



THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF THE CENTRAL GULF COAST
JOB DESCRIPTION
PART-TIME MISSIONER FOR DISCIPLESHIP

Purpose: The Diocese of the Central Gulf Coast seeks to add a part-time Missioner for Discipleship. The missioner will be a partner in ministry with the Bishop and the diocesan staff in the particular ministry of discipleship. The purpose of the Bishop's office is:

*To offer resources, tools and training that promote our congregations to be the holy ground
for transformation into and engagement with God's kingdom.*

We respond to this vision in three areas of focused effort:

TO CULTIVATE DISCERNMENT

Helping people move more deeply into the mystery of God's unique call to life and ministry

TO ENCOURAGE DISCIPLESHIP

Transforming people from members into disciples and, even further, into apostles

TO FOSTER DEVELOPMENT

Extending our mission beyond the status quo

Moreover, this position is being added in order to respond more effectively to a charge in the canons of The Episcopal Church: Title III. Canon I. Section 1: Each Diocese shall make provision for the affirmation and development of the ministry of all baptized persons, including:

- (a) Assistance in understanding that all baptized persons are called to minister in Christ's name, to identify their gifts with the help of the Church and to serve Christ's mission at all times and in all places.
- (b) Assistance in understanding that all baptized persons are called to sustain their ministries through commitment to life-long Christian formation.

Finally the purpose of this position is captured in the words of Presiding Bishop Michael Curry who recently said in an interview recorded in the Harvard Business Review "My mission is to help people to find their way to a loving, liberating, and life-giving relationship with God, and with each other as children of God, and ultimately with the whole of creation." The purpose of this position is to help create ways for people to find their way to a relationship with God, and with each other.

Commitment: The Missioner for Discipleship is a part time position of approximately 15-20 hours per week. Travel expenses and continuing education will be provided. While some time at the Duvall Center will be required, the work location for this position is flexible.

Accountability: This position is directly accountable to the Bishop.

Responsibilities [given that this position is part-time, not all will advance concurrently]:

1. Coordination with the work of the Dean of the diocesan School for Ministry: Help the dean to develop a long-term plan for the school for ministry to continue the current curriculum for the formation of deacons and priests. The plan will also address ways to expand educational offerings to equip and inspire lay leaders in the diocese. Such classes and curriculum will provide the necessary framework to maintain and expand licensed lay ministries in the diocese in consultation with the Bishop.

2. Oversight of diocesan formation events: Oversee the annual Discipleship Day and other formation events sponsored by the Bishop's office, specifically, Fresh Start, EFM and clergy continuing education opportunities. Explore, design and implement new formation opportunities in the diocese.

3. Consulting: Be available to work directly with congregations and convocations to develop local formation programs for adults and young people.

4. Curriculum & Resource Development: Discover, develop, and communicate curriculum ideas and resources with the congregations of the diocese. This will include specifically the development of a catechetical framework for confirmation. This may include the production of online learning and video-based classes.

5. Commission on Ministry: Work with the Commission on Ministry to develop resources and opportunities for those nominees who are recommended for further lay ministry.

Qualifications:

A commitment to Jesus Christ as Lord, a love of scripture and vision of her or his work as the service of building the Kingdom of God and helping the Church indwell the Biblical story of salvation.

Possesses the heart of a teacher, able to convey one's commitment to God in a creative and compelling way that inspires others to do the same.

Experience and knowledge in the areas of stewardship, governance, conflict management, leadership development and team building practices.

Commitment to collaboration and cooperation, understanding that this position is part of a team and you will be working with, and on behalf of, the Bishop and his staff.

Willingness to fail and live within the ambiguity often experienced in ministry settings.

Passionate about people and willing to encourage people to know and claim their baptismal life.

Passionate about the ongoing mission of God in the world and the vision that every congregation can be a vital and viable context for that mission.

Masters of Divinity or masters level equivalent preferred.

To apply, send the following to The Rt. Rev. Russell Kendrick at russell@diocgc.org. Deadline for applications is June 20, 2019.

1. Cover Letter
2. Resume [with references]
3. Answers to the following questions: (no more than 5 pages total please - 2500 words)
 - a. Why do you feel called to this role, in this place, at this time?
 - b. What are the skillsets, ideas, tools or practices you believe you would bring to this position?
 - c. How has God grown your heart, mind and soul through times of failure?
 - d. What are three things which, if a diocese did them well, would nurture congregational vitality? What are your ideas for how this particular position will help accomplish those things?
 - e. Miroslav Volf articulates: *“Even if it were true, as dystopian literature and some scientific predictions suggest, that humanity is entering a valley of dry bones of our own making—desolate landscapes, cities in ruin, people at war over basic resources—we will be able to live with dignity in that valley, too, only if we know who we are and what our purpose is. And we’ll need that same knowledge inscribed into the very character of our souls in order to get out of that valley... Christian theology has lost its way because it has neglected its purpose. We believe the purpose of theology is to discern, articulate, and commend visions of flourishing life in light of God’s self-revelation in Jesus Christ.”* How do you see this particular position addressing the concern and hope expressed in the preceding quote?