

WORSHIP MINISTRY

of Hillsdale Assembly of God



"Praise the LORD. Praise God in his sanctuary: praise him in his mighty heavens. Praise him for his acts of power; praise him for his surprising greatness. Praise him with the sounding of the trumpet, praise him with the harp and lyre, praise him with tambourine and dancing, praise him with the strings and flute, praise him with the clash of cymbals, praise him with resounding cymbals. Let everything that has breath praise the LORD. Praise the LORD." (Psalm 150)

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Contact Information

If you can't make it to a practice or service, the following are the top four contacts you should attempt to make, in order. However, if you are a choir member, please make Yvette your first contact.

Name	Position	Primary Phone	Alternate Phone
Pastor Kevin	Worship Leader	517-320-2449	517-869-2858
Angela Phillips	W.L. Assistant	517-320-1239	
Yvette Hukill	Choir Director	517-849-9825	517-740-6106
Shirley Bendall	Church Secretary	517-849-2187	517-398-6504

If you need to contact the church office for any reason, you may do so using the following contact information:

E-mail	hillsdaleaog@yahoo.com
Phone	517-849-2187
Fax	517-849-2188
Website	http://www.hillsdaleaog.org

Vision & Purpose

The worship ministry of Hillsdale Assembly of God exists to facilitate corporate worship in our church body through music with songs of praise and worship. It is our purpose to partake in the fulfillment of the stated mission of the church:

Our mission is to dispatch believers into the harvest field through evangelism, to disciple converts to Christ like maturity and incorporate them into the Church, to develop leaders that will demonstrate God's love through service, so that we can devote our lives to follow God as we celebrate His presence in worship."

Mission Statement

Accordingly, our mission as the worship ministry is as follows:

"The mission of the worship ministry is to devote our lives to follow God through worship, incorporating the message of the gospel into our worship for the purpose of evangelism, and including scripture and sound doctrine in our worship to disciple and develop the body of Christ, bringing glory to God and drawing people closer to Him through our worship services."

Objectives

1. To create an atmosphere where all feel welcomed into the expression of the corporate worship of God.
2. To introduce popular, meaningful worship songs and unique worship music, maintaining a contemporary approach, while paying the proper respects to the traditional music of the church.
3. To encourage the use of spiritual gifts in worship, showing the sensitivity to the working of God's Spirit that is necessary to bring honor to His Name.
4. To maintain a biblical approach to worship that is honoring to God and relies on the scriptures as the standard of truth and conduct for the Christian.
5. To encourage an attitude of expectation, where the realization of God's presence through worship creates excitement and opens hearts to receive the message from the Word of God.

Standards of Conduct

1. As a member of the Music Ministry, I understand that I am first a disciple of Jesus Christ. I will guard my speech and keep myself in check from gossip, my pride, and my own ambitions. I will commit myself to prayer continually humble myself at the foot of the cross, and submit to leadership. I will keep Christ the center of my home, vocation, recreation, and my fellowship inside and outside the church.
2. As a member of the Music Ministry, I understand that I am a part of the church body. I agree to place myself under the leading and authority of their leadership. As a member, I also recognize that both I and my family will support and help carry out the mission of Hillsdale Assembly of God in everything we do.
3. As a member of the Music Ministry, I recognize that I am both a worshiper and part of the music ministry. My role is as important as any other public participant. As such, I promise to carry myself with dignity by dressing modestly and appropriately. I will use my body language and facial expressions in such a way as to engage those I am leading in worship. At the same time, I will make every effort not to miss out on the opportunity to individually bring my own praises to God in the corporate worship assembly.
4. As a member of the Music Ministry, I will commit myself to the guidelines set forth by the Pastor, Worship Leader, and Choir Director. I will strive for excellence in everything I do in connection with our music and in ministry as a whole. I will make every effort to be at all scheduled practices and services. I will be fully prepared for each service in which I participate. I will give ample advanced notice in the event of my absence so that a replacement may be contacted. If I am asked to recuse myself for any reason, I will do so in a spirit and manner worthy of Christ.

