



Office for
Transition
Ministry

Ministry Portfolio

Full Portfolio (last updated Dec 23, 2019)

Church of Christ the King, Convocation of Episcopal Churches in Europe

Sebastian-Rinz-Str. 22, Frankfurt am Main, Germany

Contact:

Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge | Receiving Names until 02/01/20.

archdeacon@tec-europe.org

Weekly Average Sunday Attendance (ASA)	Number of Weekend Worship Services	Number of Weekday Worship Services	Number of Other per Month Worship Services
120	1	0	0
Current Annual Compensation	Cash Stipend	Housing / Rectory Detail	Utilities
\$54500			
SECA reimbursement	Compensation Available for New Position	Housing Available for	Pension Plan
	\$58400	6	We're in compliance with CPF requirements.
Healthcare Options	Dental	Housing Equity Allowance in budget	Annual Equity Amount
Full family	Yes		
Vacation Weeks	Vacation Weeks Details	Continuing Education Weeks	Continuing Education Weeks Details
One month, including 5 Sundays (standard)		2 (standard)	
Continuing Education Funding in budget	Sabbatical Provision	Travel/Auto Account	Other Professional Account
	Yes	Yes	

Comp. incl rectory Pension benefits from both CPF and German statutory pension Car or travelcard

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

CTK is "at its best" when our members come together in order to celebrate their faith and support one another, in particular in times of challenge or in situations of change. There are many examples of such moments of joy; among them are: - Moments when the welcoming nature of our congregation comes to the fore, where newcomers from many backgrounds and walks of life are made to feel at home in the community; - The strong presence of our young people – Sunday School, Junior and Senior Youth Groups, Young Adults in the congregation, in particular at "special occasions" such as Youth Across Europe events or at the pilgrimage to Canterbury that confirmands take; - Musical events, such as choir tours, concerts at CTK and elsewhere, and the moments of musical beauty during our weekly services; - Special services organized by our LGBTQ+ group, in which Christians from CTK as well as from other Christian groups and denominations in the Rhein-Main area come together; - Rare events such as weddings among long-standing CTK members and funerals, when the church is packed and members show their support for one another.

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

In a recent meeting, our new Bishop, Mark Edington, described the Convocation as the "research & development arm" of the Episcopal Church at large. We see CTK very much in this vein: Our congregation is highly diverse in terms of country of origin, denominational and socio-economic background, sexual orientation, and in terms of the "life stories" of our members. We are a fairly young congregation, and although there are some members who have been part of the congregation for over 20 years, the nature of our community is quite transient. When the congregation comes together, this is not based on geographical proximity (as in a conventional neighborhood), as our members come from a radius of up to 50km. Our parish exists in a predominantly secular environment, in which the Episcopal Church is largely unknown. In this situation, the cooperation both with other Anglican / Episcopal congregations in the Convocation of Europe, and with other ecumenical partners in the Rhein-Main area, is very important to us. Above all, we prepare ourselves for the future by praying in our Sunday services for a clearer sense of our mission. We hope that our priest will support CTK on this journey.

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

pastoral care, parish growth, preaching, visioning

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

Worship at CTK is centered on the weekly celebration of the Holy Eucharist each Sunday. The worship follows the order provided by the Book of Common Prayer. CTK works to strike the right balance in our worship between solemnity and dignity on the one hand and a warm and welcoming atmosphere, with room for informality, on the other. Music has a very special place in our worship. Under the leadership of our Music Director, the adult choir perform at the service, including a new anthem, a new motet, a new psalm (sung to Anglican chant) and descants to the hymns. In addition, talented instrumentalists and our small but lively choir of children (“Young Singers”) often support the worship services.

How do you practice incorporating others in ministry?

