



Office for
Transition
Ministry

Ministry Portfolio

Full Portfolio (last updated Apr 13, 2022)

Christ Episcopal Church, Covington LA, Louisiana

129 N New Hampshire St, Covington, LA 70433, United States

Contact:

Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge

tonya@guidanceforthefuture.com

Weekly Average Sunday
Attendance (ASA)

200

Number of Weekend
Worship Services

3

Number of Weekday
Worship Services

2

Number of Other per Month
Worship Services

Current Annual
Compensation

Cash Stipend

Housing / Rectory Detail

Utilities

SECA reimbursement

Compensation Available for
New Position

\$120000

Housing Available for

Pension Plan

Healthcare Options
Clergy only

Dental
Yes

Housing Equity Allowance in
budget

Annual Equity Amount

Vacation Weeks

Vacation Weeks Details

Continuing Education Weeks
Other

Continuing Education Weeks
Details

Continuing Education
Funding in budget

Sabbatical Provision
Yes

Travel/Auto Account
Yes

Other Professional Account
Yes

SECA - will pay the tax based on the compensation package amount.

Christ Episcopal Church, Covington LA, Louisiana

Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge

Contact:
tonya@guidanceforthefuture.com

Describe a moment in your worshipping community's recent ministry which you recognize as one of success and fulfillment.

The sounds of the horns rang throughout the courtyard as we celebrated our 175th anniversary. Volunteers worked for months and gave of their time and talents to make this night happen. Our clergy and our congregation were dressed to the 9s. The old and young danced together with joyful abandon, our second-line snaking around the room. We all waved white napkins above our heads in gratitude and celebration. God has brought Christ Episcopal Church through 175 years and, most recently, the pandemic, the loss of our rector, and Hurricane Ida. We were never alone. With God's help we were able to move forward even during the darkest days and continue to be the hands and feet of Jesus in the world. Even better, this party served as a fundraiser for our Mission Commission, and we were able to meet our fundraising goal for 2022. As this special night filled with blessings came to a close, we were filled with gratitude for each other and for the rich past and tradition of our church and look forward in unity to our future as Christ Episcopal Church.

How are you preparing yourselves for the Church of the future?

The Church of the future may look different than the Church of today, but it will still exist to share and show the love of Christ, serve others, and be grounded in prayer and scripture. We must be adaptable to the changing world while honoring our purpose seek guidance from the Holy Spirit. Some ways we are planning to prepare for the future are to focus on relationships within the church and in the wider community. To partner with Christ Episcopal School in a meaningful way and use programming to attract families. To continue to serve by extending pastoral care to our wider community and offering meaningful service opportunities and mission work for adults, children, and teens. To attract those disillusioned by the church of the past who seek a spiritual home that is accepting, open, and welcoming to a questioning heart. To leverage the use of digital strategies and technology to reach people online while maintaining the human-to-human connection of Community. To partner with other churches in mission work and growth opportunities such as marriage and parenting workshops, bible studies, and communal dinners.

Please provide words describing the gifts and skills essential to the future leaders of your worshipping community.

Great Preaching, Ability to attract Families and Youth, Servant Leadership/ Mission work, pastoral care

Christ Episcopal Church, Covington LA, Louisiana

Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge

Contact:
tonya@guidanceforthefuture.com

Describe your liturgical style and practice for all types of worship services provided by your community.

Our Sunday schedule of services includes Holy Eucharist Rite I in the Chapel at 8:00 AM and is a traditional service with contemplative piano music. The next service is Holy Eucharist Rite II in the Church at 10:00 AM. It is a traditional service with the Christ Church Choir, organ, and special musical artists including the monthly appearance of the Celebration Band. The Celebration Band incorporates contemporary as well as traditional music into the service. A final service, Holy Eucharist Rite II with piano music and candlelight, is offered in the Chapel at 6:00 PM. The 10AM service is live-streamed. Weekday services include M-F Morning Prayer on Zoom. Holy Eucharist Rite II is offered on Tuesday at 11:00 AM at Christwood, and Holy Eucharist and Healing Service is offered on Wednesday at noon in the Chapel. We welcome the community with Jazz in June, a vibrant weekend of music with national and international performers. Special Jazz Masses are the culminating event of the weekend and are free and open to the public. These Masses were so well received that others have been offered throughout the years and have highlighted music by various contemporary artists.

How do you practice incorporating others in ministry?

