



Office for  
Transition  
Ministry

# Ministry Portfolio

*Full Portfolio (last updated Mar 1, 2017)*

## Christ Church, Ithan, Pennsylvania

536 Conestoga Road, Villanova, PA 19085, United States

Contact:

Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge | Receiving Names until 04/30/17.

ccidiscernment@gmail.com

Weekly Average Sunday Attendance (ASA)	Number of Weekend Worship Services	Number of Weekday Worship Services	Number of Other per Month Worship Services
61	2	3	1
Current Annual Compensation	Cash Stipend	Housing / Rectory Detail	Utilities
\$52000		\$30000	
SECA reimbursement	Compensation Available for New Position	Housing Available for	Pension Plan
\$6275	\$90000	5	<b>We're in compliance with CPF requirements.</b>
Healthcare Options	Dental	Housing Equity Allowance in budget	Annual Equity Amount
Negotiable	Yes		
Vacation Weeks	Vacation Weeks Details	Continuing Education Weeks	Continuing Education Weeks Details
One month, including 5 Sundays (standard)	4		2
Continuing Education Funding in budget	Sabbatical Provision	Travel/Auto Account	Other Professional Account
\$501-\$1000/year	Yes	Yes	Yes

*We are willing to work with our new rector on compensation, should our rectory become available.*

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

In an overall effort to work at becoming more visible in our community, our vestry organized an outdoor Community Day service. We held it on the front lawn of our church, which sits next to a busy road. We invited an acapella group from nearby Eastern University to join our choir. At this service we recognized two local organizations in our community and asked members of each group to participate in the service. We also extended an invitation to nearby St. Martin's Church, an Episcopal church with whom we want a close relationship. After the service, we served a potluck brunch and offered a variety of group games. Several delightful surprises happened. Members of the college acapella group met leaders from a local support group for LGBT youth and expressed interest in connecting classmates. Enthusiasm was voiced by many of our church members, paving the way for future non-traditional ways of worship. We saw ourselves in a different light and felt a positive energy.

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

Our current interim rector is really challenging the congregation and vestry to envision the Church of the future, and how we can be impactful and relevant in the changing world. He has worked with the Vestry to expand our understanding of mission and challenged the Vestry to better define the church's purpose in this place. He has encouraged us to be more collaborative. He has expanded our understanding of the current state of the church and has pointed us in the direction of resources and things that are working in the Episcopal Church. He regularly shares articles with the Vestry from ECF Vital Practices and other timely publications. He has expanded our "ownership" of the church and encourages broader participation in the ministries of the church.

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

Sensitivity and appreciation for past while helping to adapt and thrive in 21st century; creative, energetic and bold leader; inspiring and meaningful sermons; enjoys pastoral care; willingness to partner

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

We come together every week to share the Lord's Table of Word and Sacrament, offered at two services. One service is at 8:30 am and is a Spoken Eucharist. The other service is at 10 am with a full Choral Eucharist, supported by our choir of paid choral scholars and other paid members. We currently use Rite II for both services. While our setting is formal, our services have a very relaxed style. Our building certainly limits liturgical creativity, however, we have experimented with services in other settings (Ithan Hall and our front lawn). Parishioners have responded well to these different settings.

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How do you practice incorporating others in ministry?

The services are supported weekly by participation from our congregation with altar guild, readers, Eucharistic ministers, crucifers, acolytes, and ushers. For Holy days, the congregation comes together to decorate the church. Parishioners participate in providing hospitality after the 10 am service in Ithan Hall. Our interim rector has worked on broadening participation in ministries, expanding our sense of ownership for the church, and improving communication about ministry opportunities.

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

Worship life and many traditions are vital to the people at Christ Church, Ithan. It is where our identity forms and where we attend to God's call in our lives. The rituals of the service, the Word, and timely and engaging sermons help to feed our souls as we listen to God's call in our lives. We encourage parishioners to offer prayers for particular people or concerns during the service. Each week we ask for anyone celebrating a birthday or anniversary to come forward for a special prayer. In addition to our weekly church services, we hold morning prayer three mornings a week in our chapel located in our parish hall.

