

Worship Handbook



FIRST COLONY
CHURCH *of* CHRIST

First Colony Worship Ministry Handbook 2026

Table of Contents

1. Welcome
 2. Mission & Vision
 3. Our Core Values
 4. Team Expectations
 5. Auditions and Onboarding
 6. Rehearsal & Services
 7. Culture & Conduct
 8. FAQs
 9. Tech & Resources
 10. Dress Code
 11. Proper Stage Technique
-

WELCOME

Welcome to the First Colony Worship Ministry! Whether you're a vocalist, instrumentalist, or both, your gifts matter and play a vital role in helping people encounter the presence of God.

This handbook is designed to give clarity and provide direction as we grow in skill and spirit together. Our desire is not just to lead songs, but to lead people into a growing relationship with Jesus through authentic worship that transforms lives. Our goal is to pursue excellence in all we do - for God's glory!

Worship Minister: Chris Lindsey

Producer: Richard Bowling

MISSION & VISION

MISSION: To lead people into a growing relationship with Jesus by creating worship gatherings that invite the church into encountering God together, fostering unity, participation, and deeper devotion to Christ.

VISION: To see the First Colony Church family become a worshipping community where people that are experiencing life's struggles encounter the love of Jesus, and the power of the Spirit, through the gathered praise of God's people.

OUR CORE VALUES

1. **Worship Is a Lifestyle** – Romans 12:1
2. **Our Excellence Honors God** – Colossians 3:23
3. **There is Unity In Diversity** – 1 Corinthians 12
4. **Joy Matters** – Psalm 95:1; 100:2
5. **Humility Over Platform** – Philippians 2:3
6. **We Value Team Over Talent** – Ephesians 4:16
7. **We are Teachable and Coachable** - Proverbs 19:20

TEAM EXPECTATIONS

What we expect from you **SPIRITUALLY:**

- ★ To grow in your faith through Bible study and prayer.
- ★ To attend church regularly and actively participate in the life of the church.
- ★ To pray for the church, the team, the church leadership, and those you lead.

What we expect from you **PERSONALLY:**

- ★ To be teachable, coachable, humble, and committed to unity.
- ★ To be punctual, prepared, and communicative.
- ★ To handle conflict biblically and respectfully.

- ★ To practice, know your parts, and be prepared before Sunday soundcheck.
- ★ To come to rehearsals prepared - Work through music before you come, if at all possible.
- ★ To stay open to feedback and growth.
- ★ To help create an atmosphere of worship, not performance.

AUDITIONS & ONBOARDING

AUDITION PROCESS:

1. Submit the worship ministry application & video audition to the worship minister.
2. In-person interview & live musical assessment with the worship minister & ministry leaders.
3. Discussion & decision made by the worship leadership team.
4. The worship leadership team will reach out to you via email/text to share the results of your audition.

NEW MEMBER TRAINING:

1. Handbook walkthrough.
2. Work with an experienced vocalist/instrumentalist during Wednesday night rehearsals for a few weeks
3. Tech training on in-ear monitors (IEM), mixing in-ears, and mics.
4. Shadow someone for 1–2 services.
5. Spiritual orientation (vision, values, expectations).

REHEARSAL & SERVICES

WEEKLY RHYTHM EXAMPLE:

→ **Planning Center:** Songs for the services are generally posted by Monday.

→ **Rehearsal:**

- Acappella rehearsal is Wednesday evenings from 6:30 - 7:30pm in the Studio. On the first Wednesday of every month, we host a “new music” rehearsal. We encourage all worship team singers to attend this rehearsal to practice through upcoming music.

- Worship band rehearsal begins at 7:15PM in the Worship Center. Band rehearsal will conclude around 8:30PM.

→ **Sunday Call Time & Sound Check:**

- Acappella team - 7:15 AM warm up / soundcheck
- Worship Band - 10:00 AM soundcheck for the instrumental service (9:50 call time for instrumentalists/vocalists to get set up and their IEM's). All band participants (instrumentalist and vocals) are asked to help set up for the instrumental service.

→ **Service Times:** 8:30 AM & 11:00 AM

CULTURE & CONDUCT

We are not just a praise team or a band - **we are a ministry**. We care more about your heart than your talent. We value:

- ❖ Yearly worship ministry retreat (date TBD)
- ❖ Consistency in attending rehearsals
- ❖ Consistency in church attendance
- ❖ Being active in a small group
- ❖ Being a part of Bible study group
- ❖ Please communicate with Chris or a ministry leader if you're struggling spiritually or need a season of rest.

WE CELEBRATE:

"Jesus first" attitude
Consistent preparation
Team commitment
Fun

Servant hearts
Showing up
Encouragement
Grace

WE AVOID:

Gossip or division
Poor attitudes
Over-criticism of self
Worshipping worship more than God

Inconsistent preparation
Unteachable spirits
Over-criticism of others
Needing the spotlight

*****REMEMBER:** What you do off the stage validates you being on it.

FAQ's

Q: Do I need to be a member of First Colony to serve?

