OTM Community Ministry Portfolio Worksheet

(Throughout the form, where you are asked for a number or amount, only a number or amount will be accepted in the system.)

GENERAL

Name of worshipping community: St. Brendan's Episcopal Church, Franklin Park, PA

Position Title: **Priest-in-Charge**

Receiving Names until: **12/1/2025**

Weekly Average Sunday Attendance (ASA): **93**

Number of Weekend Worship Services: **2**

Number of Weekday Worship Services: **1**

Number of Other per Month Worship Services: **0**

Institution Phone: **(412) 364-5974**

Institution Email: **katie@stbrendans.org**

Institution Location

Street: **2365 McAleer Rd.**

Additional:

City: **Sewickley**

State/Province: **Pennsylvania**

Postal code: **15143**

Country: **U.S.A.**

Contact Name: **Timothy (Tim) Austin**

Contact Email: **discernment@stbrendans.org**

Contact Phone 1: **(508) 688-9554**

Contact Phone 2:

Contact Person Location

Street: **2000 Old Orchard Place**

Additional:

City: **Gibsonia**

State/Province: **Pennsylvania**

Postal code: **15044**

COMPENSATION, HOUSING & BENEFITS

Current Annual Compensation: $ Leave blank

Current compensation includes the following: *(Bold or highlight all that apply.)*

- Cash Stipend: Leave blank
  (Mark if your worshipping community provides housing in the form of a cash stipend as compared to a specific place to live, such as a rectory.) The priest may request that a proportion of the stipend be designated as housing allowance in accordance with Diocesan policy and IRS guidelines.

  Cash Stipend Detail: $ Leave blank

- Housing / Rectory **None**
  Housing Detail: $ Leave blank

- Utilities: **N/A**
  Utilities Detail: $ Leave blank

- SECA reimbursement:
  SECA reimbursement options: **N/A** / Full / Half / Other
  SECA reimbursement details: $ Leave blank

Compensation Available for New Position: $ Leave blank

- Negotiable?: N/A / **Yes** / No
- Additional Compensation Note *(100 char. limit, incl. punctuation and spaces)*: **Compensation according to diocesan guidelines and commensurate with experience.**

Housing Available for *(# of people)*: **None**

Pension Plan: In compliance with Church Pension Fund requirements? **Yes**

Healthcare Offered for: N/A / Full family / Clergy+1 / Clergy only / **Negotiable**
Dental Offered: N/A / **Yes** / No

Housing Equity Allowance in budget: Yes / **No** / Negotiable

- Annual Equity Amount: $ Leave blank

Vacation Weeks: 4 / **One month, including 5 Sundays** (standard) / Other

- If "Other," Number of Weeks: Leave blank

Continuing Education Weeks: **2** (standard) / Other

- If "Other," Number of Weeks: Leave blank
- Continuing Education Funding in budget: **$500**

Sabbatical Provision: N/A / **Yes** / No

Travel/Auto Account: N/A / Yes / **No**

Other Professional Account: N/A / **Yes** / No **$1,000**

Comments *(100 char. limit, incl. punctuation and spaces)*:

FORMER RECTORS

(In order beginning with most recent. For dates, provide month and year.)

Name: **Rev. Robin Jarrell**

Position Title: **Priest-in-Charge (part-time)**

Date Begun: **5/2022**

Date Ended: **4/2025**

Name: **Rev. Regis Smolko**

Position Title: **Priest-in-Charge (part-time)**

Date Begun: **7/2017**

Date Ended: **12/2021**

Name: **Rev. Scott Russell**

Position Title: **Rector**

Date Begun: **10/2013**

Date Ended: **2/2016**

CHURCH SCHOOL

Number of Teachers/Leaders for Children School: **6**

Number of Students for Children School: **18**

Number of Teachers/Leaders for Teen/Young Adults School: **2**

Number of Students for Teen/Young Adults School: **5**

Number of Teachers/Leaders for Adults School: **2**

Number of Students for Adults School: **24**

DAY SCHOOL

Grade Range: Pre-K / Kindergarten / K-6 / K-12 / Other N/A

Number of Students for Day School: N/A

Number of Teachers for Day School: N/A

Number of Total Staff for Day School: N/A

Notes *(500 char. limit, incl. punctuation and spaces)*:

CONNECTIONS

Your worshipping community's website: **https://www.stbrendans.org/**

You may provide the media links to your worshipping community:
They may be audio, video, YouTube, etc.
(The first two links will be included in the PDF of your full portfolio.)

