

Grace (Buena Vista)

TYPE	DIOCESE	NAME
Congregation	Colorado	

TYPES OF WORK	POSITION TITLE/ROLE
Part Time	Rector/Priest-in-Charge

ROLE SUMMARY/DESCRIPTION

This is an ideal position - two Sundays a month - for a priest who lives within few hours drive of Buena Vista. There is church provided housing for the Sundays you are serving. We are a small rural mountain town congregation with limited financial assets. We are a combined Episcopalian and Methodist church. We are looking for a ¼-time Episcopal priest to work two Sundays a month. Our ¼-time Methodist clergy works the other two Sundays a month. The other ½ time tasks are managed by the Church Council and volunteer congregants. A big attraction to our area is the great outdoors, small town, and river access. Council (leadership) meetings are after church on Sundays. Clergy alternate months either in person after church on Sundays or via Zoom, every other month. Schedule for Christmas Eve, Advent and Lent, and Easter is negotiated with Council and Methodist clergy.

CURRENT STATUS	RECEIVING NAMES FROM	TO
Receiving names	07/21/2026	

APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

Please email a cover letter including links to two sermons, a resume, and Vocation Hub profile to the Rev. Canon Vanessa Stickler Glass, Canon for Transition and Wellness, vanessa@episcopalcolorado.org

CANDIDATE NARRATIVE INSTRUCTIONS

CONTACT

NAME	The Rev. Canon Vanessa Stickler Glass
ROLE	Canon for Transition and Wellness
ORGANIZATION	The Episcopal Church in Colorado
PHONE NUMBER	720-677-9007
EMAIL ADDRESS	vanessa@episcopalcolorado.org

POSITION DETAILS

ORDERS OF MINISTRY	GEOGRAPHIC LOCATION
Priest	Mountain West
WORK ENVIRONMENT	MINISTRY SETTING

POSITION PROFILE

In Person

Rural

PAROCHIAL REPORT DATA

AVG. SUNDAY ATT.

34

ANNUAL BUDGET

138071

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW NARRATIVE

We are a small rural mountain town congregation with limited financial assets. We are a combined Episcopal and Methodist church. We are looking for a 1/4-time Episcopal clergy to work with our 1/4-time Methodist clergy. The other 1/2-time tasks are managed by the church council, lay church administrator, secretary, music director and volunteer congregants.

FINANCIAL RESOURCE TYPE None

STIPEND, HOUSING, AND BENEFITS

COMPENSATION/SALARY DETAIL

RANGE \$0 - \$20,000 DETAILS

\$20,000. Salary is paid monthly.

HOUSING/RECTORY TYPE

TYPE OF HOUSING PROVIDED Rectory

DETAILS

The Annex apartment has 2 bedrooms, 1 bathroom, a fully equipped kitchen with dining table & chairs, and the living room has a TV, couch with end tables, coffee table and recliner chair. There is a desk and copier also in the living area. Usually, we have one bedroom that is designated for the Episcopal Priest and one that is designated for the Methodist Pastor. There is closet space and dressers that can be used. The apartment is cleaned and beds are changed once a month. In the past, the apartment has been available Fri, Sat, Sun evenings on the 2nd and 4th Sundays for the Episcopal priest. We are also dog-friendly!

SECA REIMBURSEMENT DETAIL

REIMBURSEMENT OFFERED Half

DETAILS

1/2 SECA is included in compensation.

POSITION PROFILE

MEDICAL & PENSION BENEFITS DETAIL

PENSION PLAN

In compliance with CPF requirements

HEALTHCARE OPTIONS

n/a

DETAILS

Healthcare is not offered for this 1/4 position.

VACATION, CONTINUING EDUCATION, AND OTHER BENEFITS

VACATION & LEAVE DETAILS

2 paid Sundays per year for this 1/4 position.

CONTINUING EDUCATION DETAILS

\$375 available for continuing ed.

SABBATICAL PROVISION DETAILS

n/a

TRAVEL/AUTO ACCOUNT DETAILS

Up to \$150 for travel to conference.

EQUIPMENT/PHONE DETAILS

n/a

OTHER BENEFITS OR COMMENTS

Misc. expenses \$100.

DIOCESAN COMPENSATION INFORMATION (IF APPLICABLE)

FORMAT None

MINISTRY CONTEXT AND DESIRED SKILLS

WHAT ARE YOUR COMMUNITY'S HOPES FOR THIS POSITION?

We are looking for an Episcopal priest who will collaborate with the Methodist Pastor, Senior Warden, Lay Pastoral Leader and Church Council (every other month); help with leadership development of our congregation; and, assist us in discerning our appropriate level of community involvement for our small church.

