

Music Ministry Guide

Worship
the Lord
in the
Beauty
of Holiness

Psalm 29:2



Valley Community Chapel

Version - January 25, 2007



Valley Community Chapel

"A Christ Centered Community"

The following is a written set of guidelines developed for all the music ministries of Valley Community Chapel so that we may continue to build and maintain the highest level of integrity in our music ministries. These guides provide a system of checks and balances that will help us focus and stay centered on what is important . . . the worship of God and leading God’s people into His presence.

BE PREPARED

Spiritually: Read the Bible and pray every day. Let your focus be on serving the Lord and His people at all times. *Psalm 1:2*

Mentally: Maintain a “right heart” and good attitude. Look to our example in Jesus on how to treat others. Do not be critical of others. *Romans 3:23-25*

Physically: Be rested in order to offer up your best during service and rehearsal times.

ATTITUDE

Have a servant’s heart and be ready to reach out with love and encouragement during rehearsals and services. If anything else is in our hearts we need to deal with it immediately. REF: Titus 3:1-2 Dissension, gossip or division of any kind is not of the Lord, and if we exhibit these characteristics we are out of His will. We are to love and reach out to each other and to the people we serve. If you are struggling with a bad attitude, please go to a brother/sister or the leader to talk, or for prayer, so it can be worked out in your heart and corrected. If it is not corrected you may be asked to not sing/play for a service, rehearsal or asked to step down for a time. Review 1 Timothy, Chapter 3, Verses 1-13 for Biblical qualifications of church leadership.

PUNCTUALITY

Please be on time to all practices and services, (times given by the leader.) It is always better to be a little bit early and prepared than

NOTES:

SOUND TECHNICIANS

The sound person is one of the most important members of the music ministry. They deserve consideration and respect at all times. The same requirements go for those who serve in the sound ministry as well as musicians on the stage. The sound room must be kept clean and neat. Never have open beverages near the sound equipment. Please keep drinks on the floor. The soundman is responsible for resetting the soundboards after each use and charting settings as needed.

MULTIMEDIA TECHNICIANS

The multimedia person is the key person to connect the music that is being played to the congregation, providing the words that are being sung. Those called to this ministry must be technically minded and sensitive to the worship leader or choir director and follow with the least amount of mistakes. Leaders need to have materials prepared in advance as directed so that we are not in-putting songs in a hurry.

SONG GUIDELINES

The songs we play obviously have a direct impact on the worship service. The goal in our services is not to try and receive an emotional rush or to try and strive for a better worship experience than we had the week before. Those times with the Lord are not something we can orchestrate and make happen, they are precious gifts from the Holy Spirit on a very personal level, and it is different with each person. We are to simply provide songs that can be clearly understood and sung by the general congregation. We need to celebrate our relationship with Christ together and simply sing Him praise and come together for worship. Songs that are hard to sing or complicated should be left for afterglow type services where there is time to just worship and meditate with the Lord on an intimate level.

late. If you have special circumstances, meet with the worship leader to work it out.

PRACTICE

Part of being prepared is being practiced with your specific gift. Making a lot of mistakes causes a distraction and pulls people out of worship; always try and better your skills. Set aside 15 minutes to 2 hours of practice a day to truly improve your gifts. The more skilled you are the more the Lord can use you in the music ministry.

Note: Always watch your attitude. As your skills improve, stay humble because we are all replaceable. “Sing to Him a new song; play skillfully with a shout of joy.” Psalm 33.3

DRESS

We have all been placed in a position of leadership when we are on the platform worshipping the Lord and leading others in worship. It is important to remember that there is a delicate balance between being on the platform in front of the congregation, while not drawing attention to ourselves individually, but to God.

Dress is one of the hardest issues to manage due to the subjective nature and current styles, so below are the main points that we must observe.

MODESTY IS THE KEY!

THE SUNDAY MORNING MUSIC MINISTRY DRESS CODE

- Sunday teams are asked to dress very nicely for these services.
- No blue jeans or faded jeans. Nice jeans other than blue are acceptable.
- No short dresses/skirts – Must be no shorter than knee length.
- Men, please wear button down shirts or polo type shirts with

slacks, nice black jeans or equivalent.

- Ladies: Pant suits are okay, nice pants with a nice top is okay.
- No sloppy shirts or casual clothing.
- No tight fitting clothes.
- Guys: Slacks and button down, tucked in shirts are preferred. Shirts that are un-tucked should be straight on the bottom, no tee shirts.

EVENING SERVICES

- These teams can be a little more casual.
- Shorts are okay as long as they are an appropriate length (not short) and that they don't fit tightly.
- Sleeveless tops are okay as long as they come to the shoulder and no under garments are showing.
- Blue jeans are okay as long as they are nice and not ripped or stained.
- Please no T-Shirts!

ALL TEAMS – (Including Youth Teams)

- No tight fitting clothes, leggings, jogging suits or athletic wear.
- No sloppy clothing.
- Ladies: This might be a bit blunt, please don't show cleavage.
 - Please make sure your tops fit appropriately – not too tight across your bust.
 - No backless clothing.
 - No midriff showing (keep tummy covered) even when your arms are raised. If you raise your arms and you have to pull your shirt down, it's too short.
 - No spaghetti straps or thin straps of any kind.
 - No sheer clothing
- Guys: If your pant's/shorts are loose, please wear a belt, no underwear showing.
No chains, etc., hanging from your clothing.
- Please do not wear aftershave, cologne or perfume. Some team members may be sensitive and fragrance may inhibit breathing. However, please wear deodorant.

CONDUCT & BODY LANGUAGE

Our goal, as stated in the previous section “V. DRESS”, is to not be a distraction, this includes our conduct and body language.

Example 1: If everyone in the congregation is clapping, lifting hands and praising and someone on the platform is just standing and singing with a grumpy face or simply not expressing joy in the Lord, it is considered inappropriate body language.

Example #2: If all are singing a worship song or hymn and people have eyes closed and are lifting hands appropriate to the song and a singer or musician is making large movements or odd gyrations, this is also inappropriate.

The goal is to be sensitive to the music and the heart of the song and not to bring attention to yourself. Here are some basic on platform music ministry guidelines:

- Move appropriately with the music being played.
- Don't wiggle or gyrate on stage.
- Don't hold the microphone on or off the stand, unless specifically asked to. Place hands at the side, clap or raise them high in worship.
- You're always encouraged to clap, raise hands and express worship and praise with an appropriate heart.
- Please no GUM! Gum simply looks bad, however throat drops are acceptable.

EQUIPMENT RESPONSIBILITIES

All equipment comes with sacrifice and should be taken care of as if it was your own. The platform is to be kept clean and neat for services (no cans, cups, trash, etc.), water bottles with tops are okay. All cords must be “dressed” (coiled) neatly. A messy stage is a distraction and sloppy. After all rehearsals, please straighten up the platform as directed and always pick up trash on the platform even if it is not yours. After services please put away equipment and books as directed by the leadership.