



Principal Organist/Accompanist

approx. 15 hours/week, Exempt
\$20,000-\$30,000 commensurate with experience

For the qualified and interested candidate, this position can be combined with the Choir Director position to create a full-time role.

Who We Are

Grace Church is a welcoming congregation, embracing diversity and dedicated to a ministry of Christ-like hospitality and compassion for all. Our mission is to “Gather to Christ, Grow as Disciples, and Go to Serve,” as Christ asks us to do. As Jesus believed, we too believe that all persons are of sacred worth.

Grace Music Ministry Mission

All are invited to participate in the music ministry at Grace. Through a wide variety of musical offerings, we seek to honor and praise God through music offered with authenticity, passion, and excellence. We embrace and encourage connection and community in all of our ensembles.

Program

Music is a significant component in the experience of worship and in many other activities in the life of Grace United Methodist Church. Ensembles that regularly participate in worship at Grace include the Chancel Choir, Chamber/Evensong Singers, New Life Singers, Praise Team, multiple children’s and adult handbell choirs, and a vibrant children’s choir ministry.

The primary Sanctuary instruments include a Reuter 3-manual, 41-rank pipe organ (2005), a seven-foot Baldwin Grand Piano, and a Roland C-30 Digital Harpsichord/Chamber Organ.

Position Description

As the church’s primary instrumental musician, the Principal Organist accompanies congregational singing in all services held in the sanctuary. The Principal Organist also serves as accompanist for the Chancel Choir and Chamber/Evensong Singers, who sing in services and for special events. This person is frequently expected to accompany instrumental or vocal soloists. The Principal Organist must be comfortable playing in a range of musical periods and styles and with a variety of instruments in worship and other church events.

Qualifications

- Minimum Bachelor’s Degree in Music, preferably in organ performance or sacred music from an accredited college or university; or Professional certification as a Colleague of the American Guild of Organists (CAGO).
- Five years of experience playing organ in medium to large size Christian churches.
- Excellent music sight-reading capabilities on organ and piano.
- Comfortable performing a wide variety of styles and periods at the organ and piano.

Primary Responsibilities and Duties

- Prepare and serve for regularly scheduled Sunday morning worship services and weekly rehearsals of Chancel Choir and Evensong Singers under the direction of the Choir Director.

- Serve at special church events and related rehearsals (Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter Eve, Easter, multiple Christmas Eve services, Evensong services, All-Saints Major Work, Spring Choral Service and additional special events with notice).
- Select music as needed for the prelude, offertory or other special music, and postlude at regular services, in keeping with the theme and style of worship.
- Accompany soloists in worship as needed and lead congregational singing.
- Retain qualified substitute organists to serve in case of personal time off or vacation, at compensation rates authorized in the church budget.
- Reserve the right of first refusal to serve at any wedding or funeral held in the church, subject to the terms of the Compensation Schedule for this position.
- Adhere to Grace Church music guidelines for weddings and funerals and communicate those guidelines to guest organists.
- Oversee the care and maintenance of the organ and sanctuary piano in consultation with the Music Coordinator and Board of Trustees, and subject to the church budget.
- Authorize access to the organ by other qualified organists, with approval of the Senior Pastor and/or Music Coordinator (following Grace United Methodist Church guidelines).
- Attend meetings of the church staff and the music committee as requested and cooperate in planning and leadership of the church's services.
- Other duties as assigned.

Core Competencies

- **Interpersonal Skills:** Establishes good working relationships with others, including staff, members of the congregation, and other constituencies. Uses diplomacy and tact; is approachable. Has a good sense of humor.
- **Technical Expertise:** Demonstrates skill in playing organ and piano, both reading music and improvising. Comfortable in a range of musical genres and styles from diverse cultures and worship sources, including (but not limited to) traditional, gospel, classical, and jazz. Continues to develop musical skills.
- **Liturgical Knowledge:** Has a thorough understanding of the musical, liturgical, and pastoral judgments which must be made in selecting music.
- **Creativity and Innovation:** Generates new ideas, making connections with existing traditions while also developing creative worship programming in line with the abilities and resources of the congregation. Creates fresh approaches to music in worship, taking acceptable risks in pursuit of innovation and learning from mistakes.
- **Team Building Skills:** Conveys the importance and shares in the joy of musical expression in Christian worship. Works independently as well as collaboratively with the Choir Director, Senior Pastor and music staff. Works effectively with volunteers who have diverse backgrounds and varying musical abilities.
- **Verbal & Written Communication:** Delivers a message (written or verbal) clearly, articulately, and in a tone appropriate to the context. Writes clearly and succinctly. Uses technology where appropriate to enhance communication and organization.
- **Time Management:** Uses time effectively. Values time and respects the time of others, consistently meeting deadlines and appropriately balancing priorities.