LEADERSHIP SKILLS

Adaptive Leadership, Collaborative Leadership, Congregational Development, Leadership Development, Servant Leadership

MINISTRY SKILLS

Church Growth, Community Building, Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, Ecumenical Cooperation, Innovative Ministry, Outreach, Pastoral Care, Preaching, Teaching, Worship & Liturgy

LANGUAGES SPOKEN

English

LANGUAGES WRITTEN

English

LANGUAGES REQUIRED TO LEAD WORSHIP

English

1. What is your organization's mission and focus?

Describe your core mission and ministry priorities. What values guide your work, and what is your community or organization striving to embody in this season of ministry?

Grace Church Mission Statement: Drawing on the strengths of our Episcopal and United Methodist traditions, Grace Church proclaims the Good News, ministering in the Name of Jesus Christ to all people. We welcome all faiths to worship with us and respect the dignity of every human being. We achieve this through faithful worship, stewardship, fellowship, education and outreach.

2. How would you describe your ministry context?

Share about the setting and community you serve. What are the unique characteristics of your context - such as urban, rural, or suburban dynamics; multi-faith or multicultural environments; community partnerships; or social and cultural factors that shape your ministry?

We are a small mountain town congregation that has members who are full time residents and seasonal residents. In the summer months our attendance increases when our seasonal members return and we welcome many visitors. Our congregation is primarily older age congregants with a small number of children. We are committed to Jesus Christ and His Gospel. We have shared leadership led by both clergy and parishioners.

3. How would you describe your congregational/diocesan leadership culture?

Reflect on how your community approaches leadership - what styles and qualities you value in clergy, how leadership is shared between clergy and laity, and how you navigate change and challenges.

Our leadership is built on trust and honesty. Since we are a congregation that combines Episcopal and Methodist traditions, our leadership structure contains an Episcopal Senior Warden, a Methodist Lay Leader and an Episcopal Lay Pastoral Leader, who preaches for the 5th Sunday services. The joint congregations are governed by the Church Council, in consultation with the clergy. In keeping with our ecumenical tradition, no one denominational group shall have a majority of the Council membership.

4. How would you describe your congregational/diocesan liturgical styles and practice?

Share how worship is shaped in your community - what influences your liturgical life, how you balance tradition and innovation, and how liturgy reflects your theology and context.

Our church's liturgical style is structured – a certain order for both Episcopalian and Methodist services. For Episcopal Services, we use the Book of Common Prayer for the service and sing from the Methodist Hymnal. For the Methodist Service, we use the Methodist Hymnal. There is collaboration and planning between the Episcopal Priest and the Methodist Pastor for the Holy Week and Advent services. We also collaborate with the Congregational Church in Buena Vista to share some services during those weeks. Because we are a small community we have learned to become quite self-reliant. Our laity read the scripture lessons, help distribute communion, preach and lead the service whenever called upon. We have an organist who plays the pipe organ each Sunday. Many are involved in planning and presenting special services during Advent, Christmas and Lent. Nearly everyone is involved in stewardship.

MINISTRY MEDIA AND LINKS

NARRATIVES

1. Describe your congregation's/diocese's theology or spiritual identity.

Reflect on key moments or experiences that have shaped or challenged your congregation's theological understanding or self-identity.

Grace Church is a combined Episcopal/Methodist worship community. Since the beginning of our combining of Episcopal/Methodist ministries, we have been committed to shared ecumenical ministry, as well as mutual respect and support of the traditions of each denomination. We believe that we were created by God – in His image – and all of our gifts were given by Him. We generally use the Book of Common Prayer and the Methodist Hymnal on alternating Sundays. We have communion every Sunday except when no minister is available and we have had lay people lead our service. We now have a trained Pastoral Leader who will lead worship on the 5th Sundays and also lead the congregation when no minister is available. Our focus as a small congregation is one of collaboration and support. Because we are a small community we have learned to become quite self-reliant. Our laity read the scripture lessons, help distribute communion, preach and lead the service whenever called upon. Many are involved in planning and presenting special services during Advent, Christmas and Lent. Nearly everyone is involved in stewardship.

2. Describe a recent ministry experiment or innovation in your congregation/diocese.

What did you try, why did you try it, and what did you learn - whether it "worked" or not?

The worshipping community at Grace Church is small and over the years we have experienced many challenges, from abrupt changes in leadership to the pandemic to incorporating technological advances. The recent pandemic taught us to use Zoom for our services and, despite its limitations, it has proven invaluable in allowing congregants to join our services wherever they may be. Our church community exhibits flexibility and collaboration in adjusting to the various challenges we have faced, and this continues to make us stronger as a result. Our biggest "experiment" has been the combining of the Episcopal and Methodist ministries. We have been "experimenting" with this for over 20 years and have found that despite our differences, we are truly alike as Christians. We have also created a Security Committee to ensure the safety and security of staff, volunteers, worshippers and other visitors to our facility.

5. How does your congregation/diocese sustain its spiritual, emotional, and physical well-being?

Ministry is deeply meaningful and often demanding. Share how your community nurtures its collective health and sense of call.

