

FBC Covington, LA

Music & Worship Team Guidelines

Our Purpose: *The Music & Worship Ministry of FBC Covington uses music, drama, video and other forms of media to help people know and accept Jesus Christ and through Him experience life-changing relationships by leading worship services that glorify God and spiritually transform the worshipper.*

Worship Team Members include, but are not limited to, vocalists, drama players, instrumentalists, ushers, sound engineers, and visual equipment operators.

“Play & Pray” Period - There will ordinarily be a “Play & Pray” Period of at least 6 weeks up to 6 months during which a new member will attend practice sessions but will not participate with the team in weekend worship services. During this time, the new member and Worship Leadership Team will pray for God’s guidance. It will be at the discretion of the Worship Pastor as to when the individual will begin singing and/or playing in the services.

To help you lead people to worship Jesus Christ, the following guidelines have been established for those leading in worship:

1. A Professing Christian

John 3:7b: “You must be born again.”

- ♪ Worship Team Members must be born-again believers of Christ, and their lifestyle must resemble that of a born-again Christian.

2. Committed member of FBC, Covington

- ♪ To lead in Worship at FBC Covington is not an entitlement because one has talent but is the opportunity of a born-again believer to rehearse the gift God has given them as they effectively live out their life for Jesus Christ. We welcome the opportunity to have, on occasion, worship leadership from those who are not members of this body of believers, but the regular, ongoing, and leadership nature of this ministry requires that a worship leader be a member of FBC, Covington and they have a strong commitment to the people and leadership of this church.

3. A Person who worships Jesus Christ

- ♪ As a member of the worship team you must be a person who worships Jesus Christ. Worship is a matter of the heart and is contagious. True worship from your heart will encourage others to be in the presence of God. While we respect and appreciate a talented musician or singer, that alone is not enough to be a regular member of the worship team. You need to be personally engaged in worship.

Expressions of worship include:

Singing: “Sing praises to God, sing praises; sing praises to our king, sing praises.” Ps. 47:6 (NIV)

“Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord.” Eph. 5:19b (NIV)

Clapping: “Clap your hands, all you nations; shout to God with cries of joy.” Ps. 47:1 (NIV)

Raising hands: “I will praise you as long as I live, and in your name I will lift up my hands.” Ps. 62:4 (NIV)

“Lift up your hands in the sanctuary and praise the Lord.” Ps 134:2 (NIV)

Worshipping on instruments: “Praise Him with the sounding of the trumpet, praise Him with the harp and lyre, praise Him with tambourine and dancing, praise Him with the strings and flute, praise Him with the clash of cymbals, praise Him with resounding cymbals.” Ps. 150:3-5 (NIV)

4. A Leader

Psalm 108:1: “O God, I am faithful to You with all my heart, and You can trust me. I will sing and play music for You with all that I am.”

- ♪ As part of the worship team, your responsibility is to lead together in worship. As a worship leader you have a part in leading others in worship that brings praise and glory to Jesus Christ.
- ♪ Make sure your actions or appearance does not distract or hinder others. As leaders, members must dress properly. Realizing that outward appearance is not judged by God, we affirm that others may be offended by improper attire. “ . . . **If eating meat offends my brother, I will eat no meat**”. Consequently, members are encouraged to be neat, clean, and modestly dressed for all services. Let's go into the Lord's presence with respect. "**All the Levites who were musicians. . . stood on the east side of the altar, dressed in fine linens . . .**". (*2 Chronicles 5:12, NIV*)

Dress modestly: T-shirts, old jeans, sweats, short skirts, shorts, midriffs, tank tops, miniskirts, spaghetti straps, backless tops or any other clothing that is too tight, revealing, or distracting are not considered appropriate for the worship team.

Dress righteously: Avoid items advertising inappropriate products, groups, or attitudes.

5. A Pure Heart

Psalms 51:10-11: “Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me from Your presence or take Your Holy Spirit from me.”

- ♪ As you come to lead worship you need to seek the Lord about your relationship with Him and others, so that you will be useful and have his anointing working through you. A Worship Team member along with every believer needs His anointing because with it lives can be changed and strongholds broken.

6. A person who gives God the Glory

John 3:30: “He must become greater; I must become less.”

- ♪ Our desire should be to draw attention to God, not to ourselves.

7. Have an active and growing relationship with God

Romans 12:2: “Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.”

- ♪ God wants to strengthen and use you, Satan wants to destroy you and make you ineffective, and by yourself you are weak. Because of these things you need to constantly be renewing your mind with the Word of God, spending quality time with God in prayer and worship, and challenging yourself to become what God would have you be.

8. Be prepared

Romans 12:11: “Never be lazy in your work, but serve the Lord enthusiastically.”

- ♪ In order to minister in worship services, you need to attend rehearsals and prayer times. Make sure you do not cut out early from either one of these. Both are important to prepare your voice or instrument and your heart. If a conflict arises on a certain day that you are to lead, just use that service to enjoy worship among the others.
- ♪ Also, make sure you are prepared on your own during the week. When we come together for rehearsals, we are really rehearsing what each of us has practiced on their own. Spend time with the songs before we come together to lead or rehearse.

9. Allow yourself to be fed as God’s Word is being shared

- ♪ In taking on the responsibility of being a worship leader, you should also be an example and leader during the rest of the service. If you praise and worship during the songs and then talk or leave during the message it causes others to disrespect you and therefore it hinders your ministry to them during praise and worship the following weeks. The same thing goes with your attitude and actions outside of church. Remember to bring your

Bible (& a notebook) and actively listen; you'd be surprised how this could encourage those around you. We come together on the weekends with an instrument in one hand and God's Word in the other!

10. **Have fun together!**

Neh. 8:10c : "For the joy of the Lord is your strength."

♪ In the spirit of Christ's love and cooperation...John 17:20&21: "I am not praying just for these followers. I am also praying for everyone else who will have faith because of what my followers will say about me. I want all of them **to be one with each other**, just as I am one with you and you are one with me. I also want them to be one with us. Then the people of this world will believe that you sent me."

** The intention of these guidelines is to support the ongoing mission and ministry of FBC, Covington. The Worship Guidelines apply to those who participate in the worship ministry on a regular basis.

Communication is the key to maintaining ongoing relationships and therefore worship team members are encouraged to maintain open communication among the worship leaders. As a member of the worship team you are encouraged to carry out the Biblical principal of Matthew 18 if you are concerned or discouraged with the way things may be happening at a given time. You are encouraged to address your concerns with the appropriate Worship Leader, Associate Pastor, or Senior Pastor. The only way to deal with hurt feelings, resentment, confusion, etc... is to bring it out into the open so that the Lord can work it out.

Thanks for taking the time to read over these guidelines, please take time to pray over these areas and make a commitment to ask the Lord to go before you (and us) to move and work in, around, and through all that we do as a ministry team. May all that we do be pleasing to the Lord and direct people to a saving & growing relationship with Jesus Christ!

