

Abundant Grace Community Church

Worship Ministry

"I will praise you, O Lord, among the nations; I will sing of you among the peoples." (Psalm 108:3)

Thank you for expressing interest in the Worship Ministry at Abundant Grace Community Church. We thank God that you have sensed the call to become a part of one of the most important areas of the church. As a part of this ministry you have the opportunity to bring God's people into His presence. We believe God has called each of us for this hour to *"show this world the praises of Him who has called you out of darkness and into His marvelous light"* (1 Peter 2:9). We thank the Lord for your commitment and dedication to this ministry. As members of this ministry, we must be fully committed and united in our mission to tell the world the Good News about Jesus Christ.

The psalmist David said we are to make His praise glorious. This requires not only our talent and a willing heart but also our commitment. Commitment involves making the effort to do what it takes to bring others into His presence so that their lives can be changed and they can grow in an understanding of a life of worship. The call to lead others is not based on convenience, or on what others around us decide to do or not do. When the call of God draws upon our hearts, it requires us to become responsible to Him. Worship that is not birthed out of a committed relationship with our Heavenly Father is only singing or playing. The music simply becomes a nice performance. Relationship requires that the worshiper allow God to continually search, uproot, mortify, heal and free anything that stops the flow of His Holy Spirit in our lives. God is looking for those whose hearts are "pressing hard after" Him to show Himself strong in their behalf. Paul said in Philippians 3:14, *"I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus."* There is an attitude of heart that God is calling the body of Christ to that is aggressive toward Him. This aggressiveness produces change in our lives. In aggressive worship, we behold Him and He changes us; fills us; and uses us. Please understand that this call of commitment is for each of us individually in our relationship with Jesus and is for our church body to become freer, stronger and closer to Him.

Our Vision:

To help people to connect with God in a personal way through exciting praise and intimate worship. We want to love God with all of our heart, mind and strength.

To enter into true worship where our spirit adores and connects with the Spirit of God, where the very core of our being is found loving Him.

Foundations:

- We are called to minister through worship, not to perform.
- The music is designed to encourage the congregation to be participants rather than spectators.
- We desire to establish a balance between organized presentation and the flexibility of following where the Holy Spirit leads. While we spend time preparing for the services' music, we want more than anything to be led by the Spirit.

Our Mission:

- To develop individuals and teams within AGCC Music Ministry to minister and serve in through worship in a variety of services and settings.
- To incorporate eclectic musical diversity by relating to and reaching different groups of people through our music.
- To incorporate cultural diversity with the variety of music we implement and the people who are involved in the music department. We desire to teach and lead the congregation in experiencing God's presence through praise and worship. To develop people to fulfill God's call upon their lives.

PRIMARY REQUIREMENTS

- Must be a born again Christian
- Must be a committed member of AGCC
- Must be regular in attendance at church and faithful to pray and tithe.

Qualities we look for in a possible team member:

1. Called of God to be a part of the Worship Ministry. This is between you and God.
2. A cooperative and humble attitude/Submission to leadership/Team player
3. A passion for God and a heart to worship
4. A heart to see the lost saved
5. A commitment to the responsibilities listed in these guidelines

COMMITMENT LEVEL

Church Services

We, as team members, should come to church prepared spiritually and ready to give out of the overflow of your relationship with God. We all need to arrive ready to lead others into God's presence and to pray for the services during the week.

1. Participation

- a. All team members of the Worship Ministry are expected to faithfully attend services.
- b. Prayer - We will begin every service with setting sound and prayer as a team. We will meet in the main sanctuary ready to begin by 9:00 a.m. before the service begins. You are expected to be there on time.
- c. It is critical that the individual's immediate family members are willing to accept the necessary time commitment and be a support to your ministry.

2. Stage Presence

- a. All team members should have a presence that says they are happy to be serving and singing to the Lord. Facial expressions, hand gestures, movements are seen and noticed by everyone. When the choir is preparing to sing, there should be no talking or movement unless instructed by the director. The choir risers are in full view of the congregation. As members, we do not want to distract people but we also do not want to have inhibitions/fear about expressing ourselves in worship.
- b. Nothing should be done vocally to draw attention to ourselves unless other leadership such as the pastor or worship leader asks for it.
- c. When singing, please watch the choir director during each song. When a soloist is singing, be in a prayerful attitude, while at the same time remaining attentive to the director's cues. Remember that the Lord is using you as well as the soloist to reach hearts and bless lives.

