

SUMMER MUSICIAN: RALPH CONNOR MEMORIAL UNITED CHURCH, CANMORE

POSITION DESCRIPTION

A. DUTIES AND SETTING

Ralph Connor Memorial United Church, Canmore is looking for a summer pianist to play at the 10:00 AM-11:00 AM Sunday Worship Service, for eight Sundays, June 30 to August 18, 2019. For the right candidate there is potential for extension as casual relief through the regular season.

Ralph Connor Memorial United Church, “The Little White Church on Main Street, Canmore” is a heritage building dating to 1891. The small sanctuary, seating 90, has wonderful acoustics and the congregation loves to sing! The piano is a Yamaha U1 upright.

The music team consists of Tanya Sullivan, our Music Director and Sunday morning pianist & choir leader, and Jan Tissandier, our Wednesday night Evensong coordinator. Jan also plays at most weddings and funerals held in the Church. Our Minister, Rev. Greg Wooley, selects the Sunday hymns and assists Tanya in choosing the Sunday anthems. A dedicated volunteer choir of 12-20 voices sings an anthem on Sundays from September to June. There are a number of people in the congregation who play musical instruments (saxophone, clarinet, flute, guitar, drums, and many, many ukuleles) and these occasionally accompany our Sunday music.... but Piano is the primary instrument on Sundays.

A typical Sunday service features hymns selected from the United Church hymnals, *Voices United* (1996) and *More Voices* (2007). The Church also holds a *OneLicense* music license. Most of the hymns are modern/contemporary, from the 1970s onward, with one older “heritage hymn” each Sunday. (Anthems, Sept-June, cover a wide range of musical styles). In addition, the pianist provides prelude, postlude, offertory, and during-communion music, of her/his own choice. An outline of the Sunday service is attached.

B. SKILLS AND ABILITIES

The successful candidate will assist with music leadership in Ralph Connor’s Music Ministry, working with the Minister, and in the case of extension beyond summer contract, choir and occasionally other musicians at Sunday services and on other occasions as required.

Reporting to the Worship Committee and the Music Director, this Musician will be able to demonstrate skills and abilities in the following areas:

- collaboration as a team member of staff working for, and with, the church;
- able to commit approximately 2 hours per week (before, during and after Sunday worship, plus practice time as needed) for the summer contract period;
- competent music reading (at least grade 8 or equivalent ability)
- musicality and technicality in playing the piano and accompanying other musicians and congregational hymn-singing;
- knowledge and experience of traditional and contemporary styles of secular and church music;

The successful candidate can expect support and training, as needed, from the existing music team.

C. ADDITIONAL ASSETS

In addition to the eight-week Summer commitment, which is the primary focus of this position, there are, as noted above, potential extensions to this position. These would be negotiated as needed through the remainder of the year in the best interests of the music team.

- Casual relief (one Sunday per month, plus emergency) through the regular season (Sept-June)
- Choral leadership relief (Thursday evenings, Sept-June plus Sunday morning)
- Evensong (Wednesday night, 7:15 PM quiet, lay-led Contemporary service) relief, Sept-June
- Wedding/Funeral relief/backup, throughout the year.

D. APPLICATION DETAILS

Compensation for the Summer Position will be \$90 per Sunday.

Please apply, with resume/CV, cover letter and two references, to canmoreexplorer@gmail.com no later than June 7, 2019.

RALPH CONNOR: INFORMATION FOR SUBSTITUTE MUSICIANS – SUNDAY MORNING SERVICE

Following is a typical worship service at Ralph Connor Memorial United Church, with **musician's parts in bold**. Expect slight variations which the Minister will go over with you. The church office is usually open Tuesday through Friday mornings if you need to pick up a hymnal for practicing. Sunday morning worship begins at 10:00 a.m. so arrival between 9:30-9:45 will allow time to connect with the minister or worship leader.

- **Prelude - ten minutes of prelude music (of your choosing) before the service starts** is nice to set the tone for worship. You can pick up a church bulletin in the narthex to follow along with the service.
- Welcome and Announcements
- **Lighting the Christ Candle - some quiet music is nice as the candle is carried in** and placed on the chancel table, e.g. once through a short hymn or a choice of your own.
- Call to Worship or Prayer of Approach (usually responsive)
- **Hymn - the hymns will be numbered as MV (More Voices, the ring-bound hymnal) or VU (Voices United, the dark red hymnal). In general, playing through the refrain or last two lines of the hymn serves as an adequate introduction for the congregation to stand up for singing.** Children head out to Children's Church at the end of this hymn.
- Time of Silent Preparation
- **Chant – a quiet single-verse song, often from MV, is played through 2-4 times to help the congregation move out of silence. The congregation remains seated for the singing of this song.**
- Scripture Readings
- Responsive Psalm, rarely used - **If a responsive psalm is planned**, play through the psalm refrain once, then play it again with the congregation singing. Each time the "R" appears in the reading, give the starting pitch, then play the refrain once with congregation singing.
- **Hymn**
- Sermon - feel free to sit on a front pew or chair to be more comfortable during the sermon.
- **Hymn**
- Prayers of the People and The Lord's Prayer. **At times a sung version of the Lord's Prayer is used.**
- Minute for Mission - our mission in the world
- **The Offering is Received - music (of your choice) is played as the offering is collected.** When the ushers are finished they stand at the back and wait for the "offering hymn" to begin before proceeding up the aisle.
- **Offertory Hymn.** The congregation will sing with this.
- Offertory Prayer
- Passing the Peace. People move around in this time of greeting, with the choir finding their way to the front (on Sundays with an anthem) and children returning from Children's Church.
- **Choir Anthem (Sept-June) or Special Music (if arranged in advance)**
- Commissioning and Benediction
- **Hymn.** Sometimes the Choral Amen (Amen, Hallelujah VU 974) is used in place of this hymn; there is a photocopy version of VU 974 on cardboard sitting on the table beside the piano.
- brief pause, then **Postlude – a piece of music (your choice) as the congregation leaves for fellowship in Gordon Hall and/or departs the church. A fairly "up beat" song is appropriate here.**

**** On Communion Sundays play quiet music as communion is being served. The Musician is served first.**

Revised May 2019