

CPC WORSHIP AND ARTS PRAISE TEAM GUIDELINES AND REQUIREMENTS

Dear Friends,

Thank you for taking the time to read and fill out this packet. It is our desire to communicate our goals as well as get to know you better. We are so thankful for your willingness to serve in our Worship and Arts ministry. May the Lord be glorified in our lives and our ministry!

With Great Hope,
CPC's Worship Leaders,
*Nancy Groeneveld, Rob Apger,
Steve Kornaros and Jodi Aldredge*

PURPOSE AND VISION:

"God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship Him in spirit and in truth". (John 4:24)

It is our belief that the Praise Team is a vital part to the ministry of this body of believers. Consequently, members should view their function as Ministers of the gospel through music and song. Therefore, members should be responding to a call from God, our Father, to render this service unto Him in a manner worthy of His calling.

Membership on the Praise Team (in any way) is a position of *Christian leadership*. To be a Christian leader is to be, first and foremost, a servant. Our primary function then, is to serve God by leading, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit and the direction of the worship leader, the congregation at hand in true worship. We emphasize that our purpose and calling is that of leading others into the very presence of the Living God. We are not up front to call attention to ourselves, but to God. Therefore, members must strive continually through prayer and example to be pure of heart before God and others.

Definition

- Under *worship* in Webster's dictionary, it says, "See adoration". Adoration means "deep, ardent, often excessive attachment, passion and love." The word *worship* is derived from the same word that forms *worthiness*. The original Hebrew and Greek definitions speak of God's worth and our responsibility to adore Him. Kathleen Chapman writes: "worship is more than singing or going through some weekly church ritual. It is more than completing a page in a church lesson book or reading prayers aloud in a church service. Worship is more than faithfully serving God and His people, and it's more than reading my Bible faithfully or having a mountaintop experience at a retreat. Worship is even more than me loving God. In fact, worship isn't about me at all." A.W. Tozer said, "Worship is to express in some appropriate manner a humbling but delightful sense of admiring awe and astonished wonder and overpowering love in the presence of our Heavenly Father." Martin Luther put it more simply: "worship is responding to what God has revealed." To summarize, *worship is not strictly about music or singing, and it's not about me. It's about responding to God by giving Him our praise and adoration in everything we say and do because He is worthy! He is worthy because of who He is and what He has revealed about Himself.*

The Connection

- As instrumentalists and singers, we can respond to God in a unique way by offering our gifts and talents back to Him. One place we do this is within our local church. Charles Stanley writes: "The church is to be a place where people of many spiritual gifts and practiced talents can find opportunities to be of service to Christ and can work together to bring about the furtherance of His kingdom on this earth. It is to be a place where a person can be appreciated for being a child of God and a special creation of God. The church should be a place of loving acceptance—not acceptance of sin, but certainly acceptance of sinners who have acknowledged their need for God in their lives." It is our goal, as CPC's worship leaders, to foster this kind of loving atmosphere by encouraging you to express yourself musically as a response to God in order that we might together glorify Him. Colossians 1:15-17 makes it clear that *all things* were created by God, through Christ, and *for His glory*. Therefore, it is pleasing to God and acceptable to Him when we give our musical gifts and talents, which He created in the first place, back to Him for His glory.

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The Lifestyle

- We all are a work in progress, and the church is a repair shop, not a showroom. Since membership on the Praise Team is a position of *Christian leadership*, however, participants must be believers in Christ, and their lifestyle should resemble that of a maturing Christian. This is best defined in Galatians 5 where we see that a life that is controlled by the Spirit of God will begin producing the “fruit” of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness (or meekness), and self-control. Micah 6:8 tells us what God requires of His followers... “To act justly, to love mercy and to walk humbly.” For someone to serve on the Praise Team, these qualities should become increasingly evident to church leadership and to the congregation. We do well when we live out a life defined by these traits.
- Praise Team participants must be worshipers on and off the platform. In other words, responding to God must never be limited to the music portion of a one-hour church service. Rather, what we bring to God during that time should be an outpouring of praise from a heart overflowing with the knowledge of God, cultivated during the other 6 days and 23 hours of the week. Anyone who has difficulty worshiping at home or in the congregation is not ready to be a leader! For CPC Praise Team members, a hunger for God’s word and a willingness to become familiar with church music, from hymns to praise choruses to modern praise and worship, is essential.

Talent and Skill

- One does not need to be a virtuoso musician to be on the Praise Team, but God is honored by the discipline of diligent practice and preparation. The goal of any band member or vocalist, (special instrumentation excepted), is to become familiar enough with the music that we can occasionally take our focus off the written chart and onto Jesus, the congregation, and each other as we serve together. Therefore, we must study the material, but also have enough natural talent to learn quickly, and the ability to “go with the flow” as directed by the Holy Spirit and the worship leader. It is important, however, that we respond and express ourselves appropriately as team members serving God, the congregation and one another. There is no room for one member getting “lost in the spirit” (losing their team members and congregation along the way), just as there is no room for one member being glued to a music chart due to lack of preparation. Remember, we are a team! All team members should have open hearts to receive advice, correction, training, and should be committed to becoming proficiently skilled at their ministry. It is our goal as worship leaders to offer any constructive criticism with grace at all times, while being willing to constantly learn and grow ourselves.

Attendance and Punctuality

- Attendance and punctuality are very important factors for being a member of the Praise Team. Rehearsals are often required, and members should arrive ready to work on the designated material. Poor attendance and punctuality reflect a lack of discipline and respect for the Lord’s ministry. If at any time, a member cannot attend a service, rehearsal, etc. they must notify the worship leader or worship and arts office, preferably two weeks in advance, so that proper adjustments can be made.*

** It is important to state that these guidelines are open to interpretation due to unusual circumstances. These instances will be determined by the leadership of CPC. It is also important to state that these guidelines apply to those who participate in the Praise Team on a regular basis, not those who participate only occasionally (for special programs, special music, etc.)*

Communication

- Lastly, open communication is of vital importance. If at any time a team member is confused, discouraged, or unhappy with the way things may be happening at a given time, they are encouraged to speak *directly* to the worship leader. The only way to deal with hurt feelings, resentment, confusion, etc. is to bring it out into the open so that the Lord can work it out. (Matt. 18)

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5. What are your strongest personality traits? What traits would you like to see improved?

6. After reading the guidelines above, are there any sections that you are uncomfortable with? Please explain.

7. Are you involved with or serve in any other ministries here at CPC?

8. Which venue(s) do you usually attend? How often? (Please circle)

Sat. Night	Sunday Sanctuary	Video Café	CPC@Tassajara
Less than once-a-month	Once-a-month	More than once-a-month	Weekly

9. Please sign and date:

Printed Name: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____