



## Official HFC Policy Adopted by the Church Council On May 20, 2007

### Introduction to the Music Ministry



Thank you for your interest in the HFC Music Ministry, where we strive for excellence in the worship of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ!

I'd like to share some guidelines for all who are interested in serving in this capacity. First, my motto: "*It's not about us!*"

#### ***Special Note from My Heart:***

We all come from different backgrounds and experiences when it comes to music ministry. Some people hold the opinion that anyone should be able to get up and do a song if they feel God has put it in their heart, while others feel that you need to be close to professional to be in front of the congregation at all.

Here's my take on that: First and foremost, we need to have the *true heart of worship!* Many are capable of delivering a great performance, but not all can do it genuinely for God and have Him remain the focus. On the other hand, we've all been in worship services where the performer can't sing well but feels God wants him/her to sing that song because of its message. Did you get the message or did you become a cheerleader hoping and praying that the singer would hit the next note? Although that type of performance may have its place in a special talent or open mic night as a social activity, it can be distracting when we are together for congregational worship of Jesus Christ.

*The true heart of  
worship*

So as you contemplate serving in the music ministry, I must ask your *patience and flexibility up front.* As a musician, I understand the heart of musicians—we're artists in many ways, expressive and driven to perfection. We can take others' opinions of our skills very personally. But as musicians *for the Lord*, having a heart of worship means accepting loving leadership and advice. It sometimes means growing in the Lord or in our music skills before participating in front of the congregation. And it certainly means respecting the music team that God has already assembled and recognizing the impact that our presence has on that team. If you have the *true heart of worship*, let's talk!

#### ***Our Style:***

At HFC we are not restricted by a label, as in "contemporary" or "traditional" music. We are uniquely who we are in every way and that includes musically. As a leader, I appreciate suggestions for songs and/or the way in which we should perform a song. However, I may not always utilize the advice (and that is not to be taken personally).

### ***Expectations for Involvement in the HFC Music Ministry:***

- **A demonstrated commitment to the HFC family** – Although you may try out for the praise team prior to becoming a member, it is expected that you will work towards membership once you begin serving in the music ministry. Also, because the praise team members serve in the highly visible and powerfully impacting role of leading our church members in worship, it is expected that you will intentionally cultivate a strong sense of Christian family between yourself and HFC members through consistent participation in other church events, such as fellowship activities, Bible studies and evangelistic outreaches.
- **A spirit of Christ-likeness** – The praise team is a “team” in every sense. Our team members encourage and pray for each other. We take advice and loving criticism from each other. We respect and accept leadership. We handle problems in a Christ-like way—with a gentle, forgiving spirit. We always put the interests of our team and our congregation before our own.
- **Audition** – Everyone must “audition” in some format. After discussing with me their interest in the praise team, instrumentalists may audition at our weeknight practice. Jeremy Brooks and I will determine the best fit. Vocalists must be heard by me before going to a practice in order to alleviate any misplacement in ministry (please note that singing on a microphone is much different than singing in a choir setting, so certain guidelines are necessary to create a pleasing worship experience). Practice is critical in becoming a cohesive group, so you may be required to attend many practices before participating in a Sunday morning service. The reason we stress excellence as we give our best to God is because, *“It’s not about us!”*
- **Attendance at practices** – During the week we meet to prepare for the Sunday service and to work on future music. On Sunday morning, beginning one hour prior to the service, we meet to run through what we’ve prepared during the week. *Attendance at both sessions is expected.* If more than two weeks of practices are missed, please talk to me about taking a break.

*Remember: It’s  
not about us*

If you miss a practice or service, we may need to adjust your participation in the service itself. Please remember that Sunday mornings are not the time for learning songs. We all want to give our best to God, and your best may be to worship from a seat in the congregation for a week or two.

- **For special music** – Anyone interested in sharing their talent in special (e.g., offertory) music must audition beforehand to insure that the quality of the performance and the message of the song are suitable for congregational worship. An appropriate date may be set for the performance based on the theme of future services and the amount of practice needed. All special music must be practiced thoroughly (i.e., as close to being memorized as you can get) and rehearsed on the sound system on the Sunday morning of the performance.

*A Final Word . . .*

It's a special privilege and honor to worship our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ in the music ministry. While certainly not being above other ministries, the music ministry is unique in the extent to which the atmosphere of Sunday morning worship can be helped or hurt by the quality of our service. I'd like to close by sharing some passages from the Bible that show how much music played a role in the circumstances surrounding God's people:

- "He appointed those who should sing to the Lord . . ." (2 Chronicles 20:21)
- ". . . seek out a man who is a skillful player on the harp . . ." (1 Samuel 16:16)
- "And it came to pass when the priests came out of the Most Holy Place . . . and the Levites who were the singers . . . indeed it came to pass, when the trumpeters and singers were as one, to make one sound to be heard in praising and thanking the Lord, and when they lifted up their voice with the trumpets and cymbals and instruments of music, and praised the Lord saying: "For He is good, For His mercy endures forever," that the house, the house of the Lord, was filled with a cloud, so that the priests could not continue ministering because of the cloud; for the glory of the Lord filled the house of God." (2 Chronicles 5: 11-14)

*"The trumpeters  
and singers were  
as one"*

Now that's some good stuff right there! It also tells me we need a high standard for this amount of responsibility, because this truly states that "It's not about us!"

Thank you for your interest in the music ministry. Please contact me with any questions or concerns. May God bless you.

*Shelba Uhrin*

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*I have read and agree to abide by the policies for the HFC Music Ministry:*

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*(Your signature)*

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*(Date)*