

# NCC WORSHIP TEAM GUIDELINES

*"It is in the process of being worshipped that God communicates His presence to man." C.S. Lewis*

The worship team (which consists of singers, musicians, and audio/visual/media techs) is a vital and highly visible ministry of Naples Christian Church. Its mission is to create an atmosphere where people focus on, seek and respond to God and his presence. Regardless of their role within the ministry, all members should view their function as a minister of the gospel through music and song, sight and sound. They should view themselves as a leader of worship, and of the church, who has been called by God to their position.

Worship leading is:

- both worshipping God and engaging others into worship
- being someone who worships (We cannot lead where we are not willing to first go ourselves.)
- being someone who worships on and off the platform. (We must value personal worship outside of Sundays.)

Worship leading is NOT:

- simply singing/playing good songs
- a performance for an audience of spectators
- a platform to display our talents, while others worship

The following list are the standards set out by the Worship Ministry of NCC. We ask that team members try to uphold these guidelines as we serve our God and our community, but we understand no one is perfect. All we really ask is that members give God their very best. Period. (For guidelines specific to each role, please see the corresponding documents for musicians, singers, audio/visual techs, & media techs.)

## Worship Team Character Traits

### Committed to Christ:

- Members should have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ and are looking to grow that relationship. (This can occur through prayer, Bible reading, church fellowship, financial giving, etc.)
- Have been obedient to Him in baptism or open to the discussion of baptism

### Committed to NCC:

- Committed attendee of NCC for at least 3 months
- Participated in Pastor Jim's "Intro to NCC" class

### Commitment to a Godly lifestyle:

- Members of this ministry will be in the public eye, which means the congregation will automatically view us as an example of what a Christian should be like. Therefore, it is imperative that we consider our conduct at church and away from church, on and off the stage (this includes what we post on social media). Team members should carefully guard their heart from impurities and pride.
- If you feel called to this ministry, but struggle with personal issues (i.e. alcohol/drug abuse, sexual immorality, prideful attitude, anger/rage problems, gossiping/stirring up strife, unbiblical lifestyle, etc.) please let the leadership know - we are here to help, not to judge.

### Musical/Technical Expertise:

- Must be able to demonstrate technical competence as either a singer, musician or audio/visual/media technician
- Individual is proficient in their craft but gives greater attention to worshipping & blending with others
- For singers/musicians: must be comfortable on stage and expressive in their praise and worship

### Time Commitment:

- Individual can commit to a weekly rehearsal, Sunday pre-service rehearsal and practicing an hour or more at home for the week they are scheduled
- There may also be special events, but prior notification will be given

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### Support of Family:

- Individual's immediate family members are willing to accept the necessary time commitment and be a support to the individual

### Support of Church Leadership:

- All roles must submit a worship team questionnaire, complete an interview/audition and be approved by the church leadership and Worship Director who prayerfully consider each candidate

## Prospective Team Members

**Audition and Trial Period:** Anyone, at any time, who is interested in joining the team is asked to fill out a questionnaire and schedule an interview with the director. During the interview, the director will discuss the guidelines and expectations of the team, and conduct an informal audition. No need to panic - this is simply a brief meeting to get to know you better and to see how you would fit within the team. If offered a position, you'll be asked to sit in on a couple of rehearsals before officially "taking the platform." After an eight-week period, an evaluation will be scheduled to discuss any questions and comments either you or the director may have.

## Expectations of the Team

**Scheduling:** Each week's team is assembled using the online scheduling tool, Planning Center Online. Through email, it distributes roles and any necessary information regarding service order, chord charts, mp3s, etc. All online materials are free but are to be used for personal practice only. When scheduled, the email will request you to accept or decline your role for a specific date. Please promptly respond to all requests. No response will be equivalent to a "decline" and a replacement will be found. Planning Center is also the place to communicate any Sundays you will be unavailable. As soon as you are aware you'll be away or committed to another ministry on a Sunday morning, please block out your Sundays on the calendar. Verbal notice is not acceptable unless your unavailability is discovered after the scheduling email has been sent.

