



Office for  
Transition  
Ministry

# Ministry Portfolio

*Full Portfolio (last updated Oct 16, 2025)*

## St. John's, Kansas

402 N Topeka Ave, Wichita, KS 67202, United States

Contact:

Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge (Part-time) | Receiving Names until 11/30/25. [apfunston@episcopal-ks.org](mailto:apfunston@episcopal-ks.org)

Weekly Average Sunday Attendance (ASA)	Number of Weekend Worship Services	Number of Weekday Worship Services	Number of Other per Month Worship Services
36	1		
Current Annual Compensation	Cash Stipend	Housing / Rectory Detail	Utilities
\$24000			
SECA reimbursement	Compensation Available for New Position	Housing Available for	Pension Plan
	\$45000		<b>We're in compliance with CPF requirements.</b>
Healthcare Options	Dental	Housing Equity Allowance in budget	Annual Equity Amount
Full family			
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
\$501-\$1000/year	Yes	Yes	

*Proposed 2/3 time with potential to move to full-time (with commensurate pay) within two years.*

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

In 2019, St. John's weekly attendance was around 7 individuals; the survival of St. John's was in doubt. Our Vicar was appointed and through loving, personal contact led us to stability. We not only survived; weekly attendance has gradually built back up; 35-40 individuals now attend regularly. The increased activity led to a matching challenge to raise funds allowing us to hire a Cantor, the first in many years.

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

Most of the world has yet to figure out what The Church of the future will be. We pray that there will be one. In truth we, like so many, are working hard doing all that we can to live out our faith and share it during these times of uncertainty. What we know is that when we are stressed, when we are at our lowest, when our world has capsized around us it is our Faith that brings us comfort and strength for the day.

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

pastoral care, welcoming, non-judgmental, compassion, lifegiving preaching

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

We follow tradition; we sit to listen, kneel to pray, and stand to praise. Our music is provided by our organist and cantor; it is spiritually respectful. Our sermons are based on scripture translated for application in today's world. We have no rock music, no rock bands, no video boards.

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How do you practice incorporating others in ministry?

We are building an online community that regularly gets 100-200 views. We welcome everyone who enters, and we invite everyone to participate. Parishioners serve as ushers, Lectors, and Eucharistic Ministers. Our children sometimes carry the cross; they present the offering; and directly participate in baptisms. Parishioners bring the elements up; parish families light the Advent candles, and are readers during the service for Pentecost. The passing of the Peace involves everyone, as we make an effort to greet all who gather. Following the service, everyone is encouraged to come to coffee hour. After almost 20 years without it, we have been able to restart our children's Sunday School program. St. John's works to provide more membership engagement and involvement beyond the weekly service.

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

As a sign of our respect, every person who enters St. John's doors, is acknowledged, everyone seen. We want people to know that we are engaged and engaging. The services each Sunday bring us together in worship to address our collective worries, concerns, and needs for special prayers. Parishioners make sure that those who need extra prayers are put on the prayer list. Birthdays warrant a special hands-on blessing, and anniversaries are recognized. Coffee hour is another opportunity for each of us to check-in on our parish family. We've cared for our physical well-being by adding elevators and a wheelchair at the entrance. Communion is taken out to individuals who cannot come to the rail. Do we openly address these things in our planning? Not as much as we should, but we try hard.

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

We have a few parishioners who regularly bring those without transportation, or those who have trouble getting around, to services. We have an ever-changing prayer list that is posted in our weekly Parish Visitor, and in our bulletin's prayers for the people. We deliver flowers to our shut-ins and make hospital or in-home visits as needed. The priest and deacon take communion to those who are unable to come to services.

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

Sandwich Saturday, a program providing sack lunches for our neighbors in need, was born in 1988 and continues to this day. Ten area churches requested that we include them in our scheduling: three Lutheran churches, Pathway Church, one Church of Christ, one Mennonite church, and four other area Episcopal churches. We include a Book Cart program for our guests who like to read. Three churches provide dog and cat food packets for our guests with pets. Out of respect for those who come to our doors, we host The Longest Night Memorial Service honoring and memorializing those who have died on the streets of Wichita during the year - there were 75 who had died on Wichita's streets by December 18, 2024. During this moving evening service, we say each person's name and light a candle in their honor. For most, this is the only service they receive. The community-at-large is invited and regularly attends, regardless of religious affiliation.

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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?

