Grace Episcopal Church, Fairfield, California
Clergy Job Announcement: Interim Rector

Grace Episcopal Church in Fairfield seeks a full-time Interim Rector to begin February 2027, following the retirement of our current rector.

ABOUT Grace

Our Mission: *Grace welcomes ALL to experience and participate in God's love for the community as we learn, serve, and grow*.

Grace Episcopal Church was established in 1867 and moved from neighboring Suisun City to its present site in Fairfield in 1954. The church is in a working-class neighborhood that was built in the 1950's and 1960's and includes a large Hispanic population. An elementary school is across the street, and teachers and parents use our parking lot. We are part of the community, and strive to find new ways to be a vital part of the neighborhood.

Outreach is important to us and we have a team leading an Invite-Welcome-Connect ministry. We have an established relationship with the staff at the nearby elementary school. We reach out to the neighborhood with events including or related to National Night Out, St. Francis Pet Blessing, Easter Egg Hunt, a Dia de los Muertos Offrenda, a Las Posadas observation, Juneteenth, Pride Month, National Day of Prayer, and Ashes-to-Go on Ash Wednesday. We participate in the local Clergy Action Network's annual Thanksgiving meal, and several times a year we prepare meals for the community kitchen at Epiphany Episcopal Church in neighboring Vacaville.

We have dedicated ourselves to lowering our carbon footprint, and to that end we have replaced our gas water heaters with point-of-use and on-demand electric water heaters. During the COVID lockdown, we upgraded our electrical system and replaced all our incandescent lighting with LEDs. This summer we installed solar panels with a battery storage unit. We expect to reduce our electrical grid footprint by 90%. Our roof is relatively new, and we have been gradually repairing, repainting, and upgrading our campus. Continuing facility improvements is important to us.

AA groups and various clubs rent our parish hall for regular meetings, and we rent our campus facilities to both a Baptist and a nondenominational Spanish-language congregation.

The church is financially stable. Over the last several years we have maintained a substantial balance in our investment accounts. Despite operating with a deficit budget and spending well over $100,000 on campus improvements in the last two years, our net worth has been stable. The Vestry continues to monitor spending in relation to market changes in our investment accounts.

WORSHIP

Music is an important part of our worship life, and we have a professional music director and a small but dedicated choir. We are fortunate to have very capable Lay Preachers who add a new perspective to Christian life for us to ponder. We also have an experienced Deacon as part of our worship team and community life. We livestream our services on Facebook and YouTube, and we publish an online weekly newsletter with a link to the latest sermon and morning prayer.

Our Sunday services are Rite 2, and we have Bible Study at 8:30, followed by our eucharist service at 9:30. We occasionally hold services in our courtyard – a recent example is our Blessing of the Animals service.

On Tuesdays we have a Healing Service in our chapel. It is usually led by the priest, but sometimes the Deacon or a Lay Leader will preside. Our Deacon celebrates Morning Prayer on Facebook Live on Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings.

COMMUNITY of Grace

Like most mainline churches, our congregation is aging, but we're not past our prime. Our members are active in church life, and our activities are well-attended. We are open to ALL, and we take pride in that. We are active in the community as well and are members of a variety of clubs and organizations.

We host a chapter of Daughters of the King, and our lay action group, Grace in Action, is a combination of what used to be the Episcopal Church Women and Grace Episcopal Men groups. They host many of our fund-raisers and community events.

EXPECTATIONS of the Interim Rector

The Interim Rector will represent and extend the ministry that is the bishop's pastoral and canonical responsibility for a parish in transition.

Accordingly, the main tasks of the Interim Rector will be to:

- Keep the congregation prayerfully focused on discerning God's will and our role in God's mission.
- Work with the Vestry and other lay leaders to maintain a regular schedule of worship and preaching, education, pastoral offices, and pastoral care.
- Support the Vestry in the ongoing administration of the parish.
- Prepare the congregation for the next phase of their life together.
- Help the congregation deal with any sense of loss, anxiety, or unresolved issues arising from the departure of the previous rector.
- Guide and encourage the Vestry, lay leaders and staff to make such changes as may be needed to align parish life and administration with best practices.
- Recognize and support those ministries that are succeeding, and those that are being newly developed.
- Support and inspire stewardship.
- Plan and coordinate worship with the Music Director.
- Preach sermons 3-4 Sundays per month, generally based on the lectionary readings for the day. When appropriate, invite other preachers, clergy or lay.
- Coordinate and/or supervise the work of all participants in worship, including lay readers, lay eucharistic ministers, lay preachers, and choir.
- Devote appropriate time to self-care.

This is a full-time position. Salary is $85,000 per year and 80% Medical and Dental benefits for clergy only. Four weeks (20 work days) of vacation and 10 days of sick leave are included annually. There are allowances for professional expenses, continuing education and a discretionary fund.

To apply, please send resume, cover letter and Transition Hub profile to the Rev. Cn. Julie Wakelee, Canon to the Ordinary, Episcopal Diocese of Northern California, transitions@norcalepiscopal.org