

POSITION: CHURCH MUSICIAN

Nahant Village Church
P.O. Box 77, 27 Cliff Street
Nahant, MA 01908

An open and affirming congregation is seeking a person with talent, a sense of humor, and passion for the role of music in worship. Leadership skills are essential. Dating back to 1830, the church is built on a stable foundation and an historical site.

We have a Hook & Hastings tracker organ in the main sanctuary and a high-quality Yamaha digital keyboard in our chapel. Services are held in the main sanctuary from Palm Sunday through Christmas and in the chapel from right after Christmas until Palm Sunday.

Our small adult choir has between 10 and 15 singers. Coaching and recruitment of new members are both important. The choir rehearses and sings on Sundays from Labor Day through the end of June. Rehearsals begin at 9:00 a.m., and the service begins at 10:30 a.m. If necessary, additional rehearsals may take place after the church service, typically to prepare for Easter and Christmas services. During July and August, services begin at 9:30. There are no mid-week rehearsals.

The church has a large and varied library of choral music. In addition, we have three octaves of Malmark handbells. A lay-leader directs two handbell choirs—adult and youth—that play occasionally during Sunday services. Interest in or experience with handbells is welcomed but not required.

The position, which requires an average of between eight and ten hours weekly, is salaried. The church offers a compensation package based on training and experience.

If you are interested in applying for the position, please email a cover letter and your résumé to secretary@nahantvillagechurch.org.

Job Description for the Church Musician
for the Nahant Village Church,
Nahant, Massachusetts

Qualifications

1. Competence as an organist, pianist, and choir director
2. Leadership skills
3. Energy and creativity
4. Passion for the role of music in the church
5. Ability to communicate well
6. Reliability
7. Sense of humor
8. Interest in being part of a team involving the Minister and others in the congregation

Expectations

The Church Musician will:

1. Choose appropriate music, play organ and piano, and direct the choir for regular Sunday worship and up to eight special church services a year (e.g., Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, Easter, Christmas) and ecumenical services (e.g., Memorial Day and Thanksgiving)
2. Direct the adult choir and conduct choir rehearsals before Sunday worship and afterwards if additional rehearsal time is needed
3. Recruit new choir members
4. Provide coaching, including recording anthems and other music for choir members who are frequent travelers
5. Involve children enthusiastically in church music as much as possible
6. Enhance the church's music program on special occasions with guest singers and instrumentalists
7. Use the talents of the congregation and community to enhance the church's music program

8. Play for weddings, funerals, and other special events in coordination with the Minister and in accordance with the church's policies concerning weddings and funerals
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Administration

The Church Musician will:

1. Work with the Minister to set goals for the church's music ministry and develop a plan to implement these goals
2. Select and purchase appropriate instrumental and choral music and supplies, consistent with the church's budget
3. Submit recommendations to the Trustees for annual budgets relating to music purchase, guest organists, other guest musicians, and other expenses
4. Monitor, report to the Trustees about, and arrange for the maintenance of the church's Hook & Hastings pipe organ and Yamaha electronic keyboard
5. Arrange for competent substitute organists during vacations
6. Meet annually with the Trustees for the purpose of evaluation

THE E. & G.G. HOOK AND HASTINGS ORGAN

In 1878, an E. & G.G. Hook and Hastings Organ (#925) was installed in what was then the Nahant Church. E. & G.G. Hook and Hastings was a very prominent organ builder in the latter part of the 19th century. Our organ is a tracker action organ, with two manuals and a pedal board. It has 22 registers and 525 pipes. The organ was restored in early 2000 by the Andover Organ Company.

The organ was donated by the Wm. Appleton family whose family crest, the apple and the elephant, still adorns its case.



View of Choir and Organ Pipes