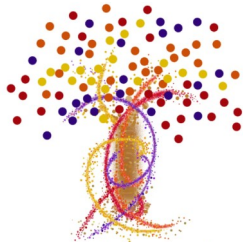


WORSHIP

ARTS



vernon alliance church

# VAC CHURCH

## Mission Statement

Helping people discover Jesus and become His followers.

# VAC WORSHIP ARTS

## Vision Statement

To be a community of Christian artists, growing in our faith in Christ, using the Worship Arts to tell God's story.

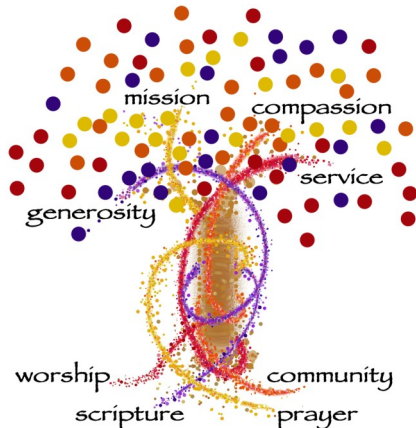
## Who Are Your Leaders?

Jon Buller – Pastor of Worship and the Arts

Dwayne Boyd – Director of Information and Creative Services

## What is Worship Arts?

Worship Arts are the tools that all artists use to tell the story of God. Dan Allander writes that “the wager of faith is that God is telling His story through mine”. In the book of Genesis we are told that humankind was created in the image of God. Having the likeness of God means that we have some of His creativity inside of us. Worship Arts are all of those creative inclinations that we use to share God's story with our world. They might include (but are certainly not limited to) music, drama, video / media, dance, visual art and more.



## JOINING THE TEAM

You are most likely reading this because you feel that you are one of the people described on the previous page. That brings us to the next question—how do you join the team? You are starting in the right place. I would ask that you take some time to read through this booklet thoroughly and give the contents thought and prayer. After you've done that, fill out the information questionnaire and drop it off at the church office so we can know who you are and figure out the next steps to having you involved in worship arts here at VAC. Normally, that will involve an casual 'get to know each other' meeting with pastor Jon and an informal audition to assess where the best fit will be for you and your musical gifts. Thanks for your interest and willingness to go through the process with us!

## WHAT DOES IT TAKE TO BE ON A TEAM?

Before talking about your gifts and/or talents, I would like to spend some time on what I would call 'a philosophy of worship arts'. By that I mean what are the underlying spiritual ideas or understandings that the worship arts are based on? Amazing things can happen when a team of people are like-minded in why they are on a team at all.

### 1. A TRUE WORSHIPPER

King David in the bible is often referred to as a true worshipper, a man after God's heart. This is encouraging in many ways. It is clear in reading about his life that he was not perfect! Although David is famous for his heart after God, he is also famous for his mistakes. This reminds us that as worshippers after God's heart, we are not alone in our need for forgiveness and grace. Don't let your mistakes prevent you from expressing your gifts and talents for the sake of God's kingdom. Just remember to always pursue grace and practice repentance.

Let's focus on another great truth that we can learn from David's life. Psalm 78:72 says: "David shepherded them with integrity of heart; with skillful hands he led them." When you become part of a worship arts team, expressing your gifts and talents publicly, you become a leader. One person often leads the team as the 'lead worshipper', but as

members of the team we are all 'worship leaders'. This is a high calling and a true spiritual responsibility. What we can learn from that simple but profound verse is that to be a true worshipper and to lead well we need to exhibit two primary characteristics: Skill and Integrity of Heart.

## 2. INTEGRITY OF HEART

We've already learned that David wasn't perfect. But we also know now that God felt David had integrity. Before you join a worship arts team (or if you're already on one) be willing to examine your heart and mind. Integrity also involves passion for God. It involves 'spiritual maturity'. I am not trying to put pressure on us as a team to be perfect. But the fact is that we are on the front lines of a battle to help people discover Jesus and become His followers. Let's pray that God keeps us self-aware and reflecting on our own personal spiritual health, so that we can be effective leaders and true worshippers for Him.

## 3. SKILL

Try a simple exercise right now. On a page in this book, or any other piece of paper, sign your name as you would if you were signing a document or buying something with a credit card. Now sign your name with your other hand and see how that goes.

This is sometimes a picture of how things work when serving in a church or any other group or organization. We need volunteers. So there is occasionally pressure from people to join a team or volunteer in some area, often one that is not our primary gifting. Sometimes people want to be involved in an area of service but it is not their primary area of gifting.

What happens next is like signing your name with your wrong hand. King David led in the way he led, in the areas that he led, because he was passionate for God (integrity of heart) and he was operating in his areas of 'primary gifting' (skill). That's what needs to happen in finding where you fit on any volunteer team, including worship arts. We need to be people that love God with all our hearts, and people that God has gifted to serve in this area.

## 4. BEING A SERVANT

Being a servant requires the spiritual maturity and trust of both the team members and the leaders to make for a strong and effective team.

