

# Independent Methodist Church Seeking Senior Pastor



## **ASHFORD MEMORIAL METHODIST CHURCH** **SENIOR PASTOR**

**Denomination:** Methodist- Autonomous, Non-conference Affiliated

**Weekly Worship Attendance:** 120+

**Membership:** 275+

**Location:** Watkinsville, Georgia (Oconee County)

**The Role:** We are seeking a new Senior Pastor to step into the role being vacated by the retirement of our current Senior Pastor after fourteen years of his excellent ministry.

The Senior Pastor of Ashford Memorial Methodist Church (AMMC) is responsible for the overall ministry and operations of the church and will lead, manage, supervise, and minister to the staff and congregation. The Senior Pastor is supported by a robust staff including a Youth Leader, Choir Director, Music Coordinator, Church Secretary, and Nursery Workers. The Senior Pastor reports to our Board of Directors which offers guidance and support in the administration of church operations.

**Qualifications:** The ideal candidate will have a Master of Divinity, preferably Doctorate, or equivalent from an approved Theological Seminary, ordained by a mainline denomination, and at least five years of preaching experience. Previous experience as a Senior Pastor is preferred. The candidate should also be trained in and comfortable with adhering to the doctrine, theology, and appropriate practices and rituals of the Methodist tradition.



**Meet Ashford Memorial Methodist Church:** Founded in 1893, our historic church has been providing traditional Methodist worship for the Watkinsville and Oconee County community for over 120 years. We have been a thriving autonomous Methodist Church independent of the United Methodist Conference since 1983.

Although our church may be comparatively small, we consider ourselves the perfect size to offer a meaningful opportunity for a new Senior Pastor. We are large enough to have the potential for a pastor to lead substantial projects and growth, but are also small enough that a new pastor can influence real change. We also have strong financial support of our dedicated multi-generational congregation allowing us to offer our Senior Pastor compensation competitive with larger churches.

Another strength of AMMC is the perpetual involvement and service of our members. We have very strong lay leader participation in all aspects of our church including worship, music, youth, missions, service, and outreach. These programs are currently thriving, but have great potential to be even more successful. We are seeking enthusiastic Senior Pastoral leadership to help grow and enhance our current programs and operations.



**Our Community:** AMMC is located in one of the most sought after areas of Georgia- Watkinsville and Oconee County. Watkinsville is approximately one hour from Atlanta and less than 10 minutes from Athens, the home of the University of Georgia. Oconee County is one of the fastest growing counties in Georgia for many positive reasons.

The Oconee County Public School System is consistently ranked in the top five school districts in the State of Georgia. Oconee County is also home to top tier private schools and colleges.

Oconee County has been repeatedly ranked among the best counties to live in Georgia. The greater Athens area has also been ranked as one of the top places to retire in the entire United States. AMMC's location is ideal for attracting young families and retirement age seniors. Oconee County is also known for its arts community, plentiful outdoor activities, agriculture and equestrian farms, great food, and community spirit.





This Senior Pastor opening is a unique opportunity to lead a thriving and stable Methodist church that has been successfully independent for more than 30 years and is located in one of the most desirable communities in Georgia.

As an independent church, if we are a good fit for you and your family, there will be no outside pressure to be relocated. A Senior Pastor could easily remain with our church and in our community for more than 10-15 years allowing children to remain in the same school system through graduation.

Rather than providing a parsonage, we prefer to offer our Senior Pastor more flexibility with an allowance for housing and utilities. We also budget into our very competitive salary package, expenses for purchasing health insurance, life/disability insurance, professional development, and retirement. These details can be fully explored in the interview process.

Please visit our church website [www.ashfordmemorial.org](http://www.ashfordmemorial.org) to learn more about us and review the detailed **Job Description**.

[Visit our website](http://www.ashfordmemorial.org)



**Application:** If you feel the Lord may be calling you to this Senior Pastor opening, please reach out to us. We would love to hear from you. We are happy to keep inquiries private.

To help control the communication stream, we are currently accepting applications and inquiries **ONLY** through email at:

**[ashfordpastorsearch@gmail.com](mailto:ashfordpastorsearch@gmail.com)**

**To Apply:** Submit the following to **[ashfordpastorsearch@gmail.com](mailto:ashfordpastorsearch@gmail.com)**

- **Resume/Curriculum vitae**
- **Personal Narrative-** (limit to 1 page if possible)
- **3 Letters of Reference-** (with phone numbers and emails)