

Job Description: Organist and Assistant Director of Music

Part time: Half-time (20 hours per week)

Introduction:

First Presbyterian High Point, NC, maintains a vibrant music ministry of choral and instrumental groups for all ages. Worship services are enhanced by the selection of diverse styles of music ranging from traditional hymns, songs, spirituals and world music, to contemporary anthems and classical choral/orchestral masterworks. We strive to ensure that our musical offerings are spiritually moving and that they enhance the worship and religious life of our church and community. There are two services each Sunday, a traditional service and an earlier contemporary service.

Sanctuary instruments include: a 3-manual 57-rank Schantz organ (1974, console updated 2008), with chimes, and an antiphonal organ. A 7-foot Schimmel grand piano (2003). 2½ octave tubular chimes, 5 octaves of Malmark handbells, 5 octaves of Malmark handchimes, 3 octaves of Whitechapel handbells, a variety of Orff and percussion instruments. There is also an electronic carillon which plays inside and outside, playable by keyboard or programmable.

Principal Duties and Responsibilities:

Play organ/piano for Sunday services and special services, and aid the Director of Music in musical events in the life of the church. Accompany adult choir rehearsals, and assist in accompanying youth choir as needed. In coordination with the Director of Music, contingent on the organist's skill set, assist in directing at least one of the following: children's choirs, children's chimes, and/or handbell choirs.

Qualifications:

Minimum of Bachelor's degree in music. Organ or piano major preferred.

Prior experience in church organist/accompanying/directing positions.

Strong communications skills and willingness to work in a collegial manner with the Director of Music, clergy, and other staff.

Familiarity with Reformed Tradition preferred.

Word processing skills required.

Familiarity with music software, such as Finale.

Job Specific Responsibilities:

1. Enhance the spirit of worship through music during the services on Sunday mornings, including preludes, offertories, postludes, service music, and accompaniment of hymns and anthems.

2. Play for additional services, which may occur at times other than Sunday morning. In particular: Christmas Eve, Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and others approved by the Session and/or Worship Committee.
3. Rehearse with the adult choir on Wednesday evenings (late August through May) and Sunday mornings, and other rehearsals associated with worship and special event preparation.
4. Work with the Director of Music and clergy in selecting appropriate music for worship services. In consultation with the Director of Music, take an active role in planning and executing creative worshipful experiences with other soloists and ensembles in the church.
5. Secure a suitable substitute if taking time off for vacation or health reasons.
6. In coordination with the Director of Music, report to the Worship Committee of needed maintenance and repair of the organ and carillon.
7. By request from families, serve as wedding organist/pianist, as available, using the Wedding Planning Booklet as the guide for these occasions. Remuneration for weddings is in addition to salary.
8. Working with the minister, play for funerals and memorial services held in the sanctuary, as available, using the Funeral Planning Booklet as the guide for these occasions. Remuneration for funerals is in addition to salary.
9. Program electronic carillon seasonally, as appropriate.
10. Submit and proofread service music titles and information for bulletin and copy for church newsletter as requested by the minister or Director of Music.

Position start date: Negotiable; Preferably October 1st.

Position reports to: the Director of Music, and is accountable to the Head of Staff (senior minister).

Annual PTO leave: 3 weeks

Continuing Education: 1 week/year, with paid expenses not to exceed annual budget allocation.

Annual compensation commensurate with experience: \$25K – \$29K

Deadline for application: August 15, 2022

To apply: Please submit a cover letter, résumé, three references, and a video or link to a video recording. You may request to visit the church -- to practice on the organ and view the environs. Finalists will be invited for a live audition.

Email submissions and questions to FPCHP.Organist.Search@gmail.com