Director of Worship and Music
Job Posting

Boulevard Presbyterian Church is looking for someone who loves Christ and cares for God’s people to help create, form, and shape beautiful and Scripturally-rich worship at our young and growing church. Boulevard is located in the historic village of Oak Park, on the Western edge of the great city of Chicago. We seek to have our worship connected both to the rich traditions of God’s people and to the rich cultural diversity in our broader community.

Qualifications

- Vision for the centrality and transformative power of worship in the Christian life; vision for how Christian worship also invites the non-Christian to Christ; personal living faith in Christ, being transformed by the Gospel.
- Ability to lead congregational singing. Both vocal and instrumental abilities are probably ideal; ability to compose or arrange could be helpful too.
- Ability to gather, work with, and lead a team of diverse musicians, understanding how each musician can contribute. Most Sundays, we have a couple vocalists, a pianist, a percussionist, a guitarist, and maybe one other instrumentalist (violin, cello, flute, etc.). We also have an organ, which we play on occasion.
- Appreciation for a variety of music styles to speak to the native musical languages of those in our community (e.g., hymns, folk, gospel), both traditional and newer songs, played with thoughtfulness about musical beauty.
- Appreciation for the tradition of worship throughout church history and today, as well as of the importance of having different cultures represented in a worship service. Appreciation for Boulevard’s ‘catholic-reformed semi-liturgical’ worship style (this can be explained further).
- Ability to work well with the church staff and volunteer musicians.
- Facility with or ability to learn Planning Center (to communicate with musicians) and possibly Adobe InDesign (or other similar software to design the Order of Worship).
- [preferred] 1-3 years of experience in leading church worship

Responsibilities

- Personally lead worship music most Sundays and special evening services (like Christmas Eve, Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, and Good Friday). Currently, on Sundays musicians meet at 8:30am to rehearse; the worship service runs from 9:30-10:45am.
- Gather, mentor, and lead musicians from within the congregation. Mentor some to lead worship on occasion. Communicate clearly and rehearse with musicians for each Sunday service.
- Continually develop congregational repertoire of worship songs. Regularly solicit feedback from church leadership and congregation about musical style, variety, singability, etc.
- Recruit, schedule, and possibly train sound technicians
- Meet with Pastor most weeks to debrief previous service and plan for the coming one
- Regularly seek to build caring relationships with people in the congregation
- Organize occasional special music (congregational or visiting choirs, etc.)
- Network with other worship leaders to develop partnerships with other congregations and share support and resources
- [possibly] Design the Order of Worship each week, in coordination with the pastor, who gives final approval. This includes selecting songs, prayers, reflections, creeds according to the liturgical season, sermon, and Scripture readings.

Examples of Songs We Sing

We like a variety of music at Boulevard, both traditional and newer. We value lyrics rich with biblical imagery and beautiful melodies with instrumental support. A typical Sunday morning service might have 2 gospel songs, 2 hymns sung in an upbeat way, and 2 newer songs. Some particular examples from our repertoire include:

- Traditional hymns like “Be Thou My Vision,” “All Creatures of Our God and King,” “There Is a Fountain Filled with Blood,” with rich lyrics and non-hokey melodies
- Classic Gospel songs, like “Precious Lord,” “He’s Done So Much for Me”
- Newer Gospel songs like “My Soul Will Sing,” “Lord, You Are Good,” “Psalm 34” (Brooklyn Tabernacle Choir), “Don’t Cry” (Kirk Franklin), “The Blood Will Never Lose Its Power” (Crouch)
- Retuned hymns like “Heal Us, Emmanuel,” “By Thy Mercy” (Indelible Grace)
- Folk, shaped-note music, sometimes retuned, like “The Grieved Soul,” “The Wayfaring Stranger”
- Newer worship songs like “We Will Feast” (Sandra McCracken), “We Abide, We Abide in You” (Porter’s Gate), “All the Poor and Powerless” (All Sons and Daughters), “All Must Be Well” (Smith), “We Are Not Overcome” (Wardell)
- Classic and textually rich carols during Advent and Christmas

Reporting, Commitment, & Compensation

- Reports to Pastor Jeff
- Works an average of 10-15 hr/week (depending on responsibilities, availability, and gifting)
- Starts out as month-to-month commitment; after 4 months, a one-year offer will be considered
- Compensation based on experience, qualifications, and hours worked
- Could be considered in conjunction with a 15-hr administrative position
About Boulevard

Boulevard is located in the historic village of Oak Park, along the Western edge of the City of Chicago. We seek to be a place of rest, honesty, healing, service, and joyful celebration in Christ, looking for Christ's renewal both within our congregation and within our Greater Westside Community. We strive to be a place where Christians can grow in their faiths and seekers can come with honest questions. We seek to have our congregation engage and comprise the full variety of our neighbors, people from all backgrounds, ethnicities, and cultures. We currently average about 80 adults and 30 kids at Sunday worship.

Our expressed values include Gospel, Celebration, Learning, Neighborhood, Hospitality, Gospel Justice & Reconciliation, and Partnership. You can read more about it on our website (blvdpres.org).

We are a member of the Presbyterian Church in America (PCA). We began in September 2017 as a church plant of two congregations on the Northside of Chicago, Covenant Pres and Lincoln Square Pres. In March 2021, we purchased an historic church building at 607 Harvard St, Oak Park, IL.

If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Jeff (jeff@blvdpres.org). To apply, send Jeff a cover letter, resume, and sample of music.

(amended 2/23/2022)