



Retreat Methodist Church | E3426 County N, De Soto, WI 54624
Liberty Pole Methodist Church | S6759 WI-27, Viroqua, WI 54665
New Hope Methodist Church | E2290 State Hwy 82, De Soto, WI 54624

The Driftless Ministries is a group of sister churches in southwest Wisconsin working together on one mission: **developing disciples of Jesus Christ**. To this end, we are creating and building up followers of Jesus together with the strategy of:

Know God - Love People - Serve the World.



Church Profile
& Pastoral Job Description



Greetings and Blessing!

This church profile and pastoral job description are designed to give potential candidates an overview of this three-point call and an understanding of the Driftless Ministries' mission and values.

Retreat Methodist Church, Liberty Pole Methodist Church, and New Hope Methodist Church have been yoked together since the realignment in 2019. We have served Vernon County and the surrounding area for a combined 344 years. Our three churches disaffiliated from the United Methodist Church in the fall of 2023. While each church maintains its own boards, the churches share ministry opportunities and the gifts of the pastor.

Our name, the Driftless Ministries, comes from the geological area where we find ourselves. Glaciers did not cover this area of southwest Wisconsin, southeast Minnesota, and northeast Iowa and did not leave their characteristic glacial drifts. Because of this unique history, our area has steep hills, forested ridges, deeply carved river valleys, and karst geology with spring-fed waterfalls and cold-water trout streams. We have named our three-point call after the area of the world to which we primarily minister.

As you review this information, please prayerfully consider how Driftless Ministries' mission and values align with your ministry passions and calling. We trust the Holy Spirit will speak to you and guide your ministry search.

If you, or someone you know, sense the Holy Spirit's leading to learn more about whether this could be a good fit, we would like to connect and explore this possibility together.

We are confident that Jesus Christ, the Head of the Church, has been putting a call on our next pastor's heart. Please pray for us as we listen to and discern the Spirit's direction.

Thank you, and may God bless and guide you in pursuing God's will for your life.

Grace and Peace,

Pastoral Selection Team, Driftless Ministries

Retreat Methodist Church

Since our founding in 1867, the Retreat Methodist Church has been ministering to the people of the Retreat community, the surrounding countryside, and the world beyond. The first church gathering was held in the community's Old Gravel Schoolhouse, led by a circuit rider passing through the area. After several years of worshiping in the schoolhouse, the church built the familiar sanctuary used for weekly services at the heart of the Retreat community to this day.



Over the years, our worship center has had several additions and improvements, including a fellowship hall used for many church and community activities. The fellowship hall was most recently directly connected to the main church building with an enclosed space. This addition made our worship center more accessible and inviting for all people. The church also recently held a capital campaign through which members and friends showed their support through numerous generous donations. These gifts will enable our church to continue to improve and update our worship center.

While our physical worship center has seen several changes, our spiritual mission has remained steadfast: **living out the Great Commission**. Our church strives to reach out and make disciples of all we encounter.



Working together, the Retreat Methodist Church continues to be a beacon of God's love for the Retreat community and surrounding countryside and longs to continue its mission for future generations.

Liberty Pole Methodist Church



Liberty Pole Methodist Church has been a beacon of ministry and love for 150 years in the unincorporated village of Liberty Pole. Located 6 miles south of Viroqua, Liberty Pole Methodist Church has a long history going back to the first European settlers in Vernon County, Wisconsin. The church has been a central feature of this community since pioneer farmers erected the first building in 1874. Its longevity is a testament to the loyalty of the past and current 80-member

congregation, as most families have been members for generations, even after moving from the immediate area.

Once a bustling town, the now small, rural farming community of Liberty Pole is the easternmost church in the Driftless Ministries call. The curvy US Hwy 82 that connects all three churches is surrounded by the beautiful field-and-forest and hill-and-valley landscape of Southwestern Wisconsin's Driftless Area.



