



Office for  
Transition  
Ministry

# Ministry Portfolio

*Full Portfolio (last updated Mar 27, 2017)*

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## St. James Episcopal Church, West Missouri

2645 E. Southern Hills Blvd, Springfield, MO 65804, United States

Contact:

Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge

[Canonord@diowestmo.org](mailto:Canonord@diowestmo.org)

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Weekly Average Sunday  
Attendance (ASA)

**64**

Number of Weekend  
Worship Services

**1**

Number of Weekday  
Worship Services

**5**

Number of Other per Month  
Worship Services

**2**

Current Annual  
Compensation

**\$68172**

Cash Stipend

**\$51739**

Housing / Rectory Detail

**\$13655**

Utilities

**\$3200**

SECA reimbursement

Compensation Available for  
New Position

**\$70000**

Housing Available for

**16855**

Pension Plan

**We're in compliance with  
CPF requirements.**

Healthcare Options

**Negotiable**

Dental

**No**

Housing Equity Allowance in  
budget

**Negotiable**

Annual Equity Amount

Vacation Weeks

**4**

Vacation Weeks Details

Continuing Education Weeks

**2 (standard)**

Continuing Education Weeks  
Details

Continuing Education  
Funding in budget

**\$1001-\$2000/year**

Sabbatical Provision

**Yes**

Travel/Auto Account

**Yes**

Other Professional Account

**Yes**

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

This past fall St. James sponsored its first Kirkin o' the Tartans celebration. This is a special Scottish-themed service and festival gathering with a rich ecumenical history. Its celebration was a great success for St. James, drawing a wide representation from the surrounding community to our grounds to celebrate both Scottish heritage and our national diversity. The Central High School "Kilties" Drum & Bugle Corps, the local chapter of the Scottish St. Andrews Society, constituents from many denominations and guest clergy came together to provide a fun service, great entertainment and a wonderful sampling of traditional music, culture and food for the enjoyment of all. This was a fun experiment in a new tradition for our faith community and it embodies the spirit of outreach which is a hallmark of St. James.

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

The greatest asset St. James cultivates in its preparation for the "Church of the Future" is its actively inclusive and welcoming spirit. This congregation opens its arms wide to accept and embrace members from every background and also goes out into the community through its many outreach ministries to seek out and serve our fellow human beings, as modeled by Christ. St. James recognizes that times are changing and that we cannot see the future clearly. Yet we remain optimistic and will continue to evolve in our response to God's call to us, loving one another and our community to the best of our ability.

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

preaching, worship leadership, pastoral care, church development

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

St. James offers a conventional service held at 10:30 each Sunday morning which follows the Rite II lectionary, utilizing the Renewal Hymnal, the 1982 Hymnal and the 1979 Book of Common Prayer. Recitation of the Psalms varies between spoken verse and various chant or hymn forms led by the Choir. We also have a Wednesday morning healing service. Our musical offerings are also diverse and include organ, piano, harp, solo or group vocalists, as well as a contemporary praise band. Our musical styles can vary widely, employing classical, traditional, gospel/soul, and contemporary styles. We seasonally move through different forms in our recitation of the Prayers of the People and, similarly, we change our Host between wafer and fresh unleavened bread for different seasons while also offering a gluten free option. We hold a more "high church" service with incense and full vestments on special Feast services such as Christmas Eve and Easter. We have conducted services in the field adjacent to our church to be more visible for the neighborhood and we hold a special Blessing of the Animals service outdoors on the Feast Day of St. Francis so that pets may attend.

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How do you practice incorporating others in ministry?

St. James is a very involved congregation with many forms of incorporating ministries. All are encouraged to get involved with ministries that speak to them personally. Communication is a strength here, with information being distributed during the Sunday Announcements as well as in our Sunday Bulletin and the parish weekly newsletter, the News Note, which is emailed weekly to the congregation and available online at our website. During our Hospitality Fellowship (a special coffee hour) after church members discuss their ministries with others and this often leads to additional involvements. Our Annual Meeting is a forum for updates and serves as a time to reflect on all the work that has been done and to invite broader participation in the future. To invite our community in, we have signage for various events and ministries we host at St. James, including Yoga and Zumba classes held several times weekly in our facility. We also have a brochure which details the many ministries currently working through St. James. We have a very active Facebook page and keep an up-to-date website which serves members and invites the community to come and see what God is doing at St. James.