A: Yes, or actively pursuing membership.

Q: How often will I serve?

A: Typically 1–3x per month depending on need and your availability.

Q: Can I block out dates?

A: Absolutely. We value healthy rhythms and rest. Please use Planning Center Online to block out any dates.

Q: I'd like to buy inner ears monitors for myself. What do you recommend?

A: Decent ones aren't that expensive and available on Amazon! I recommend the KZ ZST's (around \$20) or the KZ AS10s (between \$50-60). Make sure you get ones WITHOUT a mic.

Q: What if I mess up on stage?

A: You're off the team! Just kidding. Join the club. God has called us to lead worship, not win Dove Awards. We aim for excellence, not perfection.

TECH & RESOURCES

➤ **Planning Center Online** - Planning Center is a great resource for our ministry. Through this web-based app we plan all worship gatherings, schedule vocalist/instrumentalist for worship gatherings, and house all of the song resources such as MP3s, PDFs, and click tracks for instrumental songs. Vocalists and instrumentalists are **highly encouraged** to get used to the Planning Center app to practice on their own. You can find the app in the Apple App Store or Google Play.

➤ **Multitracks** - The worship band utilizes what we call "click tracks". Click tracks consist of a metronome (click) that sets the tempo of the song and helps keep the band together from a tempo perspective. The click track also has "vocal

prompts" letting each musician know when a verse, chorus, or bridge is about to happen within the song. Click tracks are extremely helpful in keeping the band on the same page; however, musicians must practice with them on their own time to ensure they can sing or play confidently with the band. Without proper preparation, it may be difficult to stay aligned during rehearsals or services. Band participants can access Multitracks through the Planning Center app.

➤ **Mic Assignments & IEM Mixing App** - Mic assignments are very simple. For the a cappella service there are mics labeled "Soprano 1 & 2", "Alto 1 & 2", "Tenor 1 & 2", "Bass 1 & 2". For the instrumental service there are mics handed out by Jaime. Chris will let you know which mic you are scheduled to use if you are unsure.

➤ All vocalists (acappella and band) use the MonitorMix mixing app. You can mix yourself OR ask the front of house audio person to adjust your mix for you. There is a pre-mix template that will be set for each section/vocalist each week for vocalists to adjust to their liking. Many of our musicians have their own IEM earphones, but the ministry will supply earphones for those that need them. We also supply each singer with their own tips so we can keep everything clean and sanitized.

DRESS CODE

As a worship team, we serve in a leadership ministry, and with that comes the responsibility to set an example. Our dress code is casual, yet modest and presentable.

We have a dual role as lead worshippers: First, we worship God, and second, we help others worship Him. Because of this, we are called to engage and encourage the church to enter into worship. While we shouldn't and can't be invisible, we should do everything in our power to move attention away from ourselves and onto Jesus. What we wear plays a role in that visual leadership. Our attire should be chosen intentionally, reflecting humility and reverence, so that it brings glory to God rather than drawing attention to us.

As a guiding principle when choosing what to wear, remember this: *If you are unsure* whether something is appropriate, it's probably best not to wear it. At the same time, be mindful that "Sunday Best" culture can unintentionally make our

ministry feel unwelcoming to those who dress differently, or may not have access to expensive clothing. We want our worship ministry to feel welcoming, inviting, and approachable for those sensing a call to serve in our ministry, and for first-time worshippers. **One practical note** (*especially for the ladies*): we use wireless in-ear monitors, so please plan for a place to attach the wireless bodypack. Belts, pockets, or the top of your pants are typically the best options.

Examples of clothing that are acceptable:

Longer dresses/maxi dresses

Pants (but not SUPER tight)

Denim jeans/ Nice colored denim jeans

Khakis or slacks

Modest skirts

Knit, button-up, or polo shirts

Sweaters

T-shirts without logos/writing (Christian logos are permitted)

Examples of clothing that aren't acceptable:

Tank tops, halter tops, muscle shirts & strapless shirts

Crop tops and transparent shirts

Bodysuit/onesie shirt (unless you have a jacket over it)

Excessively worn clothing

Torn clothing/ripped jeans

Exercise pants or sweats

Exposed belly buttons or midriff shorts (including walking shorts)

Shorts of any kind

Excessively short skirts or dresses with high slits up into the thigh area

T-shirts with logos (including sports team merch, unless its Super Bowl Sunday)

Overly wrinkled clothing

Overly tight clothing

Baseball caps...designer hats like fedora, flat cap, newsboy cap are acceptable

REMEMBER: Bring glory to God and not ourselves!

