

Education

Moody Bible Institute (Chicago) - BMus in Sacred Music, Classical Guitar Emphasis, 2003 Roosevelt University (Chicago) - MM in Classical Guitar Performance, 2005

Highlights

- Music and Instrumental Background Guitar, Voice (baritone), Bass, Drums, Percussion, Mandolin,
 Piano, Ukulele, Trumpet, Orchestration, Conducting. Fluent in reading music, hymns and chord charts
 as well as playing by ear. Skilled at playing in both traditional and modern styles and genres.
 Gifted at arranging hymns for congregational singing.
- Involved in music ministry leadership for 18 years (including 15 years at North Suburban Evangelical Free Church).
- Developed and implemented a "farm system" for training up and discipling young (student) musicians. Growing the music ministry volunteer numbers with our own people.
- Adjunct Professor at Trinity International University and Moody Bible Institute.
- Wife, Lydia, holds an MM in Piano Performance from DePaul University and a BMus from Moody Bible Institute. She has been serving the Church as a pianist, flutist, and Children's Choir Director for 26 years and alongside Robbie in their 14 years of marriage.
- Family Theo (12), Nancy (6), Raven (6), and Clark (3).

More Candidate Info

Spiritual Journey

I grew up with strong Christian parents in a family of 6 kids. I am the youngest, but only by 15 minutes because I have a twin sister, Cindy. My Dad was a deacon at our church and was even the song leader at church for a short period of time on Sunday mornings. My Mom was the church pianist/organist. I came to faith in the first grade. I often heard faithful Sunday School teachers, Awana teachers, kids choir directors and VBS teachers share the gospel with us, and I heard it and knew it well, but it wasn't until I heard it again on a particular Wednesday night at Awana that the Spirit grabbed a hold of my heart. The teacher shared the gospel, invited us to come forward, but I was too shy to do it. Nevertheless, I went home, went upstairs to my bedroom, kneeled down before God, confessed my sins and my need for a Savior, and believed with my whole heart in Jesus to be my Lord and Messiah to save me and free me from sin and reconcile me to God the Father (although I probably didn't know it in exactly those terms at the time!).

Call to Worship Ministry

It was while I was a junior at Moody studying Sacred Music that I felt called to be a Worship Arts Pastor. I was able to have my internship at my home church in Indiana my senior year, and I really loved it. I started leading the corporate (musical) worship for Sunday evening services in 2003. I think that we all have things in our life that we are passionate about, particular gifts with which we are naturally inclined to go "all in." For me, I found that I go all in when it comes to leading singing the word of Christ (the Gospel) with His bride (the Church). I strive for the music to be done excellently, beautifully, and I want the music to simply accompany the sound of God's children singing the beautiful truth of who God is and what He has done. I've always thought that I want to offer up the best "musical offering" to the Lord that I can, and enable others to do the same. I want to sing great prayers and testimonies with great thanksgiving before the Lord. I'm passionate about telling the story of the Gospel every week through songs, scriptures, prayers, liturgical readings, and through the sacraments.

Vision for Worship

Worship is our response to who God is, what He has told us in His Word, and what He's done. Worship is certainly beyond music on Sunday mornings. Worship is our life-response to the good news that saves us, redeems us from our slavery to sin and reconciles us to God (Romans 12). It has been my practice to use blended worship that captures the vertical and horizontal elements of corporate worship.

We look forward to Robbie leading worship on Sunday, October 25

Go to the pastoral search webpage for up-to-date info on this process!

vcgurnee.org/pastoralsearch

Please send questions and feedback to the elders by Monday, October 26 - elders1@vcqurnee.org.