

First Presbyterian Church of Topeka  
February 6, 2023

## **ORGANIST POSITION**

First Presbyterian Church of Topeka, Kansas, seeks applicants and inquiries for the position of Organist. First Presbyterian has a long and distinguished history of supporting high-quality church music that complements its excellent worship experience and beautiful sanctuary.

### **The Position**

- The organist reports to the Pastor/Head of Staff, Rev. Sandra Stogsdill Brown, and collaborates with the Director of Music, Dr. Kevin Kellim and Commissioned Associate Pastor, Pat Yancey.
- The organist is responsible for leading congregational singing, accompanying the church choir(s) and soloists, and supporting the worship service with appropriate musical offerings.
- The organist plays for two services on Sundays—at 8:30 a.m. in the chapel and at 10:30 a.m. in the sanctuary—and for choir rehearsal on Thursday evenings.
- The organist provides accompaniment for the Chancel Choir and soloists, with appropriate rehearsals.
- The organist plays for special services (Christmas Eve, weddings, funerals, etc.).
- There will be one or more assistant organists.

The following items are negotiable, in accordance with the needs of the candidate and the church:

- The position is nominally half time, with compensation based on skill, training, and experience.
- The number of playing Sundays per year is negotiable, and the schedule is flexible.
- The organist may teach lessons at the church, as needed.
- The organist may direct the handbell choir, typically for additional compensation.

### **Qualifications**

We seek an organist with the following qualifications:

- Superior skills as an organist in the standard literature, in service playing, and in accompanying, including on piano, as appropriate to the repertoire
- Prior experience as an organist in a religious setting
- An authentic Christian faith
- Understanding of the role of music as a vital and indispensable part of the church's ministry
- Ability to work as part of a ministry team, not only to craft worship experiences but to contribute to the total ministry of the church
- Ability to work cooperatively and collegially with all staff members
- Appreciation for the Reformed tradition in worship and music

- Poise, tact, and diplomacy, with the ability to handle sensitive and confidential information and situations
- Willingness to become “Safe Gatherings” certified

### **The Organs**

The sanctuary organ is an M. P. Möller of 4 manuals and 80 ranks. The specifications and history may be seen at: <http://fpctopeka.org/opportunities/music/m-p-moller-pipe-organ/>.

The chapel organ is a two-manual, 14-rank organ by M. P. Möller.

### **The Selection Process**

The selection process will proceed during the spring of 2023, with duties to commence about the end of June. Finalists will be interviewed and will play a rehearsal and service at some time during the process. Please visit the church’s website for photos and recorded services: [fpctopeka.org](http://fpctopeka.org).

### **Contacts:**

For further information, please contact either of the following:

1. Gordon McQuere, Chair Organist Search Committee  
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2. Carrie Riordan, Director of Communications  
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