

Grace Chapel Worship Ministry

Hi and thanks for your interest in Grace's worship ministry. It's always exciting to me to cross paths with those that love to worship and be a part of helping others connect with God through worship.

If you are reading this web page, then you are probably wondering how to get involved with the Grace worship team. We are looking for three things: spiritual fit, musical fit, and team fit. This is a task that we approach prayerfully and practically because we have been given the responsibility for deciding who is best suited for our worship team.

Please be aware that we are in no way judging you or your heart for worship. Because playing music is a learned skill, there are specific skill/proficiency levels we are looking for and that are needed. Some people have a tremendous desire and heart for worship, but their skill level isn't quite where it needs to be. I will try to clearly define those three areas that are listed: spiritual fit, musical fit, and team fit. I will also describe the skills and competencies that we feel are necessary for vocalists and instrumentalists. But first, here's how to get started.

Getting Started

1. To get started, please complete the application on the website. www.gracechapel.com - Go under the ministries tab on the home page and click worship. At the bottom of the worship page, click worship team application. (PDF)
2. Register online to attend the next Growing Deep Growing Strong Membership seminar (GDGS). It's one evening from 6 to 8:30 pm. The short class introduces you to Grace Chapel (who we are and where we are going as a church). We would ask that you complete this seminar before regularly playing on the worship team. It's offered about four times a year. If you just missed the current class, please let me know on your application for Worship Ministry that you will be taking the next available Growing Deep class.
3. When you submit your application, please submit a recording of yourself playing your instrument/and or singing. You can send me an MP3 file, burn a CD, or record on a cassette tape if that's easier. MP3 files can be emailed to me at marymeade@cableone.net.

Once I've received and reviewed the application and listened to your recording, then we'll set up a time to talk or go further with a live audition. Please play at least two to three minutes and please play at least one current worship song. Please, no longer than five minutes unless you have several instruments or instrument and vocals you would like me to consider. When you make your recording, feel free to showcase your strength. You can return the completed application and CD/cassette tape (if you choose to give a CD/cassette tape rather than an MP3 file) in an envelope with my name (Mary

Meade) or “Worship Ministry” on it, to the information table on a Sunday morning, drop it by the church during office hours, or give it directly to me on a Sunday. I’d love to meet you!

After listening to the MP3/CD/ Cassette and after the live audition, if you were able to play or sing at the level we feel necessary, (see musical fit), and if you were a team fit and a spiritual fit, (see team fit & spiritual fit), then I will either place you on the rotation for Sunday mornings or in another ministry if you would specifically like to help in another ministry that has an opening.

If your musical skill level wasn’t quite where it needed to be, I will ask you to keep practicing and to consider private lessons if you are unable to learn what’s needed on your own. Once you feel you’ve made some significant improvement, get back in touch with me on a Sunday or via email, submit another recording and we’ll go forward from there.

You may not be a fit for Grace’s Sunday service worship team, however, there are other ministries that need and welcome help with worship. Some of the other ministries needing worship help don’t need the same musical skill level that is necessary for the Sunday worship team.

Here are a few other things we’re looking at:

Spiritual Fit

This simply means being spiritually authentic. We want you to have an alive, growing relationship with Jesus because worship is a by-product of our relationship with Jesus. Music is a universal language. When we add words that are wielded and inspired by the Word of God and a relationship with Him to that music, it becomes a very powerful tool in presenting the gospel of Jesus Christ to others. It also becomes a pathway for those who know Jesus to honor, praise, love, and adore Him.

We can’t lead others where we haven’t gone ourselves, so it is very important that we are connected to Jesus and abiding in Him. Even if we aren’t the worship leader on a Sunday morning but we’re a part of the worship team, we are exemplifying worship to those in the service. Worship is more than music, but music is one of the tools we use each Sunday to express our love and adoration and worship to Jesus. We want to be real with God and with others so we encourage the worship team members to worship privately at home.

Musical Fit

There is a certain level of musical competency that we feel is necessary to be a part of the Grace Chapel Sunday service worship team. A good way to measure the skill level we’re after is to listen to several different modern worship bands, such as, Chris Tomlin, Lincoln Brewster, Tim Hughes, Phil Wickham, Tommy Walker and our own Grace Chapel Worship Band CD’s. As you listen to these worship bands, listen for your

instrument or vocal part. If you can easily play/sing their music you are probably at an appropriate skill level for our Sunday morning worship team.

We would like all of our instrumentalists to be able to read and play off of a basic chord and lyric chart. Pianists need to be able to sight-read a simple melody line and play chords with the left hand in a fluid manner.

Vocalists, your instrument is your voice! Each vocalist must be able to sing on pitch. We like each vocalist to be able to harmonize, blend and stylistically fit with the current Grace Worship team vocalists and match the style and sound. The vocalists should be able to sight-read a simple melody line or learn very quickly “by ear.” All vocalists need to be able to memorize lyrics.

Not only do we value being a growing Christian, but also in the Worship Ministry we value being “growing musicians”, which means *practicing*, and for some, it might mean taking private lessons. We will push you musically and would want you to be open to learning new things musically that are beyond your skill level including new styles and genres of music. It is important for us to have a heart that’s open to continue to learn and grow as Christians. A learner’s heart spills over into every area of our lives, including worship.

Team Fit

It’s also very important for worship team members to be able to take instruction from the appointed worship leader they’re working with and to be able to work with various musicians, instrumentalists and vocalists. Worship team members will also be asked to make a commitment to rehearsals and to arrive on time and be ready to start on time for rehearsal (i.e., tuned, warmed up). Flexibility is something we value as a worship team. Sometimes we run into situations when it is necessary to change things around at the last minute. We ask you to be flexible.

It is important to us to be sensitive to Christians and non-Christians alike. Therefore we try to relay the good news of the Bible in a way that non-Christians can understand and at the same time, in a way that helps us grow deep and strong as Christians. We want to communicate that same way in worship.

We strive to have a servant’s heart. No matter how great of an instrumentalist or vocalist we are, or how many years experience we might have, when we enter the sanctuary and step onto the stage to lead others in worship, everything changes. We come with a servant’s heart and lay aside any agenda we may have in order to help cultivate an atmosphere of worship and help lead others into God’s presence.

We’re excited to meet you and add to the worship team. May God bless you and may new songs and creativity explode in you as you worship Him!

Mary Meade