

Choir Director
Bellingham Unitarian Fellowship
Bellingham, WA

Status of Position: Quarter-time salaried position supervised by the Minister

Position Summary: Bellingham Unitarian Fellowship is seeking a choral leader with vision and experience to maintain and build our very successful choir program. The goal is to harness our voices to create transformative and inspirational musical experiences for the entire congregation. The center of our choral program is an energetic ready-for-anything choir, averaging between 40 to 45 voices, which practices from September through early June. We sing classical, folk, jazz, gospel and pop. We stretch ourselves, draw our congregation in, and create soul-stirring experiences. We are a theologically diverse group, not bound by convention, and music is integral to our mission. We're looking for a creative, fun, collaborative and organized musician to bring out our best and expand the repertoire of the choir even further. The Choir Director should view their role as a ministry that serves to connect and care for the spiritual needs of the congregation as a whole.

Setting: Bellingham Unitarian Fellowship is a religious community of about 200 adult members. The Fellowship is an inclusive and caring community where social justice is in action, and the search for individual truth and meaning is affirmed through inspirational worship and intellectual exploration.

Start Date: August 1, 2024

Responsibilities:

- Oversee and coordinate choral programming for the Bellingham Unitarian Fellowship during the regular church year.
- Direct our large Chalice Choir, a non-auditioned choir, and create and direct smaller ensembles as needed, in 20 services during the church year and conduct 35 rehearsals to prepare the choir.
- Coordinate Sunday Service Keyboard duties and provide supervision for Keyboard Artists and Choir Assistants.
- Maintain regular email contact with choir members regarding choir schedule and resources for practicing music.
- Meet monthly with the Minister to plan for music that is relevant to worship topics on the Sundays when one of the choral groups is performing. The choir director is not responsible for music on non-choir Sundays.
- In collaboration with the minister create a Christmas Eve service involving the choir(s).
- Meet regularly with the BUF Choir Committee to further the community of choir members.
- Assist with the upkeep of the pianos.
- Work with the Minister to propose the annual music budget to the Board of Trustees.

Abilities and Skills Required:

- A high level of choral musical skill and creativity acquired through training and experience in choral conducting.
- A moderate level of proficiency on the piano is expected.
- A working knowledge, or willingness to gain knowledge, of the Unitarian Universalist Hymnal.
- Knowledge of and respect for Unitarian Universalist principles and the Covenant of the Bellingham Unitarian Fellowship.
- Ability to work collaboratively with the Minister and other staff and volunteers.
- An understanding that his/her work is ministry, which requires excellent communication skills, empathy, compassion, and an ability to handle diverse opinions.
- Ability to work well with the broad range of musical perspectives and styles in our congregation.

Educational Requirements: A degree in music with experience in choral conducting.

Experience: Previous experience as a church or community choral director is desirable.

Compensation: This is a part-time nonexempt position with a salary of \$12,250 for the 10 month church year (mid August to mid June). Employee works an average (over the church year) of 12 hours per week, although some weeks will be more and some less due to the nature of the position.

Benefits: Professional development support, sick leave and long term disability.

Please send a resume and a letter of interest that details why you would be a good fit for this position to: music-hiring@buf.org. Applications will be screened beginning May 12th. We will be conducting interviews on a rolling basis and hope to have our new Choir Director selected by mid-July.

BUF affirms its commitment to equal employment opportunity for all individuals. We encourage people from marginalized groups to apply for this position. Decisions about recruiting, hiring, training, promotions, compensation, benefits, and all similar employment decision must be made in compliance with all federal, state and local laws and without regard to race, color, sex, national origin, age, sexual orientation, disability or any other classification protected by law.

For more information about Bellingham Unitarian Fellowship please go to <http://buf.org>.