

JOB DESCRIPTION

POSITION: Organist

REPORTS: Director of Traditional Music Ministries

STATUS: Part-Time – Average of 20 hours per week

INCUMBENT: Currently Open

The Organist will be an important member of the worship ministry at Hyde Park United Methodist. As a member of the team, he/she will support the worship life of the congregation by providing keyboard music to praise God and supporting choirs and congregation. To the right candidate could also be added duties to conduct and administer children and/or youth choirs (including extra remuneration).

The successful candidate will share in fulfilling the church's mission of "Making God's Love Real" in the lives of our worshipping congregations by transforming lives, creating Christian community, and healing the city and the world.

RESPONSIBILITIES:

The Organist and Accompanist equips persons of the congregation to provide music primarily for Traditional Worship services, and other worship experiences, as follows:

1. Play organ and/or piano for Chancel Choir rehearsals on Wednesday evenings
2. Play organ and/or piano for Sunday morning worship services and choral warm-ups, including occasional soloist rehearsals. Currently the choir rehearses at 10:15 for an 11 a.m. worship service.
3. Accompany the 1st grade through 5th grade choir. Currently on Wednesday evenings before Chancel Choir rehearsal through the school year.
4. Play organ and/or piano for special liturgical celebrations, such as Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Christmas Eve, and others.
5. Play organ and/or piano for special non-liturgical musical performances (one to two per year, possibly with orchestra or instrumental ensemble). These may include extra dress rehearsals.
6. Play organ and/or piano for occasional choir special practices or retreats, two or three a year.
7. Play for funerals and weddings, which may include working with soloists or instrumentalists. When unavailable to play, assist the Director of Traditional Music in finding a substitute organist. Extra remuneration for weddings and funerals.
8. Ensure compliance with the licensing and copyright laws regarding the use of music during services and follow the guidelines set by licensing and copyright agencies.
9. Constantly strive to maintain and elevate quality/consistency in music presentations while allowing creativity and versatility in musical style and format within traditional worship.

10. For the right candidate, in coordination with the Director of Traditional Music, provide leadership for the Youth and Children's Choirs. This will require proven ability to recruit, lead, and administer Children's Choirs. It will include extra remuneration.

REQUIREMENTS:

- ***Education/Skills***

1. Musical skills, aptitude, training and experience with current choral and instrumental styles of music in the classical tradition.
2. Skills, aptitude, training and experience in music leadership, especially concentrating on organ.
3. A standard of excellence in keyboard performance.
4. Ability to use multiple digital platforms including Microsoft Office, and assorted digital communication software.
5. *For a candidate seeking to lead the Youth and Children's Choirs, skills, aptitude, and experience in leading children and youth in music.*

- ***Preferred experience/education***

1. An undergraduate degree in church music or music education.
2. At least five years' experience in playing organ for a mainline Protestant denomination.

- ***Personal Characteristics***

The successful candidate will be a professed Christian of good moral standing. Hyde Park United Methodist defines these qualities in this way:

1. A Christ-centered, Biblically-rooted, warm-hearted faith in Christ which expresses itself in loving, joyful, healthy relationships with others and personal freedom in sharing his/her personal experience of Christ.
3. An excitement and commitment to the mission and vision of Hyde Park United Methodist Church, and to enriching the worship life of the congregation.
5. A team-player who works well with other members of the church staff and who has proven effectiveness in working with volunteers.
6. Commitment to the spiritual heritage, doctrine, and Social Principles of the United Methodist Church.
7. Evidence of Christian character displayed by a life of prayer, spiritual discipline, tithing, and participation in the life of the church.
8. A sense of humor and ability not to take him/herself too seriously.
9. High energy level for the demands of a growing ministry.

About the Ensembles associated with this position

We are currently in time of transition coming out of the Covid pandemic. While we are uncertain about the near future, our hope is to have all of these ensembles again in the near future:

- Angel Choir for children in Pre-K 4 through Kindergarten (Directed by Children's Choir Director) – not currently meeting
- Celebration Choir for children in first through fifth grades (directed by Children's Choir Director) – currently meeting occasionally
- Celebration Chime Choir for children in 4th grade through high school (directed by the Director of Music) – not currently meeting
- Youth Choir for children in 6th through 12th grade (currently directed by the Director of Music) – not currently meeting
- Current Ensembles
 - Chancel Choir (Directed by Director of Traditional Music)
 - Chancel Bells (Directed by Director of Traditional Music)

About the Church's Instruments

- The Sanctuary organ is a 1968 Reutter, expanded and upgraded in 2003. The three manual organ consists of 40 ranks.
- The Sanctuary and rehearsal room pianos are well-maintained Steinways.
- The Chapel organ is a two-manual, 4 -rank Heissler
- The church also has five- and three-octave sets of Schulmerich handbells, and four octaves of Schulmerich hand chimes.
- The Sanctuary and Choir Room Pianos are Steinways. The Chapel piano is a Kawai.