



Office for
Transition
Ministry

Ministry Portfolio

Full Portfolio (last updated Jan 10, 2024)

Church of the Heavenly Rest, New York

1085 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10128, United States

Contact:

Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge | Receiving Names until 02/29/24.

transition@heavenlyrest.org

Weekly Average Sunday Attendance (ASA)	Number of Weekend Worship Services	Number of Weekday Worship Services	Number of Other per Month Worship Services
172	3	10	
Current Annual Compensation	Cash Stipend	Housing / Rectory Detail	Utilities
	\$180000		
SECA reimbursement	Compensation Available for New Position	Housing Available for	Pension Plan
			We're in compliance with CPF requirements.
Healthcare Options	Dental	Housing Equity Allowance in budget	Annual Equity Amount
Full family	Yes		
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
\$1001-\$2000/year	Yes	Yes	

We are calling a Rector, housing or a generous housing allowance and benefits provided.

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

replacement of tenants representing a critical portion of our annual revenue. Never did those events come close to closing our doors. And then came Covid. The community's response to the pandemic lockdown was game-changing in many ways: services were expanded in number and geographic inclusivity; pastoral care was similarly expanded and refocused in important ways as needs were spotted (addressing emotional upset from isolation, for instance); experiments in adult programming yielded innovations that drew literally thousands globally yet didn't diminish the sense of close-knit community; lay leadership of worship services reached new highs. Even as masks have (largely) come off, these initiatives continue on.

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

The commitments to tolerance and reconciliation that were at the heart of our parish's founding immediately after the Civil War remain our lodestars. We know we must care for each other as a parish but also recognize our responsibility to care for a wider community of people and the world given us by God. We also know the members of our congregation who lead us today will not be the ones leading us tomorrow. To remain a relevant, thriving community, we need to constantly cultivate a new generation of leaders and respect the views they bring forward. We also know we must continue to explore new forms of worship and parishioner engagement. The pandemic gave us a push into serving through online worship and programming. Change, whether forced or volunteered, must be embraced.

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

Welcoming. Listening. Inspiring. Effective Manager.

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

Sunday basics: Rite 1 is used at the early (currently 8:30) Sunday service (and at all services during Lent), Rite 2 at the later (currently 11:00) Sunday service. The later service is livestreamed. Morning prayer and compline are held every weekday, and compline is held on Sundays as well. Morning prayer services currently are online only. Compline, which is also online only, is lay led. A highlight of our summers for nearly a decade has been the Jazz vespers service held Sundays at 5 p.m. Jazz vespers is a direct offshoot of our church's deep love of spiritual music of all kinds.

How do you practice incorporating others in ministry?

As described above, lay leadership is encouraged at worship services as a supplement to and in some specific cases an intentional replacement for clergy leadership. Lay and clergy work in tandem as leaders in such ministries as outreach, Christian formation and pastoral care. Likewise in the many, more "earthly" ministries - stewardship, capital projects, budget-building, endowment management, fellowship activities. A recent "Fall Fete" intended to welcome newcomer participation featured 20 different committee table displays. There is no shortage of lay leadership and involvement owing to steady cultivation of leaders by the clergy, wardens and senior members of the parish.

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

Our spiritual care takes so many forms - for instance, in the evolving and expanding fabric of worship services; through the half-dozen "small groups" adult classes offered in fall and spring "semesters;" from inspired musical programs, poetry readings and art exhibits; to outreach ministries that have comforted those in prison and aided the incarcerated on their reentry to open society. Pastoral care is known here as Job #1. And while our church recognizes it is not a social work institution, we work closely with agencies that are. Clergy, staff and lay members of the community assist members who may have needs with referrals, meals and visits. Among current prominent initiatives, a "Community Care" committee meets at least monthly with clergy and staff to discuss ways to improve pastoral efforts. And while the church offers no gym or pool, we do like to have fun - sometimes in semi-athletic ways like dancing in Darlington Hall - and are happy to take walks - especially in support of social justice.

