



Office for  
Transition  
Ministry

# Ministry Portfolio

*Full Portfolio (last updated Mar 2, 2026)*

## St. Michael's Episcopal Church, Chicago

647 Dundee Ave, Barrington, IL 60010, United States

Contact:

Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge |

Weekly Average Sunday Attendance (ASA) 125	Number of Weekend Worship Services 2	Number of Weekday Worship Services	Number of Other per Month Worship Services 1
Current Annual Compensation	Cash Stipend \$80000	Housing / Rectory Detail \$25345	Utilities \$4484
SECA reimbursement	Compensation Available for New Position \$109830	Housing Available for 5	Pension Plan We're in compliance with CPF requirements.
Healthcare Options Full family	Dental Yes	Housing Equity Allowance in budget	Annual Equity Amount
Vacation Weeks One month, including 5 Sundays (standard)	Vacation Weeks Details	Continuing Education Weeks 2 (standard)	Continuing Education Weeks Details
Continuing Education Funding in budget \$501-\$1000/year	Sabbatical Provision Yes	Travel/Auto Account Yes	Other Professional Account No

*Housing is pension assessed value. FMRV \$40,800 SECA included. Stipend negotiable*

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

Each Sunday, 2 worship services provide distinct styles of celebrating the Eucharist. The rector is the primary preacher, but other clergy and lay people are a part of the rota. Preaching is from the pulpit for benefit of streaming audience. Sunday 8 AM worship service is BCP Rite I with hymns and instrumental music; this service is introspective and quietly contemplative. Lay Eucharistic Ministers serve as acolytes and lectors. The 10 AM Rite II Choral Eucharist is a larger service, drawing from a wide demographic. On occasion we use liturgies from approved sources throughout the Anglican Communion; music ranges from traditional to contemporary. Lay readers, acolytes, and LEMs assist. Children join worship until the children's sermon, then go to Sunday School and older students attend the entire service. The ambiance is warm and friendly, reflecting a well engaged community. Our music program is excellent and includes an adult choir with organ, often augmented by handbell choir, children's choir, brass ensembles, string quartets or bluegrass bands. Christmas, Easter and other holy day services incorporate chanting and incense, with musicians from the community joining our choir.

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How do you practice incorporating others in ministry?

While we strive to be a welcoming community and volunteer spirit is high, our incorporation style tends to be informal, and current lay leadership is eager to adopt more strategic and intentional methods of integrating both current and new members into all ministries of the church. St. Michaels' ministries are primarily lay led, many by long time leaders. Survey results and anecdotal feedback indicate that these leaders are looking for direction, support, and spiritual training. Our most recent rector took a more relaxed approach to recruiting members for ministry, but thanks to the personal passion and dedication of many in the congregation, we currently have a vibrant roster of group gatherings, activities and events. Interim clergy leadership is breathing fresh air into our approach to inclusivity and incorporating both newcomers and long-time members into worship, welcoming, spiritual growth, outreach and pastoral care ministries. We have also had success with regular ministry fairs showcasing the volunteer opportunities available.

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

We care for each other by simply being together and participating in the planned functions held throughout the year by the church. With many long time and mature members, a sense of concern and care permeates our gatherings. Bible Study groups for both men and women offer teaching and social interaction and are very intentional in serving as pastoral support networks, supplementing the work of our clergy/lay led Pastoral Care Team. Foyers dinners and coffee hour provide fulfilling engagement, but the congregation looks to develop additional fellowship activities, both intimate and parish wide. Survey feedback indicates that we do, "great funerals" indicating a concerned presence for those suffering loss, whether they are members of our congregation, their families, or the community. Concerted efforts to make our physical space more accessible and welcoming are ongoing. We are seeking creative solutions to manage the needs of aging members of our congregation, as well as providing appropriate space for families with young children.

