

# Main Street United Methodist Church

202 North Main Street, Suffolk VA 23434

## Organist-Accompanist

### Job Description – January 2022

#### Job Summary

The Organist-Accompanist is a part-time position of approximately 12 to 15 hours per week. The Organist-Accompanist is primarily responsible for providing organ and piano music for Sunday worship services (currently 8:30am and 11:00am) and other special services at Main Street United Methodist Church, Suffolk VA. This music includes preludes, postludes, congregational hymns and other appropriate service music as well as accompanying choirs, soloists, and other musical groups as needed and desired. The Organist-Accompanist serves the church as a professional musician and works with the Director of Music and Worship Ministries to provide a unified, meaningful and positive worship experience for the congregation, both in-person and virtually. The Organist-Accompanist is a sincere follower of Jesus Christ and has a heart for the entire worship experience. Membership in the United Methodist Church is preferred but not required. It is expected that the Organist-Accompanist will be supportive of and function in accordance with the policies and procedures of Main Street United Methodist Church.

**ORGAN:** The Main Street Pipe Organ is one of the largest and most versatile in the area and has been featured often in the Organ Swell Concert Series of the Virginia Arts Festival. Description: Möller 4 manual installed 1972-73; Antiphonal is a 2 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, revoiced and Walker digitals added; 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:

- Degree in music or relevant musical training and professional experience of three or more years in a church setting.

- Demonstrated proficiency in playing the pipe organ and knowledge of proper registrations and skill in providing excellent accompaniment for congregational hymns and other service music.
- Demonstrated proficiency in playing the piano both for solo piano selections and as an accompanist.
- Musical experience in a variety of Christian music genres to include classical, gospel, traditional, contemporary.
- Proven and demonstrable abilities in accompanying volunteer musical groups of various ages and abilities under the direction of a conductor.
- High degree of competence in sight reading, part playing for choir anthems, counting, etc.
- Willingness and ability to properly prepare for rehearsals and worship.
- Experience in planning and playing for worship and related programs.
- Strong interpersonal and communication skills.
- Team player of the highest caliber, always remembering that working together is 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, such as handbells, guitar, etc.
- Experience in the integration of music and media in worship as well as through social media.
- Familiarity with sound system operation and media projection.

## Essential Job Functions

### Music and Worship

1. Selects music for worship services in cooperation and coordination with the Director of Music Ministries and the Pastor.
2. Chooses a balanced variety of musical styles and genres in keeping with the musical and spiritual focus of the worship service.
3. Supports the church's worship environment through the well-prepared execution of music presented by the choir, by other musicians and with organ and piano solos.
4. Plans, selects, and prepares preludes, postludes, offertories, and other special music according to the needs of the worship service.
5. Serves as accompanist for the choir at each worship service, during regularly scheduled rehearsals, and during occasional special rehearsals and performances outside of regular Sunday morning worship.
6. Facilitates congregational singing and worship through the skillful playing of hymns, songs and other service music.
7. Serves as accompanist for soloists and ensembles when needed.
8. Assists the Director of Discipleship Ministries with youth or children's music as needed.
9. Be mindful of maintenance and tuning of the organ and pianos and alert the Director of Music when it is time to schedule such maintenance. The same is true if an unexpected problem occurs with one of the instruments.

10. Plays organ and/or 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.
11. If the Director of Music is not available or able to serve as a substitute Organist/Accompanist on a Sunday or at other times, helps locate and secure a competent substitute.
12. Encourages all music participants in a nurturing and helpful manner to increase personal musical growth as well as team unity and effectiveness.
13. Possibly directs/co-directs the handbell choir/ensemble.

### Other

1. Attends occasional staff meetings and or meetings with the Pastor, Director of Music and other staff or worship planning teams.
2. Participates in an annual evaluation by the Pastor and Staff-Parish Relations Committee to review job description and evaluate performance for that year.
3. Gets to know the congregation and develops a rapport with them that will facilitate worship and spiritual growth through music.

### Expectations

1. A commitment to excellence in worship.
2. The ability to take direction and to work as a team player.
3. Strong organizational, communication and interpersonal skills.
4. A heart for the spiritual formation of those in the congregation and in music ministry.
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, always remember that quality corporate worship is always our goal and never 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, a tradition 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](mailto:richmeiser@vaumc.org). Please call Rev. Meiser (757-539-8751) to let him know that your email and attachments are on the way. Compensation commensurate with education, training and experience.