

St. Christopher's Episcopal Church Seeks Half-Time Associate Rector
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St. Christopher's Episcopal Church seeks a part-time Associate Rector to assist in solidifying our recent growth and developing sustainable ministries for our new size.

St. Christopher's is a youthful, growing parish in Oak Park, Illinois (just west of Chicago). We have a thriving children and youth ministry and are passionate about outreach. On Sunday mornings, we worship in three distinct liturgies: Rite I, Wiggle Worship (family/children service), and a Choral Rite II. We are a church that emphasizes active participation and creating space for members to put their gifts to work in ministry.

Over the last three years, our average Sunday attendance has increased from 108 to 170, and we are working to scale our programming up to our new numbers. St. Christopher's is in the process of embracing a pivotal time of transformation as we grow into a larger parish, with a bold, compassionate, and courageous relationship with our local community. We are seeking an Associate Rector who will collaborate with and support our Rector and our community on this journey. The successful candidate will play a key role as we grow our congregation and live into our vision to seek and follow Jesus.

Six to eight times a month we host the local emergency homeless shelter in our church. We have longstanding relationships with two local food pantries and a soup kitchen on Chicago's West Side. With Grace, the other Episcopal church in town, we support a partner parish in South Sudan: St. Luke's in Renk. We are deepening our relationship with a local immigrants' rights group. And we are always looking for more ways to live into the gospel in our local context.

Our liturgy is lively and firmly rooted in the Book of Common Prayer. The Rite I service is intimate and quiet; Wiggle Worship dances right up to the edge of holy chaos but usually is able to back away from the chaos while keeping the holy; and our Rite II service is rich, beautiful, and fun. Our choir is bursting out of the relatively small choir stalls. We begin our acolytes young, but have thus far avoided them setting the church on fire. We are used to good preaching that is faithful, challenging, erudite, and accessible (so no pressure).

We are a community that laughs, questions, prays, sings, serves, and eats together. We are looking for an Associate who will join us in these holy activities and help us to figure out how we can do them together better.

Job Description

Within the context of a growing congregation, the Associate Rector will help identify and address needs and opportunities in our parish and community. We expect this work to include:

- Contribute to creative and strategic planning for sustainability and continued growth through a transition in size.
- Assist the rector in all rector duties, including (planning and leading) worship, pastoral care, formation, and community relationships and outreach.
- Work collaboratively with staff and lay leaders to participate in developing appropriate systems for adult formation, lay pastoral care, parish communication, and new member integration.
- In every project/task, prioritize developing and empowering sustainable lay leadership.
- Assist lay leaders in recruiting for ministries and teams; and assist parishioners in discerning how to put their gifts to use for the gospel.
- Primary responsibility for adult formation, in consultation with the rector.
 - develop a model of formation that is accessible and edifying for a parish with many young, busy people.
 - establish a sustainable and engaging bible study.
- Plan and preside at special pastoral services (funerals, etc.) as needed, sharing responsibility with the rector.
- Pastoral conversations as needed, share in making visits to hospitalized and home-bound parishioners.
- Join a somewhat crowded preaching rota.