

**CBC  
WORSHIP  
TEAM  
HANDBOOK**

## Worship Team Guiding Principles

**Mission Statement:** To authentically worship God in Spirit and in Truth by focusing on God.

The worship ministry exists to facilitate genuine worship in CBC, and we do this by aligning our heart with His and eliminating distractions.

Worship is a conversation with God that extends past the music to every aspect of the worship service and beyond. It is more than “just a service”, it is an active recognition of God’s glory. Singing helps us passionately proclaim who God is, what he’s done, and how we’ve been affected by both. It also helps us remember biblical truth.

*Psalms 147:1*

*Praise the LORD. How good it is to sing praises to our God, how pleasant and fitting to praise him!*

*Psalms 18:49*

*Therefore I will praise you, LORD, among the nations; I will sing the praises of your name.*

### Worship Music Will Be:

- To encourage corporate participation in worship.
- Singable by the congregation.
- A mix of styles -utilizing both hymns and contemporary music.
- Consistent with the doctrine and theology of CBC regardless of author of the song.

### Worship Team

- First and foremost, the worship team is a TEAM.
- The worship team is not a performance group, it is to lead the congregation.
- The main "instruments" on Sunday morning are the congregation voices.
- Preparation for worship happens prior to the Sunday Service, through singing, praying, reading Scripture, so that our singing can be teaching and admonishing one another in wisdom.

*Colossians 3:16*

*Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God.*

## Worship Team Members

The Worship ministry is open for anyone to participate. God has gifted us for the strengthening of His church and the Worship ministry has multiple ways to use these giftings.

The worship team is one of the highly visible ministries of the church. In their personal lives, worship team members should live by the highest standards of moral purity, ethical integrity, corporate unity, and personal charity. Onstage, they should conduct themselves in a spirit of professionalism, reverence and joy.

All Members:

- Pray for the ministry of the worship team.
- Be ready to advise and support the ongoing ministry of the worship team.
- Be vocally positive in every effort of the worship ministry.
- Actively recruit new members for the worship team.
- Address problems and handle situations that may arise in a calm, biblical manner.
- Be ready to assist in fellowships and extra activities.
- Help and disciple other members where needed.
- Be ready to minister to absent or ill worship team members.
- Work with the worship team leader to positively promote the worship ministry throughout the congregation.
- Know how to use planning center.
- Know how to use the equipment you will be using.
- Be prepared and punctual for practice.

The worship team consists of the following areas:

- Vocals
- Band (instruments)
- Sound
- Slides
- Livestream

## **Special Music Guidelines**

“Special Music” is defined as a song played or sung during a worship service as a solo or small group, rather than for the purposes of leading congregational singing.

To maintain the continuity, cohesion, uninterrupted experience and continuous movement of the worship service, the worship team does not incorporate special music into the worship service.

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## Supplementary and Supporting Information

At the absolute core of the CBC worship ministry (and truly every Christian life) is the attribute of humility. True humility as emulated through Christ is the blood that runs through the worship ministry's veins, the very basis of everything that you'll read below, the foundation for every decision, action, and thing we say. Worship is not about any one of us-it is only about God. We must lay waste to our pride, our preference, our wants, our desires, and only seek to glorify God. That must be at the heart of everyone who participates in the CBC worship ministry ... Truly, it should be at the heart of every Christian throughout his/her life.