## 5. ARTISTIC HUMILITY

We are talking about humility in the sense of deferring to a leader or another team member in whatever situation you may encounter.

Submitting to leaders can work well when those in charge are modeling biblical servant leadership, and those under leadership are willing to trust that. A servant leader is a person who has the characteristics that they require of their team, and is willing to humble themselves where required in order to teach and model servant-hood. An excellent example is that of Jesus washing the feet of his disciples.

So, what does this philosophy of artistic humility mean practically speaking? There is an unending list of applications, and here is a list of only some of them as they apply to the Worship Arts. Artistic humility means listening to the other players, making space for the other instruments, being willing to sacrifice solos or favorite moments, being sensitive to the volume of your instrument, trusting the leader if a song is dropped from a set after much practice and remembering to include the congregation as a 'member' of the band. You may be an actor, a dancer, a musician, a technician – whatever you do, you can figure out what artistic humility means to you. Living out the characteristic of artistic humility will not always be easy, but it will be worth it.

What we provide to those we lead, when we offer artistic humility, is the same kind of heart that David offered to God in his own lifestyle of worship. This will mean that instead of potentially distracting from God by attracting attention to ourselves, we will actually become transparent and point attention towards God. We will become even more effective at directing all worship, honor and glory to Jesus! And that is our goal. To do whatever we can to facilitate worship of the God who created us for that very purpose.

## 6. COMMITMENT

To be on a worship arts team, all members are asked the kindness of simple respect to the rest of the team and their leader through their commitment. This involves two more primary characteristics.

## 7. SCHEDULING AND BEING ON TIME

There are family responsibilities, there is traffic, there are work schedules that change, and all kinds of other unpredictable things that can happen. But remember we all share a commitment to each other. Being consistently late, or being a poor planner is the same as saying to the team that your time is more important than theirs. We owe it to each other to respect one another's time.

## 8. BEING PREPARED

All team members should come to rehearsal well prepared. The purpose of rehearsal is not to learn the material, but to practice it. Do your best to come to your rehearsals and set ups well prepared. This will honor everyone else who has worked hard to be prepared, and ultimately honor the God you serve too! It will help make rehearsals more efficient and your artistic offering that much better. For music team members, rehearsal materials will be provided by an internet based system with a username and password for you to download mp3s and charts before practice.

## 9. PROCESS IS AS IMPORTANT AS PRODUCT

When it's all said and done, let's enjoy ourselves in this whole process of joining the team, and then offering our gifts – rehearsing and then leading or performing. The 'main event', whether it's a weekend service or a performance of some sort, is not actually the 'main event'. The process is just as important as the product. Have fun and be passionate about God, about relationships, and about improving at your craft. The joy is in the journey.

# F.A.Q.'S

## **1. How do I actually sign up?**

A questionnaire is included in this booklet that you can fill out and drop off at the VAC office. Alternatively, this questionnaire is available to download on the VAC website at [www.vernonalliance.org](http://www.vernonalliance.org) . To receive an email copy of the questionnaire call or email pastor Jon at [jon@vernonalliance.org](mailto:jon@vernonalliance.org) or 250-545-7105.

## **2. How old do I need to be, to join a team?**

We have participants of all ages, but generally speaking, weekend worship team members are 16 years or older. A process of coaching and mentoring sometimes begins earlier, and there are sometimes opportunities for younger players to get involved with student bands or VAC kids. Whatever age, feel free to contact pastor Jon to find out more.

## **3. How are songs chosen and worship services planned?**

There is a Design Team which plans the services and selects songs together as a group. However, input often comes through suggestions from worship team members and those that attend church services. If you have ideas, let us know.

## **4. What is expected specifically from me when I commit?**

Time commitments and schedules vary slightly for each area. Depending on the team area you indicate interest in, you will receive a specific list of expectations and understanding for both yourself and your leader.

# LET'S GO FOR IT!

Thanks for taking the time to thoughtfully reflect on what you've read above. Lets continue to become a community of Christian artists, growing in our faith in Christ, using the Worship Arts to tell God's story.

# LEADERSHIP LIFESTYLE

## from THE VAC BOARD OF ELDERS

Our lifestyle and relationships need to align with the message we proclaim and the God we serve.

Those who would seek to lead in ministries of significant influence or in a public role are called to significant levels of integrity.

Although none of us are perfect we are called to live as excellent and upright a life as would be in keeping with the Kingdom.

A phrase used by Paul is that leaders are to be “above reproach,” (1Tim 3:2) this means that our lives and lifestyles leave no room for doubt that we are followers of Christ and that our relationships and behavior are in keeping with biblical principles.

The spirit of this statement is to maintain and increase church health. It is a matter of trust. The church body needs to be able to trust that to the best of our knowledge and ability all leaders at VAC are living a life of character and integrity that would accompany the ministry position they hold.

### **Scripture References for Biblical Principals on Lifestyle**

**Marriage:** Eph 5: 22-25

**Words:** Eph 4: 29

**Money:** 1 Tim 6: 6-10

**Leadership:** 1 Tim 3: 8-11

**Relationships:** 1 Tim 5: 1-2