YouTube Channel: @SaintBrendansPgh
Facebook Group: www.facebook.com › StBrendansEpiscopalChurch

You may provide links here to other sites where you might be found:
(The first two links will be included in the PDF of your full portfolio.)

Episcopal Diocese of Pittsburgh: https://www.episcopalpgh.org/
Diocesan Newsletter, *Grace Happens*:
https://www.episcopalpgh.org/resources/grace-happens/

Languages significantly represented in your worshipping community: **English**

Total percentage of Average Sunday Attendance that worships in a language other than English: **0%**

Provide worship or classes in the following languages:

Do you have a strategic plan? *(If so, attach.)* **No**

Notes *(~100 words)*: **For sixteen years, St. Brendan's has offered free ESL conversation classes three times a week during the typical school year.**

NARRATIVE

*In our baptism we promise to proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ, seeking and serving Christ in all persons. You are invited here to reflect on your ministry by responding to all of the following questions (**max 250 words each, or 1200 characters** including punctuation and spaces). You may answer in more than one language, if appropriate.*

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

Several years ago, St. Brendan's welcomed a Haitian man, providing housing with a parishioner and English-as-a-Second-Language (ESL) classes. Two years ago, he legally sponsored seven family members and friends. St. Brendan's Justice Ministry organized The Haitian Initiative to assist with their immediate needs.

As the group settled into the area, St. Brendan's offered ESL classes, clothing, furniture, assistance with school enrollment, and emotional support. The Haitian Initiative found an apartment in a racially diverse community to house some members of the group and furnished it through donations from parishioners; helped secure employment that was accessible via public transportation; provided driving instruction; and coordinated maternity care for one individual, including transportation to medical appointments, to the hospital, to post-natal visits, and to monthly check-ups for the baby.

Members of the group are succeeding and thriving. Help is ongoing as they learn the language and navigate a new culture. Each month brings challenges, but they are not alone. They are part of our family and we care.

2. Describe your liturgical style & practice. If your community provides more than one type of worship service, please describe all:

St. Brendan's offers three weekly worship services: Sunday at 8:00 a.m., Sunday at 10:00 a.m.; and Wednesday at 5:00 p.m.

The 8:00 a.m. Sunday service is quiet and contemplative, held in the chapel without music, offering a simple setting for prayerful reflection.

The 10:00 a.m. service is a live-streamed and recorded family-friendly celebration with music led by the choir. Our liturgical music is broadly traditional with hymns taken from the Episcopal Hymnal. Musical pieces presented during the offertory can range from spirituals through contemporary Christian songs to instrumental solos.

On Wednesdays, the 5:00 p.m. service is Holy Eucharist.

All Eucharist services at St. Brendan's follow Rite II in the Book of Common Prayer. These services are rooted in the Episcopal tradition, centering on the Holy Eucharist while embracing a progressive, welcoming spirit that affirms inclusivity, compassion, and

the dignity of every person. We provide a comprehensive service bulletin and avoid practices that might act as a barrier to participation for some, such as the use of incense.

3. How do you practice incorporating others in ministry?

Parishioners are regularly invited to serve as members of the Altar Guild or the choir, as lectors and leaders of the Prayers of the People, or as ushers at our services. Others train as Lay Eucharistic Visitors or organize our monthly Children's Service, a 10:00 a.m. Eucharist at which Sunday School children participate in as many capacities as they are comfortable with.

Our Worship Committee meets periodically with the priest to look ahead to each liturgical season. It advises and supports the clergy in making services ever more accessible and meaningful.

In 2024, the parish arranged an informational meeting with the leader of The Order of the Daughters of the King, an international order of lay women who take vows of prayer, service, and evangelism. In September 2024, a group of our members decided to begin a discernment process, meeting monthly from then until May 2025. On June 22, four women were formally installed as St. Brendan's Chapter during our 10:00 a.m. worship service. Monthly meeting dates are now listed on the parish calendar, and our chapter recently shared information about the Order at the parish's ministry fair.

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

Spiritual enrichment takes many forms: Lenten Series offered after the Wednesday evening services over a simple supper; 20-minute presentations during the Hospitality Hour led by the priest or a visiting speaker; faith sharing programs in which small groups meet at homes or at the church to read books appropriate to the season; and Zoom-based series in theological studies, Bible study and the life of Episcopalians today.

Every week, most of those at our 8:00 a.m. service go out to breakfast as a group; those at the 10:00 a.m. service move into our Social Hall for Hospitality Hour. Volunteers provide refreshments, while we all enjoy fellowship -- with enthusiasm.

