

**The New Life
Worship Team
Handbook
2013**

Table Of Contents:

- Overview of the Handbook
- Worship Team Purpose
- Basic Participation Guidelines
- Interview and Audition
- Worship Team Discipleship
- A Lifestyle of Worship
- Dress Code
- Thursday Night Rehearsal
- Sunday Morning
- Audio Visual Team
- New Life Worship Team Commitment Letter

New Life Christian Community Worship Handbook

Thank you for your interest in serving on the New Life Christian Community Worship Team. Right up front you should know that New Life exists in community to glorify God by the transforming work of Jesus Christ, the power of His Holy Spirit and the grace given to us freely by God Himself through prayer, *worship* and the study of His Word. As you read through this handbook please understand that the New Life Worship Team is a vital part in the mission statement of God's church in Dresser, WI.

Before you read any further, it's important that you understand that serving on stage is indeed different than other serving opportunities within the church. The biggest difference is that there is an interview and audition process in order to determine the best fit for each member (don't be afraid). The second reason it is different is because it deeply involves the condition of your heart, spirit, and your walk with Christ.

Worship Team Purpose

The New Life Worship Ministry bases worship efforts on these three values:

1. The glory of God, and the focus that He is the only object of our worship
2. The edification of the church
3. Creativity and excellence

We are committed to teaching people truths about God through music and to provide them the opportunity to sing truths *to* God.

"Therefore let us be grateful for receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, and thus let us offer to God acceptable worship, with reverence and awe, for our God is a consuming fire." - Hebrews 12:28-29 ESV

Participating in the Worship Team is more than just singing or playing an instrument. Throughout Scripture, God places a high value on those who lead His church in worship. As those called to lead New Life's congregation, it is important that we place the same value on our own individual participation. God desires that our lives reflect the attitude of praise and worship that we profess on Sunday mornings. Worship should be a vital part of our everyday lives as believers. Jesus is Lord! We desire to esteem His Lordship in every area of our lives.

“I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.” - Romans 12:1 ESV

Basic Participation Guidelines

This Worship Team Handbook has been developed with guidelines so that God would be honored and that you would reach the full potential of your calling as a worship leader.

We view the Worship Team not as a “performance,” but as a ministry, and require that those involved make the necessary time commitment and possess the necessary lifestyle. These guidelines are not meant to be legalistic, but rather to clearly communicate what New Life’s leadership views as the minimum requirements to minister on the Worship Team.

We, being human, understand your humanity; we do not require perfection! We desire that all involved in this ministry continually allow the Holy Spirit to further sanctify their lives (1 Thessalonians 5:23). If any of the following areas are a problem, we are committed to help you overcome them.

Basic Participation Guidelines

1. Worship Team members must be committed disciples of Jesus Christ, live a lifestyle of worship, and display an ongoing, growing relationship with Him.
2. Worship Team members must be committed to New Life Christian Community and should display it by regularly participating in Sunday morning services and Worship Team rehearsals.
3. Worship Team members must interview and audition before being permitted to serve on the team. This process will be organized and coordinated by the Associate Pastor.
4. Worship Team members must be committed to further personal spiritual growth while being on the Worship Team.

Interview and Audition

Interview:

The interview part of the process should not be intimidating at all. This is simply an opportunity for the Associate Pastor to hear your testimony and get to know your heart. After you’ve read through this, you’ll have an opportunity to discuss

each aspect of this document in an interview with us. Ask yourself the following questions before you decide to go forward:

Have I trusted in Jesus Christ as my personal Savior recognizing His redeeming work on the cross as fully God and fully man, and have I accepted His Lordship in my life?

Why do I want to be a part of the Worship Team? What's my motivation? How do I define worship?

Audition:

After your interview, you'll be invited to audition in front of the Associate Pastor and possibly a panel of musicians and or vocalists. The audition will help determine where your musical ability is and at what level you will be able to serve on the team.

As a vocalist you'll be asked to sing a song that the Associate Pastor has given you (with ample preparation time), asked if you can pick out harmony parts and taught a harmony part to sing along with the worship leaders.

As a musician you will be asked to play specific parts of a song given by the Associate Pastor (with ample preparation time). For example if you are a lead guitar player you might be asked to play the solo in Hosanna by Hillsong United or if you are a drummer you may be asked to play the intro through the chorus of Hosanna by Hillsong United.

* Please note: The audition is not to tell you no. We want to encourage musical growth in our church! We understand that some might not be ready to stand on the stage right away but this does not mean they cannot be trained. Please remember our third value: creativity and *excellence*. We want to put forth the best effort we can to glorify God! Therefore some musicians or vocalist will simply be asked to join the team to learn and develop their God given skills but will not be placed on the stage right away.

Worship Team Discipleship

While on the Worship team you should be committed to music and discipleship. In order to promote spiritual growth within the Worship Team community some things will be required of all Worship Team members:

- Joining in our Prayer times before rehearsals and praying for team members throughout the week

- Participating in discipleship discussion as the Associate Pastor leads Bible studies periodically before rehearsals
- Memorizing Scriptures of worship with the team
- Listening to John Piper's message, "The Inner Essence of Worship," found at www.desiringGod.com

A commitment to one another expressed in love, unity and teachability will help the Worship Team maintain an environment of spiritual health. We are dedicated to preserving and strengthening a community where team members are encouraged to be the men and women who God has called them to be. As worship leaders our lives should exemplify healthy spirituality and God-centered priorities.