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

Our outreach and community service programs have been recently rekindled with a good cross section of the congregation participating. We recognized and contributed to two local organizations. One is the Radnor ABC House (A Better Chance), which provides housing to youth from underserved communities so they can attend Radnor High School. The second organization is the Main Line Youth Alliance (MYA), a local support group for LGBTQ youth. We are an active participant with the Ardmore Food Pantry, located at St. Mary's Episcopal Church in Ardmore, providing staffing, donations of food and financial support. Christ Church, Ithan has also partnered with the Radnor Police Department to assist local families who have been identified as needing outside help.

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

Our minister is an active member of the Merion Deanery, a collection of thirteen local Episcopal churches. He participates in a monthly meeting of leaders from each faith community in our Township. We participate yearly in the ministerium's Good Friday service in Wayne. Each year two of our parishioners join our minister to attend the Diocesan Annual Convention. We respond to the needs of Episcopal Community Services by supporting different drives and by contributing to two local schools, The Church Farm School and St. James' School. We have supported the "Standing with Iraqi Christians" initiative of St. Martin's Church in Radnor.

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

In the past year, we have worked to develop a close relationship with our local police department. We contacted them to express our interest in helping local families in need and this led to two situations in which our parishioners worked to clean and repair houses. It also allowed us to contribute financially to the replacement of a furnace for a nearby family. This summer we will facilitate a reading program in which police will lead story hours in a variety of Township parks. Contact: Julia Gould, rector's warden.

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

Our practice of stewardship is rooted in a tradition of generosity and responsibility. We recognize that stewardship is about contributing money, but also about people donating their time and talents to the church, and volunteering for ministry and mission. Our Vestry works hard to make our financial picture solid and transparent to the whole community. Also, we invited individual parishioners to talk about God and how the church's ministry makes a difference in their lives. This past year at pledge time, we had a 5 week stewardship program reflecting on stewardship during which parishioners shared about their experience of stewardship in their lives. This resulted in a successful pledge drive that increased pledging units and amount pledged.

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

When our minister resigned last year, we experienced a significant amount of conflict. The vestry engaged the services of a diocesan consultant, who worked to bring the Vestry together, resolving conflicts and assisting in the search for an interim. With the support of our interim minister, the Vestry went on a retreat and conversations were generated by a professional facilitator. The congregation has and is exploring ways to broaden ownership of and participation in our faith community. Relevant committees have been formed, including Finance/Stewardship and Property/Grounds. An outreach committee will develop soon.

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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?

Our experience leading our church into local outreach has gone extremely well. There is an appetite to support our community and people have been generous with their time and money. It has been especially effective to ask people for support to go toward specific or concrete needs. When we approached outreach in a conceptual way by organizing fundraisers, we struggled to get people involved. It was too abstract and the response on the part of many was that they did not have time. Our church members are generous with their resources and they want to be "hands on", focusing on specific needs.



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### Prior Incumbents

Name	Position Title	Date Begun	Date Ended
Fr. John Sosnowski	Interim	2016-02	

Name	Position Title	Date Begun	Date Ended
Fr. Kevin Moroney	Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge	2009-07	2015-06

Name	Position Title	Date Begun	Date Ended
Fr. Ron Parker	Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge	1992-12	2009-06

*The church does not have a church school or day school but rents facilities to a pre-school.*

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

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: <http://www.christchurchithan.org>

Media Links:

Online References:

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<https://www.facebook.com/Christ-Church-Ithan-210971432321848>

Languages Significantly Represented:

**English**

Provide Worship or Classes in:

**English**

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### References

Bishop: 215-627-6434 [dgutierrez@diopa.org](mailto:dgutierrez@diopa.org)  
**Daniel Gutierrez**

Diocesan Transition Minister 215-627-6434 [jillm@diopa.org](mailto:jillm@diopa.org)  
**Jill Mathis**

Current Warden/Board Chair  
**Julia Gould**

Previous Warden/Board Chair  
**Bruce Weitlisbach**

Search Chair  
**Porter Gould**

Parish/Institution

Local Community Leader