

# ASHFORD MEMORIAL METHODIST CHURCH

## SENIOR PASTOR

### Job Description

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

**Weekly Worship Attendance:** 120+

**Membership:** 275+

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

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

#### **About the Senior Pastor:**

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.

**Role:** The pastor's role in the Body of Christ is to feed and lead congregations and communities through the ministries of preaching and teaching God's Word and administering the Sacraments of baptism and communion. The role of Senior Pastor at Ashford Memorial Methodist Church is that of a servant-leader.

The Senior Pastor of Ashford Memorial Methodist Church 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 will report to the Board of Directors which offers guidance and support in the administration of church operations.

**Qualifications:** 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 Senior Pastor should be trained in and comfortable with adhering to the doctrine, theology, and appropriate practices and rituals of the Methodist tradition.

**Expectations:** The Body of Christ is called to obedience of the Great Commission of Christ to make disciples of all people. The Senior Pastor must be called, equipped, and trained to assist the Church for the fulfillment

of that call. As a Methodist Church founded upon the authority of the Scriptures, Ashford Memorial Methodist Church recognizes the following areas as primary callings of the Senior Pastor (Ephesians 4:11-13).

- Equip the Saints: The Senior Pastor should facilitate the training of church members for the work of the ministry.
- Promote Unity of the Faith: The Senior Pastor should promote the church uniting behind a common vision and purpose. The vision must be Biblical, specific, and communicated through preaching, Bible studies, one-on-one mentoring, and other forms of communication.
- Develop Spiritual Maturity: The Senior Pastor must lead members in developing a maturity of faith, growing in the knowledge of God, and becoming like Christ in heart, spirit, and character. The Senior Pastor must demonstrate knowledge of discipleship and practice the disciplines needed to grow in Christ-likeness. This includes, but is not limited to, Bible study, prayer, fellowship, and worship.

**Responsibilities:** Responsible for the spiritual leadership and welfare of the church and its members. Casts the vision for the church and sets the overall direction of church programs. Provides leadership for and actively participates in worship, education, discipleship, and evangelism for the spiritual life and growth of members. Originates and presents services of public worship, administers and leads the pastoral ministry of the church, has overall responsibility for the church staff, and represents the congregation in denominational and community affairs.

### Ministry:

#### A. Preparing and Preaching the Word of God

- Provide primary leadership for worship services. Develop and implement themes of worship. These should be an accurate reflection of historical Biblical teaching and classic Methodist doctrine.
- Prepare and present sermons for worship services. Facilitate prayer meetings. Teach Christian education programs as appropriate.
- Administer sacraments of baptism and communion.

#### B. Training and Equipping Ministries

- Lead Bible studies and facilitate the training of church laity for Bible study and care and small group ministry leadership.
- Meet with various leaders and committees to provide training, direction, and support for ministries and present to the Board of Directors for direction as appropriate.
- Plan and implement programs that fulfill the mission of the church in cooperation with the laity.

### C. Crisis Care and Special Ministries

- Provide for pastoral care for church families and others. Visit hospitalized members, members in personal care and nursing homes, members who are homebound, and members with other special needs. Contact members whose attendance has declined or ceased. Contact families during times of illness or crisis. Provide for laity participation as appropriate.
- Conduct funerals as requested.
- Counsel engaged couples and conduct weddings as appropriate.
- Provide spiritual counseling as requested.
- Represent the congregation in denominational or community organizations and activities.

### D. New Membership Support

- Contact and counsel with prospective members. Facilitate the training of lay persons in visitation techniques.
- Provide for orientation of new church members through new member classes as well as confirmation classes.

### Administration:

- Administer the day-to-day operations of the church.
- Supervise and evaluate all church staff as outlined in the organizational chart.
- Meet regularly with ministerial staff to ensure unity of purpose among staff members and that they have the tools, training, and support necessary to accomplish their area of ministry. Refer areas of need to the Board of Directors.
- Administer special ministry funds to those in need.
- Serve as ex officio member of the Board of Directors and committees as established in the By-Laws. Attend Board meetings. Participate on other committees on an as-needed basis.
- Provide monthly column for church newsletter.
- Maintain regular posted office hours and notice of how to be reached when not in the office.

**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)

## About Ashford Memorial Methodist Church

**Affiliation:** Ashford Memorial Methodist Church is an autonomous church with elected representatives (Board of Directors) who perform official acts of the church. It is organized for the purpose of providing a place and atmosphere for religious worship and teaching, to engage in religious endeavors of any nature whatsoever, to provide and maintain church schools, religious recreational pursuits, religious gatherings, and any other religious and church-related activities. The autonomy of Ashford Memorial Methodist Church is that of non-affiliation with any conference or connectional church, but not autonomy of doctrine. The keynote of the governance of Ashford Memorial Methodist Church is one of openness and communication between elected officials and general membership.

