

AGC Profile In Ministry: Mike Haase

"Make a joyful sound to God, all the Earth! Serve with gladness! Come into God's presence with singing." Psalm 100:1

One of the things All God's Children MCC is known most for is excellence in Music Ministry. We have Mike Haase to thank for so much of that. If you ask him what the secret is, he immediately points to the quality and commitment of the team (the ENTIRE Music Ministry). Mike says, "Music is the medium through which the soul and spirit reach out to God in worship and praise." He is committed to building and expanding a team that understands and embraces its role in praise, worship, and devotion. They help worshippers center their thoughts on God.



While he constantly points back to his team, he admits that his journey to All God's Children was an intensely personal one. He first attended in March 2002, and MCC's founder, Rev. Elder Troy Perry, was the guest preacher. "I was hooked," he admits. All God's Children means so much to him. He found the church at a very low point in his life. Being a fully inclusive church helped him quickly renew his faith and get to a point where he could offer his gifts again. AGC's full embrace and acceptance of him played a big part. He started accompanying the choir less than a month after his first service. A short two years later, he was hired on as the new Minister of Music. The music ministry at AGC is Mike's latest stop on a 20-year journey as a church musician and music leader.

For Mike, excellence in music is a product of hard work, good training, and commitment. He holds undergraduate and graduate degrees in music and music education. He's conducted concert bands, Jazz and other ensembles, and a high school marching band. A music educator, Mike wrote two intense music theory workbooks still used in many schools today. His work extends beyond Minnesota. MCC selected him to help develop the music program for the past two General Conferences. What many don't know is that he and the Praise Band came to the rescue of the 2010 General Conference music program when previous performers backed out months before the conference was to begin in Acapulco, Mexico.

Joy in ministry for Mike is seeing the musicians sharing their gifts, seeing them experiencing the Spirit, and being willing to always serve God. He is still wowed by their being chosen for the past two General Conferences. "This truly brings delight, jubilation, and rejoicing to my life," he says with obvious pride and joy. That joy is infectious as demonstrated by the participation of almost the entire Music Ministry in the Chicago General Conference last year. Mike cites Paul's letter to Philemon (1:7) to express his joy: "Your love has given me great joy and encouragement, because you have refreshed the hearts of the saints."

His greatest hope for All God's Children is that we will continue to be a healthy congregation, reaching out and sharing God's abundant love and acceptance with all in the Twin Cities. Mike sees that as the key to unlocking our path to serving in even greater ways, growing stronger as a community, and increasing our worship and programming opportunities.