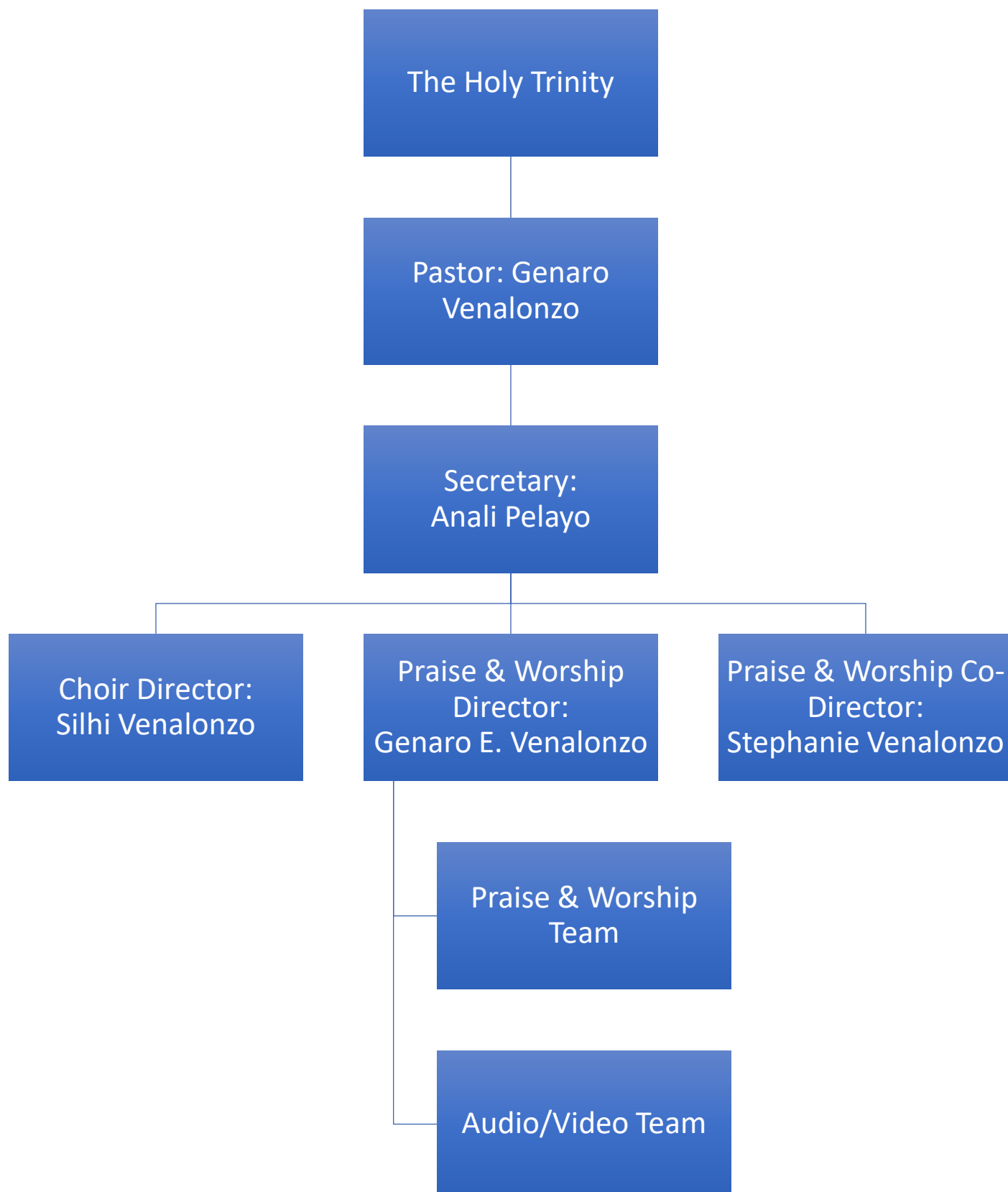




Rules & Regulations
(Praise & Worship Team)

Team Structure



Purpose & Vision

Horeb Community Church strongly sides with the doctrine of the denomination Assemblies of God. These rules are necessary for all Christians who fully choose to not only believe in Christ but follow His word. The purpose for the Praise and Worship Team is to lead the congregation into a worship, that is done not solely through our voices nor instruments but through the presence of the Holy Spirit. We envision a church that is pure, holy, loved, and respected by every pastor, leader, minister, and member. After all the Church is the Bride of Christ and Christ is declared the Head of the Church, His Bride.

“²² Wives, submit yourselves to your own husbands as you do to the Lord. ²³ For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior. ²⁴ Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything. ²⁵ Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her ²⁶ to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, ²⁷ and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless. ²⁸ In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. ²⁹ After all, no one ever hated their own body, but they feed and care for their body, just as Christ does the church— ³⁰ for we are members of his body. ³¹ “For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh.” ³² This is a profound mystery—but I am talking about Christ and the church. ³³ However, each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband.” (Ephesians 5:22-33; NASB1995)

All members of this team shall see their positions as spreading the word of God through songs and it is required that all of them seek the presence of God through prayer. Only through prayer and through the guidance of the Holy Spirit is one able to achieve true worship.

“²⁴ God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.” (John 4:24; NASB1995)

Here are the 16 *Fundamental Truths* from the Assemblies of God. Horeb Community Church sides with these doctrines and they are followed by every minister within the church. You must follow these doctrines!

16 Fundamental Truths

1. The Scriptures Inspired

The Scriptures, both the Old and New Testaments, are verbally inspired of God and are the revelation of God to man, the infallible, authoritative rule of faith and conduct (2 Timothy 3:15-17; 1 Thessalonians 2:13; 2 Peter 1:21).