Disciplinary Action

A few givens that will result in immediate dismissal or temporary probation of participation on the worship team may include:

1. Sexual immorality of any kind or other forms of addiction.
2. Failure to attend practice without legitimate reason or not informing the Worship Leader or Choir Director of your absence. See the attendance policy for details.
3. Proudful attitudes such as arrogance, haughtiness, an argumentative attitude, sarcasm, an unteachable spirit, defiance, or lack of cooperation. Having a bad or wrong attitude is a poor reason to sit out or be sat out and negate your responsibility to God, the congregation, and the team. It would be best if you identify and correct it voluntarily and immediately rather than excuse it selfishly.

4. There may be occasions or seasons when the Pastor may ask you to take a break for your own edification or to fulfill another need. Honor such requests in a spirit of maturity.
5. If you are not dressed according to dress code you will be asked to sit out for that service. Chronic offenders will face suspension or expulsion from the worship ministry. See the dress code for details.

Responsibilities

- A. Attend Practices– Every team member is required to attend practices. If you cannot commit to be at the practices you will NOT be prepared to be part of worship- you will end up “winging it.” This is not acceptable and you will not be allowed to serve Sunday morning or Wednesday evening without participation in music practice.
- B. Assist People– help people “enter in” to worship; encourage people to worship God and not be focused on what they “get out of it.” Worship is giving praise to God.
- C. Prepare Your Heart– on Sunday morning we are often so rushed and hurried that we are not in an attitude of worship. We need to take time to ready our hearts, so that we are fully entering into worship.
- D. Prayer- pray for the service before hand with the worship leader and the Music Ministry.
- E. Help Your Team– demonstrate a Christ-like attitude in whatever way God chooses to use you, big or small. Be a team player, supporting each of you fellow ministry members in their roles.
- F. Be Teachable– No one has ever “arrived”; when we think we have, we settle into complacency. We should keep ourselves open to one another, to new ways of looking at things, and to correction (as hard as that may be).
- G. Be Humble – We need to point to Christ and not put ourselves on a musical pedestal according to abilities; “He must increase and I must decrease.” (John 3:30) Humility means being receptive to constructive criticism and remaining open to the comments and ideas of others.
- H. Teamwork – As the saying goes, “there is no ‘I’ in team.” Every Music Ministry needs to view itself as a team. Our musical goal is to flow as one musically and spiritually, drawing people into the presence of God through worship. Our hearts’ attitudes should not be to display our own talents or skills. We need to lead in such a way that we draw attention to God rather than ourselves. Maturity in Christ means being able to work with each other and thinking of others and their ideas before our own. Any differences need to be dealt with in love, seeking to foster peace (James 3:17).

- I. Mutual Encouragement- build each other up with positive comments and affirmation. Music Ministry is a team effort, not a competition. Lifting one another up is key to our success as a ministry.

Dress Code

Everyone on the platform is responsible to dress in a modest, respectful fashion. God looks on the heart, but man does look on the outward appearance, and a bad first impression may turn a visitor away. No flip-flops, tennis shoes, jeans, shorts, capris, tank tops, sleeveless shirts, or t-shirts should be worn. Requirements are as follows:

Men- At the minimum wear a nice, clean shirt and dress pants. Be well groomed and neat in appearance. Be professional and impressive.

Women- Wear a dress, skirt, or dress pants, No capris or jeans. Skirts and dresses must be at or below the knees, including slits. Wear a nice shirt or blouse. Stay away from low cuts, mid-riffs, and tight- fitting clothes such as leggings. Be modest.

Attendance Policy

You may have excused absences as long as you pre-schedule them with Pastor Kevin. Please do so at least twenty-four (24) hours in advance, or in the case of illness as soon as you realize you will not be able to come to practice. Examples of reasons for which you may have an excused absence are work conflicts, vacation, anniversaries, birthdays, or other special events. You cannot have excused absences because it's difficult to make practices, because you want to sleep in Sunday mornings, if it becomes apparent you are trying to abuse the absence policy, or for other such reasons. Emergency situations will always be excused, whether a call was made before hand or not. We do not expect you to make a special effort to contact us during a crisis, but we will need to be informed when it is convenient so we can excuse your absence. Failure to live up to these standards will result in suspension or expulsion from the worship team.

