



COVENANT FOR CHORAL ENSEMBLES: 2PC CHANCEL CHOIR

Philosophy of Choral Ensembles in the Church

The history of group singing for the people of Jehovah God is long dating back to early in the Old Testament. The Levite tribe of Israel were the worship leaders of their day. They were set aside by God to serve Him. Choral singing for the church as we understand it (polyphonic singing - more than one part) was born and flourished during the Middle Ages (between the 9th and 13th centuries) in the Christian monasteries. The role of a church choir that leads God's people in worship, in today's world, is viewed with as many different opinions as there are churches. It is important that as worship leaders, who lead in and through song, we have a common understanding of our role in this place God has brought us to together.

As a ministry area we believe that:

- As vocal musicians, we offer our gifts to God, in the service of the church - and are willing to serve wherever needed.
- The choir stands as one body, not a group of individuals and therefore we should always be about "the greater good" of the ensemble.
- Choral ensembles that are open to all who want to sing are vital, not only in the leading of worship, but in providing service opportunities and a place of Christian community around a common affinity.
- Having auditioned ensembles for members who want to have an increased challenge and leadership role is also vital; in helping those people fulfill the use of their gifts.
- Anyone leading in worship is in a role of spiritual leadership and therefore has increased responsibilities for their actions and lifestyle.
- We should always present to God, and His people, our most excellent offering. Psalm 33: 3b "...play skillfully and sing for joy." "I will bring nothing before the Lord which has cost me nothing."

By participating in the Chancel Choir at 2PC, I understand that:

I am a worship leader within the Music Ministry to the congregation and agree:

- to conduct myself on and off campus in a way that is honoring to God.
- to be in positive community, in any and all situations, and to not talk about other members of any of the ensembles in a negative manner.
- to participate in, and encourage, direct communications in problem solving. I also agree to refrain from triangulation in any form realizing that it is not a Biblical problem solving method and that it is detrimental to relationships.

As a member of the 2PC Chancel Choir, I agree:

- to sing with the Chancel Choir at the 11am service on a regular basis.
- to plan to sing for special events/services realizing that I am a vital part of the choir and my absence affects the group (Christmas Eve services, Easter, etc...)
- to attend rehearsals and will be on time to all rehearsals on a regular basis. Habitual absences and tardiness shows a lack of respect for the group.
- to be present for all rehearsals two weeks prior to concert week. (family or personal emergencies excluded)
- to exhibit respectful conduct during rehearsal, which includes marking my music, focusing on the rehearsal, refraining from conversation with those around me, and refraining from making negative or non-productive comments to those around me.
- If I have an issue with the choir or anything concerning the choir I will bring my concern directly to the conductor.

I now covenant to work toward these goals and will be strive to be a faithful and obedient leader in the worship of Second Presbyterian Church through my participation in the Chancel Choir.

Signature