As a congregation with few employed members of staff (priest, part-time staff: secretary, music director, bookkeeper), our ministries rely largely on our members serving as volunteers. This is most visible in our worship, which is offered by priest and people together: Our welcome team, altar guild, lay intercessors, lectors, acolytes, and many others are involved in the service. The same is true for our music ministry, with our adult choir of 15-20 singers serving virtually every Sunday. In parallel to the Sunday service, our crèche, Godly play group, Sunday school, junior and senior youth groups meet, and all of these groups are led by volunteer members. Former Bible study or adult education classes were often organized and/or led by members of the congregation. The same is true for fellowship and events, for gardening and buildings, and for our various outreach activities.

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

As indicated in the previous paragraph, the structure of CTK does not lend itself very easily to providing care for our members or others who get in contact with CTK us on a systematic basis. We do have a prayer group whose members pray especially for the needs of individual members, but this ministry is in need of strengthening. That said, CTK members care deeply for one another, with a lot of this caring taking place on an informal basis (e.g., at coffee hour after the Sunday service). With a congregation whose median age is younger than is the case in many other Episcopal churches, we probably have relatively fewer members with acute medical situations, or bereavements. But of course, all of these situations do occur, and as most of our members are away from their home countries, they often weigh particularly heavily. Many of our people face particular struggles in life. For example, not all of CTK’s members have arrived in Frankfurt voluntarily, or from a position of strength.

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

Elsewhere in this document, we describe the Heimkehrer (returnee) ministry through which we support deportees from the U.S. arriving from Frankfurt. Likewise, we support refugees from various countries who end up in the Rhein-Main area, and occasionally for a homeless shelter operating in Frankfurt. All of these ministries are geared towards providing basic support, initial orientation and integration for the individuals concerned, but sometimes they also entail a pastoral element. Several members of these groups have become temporary or even permanent members of the congregation. Over the years, we have also engaged in various other outreach projects, including a mission project in Romania, where we supported the work of Rev. Dorothee Hahn, a missionary for the Convocation of Episcopal Churches in Europe who worked in Romania until 2018. Overall, there is openness and definite enthusiasm among our congregation for this work, but we often lack the resources - in particular the time, but also the financial resources - and the continuity of membership that would enable us to support these activities more intensively and systematically.

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

CTK is an active member of a vibrant ecumenical community in the Rhein-Main area. We are part of the Association of Christian Churches in Frankfurt, and of the "Internationaler Konvent christlicher Gemeinden fremder Sprache und Herkunft" (a group of international parishes in Frankfurt that speak foreign languages). Some highlights include the annual ecumenical celebration of Pentecost, and an ecumenical soccer tournament. Additionally, we maintain friendships with the local Swedish and Finnish churches, celebrating Ash Wednesday services together, as well as the German Old Catholic church, with whom we once shared our church building. Together with other local churches we organize and participate in an annual Charity Walk to raise money for a Frankfurt homeless daycare center. Within the Episcopal Church, we are an active part of the Convocation of Episcopal Churches in Europe. Once a year we attend the Annual Convocation Convention, hosted by a different parish each time. The Convocation hosts regular events such as the annual Youth Across Europe event, Discernment Weekends, and Training weekends for parish ministry, which are particularly important for CTK.

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

A particular ministry for which CTK has become known is the so-called Heimkehrer (returnee) ministry that supports German deportees from the U.S. This ministry serves those deportees passing through the social work offices at Frankfurt Airport, offering welcome packages and through continued support helps deportees to get settled in Frankfurt. Over the years a regular group of Heimkehrer have been attending Christ the King and it is encouraging to see them forming a supportive unit and reaching out to others arriving in the temporary shelters with a German passport but American culture and language skills. We initiated a form of "food pantry" after hearing that our Heimkehrer receive no financial funding until two months after their arrival due to the system of social security and rules on how to apply for it. Since its beginning in September 2017, the pantry has given assistance to many deportees in these initial weeks. In 2018 we had 18 Heimkehrer arriving in Frankfurt. Heidrun Alfke and Rose Overstreet can provide further information about these ministries.