2. The One True God

The one true God has revealed Himself as the eternally self-existent “I AM”, the Creator of heaven and earth and the Redeemer of mankind. He has further revealed himself as embodying the principles of relationship and association as Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. (Deuteronomy 6:4; Isaiah 43:10,11; Matthew 28:19).

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THE ADORABLE GODHEAD

(a) Terms Defined

The terms trinity and persons, as related to the godhead, while not found in the Scriptures, are words in harmony with Scripture, whereby we may convey to others our immediate understanding of the doctrine of Christ respecting the Being of God, as distinguished from “gods many and lords many.” We therefore may speak with propriety of the Lord our God, who is One Lord, as a Trinity or as one Being of three persons, and still be absolutely scriptural (examples, Matthew 28:19; 2 Corinthians 13:14; John 14:16,17).

(b) Distinction and Relationship in the Godhead

Christ taught a distinction of persons in the godhead which He expressed in specific terms of relationship, as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, but that this distinction and relationship, as to its mode is inscrutable and incomprehensible, because unexplained (Luke 1:35; 1 Corinthians 1:24; Matthew 11:25-27; 28:19; 2 Corinthians 13:14; 1 John 1:3,4).

(c) Unity of the One Being of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit

Accordingly, therefore, there is that in the Father which constitutes Him the Father and not the Son; there is that in the Son which constitutes Him the Son and not the Father; and there is that in the Holy Spirit which constitutes Him the Holy Spirit and not either the Father or the Son. Wherefore, the Father is the Begetter; the Son is the Begotten; and the Holy Spirit is the One proceeding from the Father and the Son. Therefore, because these three persons in the godhead

are in a state of unity, there is but one Lord God Almighty and His name one (John 1:18; 15:26; 17:11,21; Zechariah 14:9)

(d) Identity and Cooperation in the Godhead

The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit are never identical as to person; nor confused as to relation; nor divided in respect to the godhead; nor opposed as to cooperation. The Son is in the Father and the Father is in the Son as to relationship. The Son is with the Father and the Father is with the Son, as to fellowship. The Father is not from the Son, but the Son is from the Father, as to authority. The Holy Spirit is from the Father and the Son proceeding, as to nature, relationship, cooperation, and authority. Hence, no person in the godhead either exists or works separately or independently of the others (John 5:17-30,32,37; 8:17,18).

(e) The Title, Lord Jesus Christ

The appellation Lord Jesus Christ, is a proper name. It is never applied in the New Testament either to the Statement of Fundamental Truths 2/5 Father or to the Holy Spirit. It therefore belongs exclusively to the Son of God (Romans 1:1-3,7; 2 John 3).

(f) The Lord Jesus Christ, God With Us

The Lord Jesus Christ, as to His divine and eternal nature, is the proper and only Begotten of the Father, but as to His human nature, He is the proper Son of Man. He is, therefore, acknowledged to be both God and man; who because He is God and man, is “Immanuel,” God with us (Matthew 1:23; 1 John 4:2,10,14; Revelation 1:13,17).

(g) The Title, Son of God

Since the name Immanuel embraces both God and man, in the one person, our Lord Jesus Christ, it follows that the title Son of God describes His proper deity, and the title Son of Man, His proper humanity. Therefore, the title Son of God belongs to the order of eternity, and the title Son of Man to the order of time (Matthew 1:21-23; 2 John 3; 1 John 3:8; Hebrews 7:3; 1:1-13).

(h) Transgression of the Doctrine of Christ

Wherefore, it is a transgression of the doctrine of Christ to say that Jesus Christ derived the title Son of God solely from the fact of the Incarnation, or because of His relation to the economy of redemption. Therefore, to deny that the Father is a real and eternal Father, and that the Son is a real and eternal Son, is a denial of the distinction and relationship in the Being of God; a denial of the Father and the Son; and a displacement of the truth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh (2 John 9; John 1:1,2,14,18,29,49; 1 John 2:22,23; 4:1-5; Hebrews 12:2).

(i) Exaltation of Jesus Christ as Lord

The Son of God, our Lord Jesus Christ, having by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high, angels and principalities and powers having been made subject unto Him. And having been made both Lord and Christ, He sent the Holy Spirit that we, in the name of Jesus, might bow our knees and confess that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God the Father until the end, when the Son shall become subject to the Father that God may be all in all (Hebrews 1:3; 1 Peter 3:22; Acts 2:32-36; Romans 14:11; 1 Corinthians 15:24-28)

(j) Equal Honor to the Father and to the Son

Wherefore, since the Father has delivered all judgment unto the Son, it is not only the express duty of all in heaven and on earth to bow the knee, but it is an unspeakable joy in the Holy Spirit to ascribe unto the Son all the attributes of deity, and to give Him all the honor and the glory contained in all the names and titles of the godhead except those which express relationship (see paragraphs b, c, and d), and thus honor the Son even as we honor the Father (John 5:22,23; 1 Peter 1:8; Revelation 5:6-14; Philippians 2:8,9; Revelation 7:9,10; 4:8-11).

