

Job Description Curate of Kearsarge

St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, New London, New Hampshire

The Parish

The curate will join a dynamic team that has attracted national attention for its creativity in worship and mission. New London is a picture postcard town surrounded by lakes in the lee of Mount Kearsarge and is renowned as a retirement community. Our congregation is growing but greying. The rector, Jay MacLeod, grew up in a secular household, graduated from our regional high school, got a grant to study at Oxford, trained for the priesthood in England, and served gritty parishes in the Church of England for twenty years before moving back to New Hampshire in 2013. His seminary Principal remarked: "Finally. You've spent your entire ministry comforting the afflicted; it's about time you afflicted the comfortable."

Episcopalians in the Kearsarge area, it turns out, want to be challenged. St. Andrew's joined forces with a tiny congregation in an ailing mill town and were schooled in how to become a mission-shaped church. Dozens signed up to volunteer for a before-school enrichment program, arriving at 6:30am five days a week to feed fifth and sixth graders over board games and homework. Further afield, partnerships were developed in Haiti, Honduras, and the Holy Land. In the summers we host kids from Boston for camping and outdoor adventures and welcome scholar-interns from Voorhees University in rural South Carolina. We've had two "pilgrimage missions" to St. Christophers Mission in Bluff, Utah where we hear hard truths about the way our nation and church have treated the Navajo and do what we can to help repair the breach through listening and shared labor. In 2013 St. Andrew's charitable giving amounted to \$8,321; in 2023 the figure was \$108,804.

The Episcopal Church of New Hampshire is a joyful and collegial place to work, thanks largely to a bishop who is also a painter and poet. Be warned, though: this is the whitest region in the nation. Put differently: there's lots of work to do because undoing racism begins with ourselves.

The Post

St. Andrew's Church is seeking to hire a Curate of Kearsarge to support, deepen, and extend our witness and to provide a supportive but stretching context for the curate's formation. The curate will share in the leadership of liturgy, pastoral care, education, community engagement, and parish administration. Can we craft liturgies that connect with newcomers and lift us all heavenward? Should pastoral care be the remit of every member or entrusted to a dedicated team? Our weekly study of the Hebrew scriptures

is led by a Jewish scholar and activist; how do we respectfully offer a distinctive Christian take on a passage? Can our community engagement be service-oriented while also addressing the sources of injustice and inequality? How might parish communications be improved? Our curate will grapple with such questions and pose new ones.

Regular reflection sessions will give the curate space and encouragement to reflect on early experiences of ordained ministry. Supervision will be educative (skills enhanced by reflecting on work done), supportive (so burdens are not carried alone), and managerial (ensuring that work is done well within professional boundaries).

The Curate of Kearsarge will begin work between May and September of 2025. Compensation will be in line with diocesan guidelines and could include the provision of family housing. In addition to salary, healthcare, SET, pension, life insurance, and five weeks of paid vacation, money is set aside for expenses, continuing education, quiet days, and an annual retreat. This is a full time position requiring a two-year minimum commitment. Depending on how the curate's ministry unfolds, the post could be reconfigured and renewed for subsequent years.

The Person

The successful candidate will display these skills and qualities:

- Creative, energetic, flexible
- Prayerful life and pastoral heart
- Joyful, disciplined, balanced
- Collaborative leader and strong preacher
- Imaginative facilitator of evangelism and faith formation
- Proven ability to work effectively across all ages

To be considered for the position, please provide:

- Cover letter addressed to the Rector of St. Andrew's
- OTM profile
- Resume

Applications will be considered on a rolling basis beginning 15 October 2024. If the fit between applicant and parish looks promising, further discernment would likely involve an online interview and parish visit.