



Milton-Freewater Christian Church in Milton-Freewater, Oregon is taking applications for pastor as our current pastor is planning for retirement.

### **History and Organization**

Milton-Freewater Christian Church (MFCC) started in the 1880's in Milton (before it was Milton-Freewater). Followers of Christ from other congregations desired to unite together for the purpose of advancing their "Master's cause." The first meeting was on November 23, 1886. The first building was erected in 1887 and in 1898 the church was incorporated as the Christian Church of Milton. The church continued to grow necessitating a new building – "sturdy and large," was needed to house the growing congregation. That building, our "church building" today was built in 1917 and dedicated during church service on January 6, 1918 with a seating capacity of approximately 350; we have been meeting here for 104 years!

We have had approximately 30 pastors and our current pastor, Steve Lyons, has been serving this church and community for over 12 years. Steve has decided it is time to retire and hand the torch, that has been carried by pastors for over 100 years, to the next pastor to lead this wonderful genuine (and humble!) congregation into the future. We are an elder led congregation – spiritually mature members are recognized as shepherds of the flock – with the pastor a part of that leadership team.

We have one church service on Sundays that meets at 10:30. The service typically lasts until 11:45 often with fellowship time after. We have two Sunday school classes and a number of bible studies throughout the week. There are also additional gatherings throughout the month – like a men's breakfast.

## **Vision Statement**

Our Vision Statement: Connecting people to Christ and His community.

## **Mission Statement**

Our Mission Statement: Making disciples of Christ through relationships.

## **Belief**

We believe in the inerrant word of God, where the bible speaks, we listen, where it is silent, we have liberty and in all things charity.

## **World Missions**

**Criteria for MFCC (Milton-Freewater Christian Church) missionaries** includes 5 points: Gospel must be involved, must have a financial need, have a home base in the Pacific Northwest, agency be non-denominational, regular communication

**A dedicated committee** meets monthly, news and notes are available at board meetings.

Currently we have five missionary families, working for four agencies, part of God's ministry in Africa, Indonesia, South Asia and Europe. One family is retired, still dear to us.

**Visits** on home assignment we have church missionaries address the church with photos and sharing. We host them, plan a gathering the whole congregation can participate in, and help pay their travel expenses (a love gift).

When possible, we gather items the missionary has listed useful for their return to their field or for the ministry.

## **Local Missions**

We also have a Local Missions committee. We support Cove Christian Camp and Retreat. There is a full children's summer camp program and men's and women's retreats.

Our other ministries we support are Emmanuel Seminary, Birthright of Walla Walla (a non-denominational alternative to Planned Parenthood) and Boise Bible College in Nampa, Idaho.

Our church as a whole works with Samaritan's Purse Ministries Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes, plus a Benevolence Ministry. Currently we are in the middle of the Chosen series as a community evangelistic outreach.

## **Weekends and Pastor's schedule**

We meet on Sunday mornings at 9:15 for Sunday School classes and at 10:30 for an approximate 1 hour 45 minute worship service

Friday and Saturdays are the normal days off for the Pastor.

The pastor is also part of a group of elders who guide the churches spiritual direction.

Minister duties include head of paid staff: secretary, treasurer, pianist, organist, media technician, custodian, and lawn maintenance.

The ministries that the pastor counsels include: Christian Education, Youth, Worship, Evangelism, Benevolence and Local Missions.

## **Ministries**

Our in-church ministries include World Missions, Local Missions, Hospitality, Property, Deacons & Deaconesses & Trustees.

Our current pastor takes part in the Milton-Freewater Ministerial Association that identifies and implements needs in the community.

## **Music**

A strong area we have is the music in our church. We have a choir singing almost every Sunday for many years. In the past we have sung every Sunday as well as singing Cantatas at Christmas and sometimes at Easter. We have an organist, pianist as well as praise teams that lead worship. We welcome all that wish to play an instrument or sing with our praise teams.

## **Fellowship**

We are considered a very friendly church. We reach out to those who are new in our congregation, trying to make them feel welcome on Sunday.

We regularly have potlucks and seasonal dinners the church provides that are also open to community.

We have a heart for those who have lost loved ones and have a committee that provides the funeral dinner for those families of the lost one. We are known for that in our community. The meal train program provides meals for our sick and homebound.

## **Future**

Our future is one of hope for the return of Christ and growth of the church until that day comes. We see the need for growth in our congregation, especially a younger generation, is needed to help usher us into the future.

We are excited about a biblical based minister helping achieve our future goals. One that will call upon us to get into the Bible and follow God's word. We have a creed that we follow: no creed but Christ, no book but the Bible. We have communion every Sunday with members sharing a short meditation before partaking.

## **Community**

We are involved in our community. We have a very unique group of ministers in our community that participate with the Milton-Freewater Ministerial Association. They have two key events they coordinate. One is Christmas Baskets for the needy of the community. The other is the community Thanksgiving Service which is well attended by the different faiths in the community.

## **Our Valley**

Our city Milton-Freewater, Oregon has a population of 7,151 is at the southern end of the Walla Walla Valley with the city of Walla Walla, Washington just 10 miles to the north.

We are primarily an agriculture community raising an abundance of fruits such as apples, plums, cherries, berries, and grapes. The wine industry is growing rapidly in the area. We are one of the largest wheat producing areas in the nation.

Our city is located near the foothills of the Blue Mountains and we have many opportunities for recreation including of snowmobiling, skiing, cross country skiing, hunting, fishing, biking, hiking, boating, etc. From our town you can be in the mountains within 20 minutes or to the rivers in 30 – 45 minutes. The Columbia and Snake Rivers flow just north of us. Two hours in the opposite direction is Wallowa Lake in the beautiful Wallowa mountains.

We are about 15 minutes to the south from Walla Walla, Washington. Most of our shopping and medical facilities are there. For cultural events the Walla Walla Valley includes many restaurants, from elegant dining to comfort food, fast food and old-time burger places. We have several theaters for movies, plays and concerts for enjoyment and evening entertainment. A valley wide Symphony with a full concert schedule. The Walla Walla Valley is a growing wine and cider industry. The valley has been predominately agricultural but evolving into a destination for wine tourism.

We have 1 university, 1 college and 2 community colleges.

Pendleton, Oregon is 30 miles southwest from us with many more recreational opportunities as well as the world-famous Pendleton Round-Up.

If MFCC sounds like a church you would like to be involved with and you feel called to be our Pastor, we would love to hear from you. We welcome you to send us your Curriculum Vitae, or Resume'.

If you have any questions or concerns contact Gordon Hall by text at 509.520.5565.

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