



# The Congregational Church *of New Canaan*

## **Director of Music Ministries**

The Director of Music Ministries (DMM) at the Congregational Church of New Canaan is a full-time position as a choral director, organist, educator, and administrator. The DMM reports to the Senior Minister, and oversees the music in the church, including the Director of Children's Music and Drama (part-time position). It is expected that the DMM exhibits a high level of musicianship and artistry that will complement the high-caliber talents of the Church's ministers.

The DMM is responsible for providing a program of music to enhance and complement all aspects of the church, focusing on services of worship. The DMM should aspire to bring the members and friends of the Church to a deeper engagement with the Christian tradition and to a closer relationship with God through music.

The DMM should have strong musical skills in teaching, conducting, and organ playing, as well as expertise in sacred choral music ranging from traditional to contemporary. The DMM should have broad liturgical knowledge that lends itself to the appropriate selection of music. In a position of being a musical and spiritual leader, the ideal DMM should be creative, well organized, a good communicator, and a strong team player with high energy. It is expected that the DMM will maintain a regular presence in the community and foster relationships with other music leaders in the area. The DMM should also be a member of professional organizations at the local and/or national level.

## **Primary Responsibilities**

The current responsibilities are as follows, but could be modified based on the candidate's expertise and future musical trends:

- Plan, rehearse, and conduct/play all organ, choral, and handbell music for services of worship, including special services.
- Work with the ministers/preachers to develop and coordinate the music with worship topics and advise on or select hymns.
- Provide opportunities for spiritual growth and fellowship for Church members and friends through musical events.

- Propose an annual budget, working with the Music Ministries Committee, ministers, and Trustees. Operate within the limits of the approved budget, managing payments to all paid vocalists and instrumentalists.
- Plan music with families and play for weddings and funerals at the Church (for additional fees) or find a suitable replacement.
- Hire/work with section leaders and soloists. Find replacements as needed. Engage, contract, and rehearse instrumentalists for special services.
- Be responsible for all music administration needs which include bulletin information, newsletters, articles, payroll, etc.
- Oversee and schedule the maintenance and usage of all musical instruments of the Church.
- Purchase and/or order supplies and music as necessary. Ensure proper licensing, in accordance with copyright laws.

### **About the Congregational Church of New Canaan**

Founded in 1733, The Congregational Church of New Canaan is a growing and thriving United Church of Christ (UCC) church in Fairfield County, Connecticut, with approximately 1,300 active members. It is a welcoming, inclusive, and compassionate church community that values differences and diversity. New member classes are held multiple times each year. The church has a very active youth program, designed for children from pre-K all the way through high school. Well over 100 children participate in various children's ministries, including: church school, multiple youth groups, children's music and drama programs, and weekly playdates for toddlers. The high school youth group is also highly regarded, caring for an additional 120 high school students. The church also has a strong missions and social action program, with youth and adults actively engaging with many organizations in neighboring communities, as well as on organized mission trips each year.

### **About the Program**

During the school year, there are two worship services each week: 8:00 AM and 10:00 AM. The main service is held in the Sanctuary at 10:00 AM and the Chancel Choir sings weekly at this, unless there is a special arrangement for other music. At 8 AM the service is held in the chapel, with a vocalist enhancing this shortened service. Extra services are scheduled throughout Advent and Lent: Musical Moments on Wednesdays at 12:30 PM with a soloist; A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols in December; Ash Wednesday; and Maundy Thursday.

In the summer, there is a single service on Sundays, held outside in the church's Memorial Garden, with the DMM playing an electric piano and one of the paid vocalists providing solos. With inclement weather, the service is held inside.

There are a wide variety of active choirs throughout the church, including the Chancel (adult) Choir, with more than 25 active members (including five paid section leaders), the Joyful

Ringers bell choir, and a number of children's offerings, such as: Cherubs (ages 3-5), Spirit Singers (grades K-2), Joyful Noise (grades 3-4), Junior Worship Team (grades 5-8), and Youth Worship Team (grades 9-12).

As for musical instruments, in the main sanctuary, there is an Aeolian-Skinner organ, with 3 manuals and 28 ranks, and a Steinway grand piano. The sanctuary holds approximately 400 people. The church also has a more intimate chapel, which has a Rapp tracker organ with 4 stops, and a spinet piano. The music room (office and choir room) has a grand piano. The church also owns 5 octaves of Whitechapel/Schulmerich hand bells and a set of tone chimes.

### **About the Town of New Canaan**

New Canaan is a vibrant community of just under 20,000 residents encompassing 22 square miles and located in Fairfield County, Connecticut, just 41 miles from Manhattan. New Canaan's downtown village, which is consistently ranked as one of the most charming in the state, includes a commuter rail station with access to New York City, and is known for its variety of fine shops, restaurants and services. In addition, the town recently completed construction of a new, state-of-the-art public library, which serves as a hub of the community and offers a broad range of educational programs for adults and children. The New Canaan Public School system is very highly regarded, and is consistently ranked as one of the best in the country. The town offers a wide variety of both public and private recreational facilities, open space and parks, and also boasts a vibrant arts community including: the Town Players, Summer Theater, Silvermine Arts Center, New Canaan Society for the Arts, and numerous dance, music and performance schools and studios.

### **Qualifications and Expectations**

Education: Masters or higher in Organ Performance, Choral Conducting or Sacred Music  
Experience: More than 10 years as organist/choirmaster, and as a conductor of choral groups in a church setting  
Salary Range: \$75,000 - \$100,000 (commensurate with experience)  
Benefits: 4 weeks paid vacation, health insurance with generous employer contributions, FSA plan, retirement plan, housing allowance, long-term disability and life insurance, professional expense reimbursement, and continuing education support.

Expected Start Date: Summer 2024

Please visit the church's website ([www.godsacre.org](http://www.godsacre.org)) to see videos of our weekly services and to learn more about our church. You can also visit our social media accounts on Instagram (@connectgodsacre) or Facebook (@CCNC1733).

### **To Apply**

Please reply to [musicsearch@godsacre.org](mailto:musicsearch@godsacre.org) with a cover letter, a resume, and links to recordings of at least 5 performances or services that demonstrate your talents and those of any choirs you lead. Applicants will be considered on a rolling basis through March 15<sup>th</sup>.