

## Worship Ministries of the Christian Reformed Church

### Endorsed Coaches



#### Joy Engelsman

As a preacher, pianist, event planner, and theologian, Joy explores worship from varied and unique angles. One Elder said of her worship-leading, "Joy breathes life into worship." Joy is an ordained minister in the CRCNA, has blogged and written articles on worship and brings more than 35 years of experience and training to the role of Worship Coach including working with congregations of mixed cultures, ages, and faith expressions. She lives in Denver with her husband and teenage daughters.

#### Areas of expertise and experience:

- Blending traditions/styles of liturgy and music. Using the concept of "spider webbing," Joy helps churches find the connections and meanings in new and diverse practices.
- "Ligaments:" the value and practice of connecting elements of worship.
- Worship as Dialogue. Embracing historic liturgical forms as opportunities for breathing life into worship.
- Brainstorming. Using methods developed by Disney Imagineers, Joy helps worship planners unearth the best ideas embedded in their hearts and minds.
- One - on - one or small group coaching:
- Preaching Coaching. 20 years of experience with Dynamic Communicators, Inc. and guest professor of preaching at Denver Seminary.
- Piano improvisation to enhance congregational song.
- Coaching worship leaders in public communication and in leading teams.

Contact Information: email: [joy.engelsman@gmail.com](mailto:joy.engelsman@gmail.com); phone: 303-588-8727



#### Adam Perez

Adam Perez is doctoral student in worship at Duke Divinity School and a graduate of Trinity Christian College (B.A. music education), and the Yale Institute of Sacred Music (M.A. religion and the arts). Both a scholar and practitioner, Adam holds together his worship leadership experience and a critical academic lens in a deep commitment to worship that is formative and expressive, reflective and engaging, symbolic and practical.

#### Areas of expertise and experience:

1. Up front leadership: coaching all worship leaders, readers, preachers, and musicians to use their bodies and voices more incarnationally.
2. Spoken worship leadership: what to say and what not to say in using 'in-between' words
- 3.
4. Reframing worship planning: telling the Big Story with little stories every in service.
5. Going beyond 'fill in the blank' worship planning: engaging with worship planning materials like the Worship Sourcebook
6. Choosing/leading congregational song
7. Reflecting theologically and historically about contemporary worship practices: where have we come from and where we going.
8. Taking stock: self-assessing congregational worship in historical and theological perspective

Contact information: email: [adam.adrian.perez@gmail.com](mailto:adam.adrian.perez@gmail.com)



### **Katie Ritsema Roelofs**

Katie Ritsema-Roelofs currently serves as the Minister of Music and Worship at the Washington DC Christian Reformed Church and also as the Worship Coordinator at the Silver Spring Christian Reformed Church. She holds an undergraduate degree in Music and Worship from Calvin College and has completed several years of seminary study at Reformed Theological Seminary in DC. Katie is passionate about worship planning/leading that is Biblically and theologically sound, thematic to the text, and gets to the heart of the intersection of faith and calling. She has experience in a wide range of musical styles from modern contemporary to classic hymnody, also including choral repertoire. Katie believes that our weekly worship should be the corporate work of God's people, the pastoral work of caring for one another and the communal work of lifting up our many voices in praise to our one God.

#### **Areas of Expertise/Experience:**

- Worship planning
- Blending traditions/styles of liturgy and music
- Worship leading
- The Sacraments

Contact Information: email: [katie.roelofs@gmail.com](mailto:katie.roelofs@gmail.com)



### **Greg Scheer**

Greg Scheer ([www.gregscheer.com](http://www.gregscheer.com)) is a composer, author, speaker, and a music associate at the Calvin Institute of Christian Worship. His writings include *The Art of Worship: A Musician's Guide to Leading Modern Worship* (Baker Books, 2006), *Essential Worship: A Handbook for Leaders* (Baker Books, 2016) and contributions to *The Hymn, Worship Leader*, and *New Songs of Celebration Render* (ed C. Michael Hawn, GIA 2013). His work has been translated into eleven languages.

#### **Areas of Expertise and Experience:**

- Using the Psalms in worship
- Music of the global church - teaching and using in worship
- Worship leading
- Working with worship teams/musicians/instruments
- Composing - writing music for worship

Contact Information: email: [Greg@gregscheer.com](mailto:Greg@gregscheer.com)



### **Ruth Ann Schuringa**

Ruth Ann Schuringa graduated from Redeemer University College in 1989 with a BA in Music, piano major. She went on to Calvin College to study worship and music [conducting, organ, voice] and has attended more worship conferences than she can count. Involved with worship planning and worship leading for over 20 years, Ruth Ann has been the part-time Worship Director at Immanuel CRC since 2003, where she continues to work with her husband Erick, the lead

Pastor at Immanuel. In the fall of 2015 she began also working as the part-time Worship Ministry Team Leader at CrossPoint CRC. Ruth Ann has led many workshops & seminars over the years in all sorts of worship-related topics: her most rewarding being in worship planning, worship leading, and making music with worship teams. Ruth Ann lives in Brampton, ON.

