



Shoreline

CONFERENCE ~

OF THE FREE METHODIST CHURCH

Position: Church Planter / Lead Pastor

Location: Strategic Communities throughout Shoreline Region

Denomination: Free Methodist Church USA

Conference: Shoreline Conference

Job Type: [Full-Time / Co-Vocational / Either]

Overview / Job Description

Church Planter

Shoreline Conference is looking for called and faithful entrepreneurial women and men to plant the Gospel and make disciples resulting in new multiplying churches of all models for all kinds of people across the Shoreline Region (Michigan). The profile of a Shoreline Pastor and Church Planter is someone who is:

1. Spirit-Filled – Spirit-fueled churches are led by Spirit-filled leaders. Our pastors are first and foremost dependent upon and empowered by the Holy Spirit. They are committed to lives of fervent prayer, ongoing Spiritual formation, and partnership with the Holy Spirit.
2. Uniquely Wesleyan – We are unashamedly and enthusiastically Wesleyan-Arminian in our theology and practice. Our pastors are committed to the Wesleyan vision of spreading scriptural holiness across our region and reforming society with the Gospel of Jesus. We are committed to Free Methodist distinctives such as the ordination of women, shared leadership between clergy and laypeople, and preaching the Gospel to the poor and marginalized. Our pastors embrace the Free Methodist Way.
3. Growth Minded - We operate with the conviction that leaders are lifelong learners. Our pastors are eager to learn and grow as Kingdom leaders. They are committed to reading, study, and identifying areas of personal growth. They seek out and respond to training and equipping opportunities.
4. Team Player - Collaboration is a high value for us. Our pastors are called to missional ministry in their local churches and communities and to the larger regional vision of the conference and the mission and vision of FMCUSA. Therefore, our pastors are engaged in and contribute to conference events and initiatives. They participate in regular cohorts, complete reports in a timely matter, and explore ways to partner with other pastors and churches in our collective vision to saturate our region with the transforming love of Jesus.
5. Hero Maker - As someone once said, we grow fruit on other peoples' trees. Our pastors are committed to developing and multiplying other disciples and leaders. They are not concerned with being heroes themselves, but in becoming hero makers who help others discover their unique callings and gifts and then empower them to use their gifts for the sake of the Kingdom.
6. Mission Oriented - The mission of Jesus is to rescue and redeem the world to God and he has invited us to participate in his mission. Our pastors are committed to living and leading as missionaries in their respective contexts. Additionally, they equip and empower their congregations for mission where they live, work, learn, and

play. Rather than simply maintaining church programs and growing their congregations, they are always looking for and leaning into ways of announcing and demonstrating the good news of Jesus in the communities to which they have been sent.

7. Wholistically Healthy - We believe that healthy churches require healthy leadership. Therefore, our pastors seek to cultivate emotional, physical, relational, and spiritual health. They recognize that all domains of their health are connected to one another and they establish healthy rhythms and practices that help them thrive as disciples and leaders.

Strategic Planting Cities

Shoreline Conference has identified several strategic communities where we are actively praying for and recruiting church planters.

- Detroit and Detroit Metro, MI
- Grand Rapids, MI
- Traverse City, MI
- Flint, MI
- Bay City, MI
- Holland, MI
- Grand Haven, MI
- St Joseph/Benton Harbor, MI
- Lansing, MI
- Marquette, MI

These communities represent strategic priorities, but they are not necessarily the only places we are open to planting. If God has already placed a particular Michigan community, neighborhood, or people group on your heart, we would love to hear about it. Rural areas and communities are a priority as well, but the ideal planter comes from within and not someone we bring from outside.

About Shoreline Conference

Shoreline Conference is a new network of 110+ Free Methodist Churches in rural, suburban, and urban contexts. Shoreline was formed in 2026 out of the previous Michigan Conferences which had been faithfully witnessing within the region since 1864.

God has given us a vision of collaborating together to become and build up Spirit-fueled leaders who saturate our region with the transforming love of Jesus. As we do this we will see new disciples, leaders, and churches forming, mobilizing, and multiplying. We are seeking to be faithful in contributing to the national multiplication vision of seeing 120 new churches planted by General Conference 2029.

Mission: To bring wholeness to our region by loving God, loving people, and multiplying followers of Jesus.

