



# First Presbyterian Church of New Vernon

## Job Description Organist/Accompanist

### Purpose:

We believe:

- That music is a powerful means of expressing deep truths about God, faith, and our life as Christ's followers
- That music is an essential part of our life together as a worshiping community
- That people of all ages and abilities, including the assembled congregation, can meaningfully contribute to our music ministry
- That music from a broad variety of styles, cultures and eras enriches our worship, and our faith

The Church Organist provides organ/piano music and accompaniment for scheduled worship services and other activities in support of the church's music ministry.

### Accountability

The Church Organist plays a vital role in the church's music ministry and works collegially with other staff and reports to the Director of Music. Session's Personnel Committee oversees the annual review process, compensation, and changes to the job description, reporting to Session for its approval of such.

### Specific Duties

1. Provide instrumental support for congregational singing in worship.
2. In consultation with the Director of Music, select and prepare preludes, postludes, and other organ/piano music, according to the needs of the worship service. (Hymns will be selected by the Director of Music Ministry and Pastor).
3. Serve as accompanist at scheduled rehearsals for the church's adult choir, soloists, ensembles, or instrumentalists.
4. Serve as accompanist for the children's choir in worship as needed.
5. Plan for and oversee regular care and maintenance of the church's organ and pianos.
6. Assist the Director of Music in finding a substitute for Sundays when not available.

7. Play for weddings and funerals, as requested (and upon availability), receiving additional compensation from the parties involved.

## **Skills and Qualifications**

1. High school or GED required.
2. College degree in musical performance preferred.
3. High degree of competence on organ and piano in order to play hymns, anthem accompaniments, and solo pieces. Must be able to sight-read.
4. Flexibility to play in various styles that include all types of worship music.
5. Sensitivity and the ability to interact with a variety of people.
6. Ability to take direction and work as a team member.
7. Ability to communicate well and in a friendly manner with the church leadership, church choir, and members of the congregation.

## **Hours & Compensation**

This is a part-time position requiring attendance at one evening and Sunday morning choir rehearsal as well as Sunday and other special worship services. Additional time required for the selection and practice of music to be presented to the congregation.

Salary: Negotiable, consistent with candidate's education, experience, and skill level.