The mission of the Liberty Pole Methodist Church is to carry out **Christ's Great Commission**. We do this by enabling all who come to personally know God's love and forgiveness, to share in the joy of fellowship,

and to reach out to the county and world with the Good News. We strive to serve our local area and beyond with the love of Jesus Christ through various community projects, missions, and our weekly Sunday worship. Our worship features solid biblical teaching with traditional hymns and beautiful music in a family-friendly atmosphere.



New Hope Methodist Church



New Hope Methodist Church is a kindhearted expression of God's Love, helping the people in the De Soto, WI area for 37 years. Our family of faith originated from blending two smaller Methodist Churches (De Soto and Red Mound). Since our establishment in 1987, we have continued to serve the De Soto area and Vernon County with the love of Jesus

Christ through various community projects, missions, and Sunday worship. Our worship features solid biblical teaching with music from traditional to country & western style hymns. We offer many opportunities for everyone in the whole family to share in. We also support many world-changing programs locally, regionally, and globally.

We are grateful to house a food pantry and a children's ministry with an afterschool program and VBS. The hope of the people worshiping and praising God weekly is to continue our outreach to our rural neighbors by growing in our faith and sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ.

The mission of the New Hope Methodist Church is to ***make disciples of people of all ages***, helping them discover God, equip them for works of service, and empower them by the Holy Spirit. We know God has great things in store for this congregation and Driftless Ministries. We work together as a family of faith with love and joy to do this mission and to serve our community.



Disaffiliation from The United Methodist Church

An Ad Hoc committee was formed in November 2022 to examine the possibility of disaffiliation from the United Methodist Church. The three churches knew it was important to coordinate this matter as they wanted to remain connected even after the disaffiliation. Each Administrative Board and congregation had availed themselves of the informational meeting offered by the conference. Each board selected three individuals to represent their congregations, and these persons were approved by their boards.

At the initial meeting, a plan was established on what topics needed to be researched, how the efforts would be shared, and how to proceed. A timetable was set in accordance with the rules given by the Wisconsin Conference. Each congregation kept the others apprised of the entire process through sharing during services, emails, letters, and individual conversations. The committee diligently adhered to the 17-step process directed by the Wisconsin Annual Conference. The committee continued to meet until disaffiliation was voted on February 25, 2023. Final approval of the disaffiliation was granted at the Annual Conference of 2023 by the Wisconsin Conference

We hired an interim pastor to help walk us through the search and call process, as we have never done it before. The interim pastor is working diligently with the Pastoral Selection Team.

Leadership Structure

Driftless Ministries (Retreat, Liberty Pole, and New Hope Methodist Church) are guided by an Executive Committee comprising two members from each church, 6 in total. This committee oversees the pastor/parish relations, vision for Driftless Ministry, and development of shared ministry opportunities. The pastor reports to this committee for accountability and equal dividing of their time. This committee will conduct a yearly review with the pastor and then work in conjunction with the treasurers of each church to figure out compensation and benefits. (This is still proposed.)

Each church has its own Administrative Board, which governs the actions thereof. These boards have monthly meetings and conduct the business of their church. While the churches are connected through the Executive Committee and the sharing of the pastor, each church is free to decide what will work best for its congregation. The pastor has voice but no vote in these board meetings.

Our Ministries

Community Meals

A hallmark of our fellowship and outreach events are our various community dinners, breakfasts, and ice cream socials.



These events allow us to meet with people in our community who don't usually come to church, as well as provide a great time of fellowship as we prepare the meals as a group and enjoy the fruits of our labors. These meals do provide an additional source of revenue.



Wednesday Warriors

Elementary students join us each Wednesday during the school year for our afterschool program. We have worked with the school so the students can take the bus to New Hope Methodist Church for this program. Our students learn about the Bible, God's love for them, and their value in God's eyes. This is a true blessing to our community.