3. The Deity of the Lord Jesus Christ

The Lord Jesus Christ is the eternal Son of God. The Scriptures declare:

- (a) His virgin birth (Matthew 1:23; Luke 1:31,35)
- (b) His sinless life (Hebrews 7:26; 1 Peter 2:22)
- (c) His miracles (Acts 2:22; 10:38)
- (d) His substitutionary work on the cross (1 Corinthians 15:3; 2 Corinthians 5:21)
- (e) His bodily resurrection from the dead (Matthew 28:6; Luke 24:39; 1 Corinthians 15:4)
- (f) His exaltation to the right hand of God (Acts 1:9,11; 2:33; Philippians 2:9-11; Hebrews 1:3)

4. The Fall of Man

Man was created good and upright; for God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness." However, man by voluntary transgression fell and thereby incurred not only physical death but also spiritual death, which is separation from God (Genesis 1:26,27; 2:17; 3:6; Romans 5:12-19).

5. The Salvation of Man

The only hope of redemption for man is through the shed blood of Jesus Christ the Son of God.

(a) Conditions to Salvation

Salvation is received through repentance toward God and faith toward the Lord Jesus Christ. By the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Ghost, being justified by grace through faith, man becomes an heir of God according to the hope of eternal life (Luke 24:47; John 3:3; Romans 10:13-15; Ephesians 2:8; Titus 2:11; 3:5-7).

(b) The Evidences of Salvation

The inward evidence of salvation is the direct witness of the Spirit (Romans 8:16). The outward evidence to all men is a life of righteousness and true holiness (Ephesians 4:24; Titus 2:12).

6. The Ordinances of the Church

(a) Baptism in Water:

The ordinance of baptism by immersion is commanded in the Scriptures. All who repent and believe on Christ as Saviour and Lord are to be baptized. Thus they declare to the world that they have died with Christ and that they also have been raised with Him to walk in newness of life. (Matthew 28:19; Mark 16:16; Acts 10:47,48; Romans 6:4).

(b) Holy Communion:

The Lord's Supper, consisting of the elements – bread, and the fruit of the vine – are the symbols expressing our sharing the divine nature of our Lord Jesus Christ (2 Peter 1:4); a memorial of His suffering and death (1 Corinthians 11:26); and a prophecy of His second coming (1 Corinthians 11:26); and is enjoined on all believers “till He come!”

7. The Baptism in the Holy Spirit

All believers are entitled to and should ardently expect and earnestly seek the promise of the Father, the baptism in the Holy Spirit and fire, according to the command of our Lord Jesus Christ. This was the normal experience of all in the early Christian church. With it comes the endowment of power for life and service, the bestowment of the gifts and their uses in the work of the ministry (Luke 24:49; Acts 1:4,8; 1 Corinthians 12:1-31). This experience is distinct from and subsequent to the experience of the new birth (Acts 8:12-17; 10:44-46; 11:14-16; 15:7-9). With the baptism in the Holy Spirit come such experiences as an overflowing fullness of the Spirit (John 7:37-39; Acts 4:8), a deepened reverence for God (Acts 2:43; Hebrews 12:28), an intensified consecration to God and dedication to His work (Acts 2:42), and a more active love for Christ, for His Word, and for the lost (Mark 16:20).

8. The Initial Physical Evidence of the Baptism in the Holy Spirit

The baptism of believers in the Holy Spirit is witnessed by the initial physical sign of speaking with other tongues as the Spirit of God gives them utterance (Acts 2:4). The speaking in

tongues in this instance is the same in essence as the gift of tongues (1 Corinthians 12:4-10,28), but different in purpose and use.

9. Sanctification

Sanctification is an act of separation from that which is evil, and of dedication unto God (Romans 12:1,2; 1 Thessalonians 5:23; Hebrews 13:12). Scriptures teach a life of “holiness without which no man shall see the Lord” (Hebrews 12:14). By the power of the Holy Spirit we are able to obey the command: “Be ye Statement of Fundamental Truths 4/5 holy, for I am holy” (1 Peter 1:15,16). Sanctification is realized in the believer by recognizing his identification with Christ in His death and resurrection, and by faith reckoning daily upon the fact of that union, and by offering every faculty continually to the dominion of the Holy Spirit (Romans 6:1-11,13; 8:1,2,13; Galatians 2:20; Philippians 2:12,13; 1 Peter 1:5).

10. The Church and Its Mission

The Church is the body of Christ, the habitation of God through the Spirit, with divine appointments for the fulfillment of her Great Commission. Each believer, born of the Spirit, is an integral part of the general assembly and church of the firstborn, which are written in heaven (Ephesians 1:22,23; 2:22; Hebrews 12:23).

Since God’s purpose concerning man is to seek and to save that which is lost, to be worshiped by man, to build a body of believers in the image of His Son, and to demonstrate His love and compassion for all the world, the priority reason-for-being of the Assemblies of God as part of the Church is:

- a.) To be an agency of God for evangelizing the world (Acts 1:8; Matthew 28:19,20; Mark 16:15,16).
- b.) To be a corporate body in which man may worship God (1 Corinthians 12:13).
- c.) To be a channel of God’s purpose to build a body of saints being perfected in the image of His Son (Ephesians 4:11-16; 1 Corinthians 12:28; 14:12).
- d.) To be a people who demonstrate God’s love and compassion for all the world (Psalms 112:9; Galatians 2:10; 6:10; James 1:27).

The Assemblies of God exists expressly to give continuing emphasis to this reason-for-being in the New Testament apostolic pattern by teaching and encouraging believers to be baptized in the Holy Spirit. This experience:

- a.) Enables them to evangelize in the power of the Spirit with accompanying supernatural signs (Mark 16:15-20; Acts 4:29-31; Hebrews 2:3,4).

b.) Adds a necessary dimension to a worshipful relationship with God (1 Corinthians 2:10-16; 1 Corinthians 12-14).

c.) Enables them to respond to the full working of the Holy Spirit in expression of fruit and gifts and ministries as in New Testament times for the edifying of the body of Christ and care for the poor and needy of the world (Galatians 5:22-26; Matthew 25:37-40; Galatians 6:10; 1 Corinthians 14:12; Ephesians 4:11,12; 1 Corinthians 12:28; Colossians 1:29; Galatians 5:22-26).

