



Office for
Transition
Ministry

Ministry Portfolio

Full Portfolio (last updated Aug 12, 2025)

Northern Miami Valley Episcopal Cluster, Southern Ohio

230 Scioto Street, Urbana, OH 43078, United States

Contact:

Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge (Part-time) | Receiving Names until 01/01/26.

clh24esq@yahoo.com

Weekly Average Sunday Attendance (ASA)	Number of Weekend Worship Services	Number of Weekday Worship Services	Number of Other per Month Worship Services
50	2		1
Current Annual Compensation	Cash Stipend	Housing / Rectory Detail	Utilities
SECA reimbursement	Compensation Available for New Position	Housing Available for	Pension Plan
	\$45000		We're in compliance with CPF requirements.
Healthcare Options	Dental	Housing Equity Allowance in budget	Annual Equity Amount
Negotiable			
Vacation Weeks	Vacation Weeks Details	Continuing Education Weeks	Continuing Education Weeks Details
One month, including 5 Sundays (standard)		2 (standard)	
Continuing Education Funding in budget	Sabbatical Provision	Travel/Auto Account	Other Professional Account
\$501-\$1000/year	Yes	Yes	Yes

The full compensation package including Pension Contribution and SECA will be \$45,000.

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

The two churches in our cluster frequently worship together. There are a few memorable services where it was clear we were joined not just by our liturgy, but also by our love of our church and our community. One service was a joint worship service at Our Saviour, where the small church was filled with faithful members from both congregations. From the music to the prayers, the cluster proclaimed its love for Christ and was filled with the Holy Spirit, which felt especially appropriate with the beautiful rose window in the church depicting a descending dove. The children from both choirs sang "In Christ Alone," facing the rose window, and God's presence was evident as the words found their place in the hearts of all participants. A second memorable worship service was at Epiphany last summer when two new members (ages 14 and 10) were baptized in the church. These two young people wanted to be immersed for their baptism. Although there were a few members who questioned holding a baptism with full immersion, the absolute joy on the faces of these two young people at being baptized, and welcomed into our community, made everyone agree that it was a perfect moment of faith and grace.

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

Our two churches are fueled by the energy of our youth, and we have worked diligently to ensure that young people are helping to lead our worship; from the procession, to the music, to preparing the Eucharist. This intentional inclusion is also evident in the children's sermon and Sunday school each week. Beyond our walls, our churches participate in two different ecumenical youth groups in our community, and have helped to create a joint Vacation Bible School with the Lutheran and Presbyterian churches in Urbana. By prioritizing youth, we hope we can help them learn more about the tradition of the Episcopal Church and make it relevant to them in their time and place. It has also been a great gift to learn from our young people and listen to their needs for worship. Watching their wonder, the light bulbs going on as they make connections between everyday life and what they learn about God is enriching their faith, and ours. Combining the beauty of our liturgy and the energy of their worship style is what will help our church grow, ensuring the good work we do is sustainable well into the future.

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

We seek a priest who is: open to new ways of thinking, loving and pastoral, and welcoming to new people who will join us in prayer and mission.

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

We would describe our congregations as liturgically broad church. We value worship that fosters consistency without uniformity, believing that worship belongs to all. Incorporating a variety of musical styles has helped us to honor our liturgical tradition, while remaining open to the Spirit moving in fresh new ways. Together we seek to deepen relationships with God that are enriched by our communal worship. Recently we have adapted our regular Sunday service by offering a Liturgy of the Word service, led by the laity. This has encouraged members to share the gifts they have for leading and preaching in this time of transition. Our sense of liturgical ownership has deepened, and the congregations have learned to be more intentional about our part in liturgy. Our lay leaders are providing enriching and enlightening sermons, using guidance from a variety of resources and biblical commentaries to interpret and deliver a spiritual message. The cluster has long had a reputation of resiliency, evident in the multiple ways our members have taken responsibility for the spiritual well-being of each other, and for our continued ecumenical partnerships, as we work to call our next rector.

How do you practice incorporating others in ministry?