**Congregation/Location:** Founded in 1893 and then established independently in 1983, Ashford Memorial Methodist Church has a membership of 275+ with a typical worship service attendance of 120+. The close-knit membership strongly embraces the traditional form of worship service. All age groups are well-represented in the membership, and church youth programs are substantive and growing. Ashford Memorial Methodist Church's historical facilities anchor one of the downtown intersections in Watkinsville, Georgia.

**Doctrine:** Recognizing and affirming its origins, Ashford Memorial Methodist Church adopted the doctrine, theology, and appropriate practices and rituals of the Methodist tradition. In so doing, this congregation claimed a common heritage with all people of Christian faith and solidified its bonds with the Church universal. An underlying tenet of our theological tradition is what John Wesley termed the "catholic spirit" expressed in these words: "In essentials, unity; in nonessentials, liberty; and in all things; charity." There is no doctrinal test or standard established as condition for membership. However, we do believe there to be a core of doctrine that instructs and informs our faith. This core is the cornerstone upon which the teaching of the church rests and by which the whole People of God are one.

We believe in one living and true God, revealed as the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, infinite in power, wisdom, and goodness; creator of all things and judge of all men. We proclaim faith in Jesus Christ, fully God and fully man, as our Lord and the gift of salvation afforded us through His life, death, and resurrection. We profess that even in our willful estrangement, God's redemptive love seeks to pardon and deliver us from our sins, and the Holy

Spirit works to enable us to accept God's grace, justification, and reconciliation. We regard Scripture as the unique deposit of God's revelation of Himself and His actions in history, and the primary source and guide for Christian instruction. We value the historic creeds and confessions of the Church as interpretations and expressions of the faith.

Our heritage of the common Christian tradition enables us to experience God's redeeming act in Jesus Christ individually, through prayer and devotion, and collectively as members of the "community of faith" participating in corporate worship and the service and mission of the Church. We embrace Baptism, by sprinkling, pouring, or immersion, and the Lord's Supper or Holy Communion as the two sacraments instituted of Christ and given by God to His people. Through these sacraments, we are confirmed to Christ, nurtured and strengthened in the faith, and called to discipleship. We declare with all people of God that forgiveness and acceptance are ours through the power of Love that brings us to life eternal.

## **What it's like to live in Oconee County and Watkinsville, Georgia**

Ashford Memorial Methodist Church 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.

Quality of Life is an expression that is often used to define the cultural, geographic, historical, educational, and economic distinctiveness of a community. The best adjective to describe Oconee County's Quality of Life is abundance. There are serene countrysides, great shopping opportunities, a thriving artistic community, high-tech and successful legacy businesses, superior public and private educational opportunities from pre-K through graduate levels, public recreational emphasis, historical landmarks, and the kind of caring people that make neighborhoods and subdivisions real homes.

What you will find in Oconee County is an inviting family-friendly and pro-business environment. For the 2nd year in a row, Oconee County was named as one of the best places to live in rural America. In 2019, niche.com ranked Oconee County in the top ten in the state of Georgia in the following categories:

- #2 in Best Counties for Families to Live in Georgia
- #2 in Best Counties to Buy a House in Georgia
- #2 in Best Counties to Live in Georgia
- #4 in Best Counties for Retirees in Georgia
- #7 in Healthiest Counties in Georgia

Oconee County also boasts one of the top educational systems in the state of Georgia. With an enrollment of almost 8,000 students, some of the system-wide accolades include:

- #4 in the nation for the Best Public Schools in America
- #1 School District in Georgia
- Both public high schools ranked in top 2% nationwide (U.S. News and World Report) with a 96.3% graduation rate
- Three top tier Private Schools- including Athens Academy recognized by Newsweek as the #2 private school in Georgia for STEM education.

The area also has superior healthcare services with two major hospital systems. Piedmont Athens Regional Medical Center and St. Mary's Health Care are readily available in Oconee and adjacent Clarke counties.

Watkinsville, the county seat of Oconee County, is the largest town in Oconee County with a population of approximately 3,000. Known for several decades as a center for cultural arts and crafts, Watkinsville was named "The Artland of Georgia" for having more artists per capita than any other city in the state. Located along Georgia's Antebellum Trail, Watkinsville is home to the 1801 Eagle Tavern and the Elder Mill Covered Bridge, one of the few functional covered bridges in Georgia.

The University of Georgia is the state's flagship institution of higher learning and is located just 10 miles from Oconee County. The University offers more than 140 majors to its 33,000 students. Close proximity to a major university offers community members numerous opportunities to attend major sporting events, musical and visual arts performances, world-renowned lectures, and other educational and cultural opportunities.

Despite the relative abundance of some portions of this area of Northeast Georgia, Oconee County along with surrounding counties remain areas of great social, financial, and spiritual need. Ashford Memorial Methodist Church's members remain committed to serving numerous local, statewide, and international missions. Locally, our volunteers serve the homeless shelter, food bank, clothing closet, and other missions in the area. For over 120 years, the members of Ashford Memorial Methodist Church have strived to serve as God's light shining to all those in need, earning our church the informal name of "The Beacon on the Hill."

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