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

Our congregation has developed many outlets for nurturing our community. Our Hospitality Fellowship and small group studies enhance a sense of local community. The Prayer Chain and Healing Service provide spiritual and emotional support. Hospital, Nursing Home and Eucharistic Minister visits provide comfort to those unable to attend church. Yoga and Zumba classes encourage exercise and invite community interaction. Our regular church and special Holy Day services are opportunities for worship. These are opportunities for special reflection and enhanced spiritual and communal relationship. Our Youth Group meets monthly and is active within the diocesan youth program, WeMo Youth. Several members are also a presence in our local Campus Ministries. We sometimes host covered dish lunches, ladies luncheons and pancake breakfasts. Special celebrations include New Year's Party, Mardis Gras and a community Easter Egg Hunt on Easter Sunday. We encourage prayer and pastoral counseling. From our periodic explorer and baptism classes to our funeral hospitality we offer to all, St. James strives to nurture every seeker throughout every stage of life. St. James church is there for one another.

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

St. James community engagement is epitomized in its outreach. The St. James Outreach Committee is open to the entire parish and engages in many opportunities to reach those beyond our worshipping community. Our parish contributes substantial financial aid and volunteer support to various community projects. The main focus of impact is to assist the homeless and the hungry and to aid women and children. Partner organizations include the Crosslines Pantry, the Council of Churches, Faith Voices, the Ronald McDonald House Charities of the Ozarks, the summer Backpack Food Program, the L. D. Pyle Memorial Tutoring program, and Episcopal Relief & Development. Additionally, shoes for Field Elementary students are purchased through designated memorial funds. We also provide Christmas Gift Baskets for seniors and shut ins. Funds for our outreach projects come from special plate offerings and requests for certain designated needs. All members of the St. James congregation are encouraged to volunteer in our many outreach programs. These programs coordinate local and global outreach giving opportunities, allowing us to better serve as Christ's loving hands and feet in the world.

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

St. James is an active parish. WeMo Youth is among the most active and cutting edge diocesan youth programs in the country. Our parish has been an active and supporting congregation in this program since its inception, sending youth and youth ministers on many missions and pilgrimages as well as to many program and training events. Our parish has members on diocesan council, sends delegates to diocesan convention, and dispatches representatives to deanery meetings. Our parish chapter of the Daughters of the King hosted a spring gathering for the diocesan components of this organization this past April. St. James frequently offers its facilities for diocesan and deanery events, including a recent Evangelism Workshop. Other local and community events held at our church recently include our first Kirkin o' the Tartans celebration this past fall, weekly community Yoga & Zumba classes and a birthday party for one of our parishioner's children. We even recently hosted a neighborhood forum for discussion of an important conservation issue. Our church's vibrant outreach work is yet another way in which our faith community touches the wider church and our geographical area.

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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?

Last summer a new parishioner, Mark Garza, spoke with a long time member, Anne Breid, about starting a Contemporary Christian Music group at St. James. Mark was a co-leader of a group in his previous parish and he suggested blending this style of worship into the more traditional service at St. James. After discussing their idea with both the rector and music director they were encouraged to make an announcement during the Sunday service inviting participation in this new ministry. The group formed, meeting weekly on Wednesday evenings to practice and choose selections. It is now thriving, made up of singers, guitars, mandolin, and occasionally a banjo, flute, or piano. One group member was inspired to start guitar lessons and even Fr. Charlie joined the group. The group now performs during communion as the traditional choir goes to receive, and on returning many of the choir members join in with the group. Members have sung at Montclair Senior Living, performed during the Kirkin o' the Tartans service and will soon worship with our local Campus Ministries. The group hopes to continue growing and be even more involved. To learn anyone may contact Mark or Anne.

