

## **Our Search for an Assistant Minister for Amazing Grace Spiritual Center**

Our community is welcoming next generation leadership to take over when our current co-founders are ready to retire. We seek fresh energy and perspective, someone to take us outside of our current, stable, comfort zone. Full participation in a three-person ministerial team offers an opportunity to integrate gradually and thoroughly into our welcoming community.

## **Our Community**

Amazing Grace Spiritual Center is located at 2007 NW 61<sup>st</sup> Street in Ballard, a vibrant neighborhood on the western side of Seattle, Washington.

Founded in 2009, we have a membership of 86 and weekly attendance of close to 100, mostly middle-aged white adults, with a small children's program. We have two full-time co-ministers and nineteen licensed Religious Science Practitioners, with four very part-time staff. Our community is welcoming and values connection with one another.

Our passion is public service. Our global service team has traveled to Cambodia three times to assist in construction of rural school campus serving 500 students, funding much of the campus and providing continuing support for teacher's salaries. This year a group funded a school building, water tower, solar power, toilets, and other services in rural Kenya, traveling there to assist with the building. We have also traveled to Costa Rica to support a CSL there which serves the Bri Bri, a local indigenous tribe. Our Local Service team works all year to raise funds and goods for various local charities, and prepares and serves a dinner for our homeless neighbors once a month (in rotation with other local congregations). In our nine years of existence we have graduated three practitioner classes and have a practitioner body of 19.

Another passion is excellent worship. We have a great house band and a dynamic roster of guest musicians, as well as an adult choir that performs once a month and a team of congregant songleaders. The community hosts a potluck brunch every Sunday after service. We also have an annual program of social events called Divine Dining in the spring and summer and an annual Barbeque. The choir's annual concert and auction is a highlight of the year. Our calendar is filled out with workshops and certificated and non-certificated classes. Last year we sponsored a workshop for CSL senior ministers in Western Washington. We value collaborative leadership, transparency and social justice.

## **Our Facility**

Our Craftsman/Gothic building was originally constructed as a Swedish Baptist Church in 1907. It has been owned by several different congregations over the years, and most recently was owned by two artists, who made a number of modifications, including the installation of a huge glass window with a crow. Its classic design was enhanced and updated by extensive renovations when we moved in, in 2013. It is owned by an LLC, whose primary member is a congregant who was able to purchase the building; our co-founding ministers are minority owners. Our current lease, at below-market rates, expires in December 2019, with assurance of renewal. We occupy two floors; rental of an apartment on an upper floor contributes to the financial viability of the property.

Our Sanctuary seats 200, and features roll-down wooden doors that can separate it into two spaces, seating 160 and 40. An office on that floor would be available to the new full-time minister. Downstairs is a fellowship hall seating about 60, where we hold weekly brunches after service. It has a full kitchen and food service room, a room for the children's program and one for Practitioners, a meeting room, and a small office.

### **About Seattle**

Seattle is a leftist/progressive, dynamic, beautiful city surrounded by mountains and water, always visible from the city's many hills. Seattle's size and sophistication offers a wide variety of cultural opportunities, and easy access to the great outdoors. Since becoming the main headquarters of Amazon, however, and attracting a cohort of other tech companies, the city has been the fastest growing in America, and this has driven up the cost of living, clogged the city's streets and highways, and created a homelessness crisis. If you can handle the wet and overcast winters, the tradeoff is beautiful and mild summers, with low humidity, few flies, and no mosquitos. (Annual rainfall isn't that high, but skies are often overcast.) Seattle offers a generally temperate climate, rarely getting snow or sub-freezing temperatures in winter and rare, short-lived heat waves in summer.

Seattle is one of the least religious cities in the county (over one-third have no religious affiliation), but also the fourth safest city in the country, and has been voted the country's most literate. It boasts a variety of neighborhoods, each with a farmer's market, and a rich café/coffee, craft beer/ and restaurant scene. Seattleites love their sports teams: football, baseball, soccer, and women's and men's basketball draw huge, loyal crowds.

The city boasts many well-maintained neighborhood parks and recreation facilities, and a public-school graduation rate of 83%. Seattle is home to Seattle University, the University of Washington, Seattle Pacific University, Cornish College of the Arts, Antioch University, and a network of community colleges.

Websites with further information:

<https://www.estately.com/blog/2013/04/37-things-you-should-know-before-moving-to-seattle/>

<https://www.tripsavvy.com/should-you-move-to-seattle-2964943>

### **Our Hiring Process**

We encourage early submission of applications, definitely no later than February 28.

We will review applications and will be in touch with everyone who applies. Phone/Skype/Zoom interviews may be conducted.

We will provide travel expenses to two finalists, who will be paid a fee to speak at Sunday service and offer a workshop Sunday after service. Finalists will also meet alone with the co-ministers, as well as with the Core Council and Practitioners over the weekend.