Note: If you feel the Holy Spirit is speaking something to you to share with the congregation please speak with the worship leader or pastor before speaking to the congregation.

3. Singing/Playing

- a. It is the responsibility of the worship team member to make him/herself familiar with selected material.
- b. The musicians and vocalists need to be skilled enough to follow a service which is "led by the Spirit of God." We don't want to limit what God will do simply because we aren't musically proficient.
- d. Some people are very gifted musicians and/or vocalists, but for one reason or another (vocal range, musical style, etc.) have trouble flowing with the team. These individuals are highly encouraged to share their musical gifts in other ways with the body - (home fellowship worship, musical specials, children's church worship, creative arts, etc.).
- e. The team occasionally leads worship for seminars and other special meetings. We will also have periodic get-togethers for food and fellowship.

- f. We need to work at our instrumental and/or vocal ability to become the very best that we can be. This means a great deal of individual practice as well as with the team (maybe even lessons). Keep in mind that the team will only be as musically proficient as the individuals that make it up.

More than individual expertise, our musical goal needs to be the ability to "flow" with the team. We need to look at it as not just a collection of separate musicians but as a single unit with a single purpose. Our heart's attitude should not be to shine forth in our own technical skill, but to use that skill to enhance the team as a whole in bringing glory to the Lord while leading others before God's throne of grace through worship. We also desire to bring help and encouragement to others when needed. Never under-estimate your value to the team one-on-one or as a whole. Every one needs to be faithful to flow in your anointing, be it teaching, exhorting, etc. so that we can be built up as a whole with all members intact and all bases covered. Each member is vital to the whole.

4. Must have the Heart of a Worshiper

We want to emphasize that we are not performing for the congregation, but ministering to God, and as we sing to Him, He will minister to those in the congregation. Many people can sing/play an instrument, run a soundboard or Power Point, but we want everyone on our team to have a call and a heart that longs to worship God.

Ultimately, the final decision as to who is or is not a part of the Worship Team is made primarily by me, the Worship Team leader, perhaps with carefully weighed input from other members of the worship team and/or the church leadership.

RESPONSIBILITIES ON AND OFF STAGE

1. Living a life of Example

We must live a life of righteousness for others to see. The Bible tells us to flee temptation and avoid the very appearance of evil. It is our responsibility not to bring shame to the name of Jesus Christ. Our example for Christ must be strong and clean of any immoral conduct.

2. Atmosphere

We want to welcome the Holy Spirit into all of our preparation and practices. We believe this will cause excellence in this ministry. Gossip, competition and strife are not acceptable and this atmosphere does not allow the Holy Spirit to have His way. We want "righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Ghost!"

3. Cooperation

There are styles of music/songs we like and styles of music/songs we dislike. However, different things minister to different people. As part of this ministry team we need to have the presence of mind to consider the needs of other church members. Our goal is to minister to the whole body of Christ, not just the young or just the old.

Team Member Requirements in the AGCC Worship Ministry

REQUIREMENT GUIDELINES

Basic requirements to become a Worship Team Member

1. Interview with the leader of the Worship Team and/or the Choir Director.
2. Must be a member of AGCC
3. Complete and turn in Volunteer Application
4. Meet with Choir Director to determine your vocal range and placement.
5. Agree and commit to the Worship Team Ministry and Section Leaders Guidelines listed in these pages.
6. Meet attendance requirements for singing/playing songs at Sunday Service
7. Must be in regular attendance at practices and on time

PREPARATION GUIDELINES

Practices/Sunday Service Attendance

1. You are expected to attend all Thursday practices and Sunday services. You must be ON TIME.
2. **Attendance Sign In-** Upon arrival to practice, YOU are responsible to sign in, writing in your arrival time next to your name. Once you sign in you should not leave the building, unless there is an emergency.
3. Choir section leaders will be taking attendance for Sunday service.
4. All team members must attend Thursday practices in order to sing/play at the next Sunday service. The only exception is when there is no Thursday rehearsal, or if cleared by the leadership. If you miss a practice or service, it is your responsibility to notify your section leader before the day of the practice or service.
5. Failure to attend practice and church service 3 weeks in a row will place you on a 3-month probation period. If within these 3 months you don't attend at least 3 practices and services a month, it will result in your dismissal. Excessive absences or patterns of lateness are signs of lack of commitment to the ministry, which will also result in dismissal.
6. When doing special music, each choir member must attend 75% of practices for songs being learned to sing in service. (*Ex: If there are 4 practices you need to attend at least 3 practices; 6 practices at least 4 etc*) Requirements for each song will be listed on sign-in sheet.
7. New choir members must attend 1 practice before singing/playing at Sunday service.
8. Please make it a priority to eat and drink before you arrive to practice and Sunday service. There is no food or drink allowed during the practice except water in a non-spill container. Children should not be drinking or eating either. Please keep God's house in order.

