



Office for
Transition
Ministry

Ministry Portfolio

Full Portfolio (last updated Sep 18, 2025)

Christ Episcopal Church, Colorado

802 Harrison Avenue, Canon City , CO 81212, United States

Contact:

Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge (Part-time) | Receiving Names until 11/05/25.

Weekly Average Sunday Attendance (ASA)	Number of Weekend Worship Services	Number of Weekday Worship Services	Number of Other per Month Worship Services
40	1		2
Current Annual Compensation	Cash Stipend	Housing / Rectory Detail	Utilities
SECA reimbursement	Compensation Available for New Position	Housing Available for	Pension Plan
	\$45161		We're in compliance with CPF requirements.
Healthcare Options	Dental	Housing Equity Allowance in budget	Annual Equity Amount
Negotiable	Yes		
Vacation Weeks	Vacation Weeks Details	Continuing Education Weeks	Continuing Education Weeks Details
Other	2	2 (standard)	
Continuing Education Funding in budget	Sabbatical Provision	Travel/Auto Account	Other Professional Account
\$1001-\$2000/year			

SECA reimbursement included in 1/2 time salary. Healthcare allowance \$10,000.

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

Our parish committees are always looking for ways to generate income and strive to be better stewards of our parish campus and buildings. To achieve both objectives, our Vestry agreed to renovate the historic house that had long served as our parish office into a rental residence. The parish office would move into the basement of the parish hall, a space that had formerly been a pre-school and youth study area. In April 2023, the diocese granted approval to proceed. We began by hiring a home renovation specialist and a general handyman (who offered their services at greatly discounted rates). These professionals were assisted by two parishioners working 20-30 hours per week. In addition, several parish-wide workdays were planned to help paint, landscape, move furniture, and haul off debris. As many as 16 volunteers participated in each of these workdays. By June 2024, both the new rental residence and new office space were completed. Christ Church now has an additional \$16,000 in annual income. Our 1883 vintage house, the former office, was completely rebuilt, the under-used parish hall basement received long-overdue revamping. This project generated parish-wide participation.

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

In October of 2023, Christ Church engaged The Rev. Elizabeth Denham Thompson of Eremos Consulting to lead a parish-wide discernment process. The goals of our contract with her were: To listen to the congregation's hopes, fears, and how God's Spirit is moving among them; To explore who we have been, who we are now, and who we are called to be going forward. A key success of this process was the congregation's articulation of our Church story and identity. We now have a "path forward", grounded in the unique identity and gifts of Christ Church. This identity will guide our work through the following questions: 1) Which pastoral leadership model best serves our vision within current budgetary realities? 2) How will we build a strong, sustainable financial base for current and future parish needs? 3) How can we be better stewards of our available building and campus spaces? 4) How can we engage with the needs of local communities in ways that also offer vitality and a focus for Christ Church? 5) How do we offer opportunities for fellowship, worship, healing and spiritual growth for our parish family while balancing the declining energy-levels of our aging ministry volunteers?

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

Inclusive and welcoming; contemplatively grounded; rooted in scripture; collaborative and empowering; pastoral care oriented.

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

Our weekly bulletin contains the order of the service, scripture readings, prayers of the people, announcements and church calendar. Our 10:00 a.m. Sunday morning service begins with an invitational prayer and lighting of the connection candle, joining those worshipping onsite with those online. Service typically sees 35-45 participants, with 2-4 persons joining the service live on-line, and 2-3 dozen more engaging on-line during the week via You-Tube recordings. The liturgy is traditional. The 'Prayers of the People' include special intentions for family and friends. The Peace, a 'radical,' joyful greeting, continues until all are called back by the celebrant. Music is both traditional and contemporary and is played on the pipe organ. A cantor leads the people in congregational singing. Lay members of the parish assist the pastor with occasional preaching, reading of scripture and administration of the Eucharist. Eucharistic Visitors are sent out to bring communion to those unable to attend due to aging or illness. Each Sunday service concludes with a prayer for world peace.

How do you practice incorporating others in ministry?

All church members are encouraged to participate in parish ministries. Volunteers are often recruited by word of mouth or by personal invitation from someone involved. Others are recruited through announcements during service, our website, electronic messages/mail, or social media. For worship services, volunteers are scheduled monthly as readers, altar guild members, acolytes, and prayer ministers. Ushers serve as greeters and Eucharistic Ministers help in administering communion. Our worship is live streamed each Sunday for those members who cannot come in person or for those exploring what Christ Church has to offer. Members nurture one another, as well as newcomers to our parish community, by being welcoming and curious, caring and supportive, forgiving and faithful.

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

After Sunday service a coffee hour is offered for fellowship, sharing, and catching up with church and personal news, and community events. Trained Lay Eucharistic Visitors extend our Communion Table to the sick and shut-ins in our congregation. Our Little Free Pantry sees a lot of use, meeting the food needs of many people in our community. We offer a Healing service twice a month; 'Seek and You Shall Find,' a spiritual and religious inquiry group, meets each Saturday; 'Adult Forum' studies scripture and other topics on Sunday morning prior to service; our Centering Prayer group gathers for prayer and discussion twice a month; and StillPoint, a Zen contemplative group meets twice a month. Prayer requests are sent via email or brought to prayer ministers before Sunday service. We love to honor and celebrate special events, graduations, anniversaries, and birthdays. Each week the Belltower Newsletter is sent by email providing reminders about church events, services, prayer requests, and links to our services online.

