



DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

Position Overview



FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH
Jackson, Mississippi



First Presbyterian Church of Jackson exists to glorify God by making disciples in our neighborhood, our communities, and the world.

In God's providence, He gave First Presbyterian Church of Jackson the long service of a talented and dedicated Minister of Music, Dr. Bill Wymond. Dr. Wymond devoted more than 55 years of service to our church as an organist, pastor, and Minister of Music, and his imprint on the music and worship of our church has been a great blessing.

We are now searching for a new Director of Music to build on the strong musical foundation that is in place, using the broad musical resources the Lord has entrusted to us. This brochure provides an overview of the Director of Music position, our church, and our philosophy of worship.

Singing the praises of our Lord and exalting His Name with beautiful music is precious to us. We seek a Director of Music with musical and spiritual gifts to build up the body of Christ in the worship of our Lord. We seek a Director of Music to lead our church in a vibrant music ministry for the glory of God, the edification of His people, and the expansion of His Kingdom.

We are excited about what the Lord is doing in our church and look forward to His provision for us in the years to come. May the Lord bless you and His church as we seek His will together.

— The Director of Music Search Committee





Job Description

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC* FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH JACKSON, MS

MUSIC MINISTRY DEPARTMENT HEAD

The Director of Music must be a person of integrity and godly character and shall be responsible for developing and implementing the music programs of the church to meet the needs of the congregation and to support the worship ministry of the church.

*The position title is Director of Music but will be renamed Minister of Music to accommodate a candidate who is an ordained pastor.



KEY DUTIES

- Provide music for all morning and evening worship services, as well as for special worship services, in partnership with the Senior Minister and Executive Minister
- Work under the guidance of the Worship Committee, keeping them informed of activities, progress, and plans of the total music program
- Support and strengthen our corporate congregational singing by teaching musical literacy and gladly promoting our rich, Reformed liturgical heritage and the best of evangelical hymnody
- Work to enhance the distinctive musical identities of our morning and evening worship services
- Lead, guide, and motivate the members of the worship ministry both musically and spiritually, ensuring the health and growth of the choir and instrumental ensembles
- Promote musical excellence to members of the worship ministry for the glory of God and for their own betterment
- Work closely with the senior minister and executive minister to seek to develop leaders in the worship ministry
- Help integrate newcomers into our church through the musical elements of our worship services
- Oversee all instrument and sound requirements in the sanctuary



JOB DETAILS

- Supervise and coordinate the functions of all musical organizations within the church
- Direct the adult choir at all worship services
- Maintain and manage choirs for all ages, from preschool to adults
- Recruit and train worship ministry participants, including adult choir members, instrumental ensemble members, and children's choirs leaders
- Provide for the musical education of participants in all music ensembles
- Encourage, shepherd, and care for participants in music ministry, especially members of the adult choir
- Lead and plan the annual Music of Christmas worship service
- Oversee the provision of music at weddings and funerals
- Develop relationships with musicians outside the congregation and hire them to support our worship services, as needed
- Supervise the maintenance of the musical instruments and the equipment under the care and use of the Worship Ministry
- Give direction and guidance to all the music staff in the performance of their duties and bear the responsibility for their performance
- Plan and supervise the spending of the Worship Ministry budget
- Plan and implement the use and maintenance of all sound equipment for sanctuary use
- Lead committees and ministry teams, as needed
- Perform additional duties and responsibilities as assigned by the Senior Minister or Executive Minister or as requested by the Session or its committee



Primary Qualifications & Qualities

- Must evidence sound theology, spiritual maturity, a gracious temperament, and a humble, teachable spirit
- Must demonstrate a love of the Bible, God's people, and corporate worship
- Must have organizational, multi-tasking, and planning skills
- Must have strong oral, written, and interpersonal communication skills to effectively interact and build relationships with church leadership, staff, musicians, choir participants, members, and visitors
- Willingness to be an active member of First Presbyterian Church and willingness to submit to and be shepherded by the pastors and elders
- Must commit to performing duties in accordance with the mission statement of the church, the employee handbook, and the Westminster Confession of Faith

DESIRED EDUCATION AND EXPERIENCE

- Bachelor's degree in music
- Master's degree in music (preferred)
- Minimum of five years of professional church music ministry experience
- Able to arrange and compose as needed
- Proficient in directing choir, orchestra, and other ensembles
- Competent pianist (preferred)

This Job Description is not an exhaustive statement of duties, responsibilities, qualifications, or requirements. The Search Committee may modify or waive the desired education and experience described above.

TO APPLY

Please email ministersoffice@fpcjackson.org with a copy of your resume/ CV along with a brief testimony of faith and expression of your interest in the position.



Philosophy of Worship

THE PRIORITY OF WORSHIP

God made all things for His own glory: “for from Him and through Him and to Him are all things. To Him be the glory forever. Amen” (Romans 11:36). In particular, as the Shorter Catechism reminds us, “man’s chief end is to glorify God, and to enjoy Him forever.” In other words, our reason for being — our purpose — is worship. The design of God in creation is to make us worshippers.

