Saint John's
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

The Associate Rector for Discipleship at Saint John's is an Episcopal priest who shares in the sacred ministry and joy of caring for the church at the corner of Central and Greer in Memphis, Tennessee. Saint John's is a transitional size parish with an average Sunday attendance of 189.

Job description: The Associate Rector for Discipleship will fully share in the sacramental, pastoral, and priestly ministry and life of Saint John's. You will work in close collaboration with the Rector, staff team, and parish family as a part of the Body of Christ in our neighborhood. The Associate Rector for Discipleship will report to the Rector.

The Associate Rector for Discipleship will have three key responsibilities:

- responsibility for Christian Education for all ages
- foster opportunities to grow relationships as a parish family
- perform the essential duties of a priest.

No two days are the same, but here are a few examples of what your work looks like.

- We have a growing Children's Ministry entrusted with teaching our youngest members the Word of God, led by our Director of Children's Ministry. You'll work with the Director of Children's Ministry to develop curriculum and formation events for our 50+ children on Sundays or 100+ children on holidays. We also have several long-standing Adult Formation groups that meet regularly throughout the week and on Sunday mornings. You can deepen their knowledge of the Bible and offer context to bring the Word of God to life for these deep-thinking parishioners.
- Saint John's parishioners want to build genuine connections, explore shared values and create lasting memories. We love to gather for intergenerational events and fellowship. With our recent growth of young families, we are eager to experience discipleship and have fun in community with one another. You might enjoy working with our enthusiastic Festivities Committee to create gathering opportunities for us, such as shared meals or service opportunities, to strengthen our relationships.
- Finally, you will lead us and care for us as priest and pastor. You'll lead worship, preach the hope of the Gospel, marry us, bury us, and visit us in the hospital. In a word, you will help us deepen our engagement with our faith and you will create opportunities for deeper connection with each other.
- The most important word in this job description is discipleship. Saint John's believes a disciple is an active learner, follower, and apprentice of Jesus Christ. We're looking for a priest to lead us in the practice of discipleship.

Who we are: Saint John's Episcopal Church is a cardinal parish in the Diocese of West Tennessee. If you look at a map of Memphis, we are almost directly in the center of the city. Many of us live and work in the heart of the city and want to reach out in love and concern to make it better place. We are a growing and energetic parish under the leadership of our Rector Father Jay Biedenharn. Our recent strategic plan reveals four priorities for Saint John's: worship, formation, fellowship, and outreach.

Established in the late 19th century, we recently celebrated our 75th anniversary at the corner of Central Avenue and Greer Street. The high altar in the nave is the center of our common life. It probably sounds like we are

boasting, but the nave, seating capacity of 500, is one of the most beautiful worship spaces in the Episcopal Church. The room is graced by a striking series of murals by noted artist John Henry De Rosen. It is a sacred space that creates the opportunity for religious experience, and the Holy Spirit shows up here often. We love our pipe organ and the traditional music honed by our choir and choirmaster, Dr. Vernon Snyder, during Sunday morning, Evensong and Compline services. We enjoy the world-renowned performers Dr. Snyder invites throughout the year in the celebration of ancient music. On the Saint John's campus is the Parish Life Center, a welcoming space that provides care for the spiritual and physical well-being of parishioners and our neighborhood.

The Associate Rector for Discipleship will be starting with us at an exciting moment for Saint John's. In 2021, Saint John's was named one of 13 signs of hope for the Episcopal Church. Since 2023, 58 people have been baptized and claimed as Christ's own forever. We are growing with young families and confirmands. We are investing in our bright future. In 2025, Saint John's exceeded the $7 million dollar capital campaign goal. You'll be here for the renovations and the next chapter ahead.

You'll report to Father Jay Biedenharn, who served as Associate Rector of Saint John's before being called as Associate Rector for Pastoral Care at Christ Church Episcopal Church in Greenville, South Carolina. Father Jay returned to this special place in Memphis as its Rector in 2019. You will work in collaboration with a team of nine other talented individuals in the office and many active parishioners who lead and serve on vital committees engaged in the life of the parish.

Who we're looking for: You are comfortable taking initiative and running with your ideas, owning projects from ideation to execution. You ask for help or input from your colleagues when you need it, and you are eager to offer your help to them as part of a strong and trusting team. You value your autonomy, so you're internally motivated, and you tend to manage yourself. You speak directly and honestly, contributing to an environment of trust. We seek a priest who is comfortable being a generalist. Each day is a little different and the Associate Rector for Discipleship will be asked to use a wide variety of professional competencies every day.

Memphis Y'all: A city of 1.3 million people known for its generous nature, its resilience, and down-home friendliness, with a deeply rooted appreciation for good food and good music. Memphis is a place. It is BBQ, basketball and the blues. This place will grow on you, and before you know it, it will feel like home. We're all about heart, grit, and grind. We work hard and we love to have a good time. We're proud of our city and we hope you'll come see us.

Job Responsibilities:
Work collaboratively to plan the liturgical life of the parish
Share in pastoral care responsibilities with the Rector
Welcome and engagement of new members into the life of the parish
Oversight of lay volunteers who assist in the liturgy – lay eucharistic ministers, lectors, vergers
Lead worship, preach, and administer the sacraments on a rotating schedule with the Rector
Plan, prepare and preside at funerals as needed
Prepare couples for marriage, plan services and preside at weddings as needed
Prepare families for baptism
Oversight of bible study, confirmation and volunteer led formation gatherings
Share planning and teaching responsibilities of adult formation with the Rector
Work with the Rector, lay staff and vestry to respond to the changing needs of the parish
Attend diocesan clergy gatherings, annual retreats, ecumenical events and serve on committees
Undertaking other duties and special projects as directed by the Rector
What are your passions? What can you do to enhance life at Saint John's? We would love to hear about it.

Qualifications
Master of Divinity degree
Ordained in the Episcopal Church, denominations in Full Communion with the Episcopal Church, and the Anglican Communion
Strong interpersonal and pastoral skills.
Proficiency in basic MS Office software

Salary and Benefits' Package

Competitive salary compensation (Matching Province IV associate rector compensation. Negotiable based upon experience).
Housing for family near parish campus available or housing allowance
Health insurance subsidized by employer with vision insurance included
Dental insurance employee paid
Life Insurance provided
Short-term and long-term disability provided
Defined contribution Pension Plan
4 weeks annual vacation
10 paid holidays annually
Continuing education time and allowance

Saint John's is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Saint John's offers opportunities for employment based on merit, without regard to gender, race, marital status, color, age, sexual orientation, national origin, disability or other attributes that are not job- or performance-related.

To apply email a letter of interest, resume, vocation hub profile, two sermons (audio/video link preferred) to Antoinette Cheney, Parish Administrator antoinette@stjohnsmemphis.org or mail to Saint John's Episcopal Church attn. Antoinette Cheney, 3245 Central Avenue Memphis, TN 38111