



Office for  
Transition  
Ministry

# Ministry Portfolio

*Full Portfolio (last updated Feb 5, 2026)*

## Emmanuel Episcopal Church, Chicago

412 N Church St, Rockford, IL 61103, United States

Contact:

Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge | Receiving Names until 03/21/26.

[amysen@episcopalchicago.org](mailto:amysen@episcopalchicago.org)

Weekly Average Sunday Attendance (ASA)	Number of Weekend Worship Services	Number of Weekday Worship Services	Number of Other per Month Worship Services
70	2	1	
Current Annual Compensation	Cash Stipend	Housing / Rectory Detail	Utilities
	<b>\$85000</b>		
SECA reimbursement	Compensation Available for New Position	Housing Available for	Pension Plan
	<b>\$85000</b>		
Healthcare Options	Dental	Housing Equity Allowance in budget	Annual Equity Amount
<b>Full family</b>	<b>Yes</b>		
Vacation Weeks	Vacation Weeks Details	Continuing Education Weeks	Continuing Education Weeks Details
<b>One month, including 5 Sundays (standard)</b>		<b>2 (standard)</b>	
Continuing Education Funding in budget	Sabbatical Provision	Travel/Auto Account	Other Professional Account
<b>\$501-\$1000/year</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Yes</b>

*SECA included in cash stipend; compensation negotiable based upon experience.*

---

## Emmanuel Episcopal Church, Chicago

Contact:

Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge | Receiving Names until 03/21/26.

amysen@episcopalchicago.org

---

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

This is an isolated case, but we feel it really encapsulates the kind of people found at Emmanuel Rockford. One of our parishioners, an artist and avid dog person, was diagnosed with ALS in summer of 2024. Her home was not one that would readily accommodate her increasing dependence on a heavy and awkward wheelchair. A small group of her friends from church decided to gift a stone wheelchair ramp that would give her access to the world outside her home while at the same time being a beautiful and safe addition for her dogs. When word of the project reached other members of our parish, the project was rapidly funded and implemented; she had her mobility back before the month was done. In addition, multiple members took on the task of making the yard not only safe for her mobility, but, under her direction, worked to make it a green and inviting space for friends to gather as the seasons change. We saw a need; we pulled together to address the need and brought joy and functionality to our sister and her family. That really is what we do here at Emmanuel.

---

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

Church leadership has begun to stress the context in which the wider church now operates: The postwar church boom is over. Lifelong loyalty to a church "brand" is a thing of the past. Families are having fewer children and have more demands on their time. Resources don't flow as freely as they once did. As a result of these factors, we've begun to reframe discussions around traditional measures of church health. "Growth" per se is less important than encountering people where they are in life and accompanying them on the journey. We also understand that such accompaniment is just as important for members as for people outside the walls of the church. So, too, our financial portfolio, though healthy, isn't as accurate a measure of health as the mindset we bring to money — we are striving to meet resource challenge from a perspective of abundance, something our parish forebearers probably didn't have to do. Most of all, we have begun to encourage the parish to be open to the surprises made possible by the leading of the Holy Spirit. We can't know what "holy surprises" lie ahead or how they will change the contours of the church — but we can be confident they will be good.

---

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

joyful, patient, generous, confident

---

## Emmanuel Episcopal Church, Chicago

Contact:

Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge | Receiving Names until 03/21/26.

amysen@episcopalchicago.org

---

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

We have a very traditional liturgy and we as a congregation absolutely love our music and liturgy. In our 10:30 service, music shapes the service as much as the service shapes the music. Our 8 o'clock service is contemplative and spoken, with no music. The 10:30 service has choral music and organ (sometimes with additional instrumentation from members of the congregation as well as paid outside musicians). Portions of the liturgy are sung by the congregation. We also sponsor Choral Scholars from Rockford University to add another dimension to the musical offerings.

---

How do you practice incorporating others in ministry?

We offer a wide variety of ways to directly participate in the ministries of our parish. As an example, a talented baker might be recognized and be called upon by other bakers to join in the ministry of the bread guild - making the bread we use each Sunday during communion. Choir, acolytes, altar guild, lay eucharistic ministers, ushering, lay readers, vestry, search committee - each of these groups feels a call to share their God-given gifts with others in our church. We recruit for these personally. That is, we invite participation on a one-to-one basis, making the call to a service a personal one usually extended by a fellow parishioner. There is no formal nomination process for serving aside from the Vestry and Search committees, which are nominated by consensus of the rector, the wardens and the vestry.