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

At Christ Church pastoral care flows naturally within and beyond our church doors through compassionate outreach and spiritual presence from our commitment to live out the Gospel in love, presence, and compassion. Our Befrienders Ministry serves individuals in crisis or isolation, offering a ministry of listening and support. We reach the homebound and those facing challenges through our Valentine Card Ministry, reminding them they are seen and loved. Our Centering Prayer group, in person and via Zoom, offers contemplative space for inner peace and spiritual depth. We welcome outside groups like Stillpoint, a Zen meditation circle, and host community recitals and gatherings, sharing our sacred space as a gift to others. These efforts intentionally serve as a spiritual and emotional sanctuary reflecting our commitment to inclusivity, spiritual care, and community healing.

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

Christ Church embraces our call to be a welcoming, inclusive, and spiritually grounded parish by offering partnership and support to the larger Church and our regional neighbors. Christ Church typically sends several parishioners to the annual Colorado Diocesan Convention and is regular participant at Sangre de Cristo Regional Team meetings. As active partners with Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church, we share worship and dialog through the Joint Discernment Committee. Our Second Sunday collections, Festival Fair, and local high school scholarships support local and regional nonprofits. Members volunteer with Meals on Wheels, Loaves and Fishes, NAMI, and other groups, embodying our values in the community. For 20 years, we contributed to El Hogar in Honduras which provides quality education and a safe home for children. Christ Church wholeheartedly lives out its identity in the larger church.

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

As an alternative to traditional church and vestry organizational structure, a cooperative ministry was organized to fulfill the role of the Junior Warden position. This ministry, 'The Building and Grounds Committee', oversees the maintenance and welfare of the structural aspects of our 123-year-old church building and beautifully landscaped grounds. The committee serves in an advisory capacity to the Vestry in these matters. A detailed inventory of the properties recurring tasks has been identified and organized. Individual committee members accept the responsibility of leadership in the completion of their selected tasks. Special projects are assessed and planned with the consent of the Vestry and Finance Committee. A detailed accounting of the functions and completions of the tasks of this ministry are recorded and kept in the committee meeting minutes. John Merriam, committee chairperson, oversees the multitude of building and grounds activities and responsibilities.

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

Annually Christ Church members are encouraged to give of their 'time, talent, and treasure' in support of the operational and spiritual life of the church. To encourage participation in time and talent stewardship, our parish administrator compiles a booklet outlining the structure, purpose, and recent successes and missions of our various ministries. On a two-to-three-year basis a 'Ministry Fair' adds a more personal touch to the invitation to volunteer. Collegial and spiritual relationships have grown among the congregation because of our work together. The Finance Committee is charged with the development and management of an operational budget to finance the various needs of the church. 'Stewardship Sunday', in late fall, allows church members to confidentially pledge their 'treasure'. Annual pledges, contributions, invested reserves, and weekly collections through plate offerings ensure that financial resources are available to fund the church budget. Pledged fiscal gifts by individuals are extensions of their commitment to worship, spiritual life, and fellowship of our church community.

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

Several years ago, the community homeless shelter experienced bed shortages on cold winter nights. Parishioners began transporting individuals turned-away from the community shelter to our parish hall basement where cots, blankets, fellowship and a warm place waited. What began as 3-5 individuals seeking shelter soon grew to 15-20 on some nights and guests began to use the church grounds during the day. The Sheltering Ministry began to generate concerns from parishioners and complaints from neighbors. Many parishioners wanted the ministry moved off parish grounds for safety and security reasons. Other parishioners were committed to continuing this needed service. As a result, the Sheltering Ministry pros and cons were presented at a special meeting of the parish activities committee. After hearing both sides of the issue, the committee recommended continuing the ministry, but with restrictions on the number of over-night guests, a specified ratio of guests to hosts, an identified emergency egress, etc. In the end, we no longer offer a sheltering ministry due to the expense of meeting current fire codes and the community shelter's now expanded overnight capacity.

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?

Our Vestry used Leading Faithful Innovation as a guide during a period of significant transition. This book urges faith communities to first focus on discerning "God and Mission" questions before jumping to practical concerns like leadership, buildings, and budgets. Vestry spent over a year ruminating on these deeper questions and then engaged The Rev. Elizabeth Thompson of Eremos Consulting to help move us forward. While this extended discernment clarified church identity and purpose, it also revealed a shortcoming: we failed to clearly communicate the purpose and value of this process to the congregation. Many expected more immediate, tangible outcomes. The perceived lack of progress led to frustration and, in some cases, members leaving the church. This experience taught us that leading change must include active, transparent communication. Even spiritually grounded processes can falter if people don't understand the why behind the journey. We learned that good intentions and strategic goals aren't enough - leaders must stay attuned to the emotional and spiritual needs of the community throughout.



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Prior Incumbents

Name	Position Title	Date Begun	Date Ended
The Rev. Mark Meyer	Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge	1998-01	

Name	Position Title	Date Begun	Date Ended
The Revs. Burton, Boswell & Hodgson	Interim	1996-01	1998-01

Name	Position Title	Date Begun	Date Ended
Paul Hinson	Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge	1992-01	1996-01

Church School	Number of Teachers/Leaders for Children School	Number of Students for Children School
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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
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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://christchurchcc.org>

Media Links:

Online References:

> <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OZ84x9Rf9mg>

Languages Significantly Represented:

Provide Worship or Classes in:

References

Bishop:

The Rt. Rev. Kym Lucas

Diocesan Transition Minister

**The Rev. Canon Vanessa
Stickler Glass**

Current Warden/Board Chair

vanessa@episcopalcolorado.org; 720-677-9007

Previous Warden/Board Chair

Search Chair

Parish/Institution

Local Community Leader