

NHCC Worship Team Guidelines



Purpose and Vision

"Worship is a divine privilege, and with that privilege comes a great responsibility to show generosity to others in the body of Christ through all we do. We should never leave worship to the pastors and worship leaders. We all need to learn to be excellent, extravagant worshipers, generous in our service to one another and generous in our expression of love toward one another." -Darlene Zschech

It is our belief at New Hampshire Community Church that the Praise & Worship team is a vital part to the ministry of this body of believers. Members should view their function as ministers of the gospel through music and song. Those who serve on the Praise & Worship Team, therefore, should view their role as a calling from God.

Membership on the Praise Team (in any way) is a position of Christian leadership. The primary function, then, is to lead the congregation in true worship under the guidance of the Holy Spirit. "God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship Him in spirit and in truth". (John 4:24) Worshiping should be a lifestyle, not a Sunday only thing!

We emphasize that our purpose and calling is both worshiping God and drawing others into worship and into the very presence of the Living God. There is no calling issued for "performances" and "showmanship" – only true praise and worship. Therefore, members must strive continually through prayer and example to have a pure heart before God and others.

Guidelines and Requirements

Calling

- It is very important for those who participate in the Worship Team to feel that they are “called, appointed, and anointed” to the ministry at hand. It should be a passion that God has given you.
- Participants must be believers of Christ, and their lifestyle must resemble that of a Christian.
- Participants must be worshipers on and off the platform. Anyone who has difficulty worshipping at home or in the congregation may not be ready to lead others in worship.
- Worship leading is truly only done by example. This is important on when leading (Are you entering into worship yourself? Do you look like you're enjoying worship and engaging with God?), as well as off. It is an obligation as worship leaders to get beyond our own self-consciousness, insecurities, and whatever may be hindering us from worshipping and, well... worship!

Talent and Skill

Although we recognize the importance of a pure heart, the musician and vocalists also need to have enough skill so that they can follow the Holy Spirit. Musicians and vocalists should have open hearts to receive advice, correction, training, and should be committed to becoming proficiently skilled at their ministry. One does not need to be a professional musician to worship the Lord, but God honors the discipline of additional practice and preparation.

Commitment

- Praise Team members should be actively involved at NHCC and dedicated to NHCC's vision and to the leadership of its pastors and other leaders. This commitment includes their prayers, regular attendance, and tithes/offerings.
- Those who commit to serving on the praise team are asked to commit to weekly rehearsals and are expected to do their best to make sure other commitments do not interfere with their ability to serve on the Praise Team.
- Commitment to musical expertise... We need to work at our instrumental and/or vocal ability to become the very best we can be. This includes personal practice as well as playing with the team.
- We must bring the best sacrifice possible to the Lord. Becoming familiar with the music makes it easier to worship on Sunday mornings instead of worrying about what comes next. "Failing to prepare is preparing for failure."
- Because we value the importance of family, prospective praise team members should not join the team without the full support of their family.

Attendance and Punctuality

- Attendance and punctuality are very important factors for being a member of the team.
- Weekly rehearsals are required, and members should arrive prepared and ready to work on the designated material.
- Those who are unable to attend rehearsals should not expect to participate in the praise team the following Sunday unless prior arrangements with the worship leader have been made.

Attire

- As leaders, members must dress properly. Although we recognize that God does not judge us by outward appearance (1 Samuel 16:7), we also realize that proper attire adds a level of professionalism to the worship experience. Consequently, members are encouraged to be neat, clean, and appropriately dressed for all services. You also set an example as a Christ follower.
- Inappropriate dress for regular worship services includes sweats, short skirts/shorts, low-cut shirts, etc.

New Applicants and Waiting Periods

- We constantly seek to expand our worship team. Anyone interested in serving is encouraged to set up an appointment with the worship leader(s) to discuss the guidelines and expectations presented in this manual. The prospective praise team member will also have a brief and informal audition at this time.
- New applicants to the music team will be required to attend several rehearsals before “taking the platform.” Additional training may also be required, at the discretion of the leadership.

Schedule Conflicts, Etc.

If at any time, a member (including visual equipment operators, sound engineers, etc.) cannot attend a service, rehearsal, etc. they must notify the worship leader at least one week in advance, if possible, so that proper adjustments can be made. Two weeks notice is preferred if you already confirmed on schedule. If you play an instrument and a scheduling conflict arises, please take it upon yourself to find a replacement. Please inform the worship leader(s) of the change as soon as possible. (This does not apply to last-minute sickness or emergencies. In those instances, let the worship leader know as soon as possible that you will not be able to make it.)

Sound Engineers, Visual Equipment Operators, Etc.



- Sound engineers and visual equipment operators are important members of the music ministry.
- Visual equipment operators are asked to arrive early so they can operate the slides while the praise team rehearses. These members should be attentive at all times during the service and ready to make changes “on the fly” where necessary.
- The sound engineers are also asked to arrive early, and help the music team as much as possible. Sound engineers must be alert and responsive, especially during the worship, and should be ready to make adjustments quickly.

Exceptions/Communication

It is important to state that we intend for the information in this manual to serve as a guideline, but we realize that exceptions will occur. These exceptions will be determined by the leadership. It is also important to state that these guidelines apply to those who participate in the music ministry on a regular basis, not those who participate in special programs, special music, etc. Lastly, 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 leader(s), senior pastor, or other leadership. 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.

Weekly Schedule

Sundays 8:45 a.m. – Arrive for Prayer & Run Through

Sundays 2:00 - 3:30 p.m. – Prayer & Worship Team Practice

NHCC Worship Team Commitment

Please spend a couple days praying and seeking out God with these questions. NHCC takes these commitments seriously and we ask that you do the same.

Calling

Do you feel called to be a leader on the worship team?

_____ Yes _____ No

Commitment

Are you committed to be an active member at NHCC?

_____ Yes _____ No

Are you committed to practicing at 7:00 pm on Thursdays?

_____ Yes _____ No

Are you committed to practice outside of Thursday practice and Sunday morning?

_____ Yes _____ No

Is your family on board with you being a committed member of the worship team?

_____ Yes _____ No

NHCC Worship Team Commitment: I understand the purpose, commitment & guidelines required of me as a member of the Worship Team. I will do my best to honor these with the help of the Lord. If at any time I feel I cannot meet these guidelines I will let the worship leader(s) know.

Signature _____ Date _____