

LIFE CHURCH

Music Ministry Manual

The purpose of the Music Ministry at Life Church is to minister to the Lord by offering up our praise and worship to Him. To lead the congregation in heartfelt and passionate worship that honors God. To strive for excellence in our musical talents, maintain a spirit of unity, and proclaim and exemplify worship as a “way of life”.

“Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God – this is your spiritual act of worship.” (Rom. 12:1)

Music Preparation

“Give thanks to the Lord, call on his name; make known among the nations what he has done. Sing to him, sing praise to him; tell of all his wonderful acts. Glory in his holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice.” 1 Chronicles 16:8-10

Music Ministers are one of the most visible representatives of our church and are seen by more people than any other ministry. Because of this, music ministers must come to church prepared to work and serve with the best attitude possible.

Your lifestyle as a Music Minister is important. Because of your visibility, you must live a life that represents our Lord and our church well.

As a Music Minister your lifestyle and example cannot be over emphasized; people look to you just as they do the church staff. You should strive to live by the standard set forth in the Scriptures and diligently pursue God’s Word. As you do, your life and ministry will reflect the One you serve.

Never let the Music Ministry become just a “job” you do at church. Remember you are called by God to use your talents for Him as you minister to people. Our desire is to see people’s lives changed by the power of God. Music Ministers play an extremely important part in that ministry. You can’t take people where you haven’t been! Come to church “prayed up” and ready to go and you will see God move in people’s lives every week!

Ministry Covenant Core Values

The following Core Values have been compiled to ensure that all Life Church ministry volunteers are living their lives in such a way as to, first of all, bring honor to the Name of Jesus Christ, and second, to bring affirmation to the good name of Life Church in our community.

The Core Values should in no way be misunderstood as being legalistic, that which is attached to, replaces, or supersedes the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, which leads to salvation. This is not a list that defines salvation. Rather, the delineation of these seven Core Values seeks to establish a reasonably clear standard for leadership service at Life Church.

1. I have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ as evidenced by my commitment to worship, Bible reading, Bible study and prayer.
2. I am committed to the vision and direction of Life Church, excited about the possibilities for continued and expanded ministry and I further affirm that I am loyal and supportive both in word and action of the senior pastor, the pastoral team and the deacon board. I will not speak ill of them to others, but will bring any concerns I have directly to the Lord and to their attention.
3. I commit to be a team player and will strive to exhibit a teachable spirit, submissive attitude, and will live an accountable lifestyle before the Lord, my leaders and my peers.
4. I am an official voting member of Life Church. If not, I commit to attend and complete the next set of L.I.F.E. Classes, which serve as the pathway to church membership.
5. I commit to trust God and have made a commitment to tithe to the Lord by bringing a tenth of my income to “the storehouse,” Life Church, to support the ministries of my church body.
6. I commit to abstain from tobacco, alcoholic beverages, illegal drug use, prescription drug abuse, maltreatment of others, pornography, homosexuality, adultery, fornication, cohabiting with a person other than a legal spouse, and any entertainment that is contrary to the holy nature of Christ.
7. I commit to observe the “Two-Adult Rule”. The Two-Adult Rule means that while working with or assisting minors, persons under the age of eighteen years, I will make every effort to never be alone with a minor, other than a related child.

If I have problems in any of these areas, I commit to earnestly seek the Lord’s help and deliverance and will make myself accountable to a Life Church pastor.

Service and Rehearsal Commitments

** Scheduled Service Commitments:*

Musicians

Sunday: 9:15 AM Pre-service rehearsal
Attend 2nd Service
Attend Discipleship Class 3rd Service

Wednesday: 7:00 PM – 9:00 PM Prayer/Rehearsal

Vocalists

Sunday: 9:15 AM Pre-service rehearsal
Attend 2nd Service
Attend Discipleship Class 3rd Service

Wednesday: 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM Prayer/Rehearsal

***NOTE:** Commit to any other special musicals (Easter, Christmas, etc.), services, and ministry meetings that may be scheduled throughout the year.

* Schedule is subject to change, but not without sufficient notice.

Music Ministry Guidelines

During Ministry Time:

Arrive on time.
Be prepared and practiced.
Be available for all worship services.
Be present during services.
Be committed to discipleship group.
Be prepared spiritually- come prayed up.
Be prepared physically- come rested.
Have a good attitude.
Offer encouragement to team members.
Show consideration for sound technicians.
Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit. –Ephesians 4:3
Be an example by offering praise and worship to God and exhortation to His people.
Please don't be a distraction.
Give attention to the Pastor or guest speakers.
Give attention during announcements.
Please notify worship leader in advance if unable to attend a service.
Smile!

During Rehearsal Time:

Arrive on time.
Be prepared and practiced.
Be prepared spiritually and physically.
Have a good attitude.
Show consideration for sound technicians.
Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit. – Ephesians 4:3
Offer praise to God and encouragement to team members.
Don't be a distraction during times of vocal or instrumental coaching.
Notify worship leader in advance if unable to attend a rehearsal.
Have fun!

Platform Attire

Sunday Attire

Rotational Accent Color

Base Colors: Black, Grey, Brown, White, Beige, Tan

Women:

Women are requested to wear dresses, dress pants or skirts at least knee length
The dress is to be respectful and modest
No tight, form-fitting, or low-cut clothing
No large slits or sleeveless clothing
No midriff showing
No sandals or flip flops

Men:

Men are requested to wear dress pants, dress shirts, and dress shoes
Tie is optional
No jeans, t-shirts, long sleeve t-shirts, or common wear

Rehearsal Attire

Women/Men:

Use discretion
No tank tops/shorts
Respectful and modest

Remember: We are singing and playing for the King! Look and do your best!

