



458 High Street, Medford, MA
www.sanctuaryucc.org
(781) 395-3360

Community Minister

Vision Statement

Sanctuary United Church of Christ is a diverse community of action-oriented followers of Jesus, who humbly strive through worship, faith formation, and the practice of Jesus' teachings to love God and our neighbors as God loves us.

God calls us to care for and meet people where they are; share a life of prayer and joyful service with all; and together--worship, rest in, and serve God. We are seekers of justice and lovers of all of God's creation. Through the community formed by the Holy Spirit, we are consoled, forgiven, refreshed and inspired.

We extravagantly welcome all people; believers, non-believers, doubters, questioners, no matter who they love, their gender identity or expression, their race, culture, ability, or economic circumstance. All are a blessing to our journey of faith and we seek to share God's love and grace with all.

Contact

Lead Pastor: Rev. Wendy Miller Olapade
Email: jobs@sanctuaryucc.org
Church Web Site: www.sanctuaryucc.org
Church Phone: 781.395.3360

Job Description: Community Minister

Sanctuary United Church of Christ is seeking a full-time minister to expand and grow our ministry to the community of Medford and the surrounding areas. The Community Minister will work in collaboration with the Pastoral and Administrative staff to support and advance the mission of Sanctuary.

Our intention is that the specific responsibilities of this position will grow around the gifts and graces of a candidate who is enthusiastic about our mission, and who brings energy, insight, and creativity to the ministry we feel called to.

Based on the current needs that we see in our ministry, the Community Minister will be likely responsible for...

- seeking out and engaging individuals in the community in order to connect them with our ministry and attend to their spiritual growth and well-being
- initiating and advancing partnerships with community organizations
- providing a pastoral presence in West Medford, through our Open Sanctuary hours, Pastor drop-in hours, our various ministries events, as well as finding other spaces in which to provide pastoral presence.
- facilitating the continuing pastoral support of those engaged in our community
- developing and delivering worship and faith formation resources and programs
- researching community needs, with special attention taken to discover persons who are disconnected from community and opportunities to cross boundaries of race, ethnicity, and other socio-economic lines that exist in the city.
- networking through one-on-one meetings, group meetings, public relations, and social networks to share the vision, discover the constituencies and find participants-working to develop a multi-cultural community.
- developing measurable goals and approaches to serve, implement, test, and tweak models of ministry to meet the needs
- Other responsibilities and directions that emerge as the ministry model continues to evolve, in conversation with the Lead Pastor.

Successful candidates will be self-motivated, faithful, evangelistic, creative, and collaborative.

Brief history

Sanctuary UCC is the new church “Re-Plant/Ministry” of the Congregational Church of West Medford, UCC, a 142-year-old institution that has sold an aging church property and invested its financial resources in a new model for ministry.

About twenty-five of the members of the congregation have come along as we moved our operations and our ministry into a storefront just down the street from the old church. We have been resurrected as Sanctuary United Church of Christ; we have re-branded, re-imagined and re-

framed everything that we are. We are focusing on “being” rather than “doing” or “having” – and our vision is to ‘create circles of love and care’ across the city.

Our attention has truly turned outward through a ministry plan that is grounded in a commitment to love our neighbor and informed by our mission field, our values, and our commitment to be a progressive Christian community to those who are not already in a faith community.

We’re engaged in the day-to-day spiritual care of strangers and new friends as a result of our commitment to extravagant hospitality and the availability of a pastors, staff, and congregational volunteers during our Open Sanctuary hours and our presence at various events.

We’re discovering our souls and creativity through pop culture and an Arts and Inspiration ministry of film, music, art and the spoken word. We’re also developing new relationships and partnerships in the city through community organizing.

Through it all, we are seeking to remain faithful to the God who has brought us this far, and we are striving to stay open to where God may be leading us next!

Demographics

Medford is a diverse, urban city with approximately 60,000 people. The median age is 38 years, median household income (in 2012) is approx. \$ 73,500. 75% of our neighborhood community is white, 8.5% black, 8.3% Asian, 5% Hispanic, 3% mixed race and less than 1% other; with 21% of the city being foreign born. Household Language Distribution: 76% English. 44% of adults over 25 years of age have education beyond High School. The unemployment rate in 2012 was 5.6%.

Of the 73% of the city who identify as religiously affiliated - 74% are Roman Catholic, 11% Jewish, 7% Mainline Protestant, 11% other. In the last four presidential elections over 60% of those who voted for the Democrat Candidate.

The city has excellent access to public transportation via bus to both the red and orange line and a commuter rail station in West Medford.

Statement on Ministry

Our faith community is a historic institution with a new vision of leaving the building and meeting people where they are. Our “start-up” ministry plan includes the use of community organizing tools to engage people. We are currently connected to the community through our history and existing relationships, the Medford Clergy Associations, community board memberships, partnerships with groups such as the Medford Film Collaborative; Cache Arts the Melville Trust, Medford; West Medford Community Center; a Medford Music school and more. Our vision going forward includes: a) spreading love and care through a “Care Ministry” which will be open to all; b) building community

and sharing faith through a weekly Arts and Inspiration Series; d) serving families at home by building a Faith Formation Network and curating resources for same; c) working for justice through hands-on community service and community-wide conversations on topics such as race and addiction recovery.

Our staff operates as a team and given the nature of our ministries we are very collaborative. Everything we are doing is new and everything is an experiment. As such, we are constantly testing and adjusting our plans. We are measuring simple things such as the number of contacts being made and the number of participants engaged in new initiatives. The Community Minister would participate in the weekly staff meeting in which we set objectives and check in about results for the week. The Community Minister would be accountable to the Lead Pastor for supervision, while working directly with other staff.

Compensation

Support for this position is offered in accordance with the Compensation Guidelines for the Massachusetts Conference of the United Church of Christ. <http://www.macucc.org/compensation>.

The position of Community Minister is an ordainable call. Given the experimental nature of our ministry, it is offered for a stated-term of 18-months after which time the position's viability will be evaluated relative to the success, sustainability, and needs of the congregation's ministry.

To Apply

Interested candidates should send a copy of their ministerial profile, or, a resume, cover letter, and a 2-page statement about your call to ministry to jobs@sanctuaryucc.org.