

Chancel Choir Rules and Procedures

Singing is a wonderful way to be involved in the church, to meet new people, and to develop lasting friendships. It is also a very special way to serve the church through music in worship. This section is a reference to help new, and not so new, members become familiar with the Chancel Choir.

Weekly Rehearsals

Chancel Choir rehearses each Thursday evening from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. This time is important, not only to learn the music, but to grow together as a group, musically, spiritually and socially.

Sunday Morning Worship

The Chancel Choir sings each week for the 11:00 a.m. service. Rehearsal begins 30 minutes before the service. This gives us an opportunity to prepare all of the music used in the service.

Special Events

Every season, the choir presents several seasonal concerts. Since most of these include an instrumental ensemble or orchestra and occasionally guest soloists, an additional Saturday or Sunday afternoon “dress” rehearsal is necessary. These special events and rehearsals are announced well in advance and each singer is encouraged to participate.

Rehearsal and Worship Absence

As with any volunteer choir, perfect attendance would be great, but we do understand that not everyone can be here for every rehearsal or service. If you know you are going to be absent from a rehearsal or worship service, please note your upcoming absence on the sing-out sheets. If you find that you have to be absent at the last minute, please call the church and leave a voice mail message for Kevin, or send him an email. If you should miss two consecutive rehearsals, please see the Director before you sing on Sunday. You may have missed some important instructions or score marking in your absence.

Music and Folders

Each Chancel Choirmember is assigned a folder that will contain all of your music. The folders can be found in the folder rack at the back of the music room. Each slot number corresponds with a folder number. You are welcome to take your music home to study and practice, but please bring it with you to each rehearsal. If you do not have a piece of music, check with the librarians. Please do not borrow music from another folder unless a librarian is notified. Please do not store items other than music in your folders. When you are absent from rehearsal, take the time to copy any score notes and marking from another choir member’s music. During rehearsals, singers are regularly asked to mark their music.

Inactive Members

Choir members who have not attended a rehearsal or worship service for four consecutive weeks will be moved to inactive status. When this occurs, the choir member will be notified that their music folder and robe have been reassigned. A temporary folder of music will be available for them once the inactive singer returns to choir.

Choir Robes

Each singer is assigned a choir robe. The robe may be shared with members of other choirs, such as the handbell choir. If there is a conflict with two people needing the same robe for the same service or performance, please see the wardrobe director. Any robe damage or repair needs should be reported to the wardrobe director.

No Perfume or Cologne

Choir members are asked not to wear perfume, cologne or scented after-shave during rehearsals, worship services and performances. A number of choir members are allergic to these scents which often result in sneezing, coughing and difficulty singing.

Shoes and Accessories

A uniform appearance for the choir is important. Singers are asked to wear dark shoes with their robes for worship and special events. The storage area above the robes is available for shoes that may be left at the church for Sunday morning use. Earrings should be no larger in size than a dime. Singers are asked not to wear flashy hair ornaments or accessories.

Fund Raising Activities

The choir typically has one or more major fund raising activity each year. These have been long-standing traditions with the Chancel Choir and have included concerts at the church. The funds are used for various expenses and projects including our annual scholarship given to a high school senior who has been active in the music and youth programs of the church. Ten percent of the funds raised by the choir are given to the church's general operating fund. Some of the funds are also used for remembrances for choir members and their families during illnesses, emergencies and deaths.

Food and Drink

Chancel Choir members are asked not to bring food and drinks into the music room. Singers are encouraged, however, to bring drinking water to each rehearsal.

Fellowship Friends

New members will be paired with a fellowship friend to help guide them through their first few months with the choir. This person is there to help you get to know the "routine," find your music, find your way around the music room, march to the chancel, and generally be your friend.

Weather Conditions

In case of bad weather and the need to cancel a rehearsal, choir members will be notified by email and notices posted on the choir's website.

Social Activities

The Chancel Choir is well known for its parties and social events. A month party is held following the first rehearsal each month where birthdays and anniversaries are recognized. Each week after rehearsal a group of singers goes to a nearby restaurant for food and drink. Check with the director to find out where a group may be going. Each year the choir hosts several season parties including a Fall Kick-off party, Holiday Party and end-of-year party in early summer.

During the summer break, the social director coordinated dinners at local restaurants on Thursday nights. Again, everyone is welcome.

Other activities include a choir tour held every other year in the spring. This weekend get-away is designed to fit into busy work schedules. The choir has toured to Nashville, Chicago, Memphis, Little Rock and Kansas City. Our trips include concerts and worship services as well as fun. Spouses and friends are welcome to be a part of these trips.

An annual choir retreat is held each fall, usually in early October. The weekend event allows the choir to learn music, build community and have fun.