Values: Life-Giving Holiness, Love-Driven Justice, Christ Compelled Multiplication, Cross-Cultural Collaboration, and God-Given Revelation

Multiplication Vision: 120 New Churches by 2029 (Nationally)

Essential Ecclesiology/Ecclesial Minimum:

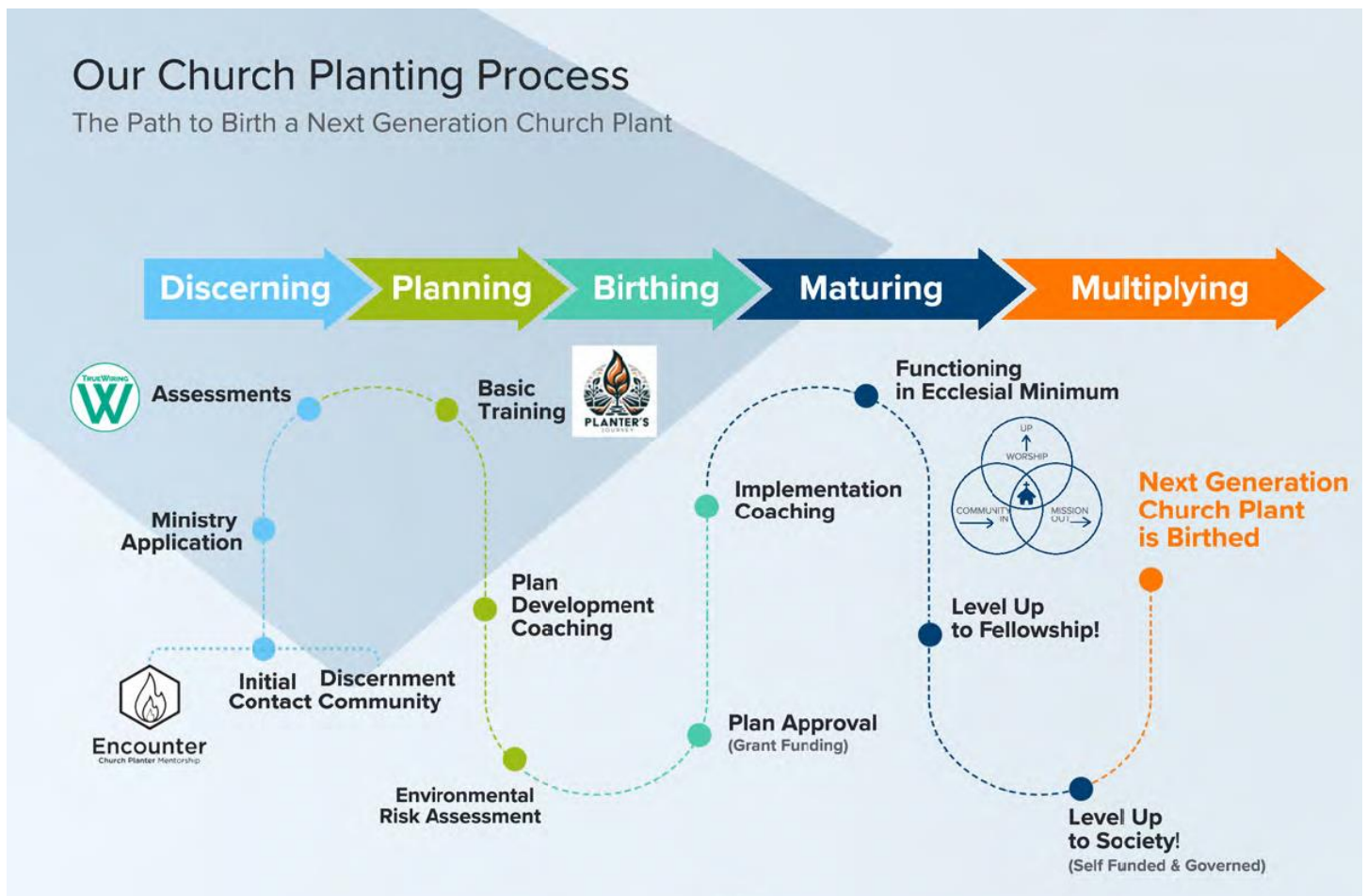
1. Jesus is worshipped as Lord
2. Scripture is taught and obeyed as truth
3. Believers gather regularly for fellowship, mutual edification, and equipping
4. Sacraments are practiced

5. Spiritual authority is present, credible, and active
6. God's mission of discipling and servanthood is pursued
7. The Holy Spirit is active and acknowledged in the gathering

Planting With Shoreline

We believe church planters shouldn't plant alone. Shoreline Conference is committed to surrounding planters with the relationships, resources, training, coaching, and support necessary to establish healthy and multiplying churches.