Eucharistic Ministers are trained and licensed to assist clergy with the sacraments and Visiting Ministers give the sacraments to those unable to attend service. Lay Pastoral Ministers, trained to support the clergy in their pastoral duties, provide love, prayer, and listening. They are an integral part of caring for each other in times of crisis, suffering, or isolation. Members of the congregation serve as oblation bearers, acolytes and readers of scriptures and prayers. The choir is a dedicated and talented group of volunteers who lead the congregation in worship through music. Our Education for Ministry class was developed by the School of Theology in Sewanee, Tennessee and is a four-year course of study held once a week for a deep study of scripture and faith through reading and discussion. More informally, we have many small groups that are lay-led. Some examples are Walking the Mourner's Path (support for those who have lost a loved one), Theology on Tap (a beer and Bible study) and Grace Gathering (a circle for spiritual growth). There are many opportunities for participation in outreach ministries through the Mission Commission, CEEP and the Food Bank.

As a worshipping community, how do you care for your spiritual, emotional and physical well-being?

Christ Episcopal Church is a welcoming community that fosters spiritual growth and close relationships in which parishioners support one another in times of joy and sorrow. We form close, caring relationships in small group circles of fellowship and Christian formation classes in which members listen for understanding, value diverse opinions, and explore questions of faith. Small group formation opportunities include Bible studies, book groups, EFM, Gratitude Gals, Enneagram study, the Brotherhood of St. Andrew, Grace Gathering, and Wednesday Link. We work together on teams for nurturing and celebration ministries, community outreach projects, and community-wide events. Our Lay Pastoral Ministers are an integral part of our caring for each other in times of crisis. Connections gatherings were a part of our vibrant parish life before the pandemic, and we hope to bring them back soon. These informal gatherings were held every month or two at a parishioner's home or local restaurant. Our recently expanded courtyard in front of the church, affectionately referred to as Gathering on the Green, provides a dedicated space for parishioners to welcome visitors, catch up with old friends, and strengthen our sense of community.

Christ Episcopal Church, Covington LA, Louisiana

Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge

Contact:
tonya@guidanceforthefuture.com

How do you engage in pastoral care for those beyond your worshipping community?

The parishioners of Christ Episcopal Church are a generous group and embody the mission of our church: to be Christ's heart, hands, and feet in today's world. Just a few blocks away from our church, there are many families who struggle to secure the needs of daily life. Our Mission Commission facilitates a monthly partnership with a non-profit in our community. We support them both financially and with our hands and hearts. In addition to the Mission Commission, we have ongoing community outreach that addresses specific needs in our geographic area and beyond. The Christ Episcopal Enrichment Program (CEEP) is a dynamic summer experience for students in grades 3-6 who are at risk due to poverty. Christ Church supplies funding and space for CEEP as well as volunteers. Parishioners act as tutors, classroom aides, counselors, and kitchen staff. Thanksgiving baskets, Christmas gifts, and food drives are also a part of our outreach. Yearly Youth mission trips focus on service and community building. For over twenty-five years, the church has provided a safe and consistent meeting space for 12-step recovery groups.

Describe your worshipping community's involvement in either the wider Church or geographical region.

Christ Episcopal Church believes that pastoral care extends beyond our congregation to our brothers and sisters in our wider community of St. Tammany Parish. The church continues to support its longstanding outreach programs, but during the pandemic, our congregation felt the pull to do more to be Jesus's hands and feet in our community and so the Christ Episcopal Mission Commission was born. The Mission Commission was formed to support local nonprofits doing good work in our community. In November, we hosted a Gala to celebrate our 175th anniversary, and the proceeds from this wonderful evening went to fund our Mission Commission. Our goal is to fund a local grant program where local nonprofits can apply for small grants that not only allow them to meet their mission, but also allow them to have a better chance of securing larger governmental grants.

Tell about a ministry that your worshipping community has initiated in the past five years. Who can be contacted about this?

We are blessed with an endlessly creative and resourceful congregation, so it is difficult to choose just one ministry. The past five years have brought us the Mission Commission and numerous small study groups, but a dearly loved recent tradition is the Jazz in January concert series. Our three-day concert series featuring local and world-renowned musicians culminates in a special musical Mass hosted by Christ Episcopal Church. It attracts people to the church that may not ordinarily be there and offers them a glimpse of God's love. Proceeds from Jazz in January have gone to benefit the Musicians Clinic of New Orleans as well as other nonprofits. It truly takes a village to put on this festival and is a labor of love. Music is a very important part of our culture at Christ Episcopal Church and there is something for everyone. Not only do we have a wonderful traditional choir and organ, but a New Orleans pianist arranges hymns into jazz pieces and shares his gifts both at the 6:00 PM jazz service in the chapel and each month with his Celebration Band at the 10:00 service. Some of our well attended musical masses features music from U-2, Aretha Franklin, Elvis, and Dolly Parton.

Christ Episcopal Church, Covington LA, Louisiana

Contact:

Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge

tonya@guidanceforthefuture.com

What is your practice of stewardship and how does it shape the life of your worshipping community?

