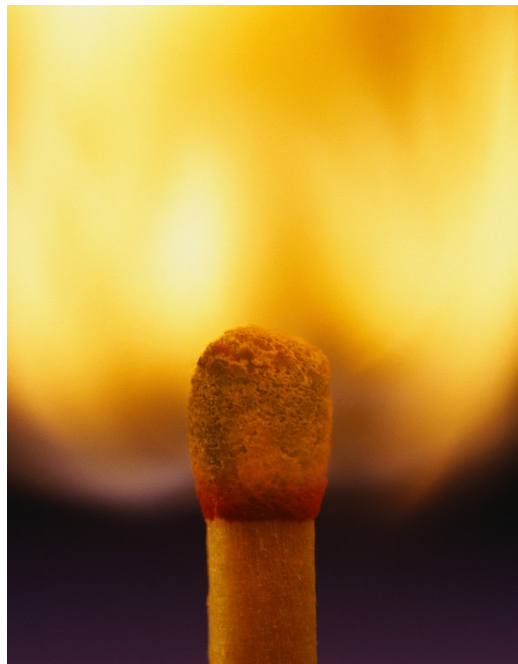


ENCOUNTER

The Ministry of Worship and Arts at COAH

Ministry Handbook



5210 Marguerite Rd., Knoxville, TN 37912* (865) 659-7729 *
www.cityonahillchurch.com

Meet your Encounter team....

“The eyes of the Lord search the whole earth in order to strengthen those whose hearts are fully committed to Him.”

2 Chronicles 16:9

Lead Psalmists

Psalmist LaShea Colson

Pastor and Team Leader

Assistant Psalmists

Mark Killefer

Guitar Leader

Team Vocals

LaShea Colson

Mark Killefer

Steve Temple

Mac Watts

Pat Welch

Team Instruments

James Akers

LaShea Colson

Mark Killefer

Steve Temple

Mac Watts

Guitar Section

Keys & Percussion Section

Guitars & Percussion Section

Percussion

Guitars

Dancers

Stacy Martin

Tara Kissel

Audio/Sound/Lighting/Media

Tarn Ellsworth

Lucy Kerley

Laura Killefer

The Vision

- To lead people into the manifested presence of God, educating them not only on how to get into God's presence but also on how to make worship and praise their lifestyle.
- To break down racial and cultural division through music that reaches everyone.
- To develop a ministry that is a living, breathing army of worshipers who tear down strongholds through their demonstration of praise every week at COAH.
- To see our ministry become known as a group that in excellence and anointing at the same time.
- To have a multi-racial ministry representative of all cultures.
- To have musicians that are technically skilled but are dependent upon the anointing of the Holy Ghost for every note they play.

Our Objectives Are...

- To lift up the name of Jesus.
- To inspire worship and praise through creativity
- To create an atmosphere that is conducive to the Holy Ghost.
- To prepare the congregation for the preached Word of God
- To create a place for people to express and invest their gifts in the Body of Christ.
- To teach and train individuals and teams to develop their gifts in the Body of Christ
- To teach and train individuals and teams to develop their gifts as related to praise and worship.
- To commit ourselves to excellence, prayer, and unity in everything we do.

What is Encounter Ministries?

The Encounter Ministries of COAH is a ministry of worship expressed through the arts. It houses the COAH Choir, Vocals, Band, Drama, Dance team, and the Audio/Studio/Lighting. Together, as creative and technical people of God our mission is to create a place for God to dwell. The Bible says that God inhabits, or lives in, our praises. So as we lift Him up, He comes into our presence and draws all unto Himself.

Worship is more than a thought of praise; it requires active participation. The expressions on our faces and the passion with which we worship extend to the congregation and inspire them to participate with their own expressions of praise and worship to the Lord. When the Body begins to worship corporately, we experience God's power to heal, deliver, and move people toward salvation and their ultimate destiny in Christ.

When taking the above in to consideration, we the Encounter members of City On A Hill Church, have an awesome responsibility. We are more than "look good, sound good" performers; we are worship leader with a mission to create an atmosphere that God will inhabit. It is our responsibility to take the congregation on a musical journey into intimacy with Jesus. We literally paint pictures of God with our gifts and put Him on display as the main event...so that all may know Him for who He is, in all of His glory!

Membership Requirements

Welcome!

Congratulations, you've passed the audition and are now an Encounter member! We welcome you... When you joined Encounter, you committed to serve with all your heart for at least one full year and we thank God for you!

Please read the ministry handbook thoroughly before the next rehearsal, so that you understand everything about the Encounter Ministries at COAH, and the general expectations of all its members. During your assessment, you will be given the opportunity to ask questions about the Encounter handbook to your leader.

COAH Membership

We believe that there is blessing in being in covenant. If you are not a member of COAH at the time of entrance into the ministry, our desire is that you become a member during your assessment period.

Tithing

In order to accomplish the vision set before us by the Pastors and see the corporate blessing fall on this house, we expect all Encounter members to tithe into this local body.

