

GNC Survey Responses  
**A word about “Hobbyist” musicians  
and the intentions of Good News Church**  
by Drue Warner  
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One of the survey responses included this comment, *“Those who lead worship are more ‘Hobby’ musicians, not those for whom music and worship is their calling.”* I don’t think the person making the comment intended anything negative but was only trying to be helpful, but I thought it was a good opportunity to leverage this comment in order to provide insight and explanation as to how and why we “do church” the way that we do. I hope you’ll find my thoughts below to be an encouragement and a blessing.

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We all want to present our best offering to the Lord, but we know we’re not all that good at really anything we do and we’re ok with that. There is a professionalism in church that we’re actually trying to push back against, because even that can be a distraction (and an idol) of our hearts when it comes to worship.

Obviously, it’s also possible to have musicians and preaching that’s distracting because it’s so bad. :) For us, the sweet spot is to be somewhere right in the middle, where we’re not distracted by how great or how bad the worship and preaching are, but our worship is enhanced because it’s a reflection of who we are as normal, everyday people just bringing our best gifts (as meager as they may be, not fancy, no pretense) and offering them to the Lord.

We are regular people for regular people. It’s one of the reasons we meet in a brewery. We want anyone and everyone to feel like they can walk in and be comfortable. We’re not flashy or fancy, just regular people who love Jesus our neighbors, and one another.

One thing, for sure, about our musicians is that they are very busy people, often putting in 50-60 hours (+ or -) at work, in addition to tending to the needs of their families, but week in and week out, for the past 5 years, they have given of their time, talent, and energy to lead us in worship.

This team is incredibly valuable to our church. They may not be professional musicians, but they put in the time during the week, get here early every Sunday morning, and they are committed to the good of this church and the glory of God. We know that when they can’t be here, we sing a Capella. :) We’re very grateful for the gift they give us on a weekly basis.

In a sense, they ARE hobbyist musicians, but they are also 100% called of God to do what they do. I know way too many situations in which the professional musicians are not only not called, they’re not even Christians. That’s definitely not the case here.

It’s actually our intention for all of our volunteers and leaders to be more in the hobbyist camp because there’s less pretense, more dependence on God, and it communicates the message that God can use any of us who are willing to offer ourselves to Him.