

# 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)*

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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. All members meet on stage in the main sanctuary by 9:00 a.m., ready to begin. 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. 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.

**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. Resources are provided for this purpose.
- 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.
2. Must be a consistent attendee of AGCC
3. Meet with the worship team leader for an audition.
4. Agree and commit to the Worship Team Ministry as described in these pages.
5. Meet attendance requirements for singing/playing songs at Sunday Service
6. 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. All team members must attend Thursday practices
3. 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 dismissal. Excessive absences or patterns of lateness are signs of lack of commitment to the ministry, which will also result in dismissal.

**Sunday Service**

Each member is expected to be present at her/his scheduled Sunday service. There is a rehearsal/sound check scheduled for 9:00 a.m. every Sunday.

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.

We use backing tracks with a built-in click track. This may be distracting for those who've never used them and may take a bit of getting used to, but it is expected of you to use them. As a member of this team, it is also expected of you to have, or have access to a computer and a smart phone. This is one way by which we communicate with each other. It is also how we can share music we use on rehearsal times and services.

## 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: \_\_\_\_\_

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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 \_\_\_\_\_

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## 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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