Although both co-pastors generally provide for the well-being of our congregation, as a small close-knit community we are very supportive of each other and help out with whatever the need may be. We have fellowship after every Sunday service, regular bible study meetings, and we support various outreach programs throughout the local community. The church has a Congregational Life committee that sponsors many activities: Games at Grace, Potlucks, Easter Dinner, Church Picnic, Camping Trips, July 4 Concert , Advent Brunch and Community Sing-a-longs to name a few.

6. In what ways is your congregation/diocese engaged in the wider Church or local community?

Whether through diocesan leadership, ecumenical partnerships, civic involvement, or community organizing, describe how your congregation serves beyond its own walls.

Grace Church is very active in the Buena Vista community and aware of its needs through our Outreach Committee. This committee has done interviews with non-profit organizations in order to understand their missions and needs. Our congregation has been greatly involved in outreach programs. Funds generated from bake sales (which our church is well-known for), book & rummage sales, craft fairs, and 10% of the weekly donation plates etc. are divided among numerous local non-profit organizations, such as the Alliance Against Domestic Abuse, the local Christian Mission which distributes food and toiletries to the needy, family support groups, etc. Fund distribution to community organizations changes as the needs of the community changes. Our sewing group knits prayer shawls. We also have an ongoing reciprocal relationship with the Congregational Church in Buena Vista and with them we share some joint services, educational opportunities and outreach.

7. How does your congregation/diocese approach pastoral care?

Reflect on how your community walks with one another and with neighbors through life's joys and challenges - what guides your approach?

We make every effort to help anyone in need who comes our way. This includes providing overnight shelter for a homeless or stranded person, visiting hospital patients, supporting congregants when they are ill and homebound, spiritual or emotional counseling, including grief counseling for those members who have lost children, etc. Because we are a very independent church, we know that it is up to us to help each other in times of need. Pastoral Needs are made known to the clergy by the Church Administrator and via the Prayer Chain communications.

9. What does stewardship mean to your congregation/diocese, and how do you practice it?

Describe how your community approaches generosity, resource management, and financial discipleship.

Stewardship means giving back for all the gifts and blessings that we have received from God. We have a stewardship pledge drive every year that depends on faith-based generosity. We are able to continuously meet our budget needs, provide a substantial amount for our various outreach programs, and keep a reserve. Aside from financial stewardship we believe that we are all stewards of Grace Church and have a responsibility to each other through our time, treasures and talents to help in whatever way we can.

10. How has your congregation/diocese experienced and addressed conflict?

Conflict is part of communal life. Tell us about a time your congregation faced it and how you responded - what did you learn?

Aside from common conflicts that develop within any church, our community has experienced two major conflicts in the recent past. The first was during the transition of lead pastor from Methodist to Episcopalian. Membership suffered but the remaining community pulled together and prospered. The second conflict came about when the Methodist Bishop was under attack because of her same-sex marriage. Our community embraces all of God's people who want to follow in Christ's footsteps without exception. We do not believe that anybody is denied God's grace because of whom they are.

11. What has been your congregation's/diocese's experience leading or navigating change?

Ministry often requires change. Reflect on a time your community embraced or navigated change - when it went well, when it didn't, and what it taught you about shared leadership.

Grace Church has been in existence since 1889 and has undergone numerous transformations in its history. It has always adjusted to circumstances and has survived because the congregation has been flexible in accepting change and has been all-inclusive in welcoming everyone. Open communication and transparency are keys to being flexible. The two examples of conflict mentioned in the response to question #10 above are instances that ended well although they were trying at times. What we learned, and continue to realize, is that if we support and love each other in following Christ's example we will continue to prosper as a congregation.

12. What are your current strategic priorities or plans for the future?

Share about any existing strategic plans, visioning processes, or future priorities your community is pursuing. How do these goals reflect your mission and the needs of the people you serve? What hopes or aspirations are guiding your ministry in this season?

Church Growth through community engagement, focusing on outreach and establishing new relationships

- Start Soup Saturdays for those in need in the community.
- Continue the Outreach Programs.
- Redefining what we think church is and how we can better serve our community (e.g. instead of relying on the single building on Sundays, the church gathers in everyday spaces like a park or other venue).
- Establish a campus-wide security committee for safety & emergency response.
- Development of Lay Pastoral Leader (Commissioned Sunday, July 12, 2026).

15. How does your congregation/diocese use technology in ministry?

Describe the ways your community uses digital tools for worship, communication, formation, or outreach - and what you've learned along the way.

We offer on-line services via Zoom each Sunday. Ability to watch video lessons, host Zoom meetings, and collaborate with others via the AV capabilities in the Parish Hall. Use of social media channels to advertise activities.

17. What theological convictions shape your congregational/diocesan ministry?

Reflect on how your community's theology informs worship, outreach, pastoral care, justice, mission, evangelism, and your life together?

At Grace Church all are welcome. No exceptions. In addition, everyone can partake in communion. We believe that Jesus came to save us from our sins and will come again. We wholeheartedly believe that God made all of us equal.