Sunday Service

1. Each member is expected to be present at Sunday service. There is a practice/sound check scheduled for 9:00 a.m. every Sunday. You are required to be in the sanctuary at 8:50 a.m. to be ready for sound check and to make sure all lyric sheets have been pulled out of binders. Please be on the risers on time or you will be marked late. It is your responsibility to inform your section leader for the reason of your lateness. Anyone arriving after 9:15 a.m. will not sing for the service.
2. Each member should be in a spirit of prayer in readiness for the service. You should be on the risers with your robes on by 10:55 a.m. for prayer and preparation for service. There should be no last minute activity.

Memorization

1. When singing special music, the choir will practice with sheet music, but will not use the sheet music or choir books while singing in service.

Music

If practice part CDs are distributed to choir members, each member is responsible for practicing outside of rehearsal time. 75% of the work needs to be on personal time. EVERYONE needs to be prepared for every rehearsal. When no preparation is done, then rehearsals are slow and learning is retained. DO YOUR PART!

Please make sure you use the nursery services on Thursday nights for children under the age of 7. If you bring your children to the wedding chapel/sanctuary, they must be over 6 years of age. Please make sure they stay confined to the back of the wedding chapel with things to keep them occupied. Make sure your children know that they need to stay quiet and in the back while we are practicing.

SECTION LEADERS GUIDELINES

Choir leaders have additional responsibilities in our ministry to the Lord. By serving the Lord in this capacity, we are able to ensure that the Body of Christ is edified, which includes our members, the congregation, and visitors.

Our responsibility is to ensure a smooth path for the ministry. We do this by shepherding our sheep, listening to them, laughing with them, crying with them, praying with them, encourage them, and rebuking them. We do this by assisting in the practices and Sunday service to ensure order and unity.

This is a seven-day a week service to the Lord, but on Thursdays, Sundays, and on team trips, our duties expand. There is so much to do; unless the leaders are in agreement, the responsibilities fall on a small number of people.

Everything must be done in love. We are held to a higher standard, and we must lead the way by example. It begins with the ministry guidelines. We must agree to abide by them and agree that we will use them consistently with the team members. Added to the worship team guidelines are the Section Leaders Guidelines. We must all agree to abide by them and act in one accord.

Responsibilities

- Keeping track of your assigned choir members' attendance.
- Leaders are to arrive on Sundays no later than 8:45 a.m. and on Thursdays no later than 6:45 p.m.
- Leaders should be available and visible to your choir members before the service begins. By doing this, you will be better able to understand their needs and be aware of any special circumstances that may come up.
- Each choir member has an assigned section and section leader. The section leaders are here to serve you. You can look to your leader for information about the choir and the church as well as for prayer. They are also the choir director's assistants. They assist the director by listening and correcting vocal parts for their section. If you have a concern which you feel should be addressed, please let your section leader know. If for any reason you wish to speak to a pastor, please inform your Leader and he/she will have arrangements made for you.
- The Leaders are acting in service to the Lord and the church. If a leader requests your help in any way, please consider that they are asking in place of Pastor, Joe, or Priscilla, so respond as you would to them.

Choir Calls

- Everything must be done in love.
- Team members need love and encouragement. You cannot tell what a person is going through unless you get to know them. We must have a burden for our people and desire to pray for them.
- Please take the time to call your people at least once a week or every other week.

Unity

- Leaders must always be in one accord.
- Please note that we must at all times support each other.
- Let's remember to pray and ask God for wisdom in the following areas of giving too much grace or exercising too much authority.

Communication

- If there are any changes in the schedule, the worship leader/choir director will inform the section leaders who will inform the team members.

Commitment

- Please keep the music ministry in prayer and always seek the Lord's guidance in how you are to serve Him. The worship team is a ministry and service to the Lord. All team members must be sold out to the Lord and know that this is the ministry where the Lord wants you to serve. We understand that the Lord calls us at different times to serve Him in many ways. If at any time you feel that the Lord is calling you to a different ministry or place, and you cannot serve in the worship team with all of your heart, please discuss it with your leader first. If there is a change in your life such as a job change, move, or any circumstance that will prevent you from meeting the worship team guidelines, please let your leader know.

