

November 1, 2023

Dear Valley Bible Church Family,

After much prayer and discussion with his wife, Christina, and several meetings with me, **Bobby Swanson, our Interim Worship Director, has made the decision to step away from a paid staff position and return to full-time employment in his previous career.** He has assured me that **he will continue to support the ministry as a volunteer, as he did for many years prior to the interim role** that he filled in 2021, and when our previous worship director vacated the position in 2018.

Six years ago, Deborah Giese, our Worship Ministry Director for 17 years, announced that she and her husband, Shawn, would be leaving California and moving to Virginia. After her departure, the Worship Ministry Leadership Team and the worship leaders (Greg Ormeo, Bobby Swanson, Nick Orosco, Daniel Martinez, and Rebecca Webster) all stepped up in a big way as we continued to move the Worship Ministry forward. Cheryl Miller was instrumental in providing in-office support, handling the operational week-to-week tasks and working with our worship leaders to assure that our weekly lineups met the DNA of Valley and its people.

Two and a half years ago, during the Covid Pandemic, Bobby Swanson's long-time employer shut down the refinery where he had worked for over 20 years, and he expressed his desire to become more involved in Worship Ministry. After meetings and conversations, I presented him with an opportunity to become our Interim Worship Director. He and his wife prayed about it, and he agreed to take on this role until the position was filled.

In 2022, I was charged by the Elder's Counsel to ask Rebecca Webster to consider filling this role. She and her husband Jason, along with the VBC Elders, began to pray about this opportunity. **God's timing is perfect all the time, and I am happy to announce that Rebecca has agreed to take on the position as our new Worship Director.** Please pray for her as she will need your support and prayers going forward.

Thank you to Bobby Swanson for his servant's heart to Worship Ministry and the people of Valley Bible Church! Please pray for him as he pursues new career opportunities. We look forward to many years of serving together with Bobby!

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Larry Howard