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

Outreach initiatives have exploded in number in recent years and “Outreach Service Day” - typically the last Saturday in October - draws hundreds to what has become as much a beloved festival as it is a showcase of opportunities. Probably the most prominent of these ministries over the last decade has been our work with those reentering New York’s neighborhoods after their release from state prisons. We have taught them job-interview skills - lessons as practical as tying a necktie. We have hosted Advent parties for their families. Led by a parishioner who is a marvel of a photographer, we provide formal self-portraits to men and women in prison and group shots with their loved ones once out.

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

We are pilgrims in travel and spiritual exploration who have sponsored trips ranging from the Holy Lands to Winchester to Selma. During the pandemic, when travel was ill-advised, we gathered our members (virtually) and invited members of other congregations for discussions of topical spiritual and social issues. In the early days of the pandemic, when several neighboring parishes found it difficult to set up the technology needed for virtual gatherings, we provided help. Perhaps a symbol of our involvement in the greater community perhaps is our sponsorship of five parishioners in the last 12 years to pursue their calls to priesthood.

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

See references in the answers above to our online ministries - embodying initiatives in worship, education and fellowship. Please contact transition@heavenlyrest.org to be put in touch with a parishioner knowledgeable about any particular areas of our online presence of interest to you.

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

Stewardship is a many-month if not all-seasons ministry at Heavenly Rest, led by a committee diverse in background, age and financial means and supported by a staff member experienced in development work. The rector plays an important role in organizing the committee's efforts. In recent years the cycle begins with the rector and a small number of leaders connecting with top givers in August-September, followed by the public launch of the campaign in late September-early October with the help of the full committee. The climax is typically targeted for an in-gathering at services on the Sunday closest to All Saints Day (our parish's birthday). In practice, however, the committee's push for pledges stretches on until the week before the annual meeting the first Sunday in February. Pledges set a record in 2023, having increased steadily over the last 10 years. Two strategic challenges have energized the committee's thinking: how do we offset the inevitable loss of major donors as they pass away, and how do we cultivate a spirit of stewardship among online parishioners.

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

To say Heavenly Rest is a parish without conflict would be untrue. In just the past few years, parishioners have differed widely on topics from whether or not to sell our rectory (a highly valuable asset in the current real estate market) to where a preacher should deliver sermons (from the pulpit or from the chancel floor) to whether children should be allowed to play in the back of the nave during the Sunday morning service. However, a structured consensus-building process has become second nature to us, with parish-wide "listening sessions" set up whenever such issues surface. A wide sampling of parish members are invited to sit on ad hoc committees to make sure all voices are heard. (Such committees are also good training grounds for future lay leadership.) By being in respectful conversation with each other, members come to understand other points of view and see that compromise is a tool for sustainable institutional health.

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?

Change comes at pastoral speed. Members can be wed to the way things are, even as they might see the need to move on as a requirement for meeting more impactful goals. In 2010, our church campus was dominated by a private school paying us rent well below market. Our outreach efforts amounted to small donations to local institutions funded by a rapidly shrinking endowment and a shelter in our narthex housing a handful of homeless women three-four nights per week – an awkward arrangement the city was keen to end. Today the space vacated by the school generates far more revenue through creative rental programming (not without downside risks) and at the same time provides abundant space for our own programs. Outreach has grown in scale, impact, and more active parishioner participation, funded adequately without relying on an endowment contributed by past generations. How were these changes managed? By listening for fresh thinking, responding to concerns, and then carefully building a consensus around a doable set of goals. Always the process of change was a clergy-lay partnership. The rector's position as listener-in-chief, pastoral-minder and catalyst-to-consensus has been critical.



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Prior Incumbents

Name	Position Title	Date Begun	Date Ended
Robert Dannals	Interim	2023-06	

Name	Position Title	Date Begun	Date Ended
Matthew Heyd	Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge	2013-06	2023-04

Name	Position Title	Date Begun	Date Ended
James Burns	Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge	1996-08	2011-12

Church School YES		Number of Teachers/Leaders for Children School 4	Number of Students for Children School 40
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Number of Teachers/Leaders for Teen/Young Adults School 1	Number of Students for Teen/Young Adults School 4	Number of Teachers/Leaders for Adults School 22	Number of Students for Adults School 350
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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.heavenlyrest.org

Media Links:

Online References:

Please see Heavenlyrest.org for quick links to key areas of our website and for links to our parish's Instagram, Facebook, Flickr, Vimeo and YouTube pages

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