



Western Presbyterian Church and Church of the Pilgrims Shared Ministry

Director of Music Ministry Job Posting

Who We Are

We are two small, urban Presbyterian congregations in the Dupont Circle and Foggy Bottom neighborhoods of the District of Columbia. We are in shared ministry together, to worship God and proclaim God's love, justice and hope in our city. We are becoming a new thing. We value spiritual development in a variety of ways. We love to sing together, to make music together, and occasionally to make a mess together.

What We Are Searching For

The successful candidate will be passionate about worship and music and will have key characteristics described below.

Creativity. Can improvise, transpose, adapt music for worship; draws on a wide range of musical genres for inspiration; weaves music and song through different liturgical aspects of worship, including prayer and meditation.

Leadership. Enjoys "up-front" leadership for the sake of engaging with others musically; shows spiritual and professional maturity while keeping a sense of humor and joy.

Teaching. Invites and calls forth the gifts of those with a diverse range of musical abilities; can teach aurally, using call and response; creates a collaborative and flexible culture where all are invited to try something new for the sake of encountering God and each other.

Community-building. Knows the power of music to form spiritual community; creates opportunities for others to lead and coaches them in their leadership, whether through singing in the choir, playing an instrument, or simply experiencing God in a new way; grows relationships in the congregation and larger community, including nurturing children's participation in music.

Commitment to justice and inclusivity. Appreciates the power of music to shape hearts for justice or to revive souls weary from a struggle; understands and responds to issues of cultural appropriation and tensions in worship; draws on a variety of musical traditions, including global song.

Qualifications

1. An ability to enable the worship of the people through music, helping the congregation center in God, supporting the movement of the liturgy, and connecting the music to the lessons for the day and season of the church year.
2. Excellence in organ and/or piano performance, choral direction, and leading congregational singing, particularly hymns.
3. Knowledge of/experience in music in the sacred/Protestant/Reformed tradition including a diverse range of traditional, multicultural, and modern music for Christian worship.
4. An ability to draw out the gifts of the members, including soloists and instrumentalists.
5. Ability to work as part of a team with the pastor, staff, and volunteers.

Responsibilities

Worship Planning

- Work collaboratively with the pastor, staff, and members of the congregation to plan and lead Sunday morning worship (the two congregations worship together in one service each week).
- Select service music for Sunday worship and arrange when necessary, in consultation with the pastor and worship planning team as applicable.
- Provide to the staff for printing in the bulletin, a listing for the music chosen for Sunday.
- Print music to distribute or share electronically with the choir and any instrumentalists.
- Purchase new music as needed, with attention to copyrights and licensing; maintain the musical library.

Worship Leadership

- Lead the choir, rehearsing Sunday mornings before the 11:00 a.m. worship service.
- Nurture the participation of volunteers from the congregation in the music ministry, including singers in the choir, instrumentalists in occasional services, children and youth. Invite guest soloists, instrumentalists, and section leaders, as needed.
- Provide organ and choral music for special services, including Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Christmas Eve.
- Provide music at weddings and funerals, as available.

Administration

- Administer the music ministry within the approved budget, in consultation with any worship committee, as appropriate.
- Hire or appoint soprano, alto, tenor, or bass section leaders as needed; substitute music directors/organists; soloists and instrumentalists for special music and holidays. Seek participation of student musicians.
- Provide for regular maintenance and upkeep of the church pianos and organ, serving as liaison for organ maintenance contracts.
- Be responsible for use of the organ; guest organists and recitalists shall not be permitted to use the church organ without prior approval of the Director of Music.

What We Offer

The Director of Music is currently a part-time salaried position (12-16 hours per week), reporting to the pastor. The salary range is \$24,000 - \$28,000. We provide space in kind for rehearsals, lessons, and other activities. The position provides for four weeks of vacation (4 Sundays). We offer access to online and paper resources. The position provides a modest budget for Continuing Education and/or Professional Development for organ or conducting.

Apply Now

Your application should include a cover letter, resume, and contact information for three references. Please include links to video or audio samples of your work as choral director or organist. Submit your application in digital form to: communications@westernpresbyterian.org. Applications are being accepted now, with the expectation to fill the position by Sept 2026.

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www.westernpresbyterian.org

Church of the Pilgrims 2201 P St NW, Washington, DC 20037

www.churchofthepilgrims.org

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