



Office for
Transition
Ministry

Ministry Portfolio

Full Portfolio (last updated Nov 8, 2024)

Holy Comforter Episcopal Church, Colorado

1700 W. 10th Avenue, Broomfield, CO 80020, United States

Contact:

Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge | Receiving Names until 01/06/25.

Weekly Average Sunday Attendance (ASA) 135	Number of Weekend Worship Services 1	Number of Weekday Worship Services 1	Number of Other per Month Worship Services
Current Annual Compensation	Cash Stipend	Housing / Rectory Detail	Utilities
SECA reimbursement	Compensation Available for New Position \$106000	Housing Available for	Pension Plan We're in compliance with CPF requirements.
Healthcare Options Negotiable	Dental Yes	Housing Equity Allowance in budget	Annual Equity Amount
Vacation Weeks 4	Vacation Weeks Details	Continuing Education Weeks 2 (standard)	Continuing Education Weeks Details 2
Continuing Education Funding in budget \$1001-\$2000/year	Sabbatical Provision Yes	Travel/Auto Account Yes	Other Professional Account

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

Recently, 4 young girls, ages 7 to 11, were installed in the Junior Daughters of the King during a Sunday service. (Three additional girls were unable to attend but will be installed soon). Sponsored by our adult chapter of the Daughters of the King, Junior Daughters make a vow of daily prayer and service to Jesus Christ, promise to be His faithful servants and extend His love to all people, and work to grow in Christian faith and commitment through fellowship, prayer, and Bible study. This is the first Junior Daughters chapter in the Diocese of Colorado. Watching these young girls dedicate themselves to personal growth in their knowledge of and love for Christ was a very moving experience for our entire congregation. It was a tangible, poignant sign of hope and encouragement that the future of Holy Comforter and the Episcopal church is alive, well, and in good hands.

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

The onset of the pandemic made us realize that the church of the future may be vastly different than our pre-pandemic expectations. We transitioned from hosting a lively, parish-wide fundraising event in our parish hall to eerily shuttering the church in the period of a few short weeks. The pandemic showed us that we are flexible and can pivot quickly when necessary. Our use of technology, acknowledgement of our responsibility for environmental stewardship, and commitment to outreach are building blocks for the church of the future. We recognize that younger churchgoers are looking for churches that live out the Gospel actively, and with the guidance of the Holy Spirit, we are seeking ways to respond.

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

Strategic planner/leader. Pastoral care gifts. Theologically progressive. Friendly/welcoming.

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

Our liturgy is traditional, and our historic Hook organ and choirs tend to shape our music traditions. Our vocal and handbell choirs offer diversity and variety. Sprinkled throughout the year, but particularly during the summer, members offer their numerous vocal and instrumental musical gifts to the congregation. We usually recite a form of Rite II on Sunday mornings, and a shorter healing service is offered once a month on Wednesday at noon. We value thought-provoking sermons that relate Scripture to our personal lives and leave us with a phrase, story or image that we can carry with us. There is strong participation from adult lay readers and lay eucharistic ministers, and we are currently working to encourage more participation from youth. Since the early days of the pandemic, participation via Zoom has been offered every Sunday. While our congregation loves our strong traditions, our recent Holy Cow! survey and Holy Conversations have indicated that we are also ready to try new liturgical and musical styles.

How do you practice incorporating others in ministry?

This is an area in which we would like to become better versed. While we have a strong team of dedicated lay volunteers, we hope that our new leadership will partner with us by inviting participation in ministry and helping new and less-involved members become more engaged and feel welcome. Currently, participation in ministry is primarily solicited through personal invitation by someone involved in a ministry in which they think a newcomer would be a good fit. Church attendees are encouraged to participate in ministries with which their skills and talents align. Inconsistent responses to this method result in frequent overloading of the three or four dozen regular volunteers. We want to find ways to help our volunteers feel appreciated and acknowledge their gifts.

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

In our recent conversations with the congregation, many shared how important social connection was with their experience of Holy Comforter as a spiritual home. One theme that was often repeated was a core belief that the commitment to community at Holy Comforter is special. Through parish retreats, fundraisers, coffee hours, pastoral visits, fellowship and fun, our parishioners feel that members and leadership want to know them personally. Lay-led ministries include Bible study classes, prayer groups, Sacred Ground courses, a grief group and visits by Eucharistic visitors. We have a Daughters of the King chapter, and just started a Junior Daughters of the King group. Our recent congregational assessment reflected an extremely strong desire for educational offerings for every age and stage of life. Often, we get so involved with ministry that we fail to restore ourselves. We need to be reminded to take care of ourselves, pause and reflect, and renew our spirits through prayer and worship. We will ask our next rector to be a pastor to the pastors.

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

Holy Comforter is an incubator for lay-led community outreach and pastoral care ministries. In the 1960's our congregation was an original founder of Broomfield FISH, a local food bank. Fifteen years ago we started the successful Broomfield Farmers' Market, which operates weekly during the summer. When it became stale following COVID, volunteers stepped in to renew it. As public schools began to cut arts education funding, our music director saw a need, and the Broomfield Children's Chorus was born. Another member founded the Women's Gathering, which provides community and companionship to area women as they knit, crochet and sew goods for local groups and Native American reservations. Three years ago, a group of volunteers began Broomfield STEM, a robotics club that involves over 130 kids. As with all incubators, some ministries will flourish and others will not; some will need renewal and others will need to end. Our next rector will nurture and guide the leadership in these various ministries in ways that point them to success.

