



Office for  
Transition  
Ministry

# Ministry Portfolio

*Full Portfolio (last updated Jan 26, 2021)*

## Church of the Ascension, Convocation of Episcopal Churches in Europe Sevintstraße 4, München, Germany

Contact:

Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge | Receiving Names until 03/12/21.

[archdeacon@tec-europe.org](mailto: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
74	1	5	1
Current Annual Compensation	Cash Stipend	Housing / Rectory Detail	Utilities
SECA reimbursement	Compensation Available for New Position \$90000	Housing Available for	Pension Plan <b>We're in compliance with CPF requirements.</b>
Healthcare Options Full family	Dental	Housing Equity Allowance in budget	Annual Equity Amount
Vacation Weeks 4	Vacation Weeks Details	Continuing Education Weeks 2 (standard)	Continuing Education Weeks Details
Continuing Education Funding in budget \$501-\$1000/year	Sabbatical Provision Yes	Travel/Auto Account Yes	Other Professional Account

*Gross salary listed in USD, paid in Euro. Contact Convocation Office for details about compensation.*

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

Consistent and increasing attendance at our "hybrid" Eucharists, both in physical church and on Zoom, since June 2020. Given that our Priest-in-Charge left in July and the Interim Rector did not arrive until the end of October, this is very significant (services were taken by our two Priests Associate and by a guest priest).

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

Vestry is currently doing a "Pause and Reflect" initiative, in which to help us focus this year on what we want to accomplish. It also is asking questions like "what is your perfect Sunday"? Through virtual meetings, getting the community more interested/active through various activities during the week (Morning Prayer, Coffee with the Rector, Compline), so that church is not just on Sundays, but a constant in our lives.

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

empathy, respect, forgiveness, patience, dynamic, self-reliant

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

Traditionally, we use BCP Rite Two, and our style of worship could be described as tending to high church but nowhere near the extreme. The commitment to worshipping regularly is very strong, with over half of the community typically participating three or more times per month. We celebrate the Eucharist each Sunday in church along with many worshipping with us via Zoom. To retain our communal unity, we enable those joining on Zoom to participate via live broadcast, while those in church can see a projection of the Zoom gallery view. In addition to the Sunday Eucharist, worship at Ascension normally includes a monthly choral Evensong (held at St. Willibrord, the Old Catholic Church in Munich city center), currently weekly services of Morning Prayer and Compline held online, plus periodic Taizé services, and jointly hosting or participating in various ecumenical celebrations.

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How do you practice incorporating others in ministry?

Naturally we are very dependent on lay people for our worship, as greeters, ushers, acolytes, readers, intercessors, choir, Eucharistic ministers, normally Coffee Hour, and during Covid times our “tech team” for the Zoom participants. Generally each function has a team leader who organizes a monthly rota. Some people volunteer to join a specific team: others are shy to do this, but have appreciated being asked, and have joined in with enthusiasm.

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

We stay connected, by being together or currently with “Zoom coffee hour” after the Eucharist. Our service bulletin currently includes a prayer for Spiritual Communion for those worshipping on-line. We also instituted a Caring Community Team with the goal that every member will receive a fortnightly phone call, just to check that they are OK and give them an opportunity to talk on a personal level if they wish to. Our Pastoral Care team can also spring into action in circumstances like emergency hospital admissions, provided that they are informed of such cases.

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

We are somewhat limited by not owning our own premises, but our Outreach program currently includes helping at a Soup Kitchen, and when the need was there we also helped in a Refugee Centre and with an English Speaking Prisoners' Support Group. We have also helped - both financially and "hands-on" - some charitable activities in Romania, and talking about this produces a "multiplier effect". Ripple effect - have just launched a Christmas Community Project asking people to reach out not just to those at church, but neighbors, friends and colleagues. This goes beyond traditional baking cookies and includes a phone call or a card.

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

Ascension has long been involved in Convocation activities, with a number of members serving in various roles Convocation-wide, including membership and leadership roles on the Council of Advice, Commission on the Ministry of the Baptized, European Institute of Christian Studies etc. Ascension has long been involved in organizations like CAECG (Council of Anglican and Episcopal Churches in Germany) and ACK (Council of Christian Churches/Arbeitsgemeinschaft Christlicher Kirchen) at both the city and the state levels.

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

Caring Community - regularly calling all members in the parish during the pandemic (see question 6). Contacts: bishop@tec-europe.org, archdeacon@tec-europe.org, seniorwarden@ascension-munich.com, juniorwarden@ascension-munich.com Racial Justice Course - following the upheavals during the summer, this course was started as a series of workshops (using ChurchNext resources and input and experiences from our own community). We will continue to discuss, discern and explore in the new year. Contacts: bishop@tec-europe.org, archdeacon@tec-europe.org, seniorwarden@ascension-munich.com, juniorwarden@ascension-munich.com

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

We normally have our Financial Commitment Campaign starting at the end of October and ending before Advent I. We are often not able to meet our budget numbers, so last year we held a Bridge the Gap Campaign. This year looks better, but still not where we need to be. We focus on “time, talent and treasure”, and during the course of the year we normally schedule some fun events that also have a “fund raising” purpose, such as Auction of Talents or Flea Market, as well as raffling Christmas Baskets and our Carol Sing which attracts many local people who are not members of our congregation. Given some of the troubles in recent years, some members reduced or stopped pledging and it is not necessarily easy getting them back. And as a community of expatriates as well as immigrants, we always have people who leave the parish as their course ends or they get a new posting. For 2021 we have (to date) 6 new pledges and 13 increased pledges. 3 families decreased their pledges and 8 cancelled or left.

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

We have experienced 2 major times of internal conflict: one in the mid-1990's and one two years ago. Communication was the key to addressing it. As congregations tend to split with their loyalties, making sure that everyone had a chance to talk and be listened to was critical. Most recently we had a series of “listening circles” which were not only very well-received but also healing.

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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?

Due to our recent problems we have had a variety of supply priests and interim priests. Introducing these to our congregation (and vice versa), finding accommodation for them, etc., has been quite a challenge and required a lot of effort. The situation also led to a loss of trust in the church leadership on the part of some members of the congregation. Also changing to fully on-line services and then to hybrid services has required new skills not only of our clergy but also our congregation. In general we have pulled through. Patience and communication and transparency have helped renew trust.

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### Prior Incumbents

Name	Position Title	Date Begun	Date Ended
Allan Sandlin	Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge	2019-04	2020-06

Name	Position Title	Date Begun	Date Ended
Steven Smith	Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge	2009-05	2018-12

Name	Position Title	Date Begun	Date Ended
Thomas Pellaton	Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge	1997-02	2008-03

Church School	Number of Teachers/Leaders for Children School	Number of Students for Children School
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Number of Teachers/Leaders for Teen/Young Adults School	Number of Students for Teen/Young Adults School	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: <https://www.ascension-munich.org>

Media Links:

Online References:

> <https://www.facebook.com/ascensionmunich>> <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC4802rHFcPLNCJxnSGeZ3FA>

Languages Significantly Represented:

English, German

Provide Worship or Classes in:

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### References

Bishop:

+33 1 53 23 84 06 bishop@tec-europe.org

Rt Rev Mark Edington

Diocesan Transition Minister

+33 1 53 23 84 06 archdeacon@tec-europe.org

Ven Walter Baer

Current Warden/Board Chair

janet.daystrehlow@gmail.com

Janet Day-Strehlow

Previous Warden/Board Chair

Jr. Warden gwb@muc.de

George Battrick

Search Chair

Parish/Institution

Local Community Leader