Shower Up was started by a Wichita family attending Riverlawn Church of Christ with the goal of providing showers for those living on the streets. St. John's agreed to park the 3-stall trailer in front of the church one night each week during May-October. Our coordinator put together a team of volunteers for Thursday night. The shower trailer is hauled in, stabilized, and hooked to our water. On a typical evening we provide 17-22 showers. Each individual gets 15 minutes of uninterrupted time in a shower. St. John's provides them with new underwear and a toiletry pack. When the trailer was in need of repairs last year, St. John's provided funds to repair it. Other churches provide underwear and toiletries. In recognition of their work, United Way of the Plains awarded Shower Up a 2025 Promise on the Plains grant, a grant that recognizes grassroots organizations for making a difference in health, education, financial stability, and basic needs in underserved areas in south-central Kansas. Contact is Mike McFerren.

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

St. John's conducts an annual stewardship campaign. This year we received 22 pledges representing 29 members/regular attendees. An additional 10 members are regular givers but don't pledge. Our efforts are low key with the emphasis being on our members: our message is first and foremost, we value you as a part of St. John's family. You, and not your money, are our priority. We respect EVERY pledge no matter how small or how large. Our focus is making our members all feel welcome, wanted, and needed as we listen. As a result, our members always step up to meet our needs.

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

As St. John's came through the slow rebuilding process, going from the instability of having just 7 members to a stable 35-40, we found that people - as they came back - were genuinely happy to be here. They feel welcome, respected, and listened to; as a result we don't experience much conflict. The biggest issue we've experienced is how to handle the ever-growing problems of the increasing numbers of unhoused that sleep - and "treat the grounds as theirs," literally. The issue we haven't resolved is when is what we're doing helping, and when are we enabling; how can we be church that welcomes all but still provide a safe space for worship. It's an ever-changing and challenging conversation as we seek multiple points of view. We have not yet found consensus.

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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?

Just as St. John's was rebuilding our membership and attendance, Covid hit. St. John's was forced to adapt, to practice flexibility, to innovate, to ask others for assistance. We began live-videoing our weekly services and posting them to Facebook; those services now attract 100 viewers a week. Extra time and effort were put into keeping members involved and informed, sending out our weekly Parish Visitor. Ironically it was Covid funds that helped keep St. John's open as the funds provided continuing funds for staff salaries when very little money was coming in. We learned that it takes a concerted effort to adopt changes. Now, St. John's membership is aging; we've had to acknowledge that there are those things we can do, and those we cannot do as well, if at all. We've found that we must work to prioritize our members' needs. This has been difficult for us to embrace - it is an ongoing conversation. More change is coming; St. John's now sits in the ever-expanding biomedical campus corridor expected to bring an influx of upper-income and/or younger residents in the next two years. We pray that our welcoming spirit will prove inviting to newcomers.

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### Prior Incumbents

Name	Position Title	Date Begun	Date Ended
<b>Christine Gilson</b>	<b>Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge (Part-time)</b>	<b>2021-03</b>	

Name	Position Title	Date Begun	Date Ended
<b>Eli Montes</b>	<b>Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge</b>	<b>2017-10</b>	<b>2021-01</b>

Name	Position Title	Date Begun	Date Ended
<b>Earl Mahan</b>	<b>Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge</b>	<b>2011-07</b>	<b>2016-05</b>

Church School	Number of Teachers/Leaders for Children School	Number of Students for Children School
	<b>4</b>	<b>7</b>

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

Day School	Number of Students for Day School	Number of Teachers for Day School	Number of Total Staff for Day School



# Ministry Portfolio

Full Portfolio  
(last updated Oct 16, 2025)

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Worshipping Community Web site: [www.stjohnswichita.org](http://www.stjohnswichita.org)

Media Links:

Online References:

[facebook.com/stjohnswichita](https://facebook.com/stjohnswichita)

Languages Significantly Represented:

**English**

Provide Worship or Classes in:

**English**

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### References

Bishop:

785.235.9255 [cbascom@episcopal-ks.org](mailto:cbascom@episcopal-ks.org)

**Cathleen Bascom**

Diocesan Transition Minister

785.706.1223 [apfunston@episcopal-ks.org](mailto:apfunston@episcopal-ks.org)

**Patrick Funston**

Current Warden/Board Chair

316.295.8867 [jlc20me@gmail.com](mailto:jlc20me@gmail.com)

**Josh Wood**

Previous Warden/Board Chair

316.655.0061 [njsoice@gmail.com](mailto:njsoice@gmail.com)

**Nicki Soice**

Search Chair

316.295.8867 [jlc20me@gmail.com](mailto:jlc20me@gmail.com)

**Josh Wood**

Parish/Institution

316.516.6183 [michaelmcferran@gmail.com](mailto:michaelmcferran@gmail.com)

**Mike McFerren**

Local Community Leader

316.776.4170 [mandy.griffin@ictstreet.org](mailto:mandy.griffin@ictstreet.org)

**Mandy Griffin**