Vacation Bible School

Every summer, we offer a creative, fun, faith-building experience for children and adults called Vacation Bible School (VBS). Each VBS program has a unique, enjoyable, and inviting theme designed to help introduce our area children and adults to Jesus Christ and help them grow in a relationship with Him. VBS usually features fun Bible-based stories, lively and upbeat songs, creative arts and crafts, exciting games (indoor and outdoor), and delicious snacks. Each year, we all have a blast! We welcome everyone to join us each summer for VBS as we continue to grow in our faith!



Basement Quilters

The Church Basement Quilters have been meeting twice a month at the Liberty Pole Methodist Church since 2019. A handful of seamstresses of different denominations work on personal as well as charity projects while sharing fellowship and more than a few laughs.



Confirmation Class

Our three churches join for our confirmation class. The pastor leads the middle and high school students who have not yet been confirmed in thoughtful discussions, exploring the Bible, and making the faith into which they were baptized their own. This is always a highlight of our middle and high school time with our congregations.



Crafting Hands Ministry Group

Our Crafting Hands Ministry brings together individuals who enjoy using the talents and skills that God has given them to bless others in our community. We are



blessed to have two groups within our churches that generally meet monthly to plan, create, and share the beautiful creations that they are working on. At the same time, they take the opportunity to support each other in their faith and enjoy fellowship with one another. Their creations welcome, invite, inspire, and comfort those who receive them. In the past, our crafters have created beautiful quilts, prayer shawls, handmade cards, and Baskets of Love, to name a few. Our

crafters also collect items and make kits each year for the Midwest Mission Distribution Center, utilizing their crafting hands to relieve those impacted by disasters.



Food Pantry

The New Hope Food Pantry serves the community from the basement of the New Hope Methodist Church on Wednesdays from 5 - 6:30 p.m. and on Thursdays from 9 - 11 a.m. Volunteers are welcome to come and assist with setup and distribution, as well as restocking the pantry shelves. In addition to supporting our own food pantry, we are also proud to help support the Living Faith Food Pantry in Viroqua through donations and volunteers.

Hospitality Team

Our churches are places where people feel safe, comfortable, and welcome. Much of that is thanks to the first smiling faces people meet when they enter our doors! Our hospitality team are the extraordinary individuals who greet people at the door, hand out programs and other information, offer coffee and treats, answer any questions, and receive the offering on Sunday mornings.



Adopt a Highway



God has blessed us with a beautiful area to grow and live in. However, it is our job to take care of it! As part of our job as stewards of our home, the New Hope and Retreat Methodist Churches have adopted a 3.5-mile stretch of Wisconsin State Highway 82 between Retreat and Red Mound. Each year, volunteers from the church work to pick up litter and debris along this route, and they invite others, including area youth, to participate with them.

Methodist Women and Ladies' Aid

The organized women's group at the Liberty Pole church began between 1900 and 1905 as Ladies Aid when they met in homes and sewed quilts for the needy. In 1940, the name changed to The Women's Society of Christian Service and then to the United Methodist Women in 1967. They are now known as the Liberty Pole Methodist Women, but their core purpose has never changed—to support missions, know God through study, and use their time and resources to reach out to others.



The group has also planned the church service for Women's Sunday and presented the Special Membership Pin to outstanding members. Other fellowship activities include the Mother-Daughter Tea, Lenten Service meals, Easter morning rolls, Mother's and Father's Day breakfasts, and their annual Christmas Party. Fundraisers the women have chaired include the annual Chicken and Homemade Noodle Dinner, the food stand at the Vernon County Fair, Nelson's Agri-Center cookouts, and serving wedding receptions and funerals.

