



Twin Cities Community Gospel Choir Membership Practices and Agreement

rev. 7/2017

As a member of the Twin Cities Community Gospel Choir (TCCGC), you understand and agree to the statements and commitments described below during your participation as a Choir member.

The Choir is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization composed of singers from throughout the community who are interested in singing and learning about the African-American gospel tradition. The organization is governed by a volunteer Board of Directors.

The purpose of the organization is to move audiences and create community across racial, cultural and economic boundaries, through a soulful interpretation of the African-American gospel music tradition, while sharing a message of hope and joy.

JOINING THE CHOIR

There are no auditions for the Choir. It is recommended that interested people attend a rehearsal before making a final decision. Once deciding to join, you may be asked by the Artistic Director to sing a short melody in order to place you in the correct section. TCCGC candidates are expected to have a basic knowledge of music, learn quickly by ear, and possess the ability to match pitch. Above all else, the main qualification for participation is a passion for gospel music and a commitment to the Choir and overall music program.

COMMITMENT REQUIRED

As a Choir member, you will be expected to support the mission and adhere to the practices of the Choir. This includes respecting and seeking to understand the African-American gospel tradition upon which the organization is built, and developing a relationship with the music. Attention to musical discipline will result in a stronger choir and more satisfying experience.

Specifically, as a Choir member you agree to meet the following expectations:

REHEARSAL ATTENDANCE:

Attendance is recorded by the Choir Manager. Members are expected to attend all regular rehearsals and special rehearsals in their entirety. Attendance at the 3 rehearsals immediately preceding a performance (2 rehearsals plus dress) is required in order to sing in the concert. Any exceptions to this are solely at the discretion of the Artistic Director and rare.

The concert season runs September-May and is composed of two sessions. You may not miss more than 3 rehearsals total in the fall concert session (September-December) and 3 rehearsals total in the winter/spring concert session (January - May). The Choir Manager will inform the Artistic Director when a Choir member is nearing the maximum allowed. Extraordinary circumstances requiring an absence should be discussed with the Choir Manager or Artistic Director. The Artistic Director will make the decision on when you may next perform in a concert in this situation.

It may be necessary for a Choir member to be absent from the Choir for an extended period of time but with the intention of returning to the Choir when circumstances change. In this case, you should request a **LEAVE OF ABSENCE**.

PERFORMANCE ATTENDANCE

Choir members are expected to perform in all major concerts each season. If you become ill or otherwise must miss a performance, notify the Choir Manager and Artistic Director as soon as possible.

If you have signed up for a special performance and find you cannot attend, notify the Choir Manager and Artistic Director as soon as possible so a replacement can be found.

Choir members are expected to be on time and ready to go for sound checks.

REHEARSALS

You are expected to be punctual for each rehearsal session. Unless informed otherwise, rehearsals are held:

**Thursday evenings, 6:30pm (6:30 social time; 6:40 rehearsal begins)
Valley Community Presbyterian Church
3100 Lilac Dr. N., Golden Valley, MN**

Prior to concerts, additional rehearsals may be scheduled at the discretion of the Artistic Director.

Use of electronic devices during rehearsal for any purpose other than audio recording of rehearsal is strictly forbidden. Please stay focused on the rehearsal — talking, eating, reading, texting, emailing, etc. detracts from the rehearsal.

Children are allowed to come to rehearsal only when accompanied by their parent or guardian. Each parent/guardian is responsible for the whereabouts, activities and behavior of his/her child. If the child's presence at rehearsal becomes problematic or disruptive on a consistent basis, you will be asked not to bring the child to rehearsal.

REVOCATION OF MEMBERSHIP

Membership in the Choir may be revoked due to poor rehearsal or concert attendance, being consistently unprepared for rehearsals/concerts, or if the Choir member engages in conduct materially and seriously prejudicial to the nature or purposes of the Choir.

