



Christ Church Charlotte

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**Associate Rector**  
for Adult Spiritual Formation



## What We Seek

Christ Church Charlotte is seeking a creative, grounded Associate Rector for Adult Spiritual Formation to join a gifted, collegial clergy team in the shared work of preaching, teaching, pastoral care, and program leadership. Our new Associate will be a priest with a missional mindset, and will have the skills, talent, and creativity to lead formation opportunities that inspire and enrich our congregation.

The last year has been a complicated one of mainly virtual experiences and other innovations due to Covid-19. As we begin to reconnect our parish in person, we are looking for an approachable mentor and spiritual friend to help engage, equip, and empower us to continue living into our vision of being Christ's Church in the world.

Christ Church is a congregation of 6,500 parishioners who are committed to our mission to Love God, Care for Each Other, and Serve the World. We are an inclusive community, focused on welcoming all who come through our doors. We foster a culture that values every voice and encourages new ideas while holding onto the beautiful traditions of the Episcopal Church. We offer great opportunities to create, experiment, think boldly, and serve in unexpected ways.

We are blessed to have a tremendously talented 50-member staff team that we anticipate expanding in the coming years. We are equally blessed with an energetic, ambitious, and motivated group of parishioners who call Christ Church their spiritual home.

We believe this is a unique call within the Episcopal Church, and we look forward to attracting candidates with unique credentials.



# What Our Associate Will Do

**CELEBRATE AND HONOR** the Vision and Mission of Christ Episcopal Church and the Episcopal tradition of diversity, equity, and inclusiveness that we proclaim.

**WORSHIP AND PREACH** in a variety of styles and settings: Rite I and Rite II, with formal preaching and rich music; our informal, participatory contemporary worship service; our relaxed family Discovery Service for the youngest among us in the parish hall; our Sunday evening service, employing a variety of music and readings from around the world; and other forms yet to be identified that help us draw near to God in new ways.

**TEACH** the essentials of the Christian faith and expand the vocabulary/language with which we speak about and understand God; reimagine and implement existing educational opportunities, including Bible studies, workshops, and classes both in person and digitally; design and lead retreats and pilgrimages near and far that enrich and add to our spiritual practices.

**LEAD** on a big stage, interacting and connecting with leaders from around the church and the world on a myriad of subjects through our various forums, programs, and events.

**CONNECT** to our parishioners so that all feel they are a part of our church community, our city, and our world; challenge us to grow in our understanding and awareness of our ever-changing culture; encourage the ministry of bridge building to build up God's kingdom; use technology as a critical tool to share our mission and ministries beyond our walls.

**COLLABORATE** and share responsibilities with other clergy staff in pastoral care, weekday liturgies or services, home and hospital visitations, baptisms, weddings, funerals, and other rites of the church.



There is a genuine emphasis placed on leadership development across the staff at Christ Church and especially with the clergy. Continuing education and personal leadership coaching are provided and encouraged for each of the clergy staff. These resources partnered with ongoing vocational discernment with the Rector make for dynamic ministries that occupy that sweet spot of vocation where community need and personal fulfillment meet.

**OUR NEXT ASSOCIATE WILL BE...**

- Christ-centered, with a contagious faith and an ability to talk easily about Jesus
- Energetic, passionate, and collaborative
- Digitally adept and technologically fluent
- Eager to learn our names and remember our stories
- Excited to step into unfamiliar places and explore other communities and cultures; a listener and learner
- A quick study who can easily assimilate into a complex organization
- Able to juggle multiple responsibilities, meet deadlines; self-motivated to set and achieve goals; accountable and organized
- A team player, willing to set aside his/her own work to help others, both clergy and lay staff, at busy times
- Versatile, joyful, and flexible
- Respectful of different opinions
- Creative, aware of new trends in the broader church and curriculum, looking for opportunities to strengthen our ministries
- Able to meet each of us where we are and lead us on to the next step of our spiritual journey

**OUR DESIRE IS THAT OUR ASSOCIATE...**

- Be committed to self-care; devoted to emotional health as well as physical health; have a network of care to provide support for the long haul.
- Have a rich and nourishing spiritual life lived out in regular prayer, study and meditation that grows his or her friendship with God
- Embrace high standards of behavior and performance and maintain a confident, authentic sense of self
- Model a balanced work-personal life by maintaining healthy boundaries
- Take all of her or his vacation and sabbatical time; stay rested and refreshed
- Make family and friends a priority

**INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT US...**

- Unless the clergy are leading worship, we often don't wear collars at work.
- Pets are welcome in the office.
- Our clergy and staff are extremely collaborative, complementary, and non-competitive, and the clergy takes semi-annual retreats together.
- Some of our clergy stay a long time at Christ Church; others go on to become rectors or bishops. Either way, we are a greenhouse for priestly development.