- **Discernment** — Encounter Weekends, Discernment Community, Application, Interview, Initial Readiness Assessment
- **Assessment** — True-Wiring Assessments (DISC, Motivators, EQ, Conflict Profile, Growth Propensity Scale, and Spiritual Gifts)
- **Training** — Planter's Journey based on *Church Plantology* by Peyton Jones
- **Coaching** — Plan Development Coaching (3-12 months) and Plan Implementation Coaching (2-3 Years)
- **Church Planter Community** — Monthly Cohort of Church Planters
- **Financial Support** — Up to \$50,000 of Matching Grant Funds with Approved Plan
- **Partnership with Existing Churches** — Fundraising Coaching and Connection to Existing Network of Churches
- **Credentialing and Denominational Support** — Assigned a Credential Coach, Regional MEGA (Ministerial Education, Guidance, and Appointments) Board
- **Administrative Support** — Mission Igniter is Shoreline's Church Planting Incubator which provides legal organizational covering, liability insurance, bookkeeping, expense reimbursement, along with other essential admin and financial services.



Who We Are Looking For

We are looking for pioneering leaders who love Jesus, love people, and have a deep desire to see new disciples and new churches emerge.

Essential Strengths

- Sensitivity and responsiveness to the Holy Spirit
- Deep and growing relationship with Jesus
- Emotional and relational health and maturity
- Commitment to reaching people who are disconnected from the Church
- Passion for evangelism and disciple making
- High initiative and entrepreneurial leadership
- Ability to build meaningful relationships within a community
- Demonstrated leadership effectiveness
- Strong recruiting and team-building abilities
- Ability to identify, develop, and release other leaders
- Adaptability and willingness to experiment
- Commitment to multiplication

Professional Qualifications

- Entrepreneurial or pioneering gifting
- Experience leading a healthy and fruitful ministry, organization, team, or initiative
- Demonstrated ability to gather and develop people
- Experience making disciples
- Experience developing leaders who develop other leaders
- Strong communication skills
- Alignment with Free Methodist theology and mission
- Willingness to participate in Shoreline's church planting process
- Willingness to pursue appropriate Free Methodist credentialing, if not already credentialed

Preferred but Not Necessarily Required

- Previous church planting experience
- Formal theological or ministerial education
- Experience leading a healthy growing ministry
- Experience in the target community
- Cross-cultural ministry experience

What We Hope You and the Lord Will Build

Our goal is bigger than starting another worship service but partnering with the Spirit to

- Reach people who are not currently connected to a church
- Make disciples who make disciples
- Develop and release new leaders
- Announce and demonstrate the Kingdom of God
- Become deeply rooted in their local communities
- Pursue spiritual, relational, and community transformation
- Build healthy addition and multiplication into their DNA from the beginning

- Reproduce new disciples, leaders, ministries, and churches

Expectations of a Shoreline Church Planter

- Develop a clear, contextual vision for the new church.
- Intentionally engage the mission field where they are called to plant.
- Build and develop a core planting team.
- Establish reproducible disciple-making practices.
- Develop emerging leaders.
- Build appropriate ministry systems and structures.
- Develop a sustainable financial model.
- Participate in ongoing coaching.
- Participate in Shoreline's Church Planter Connection.
- Maintain healthy spiritual, relational, and personal rhythms.
- Collaborate with other Shoreline pastors, churches, and leaders.
- Work toward multiplication rather than simply attendance growth.

Compensation & Support

Church planting takes different forms, and compensation will vary depending upon the planting model and context.

Shoreline is open to:

- Full-time church planting
- Co-vocational church planting
- Bi-vocational church planting

Potential Conference Funding: Up to \$50,000 Matching Grant with Approved Plan

Fundraising Expectations: Most Church Planters have fundraising as one source of income. In plan development, a viable multi-stream funding model will be created (Covocational Employment, Fundraising, Internal Giving, Conference Grant, External Grants).

Benefits: Health Insurance, Life Insurance, Disability, and Participation in Free Methodist Pension Program (if ordained Elder).

Requirements to Apply

If you sense God may be calling you to plant a church, you don't need to have everything figured out before contacting us. Our process begins with a conversation.

Conversation → Discernment → Assessment → Training → Plan Development → Approval → Launch

Interested?

Please email your resume and cover letter to Derik Heumann at derik@shorelinefmc.org. In your cover letter please incorporate your answers to the following:

1. What has led you to apply for this position and in what ways do you believe your gifts and experiences would serve well in this role?
2. What City/Region has your heart? Why?

3. What excites you about the possibility of church planting with the Shoreline Conference of the Free Methodist Church?

Contact Name: Rev. Derik Heumann

Title: Director of Multiplication

Email: derik@shorelinefmc.org

Website: www.shorelinefmc.org