Finances and Church Statistics

Liberty Pole Methodist Church

Year	Members	Attendance		Expenses	Total Income
2023 ytd	73	26		\$ 64,640	\$ 59,171
2022	86	30		\$ 73,839	\$ 53,514
2021	86	35		\$ 75,387	\$ 46,448
2020	86	39		\$ 69,162	\$ 44,037
2019	91	52		\$ 80,788	\$ 60,985
2018	94	43		\$ 77,419	\$ 45,036

New Hope Methodist Church

Year	Members	Attendance		Expenses	Total Income
2023 ytd	34	17			
2022	34	19		\$ 39,981	\$ 43,559
2021	34	19		\$ 35,583	\$ 34,491
2020	32	15		\$ 29,690	\$ 25,934
2019	36	16		\$ 30,658	\$ 34,598
2018	38	14		\$ 25,570	\$ 19,766

Retreat Methodist Church

Year	Members	Attendance		Expenses	Total Income
2023 ytd	37	24		\$ 45,253	\$ 37,439
2022	37	24		\$ 38,166	\$ 34,733
2021	37	20		\$ 47,141	\$ 29,692
2020	34	18		\$ 22,251	\$ 22,376
2019	34	21		\$ 40,598	\$ 27,223
2018	35	14		\$ 22,786	\$ 25,544

The Surrounding Area

Demographics

Vernon County comprises over 31,000 people, with 26% of the population under 18 and 21% over 65. Nearly 80% of the homes are owner-occupied. 90% of the population has a high school diploma, and 24% has a bachelor's degree or higher. The median household income is roughly \$58,000, with nearly 60% of the total population in the workforce.

Attractions

The parsonage is only 25 miles from the welcoming communities of La Crosse & Viroqua, which offer abundant shopping, fine dining, and recreational activities while maintaining the rural life feel. Our friendly hometown communities boast a strong workforce and an entrepreneurial climate that provides a solid foundation for business start-ups or expansions.



Vernon County hosts a sizeable organic farming community with Wisconsin's most organic farms. A thriving Amish Community in our county adds many fine products and a reliable workforce.

The parsonage is four hours from the larger cities of Milwaukee and Minneapolis and three hours from Wisconsin's State Capitol, Madison.

Outdoor Activities make this a perfect fit for people who enjoy fresh air and sunshine while enjoying God's wondrous creation.

There are 200 miles of state bike trails within 30 miles of the parsonage. Nature preserves county and state parks offer public fishing, hunting, hiking, and camping. Genoa National Fish Hatchery and the Great River Road Interpretive Center proudly call Vernon County its home.

Mt. La Crosse is proud to be a part of La Crosse, Wisconsin history and is excited to continue offering high-quality skiing and snowboarding for racers and families for generations to come.

With 18 trails, a terrain park, and night skiing, Mt. La Crosse is serviced by three double chair lifts and one tow rope on the "bunny hill." The unique A-Frame chalet and our award-winning "Apres-ski" bar provide convenient respite after a long day on the hill.

Nestled in the heart of Vernon County, there are spectacular public courses that offer golfers a challenge with 18 holes and over 6,300 yards of scenic fairways and greens. The new nine, built in 1996, features several unforgettable holes, including number 11, also known as the signature hole. It has an elevated tee box on the lip of a 90-foot drop-off—a very challenging first shot.

The Mississippi River and its tributaries provide world-class fishing, hunting, birding, canoeing, kayaking, and endless beautiful scenery from sunrise to sunset.

Cultural Recreational Activities include a vibrant live music scene, community theater productions, and an active artisan community. Big events include the Vernon County Fair, Wild West Days, Driftless Music Fest, The World's Fair- Retreat, and the Driftless Arts Festival.

For a small-town area, Vernon County has a wealth of farm-to-table businesses to explore. Wineries, bakeries, and cheese shops are some favorites of locals and visitors. Farmers' Markets are a great way to pick out your own fresh fruits, veggies, and other farm products.

In addition to the unique, fun activities, our area has a rich history to explore through museums and historical markers.



Today, area residents receive world-class modern medical care at the local hospitals in Viroqua and La Crosse, including a new Mayo Hospital.

Come and join our fantastic community as we minister to this beautiful area of the country.

