

## WRCC Worship Team Guidelines

"Worship is a divine privilege, and with that privilege comes a great responsibility to show generosity to others in the body of Christ through all we do. We should never leave worship to the pastors and worship leaders. We all need to learn to be excellent, extravagant worshipers, generous in our service to one another and generous in our expression of love toward one another."

~ Darlene Zschech

### **What Worship Leading is:**

Worship leading is both worshipping God and drawing others into worship. The role of a worship leader must be someone who worships. Before anyone can lead anything, he must master it for himself. We cannot lead where we are not first willing to go for ourselves. A worship leader must be someone who worships on a continual basis. Worshiping should be a lifestyle, not a Sunday only thing! It is vitally important to have times of personal worship outside of Sundays.

### **What Worship Leading is not:**

Worship leading is not simply leading songs, choruses, or a song service. Worship leading is not playing songs while others watch. This is not a performance! Worship leading is not playing music while others worship. We must be skilled enough on our instrument or with our voice and know the songs well enough to be able to enter into worship ourselves.

### **Worship Team Qualifications:**

"Music ministry is not the right of the talented, but the privilege extended to the committed" (Terry Kinard). You must be committed to West Ridge Community Church (or moving toward Membership) and submitted to the pastors here. This also means that you must attend services whenever possible, NOT ONLY when you are playing on the team. You are also expected to be in a small group.

**Maturity...** It is important to be at a level of maturity where you can accept coaching and critique from our leadership and not take it personally. Maturity also includes being responsible enough to arrive on time, spend time throughout the week preparing, and viewing this as what it is: a leadership role. (The worship team is open to those 18 years old and above, except at the discretion of the Worship Pastor.)

**Spiritual maturity...** This is a leadership-type ministry. We are all seen as leaders and must live our lives as such, at church and away from church, on and off the stage.

**Musical expertise...** We must be skilled enough to follow a service that is led by the Spirit of God. We don't want to limit what God will do simply because we can't handle it musically.

**Time commitment...** Practice, rehearsals and Sunday pre-service preparation is mandatory. This can also include special events, etc.

**Support of family...** It is important that the individual's immediate family members are willing to accept the necessary time commitment and be a support to the individual.

**Leading by example...** Worship leading is truly only done by example. This is important on stage (Are you entering into worship yourself? Do you look like you're enjoying worship and engaging with God?), as well as off. It is our obligation as worship leaders to get beyond our own insecurities and whatever may be hindering us from worshiping! (If you do not feel that this is possible on a given Sunday, it may be best to decline attendance on Planning Center.)

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**Ability to flow with a team...** This is not a solo event, but a team sport! Worshiping and blending with others is of great importance.

**Ability to flow with the pastor and the leadership's vision for the church...** Worship is a part of carrying out the vision of the church: "Becoming fully devoted followers of Christ, first of ourselves and then of others." The worship leading team has the support of the pastor and the pastor must have the support of the team. Unity is key in a worship service. The pastor and teamwork together to carry out the full vision the Lord.

### **Worship Team Guideline Specifics:**

**Audition & Trial period...** First, we will have an interview ("coffee") to get to know you. It will be very laid back, but we want to hear your salvation story, understand your passion for worship and your reasons for feeling called to lead worship. (We have a lot of other areas to get involved in if leading on stage does not work out for some reason, though.)

**Things we will be looking for in the trial/audition:** Depending on who you are and what you play, a musical audition will be held per the Worship Director's (Chuck) preference. We will be looking at musical and/or vocal ability, stage presence, and leadership (teamwork) qualities. If the audition goes well, we will ask you to play again on a Sunday in the near future for further evaluation.

**Weekly practices sessions...** Missing a Sunday morning rehearsal or additional practice (for special events) will generally mean you cannot participate in the following service (at the worship leader's discretion).

