

MUSIC DIRECTOR

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF ALBANY, NEW YORK

First Presbyterian Church is an inclusive, socially active church located in an historic church building in downtown Albany with a well-maintained Casavant Frères organ. We have 275 members, a 25-member adult choir, as well as youth and children's choirs. Church membership includes several talented instrumental musicians.

We seek an energetic and creative Music Director to lead and expand an already active music program, continuing a tradition of using church music as a key experience in our community's faith journey.

Reporting to the co-Pastors, the Music Director will provide direction, development and administration of the church's music program. The successful candidate will have a degree or equivalent experience in sacred music including choral directing. While we strongly prefer a candidate who will direct all three choirs (requiring 16 hours weekly), we would also consider outstanding applications to direct the adult choir only and supervise other choral programs (for a total of 10 hours weekly).

Responsibilities:

- Supervise the work of the music staff and four soloists (SATB).
- Plan and conduct weekly rehearsals for all choral choirs (or direct the adult choir and supervise the work of other choir directors, if applicable).
- Plan choral and, on occasion, instrumental music, for Sunday worship, other special services and other musical events.
- Seek ways to develop and increase participation in the choral choirs and incorporate volunteer musicians from the congregation into the music program.
- Participate in Worship Committee meetings.
- Select and purchase music for all choirs and maintain choral library.

We are looking for someone who:

- Appreciates that the goal of our music program is to support a life of the faith, helping us to encounter God, not just to give performance.
- Conducts well and is emotionally invested in the music; knows how to sing and how to teach singing (breathing, proper vowels, etc.)
- Specializes in traditional choral and instrumental music, but is able to blend in the best of other genres.
- Enjoys working as a team with co-pastors and lay leaders.
- Seeks out and welcomes all persons and abilities to participate in choirs.
- Involves our youth more in the music of worship and gives advice about incorporating music into Sunday school program.

Terms of Employment: 12-month, salaried, part-time position. Average hours will be 16 hours per week (although should the successful candidate only direct the adult choir and supervise other choral programs, the average weekly commitment will comprise 10 hours). The Presbyterian Association of Musicians salary scale will be applied in determining compensation. Start date is preferably September 1, 2010, but is negotiable.

Qualified candidates should send an electronic résumé and at least two professional references to Phillip Riddle, Chair of the Music Director Search Committee (mpriddle@earthlink.net). If available, a digital demo may also be emailed to Mr. Riddle or a demo CD, may be mailed to First Presbyterian Church, 362 State St. Albany, NY 12210. The closing date for submitting an application is July 31, 2010. Any questions concerning this appointment should be addressed to Mr. Riddle.

More information about First Presbyterian Church of Albany can be found at www.firstpresalbany.org.