

Director of Music/Organist
McCracken Memorial Presbyterian Church

The McCracken Memorial Presbyterian Church seeks to employ a suitably qualified person to serve as its Director of Music. The person must be a skilled organist and experienced in choral direction. Along with providing organ music and conducting our choir, the Director will work to involve the entire congregation in meaningful musical expression, using traditional and contemporary styles.

The Director will be expected to lead music in worship at Sunday services. In addition, the Director will run a weekly choir practice September through to May.

The Director will work closely with the minister in planning services and musical programmes, but will be an employee hired by the Kirk Session and supervised through its Personnel committee. The first assessment/consultation will take place no later than six months from commencement, with subsequent meetings scheduled thereafter. The Personnel committee will not only supervise and make recommendations as to the position, but will seek to be a supportive body for the Director.

Though musical excellence is of primary concern, a crucial qualification for the position is inter-personal skills. The Director should be adept at introducing new music to the choir and congregation, and experienced in encouraging young and old to become more involved in worship through music.

We consider music to be an essential tool in building up the spiritual life of the congregation and in extending the Gospel to others, and we therefore seek someone in sympathy with the ethos of the Presbyterian Church. We have been blessed with an exceptionally strong musical heritage over 80 years. With the position of Director of Music, we hope to build upon our strengths – notably with organ and choir – and to stretch ourselves by extending musical participation in worship to a new generation and to a wider segment of our community.

We encourage all interested individuals to apply by scheduling an interview through the Kirk Session, via its clerk:

Mrs. Rosemary Simpson
The Anvil, 26 Glen Road, Drumbo, Lisburn, BT27 5JR
Telephone: 9082 7017
Email: rosemaryecs@btinternet.com

Director of Music/Organist
McCracken Memorial Presbyterian

JOB SPECIFICATIONS

Title: Director of Music/Organist

Job purpose: To provide instrumental worship music, to lead the choir, to develop musical talents of the congregation, and to enhance the worship experience for all ages through traditional and contemporary styles of music

Desired Criteria:

- evidence of youth worship experience
- evidence of innovative musical practice in educational or community settings

Reports to: Minister

Supervised by: Kirk Session through its Personnel committee (Clerk of Session, chair; Honorary Treasurer; one at-large member of Session; one Congregational Committee member; the Minister); First assessment to be held no later than six months from commencement, with subsequent reviews scheduled thereafter

Main tasks:

Provide instrumental accompaniment for worship;
Lead choir
Encourage congregants – particularly youth – to participate in worship through music
Introduce new hymns/music to congregation
Run weekly choir practice, September through May
Plan and conduct annual Carol Service
Explore new possibilities for musical expression at McCracken, perhaps in partnership with neighbouring churches

Suggested schedule: Wednesday evenings, 19:30-21:30
Sunday mornings, 10:30-12:30
(Easter, Harvest and Christmas required)

Performance measures: Quality of music
Development of programme
Satisfaction of supervisors

Position to commence: By mutual agreement