

# “You Got the Interview...Now What?”



Tips and Tricks for Nailing the Job Interview  
AGO National Committee on Career Development and Support  
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# Preparing for the Job Interview

- Read carefully any correspondence from the employer regarding date, time, location, and format of the interview.
- Do your homework...
  - Church website/livestream
  - Speak with current/former members/employees if appropriate

# Preparing for the Job Interview

- Prepare a statement of purpose (from cover letter).
- Have written questions for the interviewer/committee.
- Practice for the interview just as you would for an audition.

# Preparing for the Job Interview

- Dress appropriately.
- Arrive early.
- Networking (long term)

# During the Interview

- Be yourself: highlight your strengths.
- Maintain eye contact and show genuine interest in the church and the position.
- Expect follow-up questions.

# Questions to Ask the Interviewer

- Compensation (salary or per service?)
- Paid time off, vacation policy
- Substitute musicians

# Questions to Ask the Interviewer

- Sanctuary availability for organ practice/teaching
- Time of staff meetings and rehearsals
- Wedding & funeral policies, right of first refusal

# Questions to Ask the Interviewer

## Additional Services

- Advent/Lenten services
- Lessons & Carols
- Christmas Eve/Christmas Day
- Ash Wednesday
- Maundy Thursday/Good Friday
- Easter Vigil
- Thanksgiving
- Other Feast Days/Solemnities



# Questions to Ask the Interviewer

## Music Program Budget

- Instrument Tuning and Maintenance
- Music Library
- Musician Payments
- Licensing Fees
- Professional Development Funding

# Questions to Ask the Interviewer

Additional interview questions from AGO member, Sarah Bereza:

<https://sarah-bereza.com/interview-audition/>

# Mock Interview #1

Part-time Organist at First United Methodist Church

8-10 hrs/week, annual salary: \$14-16K

1971 three-manual Möller pipe organ

Traditional Service Sunday at 9:00am

Average attendance: 150

Contemporary Service Sunday at 11:00am (not part of organist's duties)

Average attendance: 35

## Mock Interview #2

Full-time Director of Music/Organist at Holy Trinity Catholic Church

40 hrs/week, annual salary: \$65-70K

1982 two-manual Austin pipe organ

Three Masses per weekend

Average total attendance: 500

One Mass with choir, 4 paid section leaders