11.The Ministry

A divinely called and scripturally ordained ministry has been provided by our Lord for the fourfold purpose of leading the Church in: (1) evangelization of the world (Mark 16:15-20), (2) worship of God (John 4:23,24), (3) building a Body of saints being perfected in the image of His Son (Ephesians 4:11,16), and (4) Meeting human need with ministries of love and compassion (Psalms 112:9; Galatians 2:10; 6:10; James 1:27).

12.Divine Healing

Divine healing is an integral part of the gospel. Deliverance from sickness is provided for in the Atonement, and is the privilege of all believers (Isaiah 53:4,5; Matthew 8:16,17; James 5:14-16).

13.The Blessed Hope

The resurrection of those who have fallen asleep in Christ and their translation together with those who are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord is the imminent and blessed hope of the Church (1 Thessalonians 4:16,17; Romans 8:23; Titus 2:13; 1 Corinthians 15:51,52).

14.The Millennial Reign of Christ

The second coming of Christ includes the rapture of the saints, which is our blessed hope, followed by the visible return of Christ with His saints to reign on the earth for one thousand years (Zechariah 14:5; Matthew 24:27,30; Revelation 1:7; 19:11-14; 20:1-6). This millennial reign will bring the salvation of national Israel (Ezekiel 37:21,22; Zephaniah 3:19,20; Romans 11:26,27) and the establishment of universal peace (Isaiah 11:6-9; Psalm 72:3-8; Micah 4:3,4).

15.The Final Judgement

There will be a final judgment in which the wicked dead will be raised and judged according to their works. Whosoever is not found written in the Book of Life, together with the devil and his angels, the beast and the false prophet, will be consigned to everlasting punishment in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone, which is the second death (Matthew 25:46; Mark 9:43-48; Revelation 19:20; 20:11-15; 21:8).

16. The New Heavens and the New Earth

“We, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness” (2 Peter 3:13; Revelation 21,22).

Statement of Fundamental Truths is the official delineation of the Assemblies of God’s 16 doctrines. These truths are non-negotiable beliefs that all Assemblies of God churches adhere to.

Calling To The Ministry

One of the requirements for all ministers is to have a calling to the ministry and this requirement is necessary for all people who serve the Praise & Worship Team. All members must be called and anointed to the ministry that you are wanting to participate in. This means a change in the lifestyle you may currently live (please refer to the *Worship & Praise (A Lifestyle)* packet for more information). You must become a born-again believer of Christ as even Christians can become lost and ultimately lose their salvation. This lifestyle that you live must be the same lifestyle of a newly converted Christian.

You must worship the name of God regardless of where you are. A Christian lifestyle is not reserved only on Sundays, it is necessary to live every day. As ministers it is important to conduct yourself in such a manner that you should not have to tell others you are a Christian, they should be able to make that judgement from the way you present yourself. If you have difficulty worshiping, praying, and finding a closer experience to Christ at home or in the congregation, do not enter this ministry until you are prepared. It is better to build your relationship with Christ first or you may end up hurting your relationship with Him.

“¹⁷ Only, as the Lord has assigned to each one, as God has called each, in this manner let him walk. And so I direct in all the churches.” (1 Corinthians 7:17; NASB1995)

“⁴ Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself unless it abides in the vine, so neither can you unless you abide in Me. ⁵ I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing.” (John 15:4-5; NASB1995)

“¹⁵ ‘I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot; I wish that you were cold or hot. ¹⁶ So because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of My mouth.’” (Revelation 3:15-16; NASB1995)

“⁹ who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was granted us in Christ Jesus from all eternity, ¹⁰ but now has been revealed by the appearing of our Savior Christ Jesus, who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel,” (2 Timothy 1:9-10; NASB1995)

Talent & Skill

God has blessed all of us with different gifts that we can utilize to spread His word to those who need it the most. It is important that we understand what our gifts are, the importance of our gifts, and how we must use our gifts for Him. Remember, our goal is to lead the congregation into a genuine worship with God, but this can only be done if we prepare ourselves with the talents that He has given us. It is important that our gifts are not utilized in such a way that we become the center of attention on stage. Instead, our gifts must be used to glorify and exalt His name!

“²² Chenaniah, chief of the Levites, was in charge of the singing; he gave instruction in singing because he was skillful.” (1 Chronicles 15:22; NASB1995)

“¹⁰ ‘Let every skillful man among you come, and make all that the Lord has commanded:’ (Exodus 35:10; NASB1995)

“⁵ And there are varieties of ministries, and the same Lord. ⁶ There are varieties of effects, but the same God who works all things in all persons.” (1 Corinthians 12:5-6; NASB1995)

“¹⁰ As each one has received a special gift, employ it in serving one another as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. ¹¹ Whoever speaks, is to do so as one who is speaking the utterances of God; whoever serves is to do so as one who is serving by the strength which God supplies; so that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belongs the glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.” (1 Peter 4:10-11; NASB1995)

Do not forget that Lucifer (referred sometimes as morning star, shining one, and light-bringer) was once an angel who was a musician, and he will do anything to drag your talents & skills so that his name may be glorified. Do not give into the lies that the world tells you, Lucifer is a liar who promises many a multitude of “enticing gifts” but remember that he has always been a jealous individual. Remember why Satan was expurgated from Heaven, he was always wanted to become a god. We must not let him have the opportunity to achieve this goal that he so desperately wants, instead we must focus on who deserves all the praise. That is the Holy Trinity: God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit!