# Participate In Our Search

**1) Tell us how to be in touch with you:**

Name / Address / Preferred telephone / Preferred e-mail

**2) Provide your current position and location**

**3) Diocese of canonical residency**

**4) Help us get to know you by submitting the following:**

- An updated OTM portfolio
- A resumé
- Answers to our questions (*on the following page*)
- A 500-word autobiographical statement
- **Letters of reference from three people** — one clergy, one lay, and one either clergy or lay who is not supervised by you and who is not related to you. Please ask your references to read our materials, then focus their comments on what it is in your life and ministry that makes you a good candidate for this unique call.

**5) Send us your materials:**

Send your materials electronically to: [priestsearchcc@gmail.com](mailto:priestsearchcc@gmail.com)

Deadline for submissions of completed candidate packets: **September 1, 2021**

## Our Timetable

**Application Deadline:** September 1, 2021

**Interviews:** Fall 2021

**Call Issued:** Late 2021/Early 2022

**Start Date:** Negotiable

## Contact Us

If you would like to have a conversation to learn more about this position, contact Chip Edens, Rector, at [chip.edens@gmail.com](mailto:chip.edens@gmail.com) or Jane Showalter, Search Chair, at [priestsearchcc@gmail.com](mailto:priestsearchcc@gmail.com)



# Questions

*Please respond to questions 1 - 4 in 500 words each or fewer:*

- 1)** What have you created, built, designed or implemented that helped to cultivate spiritual growth/formation within a church community? Give us an example of what worked or didn't work.
- 2)** Tell us about a time you were challenged or unsuccessful. What did you learn from that experience?
- 3)** Building and fostering relationships and connections is a core requirement for this role. How do you build relationships and connections?
- 4)** With all the challenges our people face in a modern culture, how does the Gospel compel the church to respond?

## **WE WANT TO LEARN ABOUT YOU...**

Once we start to get to know you better, our conversations might touch on these topics:

- Where do you find humor? Joy? Beauty? What energizes you?
- What life experiences have enriched you, enabled you to connect more deeply with people, helped you see God's grace at work?
- How do you stay connected to your community, your city, and the world? Which apps are on your phone? What music is playing in the background? What are you reading? When you go out to dinner, what kind of restaurant do you seek out?
- How do you remain spiritually centered while at the same time being digitally connected?
- What are your Sabbath practices?
- Your career so far. Did you have a prior vocation? What brought you to the Church?



# Learn More About Us

**CHRIST CHURCH CHARLOTTE** | [www.christchurchcharlotte.org](http://www.christchurchcharlotte.org)

In 1943, Christ Church Mission, Charlotte, was formally recognized by the Diocese of North Carolina with 98 families. Today our Church has a diverse and passionate membership of over 6,500. We're located in the beautiful neighborhood of Myers Park, a fifteen-minute drive from uptown Charlotte. Visit our website to find detailed information about our congregation, worship, formation, core values, and current priorities.

**THE DIOCESE OF NORTH CAROLINA** | [www.dionc.org](http://www.dionc.org)

The Episcopal Church in central North Carolina is composed of 49,000 persons gathered into 111 congregations and ten campus ministries throughout 38 counties in the central part of North Carolina. Our diocese is divided into three regions and seven convocations, each headed by a dean. On an average Sunday, more than 13,500 gather to worship across our diocese. On the website you will find information about our diocese and state history, geography, population, economy, education and recreation.

**CHARLOTTE, NORTH CAROLINA** | [www.charlottesgotalot.com](http://www.charlottesgotalot.com)

The current population of Charlotte is 911,659, making it the 15th largest city in the United States based on the most recent census, and it is among the fastest growing cities in America. The metropolitan area has a population of well over 2.4 million. The city is a major U.S. financial center, with the headquarters of Bank of America and the East Coast operations of Wells Fargo. Charlotte is also home of the NFL Carolina Panthers, NBA Charlotte Hornets, Charlotte Knights baseball, and Charlotte Checkers hockey teams, and the U.S. National Whitewater Center. We are enriched by a wide variety of arts, cultural, and entertainment venues, including many museums, theaters, and outstanding symphony, ballet, and opera companies.



**Christ Church Charlotte**  
CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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