Reporting Relationships

The Organist reports to the Senior Pastor as Head of Staff and works in collaboration with the Choir Director and the Music Coordinator. Terms of employment are overseen by the Staff Parish Relations Committee.

Performance Reviews

- Initially six months from date of hire; thereafter annually
- Reviewers: Senior Pastor in consultation with Choir Director and Music Coordinator

Application Requirements

Please send a cover letter, resume, and three references, and digital videos (if available) of the following to james.stellmacher@peopleofgrace.org:

1. Playing a hymn at the organ
2. Playing a standard piece of organ repertoire
3. Accompanying a choir at the piano

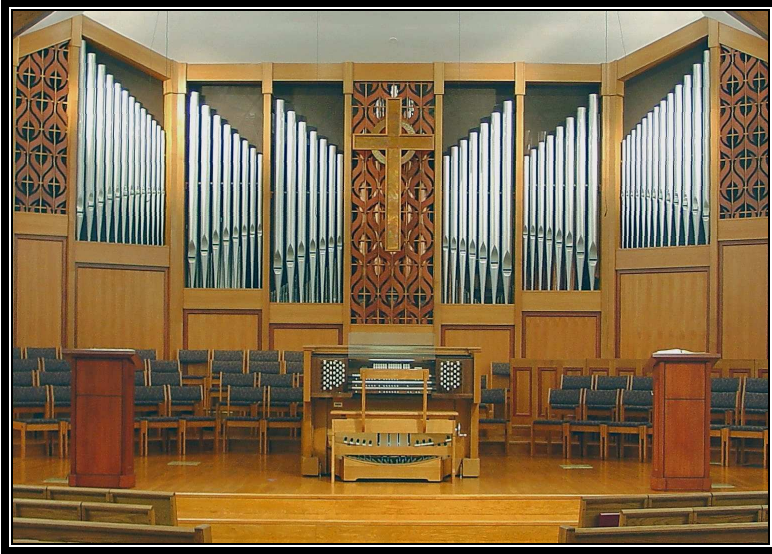
One page organ overview attached.

GRACE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

NAPERVILLE, ILLINOIS

OPUS 2222 • 3 MANUALS, 41 RANKS

THE REUTER ORGAN COMPANY



A part of the planned renovation of the Grace United Methodist Church building included retiring their two-manual pipe organ from the 1920's and replacing it with an instrument that could truly support their vibrant music program. Church committee members expressed their desire for the organ façade to make a strong visual statement in the newly remodeled chancel. The resulting design incorporates the Methodist flame and cross motive in carved wood screens and a central cross of flamed copper, embellished with a Celtic circle and framed in contrasting hardwoods. All of the visible chancel wood work was also crafted at the Reuter, including custom designed, removable handbell table fronts.

GREAT

16'	Rohrflute (Swell)
8'	Diapason
8'	Harmonic Flute
8'	Bourdon
4'	Octave
4'	Spillflute
2'	Fifteenth
IV	Fourniture (1 1/3')
16'	Hautbois (Swell)
8'	Tromba
	Tremulant

SWELL

16'	Rohrflute (ext.)
8'	Viole de Gambe
8'	Viole Celeste (FF)
8'	Rohrflute
4'	Principal
4'	Hohlflute
2 2/3'	Nazard
2'	Blockflute
1 3/5'	Tierce
IV	Plein Jeu (2')
16'	Hautbois (ext.)
8'	Trompette
8'	Oboe
4'	Clarion (ext.)
	Tremulant

CHOIR

8'	Principal
8'	Koppelflute
8'	Erzahler
8'	Erzahler Celeste (TC)
4'	Spitz Principal
4'	Harmonic Flute
2'	Principal
1 1/3'	Quinte
III	Scharf (1')
8'	Clarinet
	Tremulant

PEDAL

32'	*Bourdon
16'	Principal
16'	Subbass
16'	Rohrflute (Swell)
8'	Principal (ext.)
8'	Subbass (ext.)
8'	Rohrflute (Swell)
4'	Choral Bass
4'	Subbass (ext.)
32'	*Trumpet
16'	Posaune
16'	Hautbois (Swell)
8'	Posaune (ext.)
4'	Clarion (Swell)
4'	Oboe (Swell)

*Digital voice