“¹³ You were in Eden, the garden of God; Every precious stone was your covering: The sardius, topaz, and diamond, Beryl, onyx, and jasper, Sapphire, turquoise, and emerald with gold. The workmanship of your timbrels and pipes was prepared for you on the day you were created.” (Ezekiel 28:13; NASB1995)

“⁷ And there was war in heaven, Michael and his angels waging war with the dragon. The dragon and his angels waged war, ⁸ and they were not strong enough, and there was no longer a place found for them in heaven. ⁹ And the great dragon was thrown down, the serpent of old who is called the devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him.” (Revelation 12:7-9; NASB1995)

“⁸ the one who practices sin is of the devil; for the devil has sinned from the beginning. The Son of God appeared for this purpose, to destroy the works of the devil.” (1 John 3:8; NASB1995)

“⁷ Submit therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.” (James 4:7; NASB1995)

Commitment

Commitment (*noun*): An agreement or pledge to do something in the future; something pledged

When we walk with Christ, we are committed to follow His word and seek His grace every single day of our lives. We must create a commitment with Him in order to fulfill the duties He left for us. Remember, we need Christ, but Christ does not need us. All praise, glory, honor, and exaltation go to Christ alone.

Commitment to Serve:

“⁴ You shall follow the Lord your God and fear Him; and you shall keep His commandments, listen to His voice, serve Him, and cling to Him.” (Deuteronomy 13:4; NASB1995)

“¹ Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship. ² And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.” (Romans 12:1-2; NASB1995)

Commitment to Learn:

“⁹ The things you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you.” (Philippians 4:9; NASB1995)

“¹ Whoever loves discipline loves knowledge, but he who hates reproof is stupid.” (Proverbs 12:1; NASB1995)

“²⁹ Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰ For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.” (Matthew 11:29-30; NASB1995)

Commitment to Preparedness:

“³² But of that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but the Father alone. ³³ “Take heed, keep on the alert; for you do not know when the appointed time will come.” (Mark 13:32-33; NASB1995)

“² preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with great patience and instruction. ³ For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but wanting to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires, ⁴ and will turn away their ears from the truth and will turn

aside to myths. ⁵ But you, be sober in all things, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.” (2 Timothy 4:2-5)

“⁴ The sluggard does not plow after the autumn, so he begs during the harvest and has nothing.” (Proverbs 20:4; NASB1995)

Commitment to Musical Expertise:

“³ Sing to Him a new song; Play skillfully with a shout of joy.” (Psalms 33:3; NASB1995)

“⁷ Their number who were trained in singing to the Lord, with their relatives, all who were skillful, was 288.” (1 Chronicles 25:7; NASB1995)

“²⁵ The singers went on, the musicians after them, in the midst of the maidens beating tambourines.” (Psalms 68:25; NASB1995)

Commitment to Testify His Name Outside of Church:

“¹⁸ And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. ¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” (Matthew 28:18-20; NASB1995)

“¹ Be imitators of me, just as I also am of Christ. ² Now I praise you because you remember me in everything and hold firmly to the traditions, just as I delivered them to you.” (1 Corinthians 11:1-2; NASB1995)

“⁷ Behold, He is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see Him, even those who pierced Him; and all the tribes of the earth will mourn over Him. So it is to be. Amen. ⁸ “I am the Alpha and the Omega,” says the Lord God, “who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.” (Revelation 1:7-8; NASB1995)

Rules

Rules are important, without them we become a society that has no direction nor understanding of right versus wrong. The value of rules is shown even in the secular, countries create laws and constitutions for their people to follow for there to be balance. If we do not follow rules, we become like the Israelites of the past who did not care nor follow the laws of God. As a result, they committed horrific acts against those who were innocent because of their ignorance to follow the commandments of God (read the book of Judges, yikes!). The Bible tells us that we must obey our leaders.

“¹⁷ Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they keep watch over your souls as those who will give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with grief, for this would be unprofitable for you.” (Hebrews 13:17; NASB1995)

“⁵ You younger men, likewise, be subject to your elders; and all of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, for God is opposed to the proud, but gives grace to the humble.” (1 Peter 5:5; NASB1995)

Here we will discuss the rules that Pastor Genaro Venalanzo of Horeb Community Church has set for all members of the Praise & Worship Team to follow.

1. Tithes/Offerings/Missions/Firstfruits

- a. It is required for each member to give a tithe of at least 10% of their paycheck as a tithe to the church.
 - i. Why should I tithe?

Because tithing is a demonstration of trusting God with our lives and our finances. It's about giving a bit of your heart to God for the blessing He has given you.

“³⁰ One-tenth of the produce of the land, whether grain from the fields or fruit from the trees, belongs to the Lord and must be set apart to him as holy.” (Leviticus 27:30; NLT)
 - ii. Why 10%?

Because the word tithe in Hebrew means a tenth, hence 10%.
 - iii. Remember that tithing is not a benefit for God as God does not need our money. Tithing is for our benefit because sacrificing a fraction of our income reminds us as Christians to rely on God.
- b. It is recommended for each member to give an offering.
 - i. When should I offer?

You should give an offering to show gratitude for what God has done for you. It shows a grateful heart who wants to give a portion of what God has blessed them with.

“⁶ Now this I say, he who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. ⁷ Each one must do just as he has purposed in his heart, not grudgingly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.” (2 Corinthians 9:6-7)

c. It is suggested for each member to give to missions.

i. What are missions?

