

## CHOIR DIRECTOR JOB OPENING

Montclair Presbyterian Church (MPC) invites applications for the position of Choir Director.

**THE CHURCH:** We are a 300+ member welcoming community that comes together to celebrate God's gift of life, to grow in theological understanding, to support one another in times of need, to honor diversity and hospitality, to teach Christian values to our children, and to respond to a world in crisis. Because to us life is a gift, each Sunday we gather as a community for "Celebration." This time of worship is at the heart of our life as a church, and is both intellectually stimulating and emotionally engaging. We use traditional, contemporary, and multicultural music, and emphasize an informal and joyful style of worship. We reflect the creative nature of God as we integrate music, drama, visual arts, and the written word into our life together. We commit ourselves to working for a peaceful and healthful environment and for humanizing changes in our global society. Our strong belief in social justice has led us to be committed to the rights of gay and lesbian people and to improving educational opportunities, safety, and the economic health of the City of Oakland. We work to see our beliefs made real in the larger world and are committed to working and praying for peace, justice, and reconciliation.

**THE CHOIR:** The choir is a close-knit community of singers of approximately 25 men and women. We perform and enjoy an eclectic array of music from the sacred, popular, folk, gospel, and multicultural traditions. We welcome musical challenges. Traditionally twice a year, usually during Advent and in the spring, we perform a major work with instrumentalists.

**POSITION DUTIES:** The Choir Director shall:

1. Direct the choir.
  - Conduct Thursday evening rehearsals and Sunday morning presentations. The choir typically sings 9 1/2 months per year (September through mid-June), usually singing 5 Sundays out of 6. We are open to a more flexible schedule.
  - Recruit instrumentalists for major works and guest singers as necessary. Conduct major choir presentations, ordinarily on an Advent Sunday morning and on a Sunday in the spring. There are ordinarily two Saturday morning rehearsals before each major work, one without instrumentalists and one with instrumentalists.
  - Conduct special music on Christmas Eve and other services and occasions, as needed.
  - Provide opportunities throughout the year for members of the congregation to sing with choir members (i.e. "Chestnut Choir" that augments the choir with people who want to sing occasionally; Handel's "Hallelujah Chorus" on Easter Sunday for everyone, congregational singing on final verses of anthem hymns).
  - Coordinate with the Associate in Music/Organist the scheduling of soloists and special music when the choir does not sing.
  - Plan and coordinate with the Associate in Music/Organist a Saturday fall retreat focused on vocal technique and upcoming music.
  - Select and order music for choir.
  - Manage the sheet music and instrumentalist budgets.
2. Direct occasional children's and youth choir special presentations.

3. Together with the Associate in Music/Organist, act as a musical advisor to the Senior Pastor and the Celebration Committee in order to integrate music with Celebration themes.
4. Serve as an ex-officio member of the Celebration Committee (meets approximately five times a year on a weeknight).
5. Participate in church staff meetings and activities, as available.
6. Undertake additional projects for possible additional compensation.
7. Serve as a resource person for dramatic presentations in worship in cooperation with the Drama Committee.

**SKILLS AND ABILITIES:** The Choir Director shall have:

- A high level of musicianship and knowledge of quality vocal production.
- Experience with a variety of musical styles and traditions.
- The ability to bring out the best in each member of the choir through excellence in rehearsal and performance.
- The ability to facilitate growth in repertory suited to our eclectic style and reflecting the multicultural nature of our society.
- The ability to bring about creative, satisfying musical experiences for choir members of differing abilities.
- The ability to blend leadership of the choir with a sensitivity to individual members' needs; to find the right balance of choir as a community and choir as a disciplined artistic ensemble; to encourage and support solo and small ensemble work for those who want challenge.
- The ability to attract and nurture new members of the choir.
- The ability to involve the congregation in learning new pieces and participating in familiar selections, with the choir lending support.
- An appreciation of the theology, values, and style of the MPC community and a willingness to enter into that community.
- The ability to work with the Senior Pastor and others to create spiritually meaningful worship experiences.
- Spontaneity, flexibility, and a sense of humor.
- Highly desirable: computer skills to send regular email communications to choir members, create hyperlinks to special music on-line to facilitate learning, and do music notation and arrangement.
- Also desirable: Interest in and ability to direct an occasional choir show.

**RELATIONSHIPS:** Reports to the Senior Pastor, who is head of staff, and relates to the Session (the church's governing board) through its personnel committee. Works closely with the Associate in Music/Organist, other staff, and the Celebration Committee.

**ARRANGEMENTS:** One-third time position; salary negotiable depending on qualifications and experience.

**TO APPLY:** Send resume and cover letter describing qualifications and experience to [mpcchoir@gmail.com](mailto:mpcchoir@gmail.com) by May 31, 2008. Include your name in the subject line. For additional information about the position, write a query to [mpcchoir@gmail.com](mailto:mpcchoir@gmail.com).

For additional information about the church, visit the website at [www.mpcfamilly.org](http://www.mpcfamilly.org).