### Areas of Expertise/Experience:

- **Worship Planning:** The weekly grind? No, the beauty of planning the details of the flow and tone and content of a worship service for your people, in your context, in this series, in this week. Remembering to be both pastoral and challenging.
- **Blending Traditions:** I don't believe in "worship wars" anymore, and I encourage churches to be aware of their own defaults and biases when it comes to worship styles: it's not about you. "Do not think of yourselves more highly than you ought... but think of others as better than yourselves" There is no "magic" formulaic blend; by trial and error you will find the exact right mix for the folks God has placed you with.
- **Worship Leading:** Point to God and his grace, remind folks of why they are there in worship, engage the congregation with honesty, humour, and humility, weaving together the elements of worship into a seamless whole.
- **Working with Worship Teams:** Our role is dual: being musicians, and being worship leaders. We want to be the best musicians we can, working on our skills and team-playing; but also knowing that everything we do is to enable the congregation to sing well and to meet God through praise, prayer, lament, and sacraments. Playing together as a "band" requires us to sometimes not play when planning dynamic music; sharing the space of a song requires humility and being a servant to our task as worship leaders.

Contact Information: email: [ras\\_12@rogers.com](mailto:ras_12@rogers.com)



### Sandra Van Opstal

Sandra Van Opstal is the Executive Pastor at Grace and Peace Community, a CRC church on the west-side of Chicago. Previously, Sandra served through Intervarsity Christian Fellowship in multiple capacities including as Director of Worship for the Urbana Missions Conference, Chicago Urban Program Director, Latino National Leadership Team (LaFe), and Northwestern University Team leader (Multiethnic fellowship). In addition to her ministry experience, Sandra holds a Masters of Divinity from Trinity Evangelical

Divinity School. She has authored *Small Group Leader's Handbook*, *God's Graffiti Devotional*, *The Mission of Worship*, *The Next Worship* and most recently was a contributor to *Still Evangelical? Insiders Reconsider Political, Social, and Theological Meaning*.

### Areas of Expertise and Experience:

- Difference makes a Difference: Developing diverse teams
- Just Worship: Mobilizing for Justice through Worship
- Reconciliation: Re-imagining worship that embodies solidarity, hospitality and mutuality
- Intergenerational Worship: Everyone Contributes
- Reformacostal: Reformed worship can be Spirit-Filled and Expressive
- Contextual Preaching: Understanding location, culture and God's word.

Contact Information: email: [sandrita.vanopstal@gmail.com](mailto:sandrita.vanopstal@gmail.com)

### Chris Walker



Chris has served in worship ministry since 1997, spending the last 8 years as the Director of Worship and Arts at Covenant Life Church in Grand Haven, MI. He graduated with a Bachelor of Music from Cornerstone University and an Master

of Divinity from Western Theological Seminary. He's a candidate for ordination in the CRC in 2018, hoping to continue as a Pastor of Worship and Arts in his home church.

**Areas of Expertise/Experience:**

- Worship planning: working with a team of volunteers to plan weekly services; working with multiple modern liturgical forms; leveraging creativity and the arts within our worship gatherings; working with your pastor to plan meaningfully
- Blending traditions/styles of liturgy and music: merging historical liturgical forms with modern worship expressions; hymns and contemporary worship in harmony; arranging hymns for a band; the problems with terms "traditional" and "contemporary"; navigating the diverse streams of contemporary worship
- Worship leading: thinking inclusively and leading hospitably; reading scripture dynamically; allowing Christians of the past to lead us in worship today; leading sacramentally;
- Working with worship team: arranging a band; communication between music leader and sound tech; mentorship ideas for including students; auditions for the sake of inclusion rather than exclusion
- Visual Arts: engaging visual artists in your church; different approaches to using screens / digital media in worship;

Contact Information: email: [cwalker@ghclc.org](mailto:cwalker@ghclc.org)

***Our hope is to continue to expand this list. Know of someone with the gifts and experience to be an endorsed coach? Send us their name or have them email [worship@crcna.org](mailto:worship@crcna.org) to begin the application process.***