Merry Meal Makers, one of our parish inreach ministries, addresses the needs of parishioners who are temporarily unable to cook nourishing meals at home. Our Caring Cards Ministry similarly prepares cards to be signed by Sunday churchgoers and delivers them to whoever is ill, grieving, or facing hardships that keep them from worshiping with us in person.

Brendan's Boots is a hiking group that hits the trails eight times a year to enjoy nature and fellowship while exercising. A church member also offers Tai Chi classes.

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

St. Brendan's demonstrates a deep commitment to regional partnership particularly through social justice advocacy. Our Justice Ministry established a link with the inner-city Destiny of Faith Church following the George Floyd tragedy. We initiated this bond with a moving visit to their service and in return welcomed them for worship and a shared luncheon. This powerful relationship continues today as we collaborate to support families in a high-rise housing project.

We regularly extend this spirit by hosting public forums on justice issues, partnering with other faith communities, including Trinity Lutheran and the Unitarian Universalist Church, to facilitate shared dialogue.

In July 2022, St. Brendan's hosted the impactful "Memorial to the Lost" T-Shirt display, a somber, powerful gun-violence memorial that St Brendan's brought to the region. The display has toured 25 other regional churches across other denominations.

Beyond advocacy, we sustain a portfolio of community service activities, including support for local Food Banks, the Adopt-a-Highway program, and participation in the annual Pride Parade.

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

Each August, as the new school year approaches, we assist the Neighborhood Resilience Project (NRP) by collecting school supplies and filling over 120 backpacks for kids from families with few resources of their own. During the fall and winter, we solicit gently used warm clothing and coats for the NRP to distribute. And each quarter, we also help them by preparing and delivering 200 sandwiches and snacks to areas of Greater Pittsburgh that they serve.

Parishioners at St. Brendan's provide healthy meals and non-perishable snacks to the residents of Miryam's, a shelter in the Lower Hill District that houses 30 women from the area. A team meets each month to prepare, pack and deliver a nutritious meal to the center, while other members of the church contribute snacks and desserts.

We also contribute regularly to the North Hills Food Bank. Worshippers are encouraged to deposit their purchases in a supermarket trolley parked in the narthex, with a special emphasis on items for which the Food Bank has indicated it has pressing needs. Throughout the growing season, volunteers harvest produce from the Garden of Hope behind our building and donate that to the Food Bank as well.

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

When Covid began in 2020, St. Brendan's rapidly developed a reliable streaming capability and, in the process, a more vigorous ministry to our sick and shut-in members. Luckily, we had several members with technological skills and a Vestry willing to appropriate funds quickly. We also submitted a successful grant proposal to the Diocese. It took only three weeks for us to begin streaming on YouTube, and we soon discovered ways in which this expanded our ministry. Members who spend winter in Florida, for example, those who travel, and even some who have moved away for good now join us online. New members say that they found us through the streamed liturgies before subsequently coming to church in person. And our equipment allows us to stream other parish events, increasing access to our many programs. In recent months, we have begun discussing ways to deploy technology in support of other ministries, including pastoral outreach, adult formation, Bible study, and programming for our youngsters. The heart of St. Brendan's will always be our home on McAleer Road, but we continue spreading the Gospel by other means as well. [Contact Jen Mankowski, bobandjenmankowski@gmail.com]

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

We believe that churches that hope to grow in faith as well as in numbers must rely on attracting members from diverse backgrounds. We also expect that retaining newcomers will require both respect for tradition and openness to new ideas. St. Brendan's must continue to enrich life in Christ for all ages without shying away from controversy or difficult conversations.

In our discernment process, we have heard many expressions of support for expanded efforts to combat social injustice: for reaching out to disaffected communities (including LGBTQ+ persons, immigrants, and the systemically disadvantaged in our midst); for welcoming all to the Eucharistic table, certainly those hurt in the past by other organized faith communities; for offering our young people an alternative to so-called "Christian" nationalism based on the Gospel's core message of love; and for applying current and future technologies to help everyone understand, embrace, and celebrate Episcopal liturgies and sacraments.

These are bold goals and attaining them will require both leadership from our priest and the active participation of parishioners at all ages and stages of their lives as Christ's disciples.

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

Our Bylaws formally commit the parish itself to contributing 10% of monthly gross revenues to worthwhile charities.

For our members, November is stewardship month. A target for the year is agreed (usually expressed as a number of pledges rather than a dollar amount). A committee then selects a theme, sends an introductory letter to members by mail, and invites parishioners to offer personal reflections on stewardship at Sunday services. A visual "prop" of some kind is regularly updated so that all can see the progress being made.