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

Currently, we tithe 8.5% to our Diocese and 1% to the Front Range Region. Members of our Vestry and congregation participate as delegates in the annual Diocesan Convention. In the past, several members have participated in diocesan youth events. Since 2020, many of our members have participated in Sacred Ground, the National Church's film-based dialogue series on race and faith. One of our members has served as a group facilitator since that time, convening participants from all over the country. A Holy Comforter parishioner has served as a member of the Diocesan Creation Care Team since 2019. Another parishioner serves on the Front Range Region Executive Committee, which awards a majority of its yearly budget in grant funding to groups and parishes in the region.

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

One example of community outreach which we are incubating is a STEM robotics program. In the spring of 2022, we were approached by teens in the congregation who wanted to start a robotics team. Their parents, the youth leader, and members of the congregation came on board and they set up shop in the church's basement. The team quickly grew to 10 kids, including Ukrainian students from the local refugee resettlement program, students who identify as neurodivergent, and students from India. In 2023, when it was clear that the program was growing beyond what Holy Comforter could support, they spun off into Broomfield STEM as an independent 501(c)3 nonprofit, led by two members of the congregation. Now in their third year, they have over 130 kids, grades K-12 in 4 different programs, and a summer camp. Over 25 kids and 15 adults from the congregation are actively involved, and some of our new families came to Holy Comforter because of this offering for kids. We see this as an entirely new dimension of ministry with youth. Contact: jamie@broomfieldstem.org

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

With the additions to our building in 2001, we found ourselves saddled with a large mortgage that required nearly \$50,000 in payments every year. As a result, we have always done too much with too little paid staff. In 2022, these financial difficulties came to a head. We began a 12-month stewardship program emphasizing financial transparency and the concept that living as a good steward is the mature response to the Good News of Jesus Christ. In response, our parishioners stepped forward in a variety of ways to address our shortcomings. One member responded anonymously by paying down our mortgage with a \$450,000 gift and another financed the remaining \$230,000 with a zero-percent interest loan that will be paid in full in nine years. Holy Comforter is beginning to understand the significance of these efforts by looking at our communal life and our time, talent, and treasure through new lenses. We seek a rector who can assist us with visioning while we continue to strive to be good stewards of all God has entrusted to us.

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

The financial crisis which we experienced in 2022 led to conflict. As part of the resolution of the crisis, the positions of Youth and Families director and Communications director were eliminated and the remaining staff members, including the rector, reduced their hours and their compensation. Parish meetings were held to explain the budgetary issues and volunteers stepped forward to fill the breaches, though some families still left the church. Recognizing that we are a congregation rich in time and talent, a task group of lay leaders, including former vestry members and treasurers, was convened, calling themselves "Pathfinders." Led by a retired priest, the group set goals that focused on three of our greatest obstacles – a lack of financial transparency and communication, inadequate cash resources, and leadership development. Members of the group focused on improving the quality of our financial statements, openly sharing this with the congregation. They worked to restore the accuracy of the database, made concerted efforts to affirm the gifts of the remaining staff, and developed a stewardship program that focused on the interrelationship of time, talent, and treasure.

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?

Following a Diocesan process in 2014, we held a well-conducted parish learning series on the issue of human sexuality. After that, the congregation voted to approve same-sex blessings at Holy Comforter. By contrast, a 2023 proposal to initiate a low-income housing project on our vacant lot did not proceed as anticipated, primarily due to a lack of well-planned communication with the congregation. We learned that communication from the onset of planning is key for any project, and that grassroots involvement is extremely important and cannot be underestimated.



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Prior Incumbents

Name	Position Title	Date Begun	Date Ended
The Rev. Dr. Lyndon Shakespeare	Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge	2020-10	2024-06

Name	Position Title	Date Begun	Date Ended
The Rev. Kim Seidman	Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge	2010-09	2019-09

Name	Position Title	Date Begun	Date Ended
The Rev. Rod Moore	Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge	2007-06	2010-11

Church School	Number of Teachers/Leaders for Children School	Number of Students for Children School
	4	10

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
1	13		

Day School	Number of Students for Day School	Number of Teachers for Day School	Number of Total Staff for Day School



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Worshipping Community Web site: <https://www.holycomforterchurch.net/>

Media Links:

Online References:

> <https://www.youtube.com/@HolyComforterEpiscopalCh-wd2nc/videos>

> <https://www.facebook.com/HolyComforterBroomfield>

Languages Significantly Represented:

Provide Worship or Classes in:

References

Bishop:

The Rt. Rev. Kym Lucas

Diocesan Transition Minister

**The Rev. Canon Vanessa
Stickler Glass**

vanessa@episcopalcolorado.org; 720-677-9007

Current Warden/Board Chair

Previous Warden/Board Chair

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Local Community Leader