1. **Assignment**

1-2 years, depending on conference and denomination requirements, as the FMCUSA considers consolidating from 21 conferences down to 10-14.

1. **Gateway Conference Overview**

The Gateway Conference covers portions of Illinois and Missouri with 28 active churches and 39 pastors scattered across the conference. Geographically, Gateway churches range from Springfield/Decatur in northern Illinois to Cowden in eastern Illinois, and extending to Ferges in Southern Illinois. The Gateway Conference then extends westward to mid-Missouri, including churches in Columbia, and extends to Taylor, MO, on the north. The Gateway Conference also includes churches in Lamar, MO, and Kansas City, MO, that preferred to join the Gateway Conference, though they are outside the official conference boundary. The conference is diverse in settings, from small rural towns to larger rural towns and urban locations. Cultural diversity includes Latino, Central African, Chinese, and Nepalese congregations.

Gateway Church Size Distribution

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Attendance | Number Churches |
| >/=200 | 4 |
| >/=100 | 2 |
| >/=50 | 9 |
| >/=25 | 10 |
| <25 | 3 |

1. **Superintendent Role and Responsibilities**
   * Represent Gateway Conference at the denominational level and collaborate across conferences
   * Care for Conference Churches through transition and change
   * Cultivate collaborative vision and strategy
   * Oversee leadership development to create a culture of disciple-making
   * Conference Administration and resourcing
2. **Superintendent Qualifications and Experience**
   * Experienced in leading churches through change and transition
   * Understand and value Midwestern culture
   * Demonstrated commitment to pastoral and lay leadership development at the local level
   * Experienced as a local church pastor and conference leader
   * Demonstrated ability to create a culture of disciple-making
   * Experience in working cross-culturally
   * Undergraduate degree (preferably AFMEI Institution) and appropriate graduate theological education
3. **Process and Dates**

* December 6– Application Deadline
* Mid–January – Identify Interview Candidates
* Mid-February – Final Candidate(s) Selection
* April – Conference Vote

**Announcement:**

Gateway Conference Superintendent Position Opening

**Position Overview:**

We are announcing an open opportunity for the position of Conference Superintendent overseeing the Gateway Conference of the Free Methodist Church. We are actively seeking an Ordained Elder who is experienced in leading churches through seasons of change and transition. As a spiritual leader, you will guide the congregations within the 28 churches of the Gateway Conference. Candidates with a focus on leadership development and who value Midwestern culture are invited to apply.

**How to Apply:**

Interested candidates should submit a resume with no fewer than four references and completed questionnaire responses to [allyson.kuczmynda@fmcusa.org](mailto:allyson.kuczmynda@fmcusa.org) by December 6, 2024. We look forward to welcoming a dedicated individual to this impactful role.

**Superintendent Questionnaire**

1. Briefly describe your spiritual journey and how it has led you to apply for this position.
2. Being a conference superintendent involves a variety of tasks. As you think about this role, how would you describe and prioritize these tasks? Explain your rationale for this order.
3. How would your giftedness and ministry experience equip you for the tasks articulated above?
4. What are one or two areas of the Superintendent Roles and Responsibilities laid out above that you would like to see strengthened/grow in Gateway Conference? If you were to lead as superintendent, what initial steps would you take to strengthen these areas?
5. Briefly explain your understanding of the importance of Christian Higher Education in the church, culture and the vocational formation of pastors.
6. What steps would you take to encourage lay-leadership and disciple-making in Gateway Conference.