**Scheduling...** Our schedule is sent out weekly via email (PCO) so Internet access is important. If you are unable to make it to a rehearsal or play on a Sunday, please let the worship leader know preferably via "decline" in PCO or if necessary, via email as soon as possible so other arrangements can be made. If you are part of another ministry at West Ridge Community Church it is your responsibility to provide any schedule conflicts to the main worship leader. If a scheduling conflict arises once the weekly e-mail has been sent, contact the worship leader immediately so that he can establish a sub or recommend one to you. (This does not apply to last-minute sickness or emergencies. In those instances, just let the main worship leader know as soon as possible that you will not be able to make it.)

**Sundays...** Each member of the team is expected to be at the Church and ready to go 15 minutes before the rehearsal time. (Typically 7:30am sound check with an 7:45am rehearsal start.) This gives us time to run a sound check, rehearse and/or run through a bit of each song, relax, and pray before each service. Again, if you have an instrument to set up, get there early enough to do that and be ready to go with the rest of us.

**Appropriate Dress...** This is a big one due to many reasons. Simply, we do not want to cause others to stumble, whether by lust or by an inner heart conflict. God has blessed us with a very diverse congregation, specifically in age ranges. Therefore, the following needs to be taken into consideration when choosing your clothing:

#### 1. Top & Bottom:

The truth is, we live in the day of low-cut blouses, low-rise jeans, and leggings. Modesty while covering your body is necessary when leading the Church. Remember, we are 3 feet above everyone else and our Youth sit in the front row of each service. So keep this in mind or check with another worship team member when choosing your dress, skirt, skort, or whatever LulaRoe calls their skirts these days.

#### 2. Stay Flexible:

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I want to leave room for you, as musicians and vocalists, to express your creativity through the way you dress. We don't want to stifle one another's creativity or joy, but it is of the utmost importance that we set an example for those we are leading and that we take some precautions as to not cause others to stumble. As we can't and won't be able to cover all items of clothing and preferences, there will likely be times that the WRCC staff will need to address this subject with some of you... so don't take this personally, but be open to feedback.

**Commitment to being spiritually prepared...** We need to come prepared not just to sing and play, but also to worship the King and minister to his people. We don't have a lot of time for prayer on Sundays, so please come prayed up! And as previously mentioned, worship during the week (it should be a lifestyle). It is not our place as ministers of the body to come "spiritually hungry." This is a time to be blessed, but also a time to serve. It doesn't matter how awesome we are musically, we must have hearts that are prepared to meet the Lord and bless/glorify Him, which is what this is all about.

**Commitment to musical expertise...** We need to work at our instrumental and/or vocal ability to become the very best we can be. This includes personal practice as well as playing for the team. You will be working with a leader who is committed to excellence and believes in practice. We must bring the best sacrifice possible to the Lord. Becoming familiar with the music makes it easier to worship on Sunday mornings instead of worrying about what comes next.

**Commitment to growing spiritually...** We need to be committed to maturing in our Christian walk! We cannot allow ourselves to grow stagnant, or our worship will also become stagnant. What is in our hearts is what is going to come out when we worship. (In that vein, you will be working with a leader who will not mind his own business. If I sense that you are something other than the most content worship team member in the history of worship teams, I'll probably come bother you about it. I feel it is important to remain open and transparent.) We want to seek to preserve team unity by practicing Biblical conflict resolution when needed; by approaching the one who has offended or the one whom I have offended, so that the enemy will not be granted an opportunity to bring division or disunity to our team. Also know there are situations that can have you removed from the team (usually temporarily), not as punishment, but, as I said before, because we are all leaders and will be expected to live a life (inward and outward) that is becoming of Christ following leaders. No, this is not legalism! We must strive to be a Christ-like example both on the team and off.

**Commitment to flowing with the team...** We need to look at the team as not just a collection of individual musicians, but as a single unit with one purpose. Our heart attitude should not be to shine forth our own technical skill and be "rock stars," but to use that to enhance the team and worship experience as a whole. "TEAM EFFORT" is the thing to remember here. There must be unity and humility in order to flow under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

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NAME

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DATE

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SMALL GROUP LEADER