

# CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL

*Widening the Circle of God's Embrace with Heart and Voice*

**CURATE/ASSISTING PRIEST**, Feb. 1, 2018

Christ Church Cathedral, Indianapolis, is seeking a Candidate for the Priesthood who is in divinity school or seminary to join our staff to help us carry out our mission to “widen the circle of God’s embrace, with heart and voice.”

## **About us**

We are a 180-year-old congregation located on Monument Circle in the heart of Indianapolis. We value inclusion, compassion, and beauty. At Christ Church Cathedral, worship is reverent and formal, but not stuffy. On Sunday we have four services: an 8:00 am., said, Rite One Eucharist, a 10:00 am., Sung Eucharist, at 1:00 pm Santa Misa and Vesper Light (Rite for Evening with Holy Communion) at 6 pm. Our music draws from a wide expression of musical traditions, especially the English choral, Latin and Gospel traditions. On weekdays we pray the office and celebrate a daily mass, as well as sung Evensong on Thursdays.

Daily at the Cathedral, we encounter business executives and homeless persons; the tattooed and the gray haired; men, women and transgendered persons; gay and straight. We regularly speak two languages, sometimes more than two. We strive to be intercultural, to be one church stretching across differences to welcome, include and

be the body of Christ together. We are excited about our future as people of faith who are committed to following Jesus into our city and its neighborhoods, where we will discover and join Christ in doing Gospel work.

### **About our city**

Indianapolis has a rapidly growing downtown, which is a center for government, education and commerce. Within blocks of the Cathedral are the City and County Building, the State Capitol, and the Federal Center. Also downtown are a major university (IUPUI), sporting arenas for the Colts, the Pacers, and Indians (AAA baseball), the NCAA national offices, a top-ranked convention center, corporation headquarters for major companies (e.g. Wellpoint, Anthem, Lilly, Cummings and Salesforce) and start up firms. Several thousand new housing units are under construction. Young professionals and empty nesters are moving to downtown neighborhoods near our Cathedral at a record pace, filling luxury apartment complexes, gentrifying old neighborhoods, and reinvigorating parts of Indianapolis with a vibrant cultural life. Yet, within a mile or two of our Cathedral are neighborhoods experiencing great challenges from this development—including, homelessness, crime, hunger, poor public transportation, and lack of access to healthy food. Many families are in crisis, and the challenges of being undocumented presents obstacles for both personal and civic growth.

As a Cathedral, we must bridge both of these realities, the new vitality and the challenges of the neglected.

## **The vision to which God calls us.**

Our current strategic vision is sunsetting after four years. We are beginning a new process this year to listen for God's call to us as we renew our mission to widen the the circle of God's embrace with heart and voice.

Our recent strategic vision had three main goals:

- *Evangelism within our growing downtown:* Establish relationships with and build connections among the large groups of young adults moving into the downtown Indianapolis, Lockerbie, Cole-Noble, Fountain Square, and Fletcher Place neighborhoods.
- *Evangelism with the Latino Community:* Develop and implement a strategic plan to attract, welcome, integrate, and empower the growing Latino population of Indianapolis metro area, using our congregation's diversity, inclusivity, and location as our primary drivers.
- *Outreach:* Develop collaborative hands on ministries of compassion with our neighbors focused on directly alleviating hunger among the homeless and working poor, in our downtown neighborhood.

We are currently evaluating what we achieved, what failed, and what we need to learn from both. In addition, a changing context reshaped our vision significantly. For example, the increasingly hostile environment for immigrants, refugees, and Dreamers changed dramatically how we have done evangelism. The goal changed from growth to providing safety, legal support and even preparing to provide sanctuary when needed.

In the process we got deeply involved with our community organizing partner, Faith in Indiana (formerly, IndyCAN), part of the PICO national organization. Through our

collaboration doing community organizing with other faith communities, working across among rich racial and ethnic diversity, we have been able to:

- stop a jail from being built that would have created an incentive to incarcerate
- end moneyed bail in Indiana
- pass a referendum to increase mass transit, making 40,000 phone calls
- stop ICE detentions in the Marion County jails

Another factor reshaping our vision has been the rapid increase in housing costs in the neighborhoods downtown. In four years, the population living downtown has shifted radically. We need to get to know our new neighbors better. Our old data is out of date. We need to learn more about our own community.

In sum, we are an old church dedicated to doing mission in new ways. We know that we must be humble and learn how to follow Jesus in ways that are as new to us as they are ancient. We seek leaders, lay and ordained, on staff and among the congregational, who will help us follow Jesus better in this lively, dynamic context.

### **Our next curate/assistant**

We are seeking an Episcopal Candidate for the Priesthood, currently in Divinity School or Seminary, who will, with her or his clergy colleagues and with the support of our Vestry, pursuing our vision for ministry. The first year of ministry in this position will be focused on growth into the vocation of the priesthood, all the while sharing pastoral care and worship responsibilities with the Dean and Canons. Given the experience and gifts of the Curate/Assistant, particular duties will be assigned supporting they lay persons who lead our ministries. After an initial period of priestly formation, new responsibilities and areas of oversight will be discerned mutually.

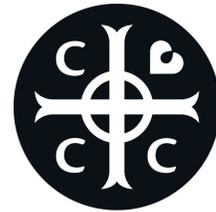
We hope to call a candidate who:

- has an active life of prayer and will join Dean and Canons in keeping our rule of prayer at the Cathedral
- has a passion for the Gospel of Jesus Christ and seeks to minister among people inside and outside traditional church settings,
- finds joy in growing the capacity of the baptized to lead and to engage in ministry
- has a heart for and commitment to social justice
- has a comfort with working in and learning from diverse cultures
- has experience in networking, evangelism, or community organizing
- can be an engaging preacher and teacher, able to help both members and non-members, the church and unchurched, find theological and spiritual meaning in their daily living
- is comfortable working in a non-traditional office setting, where the “office” is our daily prayers in the Cathedral and our work is found outside our walls in the community around us,
- appreciates our musical life
- is experienced in developing "win-win" connections among groups with differing opinions
- has a compassionate pastoral presence
- is energetic and takes initiative
- is friendly with a good sense of humor
- is intellectually curious
- embraces our vision and mission

- is a Spanish speaker, or at a minimum will be able to preside in Spanish and have the capacity to learn Spanish quickly

If this vision and profile speaks to you and to your sense of call as priest, please send pdf copies of your cover letter, resume, and OTM materials to

Dean Stephen Carlsen  
Christ Church Cathedral  
125 Monument Circle  
Indianapolis, IN 46204



Compensation range for this position is based initially on Diocesan guidelines with the additional benefit of assistance in paying seminary/divinity school debt.