CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

TUSCALOOSA

Music Director Job Description

Christ Episcopal Church is a historic Episcopal parish in downtown Tuscaloosa, Alabama, that has a longstanding tradition of outstanding music programs for all ages. Christ Church is extraordinarily blessed to have a pipe organ built by the Canadian firm, Orgues Létourneau of Montreal. It was installed in January of 2018, with a dedication service of evensong on April 15, 2018. The organ is a 38-rank instrument with three manuals and a pedal. Our adult choir consists of paid and volunteer members and supports the congregation in singing at 11 am Sunday services. Our children's choir has been vibrant in the past but participation has dwindled, especially in the post-pandemic years. Currently children sing occasionally at the 9 am Sunday "family" services.

The Music Director at Christ Episcopal Church is responsible for providing the overall planning and supervision of the music program for the church. Christ Church welcomes and supports the God-given unique gifts and ideas that each of our staff members bring. For more information, please visit our Music Director search page on our website.

Duties and Responsibilities

Administrative

- Attend staff meetings (currently Tuesday mornings)
- Submit monthly payroll for all paid musicians
- Purchase and maintain music, instruments, audio equipment, choir vestments, and other supplies needed for the music program within the adopted budget

Music Program Management

- Be present for the worship services on Sunday mornings and all choral rehearsals (currently Wednesday evenings) and events
- Conduct and oversee all choirs in the parish music program
- Provide music leadership at the 9 am and 11 am services
- Coordinate all activities of each choir including any trips, trainings, hosting visiting choirs, fundraisers, special events, etc
- Audition and select members of the adult choir, including paid soloists/section leaders
- Coordinate and select the music for parish worship services in collaboration with the Clergy and Organist
- When necessary, work with the Rector to hire any other music staff

- Hire and supervise guest musicians
- Participate in continuing education opportunities related to music

Parish and Community Engagement

- Engage the church community through music, fostering a welcoming and inclusive environment
- Build strong choir community through rehearsals and fellowship activities
- Provide musical performance and educational opportunities, such as workshops or special rehearsals, to enhance the musical life of the church while respecting the Anglican tradition. “Outside the box” thinking about our music program as a whole is highly desired.
- Engage and support all ages in the musical life of the parish
- Recruit and foster musical talent for additional worship opportunities
- Pursue opportunities for community concert series or additional forms of worship musical offerings
- Foster relationships with the Alabama Choir School, a nonprofit community choir housed at Christ Church, and the University of Alabama Moody School of Music

Qualifications

- Experience in choral conducting, including selecting and arranging music for choirs of various skill levels
- Strong knowledge of liturgical music and familiarity with Episcopal worship traditions
- Excellent organizational, communication, and interpersonal skills
- Ability to work collaboratively with clergy, staff, and volunteers
- Keyboard skills preferred
- A bachelor’s degree (or commensurate experience) in Music is required and master’s degree, or above, is preferred
- Passion for music’s role in worship and community building. Music is a very important part of parish life and is strongly supported by the staff and membership.

Compensation and Benefits

- Compensation is commensurate with experience and qualifications
- Part time with salary range $40,000-$60,000
- Benefits include health insurance (negotiable, as needed), pension, vacation time, and professional development opportunities

Application

Interested candidates should send a letter of interest, a current resume, links to examples of recent performance and rehearsal excerpts (via YouTube, Vimeo, etc.) and references no later than August 31, 2025 to:

The Rev. Paul Pradat, Rector
ppradat@christchurch1828.org

Timeline

Screening interviews (if necessary) may occur via phone/Zoom in September, with in-person interviews and the opportunity to work with the choir scheduled for October. The appointment will be announced in November, and the successful candidate will begin serving January 2026.

Please direct all questions to ppradat@christchurch1828.org