

Southwinds Church

Worship Ministry Handbook

Welcome:

I want to thank you for your prayerful interest in the Worship Ministry of Southwinds Church. It is a privilege to be a part of this ministry and takes an outstanding commitment. This handbook serves as an introduction to the ministry. It is important that each individual “count the cost” before getting involved in this ministry. Hopefully these pages will help you to do just that. We need singers, instrumentalists, and technicians who feel a call from the Lord to take part in this ministry. Most importantly however, we need leaders. People who are willing not only to stand on a stage or at a technical station but are willing to be on their knees during the week. We need people that are doing the hard work of growing in faith and are maturing in Christ. I want to make it clear that this is a ministry. This is not just an exercise towards musical excellence, but rather we are doing the work of the Kingdom at His call and under His direction. To do this we must work as a team to complete the tasks He has put before us.

The Mission and Purpose of Ministry:

The mission of music and worship is threefold:

Ministry to the Lord (Worship)
Ministry to the Church (Nurture)
Ministry to the World (Outreach)

The Worship Ministry team member ministers to the Lord by presenting to Him the highest quality Music and Worship in each worship celebration. We also minister to Him through our sacrifice of time as we rehearse each week. The most important way that we minister to Him is done in private. It is impossible for us to be effective lead worshippers if we do not spend time worshipping alone on a regular basis. This is vital to the success of the ministry because He is the object of everything we do.

The second part of our mission is ministry to the church. We minister to the body by leading His people in praise and worship. All throughout the bible we see the importance of corporate worship. This is illustrated so well in the Last Supper. Before Jesus went out to face the sin of the world, He and the disciples sang together (Matt 26:30). Ministry to the church goes beyond corporate worship

however and can extend to such things as musical training, fellowship times, and many other types of events that serve to strengthen the body.

The last part of our mission is ministry to the world. Music is a medium that relates to all ethnic and cultural groups. It can accompany the gospel message in ways that no other ministry can. Each week we have the opportunity to help the “seeker” find Jesus through the music we present.

Our goal is to become an ensemble of worshippers and leaders that bring the people of God’s church into His presence, and that draws men and women into a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ.

Perhaps the best way to summarize it is this...the worship ministry exists to:

1. Exalt God
2. Edify the Body of Christ
3. Evangelize the Lost

The Anointing:

As we prepare for ministry each week you must think about “the anointing”. We seek the Lord’s anointing in everything we do. This term refers to two supernatural facts in our ministry:

1. God has sovereignly called us to this ministry.

We are here for that reason, not for the love of music or the applause of men. The anointing, in scripture, is the symbol of God’s divine selection. This means that we have been chosen from other pursuits and set apart by the Lord for this ministry. There is no basis for pride, only obedience and through obedience the joy of the Lord.

2. God provides supernatural power for His ministry.

The bible teaches that those the Lord calls, He also gives power to accomplish His plans. The power of our music must go beyond that of training, talent, or rehearsal. We should have the spark of the Divine, an indescribable quality obvious to those who hear us. There is no way to achieve it musically, for it is a power of the spiritual realm. It comes by an act of God’s sovereign will, through a chosen vessel prepared for the Master’s use. Our skills operate in the physical but the anointing operates in the spiritual.

WE ARE CALLED. We are set apart for ministry.
WE ARE ANOINTED. We are supernaturally empowered to minister beyond the natural power of music.

We minister in the spirit realm where eternity's work is done. This is the anointing.

The Pursuit of Excellence:

Since God calls us, we must pursue excellence for His names sake. Since our ministry is to Him, our ministry must be the finest, the most detailed, precise, and personal that we can produce. At the same time it must be the grandest, most wonderful, expansive, symphonic, noble and majestic that we can produce. We will spend much time improving the quality and the unity of our musical talents and skills. We will improve ourselves in order to honor Him more completely. Jesus said that He would reward in public what is done in secret. Ours can be a very public ministry. This means each of us must find the secret place of communication with God. We must also come to see our rehearsals as a "secret time" with the Lord. If we are to be powerful on Sundays we must prepare through the week. We find joy and strength as we minister to the Lord in times of preparation.

