

BIOGRAPHY - Minister of Music: Chris Fischer (they/them)

(Updated-July 2025)

Chris came to FSA in April 2023 after serving as Pastoral Musician at Knox Presbyterian Church in Guelph for 17 years. They have served congregations in both Canada and the United States, representing four denominational traditions, since 1991, and hold degrees in voice (Honours BMus, Wilfrid Laurier University) and choral conducting (MM, Arizona State University), as well as diplomas in piano and organ from the Western Ontario Conservatory of Music and the Royal Canadian College of Organists.

A member of the Grammy and Juno nominated Elora Singers since 2012, Chris participated in eight recordings and tours of Eastern Ontario and Quebec, New York City, and the Maritimes. They have performed with several of Ontario's leading choirs and orchestras in major works as a tenor soloist and have served as Collaborative Pianist for the Rainbow Chorus of Waterloo-Wellington, the country's largest 2SLGBTQIA+ chorus outside of a major metropolitan centre, since 2018.

In London, Chris looks forward to building on the musical legacy of FSA, both in congregational worship and in outreach to the neighbourhood and city beyond our walls. They administer the Music at First-St. Andrew's concert series and direct the Senior Choir and music programs for children and youth from kindergarten through high school (along with Youth and Children's Program Coordinator Christina Lindsay and several enthusiastic volunteers): Treblemakers and Reverberations, which incorporate singing, movement, drama, handbells and chimes, and various percussion instruments.

Recent concerts have featured the Requiem by Gabriel Fauré and Considering Matthew Shepard by Craig Hella Johnson, and upcoming presentations include Here I Am: I Am Here (Canadian premiere) by Andrea Clearfield and Water: An Environmental Oratorio by Canadian composer Stephanie Martin, to be produced in collaboration with Chor Amica, London Pro Musica Choir, the Pearson Singers, and members of the London Symphonia.