

Grace Community Church in Overbrook

Musical Worship Style

Policy #01-002

**Approved By the Church Cabinet
July 25, 2006**

Senior Pastor

Date

Chairman of the Congregation

Date

Policy

Musical Worship Style

The leadership of Grace Community Church realizes that music has the potential to enhance or detract from – and even destroy – the corporate worship experience. In an effort help everyone understand our position and practice, we have adopted and published the following statement of policy:

POLICY: We, the leadership of Grace Community Church, uphold the belief that musical praise and worship (in addition to the other elements of corporate worship) serves as an offering to our Lord for the purpose of bringing glory and honor to His name. We also understand that musical praise and worship has the potential to powerfully minister to the people who are offering their adoration to Him. Because we are committed to helping all people find an avenue to worship, we have chosen to provide a “blended” style of musical praise and worship. “Blended” praise and worship simply means that our worship service utilizes a combination of traditional and contemporary elements – in both the type of songs we sing and the instruments that we use. Our congregation is made up of people who have unique personalities, characteristics, preferences and tastes. Our choice of blended worship provides for a variety of expressions and styles to satisfy those differences.

The New Testament supports the use of all type of songs as an expression of worship; we are told in Colossians 3:16 to “. . . sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God.” We believe that both traditional hymns and contemporary choruses have much to offer the body of Christ.

- Many traditional hymns teach deep theological truths in ways we can understand and with melodies we can remember. We want our children to appreciate our heritage and learn from the great hymns of the faith.
- Contemporary choruses communicate a freshness and vitality of our faith. They provide a sense of intimacy with God and powerfully relate Christianity to contemporary culture. Many of the choruses are taken directly from the Scriptures, allowing us to express Biblical adoration, praise and devotion to God in a personal way.

While it is not realistic to expect everyone to completely agree on musical tastes, we believe that it is possible to respect the preferences of others, embracing the admonishment found in Paul’s letter to the Romans (12:10), “Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves.” Our prayer is that we – as a devoted body of believers – will peacefully pursue unity together with the single, common purpose of worshipping our awesome God!