MUSICIANSHIP- PRACTICING

As a Choir member, you are responsible for learning your part for all pieces. You are expected to practice at home for at least 30 minutes per day so that you are prepared for all group rehearsals. A choir member records all rehearsals and disseminates these recordings, but you are ultimately responsible for knowing what was covered at each rehearsal, including those you miss. Although not required, Choir members are encouraged to attend vocal workshops or take vocal classes.

PERFORMANCES

You are expected to arrive on time for sound check before each performance. There may be limited time between sound check and performance so come prepared to go on.

You are responsible for adhering to the **DRESS CODE** for each performance. This will be communicated to you by the Choir Manager. The basic attire is composed of black pants or ankle-length black skirt and a long-sleeved, black shirt/top; you are expected to provide these. You also will be given a Choir t-shirt for informal events. Please wear this t-shirt only for performances to avoid excessive fading and wear. The Choir also provides choir robes for use in certain performances. Beyond these options, the Artistic Director may choose to request specific attire which is at your own expense. The Choir will keep such potential expenses to a minimum. NOTE: failure to dress in appropriate performance attire may exclude you from performing.

From time to time the Choir hires photographers, recording engineers and videographers to document rehearsals and performances. **PHOTO RELEASE:** By signing this agreement, you give consent to TCCGC to use your name, voice and likeness in such photos, videos and recordings solely for promotional purposes of the Choir, including on our website, in social media, in television and radio advertising and in print publications.

CHOIR LEADERSHIP

Musical leadership is provided by the Artistic Director and Associate Choir Director. The Choir also has a Leadership Team composed of Choir members. In addition, there are two Choir volunteer positions that oversee the day-to-day operations of the choir, the Choir Liaison and Choir Manager. (job descriptions are in the Choir packet)

HELP TCCGC THRIVE

Choir members are the best community ambassadors for the Choir. In addition to selling tickets, please encourage people to join the Choir, become a patron, or hire the Choir as appropriate. You will be provided brochures, pledge cards, business cards and other promotional materials to aid in this effort.

ANNUAL CONTRIBUTIONS

There are no dues associated with being a Choir member. However, you are highly encouraged to make a voluntary contribution to the TCCGC annual fund campaign according to your level of ability. You will be asked each July to make a pledge.

TICKET SALES

Choir members are encouraged to promote all concerts to family, friends and acquaintances in order to maximize attendance. Each Choir member is expected to sell a minimum of 2 tickets to each ticketed concert. Ticket sales are a major portion of TCCGC’s income, so your enthusiastic efforts are extremely important.

VOLUNTEERING

It takes many hours of work outside of rehearsals to make a season successful. TCCGC is primarily a volunteer organization and you will be expected to help out in some way during the year. From serving on the Choir Leadership Team or a joint Choir/Board Committee to helping with specific events, there are ways to use your experience and skills to move the organization forward. Opportunities are communicated regularly at rehearsals and by email.

YOUR EXPECTATIONS/RIGHTS AS A CHOIR MEMBER

In addition to respect and friendship, you can expect the following as a valued member of the Choir:

- An opportunity to work with extraordinary Gospel artists.
- An opportunity to sing in at least 2 performances during the year.
- An opportunity to sing in at least one community service event.
- Musical development through regular rehearsals and coaching by guest facilitators.
- Annual financial update and report from the Board/staff.

To protect and ensure the comfort of Choir members, the Board of Directors has approved the following policies (in your Choir packet):

- Harassment Prevention Policy
- Scent-free Environment Policy
- TCCGC Donor Bill of Rights
- ADA Accessibility Plan (currently being updated)
- Whistleblower Protection Policy

PLEASE SIGN BELOW TO INDICATE YOU HAVE READ AND AGREE TO THE ABOVE AND TURN IN THIS PORTION OF THE DOCUMENT TO THE CHOIR MANAGER. THANK YOU.

I HAVE READ AND UNDERSTAND THE CHOIR MEMBERSHIP PRACTICES AGREEMENT AND POLICIES MENTIONED WITHIN. I AGREE TO ADHERE TO THESE.

Print your name: _____

Signature

Date