



Office for
Transition
Ministry

Ministry Portfolio

Full Portfolio Worksheet

Name of Church/Institution: St. Anna's Episcopal Church in New Orleans

Church/Institution Address: 1313 Esplanade Avenue, New Orleans, Louisiana 70116

Website: www.stannanola.org

Contact Name: Bill Glew, Search Committee Chair E-mail: transition@stannanola.org

Position Title: Rector Order of Ministry Required: Priest

Current Status: Open Receiving Names Until: January 19, 2024

Weekly Average Sunday Attendance (ASA)	# of Weekend Worship Services	# of Weekday Worship Services	# of Other Worship Services (per month)
<u>80</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>

Annual Compensation <u>\$75,000</u>	Pension Plan in Compliance with CPF requirements? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	SECA Reimbursement: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Vacation Weeks: # <u>4</u>
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Comments: Comp. negotiable based on experience. Free tuition for your kids at St. Martin Episcopal School.

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

Twelve years ago, St. Anna's began looking to the future of our social justice outreach programs, especially Anna's Place NOLA youth program. We found a dilapidated home two blocks away and entered into a lease-purchase agreement. We dreamed of a safe haven for all people to come together to learn, to embrace New Orleans' cultures, and to meet the ever-changing needs of our community. We envisioned doubling our program's enrollment of youth and young adults facing significant economic barriers, offering enrichment services that would change the trajectory of their lives. We sought a place of hope and possibility.

In October 2023 we joyfully opened the Dodwell House Community Resource Center and have begun building a bigger, better youth program. Dodwell House is a product of a great leap of faith of St. Anna's congregation. Our commitment to the mission helped us overcome obstacles to this project, including being a small congregation, the lack of an endowment, being unfamiliar with fundraising to the extent needed for this project (>\$5,000,000), a global pandemic, and rising costs of renovations. The dream is now a reality.

2. Describe your liturgical style & practice. If your community provides more than one type of worship service, please describe all:

Each Sunday, St. Anna's gathers to celebrate a friendly and accessible yet essentially Anglo-Catholic Mass, beginning with the praying of the rosary. Surrounded by the aromatic haze

of incense, comforting images of beloved saints, and the spirit-filled ringing of sanctus bells, we engage all of our senses to worship in beauty and reverence for the Real Presence of Jesus Christ in the Most Blessed Sacrament. The Mass is often sung, with the celebrant attended by a deacon, subdeacon, and several acolytes of various ages, genders, ethnicities, and orientations. While the worship at St. Anna's conforms to the guidance of the 1979 Book of Common Prayer, we distribute a missal or worship guide to help visitors worship with us. During the liturgy, many will bow, genuflect, and cross themselves, and during the homily, you may also hear some shouts of "Amen!" and "Hallelujah!"

Our talented and passionate choir leads us in songs drawn mainly from The Hymnal 1982 and Lift Every Voice and Sing, as well as contemporary sources. Parish surveys indicated that many at St. Anna's would appreciate hearing even more from the latter two sources.

3. How do you practice incorporating others in ministry?

Our culture of radical inclusion, the modest size of our congregation, and the scope of our ministries translate into speedy recruitment of anyone who's willing to pitch in and help with our ministries. "Would you like to be a lector?" "Could you help deliver groceries for an hour and a half on Saturday morning for the Food Pantry?" These and similar questions meet the newcomer as well as members who've been around for years. There is no "waiting period" to do service at St. Anna's; all are welcome; indeed all hands are needed, now.

We also welcome new ideas for ministry and encourage parishioners to start new ventures. Our Book Club, praying the Rosary, and Facebook Live Morning Prayer and Compline are examples of parishioner-initiated ministries.

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

Inclusivity at St. Anna's strengthens our spiritual, emotional, and physical well-being. Various music genres/styles in worship, a variety of religious education programs, an array of outreach programs to participate in, and sermons that relate to present-day issues of equity and inclusivity gives almost everyone an opportunity to participate in an aspect of our faith and worship that speaks to them. Survey respondents often mentioned that our congregation is like a family, ready with open arms to take you in, empathize, and support each other. We socialize, usually over food, before and after Mass and on special occasions. Many people in our parish socialize with each other outside of the church. As for the physical well-being of our community, our parish facilities do need a bit of maintenance. Until the opening of Dodwell House, our facilities were utilized daily by a variety of different groups, organizations, and our own programs. Now that we have the Dodwell House up and running, and Anna's Place has moved there, we have the opportunity (and have started) to focus on these needed maintenance issues, including moving the parish offices downstairs to be more accessible to parishioners and others.

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

Our diocese has embraced our ministries and missions, which have been highlighted at this year's Diocesan Convention. Other Episcopal churches in our diocese, including St. Paul's,

Trinity New Orleans, Christ Church Cathedral, and Grace St. Francisville have provided support to our programs.

Following a visit by the Union of Black Episcopalians which met at St. Anna's, the leadership of Anna's Place was invited to share our model for our youth program with the Diocese of Missouri, and others have made inquiries.

We were blessed to have Presiding Bishop Curry celebrate and preach, and visit the Dodwell House while under construction in fall 2022.

While we focus on our immediate geographical region, our missions embrace the entire New Orleans community.

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

As part of our pastoral care, we at St Anna's embrace our missions. It is our passion for care beyond our doors: the kids programs at Anna's Place, the Food Pantry, remembering that every life taken away by violence matters, and our overwhelming support of the LGBTQ+ community. By sharing acts of faith such as bringing sacraments to the streets. We open our doors to 12-step groups and to Mardi Gras social clubs. We host health care research groups and informative presentations for local neighborhood groups. We touch so many corners of our community. Our list of groups and clubs that have become a close part of our St Anna's family are too many to name; our outreach is far beyond the gates of our little church.

