



Office for
Transition
Ministry

Ministry Portfolio

Full Portfolio (last updated Mar 20, 2025)

Christ Church Cathedral, Kentucky

421 S. 2nd St., Louisville, KY 40202, United States

Contact:

Assistant / Associate / Curate | Receiving Names until 05/20/25.

info@ccclou.org

Weekly Average Sunday Attendance (ASA)	Number of Weekend Worship Services	Number of Weekday Worship Services	Number of Other per Month Worship Services
88	1	7	
Current Annual Compensation	Cash Stipend	Housing / Rectory Detail	Utilities
SECA reimbursement	Compensation Available for New Position	Housing Available for	Pension Plan
	\$50000		We're in compliance with CPF requirements.
Healthcare Options	Dental	Housing Equity Allowance in budget	Annual Equity Amount
Full family	Yes		
Vacation Weeks	Vacation Weeks Details	Continuing Education Weeks	Continuing Education Weeks Details
4		2 (standard)	
Continuing Education Funding in budget	Sabbatical Provision	Travel/Auto Account	Other Professional Account
\$501-\$1000/year	Yes	Yes	Yes

50k includes housing allowance, or 38k stipend + 2Bd 1 Ba apt on Cathedral campus

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Describe a moment in your worshipping community's recent ministry which you recognize as one of success and fulfillment.

The Diocese of Kentucky hosted the General Convention of the Episcopal Church in June of 2024, which provided us with the opportunity to host events in support of the work of Convention and other affiliated groups from across the Episcopal Church. Over the course of eight days we hosted worship for the Union of Black Episcopalians, the Learning Party in preparation for the churchwide Revival, a singer songwriter performance by a local artist, a silent disco in collaboration with diocesan staff, a three day youth advocacy and training event in partnership with Bishops United Against Gun Violence, a photo gallery opening featuring portraits of immigrants and refugees in collaboration with the Episcopal Parish Network and Living Church, and the election of the Presiding Bishop in collaboration with churchwide staff. While the success of each individual event was joyful, there was a particular blessing in knowing that each one was connected to the ongoing life and ministry of the Cathedral which led up to and has continued after General Convention. We also came away with a new understanding of creative ways we can live out the Gospel in our community, with God's help.

How are you preparing yourselves for the Church of the future?

Christ Church Cathedral is preparing ourselves for the Church of the future by linking expansions in our ministries of outreach and evangelism. Over the past two years, Cathedral volunteers noticed an increase in the number of guests we were seeing both at our community breakfast, most of whom are unhoused or under resourced, and at UP for Women and Children, a day shelter housed at the Cathedral. During the same period, our communication committee noted an increase in the number of residential addresses in downtown Louisville. We began to discern how we might best engage both new and existing downtown residents in the life of the Cathedral, particularly through ministries of service. We are working to link our response to the increase in human need in our neighborhood, with a particular focus on unhoused neighbors, and our engagement with new downtown residents by inviting our neighbors into the ministries of service we are adding and expanding. Unlike traditional new member ministries which focus first on participation in worship, we are proposing a model in which newcomers' first engagement with the life of the Cathedral would be through one of our outreach programs.

Please provide words describing the gifts and skills essential to the future leaders of your worshipping community.

outreach, evangelism, Adaptivity, Dependability

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Describe your liturgical style and practice for all types of worship services provided by your community.

Christ Church Cathedral finds its center in our Sunday celebration of Holy Eucharist. We also celebrate Holy Eucharist midweek on Tuesdays and major feast days. Wednesday evenings we hold a spoken service of Compline in the Chapel. Preaching rotates among clergy and features occasional guest preachers. We host Diocesan liturgies, such as ordinations, and join with partner congregations for shared Holy Week worship. Many parts of the principal Sunday liturgy are sung, including the Psalm, with leadership from the Cathedral Choir. The Choir also provides leadership for Evensong, Lessons and Carols, and a choral mass setting on Ascension Day. Worship services employ a variety of liturgical resources in addition to The Book of Common Prayer 1979, including Expansive Language Rite II Eucharistic Prayers, Enriching Our Worship, seasonal Prayers of the People written or adapted by members of the congregation, and hymns drawn from several hymnals. Lay members serve during worship in a variety of roles. And lay people collaborate with clergy and other staff in planning liturgy and offering Christian formation opportunities about liturgy through the Worship Committee.