---

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

We offer many informal opportunities to care for one another. Coffee hours take place after nearly every 10:30 service. We offer coffee and baked goods and a space to gather. This is a chance to check in with each other - to keep tabs on what is happening in the lives of our congregational family. It is also an excellent chance to get to know new members and to note of those who are missing. Other opportunities include intergenerational events, Musicales, Pride and Pizza, Lunch bunch, and Book club. We have a flower ministry. This is a small and meaningful ministry instituted in the post-Covid era. The altar flowers, which had been allowed to age and wither in the empty sanctuary, are now transferred to disposable vases and distributed to members celebrating birthdays or other milestones; and to those who are shut-in and unable to attend as they once did. More formal care comes from our Adult Forum - a Sunday School between Sunday services that offers education and information. We cover both bible oriented and community focused topics and invite lively participation by all members. There is a laity led grief support group and Bible studies during Advent and Lent.

---

## Emmanuel Episcopal Church, Chicago

Contact:

Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge | Receiving Names until 03/21/26.

amysen@episcopalchicago.org

---

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

Emmanuel founded and provides significant support for Shelter Care Ministries - an organization that provides housing for homeless individuals and families in Rockford. Our church provides the Jubilee Center facility. During the week, it serves as a Shelter Care operated drop-in center for those in our community suffering from mental health issues and at risk of homelessness. They provide counselling and a place for members to "hang out" along with a place to shower and do laundry. Breakfast and lunch are also provided. At risk individuals are referred to the program and provided with membership cards. Although a few are also members of our worship community, most are not. With a group of 16 area churches, Emmanuel organizes and operates a weekly soup kitchen in the Jubilee Center. Emmanuel has long been a welcoming and hospitable church that strives to care for those at risk in our city. We look to continue and build on this with recent outreach to Rockford Pride and our LGBTQ+ neighbors.

---

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

Sadly, Episcopal churches in the Rockford area have declined along with a decline in Rockford's population. Where once we supported three churches, we are now the area's only full-time Episcopal church. In addition, the number of active churches in our downtown area has dwindled. Rockford has started an upward trend in population recently, and our goal is to grow with her. Emmanuel is involved with the Chicago diocese, with members serving on the Commission on Ministry, Episcopal Charities board and others. One member was an alternative delegate to the General Convention. We have a member currently serving on the Youth Advisory Council and one on the Allocation Committee for Episcopal Charities. Emmanuel is hosting an overnight youth event and the Eucharist for this year's Diocesan Convention. We work with other churches in the area, less than before COVID, but we are slowly reaching out to other congregations, with a focus on the issues of mental illness and homelessness. Running the Jeremiah Community Garden, the Overnight Cafe, and our weekly soup kitchen involves coordinating volunteers from churches throughout the greater Rockford region.

---

Tell about a ministry that your worshipping community has initiated in the past five years. Who can be contacted about this?

Last fall, we were asked by a fellow downtown church to assist in their ministry to provide shelter for high-risk homeless individuals during the coldest months of the year, specifically, by providing a separate space for unhoused women. This meant opening our Jubilee Center from 7 pm to 7 am to provide a safe, warm space for those women who could not be accommodated by other housing options in Rockford and away from the housing already provided for men. Because of additional costs and security concerns, our vestry was unsure if we should get involved. When we put the question to our congregation during a special congregational meeting, the answer was a resounding YES! Not only did we offer a clean, warm space for these women overnight, but our members took turns making hot meals to offer when they arrived and breakfast before they left in the morning. Enough food was leftover that we were able to share with the men being housed by the other congregation. You can contact Martha Langford at Second First Church [info@secondfirst.org](mailto:info@secondfirst.org) or Sean Cramer at Emmanuel [seancramer81@gmail.com](mailto:seancramer81@gmail.com) for more information.

---

## Emmanuel Episcopal Church, Chicago

Contact:

Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge | Receiving Names until 03/21/26.