7. Tell about a ministry that your worshipping community has initiated in the past five years.

The Daily Office Ministry at St Anna's - In the first weeks of the COVID outbreak in March of 2020, the clergy and lay leaders of St. Anna's were searching for ways to worship together without being physically present. One of the solutions that we turned to was to broadcast Morning Prayer and Compline on Monday through Friday via Facebook Live. As the months went by, a small community of daily worshipers became established. We have between 7 and 12 attendees at Morning Prayer 5 days per week. When offered the opportunity to take a break from this responsibility, the three worship leaders unanimously decided to continue the worship schedule into a fourth year.

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

Because Fr. Terry's retirement was expected, St. Anna's has been preparing for change for some time. As has been true for many churches, COVID provided the first opportunity. St. Anna's now has a more robust online presence in that every Mass is livestreamed on Facebook by a professional videographer. We now also offer the daily office live on Facebook. While most have returned to worship in person, this allows for connectivity for those who cannot. We have an up-to-date and robust online presence through social media and our websites.

We are using this time of transition as a learning and listening opportunity. We carefully prepared our survey and focus groups to be expansive to take the pulse of the parish. Rather than assuming that all embrace certain traditions, we asked and received feedback to guide not only our search for a new rector but to discern the opinion of the congregation about all matters from worship, music, engagement, and education. Fortunately, we had a very high response rate to the survey and the focus groups. These responses inform how we move forward. For

example, in response to feedback, we resumed Sunday School for both children and adults this fall.

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

Our funding sources as a parish range from boardrooms to bar rooms and reflect the community partnerships that we have built, as well as the needs we seek to meet.

Aside from ordinary tithing (which accounts for ~ 30% of our annual revenue) we have partnered with local and national grant organizations, businesses, and philanthropists. These grants and individual donations comprise another 60% of our operating budget, with the final 10% coming from our dedicated (and very lively) annual fundraising events.

To support the ongoing stewardship of our Church and Missions, the Vestry created both the Stewardship Committee and the Mission Fundraising Committee. The Stewardship Committee has worked with both the Vestry and Clergy to conduct the annual pledge drive and oversee continual conversations on stewardship. The Mission Fundraising Committee focuses solely on supporting our Mission fundraising efforts. Additionally, our staffing model includes a dedicated Development Director, with the responsibility for spearheading all aspects of our mission fundraising efforts.

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

"If your brother sins, go and show him his fault in private; if he listens to you, you have won your brother. But if he does not listen to you, take one or two more with you, so that by the mouth of two or three witnesses every fact may be confirmed."-Matt.18:15-20 Thankfully, there has not been much conflict at St. Anna's. We hold that open communication is important and that triangulation feeds conflict. We strive to avoid conflict by encouraging concerns and grievances be brought to a member of the leadership team (priest, vestry member, or mission head) to allow discussion. That doesn't always happen, as you would expect, and triangulation, complaints, and rumors do still occur on occasion. Once a member of the leadership team is made aware of an issue, attempts are made to contact the person(s) to try to resolve the conflict. If we feel it is widespread, we try to communicate with the congregation to inform them, for instance, why something was done that seems to have caused concern.

11. 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?

"Every crisis has both its dangers and its opportunities. Each can spell either salvation or doom."-Dr. Martin Luther King

Hurricane Katrina was a crisis of epic proportions, and it created the foundation for what St. Anna's is today. While we suffered some structural damage, we didn't flood. This allowed us to quickly respond to a myriad of our communities' evolving needs following Katrina, first by providing essentials and next by mobilizing volunteers to clean up flood ravaged homes. And it grew from there, as we continued to see needs and opportunities to serve. We have adjusted our mission work as the needs change, including closing missions or changing their trajectory. Each of the ministries that St. Anna's has today can trace their roots to the aftermath of Katrina.

As our mission work grew, so did the congregation. Prior to Katrina St. Anna's had about 70 parishioners, immediately thereafter less than two dozen were able to return and to contribute to the rebirth of St. Anna's as a mission-focused congregation.

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

Radically inclusive, inspirational preacher, pastoral care, servant leader

Prior Incumbents

Name: William H. Terry **Position Title:** Rector **Date Begun:** 2003 **Date Ended:** 2023

Name: Glyn C. Harper **Position Title:** Rector **Date Begun:** 1999 **Date Ended:** 2003

Name: David McSwain **Position Title:** Rector **Date Begun:** 1995 **Date Ended:** 1999

Church School: Yes No

Day School: Yes No

Worshipping Community's Web Site Address: www.stannanola.org

Media Links: www.facebook.com/St.-Annas-Episcopal-Church
www.facebook.com/thedodwellhouse
www.facebook.com/Annas-Place-NOLA/
youtube.com@st.annasepiscopalchurchinn9785
youtube.com/channel/UCOqQxbYvE5MK1NV9NCmyX7w

Languages Significantly Represented in your Worshipping Community: English

Provide worship or classes in other languages: No

References:

Bishop: The Rt. Rev. Shannon Duckworth, Email: sduckworth@edola.org

Diocesan Transition Minister: The Rev. Canon Morgan MacIntire, Email: mmacintire@edola.org

Current Warden/Board Chair: Karen Judge

Previous Warden/Board Chair: Adrian "Nicole" Gottschalk

Search Committee Chair: Bill Glew