Ministry Principles

Accountability:

In view of this I also do my best to maintain always a blameless conscience both before God and before Men. Acts 24:16 (NASB)

In every great organization there is a high degree of accountability, without it we can become very tunnel visioned and unaware of blind spots in our lives and ministry. This is why it is mandatory that everyone in the worship ministry be involved in a small group.

Consistency:

. . . Stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.
1 Corinthians 15:8 (NIV)

We want to be a ministry that is consistent in everything that we do. In our lifestyles, in our commitment to excellence, in the quality of presentations that we produce, in the worship times we lead. Consistency must be one of the chords in that strand that ties the ministry together.

Encouragement:

Encourage one another and build each other up 1 Thes 5:11 (NIV)

We can encourage each other in many ways. As we minister together, there will be times when others need encouragement just to make it through the day. Encouragement will mean that we pray for each other, write a note, or take time to ask

someone how they are doing and then listen. The objective being to “build each other up.”

Worship Ministry Expectations

Lifestyle

As a worship leader it is important that you have a growing walk with Christ. Realizing that each person is at a different place along the journey, we are all called to become more like Christ. We must be careful in all areas of our lives because we serve in a very “high profile” ministry. Whether you realize it or not, in leading worship each week you represent the ministry, the congregation of Southwinds, and our Lord. You are expected to live a life that brings honor to the name of Christ.

Personal Worship

You can't lead someone to a place you have never been. It is also difficult to lead someone to a place you have not been in a while. The point here is that “personal worship is precedes corporate worship.” It is difficult to lead corporately if you have not worshipped privately. You are encouraged to spend time during the week in personal worship; a time of reading God's word, praising Him for all He's done,

petitioning Him for your needs, etc.... This is vital for the success of the ministry.

Rehearsal Attendance

We must be accountable to each other regarding rehearsals. It doesn't make sense to not participate in rehearsals and then expect to be fully prepared to lead in worship on Sunday. We value rehearsal attendance. As a member of the Worship ministry we are expected to be at all rehearsals. Realizing that situations arise, we simply ask you to contact the worship ministry office so that we can know how to minister and pray for you.

Musical Ability

There must be a degree of musical ability to serve in this ministry. Nowhere in scripture does God call a person to serve in a specific area and then not equip them with the resources and talents required. You should be able to sing in tune with the songs and play without having to routinely ask how to form chords.

Passion for Worship

Perhaps the most important requirements for your involvement with this ministry is your passion for worship. You should have a heart for drawing near to God and leading others to as well. Music is such

an integral part of the worship experience. It is an expressive, heartfelt, transparent way to express what our hearts want to say to the Lord.

Servant hood

One of the most unique things about the body of Christ is that it is the only organization in the world that encourages its members to think of others more highly than themselves. We can never know the full joy of Christ until we have begun to give ourselves away to others, just as Christ did for you and me. You are expected to serve others in this ministry. Jesus said whoever desires to be first must become last!

Team Player

This is an important aspect of leadership. You should be able to support, follow, and trust the leadership of this church and this ministry. Part of you being a team member means that if you ever come to a point of mistrust or have a question about a decision or action, you should take it to the leadership of that ministry. This does not mean that you should always agree with every decision that is made. It does mean that we need to agree that God's glory is ultimately at stake, and not our own personal interests. Discussing disagreements with other ministry members is never a good thing and ultimately hurts the entire group when handled

this way. The best thing to do is always to bring an issue to the worship pastor and discuss it.

Membership Requirements:

The Southwinds worship ministry is open to those who have been saved by grace through faith in Jesus Christ. It is important that any members of the worship ministry show a commitment to Southwinds Church in that they attend worship services regularly and have completed discovery class 101, and are involved regularly in a small group. Each member will be asked to complete 4 courses per year on worshiptraining.com (You will receive more details once you have auditioned). Throughout the year, there will be 'in-house' training events which will also count towards this goal. We must always strive to grow in our knowledge and skills. Membership is always open to those who feel the Lord calling them to this ministry.