The attendance policy is a four tier policy process. Your first infraction will result in a warning. The 2nd infraction will result in a one (1) month suspension, the 3rd results in a three (3) month suspension, and the fourth infraction means expulsion from the worship ministry. Attendance infractions are tallied over your last twelve (12) months of attendance.

Structure

The worship ministry is structured as follows:

1. Worship Leader- the worship leader is head of the entire music ministry, presiding over all sub-departments and their leaders.
2. Band- the band consists of all instruments of all types that participate in the Music Ministry. New members may join by invitation of the worship leader.
3. Choir- headed by the Choir Director. To become a choir member, a volunteer must first participate in a try-out scheduled with the Worship Leader or Choir Director.
4. Praise Team- consists of choir participants who have been selected to sing with microphones during worship. There are currently four (4) positions on the praise team.
5. Alternates- two to three alternates will be selected to fill in for praise team members in the event of their absence. Alternates do not necessarily have to be choir members.
6. Offertory Team- offertory team members must try out with the worship leader to participate in this ministry. Each offertory team member must submit a list of songs they are prepared to perform, and may submit new songs as they learn them. Members will be notified in advance of a Sunday service if they are scheduled to sing.
7. Sound Team- the Head Sound Person directs and trains other sound board operators under the direction of the Worship Leader. ***No one but sound team members should adjust sound board settings without the worship leader's explicit approval.***
8. Projection Team- the projection team is in charge of operating the computer, providing projection of lyrics, announcements, and sermon slides during services.

Practices Times

Participation in practices is an essential component to excellence as a music ministry. The following are our requirements and expectations concerning practices:

1. Practice on your own. Read the Online Resources section for more information about accessing music and orders of worship.
2. Choir Practice is at 8:30 a.m. on Sunday mornings. All choir and praise team members must come to this practice.
3. Sunday Worship Practice is at 9 a.m. on Sunday mornings. The band, praise team, and scheduled sound team member must be present at this practice. Worship begins at 10:25 a.m. on Sunday mornings.

4. Offertory Practice. If an offertory member is scheduled for a Sunday morning performance, they must show up to practice a 9:30 a.m. o set sound and monitor levels. Only 5 minutes are allotted for this practice.
5. Wednesday Worship Practice is at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday night for all who participate in this service. Service begins promptly at 7 p.m.

Online Resources

Hillsdale Assembly of God’s website provides many resources for the music ministry. To access these resources, you should first provide the worship leader with a user name and password you would like to use to access these resources.

Our church website address is <http://www.hillsdaleaog.org>. If you click on the music tab, it will display some information about our Music Ministry and a set of resources for the music team. These resources include:

1. Weekly Order of Worship (<http://www.hillsdaleaog.org/worshiplist.php>)
2. Music Team Resource Area (<http://www.hillsdaleaog.org/musiclist.php>)
3. Worship Ministry Schedule (<http://www.hillsdaleaog.org/music.pdf>)
4. This Handbook (<http://www.hillsdaleaog.org/handbook.pdf>)

You do not need a user name and password to view any of these pages. However, you will be prompted for these if you try to listen to the MP3s or view the lead sheets or chord charts in the Music Team Resource Area or Weekly Order of Worship.

Schedules & Deadlines

The following are deadlines for schedules, orders of worship, and ministry commitments:

- Wednesday Worship List- available online by Tuesday at 6 p.m.
- Sunday Worship List- available online by Friday at 12 p.m.
- Worship Schedule- available online by the last week of the current schedule.
- Ministry Commitment Form- must be received before active participation. Commitment is renewed on an annual basis.

ANNUAL AGREEMENT FOR THE MUSIC MINISTRY

I, _____, am voluntarily committing to a year of service in the music ministry, barring unforeseen circumstances. I certify that I have read, understand, and agree to the following:

- Standards of Conduct
- Disciplinary Action
- Responsibilities
- Dress Code
- Attendance Policy

At this time, I am also expressing my interest in serving or continuing to serve in the following ways:

- Choir
- Praise Team
- Praise Team Alternate
- Band
- Offertory Team
- Sound Team
- Projection Team

Signed: _____

Date: _____