- Core Mission and values
  - Mission Statement: To authentically worship God in Spirit and in Truth by focusing on God.
    - The worship ministry exists to facilitate this type of worship in CBC.
    - We do that by aligning our heart with His and eliminating distractions.
    - This mission statement comes primarily out of John 4. Jesus states that God desires worshippers who worship in Spirit and in truth (v. 23). These two components are essential to worship.
      - ◇ Spirit - our very heart must be focused on him. To participate in worship without centering our heart on God is to go through the motions of worship-it is to perform a ritual. God does not desire our worship devoid of our heart. Our heart is a primary ingredient to our worship. Thus, where we worship or how we worship (in the legalistic sense) is not important. Worshiping in spirit (or with our heart) is what is important.
      - ◇ Truth- Explained further in the playbook, we must praise God for truth things about Him. Col. 3: 16 connects the Word of Christ dwelling within us to the worship of God. Our worship must uphold the truths of God's Word.
  - Our core concepts of the worship leaders' role in the church are:
    - We exist to glorify God and to humbly praise Him.
    - We're a vital part of the church- worship is essential to the church body.
    - We must be diligent in picking theologically correct songs.
    - We must emphasize preparation for worship prior to the Sunday service and, during the service, singing, praying, reading Scripture, and the teaching and admonishing through the Word.
- Worship
  - Worship is an active recognition of God's glory. It is more than "just a service" - it is our life. Everything we do or say should be in worship of God.
    - The Sunday worship service should then be a culmination of a week of continual individual worship. The service should be something we look forward to-what we strive towards; worshipping as a body of saints together.
  - Worship is a conversation with God that extends past the music to every aspect of the worship service and beyond. The entire service is the culmination of a week of conversation with God in which the individual is participating in fellowship with others. The music, the sermon, the announcements, and every other component on Sunday morning does not exist in separation from each other but should work together as a cohesive unit to bring the heart of the individual before God.
  - Worship is communal. It is a time when people come together not only to glorify God, but also to teach each other about God or reaffirm their beliefs through the words of a song or sermon. Thus, worship is evangelistic.

- It is very important to note that while worship is communal, it is first and foremost individual and authentic. An environment must be created that allows a person to engage God in a manner that is true to who they are in relationship with God and with the church. An individual cannot be expected or forced to worship the exact same way that another individual worships because each person knows God differently and thus has a different relationship with God. A worshipping individual should be allowed to approach this conversation in a way that deepens the relationship while also communally glorifying God.
  - Biblically, we take the components of worship of a gathered church from Acts 2:42-47 and Colossians 3:16.
    - Worshiping God through song, teaching, offering, and gathering together.
    - Fellowship is VERY important to the body but not to the worship service -fellowship should happen throughout the whole week.
- Music
  - Music is one of God's gifts to us to help His Words and their meaning find their way deeper into our souls. Were all the words of our worship merely spoken, they would only touch the surfaces of our world-weary hearts. Thanks be to God for giving us all the gift of music!
  - Worship should be a mix of styles - because styles are not important. Utilizing both hymns and contemporary music is a must - we need to learn and praise from both. Good songs are found in both traditional and contemporary styles-just as there are bad songs found in both styles. No style needs to be disqualified because worship is all about the words and their meaning.
    - One style is not more biblical or unbiblical than another style. At one point, all songs were contemporary and in the future, current songs will be considered traditional.
      - ◇ At one point, Isaac Watts-the "Godfather of English Hymnody"-was vilified for writing hymns instead of using the Psalms for worship. A hero of traditional music was once considered "too contemporary" and heretical.
    - Contemporary music should not be considered as a rejection of "older" songs. Writing and singing new songs demonstrates our belief that God is continually doing a new thing.
      - ◇ A brief survey of the history of church worship reveals that worship has always progressed throughout the years. During the time of Monasticism, the primary worship employed were Gregorian Chants and Monastic revivalism.
      - ◇ The Reformation restored congregational singing. Prior to this, singing was largely given over to professionals who could sing better than congregations with most of the singing done by choirs and clergy.
        - Martin Luther brought music back to the people. When professionals sang all the songs, the songs became difficult to sing. Luther used bar tunes and other known tunes so that the people could once again sing during worship.
      - ◇ Each (new) great movement of the church after the Reformation had leaders writing new music that worshiped God for the new thing He was doing. Pietism had Paul Gerhardt, the Moravians had Ludwig Zinzendorf, The First Great Awakening: Charles Wesley, The Second Great Awakening: John Newton and Horatius Bonner, The Third Great Awakening: Fanny Crosby and Iris Sanke (who put Moody's preaching into song).
        - The Azusa Street Model had three different types of music: singing in the Spirit, new compositions, and traditional hymns.
        - African American communities developed and worshiped through Gospels and Spirituals.