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

Our chapel is open to all, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, providing a place of prayer and meditation for those seeking spiritual solace. St. Michaels offers special prayer services to the community at times of national or local crisis, and our bible study and prayer shawl groups are all enhanced by members from outside our worshipping parish. We have a small team of Home LEMs that go to the homebound to deliver the sacraments, and other volunteers work to provide meals for them. A long-standing practice of providing funeral services to non-members is a tangible reminder of our care for grieving and unchurched community members. Reaching out to serve people in crisis is a long-standing core value of the St. Michaels congregation. We firmly believe that supporting agencies which provide food and shelter is essential pastoral care to our neighbor and at St Michaels we call that Outreach. These partner agencies are also the focal point of volunteer activities for parishioners.

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

Several members of St. Michaels have recently served in diocesan roles on the Standing Committee, Diocesan Council, Episcopal Peace Fellowship, Cathedral Chapter, as well as the National Church level. We have a deep history of local, regional, and global outreach. Youth mission trips feature prominently in the life of our church and trips to build homes in Guatemala inspire youth and adults alike. Despite decades of turmoil in South Sudan, our 25+ year covenant with Renk Diocese still provides support for the Theological College. Our outreach program provides meaningful support to 11 agencies. Food drives support township food pantries, and participation in the local CROP Walk is growing. We have hosted AA and Al Anon groups for decades. As the registration site of the Barrington Area Council on Aging annual fundraiser, we host architectural tours of our mid-century modern sanctuary. Our preschool program is a highly visible ministry to Barrington and surrounding towns. The school provides developmentally appropriate programs that nurture curiosity, creativity, and a love for learning in a caring community, with our clergy regularly engaging with students and parents.

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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?

In 2025 the wardens and vestry initiated the "Sunday Brew" series of wide-ranging topics to deepen community and Christian formation. These hour-long sessions are held in conjunction with coffee hour after the 10 a.m. service. Topics include estate planning, 12-step programs, mental health information for parents of teens, welcoming ministry training, St. Michaels information technology systems and even learning about the Barrington Library. These gatherings are increasing attendance at our coffee hour while providing useful learning for the congregation. Contact Senior Warden Liz Gabis or Junior Warden Bob Hoyler for more information.

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

Stewardship at St. Michaels means all giving—whether giving time teaching Sunday School, washing dishes or making a financial pledge. The generosity and open hearts of our members is at the heart of who we are. Our members always respond above and beyond--donating hundreds of gifts to Katy's Christmas Baskets and Advent collections, funding capital campaigns, sponsoring dozens of work trips and raising \$150,000 for Hurricane Katrina rebuilding. Pledge drive awareness begins in the fall and concludes with the Stewardship Sunday celebratory meal. Members of the vestry make appeals regularly throughout this period to give, not only financially but physically in support of the parish. Work has started on expansion of a Legacy Fund, similar to an endowment, to preserve the Church in perpetuity and forms part of planned giving strategies. A key driver for many members to give generously is our 50-year tradition of budgeting 10% of pledged income to outreach granting and 10% to our diocese. An integral part of our parish identity is the understanding that we are all members--very members incorporate—giving our combined treasure as one to those in need and to the greater Church.

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

Recent rectors have had vastly different management styles and approaches to conflict resolution in the congregation, but in general St. Michaels has managed conflict by coming together with direct conversation. Members feel they can express opinions and have a safe space to speak. For example, in 2013, the vestry moved and approved the blessing of same-gender relationships at St. Michael's after a year-long series of education, presentations, and small group conversations. Knowing that there were strong opinions on either side of the issue, the strategy of talking, learning, and understanding the other side led to acceptance between differing views and strengthened our sense of community. Currently the congregation is struggling with budgetary issues, reflected in reducing the line item for outreach from 10% to 5% of pledged income. Those who are passionate about maintaining the tithe feel comfortable expressing this concern to the vestry. The vestry is developing strategies to accommodate this desire with the needs for staffing and building maintenance costs, and effective compromises are in place.

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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?

During the COVID crisis, church services were remote and the rector led live stream worship from the rectory. Once it was deemed acceptable to get back together, a series of adaptations for the Holy Eucharist began: initially only the rector drank from the cup, then we used plastic chalice and host kits, and the final solution was to replace the common chalice with disposable plastic cups filled by LEMS at stations. When it was safe to return to the common chalice, many parishioners have chosen not to take wine unless they could either bring their own vessel or go back to the disposable cups. We are learning that the balance of physical health and one's spirituality are all on a spectrum of acceptance. Having learned the value of live streaming, we continue the practice, with an average of 20 views each Sunday. Snowbirds, non-drivers, and the infirm have become regulars, and it provides an excellent weekly resource if one missed Sunday worship or wishes to hear the sermon again.