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

Apart from a small portion of rental income, CTK is funded entirely by the contributions of its members in the form of pledges and plate donations. However, we operate in an environment in which the notion of stewardship is essentially unknown. In order to encourage our members to pledge, we have been conducting annual stewardship programs that normally take place in October/November for a period of about six weeks. Typical elements of these stewardship programs include “stewardship minutes” (short addresses by members of the congregation relating to the importance of stewardship during the Sunday worship service), written materials in our bulletin and newsletter, ministry fairs, and sometimes letters to parishioners and sermons from the priest. While the Vestry has typically appointed a stewardship committee with a stewardship chair to coordinate these various activities, our Rectors have played an important role in motivating stewardship activities, and in creating a sense of ownership for stewardship among the members of the congregation.

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

As is the case with many other congregations, CtK has experienced conflicts among its members. However, given the transient nature of the community, and the fact that our worship style is generally considered “middle of the road”, there are no obvious factions. If conflict emerges, it is often resolved by people leaving the congregation. An example of this took place in 2011-13, when a previous Rector showed reservations against gay marriage. Sadly, these conflicts resulted in several long-term parishioners distancing themselves from CTK, which then created feelings of loss and disenchantment among those who staid. These specific issues have since been resolved (CTK is now openly LGBTQ+ friendly). Nevertheless, there are underlying feelings of discontent, in particular when spiritual or emotional needs of members are not being met. These disappointed expectations can result in conflict, too. Many members of the congregation yearn for greater spiritual leadership, support and wisdom in conducting their lives.

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?

As a congregation whose membership base continues to evolve, and who has seen relatively rapid change among its Rectors (and several Interim Rectors), CTK is quite familiar with change. Although there are some important pillars of constancy in the life of our congregation - in particular the welcoming, friendly worship service on Sunday morning with its liturgical beauty and the richness of the music -, our congregation has become (somewhat) smaller than it was ten years ago, and our financial resources have also become more uncertain. These changes have led to considerable discussion about which type of congregation we can and want to be in future. Overall, we have been able to deal well with these changes when we had strong spiritual leadership to guide us, show us the love of God, and reassure us that God provides for our needs. Our purpose is to be the presence of Christ the King in Frankfurt, but we need reminding of this calling.

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Prior Incumbents

Name	Position Title	Date Begun	Date Ended
The Rev. John Perris	Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge	2014-02	2018-06

Name	Position Title	Date Begun	Date Ended
The Rev. Carola von Wrangel	Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge	2008-01	2012-01

Name	Position Title	Date Begun	Date Ended
The Rev. Allan Sandlin	Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge	1999-01	2007-01

No regular Adult classes. The number of children and teens varies.

Church School 32	Number of Teachers/Leaders for Children School 7	Number of Students for Children School 20
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Number of Teachers/Leaders for Teen/Young Adults School 5	Number of Students for Teen/Young Adults School 12	Number of Teachers/Leaders for Adults School	Number of Students for Adults School
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Day School	Number of Students for Day School	Number of Teachers for Day School	Number of Total Staff for Day School
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Worshipping Community Web site: www.christ-the-king.net

Media Links:

> <https://www.facebook.com/Anglican-Episcopal-Church-of-Christ-the-King-Frankfurt-366281166830169/>

Online References:

>

Languages Significantly Represented:

English, German

> <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2pBUAJifKG8&feature=youtu.be>
Provide Worship or Classes in:
English, German

We are truly excited to be calling a Priest-in-Charge for CTK. You will find a congregation that has enormous potential, and a unique, welcoming atmosphere. Certainly, we are facing our own challenges, but led by the Holy Spirit, we feel energized to move forward in our journey. If you share this sense of excitement, we would love to hear from you, and explore together with you whether there is a mutual calling.

References

Bishop:

**The Right Rev. Mark D. W.
Edington**

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Diocesan Transition Minister

The Ven Walter Baer

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Current Warden/Board Chair

**Marlene Greenberg, Senior
Warden**

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Previous Warden/Board Chair

Ansgar Richter

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Local Community Leader

Father Christopher Weber

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