

TITLE: Music Ministry Meeting Summary (2/15) (Sent 2/17)

Hi Everyone-

Thanks for such an incredible turnout at the meeting this Sunday...my heart was (really) warmed by seeing so many people interested in serving God through music :-).

For such an excellent turnout, you'd be surprised there were many absent who wanted to be there. I wasn't taking notes, so what is below is from memory...I'm sorry for any exclusions (esp. at the end), nothing personal, I just can't remember specifics.

I'm sending this with one condition attached: I NEED to hear from you if you have questions or concerns...we had a Q&A at the end that was very helpful for qualifying some of the things discussed.

I love you all, and can't wait to see what God can do with all of us!

Ryan

Summary of Music Ministry Meeting 2/15

- Church is growing rapidly
- Music ministry (naturally) needs to adapt with the church
- With more people comes more interest (and more talent)
- We need an effective way to integrate new people and meet the worship needs of our growing congregation.

1. Why use part singers? What is the point? (posed to everyone)

- *Example* to congregation of attitude towards God when we worship
- *Example* to congregation of their specific part
- SUMMARY: Part singing (and song leading) is a challenging job that carries a lot of responsibility, esp. as our church grows

2. New Organizational Plan for the NVCOC Music Ministry:

- Form choir to perform 1st Sunday of every month (goal: make this group a HIGHLIGHT for our church!) and widen involvement in this group.
- Reduce number of people regularly part singing to people best able to do the stuff above, selected audition..."The ground is level at the foot of the cross"

3. What Does the Bible Say?

- David asked the Levites to *appoint* people to sing/play (implies a criteria) (I Chr 15:16)
- The leader of singing was appointed "because he was *skillful* at it" (I Chr 15:22)
- Everyone who participated was "trained and skilled" (I Chr 25:7)

- The temple musicians were "supervised" (1 Chr 25:6).
- "It is the Lord Christ you are serving." (God deserves our absolute best) (Col 3:24).
- SUMMARY: There is biblical precedent for: thoughtful criteria for involvement in worship, a (reasonable) expectation of musical ability, and supervision (aka "quality control").

4. "Heart" v. "Music"

- Church is NOT a concert
- Church is NOT a worship free-for-all, where heart to serve is the *only* consideration
- Key is to find happy medium between the two (neither Beyonce nor Tone-Deaf-but-Great-Hearted-Harry are invited to sing on Sunday)

5. Auditions?! Seriously?!

- Part singers perform 8-10 "solos" on their part *every* Sunday
- Though auditions are scary for ALL, this should be an "overcome-able" fear for those who part sing. (You're singing into a mic in front of 300 or so people!)
- "We have different gifts..." (Ro 12:6). Purpose of auditions to help people to serve in a capacity that best suits their gifts.

6. Q&A and Comments (these came from those in attendance, not myself)

- Feedback on singing is an EXTREMELY delicate issue...we should be very careful to build people up and recognize all people take feedback differently. (Sue)
- The proposed changes place increased time demands on all involved, esp. those selected as part singers but also for those in the choir. (sue)
- For those involved with responsibilities at church outside of the music ministry: Recognize many of these other activities can be taught to most, but musical ability is somewhat inherent. If you can sing (or serve in tech), consider investing in *that* gift, as few others are able to serve in that way. (richard)
- People's talents will slant towards particular types of music. Someone not good at singing hymns but great at "southern style" (her words, not mine :-)) should have a place in the ministry (angie) (I *REALLY* understand and appreciate this point...this was underemphasized in the meeting, but is a very big part of my heart towards these changes)
- The moment this process becomes exclusive, I've sinned. The goal is to have the best involved for God's glory, and this will always be a collaborative and open process. (me)
- Tech is an integral part of making this successful. (me)