We as Christians are stewards of all that God has given us here on Earth. Out of love and gratitude for these gifts, members of Christ Church offer time, talent, and financial resources. The Stewardship Committees help to coordinate and plan annual events that support the on-going ministries within the church as well as in the extended community. Our recent capital campaign is a testament to the commitment of the parishioners to our church home. Besides allowing for needed repairs and renovations to the physical plant, it also offered an opportunity for parishioners, clergy, and staff to gather as one in their dedication to maintaining and growing the resources of the church. In the fall of 2018, new ways to acquire assets needed to further the mission of the church were reimaged by the newly formed Endowment Board. The Endowment fund is used to assist in the mission and ministry of the parish. The board works to increase the awareness of planned-giving opportunities so that the fund will continue to grow and promotes a Legacy Society that recognizes people who have made lifetime or testamentary gifts to the church.

What is your worshipping community's experience of conflict? And how have you addressed it?

Like much of the US, we experienced division regarding politics, social issues, and views on pandemic-related policies. We also found ourselves divided literally when required to practice social distancing and attend services online. For some, our differences seemed greater during periods of social distancing. However, as we gradually return to worshiping in person again, we have witnessed the power of the old saying "It's hard to hate up close." The Episcopal traditions, the hymns, the liturgy, communion, and simple fellowship with one another has reminded us why we continue to worship at Christ Church Covington. The search process has also given us an opportunity to discuss those things upon which we all agree, namely our love of Jesus, our love of Christ Church and our love of the Church community. The strong participation in both the parish-wide survey and small group discussions demonstrated not only the congregation's willingness but also our enthusiasm to look toward a bright new future. The congregation is proud of our church's 175-year heritage and feels a deep responsibility to ensure this vibrant enduring testament to God's love still exists 175 years from now.

What is your experience leading/addressing change in the church? When has it gone well? When has it gone poorly? And what did you learn?

The biggest change of the last two years was the pandemic that necessitated immediate pivoting to online worship. We were able to quickly offer online worship and build community through small groups on zoom. We were also able to continue our outreach through our Errand Angels program that delivered food, medicine, and necessities to those shut in by the pandemic. Unfortunately, the pivot to all-online church and activities was difficult for our older members of the congregation, who were often most isolated but without access to technology. We implemented a phone tree to check in on them, but that was not a complete solution to the problem. Additionally, the pressure of isolation coupled with the divisive political climate created division in our community and congregation. Upon reflection, we learned the importance of clear and open communication and allowing everyone to feel seen and heard regardless of their differences. We also learned that a pastoral relationship is very important when leading a congregation through difficult issues and opening them to new ways of being not based on the world's viewpoint, but on the biblical commandments of Jesus.



Ministry Portfolio

Full Portfolio
(last updated Apr 13, 2022)

Christ Episcopal Church, Covington LA, Louisiana

Contact:

Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge

tonya@guidanceforthefuture.com

Prior Incumbents

Name	Position Title	Date Begun	Date Ended
Winston E. Rice	Interim	2021-01	2022-07

Name	Position Title	Date Begun	Date Ended
William B. Miller	Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge	2015-01	2021-01

Name	Position Title	Date Begun	Date Ended
Dennis Ryan	Interim	2014-01	2015-01

The Reverend Winston Rice is the current Interim. The date of his departure is dependent upon the calling of the next Rector. The date of July, 2022 is a placeholder date.

Church School		Number of Teachers/Leaders for Children School	Number of Students for Children School
no			

Number of Teachers/Leaders for Teen/Young Adults School	Number of Students for Teen/Young Adults School	Number of Teachers/Leaders for Adults School	Number of Students for Adults School

Day School	Number of Students for Day School	Number of Teachers for Day School	Number of Total Staff for Day School
	614	90	127



Office for
Transition
Ministry

Ministry Portfolio

Full Portfolio
(last updated Apr 13, 2022)

Christ Episcopal Church, Covington LA, Louisiana

Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge

Contact:
tonya@guidanceforthefuture.com

Worshipping Community Web site: christchurchcovington.com

Media Links:

Online References:

[www.facebook.com/christ episcopal church covington](https://www.facebook.com/christepiscopalchurchcovington)

Languages Significantly Represented:

English

Provide Worship or Classes in:

English

References

Bishop:

Morris K. Thompson, Jr.

(504) 895-6634 mthompson@edola.org

Diocesan Transition Minister

Shannon R. Duckworth

(504) 895-6634 sduckworth@edola.org

Current Warden/Board Chair

Liz Bell

(985) 630-6967 jeffnliz@gmail.com

Previous Warden/Board Chair

Jason Reina

(985) 351-7861 reinajason@gmail.com

Search Chair

**Tonya Crombie & Randy
Moffett**

(404) 259-9919 (Tonya) tonya@guidanceforthefuture.com;
rmoffett65@gmail.com

Parish/Institution

Local Community Leader