Throughout the year, stewardship is addressed more broadly as a matter of talent and time as well as treasure. Parishioners' commitment to our many ministries is exceptionally generous. Those involved in a project seldom seek reimbursement for the cost of materials, ingredients, or equipment, and a steady stream of targeted asks (for school supplies, winter coats, the needs of immigrant families, volunteer hours in our Garden of Hope or our adult ESL classes, etc.) attract strong support. We are aware of the need to expand the conversation about stewardship beyond the month of November and avoid over-reliance on a few large pledges.

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

Twice in the past decade, the parish debated the form our service bulletins should take. Some argued that the Book of Common Prayer and The Hymnal 1982 are rich resources Episcopalians should be familiar with and comfortable using. They felt it was sufficient to limit the bulletin to the readings, the numbers of the hymns to be sung, the Prayer List, and the Announcements. A more comprehensive format, they said, would consume expensive paper and ink and demand additional work of the parish administrator. Others conceded those concerns but countered that Jesus' concern for radical inclusivity made it important to consider both newcomers and our less dexterous congregants. Using the BCP, the Hymnal, and the shorter bulletin, they explained, could make it difficult to maintain a focus on worship. After lengthy formal and informal discussions involving the Vestry, the clergy and those with strong views on both sides, it was decided that accessibility was a critical priority for St. Brendan's and that a comprehensive Bulletin achieved that goal. The regular participants at the 8:00 a.m. service asked to stay with the shorter bulletin format and this was readily agreed.

11. 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?

In March 2020, as Covid began ravaging communities, St. Brendan's was forced to close its physical doors for the health and safety of its congregants. But St. Brendan's persisted, developing an online presence that kept parishioners connected to worship.

While closing had been mandated, reopening presented a more nuanced challenge. When should the church reopen? How should we weigh the desire for physical fellowship against the need to keep our members safe? A Reopening Committee composed of parishioners and the priest-in-charge met regularly to discuss the latest science-backed evidence about preventing Covid's spread and the needs of our members, so as to develop a safe plan for reopening for in-person worship. We were able to reassure everyone that

we had thought through the intricacies of worshiping in a post-Covid world and could provide a relatively safe space to convene despite some continuing uncertainty.

One of the more challenging shifts in our worship relates to differences in musical taste. The addition to the playlist of more contemporary songs has drawn both support and opposition. Despite these differences, everyone remains respectful.

12. Please provide words describing the gifts and skills essential to the future leaders of your worshipping community.
(Enter no more than four descriptions made up of one or two-words each. For example: administration, asset management, preaching, pastoral care. These skills are used to search community portfolios and are occasionally updated by administrators.

This section provides you with the opportunity to present key words that describe the gifts and skills essential to the future leaders of your worshipping community. You may choose any words you like and enter them with commas separating them. The word you begin to type will offer other words with the same letters that others have submitted; you may select one of these predetermined words or continue to create your own. What you submit will be added to the "pool" of words our church is currently using to describe our individual and corporate ministries.)

Pastoral Care
Christian Formation
Family Ministry
Social Justice

REFERENCES

Current Warden/Board Chair Name: **Tom Waseleski**

Current Warden/Board Chair Phone Number and E-mail Address:

Phone: **(412) 741-8727**

Email: t**waseleski@comcast.net**

Previous Warden/Board Chair Name: **Cameron Grosh**

Previous Warden/Board Chair Phone Number and E-mail Address:

Phone: **(717) 404-0108**

Email: **grosh.cameron@gmail.com**

Search Chair Name: **Timothy (Tim) Austin**

Search Chair Ministry: **Various other roles**

Search Chair Phone Number and E-mail Address:

Phone: **(508) 688-9554**

Email: **austover@gmail.com**

Parish/Institution Leader Name: **Donna Aiello**

Parish/Institution Leader Ministry: **Co-Chair, Justice Ministry; Co-Chair Holiday Happenings**

Parish/Institution Leader Phone Number and E-mail Address:

Phone: **(412) 759-1521**

Email: **donna.aiello@forecastdirect.com**

Local Community Leader Name: **Bobbe Grandey**

This is a leader in your town or city (e.g. mayor, City Council member, local Food Pantry coordinator, etc.) who is familiar with your ministry.

Local Community Leader Relationship: **Director, North Hills Food Bank**

Local Community Leader Phone Number and E-mail Address:

Phone: **(724) 472-7008**

Email: **nh.foodbank@verizon.net**