

Worship Team Guidelines

South Side Church of Christ

Welcome

I am so glad that you are interested in serving in the worship ministry team! We are called to live a life of worship and that transcends more than just music, and is more about giving our whole selves to God (Rom 12:1-2). With that being said, music is one great way to express worship, especially in a community of other believers. It is important to give God our best and the best way that I've found to do that is to communicate, be organized and set expectations. This document is a set of guidelines that will help us as a team to make a commitment to give our best!

Embrace the Vision and Mission

SOUTH SIDE VISION STATEMENT: We desire to be a family of believers who lovingly embrace the people of our community and world, desiring to connect them to Jesus Christ through a personal relationship with Him.

SOUTH SIDE MISSION STATEMENT: KNOW CHRIST – GROW IN CHRIST – GO FOR CHRIST

SPIRITUAL EXPECTATIONS:

KNOW

We expect each team member has accepted Jesus as Lord and Savior, has made this commitment public through baptism and has a personal ongoing relationship with Him.

GROW

Each team member is expected to be a member of South Side, regularly attend weekly worship services (not just when scheduled on the team) and to seek God daily through personal Bible study and worship times. In order to LEAD the people of South Side in Worship each week, we all should strive to seek God every day as we worship Him with our lives.

GO

As a follower of Christ, we should want to share Him with those we encounter each day. We expect team members to be an example for Christ in their words and actions. Worship team members are expected to live a lifestyle that is above reproach, avoiding even the appearance of evil. (1 Tim 3). Being a leader, who is up front, adds extra responsibilities because people see us as examples of what a Christian should be like. Therefore, it is imperative that we consider the way we treat each other and carefully guard our hearts from impurities and pride.

General Worship Team Expectations:

RESPECT EACH OTHER

- **Be Punctual** – Let's respect everyone's time and aim to start rehearsals on time. It is understandable that unfortunate circumstances may occasionally occur and require flexibility. Please make an attempt to communicate with me if at all possible if you are running late or unable to make it to rehearsal. If you need to set up your instrument, please do so BEFORE the start of rehearsal

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- **Be Prepared** – Rehearsals are not the time to hear a song the first time. When we rehearse, each team member should be ready to run through the songs, just tweaking things for the group dynamic where necessary. Please give your fellow team mates the courtesy of practicing on your own time so that rehearsals will run as smooth as possible. That means checking Planning Center (<http://www.planningcenteronline.com>) prior to rehearsal and being at least familiar with the music BEFORE rehearsals. Utilize all that Planning Center has to offer as a very valuable resource! Practice with the MP3, using it as a guide to supplement the chord chart in order to determine dynamics, accents, groove, song structure and time signature lines. If you need assistance in practicing, I'm a music teacher and love to share what I might know so please feel free to just ask!
- **Be Present** – Offer our BEST to God with our time commitment as a living sacrifice to God. Mid-Week Rehearsal is a time set aside to fine tune our offering so that we will lead well on Sunday. All team members are expected to be at every rehearsal (Mid-Week and Pre-Service) prior to the Service in which they will lead. If you are unable to attend a rehearsal for any reason, please inform the Worship Director ASAP. If your position is one that has another available team member to fill that position, the goal is to fill it with someone who can be at all rehearsals. If there is not another team member that can fill that position, you may be permitted to participate in the worship service (at the Worship Director's discretion) if you utilize Planning Center to learn the songs, rehearse the songs on your own time and be present for the Pre-Service rehearsal. Any team member unable to attend the Pre-Service Rehearsal will not participate in the worship team that week.
- **Be Humble** – Humbly sharing our passion for Christ through our gifts to bring Him glory and honor. Humility does not equal meekness, so don't be afraid to give God your best, for this is your act of worship to Him! Leading by example, our goal is to encourage the congregation to also give their best to Him!
- **Be Presentable (appearance) -**
 - Modesty & culturally relevant styles are key. (Not sloppy or inappropriate)
 - No overly tight clothing. Women: No short skirts or short dresses (remember you're on a raised stage). No low-cut dresses.
 - No spaghetti straps (without a covering).
 - No revealing clothing (i.e. see-thru material without undershirt)
 - Proper footwear: preferably not your old worn out running shoes.
 - No jewelry that could be distracting (think reflective of stage lights or makes noise when moving)

