

OVERVIEW:

Refuge Church (refugewillmar.org) is excited to call an energized and relational Connections Pastor to join them in their work as they strive to make more and more disciples of Jesus Christ in the west central part of Minnesota.

THE BIG IDEA:



Refuge Church is bursting with potential! The primary demographic of the church is young families. There is a healthy staff and the church is in a very stable financial position. There is much to be excited about at Refuge Church, but the Elder Board and staff recognize that the landscape of the culture is changing and the tried-and-true methods of disciple making from previous generations will not be as effective in the 2020s. Currently, limited options for people to participate in discipleship exist but these options aren't necessarily systemized or strategic. Clear and easy on-ramps to ministry engagement are not readily identifiable, and as such, there has not been a large increase in participation. A well-defined, clearly communicated pathway of discipleship - one that facilitates growth and engagement - is needed. This is a big undertaking to lead, but the right candidate will be energized by this.

THE CHURCH:



AFFILIATION: Converge **ATTENDANCE:** 400

ABOUT: This stable congregation has roots stretching back to 1875, serving the community around them for nearly 150 years. Affiliated with the Converge movement of churches, Refuge aligns with the mission of Converge to "start and strengthen churches together around the world." The purpose of Refuge Church is simply **to be and make disciples of Jesus Christ through offering the community around a place of retreat, renewal and encouraging them to respond to the Gospel.** The church changed their name and branding in 2016 to align more with their future vision. The church desires to embody its name and to be a place where anyone can come home and find hope in Jesus Christ.

THE CANDIDATE:



The ideal candidate for Refuge Church will be a leader who is passionate about reaching people with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Modeling an authentic faith and a love for Jesus, this leader will know how to cast a compelling vision, draw people into greater participation, and move the ministry forward into a new season. Refuge desires a Connections Pastor who is experienced in equipping and empowering the church, creating evangelism impact, and bringing a strategic pathway of discipleship to the ministry. The right candidate will see the resource and potential that awaits at Refuge and will be energized by the opportunity to join a church with a solid foundation. With an ability to assess and measure, this new pastor will collaboratively work with others to identify goals and objectives that will maximize efforts and take the ministry to the next level. A leader of leaders, this individual will recognize potential in others, confidently equip and empower them and place them into their "sweet spot" of ministry.

THE LOCATION:



The city of Willmar is a growing hub in Kandiyohi County in west central Minnesota, where the lakes begin. While the sign on the edge of Willmar may declare that there are approximately 20,000 residents of the city, Willmar serves a far larger population than that. Willmar acts as a regional hub for many surrounding communities in the areas of commerce and healthcare. As such, the options in both of those areas far exceed many communities that size. Shopping, restaurants and healthcare options are plentiful in this regional hub. With 39 lakes within a 25 minute drive of the church, along with countless parks and trails, Willmar is brimming with opportunities for families and those who love to be outdoors!

THE QUALIFICATIONS:



Must be a born-again Christian, committed to maturing in one's walk with Jesus Christ, devoted to Scripture, and in alignment with Refuge Church's values and beliefs. Bachelor's degree required; relevant Master's degree a plus; A clear passion for evangelism and reaching people with the Gospel of Jesus Christ; ministry experience is a plus; experience supervising, equipping and empowering volunteers; Highly relational and approachable; Spiritually mature and emotionally intelligent and stable; Exceptional communication and organizational skills.

NEXT STEPS: [Click here to view the full opportunity profile](#) and for instructions on how to apply. Contact Information for questions or to apply: Refuge Church Search Committee - careers@refugewillmar.org