

Southside Presbyterian Church

317 W. 23rd Street, Tucson, Arizona 85713
The Reverend Alison J. Harrington

520-623-6857
www.southsidepresbyterian.org

Job Description: Director of Music Ministry

Position Type: Director of Music Ministry

Purpose: The Director of Music Ministry is responsible for the development and promotion of the music program in collaboration with the Southside Presbyterian Church Worship Committee. It is a part-time position and under the supervision of the Pastor.

Essentials Functions:

(Essential functions, as defined under the Americans with Disabilities Act, may include the following tasks, knowledges, skills and other characteristics. This list of tasks is ILLUSTRATIVE ONLY, and is not a comprehensive listing of all functions and tasks performed by positions in this class).

Responsibilities and Duties:

Primary Tasks-

- Work with the Pastor and worship committee to plan Sunday morning worship.
- Plan and prepare appropriate music for Sunday morning worship including prelude, two (2) special choir music pieces, an offertory, and a postlude.
- Direct and accompany weekly choir rehearsal.
- Direct and accompany the choir on Sunday mornings.
- Prepare appropriate music for weddings, funerals, and special services.
- Accompany congregational singing of hymns.
- Direct outreach events in the community via performances at other organizations as appropriate.
- Direct the children's choir
- Communicate regularly with the Pastor and Staff

Qualifications/Skills

- Rooted in the Black Gospel tradition
- Administrative and leadership skills.
- Effective interpersonal skills. Dependable, responsible, self-motivated and creative.
- Skill as a musical leader/director, skill as a musician (pianist & vocal) and ability to serve as a praise team leader.
- Assess music ability and talent on an individual and group basis.
- Experience as an accompanist

Salary:

Range of \$20,000-30,000 DOE with health benefits

Evaluation:

Performance Reviews will be conducted annually by the pastor as head of staff and the personnel committee. The Personnel Committee will annually review the adequacy of compensation.

Accountability:

- To Southside Presbyterian Church's Pastor Alison Harrington and the church's personnel committee

Notwithstanding any other provision of this Contract, the signer agrees that he/she is an "at-will" employee. This means that employment with the Southside Presbyterian Church may be terminated by either the church or the employee at any time for any reason or no reason, with or without prior notice.

To Apply: Email cover letter and resume to pastoralisonharrington@gmail.com

Background: Gospel Music At Southside Presbyterian Church

Southside Presbyterian Church was founded in 1906 as a congregation for members of the Tohono O'odham nation. This history and heritage are important to us as we continue to honor the faith, culture and language of Southside's ancestors and the current Tohono O'odham members. Though it was begun as a congregation for them, the first members were generous in their welcome of others and almost from the beginning Southside was a diverse congregation. Though much has changed throughout the years, some things have remained the same: our commitment to being an inter-racial congregation, a passion for the gospel of Jesus Christ, and our desire to work for the establishment of the beloved community.

There are a variety of reasons people step through the doors of Southside Presbyterian Church but it is almost universally expressed that the reason people keep coming back is the long and rich tradition of Black Gospel which stirs the heart and grabs a hold of the soul. The importance of Black Gospel to Southside is not simply that we find it aesthetically pleasing but rather it is the very soil in which our faith takes root and grows like a tree planted by the waters.

There are some of us for whom Black Gospel is our native tongue—it is our solace and strength. When we lift up our voices we find them united with our ancestors as we draw on their hope, courage and resiliency. To us, its words, melodies, and rhythms sound like home—but at Southside we rejoice in finding a broader welcome than some of us have found in the churches of our childhood.

There are also some of us for whom Black Gospel is not our native tongue but we too have found comfort and courage within its music. Some of us have heard the struggles and the faith of our own ancestors in the music of our African American siblings and some of us are being introduced to this language of suffering and survival, hope and faith for the first time. But whether or not we have personal resonance in the rich history of Black Gospel, we all are able to catch the Spirit of God moving us towards a future free from all pain and suffering. And when our voices join together in song, we feel the power of the people of God who are united around a common dream of the beloved community. Through Black gospel music we hold space for our pain, through this music we create an imaginative space where we can catch a glimpse of the world we long to see, through this music we draw the courage and strength to go out and build this beloved community. May this music, which is the very music of heaven, live in our hearts forever.