

# PROPHETIC TEAM

## VISION

At Sturbridge Worship Center, we cherish the gifts of the Holy Spirit and embrace our calling to be a prophetic people. Our vision for a Sunday gathering is to see a large group of individuals speaking words of prophetic encouragement and life over our church community.

## JOINING THE TEAM

Everyone who is a committed member of Sturbridge Worship Center is welcome to join this team. We have simplified the process of joining, but we do ask that all participants make the following commitments:

- Become an active and dedicated member of Sturbridge Worship Center.
- Serve regularly in a practical, non-microphone area of the church. If you are unsure whether you qualify, please speak with a member of our leadership team.
- Be faithful in tithing financially to Sturbridge Worship Center. This means contributing 10% of your actual income to the church, rather than making occasional donations.
- Maintain a high level of commitment to living a life of purity and holiness before the Lord. This includes sexual purity and a strong resolve to avoid offense, unforgiveness etc.
- Operate only within the invited spaces in the church's life. Anyone who does not honor this commitment will be asked to leave the team and, if necessary, to leave the church.

To join the team, please visit the connection table on a Sunday or email the church office. This group communicates via a Facebook Messenger chat. If you are not yet part of the Facebook group, please request to be added.

## TEAM MEETINGS

We will hold two training sessions per month on Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. in the café. These sessions will be announced in the Facebook group chat. We encourage all team members to attend. If you cannot make every meeting, there is no need to inform us. However, we do ask that you attend at least one meeting every two months. If this is not possible, we will, unfortunately, have to ask you to step down from the team.

## PROPHETIC TEAM

### **OPPORTUNITIES TO MINISTER PROPHETICALLY AT SWC**

As a church, we uphold two values that can sometimes seem to be in tension. First, we believe that everyone can and should prophesy.

“For you can all prophesy one by one, that all may learn and all may be encouraged” (1 Corinthians 14:31,).

Second, we believe that prophecy should be conducted in a healthy, biblical, and accountable manner. Scripture teaches that prophecy should be judged and should never be used to control or manipulate others.

We invite our team members to participate in the following areas:

### **SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP**

Each Sunday, at the end of worship, we invite any team member with a word to share to stand on the line at the right-hand side of the front of the church by 10:30 a.m. We will then give each person an opportunity to share their word with the congregation.

### **PERSONAL PROPHETIC MINISTRY**

At the end of every Sunday service, we have a time of altar ministry. Team members are invited to come forward and pray or minister to those seeking personal ministry, which may include delivering personal prophetic words.

### **HIGHER LEVEL PROPHETIC MINISTRY**

We encourage team members to grow in the prophetic ministry and, over time, reach a point where they can submit words that may be predictive or directive for the church. Before ministering at this level, individuals must establish a record of accuracy with Pastor Graham and our leadership team.

Before sharing any directive, corrective, or predictive word, team members must first submit between five and ten words privately to demonstrate that they are genuinely hearing from God in these areas.

As a church, we do not allow anyone to give prophetic ministry or engage in ministry that could be perceived as prophetic outside of these guidelines. It is not acceptable to prophesy to someone after church, in the parking lot, or in the café. Prophecies should not be delivered by email or text. We believe that prophecy is both glorious and potentially harmful when misused. Our goal is to ensure that all prophetic ministry

## PROPHETIC TEAM

occurs in a public setting, where it can be judged by others, and that those involved are part of a team committed to learning, growth, and correction when necessary.

If anyone steps outside of these guidelines, we will lovingly correct them. A second violation will result in their removal from the team, and a third violation will result in their public removal from the church body.

Practical guidelines for these areas are outlined in the appendix.

If you have any questions, please bring them to Pastor Graham during the Wednesday night training sessions. All questions are welcome and can help you and others grow.

## APPENDIX

### SUNDAY MORNING CORPORATE WORD (AFTER WORSHIP)

If you wish to share a corporate word at the end of worship, please be standing at the front by 10:30 a.m. at the latest, on the blue and grey line. *Once we begin sharing words, please do not come forward to join the line.*

When you are invited to speak:

- Speak loudly and clearly, holding the microphone directly in front of your mouth.
- Share the word simply, beginning with, "I believe the Lord is saying..." Do not provide a backstory.
- Limit your message to 30 to 40 seconds. If the leader says, "Thank you," it is time to conclude.
- Maintain a posture of worship, not preaching or teaching. Keep your focus on the presence of God, with eyes closed and a heart directed toward heaven.
- Share a corporate word of edification, rather than personal messages or church directives.
- If you are uncertain, refrain from sharing and speak to a leader instead.
- Do not use this opportunity to teach or preach.
- Do not speak words of judgment or correction.
- Do not attempt to change the direction of the service or instruct others on what to do.

# PROPHETIC TEAM

## **ALTAR MINISTRY**

Everyone on the prophetic team is welcome to serve on the altar ministry team.

We minister to people at Sturbridge Worship Center by invitation only. It is not acceptable to approach someone and suggest they come forward for ministry. We want individuals to desire ministry of their own accord.

When someone comes forward, the first step is to ask how we can pray for them. If they express a desire for personal prophetic ministry, we are then free to speak into their lives.

When giving personal prophetic words, observe the following guidelines:

- Do not speak words of judgment, criticism, or condemnation.
- Avoid speaking about medical issues (e.g., “God told me to tell you to stop taking your medication”).
- Refrain from giving direction concerning relationships, marriage, or major life decisions. If you are unsure, consult our leadership team first.
- Do not substitute hope for faith when delivering words.
- Aim to leave individuals blessed, encouraged, and drawn closer to Jesus.
- Prophecy only when another person is present, by invitation, and during the designated altar ministry time at the front of the church.
- Encourage people to record the word on their devices if they wish.
- Do not arrange follow-up ministry independently. If further ministry is necessary, ask them to contact the church office.

## **OCCASIONAL MINISTRY DURING THE SERVICE**

There may be occasions when Pastor Graham changes the direction of the service and invites the team to minister over individuals at the front.

Be prepared to respond and respect the boundaries established by the leader. For example, if Pastor Graham requests that each person receive two words, please adhere to that instruction.

## PROPHETIC TEAM

### **DIRECTIVE AND PREDICTIVE WORDS TO THE CHURCH**

We encourage members of our prophetic team to grow and eventually reach the point where they can deliver predictive, corrective, or directive words to the church.

Delivering a word of encouragement on a Sunday morning is comparable to standing in the shallow end of a pool, where it is relatively safe. However, delivering a corrective or directive word is like stepping into the deep end, requiring maturity and experience.

Before sharing a word of this nature, team members must establish a track record with our leadership, demonstrating that they are hearing from God in a specific, accurate, and measurable way. Individuals should submit words privately to Pastor Graham to build credibility.

Once this track record is established, we will be open to sharing these words or incorporating them into leadership decisions.

A challenge within the charismatic movement is the tendency for individuals to deliver “deep-end” words without an established record of accuracy. There is also the risk of sharing vague or generic words while presenting them as precise or predictive.

*If you are uncertain about any of this, please speak to Pastor Graham directly.*

When presenting such a word, Pastor Graham may ask the following questions:

- How will we know if this word is true?
- Can the accuracy of this word be measured in a clear and objective manner?
- How would we recognize if this word was not from the Lord?
- Are there specific elements that exceed natural probability or coincidence?

If anyone submits a word to Graham that is vague, lacks specific points or is generic in nature please do not be offended when we point this out.