WORSHIP TEAM QUESTIONNAIRE

THIS IS BASICALLY AN INFORMATION-SEEKING QUESTIONNAIRE TO REVEAL WHAT GIFTS AND ABILITIES WE HAVE IN OUR LOCAL BODY. THIS IS NOT AN APPLICATION. IN FILLING OUT THIS QUESTIONNAIRE, YOU ARE IN NO WAY COMMITTING YOURSELF TO ANYTHING, AND I AM IN NO WAY GUARANTEEING A POSITION ON THE TEAM BECAUSE OF YOUR QUALIFICATIONS. WE MERELY DON'T WANT TO OVERLOOK THOSE WHO COULD ADD TO OUR WORSHIP WHOM WE MAY HAVE NOT BEEN AWARE.

DATE: _____

HOME PHONE: _____ OTHER PHONE: _____

GENERAL INFORMATION: E-MAIL: _____

NAME: _____ AGE: _____ DOB: _____

HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN BORN AGAIN? _____

BAPTIZED IN THE HOLY SPIRIT? _____

HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN A PART OF THIS LOCAL CHURCH? _____

BRIEFLY DESCRIBE YOUR KNOWLEDGE OF WHAT A SINGER/MUSICIAN'S ROLE IS IN LEADING PEOPLE INTO WORSHIP: _____

ARE YOU WILLING TO MAKE THE COMMITMENT NECESSARY, AS OUTLINED IN THE TEAM GUIDELINES, TO BE INVOLVED IN THIS AREA OF MINISTRY? _____

IF MARRIED, WILL YOUR SPOUSE SUPPORT YOU IN YOUR COMMITMENT? _____

IN YOUR OPINION, DO YOU NEED MORE TIME TO GROW, OR WAIT, OR CHANGE BEFORE YOU'RE READY? _____

DO YOU SEE THE LORD USING YOU IN FULL-TIME OR PART-TIME MINISTRY WITH YOUR MUSICAL GIFT SOMEWHERE IN THE FUTURE? ELABORATE IF YOU DESIRE _____

GIFTING INVENTORY

SINGERS:

DO YOU SING? _____ IF SO, WHAT PART? (check one)

_____ SOPRANO _____ ALTO _____ TENOR _____ BASS

DO YOU SPEND MUCH TIME AT HOME WORSHIPING THE LORD IN SONG? _____

HAS THE LORD USED YOU IN PROPHETIC SONG IN THE PAST? _____

WHAT IS YOUR EXPERIENCE? (check whatever applies)

_____ CHOIR-SCHOOL

_____ CHOIR-CHURCH

_____ SMALL ENSEMBLE-SCHOOL

_____ SMALL ENSEMBLE-CHURCH

_____ SOLO WORK

_____ MUSICALS/PLAYS, etc.

_____ HAVE YOU HAD LESSONS?

_____ DO YOU READ MUSIC?

_____ DO YOU SING BY EAR?

_____ HAVE YOU EVER LED WORSHIP?

_____ OTHER-SPECIFY _____

WOULD YOU BE INTERESTED IN DOING SPECIAL MUSIC SOMETIME? _____

INSTRUMENTALISTS:

DO YOU PLAY AN INSTRUMENT? _____ IF SO, PLEASE SPECIFY _____

DO YOU KNOW HOW TO WORSHIP THE LORD WITH YOUR INSTRUMENT? _____

DO YOU PRESENTLY WORSHIP THE LORD WITH YOUR INSTRUMENT? _____

HAS THE LORD USED YOU IN PROPHETIC SONG IN THE PAST ON YOUR INSTRUMENT? _____

WHAT IS YOUR EXPERIENCE? (check whichever apply)

_____ BAND-SCHOOL

_____ ORCHESTRA-SCHOOL

_____ ORCHESTRA-CHURCH

_____ ORCHESTRA-CITY-WIDE etc.

_____ GROUPS (rock, country & western, jazz, disco, pop, etc.)

_____ SMALL ENSEMBLES

_____ GROUPS-LIKE OUR WORSHIP TEAM

_____ SOLO WORK

_____ LEAD WORK

PLEASE SPECIFY _____

OTHER-SPECIFY _____

DO YOU PLAY BY EAR? _____ DO YOU READ MUSIC? _____

HAVE YOU HAD LESSONS? _____ CAN YOU PLAY BY CHORDS? _____

THANK YOU AND GOD BLESS YOU!

JOSEPH KOWALSKI, WORSHIP LEADER

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