

UpBeat Leader

Job Description

Epiphany Episcopal Church, Newport, NH

Context

Epiphany Church is creating a youth choir that will meet after school on Fridays and help lead worship on Saturdays at 5 pm. Working in partnership with St. Andrew's Episcopal Church in New London, Epiphany is embracing a strategy for renewal by reordering its church building, changing its time of worship, and developing vibrant all-age worship.

The Job

The UpBeat Leader will work 10 hours per week; depending on experience and skills, the hourly wage will be between \$25-\$40. The UpBeat Leader will offer weekly workshops on Fridays from 3:00 - 4:30 and direct the choir's singing in worship on Saturdays at 5 pm. Utilizing a dynamic teaching style, the UpBeat Leader will be both an excellent vocal coach and a skilled youth worker. Participants will learn by listening more than reading music. The UpBeat Leader will be confident working with people of all ages with a particular focus on young people aged 8-13, including those in challenging circumstances. The UpBeat Leader will promote not just the artistic growth of children but also their emotional, social, and spiritual growth. Pastoral support will include home visits. In a typical week the Leader will work ten hours: 4 hours of face-to-face singing sessions, 1 hour of coordination/evaluation, 2 hours of pastoral support, and 3 hours of preparation. Repertoire will be drawn largely from the world church and UpBeat will provide the pulse for Epiphany's renewed worship style.

The UpBeat Leader will take part in an intensive summer camp (14-18 August) led by Nicole Densmore and Alison Adam of the Iona Community in Scotland. The teaching skills and techniques imparted by Alison and Nicole to the UpBeat Leader will be put to immediate use in worship on Saturday, 19 August at 5 pm. The weekly pattern of Friday afternoon workshops (3:00-4:30) and Saturday afternoon rehearsal (at 4:00) and worship (at 5:00) commences immediately. The UpBeat Leader will be supported by at least two volunteers at every singing session.

The UpBeat Leader will work closely with the ordained and lay leaders of Epiphany Church, participating in the church's wider ministry, supporting the gospel message through song, and challenging the church to live this message more fully. The UpBeat Leader will be supervised by the Rector of St. Andrew's Church, the Rev'd Jay MacLeod.

Goal

Build a vibrant youth choir that enriches the lives of participants and Epiphany Church

Responsibilities

- Recruit choir members and build strong relationships with them and their families
- Select repertoire in consultation with the clergy
- Lead singing workshops on Friday afternoons
- Lead UpBeat rehearsal on Saturdays at 4 pm
- Direct choir in worship on Saturdays at 5 pm
- Supervise musicians when accompaniment is required
- Teach new repertoire to the congregation and enable its participation
- Participate in meetings with ordained and lay leaders of Epiphany Church
- Arrange for substitute during absences
- Administer copyright requirements
- Offer pastoral support to choir members, including home visits
- Engage in ongoing evaluation of UpBeat
- Participate in special services.

Skills and Qualifications

REQUIRED

- Experience and competency as a vocal coach or choir director
- Demonstrated skills and experience of working with children
- Energy, creativity and flexibility as a team player
- Pastoral heart and sensitivity

PREFERRED

- Knowledge of songs from the world church
- Liturgical awareness and understanding of Episcopal practice and ethos
- Competency with keyboard and djembe
- Computer literacy

Hiring will be dependent on a favorable criminal background check, and the UpBeat Leader will complete Episcopal Safe Church training within 3 months of hire.

Applicants should send a cover letter, resume, and contact details for three references to the Rev'd Jay MacLeod (jay@standrewsnl.org) by 5 pm on Monday, 31 July.