Missions are churches/Christian organizations who have ministers who have been called to spread the Gospel to places that have never heard the Word of God. It is our duty from Christ to spread the Gospel to all nations so we must support these missionaries in the challenges they face.

ii. Why do we need missions?

Missions are important because they are completing what Christ has left all of us to do, this is referred to as *The Great Commission*, spreading the Word of God to all parts of the earth. Unfortunately, missions are expensive and require help from many different churches which is why they need our help. Remember, supporting a mission is one of the best things you can do because by supporting a mission you are helping the words of Jesus Christ to be heard by all nations and ultimately you are completing His Great Commission.

d. It is advised for each member to give their firstfruits.

i. What are firstfruits?

Firstfruits date back to Genesis with the story of Cain and Abel.

Symbolically they are an offering given during the time of the first harvest.

ii. Why should I give a firstfruit?

As mentioned, it is an offering of the first harvest. However, the word harvesting means many different things to many different people. For the most part, firstfruits are given when you have received a new job, started the new year, received a tax refund check, etc. It is a way to thank God for the opportunity/blessing He has given you.

iii. You are not obligated to give a firstfruit. This is solely your decision alone and no one should guilt you into doing this. It is simply a demonstration of gratitude to God for giving you plenty.

2. Baptism

- a. It is required that all musicians, singers, sound engineers, video engineers, and any other persons who works in the Praise & Worship Team be baptized.

- b. You cannot officially play on stage if you have not been baptized.
- c. You cannot be an official member if you have not been baptized.
- d. Baptisms from different churches may be accepted by the Pastor and his/her council.
- e. Infant baptisms does not count. Baptism is a decision that is made from free-will and a baby cannot decide freely for themselves.
- f. Remember, that baptism is not necessary for salvation, but it is a step of faith with Christ. How can you speak about having faith in Christ when you have not taken this step of faith with Christ too?
- g. Baptism classes are given through the church. Speak with the Pastor or a leader if you want to be baptized.

3. Relationships/Marriage

- a. As ministers it is important to have loving relationship between your partner and yourself. For this reason, relationships should be under the control of Christ.
- b. Cohabitation or living with your partner without being married is strictly prohibited for all members of the Praise and Worship Team.
“⁴ Marriage is to be held in honor among all, and the marriage bed is to be undefiled; for fornicators and adulterers God will judge.” (Hebrews 13:4; NASB1995)
- c. Adultery is forbidden.
“²⁷ “You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall not commit adultery’; ²⁸ but I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart.” (Matthew 5:27-28)
- d. A sexual relationship before marriage is banned.
“³ For this is the will of God, your sanctification; that is, that you abstain from sexual immorality; ⁴ that each of you know how to ^[b]possess his own ^[c]vessel in sanctification and honor, ⁵ not in lustful passion, like the Gentiles who do not know God;” (1 Thessalonians 4:3-5; NASB1995)
- e. Homosexual relationship is prohibited.
“⁸ But we know that the Law is good, if one uses it lawfully, ⁹ realizing the fact that law is not made for a righteous person, but for those who are lawless and rebellious, for the ungodly and sinners, for the unholy and profane, for those who kill their fathers or mothers, for murderers ¹⁰ and immoral men and homosexuals and kidnappers and liars and perjurers, and whatever else is contrary to sound teaching, ¹¹ according to the glorious gospel of the blessed God, with which I have been entrusted.” (1 Timothy 1:8-11; NASB1995)
- f. Divorce is acceptable if Christian counseling was provided by the pastor and/or a minister.

- g.** Domestic violence of any kind is strictly prohibited and will be reported immediately to authorities.

If you are a victim of domestic violence, please talk to the pastor or church leader, we are here to help. If you do not feel comfortable talking to someone from the church, please call the number listed below. All of us are here to help you!

- i.** National Domestic Violence Hotline: help is available for victims of domestic violence, please call: 1-800-799-7233 or text START to 88788.

- h.** Pedophilia/Child Abuse is not tolerated and will be reported immediately to authorities.

If you are a victim of child abuse, please talk to the pastor or church leader, we are here to help. If you do not feel comfortable talking to someone from the church, please call the numbers listed below. All of us are here to help you!

- i.** Childhelp National Child Abuse Hotline: help is available for child victims of abuse of any kind, please call 1-800-4-A-CHILD (1-800-422-4453).
 - ii.** Rape, Abuse, and Incest National Network (RAINN): 1-800-656-HOPE (1-800-656-4673)
 - iii.** Darkness to Light: 1-866-FOR-LIGHT (1-866-367-5444)
 - iv.** National Human Trafficking Hotline: 1-888-373-7888
 - v.** National Parent Helpline: 1-855-4APARENT (1-855-427-2736)

4. Social Media/Public Presence

- a.** Ethical and professional presence is required in both the public and on social media. Regarding social media do not post:
 - i.** Racism
 - ii.** Anti-Semitism
 - iii.** Homophobic/Transphobic material
 - iv.** Private information of an individual
 - v.** Anything that is illegal
 - vi.** Pornography and/or revenge pornography
 - vii.** Scams
 - viii.** Offensive material
 - ix.** Controversial topics
 - x.** Politics

- b. Remember, if your grandmother were to see it would she be okay with it? If you have the slightest doubt that you should not post, **don't post it!** It is better to play it safe, then having to pay the consequences.

5. Attire

Some churches require all musicians to wear suits and ties every service. Horeb Community Church prides itself in having a more lenient dress code. However, that does not mean you should dress however you see fit. Afterall, we want to look our best when we come to church because we are in the house of the Lord. Here are some tips to dress for success.