Rehearsal Discipline:

There is one rehearsal each week for each separate group in the worship ministry. These rehearsals take place at various times throughout the week. However, the rehearsal schedule is subject to change as schedules change periodically. Worship team rehearsals will typically be 1 hour in length

with band rehearsals lasting between 1 and 1 ½ hours. Weekly sound checks begin one hour prior to the start of the first service. Other groups will rehearse for a length of time to be determined.

Southwinds worship ministry members should follow this established rehearsal discipline:

1. Exhibit a positive attitude
2. **BE ON TIME!** Come early so that you can prepare yourself (tuning/collecting music).
3. Concentrate on all Activities.
4. Be prepared to stay for the whole rehearsal so that distractions can be minimal.
5. Notification of absence should be made as soon as possible to the worship ministry office.
6. Each member is to act in a professional manner and must have a servant attitude.

Each member is expected to do their best to prepare for each rehearsal and worship service by:

1. Listening, rehearsing and learning songs provided by worship pastor.
2. Each member is responsible for his or her own musical equipment, unless it is owned by the church. The church will not be responsible for lost, stolen, or broken items.

3. Each member is to be under the leadership of the pastoral staff and church discipline will be taken if any member acts against biblical principles.
4. All members must maintain the musical needs of the ongoing worship ministry. Practice, practice, practice!
5. Members are encouraged to have a daily personal time with God including a daily devotional and prayer time as well as be involved in a small group bible study.

Platform Discipline:

1. Remain alert and look interested and moved by all that transpires.
2. Enter into praise and worship freely, but in consideration of those standing next to you.
3. GUM IS NOT ALLOWED ON THE PLATFORM.
4. If two members must converse, they should do so with a minimum of expression.
5. DO NOT LEAD WITH YOUR EYES CLOSED! (Moses did not lead the people out of Egypt with eyes closed. Joshua did not lead the people into Canaan with his eyes closed. David did not fight Goliath with His eyes closed. If they can do it so can you).

This platform discipline might seem excessively detailed, but details are important. We have only one chance to make a first impression.

What to Wear:

Ladies:

Knee length or longer skirts
No sleeveless outfits
No spaghetti straps
No Leggings
Conservative Jewelry

Men:

Collared Shirt or sweater (no t-shirts)
Nice pants (No excessive holes)

Let us remember that the object of worship is pointing our heart's affection towards God. It is not focusing the congregation on us. Bottom line, if you think it may be questionable AT ALL, it probably isn't appropriate.

The Worship Pastor:

1. The Worship Pastor is to uphold the mission and vision of the church and worship ministry.
2. The Worship Pastor is accountable to the lead pastor and the elder board.
3. The Worship Pastor is responsible for the musical development of the worship ministry. He will choose all music, styles, and presentations. He will make decisions based upon leadership of the Holy Spirit and the council of the worship ministry members.
4. The Worship Pastor is responsible for the spiritual development and care of each member under the lead pastor.
5. Any absences by the Worship Pastor will be notified well in advance.
6. The Worship Pastor has the flexibility to coordinate special rehearsals and to reschedule weekly rehearsals.
7. The Worship Pastor will provide an order of service to each participating member for each service.
8. The Worship Pastor will oversee the audio/video ministries. The leaders of these ministries will be accountable to the worship pastor.

Final Remarks:

We know that for many of us the Worship Ministry is not the only ministry that we participate in. Please understand that we want ministry members to be able to utilize the fullest extent of their gifts and abilities in all areas of the church. At the same time however, it is possible for us to bite off more than our schedule can handle. While the worship ministry may not be your only ministry, it must be a priority in your schedule. Every Sunday we affect hundreds of people through our ministry. Because we effect so many, we must be on guard and deeply committed to the ministry of worship that God has called us to. What we do every Sunday is something that will last into eternity. We have the honor of leading people into the presence of the Living God.

Handbook Acknowledgement:

I acknowledge that I have received the Southwinds Worship ministry handbook. I agree to abide by the handbook concerning all policies. I also understand that failure to adhere to these policies could cause my removal from the worship ministry. I agree to a one year commitment to this ministry should I be selected, at which time my participation will be re-evaluated.

Signed _____

Printed Name _____

Worship Pastor _____

Return this form to the Worship Ministry office when completed