

FAITH BAPTIST CHURCH of South Shores

875 W. Grove Road, Decatur, IL 62521 * 217/429-2121
fbchurchdecatur@juno.com * www.faithbaptistdecaturil.org

April 30, 2008

Grace Seminary
200 Seminary Drive
Winona Lake, IN 46590

Dear Placement Director,

This letter is to inform you that our church – Faith Baptist Church in Decatur, Illinois – is presently seeking a person to fill the position of pastor, initially on a part-time basis. Faith Baptist Church is a small church which has experienced losses in membership over the years due to various demographic changes (primarily aging and members relocating to other churches within our area or in other areas of the state or country.) We do have a few younger families who have regularly been attending, which is encouraging. Our church is affiliated with the IFCA, and has maintained its membership for several years in that organization.

The church has been active in the local community, and has ministered to the youth and families of the community through our AWANA program. The church also has an active Sunday school, which ministers to both adult members and to children. Perhaps the strongest ministry of the church is its missions program, which actively supports the work of several missionaries and missions worldwide, including those laboring within the “ten-forty window.” Additional ministries include vacation Bible school and mid-week prayer services. For further details regarding the church’s history, please see the attached enclosure.

In addition to being willing to serve initially on a part-time (half-time) basis, the candidate we seek should have a growing personal relationship with our Lord, Bible school and /or seminary training, be in agreement with the doctrinal positions of the IFCA, have adequate pulpit skills and be willing to promote and support the present ministries of the church (enumerated above.) Marital status and experience in church ministry are not priorities for a candidate, although certainly previous ministry experience would be preferred. Also, he should be willing to work with the leadership of the church in formulating direction and establishing ministry goals to evangelize the unsaved and to disciple all believers toward maturity in Christ (Col. 2:7.) If married, the candidate’s wife and family must be in agreement with these priorities.

Concerning the need to supplement the part-time salary being offered: the Decatur area does provide part-time employment opportunities in both industrial and service sectors, and the church will be willing to assist the candidate in securing employment.

An interested candidate should send their resume and doctrinal statement to:

Mr. Jerry Underwood
Pastoral Search Committee
Faith Baptist Church
875 W. Grove Road
Decatur, IL 62521

We look forward to hearing from you and we thank you for your attention to this matter.
If you have any questions, or if you require further details concerning Faith Baptist
Church, please feel free to contact us at the above address.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jerry Underwood". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J" and a long, sweeping underline.

Jerry Underwood
Chairman, Board of Deacons and Pastor Search Committee

JU/sv

FAITH BAPTIST CHURCH



April, 2008

Every church has a story to tell. Like people, churches are similar to one another in many ways, but each is an individual entity, created by the Spirit of God through the vision of its founders, and the sacrificial service of those who support it.

It has been unique people, God's people, that have prayed and served to make it possible for this fellowship to reach out and evangelize, bringing many into the facilities where they can be edified and sent out to be Christ's witnesses.

Faith Baptist Church began as a branch of East Park Baptist Church on March 5, 1961, using the old Enterprise School as its first meeting place. About twenty-five people were present that first Sunday. The Marvin Hardens, with six, and the Howard Wallaces, with five, made up about half of that first congregation. Others in attendance that first day were Mr. and Mrs. Don Allen, Dick Banning, Mark Britton, Mr. and Mrs. Ray Johnson and of course, Pastor and Mrs. Reed.

On October 15th, the growing group moved into the South Shores Elementary School. On November 28, 1962, it was organized and incorporated as an independent Baptist Church.

As the fellowship grew under the love and caring ministry of Harry and Sarah Reed, a building fund was started with \$63.40 given by the First Baptist Church of Streator (Pastor Reed's former church.) The people of Faith took up the burden and the fund grew until they had the funds to purchase the land on which our present buildings stand. More funds were raised, a bank loan was promised, the people prayed, gave and worked, and on December 5, 1965, the first worship services were held in what is now our North Fellowship Hall. Then, on July 24, the founding pastor, Harry J. Reed, retired and moved to Indianapolis.

The church's second pastor, Robert D. Cameron, began his ministry on July 31, 1966, and served until February 23, 1970.

On August 1, 1970, Reverend Douglas C. Langmade began his ministry and served until 1978. Under his ministry, youth pastor John Hunter was added as the first full time addition to the church staff. As the fellowship grew, an addition was

added to the original building, and then the home that has become the parsonage was built.

Starting on June 1, 1979, Reverend Bud Craig faithfully continued the ministry leadership until October 1985. During Pastor Craig's ministry, two individuals, Steve Robinson and Tim Murphey, served as assistants at different times. A third person, Elwin Turner, was taken on as a missionary intern and served as the interim pastor after Craigs departed, until April 1986, when Reverend Mike Dodds began his ministry. He served until his resignation in January 1991, when he left to pursue a ministry opportunity in the Air Force as a Chaplain. In November 1988, during Pastor Dodd's tenure, Frank Losos was taken on and served through December 1992, as Assistant Pastor to Youth. Rev. Ron Workman served as senior pastor from July 1, 1991 to September 30, 1992.

Pastor Bill Toliver was our interim pastor until Pastor Mike Osladil started on January 11, 1994. He served until January 14, 2001, when he resigned to take a church near Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Our most recent pastor, Roger Olson, was here from August 2001 to November 2007. Since February 2008, Bill Briggs has been our interim pastor.

We have had an AWANA ministry from Cubbies (age 3 and 4) through high school since about 1976. The average attendance over the years has approached about 100, although it's smaller now, but still with many unchurched families being represented.

Although the church is an independent Baptist Church, not affiliated with any denomination, we have taken part in the ministry and activities of the IFCA (Independent Fundamental Churches of America) for many years, and joined the IFCA in 2000.

Our church family is currently composed mostly of middle aged families and older. Our area is made up of predominantly "churched" people (at some time or another in their lives) with many Protestant churches around. We have very few new converts in our church, but a needy harvest field.

From a humble beginning of twenty-five members in an old school building and three missionary families to a membership of one hundred and seventy active members at some times, and now about fifty, adequate facilities and ten missionary families and three missionary institutions supported, God has been faithful.

We hope that this will help you in gaining a perspective of who we are here at Faith Baptist Church of South Shores.