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

In 2025, a group of volunteers acted on a suggestion necessitated by a decrease in budgeted outreach funds to organize a fundraising gathering for the parish and thus was born "A Good and Joyful Thing." In addition to rebuilding outreach resources, we discerned a desire for community building and celebrating as a congregation. Including music, dinner, games, and raffles, the event attracted a tremendous volunteer and donor response, was well attended, and very fun. The gathering bonded parishioners in joyful giving, raising \$30,000, far surpassing the original \$10,000 goal, with over 120 guests in attendance, including friends from the wider community and outreach partners. A rousing game of Jeopardy informed our audience about the beneficiaries our giving would impact: Barrington Area Council on Aging/Meals with Wheels, Barrington Youth & Family Services, Chalice House, CUMALI, Food for Greater Elgin, Porche De Salomon, Ravenswood Community Services, Redeemer Church Families in Crisis, Rebuilding Together, Renk, Sudan Microloan program, St. Cyprian's Food Pantry and St. Leonard's Ministries. Members continue to talk about how fun it was and want to have more such gatherings.

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

Survey results and small groups reveal a congregation that is eager and primed for new growth—spiritual growth, membership growth, and financial growth. Parish leaders are concentrating efforts on involving and engaging young people in the life of the church. We are invigorating newcomer welcome efforts, with a dual focus on personal engagement and creating a compelling and inviting online presence. The Welcoming Committee leads training sessions to hone greeting techniques, and has updated name tags, brochures, databases, and new member incorporation practices. A technology team has reviewed and updated all facets of IT, with particular attention to updating the live stream, improving the audio system, and keeping the website current. Data base cleanup is underway, facilitating improved communication. The vestry is working to align current staffing with congregational needs and develop best practice human resource and governance guidelines. Online giving is used by most parishioners. Our desires to develop a welcoming and inclusive community include converting restrooms to be gender neutral and incorporating inclusive language in liturgy.

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

pastoral, dynamic, approachable, community engaged

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### Prior Incumbents

Name	Position Title	Date Begun	Date Ended
The Rev. Ralph Osborne	Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge	2025-05	

Name	Position Title	Date Begun	Date Ended
The Rev. Jesse Perkins	Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge	2016-09	2025-04

Name	Position Title	Date Begun	Date Ended
The Rev. Jack Fleming	Interim	2015-09	2016-09

Church School	Number of Teachers/Leaders for Children School	Number of Students for Children School
yes	3	18

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
3	15	3	40

Day School	Number of Students for Day School	Number of Teachers for Day School	Number of Total Staff for Day School
Pre-K	97	15	2

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Worshipping Community Web site: [www.stmichaelsbarrington.org](http://www.stmichaelsbarrington.org)

Media Links:

Online References:

> <https://www.facebook.com/StMichaelsBarrington>

Languages Significantly Represented:

English

Provide Worship or Classes in:

English

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### References

Bishop:

312-751-4200; [bishop@episcopalchicago.org](mailto:bishop@episcopalchicago.org)

The Rt. Rev. Paula Clark

Diocesan Transition Minister

312-751-4203; [amysen@episcopalchicago.org](mailto:amysen@episcopalchicago.org)The Rev. Canon Andrea  
Mysen

Current Warden/Board Chair

[sr-warden@stmichaelsbarrington.org](mailto:sr-warden@stmichaelsbarrington.org)

Liz Gabis

Previous Warden/Board Chair

[wkf630\\_2002@yahoo.com](mailto:wkf630_2002@yahoo.com)

Bill Ferry

Search Chair

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Rauschenberg

Parish/Institution

[rosborne@stmichaelsbarrington.org](mailto:rosborne@stmichaelsbarrington.org)

The Rev. Ralph Osborne

Local Community Leader

[Patricemiller@barringtontownship.com](mailto:Patricemiller@barringtontownship.com)

Patrice Miller