Lifestyle of Worship

It's our prayer that the Worship Team members develop a consecrated heart for God and a desire to grow in their relationship with Him. We, the leaders of New Life, are committed to help team members on this journey by encouraging these behaviors:

Leading by Example: We must wholeheartedly worship God ourselves if we want to lead the congregation in worship. Be a genuine worshipper who is a living portrayal of worship described in Romans 12:1-2.

A Right Heart: Your heart is reflected in your countenance and it is communicated to the congregation. If your heart isn't right, get it right before you serve, or let us know you need to sit out.

Encouraging Others: It takes courage to publicly bring an offering of praise to the Lord. As a Worship Team, we need to cultivate an affirming ministry environment. Find ways to encourage during difficult situations.

Authenticity: People are hungry for what is real and want to be led into God's presence by those who are trustworthy stewards of God's grace (1 Peter 4:10-11).

Spirit of a Servant: A heart that is capable of being directed with a good attitude shows others you have a servant's spirit. Apply yourself to make a plan work even if it does not fit your personal preferences.

Faithfulness: God desires our diligence in using our gifts. Work on vocal parts and instrumental/technical skill improvement on your own.

While we encourage these right behaviors, it is also important for us to help you overcome any area you may have difficulty with. Outward expressions such as smoking, drunkenness, drug abuse, sexual sin, blatant rebellious attitudes, gossiping, anger and pride indicate greater inward struggle. Please let us help and counsel you if you are struggling in any of these areas, as they will affect the degree of your involvement on the Worship Team if not appropriately handled.

Dress Code

It is not our goal to tell you what to wear. Yet, we must be clear on what is NOT allowed to be worn while serving on stage. Both men and women must understand modesty and holiness in dress. For these reasons we humbly ask that items of clothing such as low cut tops, graphic tees with profane or unholy images or skirts higher than just above the knees not be worn while serving on stage. Also, to maintain some uniformity we ask that shorts not be worn on stage (this is not required but greatly appreciated).

Thursday Night Rehearsals

Worship Team rehearsal is held each Thursday at the New Life building. Musicians should arrive with time to set-up their equipment before rehearsal is scheduled to begin. Vocalists are required to arrive early enough to be prepared and warmed up before the scheduled rehearsal begins.

Thursday Rehearsal Schedule:

- 7:00 PM - Rehearsal begins with prayer (Bible studies and other discipleship materials will be a semi regular occurrence at this time as well)
- 7:15 PM - Full team worship rehearsal
- 8:30 PM - Rehearsal ends

* A quick note about rehearsals: Each rehearsal will be run by the Associate Pastor. Team members must be aware that this is the opportunity to work through all parts of songs and must be willing to play parts and songs over and over again until the desired sound or level of excellence is reached. Rehearsals will take time but the Associate Pastor is committed to making sure they are organized. *Lastly, if you are unable to make the Thursday night rehearsal you must discuss with the Associate Pastor an alternative rehearsal time before the scheduled Sunday morning.*

Sunday Worship Services

Participating on the Worship Team means that you arrive earlier than the congregation. Our expectation is that you will arrive on time each week that you

are scheduled, and with an attitude ready to worship. Consistent lateness cannot be tolerated.

Sunday Schedule:

- 7:45 AM - Musicians and Audio Visual Team arrive
- 7:55 AM - Prayer
- 8:00 AM - Complete run through of songs including transitions
- 8:45 AM - Sunday rehearsal ends
- 9:00 AM - Prayer
- 9:30 AM - Service starts

* A quick note about Sunday mornings: This rehearsal is not to learn parts or get outlines of songs! This rehearsal is simply to warm up as a band, play through songs one more time and to practice transitions. Musicians and vocalists **MUST** be completely prepared on Sunday morning to make the rehearsal fruitful.

Audio Visual Team

The Audio Visual Team is responsible for all technical aspects of the service, including the sound system, lighting system, video elements, recordings, and projection. The great audio visual challenge is to become invisible! It's the perfect place for selfless, secure servants.

Audio Visual Team members go through a training process and audio volunteers have been specifically chosen by our team for their abilities to mix sound and blend voices "by ear." A good relationship between Worship Team members and Audio Visual Team members is very important— and equally important is your ability to trust them to skillfully make our worship services look and sound as great as possible. As they serve you and New Life's congregation each week, please remember to treat them with respect.

New Life Worship Team Commitment Letter

As I consider participating on the New Life Christian Community Worship Team, I commit to the following personal and spiritual standards:

- I acknowledge the Lordship of Jesus Christ in my life and have a personal relationship with Him.
- I am committed to growing and maturing in my relationship with God through consistent quiet times, accountability, and faithfulness to the local church.
- I am committed to choices and a lifestyle that are both Godly and “above reproach,” knowing that my lifestyle in itself is an act of worship.
- I commit to having a servant’s heart, a desire for excellence, and a passion for seeing people connect to God in worship.
- I will treat other members of the team with respect and love while holding them accountable as servants and musicians.
- I commit to growing as a vocalist/musician through personal practice time so I will be better equipped to serve as a member of the worship team.
- I commit to making rehearsals, meetings, and any worship team training a priority and I will be prompt in my commitment.

Name (Printed): _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____