How do you practice incorporating others in ministry?

Christ Church Cathedral has a wide variety of opportunities for lay people to engage in ministry through service, music, worship, fellowship, study, and advocacy. We provide ways for both newcomers and long-term members to take part in new ministry throughout the year. At the beginning of autumn, we hold a ministry fair so folks can learn more about each of our offerings and sign up to join in. At our annual meeting in January, each ministry publishes an annual report with information about how others can take part. We have recently begun featuring representatives of key ministries in the sermon on the Sunday of the Annual Meeting as well. Since folks may want to get involved in new ministry or change ministry involvement throughout the year, we also publish an annually updated ministry guide, Volunteering to Serve. The guide provides details about each of our ministries, including a contact person, and includes both paper and digital forms for folks to sign up or request more information. Finally, we are currently expanding our efforts to recruit people from beyond our parish community into the services ministries of our congregation.

As a worshipping community, how do you care for your spiritual, emotional and physical well-being?

As a worshipping community, we recognize that if we are to incarnate Christ's loving care for our neighbor, we will also need to attend to our own spiritual, emotional, and physical well-being. Burning ourselves out will thwart even our best efforts to love our neighbor. We plan ministry a year at a time. This way we can be intentional to calendar liturgies, outreach programs, and special events in such a way that more labor-intensive events are, whenever possible, spaced out. This allows time for us to rejoice in what God has accomplished through us before jumping shifting our focus to what comes next. We schedule seasonal quiet days to come together and rest in the stillness of God. We often bring guests in from outside the parish to lead so those who typically plan such events can show up and receive the gifts offered during the retreat time. Our pastoral care team meets quarterly to review the needs of members of our congregation and, when appropriate, partner them with a caring visitor who will check in on them. Finally, we remind clergy and staff to take their time off and have created a parish culture which respects the boundaries required to make time off restorative.

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How do you engage in pastoral care for those beyond your worshipping community?

One of the primary ways in which we engage in pastoral care for those beyond our worshipping community is by ministering to the people who come to us throughout the week. We are in downtown Louisville, a part of town in which many of our neighbors are unhoused. Folks come to the church in search of necessities, financial assistance, a listening ear, or a person to pray with them. We offer them what we can provide and help them make connections with others in our community when their needs are beyond our capacity to meet. We also host a monthly community breakfast, serving around 100 meals. We lease and donate space to and work with Uniting Partners (UP) for Women and Children, Louisville's only day shelter for women, children, and people of marginalized gender identities. Once a week volunteers from our congregation serve coffee, offer snacks, & engage in conversation with UP's guests. Christ Church is also a member congregation of Central Louisville Community Ministries (CLCM), whose vision is to defeat the cycle of need in central Louisville. Volunteers from the Cathedral take part in CLCM's mission of meeting our neighbors' immediate needs and acting as their trusted advocates.

Describe your worshipping community's involvement in either the wider Church or geographical region.

As the Cathedral of the Diocese of Kentucky, Christ Church has an inherent in the life of the wider Church. We serve as a place of connection and convening for the diverse worshipping communities of which our Diocese is comprised. As a part of this role, we seek to structure our worship in a way which is inclusive of the liturgies represented throughout the Diocese, as well as bringing in resources and customs representative of the wider Episcopal Church. This includes incorporating trial use liturgies as a way of modeling the range of possibilities for worship. We host diocesan liturgies, including ordinations and observation of major feasts which do not routinely occur on Sundays. We also bring in speakers, preachers, and teachers from the wider Episcopal Church. Christ Church is a part of the Episcopal Urban Partnership, a network made up of the four downtown and West Louisville Episcopal Churches, along with several supporting suburban congregations. Our participation in the Urban Partnership helps us bridge racial, geographic, and socioeconomic divisions so that we can be part of a more authentic witness to the reconciling work of Christ in the Church and the world.