- a. Men **should** wear polo shirts, collared shirts, T-shirts (no distracting logos), long-sleeved shirts, jeans (no holes or distracting designs), slacks, office wear, and clean shoes (preferably those that do not draw so much attention).
- b. Women **should** wear collared blouses with sleeves, knee-length/long dress with sleeves, knee-length/long skirts, neckline tops with sleeves, polo shirts, collared shirts, t-shirts (no distracting logos), jeans (no holes or distracting designs), slacks, office wear, and clean shoes (preferably those that do not draw so much attention).
- c. Men **should not** wear slippers or sandals, shorts (of any kind), ripped jeans, hats (of any kind), anything without sleeves (such as a sando), pants worn below the waist, and no earrings.
- d. Women **should not** wear spaghetti straps, tube, tank tops, sleeveless necklines, plunging necklines, racerbacks, barebacks, short skirts, hanging tops, shorts (of any kind), low-waist pants, ripped jeans, slippers or sandals, hats (of any kind), anything without sleeves.
- e. There will be events where you will need to dress a certain matter. For example, we may have an outdoor event in summer and exceptions to these rules may apply. But first consult your leader before deciding on what to wear.
- f. The best advice that can be given is to look at your attire in the mirror and jump, crouch, and bend. If you believe your outfit may be inappropriate, it best to change before coming to church. Remember, if your grandmother were to see the way you are dressed, **would she approve it?**

“¹⁹ Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own? ²⁰ For you have been bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body.” (1 Corinthians 6:19-20; NASB1995)

6. Attendance & Punctuality

- a. All members of the worship team shall be on time for every practice, service, and special event.

- b. Every member must participate in prayer night every Tuesday at 7:00 PM. There may be occasions when practice is cancelled, but prayer night will still occur, and your participation is required. If you are unable to attend, it is your responsibility to contact one of your worship leaders.
- c. All members shall participate in Thursday night teachings at the church at 6:15 pm.
- d. Prayer vigils will arrive from time to time and it is required that all members of the Praise & Worship Team participate. Your worship leader will notify you of prayer vigils ahead of time.
- e. Failure to arrive on time will result in punishments given to the person who failed to be punctual.
- f. If you will be late, it your duty to text or call your worship leader and notify them that you will be late.
“⁴⁰ But all things must be done properly and in an orderly manner.” (1 Corinthians 14:40; NASB1995)

7. Attitude

First impressions are important, so it is wise of us to make a great first impression on strangers we meet. One of the first people see is our facial expression and attitude. Therefore, it is important that we have an attitude that reflects the heart of Christ.

- a. Come to every practice/service/special event with your best attitude. You are on stage and everyone can see your expression, they will see all of you as examples of a life to live.
- b. Be ready to make mistakes and to learn from others.
- c. If you find it necessary to not perform because of your attitude or feelings, it is best to not worship on stage. Speak with your worship leader if this happens.
- d. Do not worship in anger, hatred, or sadness. God does not appreciate false worship that is done in His house.
- e. If you have an issue with a member of the team, work it out with them and come back up on the stage. If you cannot resolve your issue, please speak with your worship leader so that they can help you in coming to a resolution.
- f. If you are going through depression, we empathize with you and we are here for you. If you are comfortable, speak with the pastor or a leader. If you do not feel comfortable speaking with someone from the church, please contact the number listed below. We are here to help!
 - i. Suicide & Crisis Lifeline: Call or text 988 or visit 988lifeline.org

8. Practice

- a. Practices are held every Tuesday at the church at 7:00 pm.
 - i. Sound engineers are required to show up at 6:30 pm.
 - ii. Musicians are required to show up at 6:30 pm.
 - iii. Singers are required to show up at 7:00 pm.

- b. Dress rehearsals are held every Sunday at the church before service at 4:00 pm.
 - i. Sound engineers are required to show up at 3:30 pm.
 - ii. Musicians are required to show up at 3:30 pm.
 - iii. Singers are required to show up at 4:00 pm.
- c. If you do not show up for practice, you will not play on the stage. Practice is a sacrifice and it would be unfair to place someone on stage who did not arrive to practice while everyone else made the sacrifice to come to practice.
- d. Practice schedules are subject to change, so please plan accordingly if changes are made. It is the duty of your worship leader to notify you of all changes that are made.

9. Communication

- a. All members are required to provide their phone number, email, and home address to the pastor and worship leader.
- b. The worship leader is responsible in creating two text groups one for the Praise & Worship Team and another for the Audio/Visual Team. This will be your main source of staying updated with what the pastor and/or worship leader has in store.
- c. It is required that all singers, musicians, and engineers learn the hand signals that are used most by the singer. Ask your choir director to teach you the hand signals if you do not know them.

10. Music Notes/Lyrics

- a. Lyrics or music notes are necessary for all service and practices. It is important to bring your notes to every practice and service. You can bring them in either of the following ways.
 - i. On a tablet
 - ii. On a laptop
 - iii. On a cell phone. However, it is advised that you invest in a tablet as cell phone should not be in use during practice or service.
 - iv. In a binder
 - v. Or printed individually on paper.
- b. If using an electronic device (i.e., a tablet) please be sure to use the device appropriately (i.e., no games, phone calls, texting, etc.)

11. Cell Phone Usage

- a. Cell phone usage during practice must be kept to a minimum.
- b. During Sunday services cellphones are prohibited from use.
- c. Exceptions apply such as a sick family member, emergency contact, etc. but you must inform your worship leader so that they are aware of this.

