerals and weddings as agreed upon.

ESSENTIAL ROLES:

- Profess a faith in Jesus Christ, uphold the highest standards for Christian living as outlined in ordination vows, and possess a familiarity with and willingness to support the doctrines of the United Methodist Church.
- Fully embrace the role of pastor, seeking to bring prayer and discernment into every encounter.
- Create a culture where all in the congregation are inspired, and equipped, to live out the Discipleship Pathway of the church and care for each other.
- Serve as an extension of the missional goals of the Senior Pastor and Church Council; serve as a colleague to those on the senior leadership team.
- Respect matters of confidentiality and uphold the Safe Sanctuary Policy of WFUMC.

CORE COMPETENCIES

- Teaching: Theologically grounded, Spirit lead, and scholarly read of scripture which can be clearly presented in ways that foster faith development. Ability to articulate own Biblical perspective while giving space for many perspectives to be heard.
- Empowering Volunteer Teams: Is able to identify and recruit capable people into positions of responsibility, delegates, supports appropriately, builds relationships, communicates frequently, and provides accountability.
- Skilled Communicator: Exceptional verbal and written communication skills.
- Mission Ownership: Demonstrates understanding and full support of the mission, vision, values, and beliefs of the congregation.
- Listening: Practices attentive and active listening; has the patience to hear others out and can accurately restate the opinions of others even when they disagree.
- Integrity and Trust: Is widely trusted; is seen as direct and honest. Keeps confidence, admits mistakes, and responds to situations with constancy and reliability.
- Self Differentiation: Demonstrates strong and appropriate personal boundaries in relationships. Has a healthy appreciation of self, without being egotistical. Is emotionally mature, and can maintain a non-anxious presence in the midst of turmoil.

Qualifications

- Either Masters of Divinity Degree, Course of Study, or relevant coursework (complete or in progress).
- Experience serving in a teaching or pastoral role in a congregational setting.
- Experience leading or serving on a team.
- Sacramental privileges preferred, but not required.

Supervised by the Senior Pastor with support by the Leadership Development Team.

Hours: Part Time, Hourly 20-30 hrs weekly, Wednesdays and Sundays with service responsibilities. Compensation \$25-\$38 hourly

Hours and pay rate based on applicants availability, call, experience, education, and ordination status. 4 weeks paid vacation, additional leave without pay may be approved by supervisor.