

PART-TIME CHURCH MUSICIAN
First United Methodist Church of Ferndale

Introductory Statement: First United Methodist Church of Ferndale, a progressive, diverse, relatively small Christian community is looking for a versatile musician who can help deepen and enliven the worship service with a variety of accompaniment and musical styles.

General Description: The Organist/Accompanist will use their abilities to accompany the congregational singing, provide service music, and ideally also direct the volunteer Chancel Choir during the choir season. (Chancel Choir is currently not singing due to COVID.)

Specific Responsibilities:

1. Accompany congregational singing on the appropriate instrument, based mostly on the nature of the song. Three to six hymns/brief responses in a typical service. (3-manual Reuter pipe organ, Yamaha grand piano and Kawai keyboard readily available, as well as various rhythm instruments; a 3-manual Ahlborn-Galanti electronic organ is temporarily housed in our sanctuary and available as well)
2. Provide Prelude and Postlude which are played as part of the worship service; currently there is no Offertory due to COVID but we expect to restore that in the future.
3. Play for a limited number of special services throughout the Church Year. E.g., Ash Wednesday, Good Friday, Christmas Eve. Open to negotiation.
4. If and when Chancel Choir resumes, lead a weekly rehearsal during the choir season (September–early June), day to be determined. (We also have 3+ octaves of Malmark handbells if there is interest.)
5. With major assistance from a music librarian/committee, maintain the church's music library/music room, adding and culling as needed. Musician's office space is in the music room.
6. Play for an occasional ecumenical service, generally less than once a year.

Requirement(s) of Hire: Mandatory Criminal Records Check

Skill Set/Requirements:

1. Good proficiency on both pipe organ and piano. Additional proficiency on keyboard and any other instruments a plus.
2. Ability to communicate amicably and clearly with staff, choir members and congregants. Able to communicate one's philosophy of worship and worship music to those who will be working to prepare worship.
3. Ability to handle occasional late changes to the service. (This is rare but important.)
4. Manage a modest budget for new music and/or musical guests.

Remuneration:

1. Currently a salaried position to be offered based on applicant's abilities and interest; inquiries welcome
2. Four weeks of vacation annually; exceptions to be negotiated.

Rewards:

1. Working in a friendly atmosphere with people who are deeply committed to their church family as well as their love of a variety of musical styles.
2. The love and appreciation of a small, diverse congregation—multi-racial, LGBTQIA+ embracing, with some good musicians of our own—will be stimulating and welcoming.
3. A willingness to try new things in the congregation.

If interested, please contact our Office Administrator, Stacy Bellman, (248-545-4467)
ferndalefirstumc@ameritech.net or our pastor, Rev. Robert Schoenhals, (248837-5608)
rschoenhals@sbcglobal.net