

Worship Team Member Criteria and Guidelines

Psalm 33:1-5

Shout for joy in the Lord, O you righteous! Praise befits the upright.² Give thanks to the Lord with the lyre; make melody to him with the harp of ten strings!³ Sing to him a new song; play skillfully on the strings, with loud shouts.⁴ For the word of the Lord is upright and all his work is done in faithfulness.

⁵ He loves righteousness and justice; the earth is full of the steadfast love of the Lord.

Worship Team Member Criteria

The following is a list of criteria indicating the qualifications for a member of a worship team at Joy Community Fellowship.

1. Committed member of this church – Music ministry is not the right of the talented but a privilege extended to the committed and faithful. The regular, ongoing and leadership nature of this ministry requires a strong commitment to the congregation and leadership of this church. It is required that team members be members of this church.

2. Accountability – The Christian life is not a life of isolation, but a life lived in community. At Joy Community Fellowship, Life Groups are largely where the life of the church takes place. They're one of the major outlets for experiencing what it means to be the Church in the midst of ordinary, everyday life. While we treasure our weekly gathering on Sunday mornings, the vision for church life depicted in the Scriptures seems far more intimate and frequent than could be experienced by simply attending a weekly meeting. For the sake of safeguarding the spiritual health of our worship teams, each member is strongly encouraged to be a member of a lifegroup. If you are in a season of life, a particular job, or a life circumstance that prohibits you from meeting regularly with a lifegroup, your worship leader will discuss with you provisions that ensure you are being spiritually cared for.

3. Worshipper – Worship is a life lived in response to the Gospel, in pursuit of holiness, and in service to Jesus Christ. To qualify for the worship team, one must be a worshipper. Every member, musicians and singers alike, must have a love for worshipping God as a regular feature of their lives.

4. Musical Expertise – The musicians and vocalists need to be skilled enough to follow a service that is led by the Holy Spirit and that serves God's people. We don't want to limit what God will do simply because we can't handle it musically. (NOTE: the standard of musical proficiency may vary as the church grows.) Vocalists are expected to be able to harmonize extemporaneously, or, at the least, with little coaching. Instrumentalists should be very familiar with their instruments so that learning new songs relatively quickly is not an overwhelming challenge or burden.

5. Time Commitment – Practice sessions, preparation before each meeting and ministry are mandatory. In addition, there are seminars, meetings and more. The worship ministry requires a fairly large time commitment. Most essentially a weeknight practice that usually runs around two hours, the Sunday services themselves which include a morning sound check at 8 o'clock, and private practice time throughout the week are required.

6. 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.

7. Flexibility – Some people are very gifted musicians and/vocalists, but for one reason or another (vocal range, musical style, etc.) they have trouble syncing up with the worship team. These individuals are highly encouraged to share their musical gifts in other ways (lifegroup worship, musical specials, etc.) with the body. Musical proficiency does not automatically make someone a candidate for a worship team.

8. Age – worship team members must be at least 16 years of age.

Worship Team Member Guidelines

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

1. Introductory Period – There will ordinarily be a three month introductory period during which the individual will attend practice sessions but will not play/sing with the team during services or special functions. The purpose of this directive is to ascertain who is genuinely interested in helping lead worship for the glory of God. In addition, this period allows time for the individual and the rest of the team to gel musically. (This requirement may be waived at the discretion of the leadership team). These guidelines will be provided at the start of this period, and at the conclusion of this period, the Worship Team Commitment Contract will be signed.

2. Weekly Practice Sessions – All team members scheduled to serve on Sunday are required to attend the practice sessions¹. Whenever team members are scheduled to minister at a service, they are required to be in attendance at all scheduled services that week.

3. Commitment to Being Spiritually Prepared to Lead – Our spiritual preparation has a direct link to our effectiveness as a music ministry team. We need to come ready not only to sing and play music but also to worship the King and minister to His people. The essential element in this ministry (or any other for that matter) is our relationship with the Lord. Without a close relationship to the Lord, the worship team will NOT be effective regardless of musical proficiency.

4. Commitment to Musical Expertise – We need to work at our instrumental and/or vocal ability to become the very best we can be for the glory of God. This means a great deal of individual practice (maybe even 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. From time to time, the leadership may conduct auditions for aspiring team members. Auditions are at the discretion of the leadership team.

5. Commitment to Growing Spiritually – This too is as important on an individual basis as it is with the team. As a leadership ministry, we need to be committed to maturing in Jesus. Stagnant spiritual lives mean a stagnant worship team. Encourage and challenge one another.

¹ In extreme scenarios, the worship leader may excuse a member from practice.

6. Commitment to Flexibility – More than individual expertise, our musical goal needs to be unity within the team. 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 technical skill but to use that skill to enhance the team as a whole. Worship ministry is a team effort.

7. Dress Standard – It is expected that members of the worship team – both men and women – will present themselves in appropriately modest respectful dress, considering they are leading (from an elevated stage) in front of congregated saints of Jesus Christ.

8. Punctuality – This will assist the goal of the worship team. Team members who continually disregard starting times for rehearsals and meeting may be asked to step down from the worship ministry. If it is not possible to make a rehearsal on time, please notify the worship leader in advance.

9. Conflict Resolution – Commit yourself also to addressing all grievances to the leadership team, avoiding backbiting and gossip, pursuing forgiveness and grace motivated reconciliation, and conducting oneself in accord with the Gospel of Jesus Christ.