Each month, our parishes host a free meal for the entire community. These meals are an opportunity for us to serve others, but also to encourage community members to serve one another. Relationships with attendees have grown, and in one case, led to a new member at Church of Our Saviour. The individual had recently been released from prison, but after several shared meals and relational conversations, he became a regular at Sunday worship. He volunteered his time to the church, doing odd jobs and contributing regularly to coffee hour. In return, the congregation helped him get back on his feet with patience and humility. We've also incorporated others by hosting celtic services in each parish. These peaceful evening services are filled with music, poetry, and prayer and are strategically aligned with seasons of growth and change. Our Saviour also hosts the St. Nicholas Celebration during Mechanicsburg's Christmas in the Village gathering each year. This popular event helps celebrate the joy of the season but also provides a foundation for learning about acts of charity, goodwill, hospitality and humility while incorporating new traditions and cultures into our churches.

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

In order to nurture our spiritual, physical, and emotional well-being, we hold an adult Bible study twice a month, sunday school for children every Sunday, and six weekly AA and NA meetings throughout the week. Our Saviour is especially active with our community garden and food pantry which allows us to be rooted in creation and nourished by the good gifts that God has given us. We have Sunshine Committees that send cards to members on their birthdays, anniversaries, days of special meaning, holidays, and times of grief. Last year we sent 271 cards to our members that were full of God's love and support. We also have regular Art Space days where members can come together as knitters, painters, wood carvers, scrapbookers, and more, to share their commitment to creativity. Both parishes have made efforts to ensure that our buildings are accessible to those with mobility issues so that we can welcome all people into the church. Both parishes have a robust coffee hour after each week, and a collaborative annual church picnic to come together for worship and fellowship. We spend a lot of time and effort being available to each other at times of joy and consolation.

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

In the past we have encouraged our clergy to engage in chaplaincy work in our local hospital, a minimal time-commitment, with a big impact. We also have several members who serve as eucharistic visitors, and we frequently engage in efforts to raise money for local charities and assist local nursing homes with household and personal care items needed for their residents. Many of our members work or volunteer in these partner organizations serving to bring aid and healing to our communities. Recently, our cluster and Life Together partners have begun hosting "Pop Up Choirs" at our Sunday worship services and other gatherings. These Pop Up Choirs consist of musical members of the various churches who share their God given talents of voice and instrument to nourish the spirits of those in and beyond our worshipping communities. This new initiative has inspired all of us to feel closer to the Holy Spirit and to each other by the sharing of song. It also gives us opportunities to try out new music and instrumentations that we are not accustomed to. This has been a joyful experience and has brought many smiles to our members and neighbors alike.

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

At last year's diocesan convention our parishes presented our Life Together partnership to our Episcopal family. This ecumenical initiative with the Lutheran and Presbyterian churches in our county is a positive example of Christian love and acceptance beyond denominational ties. Our presentation allowed us to tell about some of our unique ecumenical worshipping experiences, like our joint Lenten and Advent services, and many in our diocese have said that they will seek to increase ecumenism in their communities because of our witness. Just this week, Life Together had a huge family picnic for all four churches with nearly 100 people in attendance. A worship service was developed to encompass all of our traditions and the music was incredibly uplifting. We shared a real holy moment and everyone walked away surrounded by love and community. Our churches are regular attendees at Procter Camp gatherings, and offer camp scholarships to any member who wishes to attend camp regardless of age or circumstance. We also participate in our Annual Champaign County Black Heritage Festival by promoting children's books that highlight the importance of celebrating diversity in our community.

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

Our two most robust ministries that have been initiated in the past five years are our Life Together ecumenical partnership which we spoke about above; and our newly established Community Garden that provides fresh produce to our local food pantry, Oasis of Mercy, while also contributing fresh, local, and nutritious sides to our monthly community meals in our parishes. The motivation for this initiative is pure and simple: Jesus tells us to feed his people and tend to God's creation, and this was a way to do that quite directly! It's a joy to share the bounty of the garden with our community including diners, pantry-goers, and parishioners. We even had a Rogation Day blessing service for our new garden to bless and witness to its impact on our community. Cluster Council members Cynthia Heffner and Amy Boeck can be contacted for details on these blossoming new ministries.

