

Main Street United Methodist Church

202 North Main Street, Suffolk, VA 23434

Organist-Accompanist

Job Description – December 2022

Job Summary

The Organist-Accompanist is a professional musician working with the Director of Music to provide a unified, meaningful, and positive worship experience for the congregation on a part-time basis of approximately 12 to 15 hours per week. This position's primary responsibility is to provide organ and piano music for Sunday morning worship services and Wednesday choral rehearsals at Main Street United Methodist Church, Suffolk, VA. The Organist-Accompanist is a sincere follower of Jesus Christ and has a heart for the United Methodist worship experience. Expectations of the Organist-Accompanist include excellent musicianship, flexibility, cooperation, and support of Main Street United Methodist Church's music ministry.

ORGAN: The Main Street Pipe Organ is one of the largest and most versatile in the area and is often featured in the Organ Swell Concert Series of the Virginia Arts Festival. **Description:** Möller four-manual installed 1972-73; Antiphonal is a two-manual 1961 Möller in the rear balcony entirely playable from the main console. The entire organ was renovated and expanded by Dan Angerstein and Lee Hendricks in 1998, which included revoicing and adding Walker digitals; 83 ranks, including digitals.

PIANOS: Baldwin baby grand piano in the sanctuary. Mason & Hamlin baby grand in the Fellowship Hall. Yamaha Clavinova digital piano in the Choir Room.

Accountability

The Organist-Accompanist is responsible to the Staff-Parish Relations Committee (SPRC) with accountability to the Pastor and supervised by the Director of Music Ministries.

Employment Qualifications

Required:

- Appreciation for the musical traditions of the United Methodist Church.
- At least three years of professional experience with various music genres, including hymns, gospel, traditional, and contemporary.
- Demonstrated proficiency in playing service music on the pipe organ.
- Demonstrated proficiency in playing piano solos and accompaniment.
- Demonstrated ability to accompany choral music under the direction of the Director of Music.
- Excellent sight reading skills.
- Strong interpersonal and communication skills, including flexibility and cooperation.
- Team player of the highest caliber, always remembering that working together is a top priority.
- Satisfactorily pass a complete background check.

Highly Desirable:

- Ability to lead the choir in the occasional absence of the Director of Music.
- Ability to transpose.
- Proficiency with other musical instruments.
- Familiarity with sound system operation, computers, iPads, and projectors.

Essential Job Functions

Music and Worship

1. Selects a balanced variety of musical styles, in keeping with the Methodist tradition, in cooperation and coordination with the Director of Music Ministries, including preludes, postludes, offertories, and other special music according to the needs of the worship service.
2. Plays for weekly 8:30 & 11:00 worship services, weekly choral rehearsal at 7:00 PM on Wednesdays, and another religious holiday/celebration services throughout the year.
3. Presents well-prepared executions of all music.
4. Serves as accompanist for soloists and ensembles when needed.
5. Assists the Director of Discipleship Ministries with youth or children's music as needed.
6. Plays organ/piano for weddings and funerals whenever possible. Compensation for such events will come from the families involved. Helps locate a competent substitute when not available.
7. Encourages all music participants in a nurturing and helpful manner to increase personal musical growth, team unity, and effectiveness.

Other

1. Attends occasional meetings as needed.
2. Participates in an annual job performance evaluation.

Expectations

1. Flexibility in all things, including a high level of Musical Flexibility.
2. A commitment to excellence.
3. Willingness to fill in for the Director of Music if needed, i. e. for sickness or lack of a sub.
4. Strong organizational, communication, and interpersonal skills.
5. If the Organist-Accompanist is a performer, definitely maintain and share that ability; and if there are others in the music ministry of Main Street Church who demonstrate similar abilities, definitely encourage those gifts. However, remember that quality corporate worship is always our goal and never the promotion of any one person's skills.
6. Treat each person as if they are family. Nurture their abilities and always speak and act in love.
7. Despite rumors to the contrary, pastors, musicians, and other staff members do get along and work together very well. This is a tradition at Main Street Church, well worth continuing to the Glory of God and the edification of God's people.

TO APPLY

Submit a cover letter, resume, video samples (if possible), and a list of references to Rev. Richard Meiser at richmeiser@vaumc.org. Please call Rev. Meiser (757-539-8751) to let him know your email and attachments are on the way. Compensation commensurate with education, training, and experience.