

CLAY WHITTINGTON

Worship Artist

2 October 2025

Covenant Presbyterian Church
1000 East Morehead St.
Charlotte, NC 28204

Dear Search Committee,

I am writing to express my interest in the position of Director of Contemporary Music and Worship Arts at Covenant Presbyterian Church. With over two decades of experience in contemporary worship leadership, I am committed to creating services that are theologically grounded, musically diverse, and culturally responsive. Since 2004, I have consistently designed worship that welcomes participation, honors creativity, and points the congregation toward God's transforming presence.

At Immanuel Presbyterian Church, I lead worship weekly at our Alternative Worship Service from the piano and guitar, guiding an eclectic ensemble of vocalists and instrumentalists. Beyond traditional praise band settings, I have arranged for unconventional ensembles that highlight the gifts of musicians across all ages and skill levels. A hallmark of my ministry is experimentation and inclusion: I integrate genres such as jazz, gospel, folk, and rock into worship and prioritize works by underrepresented composers, always attentive to historical context and local culture. This broadens the congregation's musical vocabulary and reflects worship as a space for justice, reconciliation, and joy.

My work is strengthened by collaboration with pastors and staff in worship planning, creating practice tools and arrangements for ensembles, and mentoring young musicians in leadership roles. I am adept with technologies such as Planning Center, ProPresenter, and Logic, and value experimentation with multimedia and dramatic arts to deepen engagement while remaining faithful to Presbyterian tradition. In addition, I am honored to be presenting my interest session *Come Sunday: Duke Ellington in Worship* at the 2026 Presbyterian Association of Musicians Worship & Music Conference, where I will share my research and vision for integrating diverse musical voices in Presbyterian worship.

Covenant's vision for creativity and collaboration in worship resonates deeply with my own calling. To share more about my background and vision, I have prepared a page specifically for Covenant at www.claywhittingtonmusic.com/covenantpresby (also accessible via the QR code below). I would be delighted to bring my passion for contemporary worship, my proven record of leadership, and my commitment to inclusivity and innovation to your congregation.

Thank you for your consideration. I look forward to the opportunity to discuss how my experience and vision can support and enrich Covenant's worship life.

Sincerely,



William Clayton Whittington, M.M.