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

We understand the importance of being good stewards of the gifts we have been given, so our mission drives our actions, and the budget. Each parish conducts their own annual stewardship campaign that coordinates with the church's missional emphasis for the coming year. These campaigns make clear that, while we have financial goals and needs, we also greatly value the time and talent of our parishioners. We do not shy away from talking about money in our congregations as the need for and use of parish funds are discussed regularly during worship making questions welcome and information transparent. We also work hard to coordinate with the church lectionary to share how financial stewardship can help build up the body of Christ and advance the mission that Jesus has set before us. Each parish has its own operating budget (and vestry) and a collaborative Cluster Council, whose budget supports the staffing of one part-time administrative assistant and one part-time rector. In addition to financial stewardship, our stewardship of relationships, and the properties entrusted to us, are diligently considered each time we embark upon new ventures.

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

Our churches have been in ministry together for over 30 years; and like any long-standing relationship, we have had times of conflict in our life together. We were actually once a cluster of three churches, but Holy Trinity parish discerned a closure due to low membership and a desire to support the ongoing cluster by freeing up the rector to care for the two remaining churches. This was not an easy decision but was necessary for the life of the church. We were also able to keep most Holy Trinity members in the cluster by inviting them to join one of the remaining parishes. The retirement of our rector Tim West was a pivotal moment that required great cooperation and empathy. Three services became two, and service times changed for both parishes. There was a great deal of discussion about the challenges of these changes, but in the end, members found it easier to seek community within the larger cluster, and not just in their individual parishes, fostering a deeper connection with, and understanding of each other. Our faith and fellowship have grown through conflict, as we work through disagreements with mutual respect and the bonds we have formed over the past thirty years.

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?

When our last rector arrived at the cluster, he brought with him new ideas and dynamic practices that we had not considered before. Though some members were unsure of these changes, over time, our incorporation of new practices yielded increased attendance, stronger community presence, and a status change from mission to parish for both Epiphany and Our Saviour. This experience taught us that embracing change can be the catalyst for renewed life in our churches. Being without a rector for the last six months has been difficult, but it has also given us the opportunity to accept new roles and responsibilities as we lead our congregations into new experiences. Lay leaders serve both congregations, bringing the cluster closer and helping members grow in understanding of the gifts our cluster already has. A shared administrator helps serve as a bridge between our two churches. She coordinates shared communication, provides guidance to the cluster, and makes suggestions for worship that allow us to collaborate across several areas. Our lay leaders feel empowered to deliver meaningful sermons, sharing their own personal growth, and their love for our churches in the midst of change.



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Prior Incumbents

Name	Position Title	Date Begun	Date Ended
Rev. Derrick Fetz	Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge (Part-time)	2021-09	2024-11

Name	Position Title	Date Begun	Date Ended
Rev. Duford	Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge (Part-time)	2016-07	2019-07

Name	Position Title	Date Begun	Date Ended
Rev. Tim West	Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge (Part-time)	1998-01	2012-01

We would love to have a priest that lives in our community and embraces our small town lifestyle. Both Champaign and Logan counties offer vibrant downtown areas for food and shopping and entertainment. Both towns have a variety of employment opportunities for spouses or as additional part time work, including some great schools and hospitals.

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: www.nmvec.org

Media Links:

- > <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61561128513450>
- > <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100068333876168>

Online References:

- > <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100064903745363>
- > <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61560998737404>

Languages Significantly Represented:

English

Provide Worship or Classes in:

English

We seek a priest that is: open, loving and welcoming! We love new ideas and welcome new ways of walking in faith together as the Body of Christ in this place. We love Jesus, and ask for the Holy Spirit to guide us in how we make decisions as a community. We provide opportunities for all members to join in leadership roles and participate in the many facets of church life.

References

Bishop:

The Rt. Rev. Kristin Uffelmann White

kwhite@diosohio.org

Diocesan Transition Minister

The Rev. Melanie W. J. Slane

(513) 632-6024 mslane@diosohio.org

Current Warden/Board Chair

Todd Boeck and Cindy Heffner

Our Saviour: Todd Boeck, boeck5212@gmail.com, (740) 610-5212
Epiphany: Cindy Heffner, clh24esq@yahoo.com, (937) 935-9815

Previous Warden/Board Chair

Search Chair

Cindy Heffner

(937) 935-9815 clh24esq@yahoo.com

Parish/Institution

Local Community Leader