

JOIN OUR MINISTRY TEAM

SENIOR MINISTER



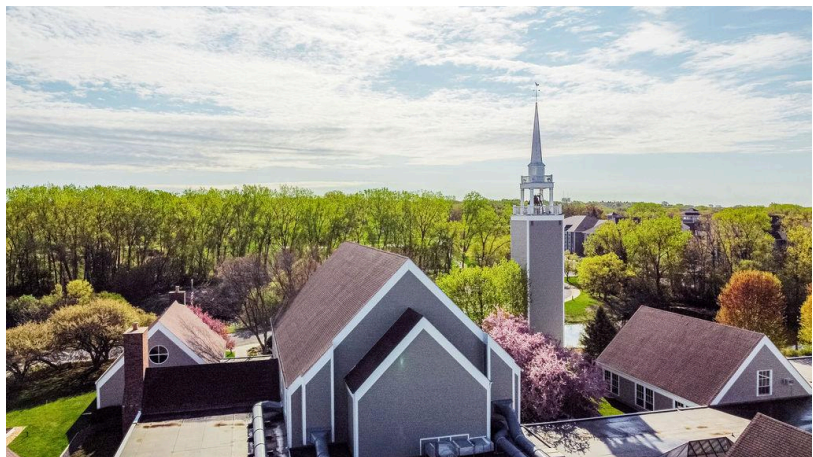
Opportunity Profile
Senior Minister
Meetinghouse Church

Overview

Meetinghouse Church (formerly Colonial Church) is an engaged, Christ-centered Congregational church located in the Minneapolis suburb of Edina, Minnesota. Since its founding in 1946, it has been a faith community called to love God and God's world. Through worship, caring for one another, and actively serving our neighbors near and far, the people who call Meetinghouse Church home seek to live out the Good News of Jesus Christ with joy and gratitude. **This covenant community is seeking its next Senior Minister.**

[Meetinghouse](#) is a vibrant community of theologically diverse people united by faith in Jesus Christ, emerging from the Reformed tradition and its Congregational heritage. With a membership of 634 and an average attendance of 231 in 2024, this congregation usually meets in two differing worship expressions. An annual budget of \$2.3 million this year supports a

staff of 29, including 2 ordained ministerial staff, 7 lay ministry staff and 20 administrative and facilities staff positions. In addition, the church is the sole beneficiary of a foundation with assets of about \$7.9 million. Believing that Christ is the sole head of the Church and that each local congregation comes together under the leadership of Christ, Meetinghouse Church is self-governed under the guidance of the Holy Spirit. The church holds limited ties with the National Association of Congregational Christian Churches (NACCC) and the United Church of Christ (UCC).



The congregation includes a nucleus of caring, loving, compassionate and generous people who make up an authentic community. These people are the body of Christ with and for each other. A warm and relational place, the church is genuinely welcoming to those who are new to the community. This church takes the spiritual imperative of hospitality seriously.

Meetinghouse Church is composed of a variety of ministries serving both this community and its neighbors. Strong, relevant preaching has long been a hallmark. The church is known for its mission orientation and solid relationships have been formed with a variety of mission partners, with whom Meetinghouse folk have been the hands and feet of Jesus. Meetinghouse is a church whose members show love in practical ways and who remain open to reaching out and serving in new ways. Worship and music have been a consistent hallmark of life at Meetinghouse Church, with an exceptional music ministry found in multiple worship expressions. Additionally, a strong commitment to children, youth and families continues to be a hallmark of the congregation. The spiritual formation of adults is nurtured through a variety of classes and experiences, offering a variety of ways to experience the divine.