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

We emphasize stewardship by encouraging the sharing of “time, talents, and treasures”. We emphasize involvement of all parishioners in some type of ministry to support the functions of St. James. We encourage everyone to take a Spiritual Gifts survey to determine what God has given them to use for the good of our church and parish family. We hold a stewardship dinner in the fall, where people give testimonies of how they have been blessed in their personal stewardship. We encourage tithing. When special needs of the parish arise, such as special programs or needed building improvements and grounds maintenance, we explain the need to the people, and they have always risen to the occasion. Stewardship strengthens our commitment to each other and to our church.

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

St. James Church recently went through a conflict concerning our past Rector. Over time, complaints and the experiences of individuals accumulated to suggest an ongoing conflict between the Rector and his staff regarding administrative practices. A decision was made by the Wardens and other leaders to meet and discuss these issues with the end goal of helping those involved to reconcile their differences, to improve communication and to restore harmonious relationships. After several meetings between the Rector and leaders no resolution could be reached so the Bishop was contacted for guidance. Still further talks revealed the issue as unresolved. At this point, as the situation was becoming more intractable, the Bishop placed the rector on administrative leave. This action was misunderstood and resulted in hurt feelings. Some members left. After many meetings and much sharing, our congregation developed a better understanding of why the situation ended as it did and is now in many ways a stronger and renewed congregation. Conflicts will arise now and then but the difference is that now we have new skills with which to handle them—in love, understanding, and with true listening.

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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?

We stress open communication and discussion of issues. We allow differing beliefs and strive to express our diversity in an environment of mutual respect. “Politics from the pulpit” is discouraged as it can be alienating, whereas differences are best resolved through respectful dialogue and relying on strong personal relationships. Our lay leadership listens to the people and fosters consideration on many sides of the issues. Despite these approaches, St. James was caught up in the Bishop Robinson aftermath and schism, and suffered loss of members that significantly affected the health of our church. The positive outfall of that was that remaining members are devoted to St. James, the Episcopal Church and lovingly accepting and supporting those with differing lifestyles without forcing people to change their core beliefs. We are a congregation of differing viewpoints, but we are reconciled by emphasizing and focusing on the important things on which we all agree. Embracing our differences has strengthened us as a church community. What we have learned is that it is unhealthy to try and push one viewpoint and try to force others to conform in their thoughts, beliefs and practices.



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### Prior Incumbents

Name	Position Title	Date Begun	Date Ended
Rev. Suzanne Lynch	Deacon	2007-04	

Name	Position Title	Date Begun	Date Ended
Dr. Jeremy Chesman	Musician, Director of Music	2006-01	

Name	Position Title	Date Begun	Date Ended
Victoria Hamilton	Administrative Staff	2014-02	

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: [www.stjamesspringfield.net](http://www.stjamesspringfield.net)

Media Links:

Online References:

> <https://www.facebook.com/StJamesSpringfield/>  
> <https://www.flickr.com/photos/140376090@N07/albums/>

Languages Significantly Represented:

**English**

Provide Worship or Classes in:

**English**

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### References

Bishop:

**Rt. Rev. Martin Field**

(P) 816-471-6161, Ext. 16 / [bishopfield@diowestmo.org](mailto:bishopfield@diowestmo.org)

Diocesan Transition Minister

**Rev. Charles Caskey**

(P) 847-644-5203 / (E) [charlesccaskey@gmail.com](mailto:charlesccaskey@gmail.com)

Current Warden/Board Chair

**Eric Atkinson**

(P) 417-866-0450 / (E) [eric.atkinson@morganstanley.com](mailto:eric.atkinson@morganstanley.com)

Previous Warden/Board Chair

**Destiny Zook**

(P) 417-425-1199 / (E) [dzook@ccc.gannett.com](mailto:dzook@ccc.gannett.com)

Search Chair

**Dr. Brett T. Durbin**

(P) 417-986-3073 / (E) [durbindds@gmail.com](mailto:durbindds@gmail.com)

Parish/Institution

**Rev. Charles Caskey**

(P) 847-644-5203 / (E) [charlesccaskey@gmail.com](mailto:charlesccaskey@gmail.com)

Local Community Leader