And the design of God in redemption likewise takes aim at God’s praise. In Ephesians 1, Paul explains that the whole sweep of human salvation, from election (1:6), through the present inheritance we have in Christ, having been brought to hope in Him (1:11), to the sealing of the Spirit for a future inheritance in heaven (1:14) is all “to the praise of His glory.”

All things are made to worship. We are saved to worship. Worship is the focus of God’s plan for creation and redemption.

In keeping with this truth, corporate worship at FPCJ is both the instrument of our spiritual nourishment and health, and the ultimate goal of all that we do. It’s not one ministry among many; one activity among many. Much less is it simply the conventional and expected Sunday church routine, while the “real business” of the congregation happens elsewhere. Worship is our highest priority, the center of our Christian lives, and the principal instrument of our communion with Christ and one another.





OUR WORSHIP PRINCIPLES

In light of the teaching of the New Testament our worship seeks to be scriptural, simple, and spiritual.

IT IS SCRIPTURAL.

As a Reformed church, we are committed to the regulative principle of worship. That is, only that which is commanded in scripture, either by express statement, or deduced from it “by good and necessary consequence” (WCF 1.6), may be offered to God in corporate worship. Whatever is not commanded is forbidden. The rule of our worship is neither personal taste, nor historic tradition, but the Word of God alone. The Bible shapes our worship and determines every element of our services. Moreover, we are intentional in ensuring that the Bible saturates our services, from the call to worship, through the psalms and hymns sung, to the prayers prayed and the texts read and expounded. As has often been said of Reformed worship, at FPCJ, we sing the Word, pray the Word, read the Word, preach the Word, and see and touch and taste the Word in the sacraments of Baptism and the Lord’s Supper. The Word of God is the

center of our worship, because the God of the Word is its only object.

IT IS SIMPLE AND SPIRITUAL.

Because we are committed to scripturally regulated services, worship at FPCJ embraces the radical simplicity of the New Testament pattern. The outward pageantry and complexity of the Old Covenant Temple services is gone, fulfilled in Christ. Today, in the age of the New Covenant, our worship is empowered and made effective by the fullness of the Spirit. We reject ostentation, and all attempts to manipulate emotion or embrace pragmatic marketing models in shaping our worship. Instead, we look for simplicity in structure and style. We do not want our services to be a performance, but an instrument of spiritual communion with Christ through the means of grace. Our intent is not to impress others with our musical prowess, but to bring glory and praise to Jesus Christ.

OUR WORSHIP PRACTICE

At FPCJ we seek to implement these principles in services of corporate worship that are marked by the following characteristics:

SABBATH

We are committed to the weekly rhythm of morning and evening worship, as we consecrate the Sabbath Day to the Lord, beginning and ending the Day together under God's Word. Often our morning services are spiritual high-water marks in our Christian lives and our fellowship as a church, while our evening services are marked by corporate joy and a deep and growing love for the ministry of the Word of God. Morning and evening worship at FPCJ makes the Lord's Day a glimpse of heaven.

GOSPEL SHAPED

In scripture, solemn assemblies for covenant renewal featured a pattern of dialogue between God and His people. Our worship seeks to arrange the elements of the service to reflect that pattern. Moreover, in keeping with the best examples of historic Reformed liturgy, our worship services follow the contours of the gospel itself: we begin with God and His glory and praise, then, as we see our sin in His presence, we confess our guilt before Him. Next, through the gospel, we receive the assurance of sin forgiven. Having been forgiven in Christ, we respond in praise and in giving. Then God instructs us by the reading and preaching of His Word, and we respond in prayer and praise. And finally, God sends us out into the world with His benediction.

TRANSCENDENCE

In an effort to reflect the biblical emphasis on worship that exalts the majesty and transcendent glory of the Triune God, our two morning services are formal and feature a full liturgy, a robed choir, and a pipe organ. We sing the great psalms and hymns of the faith from the Trinity Hymnal. Occasional use is made of brass or strings.

INTIMACY

In an effort to reflect the biblical emphasis on worship as the gathering of the family of God, our evening service has a simplified liturgy, and an intimate, more relaxed atmosphere. A young children's address, acoustic musical ensembles, a blend of traditional and contemporary hymns and songs, and our student choirs are regularly employed in our evening worship.

EXCELLENCE

To support and beautify our praises, FPCJ works hard at musical excellence. Committed to training the next generation to love the praise of God, we have choirs for every age group, from children's and youth choirs, to the weekly sanctuary choir for adults. We have a brass ensemble, various strings ensembles, solo vocalists, as well as several music teams that serve our more contemporary music on Sunday evenings.

INTENTIONALITY

FPCJ is purposeful in using and celebrating the musical gifts of our members. We have a long tradition of "special" services when the music and choir take an especially prominent role. Every year, a "Music of Christmas" Sunday evening service takes place. Modeled on the Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols from King's College Cambridge, this service works with players from the Mississippi Symphony Orchestra, our own in-house musicians and sanctuary choir, and proclaims the gospel in song, in the familiar scripture "lessons," and with a short, evangelistic homily, to very large congregations. In many years, typically in the fall, another special Sunday evening service of choral song takes place, celebrating some specific aspect of gospel truth. Additionally, FPCJ has served the churches of the Mississippi Valley Presbytery by hosting a joint Reformation Day evening service with a joint "presbytery" choir and special accompaniment.

