

Part-Time Organist

Bolton Congregational Church, UCC | Bolton, Connecticut

Sunday Worship: 9:30 AM

Compensation: \$300–\$450+ per week / \$15,600–\$23,400+ annually

Approximately 3–5 hours per week | Scope and compensation negotiable

Come Make Music With Us

Bolton Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, is seeking an Organist to join our worship ministry and help lead a congregation that genuinely values organ music and congregational singing.

We are looking for a musician who can provide confident, thoughtful hymn leadership and beautiful sacred music while becoming a valued part of our church community.

We recognize that church musicians have different schedules, gifts, experience, and interests. For the right musician, we are very willing to discuss the scope, schedule, responsibilities, and compensation of this position.

This is primarily a Sunday morning organist position and does not require weekly choir rehearsals.

The Position

Our primary worship service is Sunday at 9:30 AM.

The Organist generally provides:

- Prelude and postlude
- Four to five congregational hymns
- Doxology
- Communion music on the first Sunday of each month
- Occasional additional service music as mutually agreed upon

The Organist may select hymns independently in consultation with the Pastor or work collaboratively with the Pastor on hymn selection, depending upon the musician's preference and experience.

Our goal is not to prescribe one particular working arrangement. We want to develop a partnership that works well for both the musician and congregation.

Our Instrument

Our sanctuary is home to a well-maintained three-manual Allen ADC digital organ with full pedalboard, 54 drawknob stops, and an extensive library of digital voices and alterable stops.

The instrument provides substantial flexibility for traditional hymn leadership, classical organ literature, liturgical music, and other sacred repertoire.

Candidates will be given ample opportunity to become familiar with the instrument.

Sunday Responsibilities

The Organist will provide organ music for our 9:30 AM Sunday worship service; arrive with sufficient time to prepare the instrument and be ready for worship before 9:15 AM; prepare preludes, postludes, hymns, and other assigned service music; provide confident musical leadership for congregational singing; communicate with the Pastor regarding upcoming worship services and musical needs; and arrange substitute organist coverage for planned absences in consultation with the Pastor.

There may also be opportunities, with additional compensation, to accompany the choir or provide additional service music when our Choir Director/Pianist is unavailable.

Special Worship Services

The church holds several special worship services throughout the year, including Christmas Eve, Holy Week, Easter, and other occasional services.

The number of special services included in the position will be clearly established as part of the annual employment agreement. Services beyond the agreed-upon annual schedule will receive additional compensation.

We are open to discussing availability for special services with candidates and do not expect every musician's schedule to look the same.

Weddings and Funerals

The Organist receives first right of refusal for weddings and funerals held at Bolton Congregational Church requiring organ music.

Wedding and funeral compensation is separate from the annual salary and paid in addition to regular compensation.

Music for weddings and funerals is selected in accordance with the church's established worship and music guidelines.

What We're Looking For

Our ideal candidate is someone who plays organ confidently and can effectively lead congregational singing; has familiarity with Christian hymnody and sacred music; is comfortable preparing service music independently; is reliable and communicates well; enjoys collaborating with clergy and other musicians; and understands that worship music is both an artistic offering and a ministry to the congregation.

Experience with pipe or digital organs is welcome.

Formal organ or sacred music training and previous church experience are valued, but we encourage musicians with different educational and professional backgrounds to apply.

Experience in a United Church of Christ congregation is welcome but not required.

Compensation and Benefits

Base compensation is \$300–\$450+ per week, equivalent to approximately \$15,600–\$23,400+ annually.

The final compensation package will be based upon experience, responsibilities, availability, and the mutually agreed-upon scope of the position. Candidates seeking compensation above the advertised range are welcome to apply and discuss their expectations with us.

Additional compensation is available for weddings, funerals, services beyond the agreed annual schedule, and choir accompaniment or additional musical responsibilities when requested and mutually agreed upon.

The position also includes applicable paid vacation and sick time in accordance with church policy and Connecticut law, as well as opportunities for continuing education.

Time Commitment

This is intentionally designed as a manageable part-time church music position.

The typical commitment is approximately 3–5 hours per week, including Sunday worship, preparation, practice, and communication.

There is no regular weekly choir rehearsal requirement for this position.

Practice scheduling at the church is flexible and can be arranged around the musician's availability.

Flexibility Matters to Us

We know there is no single model for what a church organist position should look like today.

Some musicians enjoy selecting hymns. Others prefer receiving selections from the Pastor. Some musicians are available for every special service, while others have existing professional commitments. Some want additional wedding, funeral, choir, or accompaniment opportunities; others are looking primarily for a consistent Sunday position.

We are open to those conversations.

Rather than lose an excellent musician because one element of the position does not fit their schedule, we would much rather talk about whether we can create an arrangement that works for both the musician and the church.

If the position interests you but you are unsure whether your experience, availability, or desired compensation fits what is described here, we still encourage you to contact us.

About Bolton Congregational Church

Bolton Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, is a welcoming and active congregation in Bolton, Connecticut, committed to meaningful worship, community engagement, spiritual growth, and service.

Music is an important part of our worship life. Our congregation loves the sound of the organ and values the richness, warmth, and grandeur it brings to worship, while recognizing that the most important role of our Organist is helping the congregation worship and sing together.

We are seeking not simply someone to fill an organ bench on Sunday mornings, but a musician with whom we can build a positive and lasting relationship.

A Simple Application Process

Interested musicians may submit a resume or complete our online interest form.

After an initial conversation, promising candidates will be invited to visit the church, meet the Pastor and representatives of the Personnel Committee, and spend time playing and becoming familiar with the organ.

Finalists may be invited to play several selections and demonstrate hymn leadership. If a finalist is invited to lead a complete Sunday worship service as part of the selection process, the musician will be compensated for that service.

Recordings and references are welcome but are not required for an initial inquiry.

Interested? We'd Love to Hear From You.

Please submit a resume or brief description of your musical experience and a short description of your organ/church music experience. Recordings and references are optional.

Email: PastorBrandon@boltonucc.org

Online: <https://www.boltonucc.org/job-oppurtunities/>