*“Bring your full tithe...test Me in this and see if I don't **open up Heaven** itself to you and **pour out blessings beyond your wildest dreams.**”*

Malachi 3:10

Assessment Period

You have been assigned a “Team Leader” to mentor you. During the first 60 days, your Team Leader will be your primary contact for attendance and evaluation. After the first 30 days, your team Leader will meet with you to evaluate your progress. At the end of your 60 day assessment period, if all criteria have been met, you will graduate to active status and still be accountable to your Team Leader.

Continual Discipleship

The platform ministry is the equivalent to the military's front line troops; those sent to the enemies' frontlines" first. As the military requires continual training and sharpening of ones skill/knowledge, each person service in Encounter is required to participate in at least on form of discipleship at all times. This is accomplished through personal devotion or Bible Study. Also, your leader will keep you supplied with "Life Pulse" forms. You are required to fill out this form every month. They will be due at the end of the last rehearsal of each month. On this form you must include text reference (Bible, book/tape series and title) that supports the content of your material, services, and rehearsals attended.

In addition to this, you will be required to stay throughout one entire worship service per week, including the preaching of the Word and ministry time. If you are not able to attend on Sunday then you are expected to attend a Life Group during the week.

Prayer

We ask that you cover this ministry in you personal payer time and pray for its leaders on a daily basis. In addition, the entire Encounter Ministry will meet 30 minutes before practices on Sunday. Please make every effort to be on time for prayer, and to receive final instructions for the worship service. We ask that you commit to live a lifestyle of worship and make sure that you are personally praying and reading the Bible on a daily basis and fasting as god directs you.

Attendance Guidelines

70% Attendance Requirement

All Encounter members are expected to maintain at least a 70% attendance average, including excused and unexcused absences. You will be notified of your attendance average every two months by your Team Leader. If your average is below 70%, you will have the next attendance period to raise it. This grace period will only be extended to each member twice a year. If it becomes apparent that your attendance is prohibiting you from being an active contributor to Encounter, your team Leader will ask you to take a Leave of Absence until your schedule permits you to attend regularly.

An Excused Absence is...

An absence reported to your Team Leader prior to rehearsal and/or worship service. An excused absence includes work conflicts, illness, death of a loved one, and scheduled vacations. Please remember that Excused Absences still contribute to your attendance percentage.

An Unexcused Absence is...

An absence from a scheduled rehearsal or worship service with failure to contact your Team Leader. All absences and tardies must be reported in advance to your Team Leader. Failure to call two times may result in probation.

Rehearsal Absences

If you missed a Wednesday rehearsal, whether your absence was excused or unexcused, you will not be able to participate in the following weekend services. If you are not able to participate on Sunday's worship service due to missing rehearsal you are still expected to attend Sunday worship service. Please fill out absence form must be filled out in advance for all absences. If this is not possible do so at the next rehearsal.

Platform Conduct and Dress Code

No gum chewing! Remember that the congregation is watching you. Please be aware of the "small thing" such as talking to your neighbor while the congregation is being exhorted or during confessions.

Attire for Sunday should be business to casual to dressy. No shorts are allowed on the platform during worship service. Please make sure that your clothing is not too tight or revealing to draw attention to yourself. MODESTY IS OUR POLICY!!

PLEASE DO NOT BE OFFENDED IF YOU ARE ASKED TO EXIT THE PLATFORM DUE TO FAILURE TO FOLLOW THE DRESS CODE. WHEN IN DOUBT GO THE SAFE ROUTE!!

10 Behaviors That Will Not Be Tolerated...

1. Erratic attendance at rehearsals.
2. Habitual tardiness at rehearsals and service sound checks and prayer.
3. Unrelated foolishness and lack of attention during rehearsal.
4. Entering the platform unprepared either musically, spiritually, or with bad attitudes.
5. Ill feelings voiced publicly rather than privately to the appropriate Team Leader, such as immediate dislike to new music, new ideas, or suggestions, etc.
6. Members who are more concerned about displaying their individual talent or satisfying personal interests that working of the food of the entire group.
7. Voicing opinions to others regarding one's disrespect for the Pastoral, Leadership of the church and Encounter Leadership
8. Not paying tithes
9. Pursuit of a lifestyle that does not bring glory to God.
10. Not obeying a direct order from Pastoral staff or Team Leader
11. In general, any action or attitude that does not reflect the vision and objectives of the Encounter Ministries.

Note: One of the goals at COAH is to disciple and to allow opportunity for ministry for everyone no matter what background or personal areas of struggle one might have. However, discipleship is growth and we desire to create a safe atmosphere for everyone to experience freedom in God and to continually be formed in His image. If there is an area of struggle or bondage such as alcohol, smoking, sexual sins, or anything that would prohibit the member to experience freedom in Christ, we ask for extra accountability to set into place with a Pastoral staff member in order to help the member overcome this area of their lives.

STATEMENT OF COMMITMENT

By signing this commitment you have read, understand, and agree to abide by the rules and polices within City on a Hill Church Ministry Handbook. You understand that this ministry is unto God and everything we do is to honor and glorify Him. You understand and commit to working as a team, submitting to one another in love, bearing one another's burdens, and lifting each other up....

Name: _____

Date: _____