

First Congregational United Church of Christ is a faith community that enjoys creative and relevant worship blending styles from many Christian traditions. Our worship is as likely to incorporate maracas as hand bells, hand drums as a zimbelstern. We are seeking a talented musician to fill the part-time position of **Organist/Minister of Music**.

Our organ is a three-manual, 33-rank Holtkamp pipe organ, which includes some pipes from the original Hutchings organ installed in 1900.

The **Organist** is responsible for helping lead worship by accompanying and supporting congregational song from the organ and keyboard as well as providing worshipful instrumental music before, during, and after worship. The Organist will assist worship leaders in selecting hymns and songs, as well as coordinate instrument maintenance and copyright licensure.

The Organist will report directly to the Senior Pastor and work cooperatively with the Chancel Choir and Bell Choir directors to plan regular and holy day worship services. This includes two current Sunday morning services, as well as: Christmas Eve, Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, the Easter Vigil, and other worship services as may be required. The organist also will have first option for accompanying weddings and funerals.

The Organist also currently serves as **Minister of Music (MOM)**. The Minister of Music is responsible for leading the overall music ministry of the church in such a way that it incorporates the musical gifts of diverse members, young and old, amateur and professional. The Minister of Music will work cooperatively with the pastoral staff to plan and craft creative worship that enables people to encounter God. To this end, the Minister of Music will exercise discernment in selecting music that paints a balanced view of God and an inclusive view of humanity, and is informed by the theological commitments of the United Church of Christ.

The Minister of Music will coordinate with and give direction to the directors of the other musical ensembles. He/she will nurture relationships with vocal soloists and instrumentalists, as well as outside ensembles as needed (ex: brass at Easter) and schedule these musicians for anthems throughout the summer and the program year.

The Organist/Minister of Music reports directly to the Senior Pastor as Head of Staff. The Minister of Music also serves as the staff resource to the Board of Music and the

Arts. The position requires avg. 10-12 hours of work each week, including practice time. It is understood that the weekly hourly commitment is greater during the program year than during the summer.

Minimum Qualifications:

- Demonstrated proficiency at the pipe organ and piano
- Adequate knowledge of the breadth of Christian worship and liturgy
- [As MOM] Ability to think theologically about worship
- Openness to many styles of music
- Excellent interpersonal skills
- Good organizational skills

Specific Responsibilities:

Musical

- Select and play appropriate hymns, songs, and service music from diverse Christian traditions to support the liturgical/seasonal worship themes or specific service themes as indicated by the pastoral staff
- Accompany the Chancel Choir in rehearsal and in worship
- Accompany vocal/instrumental soloists
- Continue to develop own knowledge and skill in playing and leading worship

Organizational

- Prepare, plan, and submit for publication in bulletin: service music, anthems, and hymns as needed for worship services
- Schedule and coordinate instrumentalists and soloists to provide additional music and/or anthems for 8:30 worship, summer worship services (when choir is off), and solos or duets included in weddings, funerals and other special services.
- Provide direction to the Chancel Choir and Bell Choir directors as they select appropriate anthems for worship
- Meet with the pastors and other musical staff as needed to plan worship
- (As MOM) Serve as Staff Resource to the Board of Music and the Arts
- Oversee regular instrument maintenance and copyright licensure, as well as other supplies/resources that may be needed by the music ministries of First Church.

Communication

- Courteous, respectful, positive, and professional demeanor when interacting with both staff and lay members of congregation.
- Initiate and respond to timely communications with the pastoral staff related to the musical elements of all worship services.

- Maintain positive and timely communications with Chancel Choir and Bell Choir directors, and others planning and leading worship

Technology

- Ability to utilize internet to maintain music licensing reporting requirements as well as purchase music online (i.e. GIA, MusicNotes.com, etc.)
- Ability to utilize email and Internet for communications and worship-related research

Please send a resume and cover letter telling us about your interest in this position to:

First Congregational UCC

Attn: Martha Twining

330 2nd St.

Elyria, OH 44035

Or e-mail Martha Twining at: mktwining@oh.rr.com

Application deadline: January 8, 2012.

First Congregational UCC welcomes applications from all individuals.