Internet Access

Team members are expected to be able to receive text messages, have internet access, email and check the Planning Center website on a weekly basis to stay updated on weekly set lists and other planning. Mass communications during the week will be over email and/or text through Planning Center. Please respond as soon as possible to requests to serve. If you are unable to check the website, you will be responsible to check with the Worship Director regarding schedule, set lists and song versions for personal practice prior to team rehearsals.

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Musical Expectations & Tips

Vocalists:

- Sing on pitch and in tempo.
- Sing in a contemporary style: Moderate to minimal vibrato, contemporary vowel enunciations
- Blend with the other vocalists.
- Support your tone. Good posture is a big key here.
- Use facial and physical expressions to outwardly communicate the message of the song.

Drummers:

- Maintain steady tempos and controlled dynamics.
- Know song structure of each (verses to choruses, etc.). Whether that means you use the charts, keep notes or memorize, that is up to you.
- Tastefulness. Give your best (if you have an inner rock star, let it come out when it fits the song), but remember to play for God not people.

Guitarists:

- Be able to read chord charts and learn parts by ear
- Have knowledge of major and minor chords and basic scales
- Control dynamics and maintain consistent tempo
- Know the song style
- Acoustic guitarists: Learn to use a capo when appropriate.
- Electric guitarists: Tailor your tones for the style. Modern worship music uses a lot of ambient sounds especially for cleaner tones (delays, reverbs and shimmers).
- If you are a skilled soloist, I encourage you to give those skills to God as your act of worship. Just play with humility, performing for God not people.

Bassists:

- Be able to read chord charts
- Have knowledge of basic scales
- Learn parts by ear. LISTEN to the recordings
- Good sense of rhythm/groove. The bass needs to be in tight rhythm with the drums.
- Know when to NOT play. Usually dynamics are the driving force. Play more when the song is big and less when it is small.

Piano/Keyboardists:

- Know and use the voices/patches/sounds that are appropriate for the song and styles. In contemporary, these are common patches/sounds: Pianos, Organs, Strings, Pads
 - For Piano, if available, play the sheet music provided, filling with ad libs where necessary. Know and use chord inversions and keyboard voicing for sound variations
 - For Keyboard, be able to read chord charts. You don't always have to play chords. Sometimes playing single note melodies, fills and counterpoint is just the ticket to put a song over the top!

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Tech Team:

- Have the ability to adapt to changing situations (PATIENCE)
- Have the knowledge and skills necessary (or ability to learn) to manage the equipment you will use (computers, software, audio equipment, lighting controls, video equipment)
- Have the willingness to learn new techniques and new equipment
- Be a Team Player (again PATIENCE)
- Make every effort to help the service look and sound it's best to glorify God and reach the people for Christ!

We are a Team

We are here to worship and lead as a TEAM. We should be here for each other through the victories and challenges of life. If you have an issue or concern about any worship team member, first go to the person you have the issue with, if it cannot be resolved in this manner, next come to the worship director and/or Elder over the worship ministry. If the issue is still unresolved, we may choose to involve the pastor, but please Do NOT run to the Pastor first or simply complain behind other people's backs.

It is not fair or Biblical to express criticisms behind the backs of those being criticized (Matthew 18:15-17). So please come to me with your concerns and issues. Please don't assume the negative. Love always hopes for the good in people (I Cor 13). So if we walk in love, we can minimize conflict!

It is God's desire and our desire to see our worship team members living a victorious Christian life, free from bondage. If there are any addictions or issues with which you struggle, please let us know – we are here to help you, not to judge you.

Final Comments:

If you agree to these guidelines and would like to discuss further the opportunity to serve, please go to the website and complete the [Worship Team Interest Form](#).

Worship Director Contact info:

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