



Praise Team Guidelines and Covenant

Statement of Purpose: The worship team exists to edify and encourage the body of Christ within our church. Our goal is to praise and worship God, not just from the stage but also with our lives so that ‘the words of our mouth and the meditations of our hearts are acceptable to the Lord’ (Ps 19:14). Within a service, the goal is to bring the congregation into the presence of God (2Ch 7:1,2; 1Pet 2:5) and set the stage for the preaching of the Word of God with the ultimate goal of changing lives into the image of God (Rom 12:1,2; 2Cor 3:18). Music is a tool for achieving this purpose.

Worship Team Qualifications

The following are a list of criteria indicating the preferred qualifications for a member of the worship team in this church.

The Calling: It is very important that those who participate in the Worship Team feel that they are "called, appointed, and anointed" to the ministry at hand.

Faithfulness: Music ministry is not the right of the talented but the privilege extended to the committed and faithful. We are open to receiving special music from those who are not committed to this body of believers but the regular, ongoing and leadership nature of this ministry requires a strong commitment to the people and leadership of this church. This commitment includes your prayers, regular attendance whether scheduled to sing or not, and tithes/offerings.

Spiritual Maturity: As stated earlier, this is a leadership-type ministry and is ordinarily not a place for new or immature Christians. Everyone in the worship ministry is a leader of worship. Participants must be worshipers on and off the platform. Anyone who has difficulty worshipping at home or in the congregation is not ready to be a leader.

Musical Expertise: The musicians and vocalists need to be skilled enough to follow a service that is led by the Holy Spirit. Musicians and vocalists should have open hearts to receive advice, correction, training, and should be committed to becoming proficiently skilled at their ministry.

Time Commitment: Practice sessions and individual preparation before each meeting and worship service are mandatory. In addition, there will be seminars, special retreats, etc. The worship ministry requires a fairly large time commitment. Involvement in this ministry needs to take high priority in your life next to family and work and it is asked you not frequently disregard this commitment for other events.

Support of Family: It is important that the individual’s immediate family members are willing to accept the necessary time commitment and be a support to the individual.

Ability to Flow with the Team: Some people are very gifted musicians and/or vocalists, but due to circumstances such as vocal range, musical style, etc. do not match the “sound” or “flow” of the team. These individuals are highly encouraged to share their musical gifts with Center and The Living Well in other ways (Chancel Choir in Traditional Worship, special music, programs, etc). Musical proficiency does not automatically make someone a top candidate for the worship team.

The Worship Leader will keep the Senior Pastor informed during the process of integrating new members as well as concerns with current members of the team. Both have the right to make decisions concerning a member or potential member's participation or discontinuation.

Worship Team Guidelines*

This list explains what is expected of the people once they are a part of the church worship ministry team.

New Applicants and Waiting Periods: New applicants to the music team will be required to attend a minimum of six weekly rehearsals before "taking the platform". The purpose of this directive is to ascertain who is genuinely interested in helping lead worship for the glory of God, and who wishes to be in the team for other reasons. In addition, this period allows time for the individual and the rest of the team to gel musically. After such time it will be at the discretion of the Worship Leader as to when the individual will begin singing or playing in the services. Additionally, during this time,

each applicant will be required to read *Extravagant Worship* by Darlene Zschech and *The Heart of Worship* by Matt Redman. An ongoing, accountability relationship with the Worship Team Leader is also required.

Weekly Practice Sessions: Attendance and punctuality are very important factors for being a member of the music team. All team members are required to attend the weekly rehearsals. Accurate timekeeping will assist the goal of the worship team. Poor attendance and punctuality reflect a lack of discipline and respect for the Lord's ministry and their team members' commitment. If it is not possible to make a rehearsal on time, it is considered polite to notify the Worship Leader in advance or as soon as possible. Teri's cell# is 213-9932. Church kitchen# is 789-2223.

Vocalists and musicians are required arrive in enough time to set up their personal equipment and perform initial sound checks prior to the designated start time. After rehearsal, team members are asked to stay and help with tear down if at all possible. Many hands make light work.

Sound engineers and visual equipment operators are important members of the music ministry. Visual equipment operators are asked to arrive early to prepare the computer for use. The sound engineers are also asked to arrive early for set up and help the music team as much as possible and then tear down as necessary afterward. Sound techs and A/V techs must be alert and responsive during rehearsal as well as worship, and should be ready to make adjustments with quickness.

Absence: Songs are chosen with specific musicians in mind. If at any time, a member (including visual equipment operators, sound engineers, etc.) cannot attend a service, rehearsal, etc. please notify the Worship Leader via email or a phone call in advance if at all possible so that proper adjustments can be made. A "sign-out calendar" will be placed out with the weekly music during rehearsals. Teri's email is teri@dtsgraphics.com.

Special Events: The team will be expected to lead worship for seminars and other special retreats and meetings if needed.

Commitment to Musical Growth: We need to work at our instrumental and/or vocal ability to become the very best we can be. This means not only individual practice (including possible lessons) as well as playing with the team. Keep in mind that the team will only be as musically proficient as the individuals that make it up.

Commitment to Spiritual Growth: The essential element in this ministry is our relationship with the Lord. Without a close relationship to the Lord, the worship team will NOT be effective regardless of musical skill. As a leadership ministry, we need to be committed to maturing in Christ. Stagnant spiritual lives mean a stagnant worship team. Lovingly encourage and challenge one another. More than individual expertise, we need to look at our team as not just a collection of separate musicians and singers but as a single unit with a single purpose. Our heart attitude should not be to shine forth our own musical skill but to use that skill to enhance the team as a whole. Worship ministry is a team effort.

The Lifestyle: Participants must be born-again believers of Christ, and their lifestyle must resemble that fact. Should at any time you feel that your personal life is not reflecting what we are about or what Christ would have, it is asked that you voluntarily step down so that His name and work would not be publicly mocked.

Attire: Worship team members are asked to be neat, clean and appropriately dressed for the contemporary service. The congregation should be focusing on the Lord, not our undergarments showing or what lies beneath. Please be modest.

Commitment to Open Communication and Honesty: Lastly, open communication is of vital importance. If at any time a member is confused, discouraged, or unhappy with the way things may be happening at a given time, they are encouraged to speak with the Worship Leader, Senior Pastor or another individual in leadership. We actively stand against the spirit of gossip and wish to honor God and His Word. The only productive way to deal with hurt feelings, resentment, confusion, etc. is to bring it out into the open so that the Lord can work it out.

* It is important to state that these guidelines are open to interpretation due to unusual circumstances, events, etc. These instances will be determined by the leadership of Center United Methodist Church / The Living Well. It is also important to state that these guidelines apply to those who participate in the music ministry on a regular basis, not those who participate in special programs, special music, etc.

I agree to follow these guidelines to the best of my ability and to God's glory.

Signed _____

Date _____

Worship Leader _____

Date _____

Senior Pastor _____

Date _____