



**Principal Organist/Pianist**  
**Approximately 15 hours/week, Exempt\***  
**\$20,000-\$30,000 commensurate with experience**

**Grace United Methodist Church (GUMC)** seeks an excellent, experienced Organist/Pianist to serve part-time in helping to support its outstanding music ministry. The Mission of Grace is forming disciples of Jesus who further the Kingdom of God. Grace Church dedicates itself to a ministry of Christ-like hospitality and compassion and believes all persons are of sacred worth.

### **Grace Music Program Highlights:**

Our sanctuary is acoustically live with a three-manual, 41-rank [Reuter pipe organ](#) (2005) prominently featured in the chancel. The console is movable to accommodate various service or concert configurations. Other primary instruments include a seven-foot Baldwin grand piano and a Roland C-30 digital harpsichord.

Music in worship is a valued tradition at GUMC, with regularly participating ensembles including the Chancel Choir, the Praise Team, multiple children's choirs, and handbell choirs for both adults and children. The church also hosts local and touring performing groups and presents its own concert series.

The Principal Organist is the church's primary instrumental musician, leading congregational singing in all services held in the sanctuary. This person also accompanies the Chancel Choir, which comprises both professional and amateur singers. The congregation is highly supportive of traditional music and equally receptive to a wide array of musical genres.

Pre-Covid musical highlights (with guest orchestra) include:

- Requiem settings by Fauré, Rutter, and Dan Forrest
- Bach Cantatas 140 (*Wachet auf*) and 4 (*Christ lag in Todesbanden*)
- *In terra pax* by Gerald Finzi
- *Gospel Mass* by Robert Ray
- *High Lonesome Bluegrass Mass* by Wes Ramsay and Tim Sharp

Grace United Methodist Church (est. 1890) is in Naperville, Illinois. Located 28 miles west of Chicago with a population of 147,841, Naperville is the third largest city in Illinois and is within the Illinois Technology and Research Corridor (a region of commerce and industry). The corridor is home to both Argonne National Laboratory and Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory. Naperville residents tend to be professionals with families and an interest in education, community, and health. Please visit [www.peopleofgrace.org](http://www.peopleofgrace.org) to learn more about the church.

*Grace Church is committed to building an inclusive, diverse, equitable, and accessible faith community. If you are excited about this position, but lack any of the job qualifications or requirements in the description, we encourage you to consider still applying.*

### **Position Description**

\*Grace Church is committed to fostering an inclusive and flexible work environment. In our pursuit of a part-time position, we welcome applications from single individuals as well as those interested in a job-sharing arrangement. The job-sharing format can be tailored collaboratively between selected candidates and church leadership. The remuneration for these positions will be determined accordingly, reflecting the negotiated allocation of duties. We embrace diversity and value creativity in structuring this role to ensure it aligns with both the church's needs and the unique circumstances of our applicants.

**Please indicate your interest in job-sharing on your application.**

### **Preferred Qualifications**

- A Bachelor's Degree in Music that includes college-level organ instruction, or *Colleague Certification* through the American Guild of Organists (CAGO).
- Experience playing organ in worship.
- Excellent sight-reading capabilities on organ and piano.
- Confidence performing a wide variety of styles and periods at the organ and piano.

### **Primary Responsibilities and Duties**

- Prepare and play:
  - 2 regularly-scheduled Sunday morning worship services. (year-round)
  - Weekly Thursday evening rehearsals (7-8:30PM) of the Chancel Choir under the direction of the Choir Director. (August to June)
  - Special worship services and related rehearsals (Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter Eve, Easter, multiple Christmas Eve services, All-Saints major work, Spring Choral Service and additional special events with notice).
- Select music as needed for the prelude, offertory or other special music, and postlude at regular services, in keeping with the theme and style of worship.
- Provide recommendations to, or assist Pastors with, hymn selection as requested.
- Lead congregational singing and accompany soloists in worship.
- Arrange for qualified substitute organists to serve in case of personal time off, vacation, or when unavailable for funerals or weddings.
- Reserve the right of first refusal to serve at any wedding or funeral held in the church, subject to the terms of the Compensation Schedule for this position.
- Oversee the care, maintenance, and usage of the organ and sanctuary piano in consultation with the Music Coordinator and Board of Trustees, subject to the church budget.

## Core Competencies

- **Technical Expertise:** Demonstrates skill in playing organ and piano, using prepared music, sight-reading, and improvising. Comfortable in a range of musical genres and styles from diverse cultures and worship sources, including (but not limited to) traditional, gospel, classical, and jazz. Continues to develop musical skills.
- **Liturgical Knowledge:** Is familiar with the organization of the liturgical calendar and is confident selecting music appropriate for each worship service.
- **Interpersonal Skills:** Establishes good working relationships with others, including staff, members of the congregation, and other constituencies. Works independently as well as collaboratively with the Choir Director, Senior Pastor and music staff. Works effectively with volunteers who have diverse backgrounds and varying musical abilities.
- **Verbal & Written Communication:** Writes clearly and succinctly. Uses technology where appropriate to enhance communication and organization. Familiarity with Google Workspace is ideal and Smartphone connectivity is preferred.

## Reporting Relationships

The Organist reports to the Senior Pastor and works in collaboration with the Choir Director and the Music Coordinator. Terms of employment are overseen by the Staff Parish Relations Committee.

## Application Requirements

Please send a cover letter, a resume including significant organ repertoire performed, three references, and digital videos or links to livestreams (with timestamp references) of the following to Ms. Jill Rye, Chair, Principal Organist Search Committee: [jill.rye@peopleofgrace.org](mailto:jill.rye@peopleofgrace.org)

1. At the organ: A hymn including an introduction and one modulation  
\*Please use manuals and pedals.
2. At the organ: A work by J.S. Bach
3. At the organ: A romantic or contemporary composition
4. At the piano: A choral anthem including choir

We invite candidates of any race, ethnicity, national origin, religion, gender, sexual orientation, disability, or age to apply.