Pastoral Job Description

Introduction:

Driftless Ministries is a group of sister churches, consisting New Hope Methodist Church, Retreat Methodist Church, and Liberty Pole Methodist church, committed to serving God and loving our neighbors. We seek a dedicated, and passionate pastor to join us and lead our congregations in a renewed vision for reaching our community and sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ. The ideal candidate will possess strong leadership skills, excellent communication abilities, and a deep commitment to the ministry.

Key Responsibilities:

- Provide the congregation with spiritual leadership and pastoral care, fostering a culture of faith, love, and service.
- Develop and deliver engaging, biblically based sermons during worship services and on special occasions and events.
- Plan and lead services, collaborating with the worship committee and ensuring that services are meaningful and spiritually enriching.
- Provide pastoral care for congregation members, including visiting the sick, counseling those in need, and offering support during times of crisis.
- Facilitate and encourage spiritual growth and discipleship by developing and implementing small group ministries, Bible studies, and other educational programs.
- Work with church leadership to establish and execute a vision and strategic plan for the churches' growth and leadership development.
- Engage and build relationships within the local community, participating in outreach and mission activities and being present during community events, and local school activities in our two school districts.
- Work with church boards to oversee the administration and management of church operations, including budgeting, financial planning, and shared ministry opportunities.
- Perform other pastoral duties, including weddings, funerals, baptisms, and dedications, as required.

Qualifications:

- A deep commitment to the Gospel of Jesus Christ.
- A bachelor's degree from an accredited institution or an equivalent combination of education and experience.
- Ordination and good standing within a recognized Christian denomination or a willingness to seek ordination within six months.

- A deep understanding of and commitment to the Bible, Christian theology, and the Methodist/Wesleyan tradition.
- Exceptional communication skills, with the ability to connect with people from infants to our most senior adults and adapt to various ministry contexts.
- Strong leadership skills with a passion for empowering others and fostering a collaborative, team-oriented environment.
- Demonstrated ability to manage multiple priorities, organize events, and work effectively under pressure.
- A desire to live and minister in rural southwest Wisconsin.
- A heart for pastoral care and the ability to provide compassionate and empathetic support to congregation members in times of need.
- An ideal candidate will have at least three years of pastoral experience in a similar role, with a proven track record of effective leadership, ministry development, and community outreach.

Job Type: Full-time

Full Compensation, including benefits and parsonage: \$50,000 – \$100,000 per year.

Benefits:

Dental Insurance

Health insurance

Paid time off

Professional development assistance

Retirement plan

Vision insurance

Parsonage Information



Simple, clean lines — yet attention to detail. These are the hallmarks of this country ranch home with three bedrooms, two baths, and 1800 living square feet. Exterior details like lots of windows and the front porch columns enhance the home's curb appeal. The parsonage includes forced-air heating and cooling for maximum comfort.

Inside, the Great Room is large and full of natural light. The open floor plan design blends the space from the Great Room to the dining room and kitchen. The kitchen is efficiently designed with tons of storage. The split-bedroom layout allows the master suite to have maximum privacy and includes a walk-in closet and a master bathroom. On the other side of the home are two additional bedrooms which share a hall bathroom.



The pastor's office is also near the additional bedrooms. There is a patio right off the back of the house for outdoor grilling with privacy from the road. There is a two-car garage with access through a mud/laundry room. There is a full basement for plenty of storage and extra space for so many activities.

Pastoral Selection Team

Retreat Methodist Church

Crystal Nummerdor
Angie Isbell
Jeff Nelson

Liberty Pole Methodist Church

Brad Thew
Renee Baker
Deb Deaver

New Hope Methodist Church

Debbie Groves
Christine Harrington
Chris Baker

Contact Us:

Please send a resume, and cover letter to:

Pastoral Selection Team
E2290 State Hwy 82
De Soto, WI 54624
Email: PSTdriftless@gmail.com

Please include links to any online sermons for review by the committee. All applicants must submit to applicable background checks.