Tell about a ministry that your worshipping community has initiated in the past five years. Who can be contacted about this?

Louisville is in a housing crisis, with a shortfall of more than 32,000 units of affordable housing and insufficient emergency shelter space. Our worshipping community is partnering with Uniting Partners (UP) for Women and Children to help fill this gap in our community's continuum of care. In 2023 we began working toward launching a pilot program based on Nashville's Room in the Inn Winter Shelter. Room in the Inn brings together houses of worship who open their doors to shelter between eight and 15 unhoused neighbors on one or more nights during the coldest months of the year. The Cathedral will serve as the site of the Room in the Inn pilot program in Louisville during January and February of 2025. Our church will offer its space, volunteers, and other resources to provide up to 15 beds of overnight shelter for UP's clients during January and February of 2025. The winter shelter will be staffed by members from a network of supporting congregations. Members of our congregation have secured grants, solicited donations, built out policies and procedures, and are working to recruit partner congregations for this ministry. For more information, contact Dean Bradley: 270.227.9109.

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What is your practice of stewardship and how does it shape the life of your worshipping community?

Our worshipping community has a holistic practice of stewardship in both the gifts which we receive and the purposes toward which those gifts are used. The gifts which the people of our parish offer to the service of God and the Cathedral's part of God's mission are varied. Most make a financial commitment to support the church's annual budget. Some make contributions to the Cathedral's endowment while others support special offerings and collections. Members of the community also offer their skills and their time volunteering on committees, making connections with the wider community, praising God in worship, or simply bringing joy into the world. The Cathedral's leadership practices faithful stewardship of the gifts entrusted to us, balancing the current needs of our parish and our neighbors with making provisions for our future ministry, including undertaking a capital campaign to address structural issues with our building. We publish an annual giving report to help folks understand how we are using the financial gifts entrusted to us. The report has both the numbers of our budget as well as narrative descriptions of how the budget undergirds our congregation's ministry.

What is your worshipping community's experience of conflict? And how have you addressed it?

In the early 2000s, Christ Church Cathedral acquired an adjoining property. Though some of the membership hoped it would be used for a parking lot, the Chapter decided to renovate the historic home on the property and develop a 40-unit affordable housing complex. The decision to undertake these projects was divided from the outset and became more so as the congregation had to sell the historic home at auction for a loss, invest more and more money to sustain the project, and settle a lawsuit related to the project's development. At first, the issues related to the decisions made were not discussed. Tensions fomented, members left the congregation, and legal troubles went unaddressed. Then the Cathedral called an interim Dean, Joan Pritcher. She convened a series of conversations where facts regarding the property were laid out, feelings discussed, and, ultimately, relationships healed. Though some of the damage could not be repaired, open, honest, and direct conversations about underlying anger, hurt, fear, disappointment and resentment allowed the congregation to process what had happened, defuse emotional energy, and positioned them to conduct a search for a permanent Dean.

What is your experience leading/addressing change in the church? When has it gone well? When has it gone poorly? And what did you learn?

Christ Church Cathedral recently sold our interest in Cathedral Commons, an affordable housing complex we developed. The Commons had been a source of conflict both within the congregation and in the congregation's relationship with our financial partner in the project. The Cathedral's leadership successfully navigated a responsible transfer of ownership of the project, made possible by a combination of intensive research, expertise from outside of the congregation, open and honest negotiation with our financial partner, and utter transparency with the congregation at every step of the process. A less successful experience has been our difficulty in providing opportunities for Christian formation to the children and youth of our congregation. There are no more than two or three who are of similar age, making a traditional Sunday school program an ineffective solution. As an interim step, we have worked to create a child-friendly worship space so the youngest members of the parish can be present and comfortable during services. We have learned that we will need input and leadership from our families to find a better long-term approach to faith formation for our children and youth.