



Office for
Transition
Ministry

Ministry Portfolio

Full Portfolio (last updated Sep 6, 2022)

Grace Episcopal Church, Ossining, New York

P.O. Box 108, Ossining, NY 10562, United States

Contact:

Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge | Receiving Names until 09/30/22.

search@graceossining.org

Weekly Average Sunday Attendance (ASA)	Number of Weekend Worship Services	Number of Weekday Worship Services	Number of Other per Month Worship Services
75	1	4	
Current Annual Compensation	Cash Stipend	Housing / Rectory Detail	Utilities
SECA reimbursement	Compensation Available for New Position	Housing Available for	Pension Plan
Healthcare Options	Dental	Housing Equity Allowance in budget	Annual Equity Amount
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	

We are calling a Priest-in-Charge, compensation & benefits according to diocesan guidelines.

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

There have been numerous times in our worshipping communities ministry which we would recognize as one of success and fulfillment. Our most recent example is when Bishop Dietsche welcomed Grace Episcopal Church as a new parish at the 245th Diocesan Convention. This is a significant event because it brings together Trinity Church and Saint Paul's on the Hill Church of Ossining, which were split apart in the aftermath of the Civil War over their conflicting sympathies in the war. The issues which separated the churches in the past cease to have power today. In the last decade, Trinity and St Paul's found themselves struggling to maintain and sustain their lives and ministries. Thus we began to explore the possibility of sharing a priest, which we did. Over time the deepening relationships between the members of the two congregations led to new conversations as to what the churches might look like if they merged. This year, as a result of prayer and hard work, Trinity Church and Saint Paul's on the hill became one, as Grace Church Ossining.

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

The Church's response to the pandemic is a good roadmap for how we are preparing for the future. As a result of the pandemic, we had to figure out new ways to stay connected and engage our members, even though we weren't physically in the same place. Consequently, we developed on-line services, which after some early experimentation, became pre-recorded Sunday video services of a very high quality. We also began pre-recording six Compline services per week and conducting a midweek in person prayer service. Ancillary outdoor Eucharistic services were added in good weather. When we returned to in person worship, those services were live streamed from our Facebook page and YouTube channel, which will continue permanently. Additionally, email messages regarding service links and times, prayer lists and other pertinent information were sent three times a week. Through our merger it is our intent to meet the next generation of social, environmental and spiritual activists.

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

Empathy. Activism. Flexibility. Inspiration.

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

Because Grace Episcopal church is in its infancy following the joining of two parishes, we currently practice two distinct types of worship. Sometimes we worship in the Anglo-Catholic formal tradition using Rite I. At other times we participate in more relaxed worship using contemporary language. In response to COVID 19 we instituted online Sunday services and added a simplified outside Eucharist. Additionally, we began nightly, pre-recorded compline services and a midweek live virtual evening prayer service which continue even though we have resumed in person Sunday services.

How do you practice incorporating others in ministry?

At each service greeters welcome all attendees at the door. Newcomers are informed of any special circumstances within the sanctuary and service. At the end of the service a greeter will informally connect with newcomers, offering to answer questions, provide information, initiate conversation with other attendees and invite to any after service events. Announcements are made regularly during our weekly service to inform and include all attendees in ministries that are taking place. Additionally, each ministry regularly submits an inviting and informative narrative in our monthly newsletter, Grace Notes. Finally, members of the congregation typically participate in our service as lay readers/worship leaders, ushers/greeters, choir/music, altar guild, and as acolytes.

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

Grace Church continues in the tradition of its historical ancestors by providing variety of activities and services including: bible study, Grace book club, Lantern Shop (a craft/merchandise sales shop), Passages and Transitions Ministry (see question #7), Prayer lists and chains, trivia garden parties, annual Pre-Thanksgiving dinner, and Shrove Tuesday Pancake/Mardi Gras gathering. We also hold holiday fundraising events which require parishioner participation including: Strawberry Festival, Fall Luncheon/Christmas is Coming Sale, Spring Fling formal tea. Please note some of these events were canceled in both 2020 and 2021 due to the pandemic.

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

Grace Episcopal Church's Worshipping community is deeply involved in the community. Members of the congregation serve the broader community through a variety of outreach activities as listed in #5. We also support local non-profit organizations and various local initiatives. Our clergy has historically served the prison inmate community at Sing Sing, and has invited the congregation at times to engage the prisoners directly through letter writing. This year's primary service was "Grace Extending Grace " which activated donors within and beyond our parish to support the purchase of winter clothing for Afghani immigrant families being temporarily housed at Ft. Dix, New Jersey. We worked with the Muslim Police Officers Society of NYPD & Rev. Dr. Chloe Breyer of the Interfaith Center in NYC, raised \$4,600 and donated nearly 800 pieces of clothing in the last three weeks of Advent 2021.

