

Music Ministries of Wellington Avenue United Church of Christ

Job Description: Pianist

Wellington Avenue United Church of Christ
615 W. Wellington
Chicago, IL 60657

Please contact: Chris Inserra, music director, at 773-307-8867
or when music director is not available
Kathy Engert, office administrator, at 773-935-0642

Goal of the Ministry of Music

Continue development of a vibrant, diverse, integrated and theologically relevant music Ministry at WAUCC: working primarily with the Worship Committee and Music Director, liturgists, pastor, musicians, choir and Faith Education to help ensure that music is a dynamic component in building the WAUCC community and inspiring us to live our faith in action.

Terms of Employment Work Schedule

Pianist- 52 weeks (including 4 paid vacation) and including 3 evening services:

Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday and Christmas Eve.

Wages - \$100 per above-listed services played.

Duties and Responsibilities

1. Accompany hymns; choose and play appropriate prelude and offertory and postlude reflective of the message and tone of the service.
2. Musical selections are the responsibility of the Liturgists and Preacher for each service with input as needed from the Music Director (Chris Inserra) and Pianist. It is important for the Pastor, Liturgist, Music Director and Pianist to be in dialogue, working together to provide a unified and meaningful service. Liturgists, Preacher and music director will all be copied and included in all weekly communication to both give feedback on suggested hymns and add ideas as appropriate.
3. Choir direction will be primarily the Music Director with Pianist filling in upon their absence. The goal is to have the choir sing weekly, September through June. Material both includes traditional pieces with sheet music and piano accompaniment and other pieces (Gospel, Spirituals, etc) in which the parts are taught by ear and sight-singing. (During the months of July and August, the Music Director is typically not in the service, and the Pianist will be expected to lead music and coordinate with the pastor and liturgist as needed.)
4. At least once per liturgical season Music Director and Pianist will choose and facilitate the direction of a choir selection with multiple parts. The inclusion of children in some of these selections is preferred.
5. Special music and soloist will be shared by Music Director and Pianist. At various times during the year, special vocalists or instrumentalists will be invited to participate. Ideas will be generated by and/or referred to the MD and Pianist will consult with the Worship Committee, Pastor and Liturgist for final confirmation. If these special invitations require compensation, a budget can be received from the Worship Committee Chair.
6. It is expected that the Pianist will be present for every Sunday service and evening service during the time agreed; if an absence is necessary it is expected that the Pianist will notify the Music Director at least 2 weeks in advance (we do understand that sometimes unavoidable emergency situations do occur.) If services are missed, the Pianist will not receive payment.
7. Finding substitutes for Pianist while they are on vacation or cannot be present will be the Pianist's responsibility. Four Sunday services during the year are budgeted as vacation time with sub pay covered. If there are additional services where Pianist is unavailable, they will need to find a substitute and use their own salary to pay for that person if necessary.

Note: Sometimes someone from within the Wellington community can fill in for a Sunday. A list of such Pianists will be supplied, particularly in case of an emergency. Congregation's members will not expect payment in these circumstances.

Right of first refusal:

When a wedding/funeral or other such event is to take place at Wellington, the musicians who work at the church should have the right to play for (often with compensation, based on the ability of the family) for the service, or decide to "refuse" the opportunity. No other musicians can be brought in until the musicians working at the church have already turned it down.