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Tracy Kerley

*Minister of Music. Keyboardist. Organist. Vocalist.
Worship Leader. Choral Director. Event Producer.*

Devoted and energetic Christ-follower with 35 years of experience as a Minister of Music leading all aspects of a multifaceted ministry department and working as a core member of the pastoral team. Exceptional at leading traditional and contemporary worship. Skilled in guiding multi-generational and ethnically diverse congregations into active participation in authentic worship so that they may encounter God's love. Gifted with an extraordinary non-conventional style of leading/directing that brings out the very best in all choirs, bands, groups and events.

STRENGTHS *

Empathy, Woo (winning others over easily),
Communication, Achiever, Activator

*from [Strengths Finder 2.0](#) by Tom Rath

EDUCATION

B.A. Music / Minor, Chemistry
Winthrop University – Rock Hill, SC

EXPERIENCE

Minister of Music

Pinehurst United Methodist Church, Pinehurst, NC — 2011 – 2018
(475 attendees, approx. 750 members)

Provided musical and pastoral leadership, managed, administered and oversaw the Music Ministry, 8 part-time ministry employees, interns, and 150+ volunteers. Led and played organ/keyboards for Sunday morning Sanctuary worship services including two traditional services and one contemporary service for our multi-generation congregation. Brainstormed, supervised and executed creative elements (music, videos, film clips, testimonies, tactile elements, décor) for all services and outreach events. Actively partnered with the church Council and Pastoral Leadership.

Accomplishments

- Grew Worship & Arts volunteer participation in Worship Choir and helpers by 125% and greatly improved musicality and morale.
- Diversified musical styles in services to include traditional, jazz, southern gospel, black gospel and most all genres of music.
- Developed a schedule for using orchestral instruments in worship as well as using live orchestra for Christmas and Spring and Patriotic Concerts. Organized music and coordinated all event details with musicians, choir and creative groups.
- Produced and coordinated creative elements in the services to keep them fresh and to bring more meaning to message.
- With pastor, envisioned, created and produced Christmas Eve in the Barn, a community event that annually draws 1,800 people.
- Mobilized 100+ volunteers for fair barn services. This included set design, set up, program/poster/bulletin design, all musicians, dancers, ushers, greeters, nursery workers, food, parking lot attendants, and police. Created the flow of elements for the service order, played keys, sang and led guitar choir.
- Envisioned, researched and started a contemporary service including recruiting musicians and volunteers. Taught Aviom in ear monitor operation to musicians and ProPresenter to volunteers and sound tech.
- Oversaw the redesign/renovation of the sanctuary to accommodate a contemporary service while keeping the elements that offered beauty and meaning to traditional service. This included putting together a "movement" team to transition sets every Sunday.
- Streamlined scheduling and distribution of rehearsal materials by using online resources and programs.
- Pioneered new music groups: men's quartet, ladies trio, ensembles, Christmas Choir and instrumental jazz trio (Drums, Bass and Piano).
- Assisted the Hospitality Ministry (greeters, parking volunteers, seasonal bakers) to provide an enhanced welcome experience for first-time visitors and regular attenders.
- Connected with the community: Established partnerships with local band directors, universities and international choirs. Used drum lines during Christmas season. Hosted the African Children's choir and provided food and coats for their tour. Hosted the Methodist University Gospel Choir several years.
- Led choir in outreach events including singing at nursing homes and singing to those in our church who were sick.
- Prayerfully and energetically took the ministry to another level of participation, creativity, excellence, joy and being a family.

Minister of Music and Worship,

Beechwood Church, Holland, MI — 2006 – 2011

As part of the senior leadership team, created and led all services, congregational meetings, holiday services and special events. Managed 6 staff/interns. Recruited, trained and developed 200+ volunteers (choirs, orchestra, handbell groups, drama ministry, children's choirs and worship team).

Accomplishments

- Doubled music ministry participants in less than three years. Dramatically improved the sound and musicality of choir and worship team by using humor along with very hard work.
- Produced and led summer outdoor worship services, which drew 1,000+ from the community. This involved mobilizing a crew of 200+ volunteers, poster/program/banner design, sound demands, set design, musicians and service elements.
- Grew annual Christmas concerts and added a spring/patriotic concert with 1,400+ attending each.
- Used dance and school groups to enhance concerts and services.
- Assisted in planting a Hispanic Church and helped with music needs.

Minister of Worship & Arts

Walnut Creek Presbyterian Church, Walnut Creek, CA — 2001-2006

(1,200 attendees, approx. 2,000 members)

Provided pastoral leadership, managed, administered and oversaw the Worship & Arts Ministry, four employees, and 300+ volunteers.

Accomplishments

- Grew Worship & Arts volunteer participation (choirs, worship teams, hospitality, technology, ushers, greeters), added creative elements (music, video and live testimonials) and led special events throughout the year (e.g., Holy Week, Advent).
- Created a concert series to offer different styles of music to the church and community.
- With Sr. Pastor stranded in HI, designed and led 9-11 service for the community.
- Brought cultural diversity to the worship team.

ADDITIONAL EXPERIENCE

Produced Willow Creek Global Leadership Conference Simulcast for the San Francisco Bay Area for 3 years.

Partnered with an African American Church to bring together two diverse communities. Co-directed a 250+ member gospel choir who sang at church services and community events, including the Martin Luther King Day Celebration at Touro University in Vallejo, CA.

Toured 23 states and Jamaica with youth choirs, singing and working in prisons, churches, orphanages and city centers.

Worship leader and keyboardist for women's conferences in CA, MI and NC.

Taught, trained, and mentored worship leaders (students & adults) from many denominations.

Organized and led choir members on retreats to Brooklyn Tabernacle for choir conference.

SIDE NOTES

I've worn a Superbowl *and* a World Series ring and have tried hang gliding.

I love being there for people during hard times and frequently sing/volunteer at FirstHealth Hospice House.

I love to laugh. If you can't have a bit of fun doing it, don't do it!

I spent two life changing weeks on safari in Africa.

My first ever solo was "Harper Valley PTA" in a nursing home at the age of 6.

Working with all types of people is a challenge I enjoy!

I have learned that in order to lead people to be their best, ask them, equip them, expect the best, and encourage them like crazy!

My dogs are my children. Unconditional love!