

Bethel Mennonite Church

416 Washington Street, West Liberty, Ohio 43357 | 937-465-4587

February 12, 2017

Dear Pastor Candidate:

Bethel Mennonite Church is located in the small town of West Liberty in west central Ohio. West Liberty is in a semi-rural part of Ohio and has a sustainable income base and a good school system. There are interesting historical and geologic sites in the area, including the Piatt Castles and Ohio Caverns. Most people in the area appreciate the strong sense of community pride. We are roughly equally distant from the larger cities of Lima, Dayton and Columbus.

Bethel recently celebrated our 125th year anniversary. As a church, we highly value Jesus' call of service to others, a strong sense of community and we like having fun together. Our congregation is mostly older people, who are discerning changes Christ wants us to make. Our transitional pastor consultant, Duane Beck, has been helping us redefine and re-sharpen our vision and purpose, as well as streamline and improve our organizational structure. Duane has also led us in worship and healing. It is important that we RePresent Jesus in our life together and in our community. We accomplish this purpose as we 1) deepen our relationship with Jesus, 2) be a caring community, and 3) engage God's local mission.

We are seeking a new pastor who can build on the work Duane and the church have done. Some of the specific qualities we look for in a full-time pastor are:

- Intentional, growing relationship with Jesus
- Practices self-care
- Skills in self-reflection
- Desires to grow personally and as a pastoral leader
- Someone who will love us

Thanks for taking the time to read about our church. Blessings to you in your discernment process. We would be glad to answer questions you have about Bethel Mennonite Church.

Sincerely,

Doug Steiner

Pastor Search Committee Chairperson