**Rehearsals:** Worship Team members are required to be faithful and punctual in their attendance of rehearsals, services, and other events for which they are scheduled. If you are running late, please notify the director. Rehearsal times (and locations) are as follows:

#### Thursday Evening Rehearsals *(for 2<sup>nd</sup> Service team only)*

Singers	6:30-7:00 PM (Worship Office)
Full band rehearsal	7:00-8:30 PM (Sanctuary)

#### Sunday Pre-service Rehearsals

1 <sup>st</sup> Service Singers, Musicians, A/V Techs	8:15-8:45 AM (Sanctuary)
1 <sup>st</sup> Service Media Tech	8:45-9:00 AM (Soundroom)
2 <sup>nd</sup> Service Singers, Musicians, A/V Techs	10:00-10:45 AM (Sanctuary)
2 <sup>nd</sup> Service Media Tech	10:45-11:00 AM (Soundroom)

**Practice:** Thursday rehearsals and Sunday pre-service are intended to focus on small tweaks, transitions and blend as a whole, therefore the hard work should happen at home. Knowing your place and your part (which require studying the chord charts and listening to the music) are key to making a successful rehearsal. The team is only as strong as its parts - so don't be the weak link! A good practice ethic also frees you to worship fully on Sunday mornings, which is and should be our ultimate goal. You will be working with a director who is committed to excellence and believes in practice. If you have questions during your practice time or if you could use any other tools to ensure a successful practice, please contact the director. Practice is also the time for improving your craft. *"When it stops getting better, it stops being good."* Thanks to the internet and YouTube, the resources are endless (and quite often free).

**Preparedness:** *"Don't let your Saturday night activities impair your Sunday morning abilities."* For rehearsals and services, all those scheduled should be physically, mentally and spiritually prepared. It is not our place as leaders to come physically exhausted, mentally drained, and spiritually dry. Your role is incredibly important and your ability to stay focused is crucial to the plan God has for our church and its people. We don't want to limit what God can do just because we didn't come prepared. Therefore, you'll be expected to come to church well rested, warmed up, "prayed up," and expectant of God's presence. Please also be sure to go over the Sunday schedule before Sunday and make any notes of cues or special moments within the service. The more prepared we are, the better equipped we'll be to meet the Lord, bless Him, serve Him, and minister to His people.

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**Participation:** Although we play a big part of the service, participation in the whole service is still expected of every member. All should be present and attentive to the other parts of the service (pre-service fellowship, offering, the message, communion, etc.) so we can grow spiritually and follow the mission God has called us to as a body of believers. A "greenroom" has been provided so band members can experience the entire service, if it's difficult to focus after the opening set. If you do exit and wish to reenter the sanctuary, please do so through the kitchen and stay in the back. This is so we do not interrupt the message in any way. We should only be noticed again when cued for invitation. Please also note, whether you are scheduled every week or not, weekly church attendance and participation should be a top priority.

**Dress Code:** While we do not have a specific dress code, all team members need to be aware of the appropriate dress and their appearance as they lead worship. We are representing the Lord and our purpose is to draw the congregation's attention to Him and not to ourselves. All are expected to look neat, clean and modest in their appearance. A culturally relevant style is also key. On Sunday, our congregation's dress can range from the super casual to business attire. A good rule of thumb is to dress slightly better than the average of the room, so as to make everyone in the congregation comfortable with what they are wearing. If you have any questions on what would be appropriate attire, please discuss with the Worship Director.

**Communication & Team Work:** 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 Director. Unity and humility are our goal, so the only way to deal with hurt feelings, resentment, confusion, etc. is to bring it out into the open so that the Lord can help us work through it as a team. Members are also expected to encourage and care for the other team members, as well as maintain good relationships.

**Be Creative:** Each member of the team is encouraged to be creative and contribute to the team. Don't be afraid to suggest, comment or ask questions about anything we do. However, please be courteous of other team members. Don't tell others how to do their job while they are doing it. If you have suggestions, wait for a weekly rehearsal or at least after the worship service to discuss it with the director.

It's good to remember that these points are to help us become the best Worship Ministry we can be, but they are in no way a checklist to qualify us into this ministry. This team is made up of the people who have been called, however imperfect, to lead God's people into worship of Him who is perfect. When we truly adopt this calling, we can't help but desire to become the best we can be. If you have any questions regarding anything listed, please don't hesitate to contact me. The only wrong question is the one that is not asked.

In His service,

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