- In the 1960's and 70's, Keith Green, Maranatha Singers, and the Gaithers all contributed to new worship styles.
  - During the Billy Graham Crusades, George Beverly Shea and Cliff Barrows wrote music that was used around the world.
- Thus, even better than "traditional" or "contemporary" songs would be songs that a congregation develops themselves-songs connected with the local body's experience are better than "good songs." There is such an emphasis on "performative" songs that we feel our own songs are lesser. But what mattered most throughout history for any song that crossed any dividing line (cultural, racial, ethnic, geographical, time, etc) was not the style, preference, or who's leading it. What mattered most is that they resonated with the people.
- What is important are the words that we sing and the state of our heart as we sing them. Our guiding metric for choosing worship songs should first be the theological truth that is contained in the words followed by the state of the congregation.
  - The words we sing are very important and should be theologically true.
    - ◇ We are speaking about God. What we say about Him must be true because we are taking words, putting them in people's mouths, and saying, "it is good and right to praise God with these words." This is a responsibility that we should not take lightly.
    - ◇ Music helps connect head and heart. When theological truth or verses from the Bible can be sung, then it can be internalized and taught.
      - Augustine said, "He who sings prays twice," meaning; we pray once with our head and once with our heart.
  - The state of the congregation must also be considered when choosing music. When the congregation, as a collective whole, is going through a season of change, worship can be a time of praising God's faithfulness and reminding each other of this reality. When a tragedy strike a church, songs of lament are appropriate. When there is a season of blessing and joy, we should sing songs of triumph and joy.
    - ◇ Conversely, it would be inappropriate to sing songs of triumph and joy when a tragedy strikes a church. While God is no less good and we are still more than conquerors through Him who loved us, we should be diligent to give voice to the true state of the congregation.
      - Practically (and hypothetically), if the church building burns down, it is better to sing "It is Well with my Soul" than it is to sing "Soul on Fire."
    - ◇ Many times, the church body pushes for "faster" or "more uplifting/joyful" music during worship. They reason something along the lines of, "God is good and we have joy/hope in Christ, so we should always be joyful on Sunday morning."
      - This is a good critique to listen to-it is true that God is good and we have joy/hope in Christ-however, it is fundamentally flawed. Many churches have lost the ability for lament to be a part of our church when we steer away from music that is sorrowful or in a minor key. When the only thing we want to do is be uplifting, we do not give voice to suffering within the church. There needs to be a balance of this as well.
- Worship Team
  - First and foremost, the worship team is a TEAM. We are all a part of the body and we are all gifted differently. The Holy Spirit is guiding and directing each of us and convicting us of truth. We all have skills and abilities that God has equipped us with that He intends to use in this place. We need to work together as a team-valuing teamwork, counsel, and input.

- To do this, we need to be transparent and honest. Seek each other's input. Feel safe to provide honest answers. Be gracious in giving and receiving advice.
- As a team, we carry the burden of intentionally and diligently pursuing authentic worship in the church together. It is too large for any one person to do alone. We must do it together and move forward together.
- Secondly, the worship team is a subset of the church family and we should treat each other as beloved family members. Built into the DNA of the worship ministry structure is an emphasis on ministering to other volunteers and church members, and discipling.
  - At our foundation, we are relational - caring for and loving one another as we pursue the worship of God. The worship ministry is not composed of the practical side of reading notes on a page, writing music, building ProPresenter slides, running a sound board, or cueing lights-it is composed of the people. Worship is evangelizing the lost, teaching and reminding each other about the core truths of the Gospel, ministering to each other in good times and bad, and, most importantly, glorifying God only.
- The worship team is not a performance group.
  - All focus should always be on God and God alone. He alone deserves all glory.
  - Worship ministry begins with the volunteers and leaders who participate in it. While focus on correct notes and rhythms should occur so that these people can lead others in worship, the worship ministry should also be a place for people to learn and grow in relationship to God.
  - The worship team should focus first on relationships and secondly on performance. Both are important, but to avoid falling into a performance group mindset, emphasizing relationships is a must.
- The main "instruments" on Sunday morning are the congregation voices. God seeks the worship of all believers-not just those on stage. The worship team should facilitate worship but never become the object of the worship service.