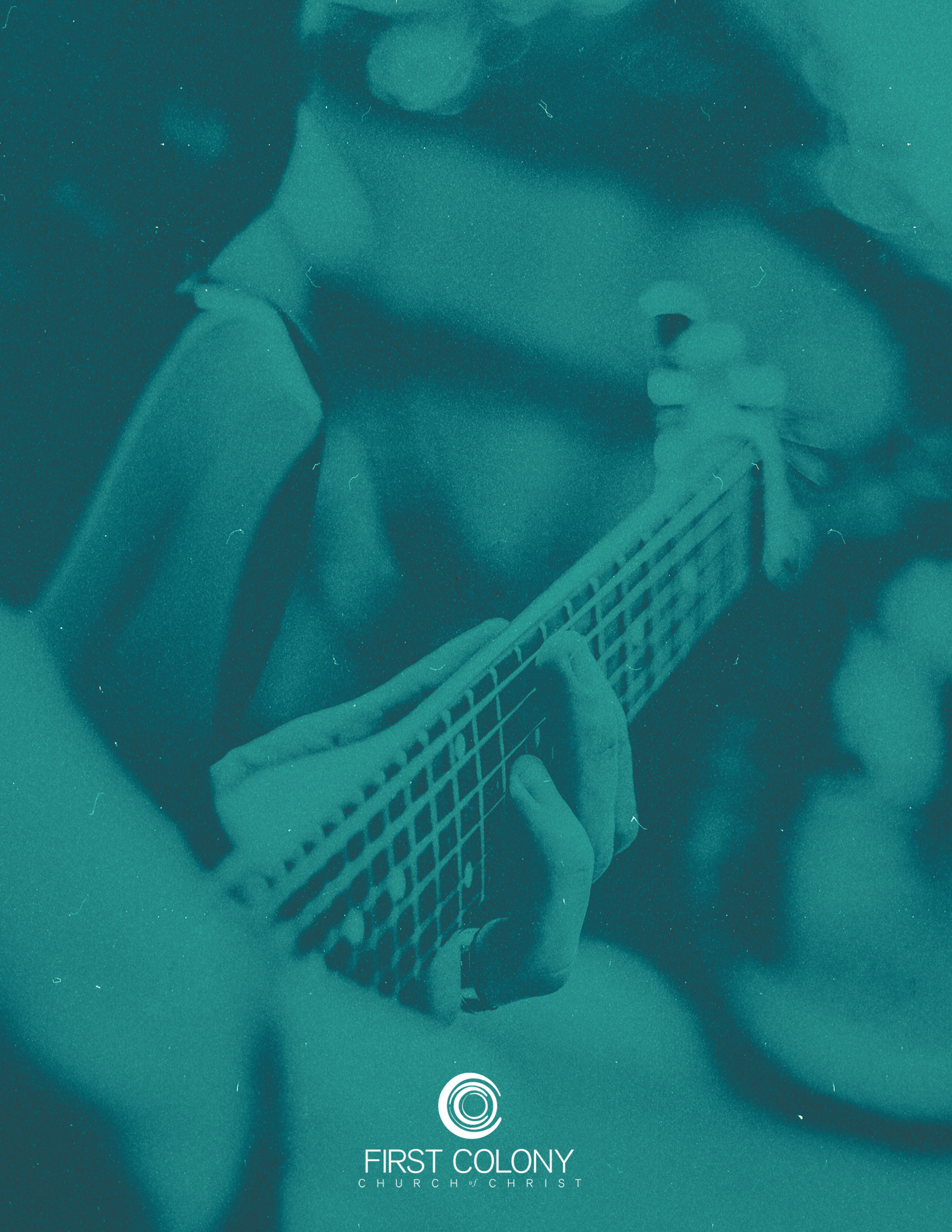
PROPER STAGE TECHNIQUE

We always want to remember that this is **worship**, and **not a performance**. However, worship should not come across as stale, boring, uninviting, tired, and meaningless. Therefore, we should always work toward being professional by looking and sounding the best we possibly can. We strive to be ENGAGING worship leaders and not cold and uninviting from the stage. The way we lead the people will determine other's response. If we look bored, uninviting, and unengaging...the people will look the same.

Here are a few tips for worship leading:

- Worship naturally on stage, but with extra energy. Be yourself, comfortable, and enjoy leading, while remaining engaging and inviting.
- Work on being more expressive (raising hands, clapping, etc.) to set the worship standard for the First Colony family.
- Cultivate a heart posture that focuses on God. Leading from your heart draws others into His presence—be transparent in your worship leading.
- Keep the microphone close to your mouth. We can always turn down the volume, but there is a limit to how loud we can turn the microphone without feedback.
- Engage the church: make eye contact, smile, and help them join you in worship.
- Know your music. How comfortable you are with the music will determine how confident you are on stage. Be fully prepared before Sunday rehearsals.
- COME PREPARED on Sunday! Everyone notices if you aren't prepared and we do not have the time to fix the problem. Chris WILL address it—please avoid that!
- Instrumentalists should know their parts well enough to sing along with the songs.

Worship leading is not just about being on stage—it's about leading people into God's presence with reverence, humility, and joy. You are seen. You are valued. Let's keep growing together in spirit and in truth.



FIRST COLONY
CHURCH of CHRIST