

# Worship Team Guidelines

**Worship Team**-Membership on the Praise Team is a position of Christian Leadership. The primary function of the worship team 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 truth". (John 4:24)

**Lifestyle**-The worship team is one of the highly visible ministries of the church. Therefore, it is important that members of the worship team see themselves as representatives of Jesus Christ and of this church at all times. In their personal lives, worship team members will be expected to live by the highest standards of moral purity, ethical integrity, corporate unity, and personal charity. Onstage, they should conduct themselves in a spirit of professionalism, reverence and joy. Participants must be worshipers on and off the platform, be believers of Christ, and their lifestyle must resemble that of a born-again Christian.

**Calling**-We emphasize that our purpose and calling is that of leading others 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.

**Talent and skill**-Although we recognize the importance of a pure heart, the musician and vocalist also need to have enough skill so that they can follow the Holy Spirit. Musicians and vocalist should have open hearts to receive advice, correction, training, and should be committed to become proficiently skilled at their ministry. "Kenaniah the head Levite was in charge of the singing; that was his responsibility because he was skillful at it". (1 Chronicles 15:22) One does not need to be a professional to worship the Lord, but God honors the discipline of additional practice and preparation.

**Ability to flow with the team**- Some people are very gifted musicians and/or vocalists, but for one reason or another (vocal range, musical style, etc) they have trouble flowing with the team. These individuals are highly encouraged to share their musical gifts in other ways (home small group worship, musical specials, etc) with the body. Musical proficiency does not automatically make someone a top candidate for the worship team.

**Commitment**-Praise Team members should be active members of MVCC and dedicated to MVCC's vision and to the leadership of its pastors and other leaders. Those who commit to serving on the praise team are asked to commit to rehearsals when scheduled and they are expected to do their best to make sure other commitments do not interfere with their ability to serve on the Praise Team. Poor attendance and showing up late for rehearsals demonstrate a lack of discipline and respect for the Lord's ministry. 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. Rehearsals are required, and members should arrive on time, ready to work on the designated material. Musicians who's instruments need tuning, should arrive early to allow proper time for tuning so as to start practice on time and stay on schedule. Know what songs you are doing on the services you're serving, look at the schedule ahead of time and be prepared. Musicians and vocalist are required to be responsible for bringing their own sheet music in the keys needed.

**Schedule conflicts, etc.**- If at any time, a member cannot attend a service, rehearsal, etc. they must notify the worship leader in advance if at all possible so that proper adjustments can be 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.

\*It is important to state that we intend for this information to serve as a guideline but we realize that exceptions will occur. These exceptions will be determined by the leadership of MVCC. It is also important to state that these guidelines apply to those who participate in the music ministry on a regular basis. 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 personally or the worship 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 help us work through it as a team.