



MAPLEWOOD MENNONITE CHURCH

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Dear Prospective Candidate:

Thank you for your interest in Maplewood Mennonite Church! Maplewood is a caring community that recognizes each individual's unique gifts, energies and talents. We come from a variety of backgrounds and value the 'big-tent' church ideal: we recognize and embrace that our individual beliefs are important, that we've been formed through our unique experiences, that God is at work within and among members, that a church has strength in diversity, and that God is not done with any one of us. As we pray, study, play, work, and worship together we continue to be formed by and conformed to God's will for our lives and this community. We embrace Anabaptist faith: living responsibly and peaceably together, responding generously to the needs of friends and strangers, seeking justice for all, and working and walking together in times of struggle and joy. We envision welcoming friends and neighbors to join with us in relationships and ministries that show the love of Jesus and draw people into relationship with God and others. We have a strong community of older folks and hope for younger individuals to discover us.

We are eager to welcome a pastor who reaches out to us, our neighbors and our community, and is an effective communicator who encourages us in our various responsibilities and endeavors. The ideal pastor will listen and support this community of Jesus-followers, challenge us to grow and develop our faith, welcome friend and stranger, and bring Christ-centered, Bible-based messages to strengthen our lives.

Maplewood is located in Fort Wayne, the second largest city in Indiana. We have a wonderful park and recreation program with a River Greenway system comprising 26 mile walking and cycling paths. The rivers offer kayaking and canoeing. There are several museums, a Philharmonic orchestra, and minor league baseball and hockey teams. The Allen County Public Library has one of the nation's largest genealogical departments. The population of Fort Wayne represents a wide variety of countries of origin. Fort Wayne is known as the City of Churches: 360 churches, some active since the 1820's, exist for a population of about 271,000 residents. Ivy Tech Community College, Purdue University Fort Wayne, Indiana University Fort Wayne, and Indiana Tech are all within 5-10 minutes of Maplewood. Seven other schools of higher learning exist in Fort Wayne.

We look forward to learning more about you and how you envision working with and in our congregation!

Maplewood Mennonite Search Committee