[amysen@episcopalchicago.org](mailto:amysen@episcopalchicago.org)

---

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

Our stewardship is evolving. In the past we emphasized a concentrated Stewardship drive in the fall, with pledge cards that generated a box of envelopes for parishioners to drop in the plate each week. Today we are moving to fostering a year-round spirit of generosity; a mindset where yes is an automatic answer. We are looking both for the traditional idea of stewardship, where we support the church all year with our pledges, and finding sponsors for a rector's "audacity fund" that will allow us to support creative ideas for growth and outreach without having to wait for a vestry meeting. We also have a history of enthusiastic response to capital needs. When our organ needed MAJOR repairs, our congregation came together to raise \$120,000 to get it done. The much less glamorous boiler replacement last year drew similar support. And we are currently working to raise \$80,000 to repair our glorious stained-glass window and protect it for years to come.

---

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

A recent conflict involved our last rector, who started just before COVID. COVID isolated us and gave us and our new rector no chance to get to know each other. We did not learn about each other's gifts. As things returned to normal and we were able to worship in person, conflicts arose over personality and management style. Two members of the congregation confronted her and suggested she resign - much of the parish or vestry had no knowledge of this. The next vestry meeting focused on concerns about her leadership and perceived lack of involvement in running the church. Neither side could see the other's point of view. We subsequently reached out to the diocese. Months of discussion followed, centered on her leadership and our role in allowing things to deteriorate as we worked toward a resolution, with the goal of finding a resolution. We couldn't come to an agreement, and we parted ways. From this experience, the congregation and vestry learned to take more ownership of the running of the church and to communicate sooner rather than later as problems arise. We learned that we need to be more flexible to ensure the success of a rector called to guide our church into the future.

---

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?

In June 2024, we faced the retirement of our organist and choir director. Both had served the church for decades and were beloved by the congregation. This was a tumultuous time for us, given that it coincided with rector conflict and the retirement of our sole deacon. Instead, we were very open about why the musicians were leaving. The vestry and rector were transparent about the process of selecting replacements. A committee was formed to look at candidates, and our new staff was hired by the end of the summer season. They are now a treasured part of our congregation. A change that went poorly happened many years ago still resonates. The rector decided to move the baptismal font from the front of the church to the rear and into the central aisle. She announced this and her very sound and traditional reasons for doing so, but many in the congregation disliked the new location and felt it was unsafe and had been done with little heed to the way we as a congregation used our space. It was very divisive. People are attached to a building and traditions; even seemingly small changes can have unseen ripples through the church family. The font is now back in its former alcove.



# Ministry Portfolio

Full Portfolio  
(last updated Feb 5, 2026)

## Emmanuel Episcopal Church, Chicago

Contact:

Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge | Receiving Names until 03/21/26.

[amysen@episcopalchicago.org](mailto:amysen@episcopalchicago.org)

### Prior Incumbents

Name	Position Title	Date Begun	Date Ended
Conrad Selnick	Interim	2025-01	

Name	Position Title	Date Begun	Date Ended
Diane Tomlinson	Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge	2019-12	2024-08

Name	Position Title	Date Begun	Date Ended
Bill Nesbit	Interim	2019-02	2019-12

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
------------	-----------------------------------	-----------------------------------	--------------------------------------



# Ministry Portfolio

Full Portfolio  
(last updated Feb 5, 2026)

---

## Emmanuel Episcopal Church, Chicago

Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge | Receiving Names until 03/21/26.

Contact:  
amysen@episcopalchicago.org

---

Worshipping Community Web site: <https://www.emmanuelrockford.org/>

Media Links:

Online References:

Languages Significantly Represented:

**English**

Provide Worship or Classes in:

**English**

---

### References

Bishop:

**The Rt. Rev. Paula Clark**

312-751-4200; bishop@episcopalchicago.org

Diocesan Transition Minister  
**The Rev. Canon Andrea Mysen**

312-751-4203; amysen@episcopalchicago.org

Current Warden/Board Chair  
**Mark Baldwin**

mfbaldwin1957@gmail.com

Previous Warden/Board Chair  
**Sean Cramer**

seancramer81@gmail.com

Search Chair  
**Theresa Sinks, Louis Matjasko**

Theresa.sinks@yahoo.com; 815-289-3673; lsmatjasko@msn.com; 779-423-9556

Parish/Institution  
**Todd Burton**

todd.r.burton@gmail.com; 703-655-0255

Local Community Leader  
**Thomas McNamara**

thomas.mcnamara@rockfordil.gov