Our reason for being — **OUR PURPOSE** — is worship.
The design of God in creation is to make us worshippers.





OUR WORSHIP VISION

CONTINUITY

It is our desire to build on the musical traditions of our services of morning and evening worship at First Presbyterian Church. We have no desire to change musical direction, but to build on, and pursue continued musical excellence in our congregational, instrumental, and choral worship ministries.

CONGREGATIONAL SINGING

Our priority is joyful, robust congregational praise. In light of our Scriptural commitments, a very high priority of our worship ministry must be the strengthening of corporate congregational singing. Teaching the congregation to value our rich, Reformed liturgical heritage, learn the great psalms and hymns of the faith, and grow in confidence in song all require ongoing attention and work.

CHOIR MINISTRY

In Colossians 3:16, Paul explains that sung praise has both a vertical dimension (“singing... with thankfulness in your hearts to God”) and an important horizontal dimension (“teaching and admonishing one another... singing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs”). The FPCJ sanctuary choir assists us in accomplishing both aspects of New Testament worship, by providing vocal leadership to the congregation when we sing together, and by ministering the Word of God to the rest of the congregation in beautiful and edifying introits and anthems. Our vision is to grow our choir, harness the gifts of the congregation, build on the skills of choir members, and continue to develop a wide choral repertoire that will “make God’s praise glorious” (Ps. 66:2 KJV).



SUNDAY EVENING SERVICE IDENTITY

We desire that our evening worship should build a distinct musical identity and 'sound.' We need to continue to work at effective vocal and musical leadership of congregational praise and ensure that musical accompaniment appropriately serves the melody and words of the song selections.

SPECIAL SERVICES

There are at least four services in our church's yearly program during which we have very full congregations: ONE SUNDAY, when both morning congregations join together; EASTER SUNDAY, when many visitors and out of town guests are present; MISSIONS CONFERENCE, when a major focus of our church's global ministry is celebrated and promoted; and CHRISTMAS EVE, when the sanctuary is full of family and friends. We desire that on each occasion special attention

be given to the ways the music ministry can support the ministry of the Word, encourage the congregation, and commend the gospel, with praise that is fitting to the occasion, beautiful, and edifying.

EVANGELISM

At FPCJ, we are working hard to develop an 'outward face,' reaching our city with the gospel of Jesus Christ. We desire that the music department work closely with the missions and discipleship departments, to think through worship music that supports the priority of evangelism and mission in general, and especially on Sundays when evangelism may be a particular focus and we know that non-Christian guests are present. Care should be taken to consider accessibility, intelligibility, beauty, and excellence so that every aspect of the liturgy drives home the gospel rather than undermines or distracts from it.



a steadfast witness to historic,
Reformed Christianity for
over 187 years

a congregation of the Presbyterian
Church in America and a member of
the presbytery of the Mississippi Valley

First Presbyterian Church at a Glance

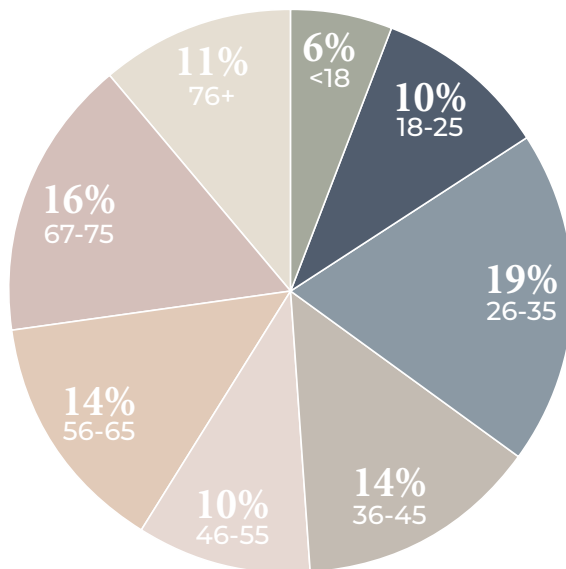
CHURCH STATISTICS

2279 Total Communing Members

499 Total Non-Communing Members

1349 Total Number of Households

AGE BREAKDOWN (OF COMMUNING MEMBERS)



\$7.9M ANNUAL BUDGET (2023)

TO APPLY

Please email ministersoffice@fpcjackson.org with a copy of your resume/CV along with a brief testimony of faith and expression of your interest in the position.



WORSHIP MINISTRY BY THE NUMBERS (2023)

- 90 Adult Choir members
- 50 Orchestra Musicians for special services
- 39 Student Choir members
- 9 String Ensemble musicians
- 7 Brass Ensemble musicians
- 125 Children's Choir members
- 10 Adult Volunteers in Children's Choirs

