

The Organist/Accompanist will support the music program of Waldensian Presbyterian Church, Valdese NC, throughout the life of the church. The Organist/Accompanist will provide spiritual and meaningful relevance to the services and other gatherings of the church and shall promote a ministry of fellowship and appreciation of music.

Salary: \$17,000.00 to \$19,000.00 /year for an average of a minimum of ten (10) hours per week.

About the Organ: Letourneau Opus 133 with mechanical action, 19 Ranks, Reversed Console and 100 level memory system, installed in 2017, and was the cover feature article in the May 2018 issue of The Diapason. <https://www.thediapason.com/archi>

Interested Candidates

Please submit a letter of introduction with resume to David Fletcher at dfletcher@gmail.com

(This position is also listed on PAM, AGO – Charlotte, AGO – Western North Carolina and Indeed.)

Additional information:

Waldensian Presbyterian Church – Our Heritage and Music

Waldensian Presbyterian Church is a PCUSA church located in the town of Valdese, NC. Our town and church were founded and established 125 years ago in 1893 by a group of immigrants from Italy known as the Waldenses. They left their homeland in the Cottian Alps of northern Italy (near the border with France) due to economic hardship there for a better life in the New World. The Waldensians, or Waldenses, are a pre-Protestant Christian movement founded by Peter Waldo in 1173 in Lyon, France, predating the Protestant Reformation by some 400 years. The Waldensians, among other things, were known for their belief that their pastors should preach and read the Bible in the language of the people, not in Latin as was the practice of the Catholic church.

The first thing this group of French speaking settlers did when they stepped off the train in what would become known as the town of Valdese was to pray, recite Psalm 103, and sing a French Hymn. Very soon thereafter, they began construction of the church that would later become known as the Waldensian Presbyterian Church (WPC).

WPC is proud of its religious heritage and also of the rich musical heritage that has been passed down from generation to generation. To honor our French speaking forebears, our church sings a French hymn (with each

French verse followed by the English translation) each Sunday in February and August, two months that have particular significance in the life of the Waldenses.

WPC has a rich musical heritage that continues today. When you enter our sanctuary, one of the first things you will notice is our beautiful Letourneau pipe organ. Opus 133 is a two manual, 15 stop, 19 rank, manual action instrument. It was installed in the fall of 2017 and dedicated in January, 2018. Carpet was taken up and a beautiful slate floor was laid just prior to its installation. The acoustics of the sanctuary were greatly improved to support choir and congregational singing. The church is blessed with a strong 20 voice chancel choir, whose recent efforts include The Seven Last Words of Christ by Theodore Dubois and Rutter's Requiem with professional soloists and orchestra. They have also performed the Christmas section of Handel's Messiah on numerous occasions. We are also blessed with five octaves of newly refurbished Shulmerich hand bells, four octaves of Malmark choir chimes, and a dedicated and talented group of about a dozen ringers. Last year we added a full compliment of Orff instruments and began training the next generation of musicians. One area in particular that we would like to improve is participation in our youth choirs.

In addition to the traditional service that is held weekly in the sanctuary, we have an early less formal service held in the fellowship hall, known as Connections. We employ piano and keyboard to support congregational singing and have a dedicated and talented group of singers supported by bass and acoustic guitars to help lead the music in that service. At various times in the past, we have also incorporated violin, mandolin, and drums in that service as well. The Connections service congregants have recently expressed their desire for more contemporary praise music in that service.

Now that you know a little more about our church, please be thinking about how you can help us improve and grow the music program at WPC and lead our musicians and congregation into deeper, more meaningful worship and relationship with our God and our savior, Jesus Christ.