

NEW YORK CITYWIDE WORSHIP

Constitution – **short form**

1. THIS DOCUMENT

- Everyone defers to this document, which provides a framework for wide and long-lived collaboration.

2. WHY CITYWIDE WORSHIP

- The Lord Jesus cares about unity. “The glory that you have given me I have given to them, *that they may be one even as we are one*, I in them and you in me, *that they may become perfectly one*, so that the world may know that you sent me and loved them even as you loved me.”

3. VISION

- We envision the whole New York church coming together a number of times a year to exalt the name of Jesus and pray for the city.
- We believe this will pave the way to a deeper unity that will change New York City.

4. FOUNDATIONS OF UNITY FOR CITYWIDE WORSHIP

- It is critical to focus on the foundational truths that unite us as we gather for a few hours to worship and pray. Those are the uniqueness, deity and lordship of Jesus, and the unique authority of the Holy Scriptures as the inspired Word of God.
- Other doctrines whose passing mention will make this collaboration impossible will be strictly avoided at these evenings.

5. WHAT CITYWIDE WORSHIP IS AND WHAT IT IS NOT

- Citywide Worship is:
 - a gathering of churches, NOT a gathering of individuals
 - a collaborative effort of those churches, NOT a body to itself.
 - a celebration, and NOT the ongoing work that is carried on by churches

Citywide itself is almost nothing; the churches are everything.

6. THREATS TO CITYWIDE WORSHIP

- The biggest threat to Citywide Worship is politics.
- Citywide Worship does not minister to the leaders and musicians of the church, but only to the heart of Christ, and to the people of Christ.

7. GOVERNANCE

- Citywide Worship will ultimately be governed by a diverse Citywide Worship Committee that represents the New York church. The Committee will act unanimously. The Committee will be chaired by a representative of Trinity Grace Church.
- The Committee will appoint a Worship Director to run the stage at the event.
- A Worship Oversight body will help the Worship Director build an eclectic experience.
- Trinity Grace Church will remain the caretaker of this vision to the point where the values and guidelines detailed in this document are in use. It is the desire of TGC to do this as soon as possible, and will act as collaboratively as practicality allows.

8. WORSHIP STYLE

- The worship events are to be of the highest quality of presentation without being over-produced.
- Each evening will be based on a script that allows space for the leading of the Holy Spirit.
- The style of worship will be eclectic based on the styles of *current* partner churches.
- The service will have both liturgical and non-liturgical elements, and will at times be emotive and at times unemotive. In an eclectic service such as this three things must continually be stressed:

- It is impossible for everyone to feel at home at every moment, though hopefully everyone will feel at home for a good portion of the evening, and let that be enough.
- The glory of these evenings is the diversity, the robustness of the many traditions, the tapestry.
- It is important that we come together; it is NOT important that everything be just the way we like it.

9. GUIDELINES FOR ONSTAGE SPEAKERS

- Citywide Worship is an assembly of many congregations each with their own leader. Every leader is the guest of every other leader.
- All speakers must return a signed copy of these Guidelines.

10. GUIDELINES/STANDARDS FOR MUSICIANS

- All things are done to promote participation rather than spectacle.
- Musicians must be of the highest quality.
- Not many can be onstage. Every church is encouraged to contribute worship leaders, songs and unique instrumentalists.

11. AMMENDING THE CONSTITUTION

- The Committee will circulate the proposed amendment and respond to feedback.

12. HOW TO JOIN CITYWIDE WORSHIP

- Return a signed copy of this document in order to become a Citywide Church Partner.
- Leaders of Citywide Worship must be relationally connected.

13. HOW TO HELP ACCOMPLISH THE MISSION OF CITYWIDE WORSHIP

- Reach out to other churches and invite them to become Citywide Worship Partners.

SIGNATURE

I, _____, am the senior leader of _____ .
 We wish to participate in New York Citywide Worship as a Citywide Worship Partner. We have carefully considered this document and agree to its principles and guidelines.

(signature)

(date)

I in them and you in me, that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that you sent me and loved them even as you loved me.