



Vergennes Congregational Church, United Church of Christ
30 South Water St, Vergennes, VT 05491
vucc@vergennessucc.org, 802-877-2435

Wanted: Church Musician

Job Description

The Vergennes Congregational Church, United Church of Christ is an Open and Affirming congregation of 135 members that is seeking a Church Musician. We are a vibrant, Christian community—full of life, music, and laughter. We have a long history of deeply appreciating the gifts of our staff in supporting an inclusive, loving, and compassionate ministry in the heart of our little city.

We seek a skilled musician that is comfortable with the classics and new pieces that grow our appreciation of the diverse ways to worship God through music. The successful applicant will be a team player, eager to collaborate with other musicians inside and outside of our community to enrich our music ministry. The church has a beloved [9-rank 1879 Hook and Hastings tracker organ](#) and an upright Kawai piano in the sanctuary, and a Yamaha digital keyboard in the choir room. A devoted choir performs weekly in the sanctuary. In addition to having excellent keyboard skills, proficiency in other instruments will be greatly appreciated.

This year-round position is salaried and part-time. The expectation of attendance is for choir practice (8:15 am), Sunday worship services (9:30 am), and other special services, including (but not limited to) Christmas Eve and Easter. The work is done cooperatively, especially with the Choir Director(s) and Pastor. As a central part of the musical leadership team of the church, the Church Musician is expected to advocate for the music ministry.

Job Requirements

1. Keyboard ability sufficient to play hymns, songs, and anthem accompaniments. Ability to sight-read and improvise is desired.

2. Willingness to learn to play the organ.
3. Knowledge of basic music theory and ability to perform simple transpositions or harmonizations.
4. Willingness to rehearse sufficiently to maintain a high quality of music.
5. Sensitivity and the ability to interact with a variety of people.
6. Ability to take direction and work as a team member.
7. Ability to communicate well and in a friendly manner with the church leadership, church choir, and members of the congregation.
8. Desire to maintain a constant program of self-improvement.

Responsibilities:

1. Support the church's worship environment through the well-prepared execution of music.
2. Serve as accompanist for the Vergennes Congregational Choir in regular and special rehearsals and performances as required. Rehearsals typically begin at 8:15 am. Worship begins at 9:30 am and usually lasts 60-75 minutes.
3. Facilitate congregational singing and worship through the excellent execution of hymns and other songs.
4. Plan, select, and prepare preludes, postludes and offertories according to the needs of the worship services.
5. Play for weddings and funerals, as requested (and upon availability), and be permitted to receive additional compensation from the parties involved.
6. Maintain an accurate account of organ needs and maintenance and notify the tuning company when needed.
7. Find a substitute for Sundays when not available.

Compensation:

1. Salary \$8,000-\$10,000 per year dependent upon qualifications, experience, and availability.
2. Four weeks of paid vacation per year
3. Reimbursement of up to \$500 per year for professional expenses
4. This position offers opportunities to play for additional events such as marriages, funerals, and memorial services.

Accountability:

The Church Musician is accountable to the Pastor. The Church Musician will need to notify the Pastor a minimum of three weeks prior to planned absences (preferably as soon as known) and is responsible for finding a substitute when not available.

Background Check:

The applicant will be required to participate in a background check (paid for by the church). The final offer will be contingent on the results of that check.