

# **New Posting (9/12/11)**

## **Organist Needed**

**(Part-time: 10 hours)**

**First United Church of Oak Park**  
**848 Lake Street, Oak Park IL 60301**  
**www.firstunitedoakpark.com**

### **Job Requirements/Description**

B.A. in organ performance, music, church music or equivalent; Experience in traditional worship preferred.

First United Church of Oak Park seeks an accomplished organist/accompanist with experience working with staff, musicians and parishioners within a traditional worship setting. The organist should desire to take an active role as a leader in worship. The organist will be responsible for playing during the Sunday worship service (11:00 am September–May and 10:00 am during the summer) and for accompanying the 90-minute weekly Wednesday evening choir rehearsal. The candidate should be familiar with various styles of traditional and contemporary music appropriate for a worship service in the Reformed tradition. The candidate should demonstrate competency in playing the church's four-manual, 88-rank Casavant pipe organ and nine-foot Steinway grand piano. The candidate should provide strong leadership for congregational singing including improvisational skills to augment the hymn playing. The candidate should demonstrate excellence in accompanying choral, solo, and ensemble musicians. The candidate should have strong collaborative skills and a cooperative spirit.

### **General Information**

Broadly speaking, the worship style at First United Church is traditional. The music is also primarily traditional—most anthems involve choir and organ or piano—though great value is placed on including a variety of musical styles. Anthems are chosen based on their textual relationship to the Revised Common Lectionary and range in style from Bach and Mozart to “contemporary” composers of the last 200 years. The choir has sung spirituals, music by John Bell, Lauridsen's *Lux Aeterna*, the Rutter *Requiem*, and chestnuts of the choral repertoire.

The theology is Reformed and liberal, combining the traditions of the Presbyterian Church, U.S.A., and the United Church of Christ. We are an open and affirming congregation that uses texts that include all of God's children as well as respecting the long traditions of the church.

William Chin, Director of Music Ministries since 2000, conducts the Sanctuary Choir (20 volunteers) and the Children's Choir. The church also has an adult handbell choir and a woodwind quintet, and a contemporary band participates a few times during the year.

Anticipated start date is November 27, 2011. Interested persons should submit a letter of interest and résumé including three references by October 14, 2011 via surface mail or email to:

Pauline Coffman  
Secretary, Organist Search Committee  
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708-524-5444