12. Instruments

- a. Care of your instruments is necessary. Please understand how to use your instruments and what kind of treatment they need. Remember, the instruments that

you utilize are from the church and these must be respected and treated with extreme care.

- b.** You are allowed to bring your own instrument if you do not want to use the one the church provides. However, you are responsible for the well-being of the instrument, care of the instruments, and the assembly and disassembly of the instrument.

13. Members who are minors

- a.** It is necessary for you to be on your best behavior. Respect of those who are older than you is very important.
 - i.** You must respect your parent(s)/guardian(s).
 - ii.** You must respect your teachers and classmates.
 - iii.** It is required that you have good grades.
- b.** If your school or parent punishes you from a misdeed that you have done. You must also follow your punishment at church.

Punishments & Resolutions

Horeb Community Church is built on the biblical foundation that a parent must instruct their child to their ways that are to the Lord. This is no different for the Worship & Praise Team. There will be times where punishments must be delivered to those who have been warned of their wrongdoings. Still, we want this to not be something that you are afraid of, but rather something to learn and educate yourself from. Therefore, punishments are necessary for emotional and spiritual maturity.

It is the duty of the pastor and the worship leader to discuss any punishments that are seen fit for the member of the Worship & Praise Team. Punishments may vary from person to person as not every situation is a clear bad doing but discipline shall always be in store. However, with any punishment you are not allowed to play on stage during service, but you are required to come to practice every week. You must also come to every service/Thursday night class while you are on punishment. Failure to do so will only extend your punishment further. The pastor and/or worship leader will discuss the necessary punishment resulting from your misconduct. It is your responsibility as the person being punished to understand and do what the pastor and/or worship leader are punishing you with.

If you feel as if you are being punished unfairly, you must talk to both your pastor and worship leader and notify them as to why you are appealing your punishment. Have a civil discussion of the reasons you feel as if you are being treated unfairly and both pastor and worship leader will discuss an alternative punishment.

After you have completed your punishment it is required of you to fill out the resolution handout and answer the questions that are given to you. These questions will ask about what you did wrong, what you were punished with, what you learned from your punishment, and how you will improve. This is to make it clear for all parties as to why a punishment was needed and reflect on the necessity of it. After you have finished the handout you are required to give it to your worship leader or pastor so that they have it for their records. You may request a digital copy of your handout at any time.

Probation Period/New Applicants

Everyone is welcomed to join the Praise & Worship Team! However, as discussed before there are rules that must be followed for there to be order within the team. At times, we will receive applicants who genuinely want to serve God with all their heart. But there are times where this isn't the case, to ensure we are having genuine worshippers in our team a probation period is necessary for all new applicants. However, probation periods do not only apply to new applicants, they apply to musicians who are jumping to a new instrument and returning applicants. Although these may not be common, they do happen.

Everyone (except those under special circumstances) must complete a probation period of no longer than three months or twelve weeks, whichever comes last. During this probation period you are required to be in every single practice, dress rehearsal, service, Thursday night lessons, and special event. If you cannot make it, it is your duty to contact your worship leader to notify them. You must bring your instrument, play, and sing in every practice and dress rehearsal, but you cannot be on stage during the Sunday service. However, there will be an occasion where the worship leader and/or pastor will have you play a special song to get a "feel" for worship and praise onstage.

It is the duty of the worship leader to let the person know when their probation period has expired. All persons in probation period are required to take the *rules & regulation* course, this is so that they are all informed of what is required of them. It is required that all members of the worship team take the *rules & regulation* course annually (usually in the beginning of the year), this is so they can be updated on any new information or changes to the rules. This course will always be in-person but under special circumstances they can be done online. A contract will be given to each member of the Praise & Worship team every year, you are required to have a witness present to sign. If you are a minor, it is necessary to have either parent or guardian present with you during the course and signing of the contract.

Failure to sign the contract within a timely matter will result in having your membership in the Praise & Worship Team revoked.

For The Audio/Visual Team

As you have seen throughout the document, there has been a heavy focus on musicians and singers that are onstage. However, the rules that apply to them also apply to you (i.e., practice, communication, attire, attitude, etc.). All of you are important and part of the Praise & Worship Team, the Audio/Visual Team is a subdivision of the Praise & Worship Team. Think a sister team! Without you there are no graphics, no lyrics, no livestreams, no recordings, no sound, and no order. Although you are considered back of house (BOH) you are the people that make it all happen and you have the final say in what goes up. Really all of you are artists without even realizing it!

But because you aren't onstage does not mean you can do whatever you want. Remember, you are under the same rules as the musicians and singers onstage. You must abide by these rules and follow them. I also ask of you to do this:

1. Do not play secular music in church.
2. Do not wear a hat of any kind.
3. Do not wear sunglasses (exception to outside events).
4. Do not wear earrings (men).
5. Do not curse.
6. Do not wear headphones of any kind that are connected to an external device such as a cellphone. You must only use the headphones connected to the church equipment.
7. Respect yourself, others, and the church. Understand your duties!
8. Pay close attention to the service and worship.
9. Be creative in what you do. Creativity is always welcomed!
10. Listen to all criticisms that come your way. It is not to hurt you; it is to help you!
11. Understand the equipment you are using and educate yourself with what you work with.

Thank you for everything all of you do! It really does make a difference in the church to have visuals, technology, and equipment that spread the Gospel through your help. Remember, you have a big responsibility and you matter very much to Horeb Community Church. You are doing the great commission that Christ has left us to do.

“¹⁴ The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. Amen.” (2 Corinthians 13:14; NKJV)