The mission of Meetinghouse Church is to “Grow in Christ and Serve the World.” Developed relatively recently, its vision is to “Meet with Jesus, Meet with Each Other and Meet with our Neighbors.” In addition to its mission and vision, congregation members have adopted five Core Values that exemplify the life of faith they intend to lead. These core values are:

- **Welcome Beloved**
- **Risk the Messy Path of Faith**
- **Wrestle with the Tension of God’s Word & World**
- **Immerse in Sacred Spaces and Rhythms**
- **Do Good for Christ’s Sake**



One example of this congregation seeking to live out its core values and discern what it means to be church in the 21st century took place a few years ago. Recognizing that the word “Colonial” has a much



different cultural connotation now than it did when the church was founded, the church changed its name from Colonial Church to Meetinghouse Church. The result is a deeply committed congregation that is eager to turn the corner and live into the future God is preparing.

Visible from a major highway that bisects the south and west suburbs of Minneapolis, the church's award-winning architecture reflects its New England roots. This facility presents a significant opportunity for use by the congregation and to serve the broader community. At the same time, stewarding and funding such an expansive physical plant is an ongoing challenge.

Into this context, Meetinghouse Church is seeking to call its next Senior Minister, in order to faithfully step into the next phase of its journey as a covenant community.

The Opportunity

At this pivotal time in its history as well as in the broader culture. Meetinghouse Church is seeking a Senior Minister who sees and appreciates who we are now and will work with us to discern and develop a collective vision for who God can help us become, for ourselves, our neighbors and the world.

The ideal candidate will possess both the gifts and desire to draw this covenant community into the unity of the Spirit. They will build trust through personal integrity, sound judgment and a deeply relational approach to ministry. Their preaching will be both thought-provoking and practical, offering a Biblically based and spiritually grounded application to daily life. As the leader of the staff, this person will help to identify and draw out staff members' talents and abilities, creating a collaborative and supportive group that can best serve this congregation. The candidate will offer an incarnational style of leadership, living their life together with us.

Finally, Meetinghouse's next Senior Minister must understand and work effectively within a representative congregational governance and polity. This is an environment in which many voices and perspectives are expressed. This leader will need to discern the common voice and its connection to God's wisdom, imagination and love, articulating the motivations and processes behind their decisions.

The comments below are direct responses from a congregational survey about its hopes for our next Senior Minister.

- Someone who gets to know us personally – who is approachable, authentic and transparent
- Demonstrates the ability to acknowledge hard decisions - decisions are made for the highest good of all versus for themselves or a certain group of people
- Offers a vision for what makes our community unique and how we can be good news to the real world of 2024



- Getting opinions and guidance from ministerial staff as well as lay leaders in order to ensure the best decisions are made
- Preaching leaves us with questions to wrestle with throughout our week and has an impact that lasts for a variety of people in different ages and stages of life
- Has the ability to lean into challenges/narratives that have brought tension, offering new perspectives on what we think we already know

The challenges are significant, but opportunities abound and resources are substantial for the right person to lead and shepherd Meetinghouse Church for the foreseeable future.

Qualifications

- MDiv or equivalent from an accredited theological school or seminary
- 5 or more years of senior-level leadership in a multi-staff church setting (*Multi-year experience as a Senior Pastor or other significant experience in leading a congregation of substantial scale involving a large staff*)
- Significant and regularly scheduled preaching experience
- Demonstrated experience in building unity and navigating change
- Experience leading and managing staff
- Experience overseeing budgets and operations



Application Process

Please submit a current resume or Curriculum Vitae along with video links to sermons and **succinct** responses to the questions below. Submission should be sent to: search@meetinghouse.church

1 – Please summarize your pastoral leadership positions including scale and scope of the congregation(s).

2 – Please articulate your theological alignment with that of Meetinghouse Church as well as the current core values of the congregation as found here:

<https://meetinghouse.church/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/Meetinghouse-2023-11-19-By-Laws-.pdf>

<https://meetinghouse.church/who-we-are/#core-values>

<https://meetinghouse.church/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/MC-2023-Annual-Report-3-1.pdf>

3 – What do you see as the current challenges for the Church at large in the current cultural milieu?

4 – What would you say are the theological underpinnings of your approach to pastoral leadership?