

## **Description**

New England Congregational Church in Aurora, Illinois is searching for a Choir Director for its traditional adult Chancel Choir. Since 1858 New England Church has served greater Aurora as a “caring church for thinking people”. We have a compassionate and engaged congregation with a strong commitment to music. We are an open and affirming, inclusive church.

[www.newenglandchurch.org](http://www.newenglandchurch.org)

Music as a part of Sunday worship is an honored tradition. The congregation has expectations for quality music, from the prelude to the postlude. In turn, each week the congregation gives praise and gratitude for those providing the music. Variety in musical offerings is appreciated and repertoire presented over the years might be considered the “Kaleidoscope of the Christian Faith Songbook”. Most choir members make being in the choir a priority in their lives and earnestly put forth their best during rehearsals and worship services.

## **Responsibilities**

- To rehearse the Chancel Choir and direct their participation in the traditional Sunday worship service (Sept-May) and other services as needed. To coordinate special music for the Sunday’s when the Chancel Choir is not scheduled to sing.
- To establish a caring and nurturing rapport with the choir members that creates a supportive community within the choir.
- To create an environment of musical excellence which fosters the musical growth of the choir members and can additionally attract new choir members.
- To establish effective communication with the choir regarding rehearsal schedules and musical selections for worship.
- To choose, in collaboration with the minister, the weekly music to be performed by the choir.
- To meet regularly with the Music Committee, accompanists, organists, and handbell director to coordinate the music ministry.
- To maintain the choral library and oversee procurement of new music
- To provide anthem information in a timely fashion to staff in order to meet printing deadlines and ensure appropriate permissions are obtained to comply with copyright compliance for YouTube broadcasts.

## **Qualifications**

The ideal candidate has training in choral conducting and experience leading volunteer adult singers in a sacred setting. A commitment to both musical excellence and nurturing community within the choir is paramount. Formal music education (or experiential learning) and keyboard skills are preferred. Familiarity with traditional Christian music literature and the liturgical calendar is important. The ability to communicate effectively in conjunction with strong organizational and managerial skills is desirable.

## **Terms of Employment**

The Choir Director is expected to be present for all Wed. evening rehearsals and Sunday morning services for which the choir is scheduled to sing (Sept – May). A total of two scheduled rehearsals and two choir Sundays per year may be considered excused absences if approved in advance by the Senior Minister. In addition to coordinating special music for summers, special services, and Sundays when the choir is not scheduled to sing, regular worship attendance is encouraged, but not required.

This part time position represents 8-10 hours per week with an annual salary of \$15,000 - \$19,000 based on qualifications and experience.

The Choir Director reports directly to the Senior Minister, but is encouraged to address concerns with the Personnel and Pastoral Relations Committee, as needed.

## **To Apply**

Please send resume and cover letter to the Shelley Lund at [shelley@newenglandchurch.org](mailto:shelley@newenglandchurch.org).