

## **Collaborative Pianist / Organist**

***Laguna Niguel Presbyterian Church (LNPC)  
Laguna Niguel, California***

Laguna Niguel Presbyterian Church exists to build a Family of Faith by welcoming all people into a life-changing journey together as servants of Jesus Christ through: Loving, Connecting, Transforming, and Serving. We are a relational, Christ-centered community committed to making disciples and embodying Jesus' love in every part of life. Our staff culture values authentic relationships, spiritual growth, and collaborative ministry rooted in our shared mission.

### **Position Overview**

The Collaborative Pianist / Organist will serve as a key member of our worship and music ministry. This position emphasizes highly skilled piano accompaniment in rehearsal and worship, while also calling for an organist who provides expressive and confident leadership in preludes, postludes, and other liturgical moments.

The Collaborative Pianist/Organist works closely with the Music Minister and Director, clergy, choir, and worship leaders to provide thoughtful, well-prepared music that enhances worship and reflects both musical excellence and spiritual depth.

### **Primary Responsibilities**

- Serve as accompanist for the Chancel Choir and worship services, providing piano and organ accompaniment appropriate to the repertoire and liturgical context
- Accompany the Chancel Choir for Thursday evening rehearsals, with rehearsals adjusted as needed for special services or holidays when those services occur on Thursdays
- Provide piano accompaniment for choral anthems, selected modern worship music, and other worship selections
- Provide organ leadership for congregational hymns, preludes, offertories postludes, and selected liturgical music
- Collaborate with the Music Minister and Director in worship planning and musical preparation
- Support a blended worship style that includes traditional hymns, choral repertoire, and selected modern worship music
- Provide music for special services throughout the church year (e.g., Holy Week, Easter, Christmas Eve services as scheduled)
- Serve as accompanist for LNPC's annual Christmas Concert, featuring choir, soloists, and orchestra

### **Musical & Professional Expectations**

- Strong piano and organ skills, with piano accompaniment as the primary focus

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- Excellent sight-reading ability, including hymnals, choral scores, and lead sheets
- Ability to support congregational singing, choirs, soloists, and worship leaders with sensitivity and confidence
- Musical adaptability across styles, including classical choral literature, traditional hymnody, and selected modern worship music
- Ability to follow conductors, respond to verbal and visual cues, and adjust musically in real time
- Skill in preparing diverse repertoire efficiently and accurately
- Basic improvisation and modulation skills as needed for worship flow (introductions, interludes, transitions)
- Strong organizational habits, including preparation, punctuality, and reliable communication
- A collaborative, collegial spirit and the ability to work well with volunteer and professional musicians
- Respect for the role of music as an integral part of Christian worship and congregational life

## **Preferred Qualifications**

- Formal musical training (degree in music or equivalent professional experience)
- Demonstrated experience as a church accompanist, particularly with vocal ensembles
- Experience accompanying SATB choirs, soloists, and instrumentalists
- Familiarity with Protestant worship traditions; Presbyterian experience is helpful but not required
- Comfort working within a team-based ministry environment
- A personal appreciation for the mission and ministry of the church; shared faith commitment welcomed

## **Schedule Overview**

- Thursday evening choir rehearsals (weekly)
- Occasional Tuesday rehearsals for special services or holidays
- Sunday morning worship service
- Additional rehearsals and services as needed for seasonal and special programming

## **Additional Compensation & Time Commitment**

- Right of first refusal for weddings and funerals, compensation provided separately
- Estimated annual total: approximately 444 hours

## **Application, Interview, and Audition Process**

Interested candidates are invited to submit a résumé and brief cover letter outlining relevant experience and interest in the position.

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Selected candidates will be contacted for an initial interview, followed by an audition for finalists. Auditions will focus primarily on accompaniment skills and may include:

- Piano accompaniment in a short rehearsal setting, working with members of the Chancel Choir on a choral anthem excerpt
- Sight-reading from an open score, hymnal, and/or lead sheet
- Demonstration of hymn playing and basic organ proficiency
- Brief conversation regarding collaborative approach to church music ministry

The interview and audition process will take place over several weeks. Candidates will be notified of timelines and next steps as the process progresses.

Laguna Niguel Presbyterian Church is committed to a thoughtful and respectful search process and looks forward to discerning the best fit for our worship and music ministry.

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Laguna Niguel Presbyterian Church values excellence in accompaniment, meaningful worship, and warm collaboration. This position offers the opportunity to contribute to a long-standing and respected music ministry within a supportive and engaged congregation.