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

The church provides support in a variety of ways for the list of services below: Ossining Emergency Shelter - a winter refuge for the homeless; Music Program - offered at low cost to children throughout Ossining and neighboring communities; Loaves and Fishes - Ossining's participation in the national program that provides food to homeless, low income, and underserved; REPAIR - Rivertown Episcopal Parishes Action on Inclusion and Race - an organization devoted to bringing healing and justice to a society divided by unconscious bias, willful blindness, deeply ingrained systems of oppression, and the burdens of history; and the Ossining Food Pantry which provides food for those who have an emergency need.

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

Passages and Transitions began as an idea in 2019 as members of our parish felt all alone when a parent was at the end of life, or when a spouse was suddenly ill and only found out after the fact that others in our church were experiencing similar issues. Now during COVID these past two years have been testing us, challenging us and inviting us to be more mindful and thoughtful of how we can be more present, supportive and attentive to each other and those in our community. Under Father Mayer's leadership we have been diligently working since Spring 2021 with our team to get us ready to be there for those who may need a helping hand with some tasks, or might need information or referrals on getting experts to assist with IT, eldercare/ estate planning, downsizing/ a move, aging in place or any other matters which may arise. Our team draws on the life experience and talents of members of our parish family and in Ossining. If we cannot assist you with the expertise you need, we will help you to research the available resources and services in our area. (For more information contact: Cecilia Quintero: cquintero1506@gmail.com)

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

In past years the parishes of St Paul's and Trinity spent several weeks during the stewardship season participating in activities and discussions designed to encourage members to consider the gifts God has provided and how to share them with others. Our 2019 Visioning Committee followed Holy Currencies to heighten awareness and stimulate conversation among members of both parishes concerning how we were sharing our gifts and serving the needs of our community. 2021 saw a modified stewardship campaign run jointly between the sister parishes. Being sensitive to income instability/insecurity and our church goal of cementing relationships between members of the sister parishes adversely affected by the distance created by the pandemic, a change in stewardship approach was necessary. Videos sharing personal testimonies, zoom meetings, Q&A sessions, newsletters and member directories were all utilized in this long distance approach. The stewardship campaigns of the past few years were designed to build relationships among all parishioners by highlighting shared experiences and goals.

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

To be brutally honest, if the two sister parishes could have survived on their own this great commingling would not have occurred. It began about ten years ago as fate would find both parishes in need of a priest and looking at financial limitations. Baby steps of sharing different aspects of the day to day running of a church eventually led to occasional combined in person services and, during COVID, using shared skills in order to get online services up and running. Now that we have resumed in-person services, members resistant to attending service at the alternate campus still exist. We are addressing this resistance by building working relationships between members through service. We hope to encourage all members to give their time and talents to work with others with a common goal. With God's help and the guidance of an empathetic and wise priest we will continue to make progress.

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?

Grace Church IS CHANGE! The combining of two small town parishes into one and all that it entails sees change at all levels. Our vestries have worked for a year to address every detail from Investment accounts to who cleans the kitchens. Grace Church has made huge progress over the past year to navigate all the changes required in joining two parishes. Not to mention that we must call a new priest in the midst of this change and a pandemic! With so much change there are always bumps in the road but considering what we need to accomplish in such a short time we are managing it all with style and GRACE. (see above #10).



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Prior Incumbents

Name	Position Title	Date Begun	Date Ended
Rev. Dr. Charles Mayer	Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge	2021-01	2022-02

Name	Position Title	Date Begun	Date Ended
Rev. Cooper Conway	Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge	2015-09	2021-01

Name	Position Title	Date Begun	Date Ended
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Church School	Number of Teachers/Leaders for Children School	Number of Students for Children School

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
2	2	1	11

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: <https://graceossining.org/>

Media Links:

Trinity & St. Paul's Episcopal Parishes - YouTube

Online References:

> <https://www.facebook.com/stpaulsossining>

> <https://www.facebook.com/trinityossining>

Languages Significantly Represented:

English

Provide Worship or Classes in:

English

References

Bishop:

Diocesan Transition Minister

Current Warden/Board Chair

Previous Warden/Board Chair

Search Chair

Parish/Institution

Local Community Leader