

This Call is an Opportunity and a Challenge

While our Congregation is housed in a special church that resonates with both God's connection to this world and Swedenborg's natural, humanistic theology, its life comes from the people joined inside with the focus and drive of our Minister.

We are offering an opportunity for a Lead Minister to partner with our community. This relationship will be fluid and seeks commitment and responsibility on both sides of the table. We seek a Swedenborgian theologian to guide our spiritual growth and foster community growth along the paths that we have identified as important to us during our Interim Process. These paths include service, connection, communication, inspiration, and illumination. We seek an active leader who will bring their passions to our community to blend with our talents and treasures, growing a vibrant spiritual and human community.

Our current journey has led us to discoveries of how our community can and will creatively support the missions and growth of our new minister. Ministers are often over-stretched in their responsibilities. Some issues are just the nature of the job, that is why it is a calling, but other parts of how we operate can be improved to foster a community and organizational structure that nourishes all those that serve it.

Our Lead Minister will serve as the Head of Staff, and will have a staff to support their work. Although it is a parish ministry and the job entails a lot of work, the Lead Minister will by no means be asked to do everything single-handedly. In addition to the current staff of a full time Office Manager and part-time Music Director, the Church Council is hiring an operations position that will manage the day-to-day business and building and grounds needs of the church. Because our Rites & Sacraments work can be extensive, since 2000 we have supplemented our Lead Minister with local, ordained ministers who perform many of our wedding ceremonies. This system has worked well and will be continued.

In our regeneration as a spiritual community we are examining ways to more fully leverage our strengths and to discover new treasures in our midst. As an example, our Rites & Sacraments ministry has served us well, but we have yet to fully capitalize upon the treasure that this core function of our church can provide. While our Rites & Sacraments has provided the lion's share of our income over the years, we have had less success attracting and sustaining new members. Building the programs and relationships needed to keep this function of our church strong while expanding upon our spiritual reach and purpose will be key elements in the future success of our church.

The Council has taken the step of expanding the church staff in order to lighten some of the burdens that we have identified as distractions to our former ministers. We hope this gives the new minister time to grow many aspects of our church. Grow our membership. Grow our revenue. Grow our presence in our local community. Grow our connection to the greater Swedenborgian denomination. Grow our church into a more inviting community that will attract and maintain a rich resource of Uses. Our community has stated both its desire for these ends and the willingness to step up and provide the involvement and support, in time and treasure, which our Lead Minister will need to guide us in reaching our shared goals.

This Call is an opportunity and a challenge. The heart of Swedenborgian theology is uses. Come and apply your uses, talents and passions to a community that is ready and willing to be your partner. We invite you to complete the accompanying form, enter the application process and talk with us about your strengths and visions and we will work with you to create a relationship that will serve and nourish both yourself and our church community.

Thank you again for your interest in us. We look forward to learning more about you and how together we can strive to fulfill our uses.

Lead Minister Search Committee
The San Francisco Swedenborgian Church