What God Expects From Worshippers

By David Ritter

Worship leaders are called upon to be producers as well as musicians. Each week, there is a great demand upon us to make something really special happen...and many of you probably know exactly how to do it! But are people encountering God or just a sacred production? Our primary focus is to promote a personal relationship with God, and not just create a formula for the perfect program.

The only way we can provide an atmosphere where people are “experiencing” God in our worship is to offer up pure, unadulterated praise. That means that every member of the team, (leaders, singer, and musicians) has positioned their heart to “worship in spirit and in truth.” If we expect those who follow our leadership to be consumed with a passion for worship and integrity of the heart, such a response can only happen when they see that passion and purity exemplified in us. Contrary to the popular phrase, I believe that discipling is caught as well as taught.

Because I believe it is our obligation to mentor those under our authority, I feel we need to constantly encourage and remind them of our objectives. The Lord spoke to Joshua and instructed him to remind the people daily to obey, lest they forget. (Joshua 1:8) Obviously, the Lord knows how quickly we forget to follow His commands! In light of that admonition, I have compiled eight priorities for true worshippers.

True worshippers live what they preach.

True worshippers maintain a **life-style of worship**...they eat, breathe, and sleep worship, since our life “for God” is dependent on our life “with God!” It is in the **place of worship** that we are not only healed, renewed, and restored, we also develop our intimacy with God. What a travesty it is that we often wait until Sundays for these miracles in our lives to be revealed! Occasionally, when I hear people tell me that we aren’t spending enough time in worship, it usually raises a “**red flag**” that they are using the Sunday services to replace their own private worship life. Sunday services are a **corporate celebration** of what God has been doing all week long in individual’s lives! Hebrews 13:15 says, “Let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually”...it should be a vital part of our daily routine...what we do for a living! True worshippers are **consistent**, regardless of their circumstances...”Though the fig tree may not blossom or fruit be on the vines, the fields yield no food, and the flocks be cut off from the fold, **yet I will rejoice in the Lord.**” (Habakkuk 3:17-18) This truth was exemplified when Jesus heard that John the Baptist was beheaded. The scripture tells us that He was reviled (people spoke against Him) and then, “He went out and healed the multitude.” When reviled, revile not! How do you respond when others attack you or hurt you? True worshippers reveal God’s power over Satan by reaching out to others and “healing the multitude!” They live what they preach! Life

style worship is, and always will be, one of God's priorities! Kent Henry shared with me a phrase I'll never forget, "You can't take people where you haven't been!"

True worshippers are expressive.

I always tell my choir, "let your face and **expression reveal on the outside** what God has done on the inside!" Sometimes, when worship requires you to put aside your pride and humble yourself before the Lord, (perhaps displaying physical signs of emotion), **there is a risk** of exposing yourself to the criticism of observers. Men, in particular, have a difficult time expressing their true feelings, mostly due to the stereotypes and labels that our society imposes; i.e., men who cry and confess their sins openly are thought to be weaklings and frail. **It is a paradox** for us to scream and shout at sports events, yet feel inhibited to be demonstrative in the church worship service. If we remember that **God is our audience**, not the people, then we can "love the Lord with all of our heart, soul, mind and strength." The scriptures exhort us to use everything that we've been given as vehicles to worship God; **singing, shouting, bowing, kneeling, dancing, lifting your arms and clapping your hands** are all visible expressions of what God has done on the inside, and all endorsed by the Word. "You are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a peculiar people; that you should show forth the praises of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light." (I Peter 2:9) Someone approached me once and asked "**Is it okay to sway?**" Use whatever God has given you to praise Him, with the understanding that everything must be done in decency and order. Assuming that one's motives are right, we must not be troubled by the presence of emotion in our worship; yet at the same time, we need to teach our congregations that flailing our arms and bodies across the sanctuary should be a part of our private devotional times with the Lord, so that no attention is distracted from the Lord.

True worshippers are contagious.

They strive for genuine worship! If you have ever been asked to come and eat and are not really hungry, you may turn the offer down. That is until you smell the food and suddenly you are consumed with hunger! Genuine worship will always draw people in!

True worshippers minister to the Lord and not just for Him.

We must "**be**" worshippers, and not just "**do**" worship. Just because we sing in the choir or even lead worship, doesn't mean that we are worshipping. The secret is the **attitude of the heart, not the position of our hands**, or the songs we do, or the arrangements, or the size of our choir. Attitude!

True worshippers offer acceptable sacrifices.

Amos 5:23 says: “Away with the music of your harps and singing...you hearts are far from me.” **Unresolved sin** and unfinished spiritual business **will clog any flow** of the moving of God’s Spirit. Scripture states, “...if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift at the altar and first go and be reconciled to your brother; then go and offer your gift.” (Matthew 5:23, 24) If you have done something to offend someone, there must be resolution before you offer up a sacrifice of praise. “What does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and walk humbly with your God.” (Micah 6:8). When is a sacrifice acceptable? It is only acceptable when it costs you something; when you don’t feel like worshipping and you are tired or sick, and you do it anyway...that’s sacrifice. When you give your money to the Lord and it is beyond your means...that’s sacrifice. King David said, “I will not offer to the Lord that which costs me nothing.”

True worshippers never judge someone else’s worship.

It is hazardous for one to evaluate the genuineness of someone else’s worship, since **God is the only one who can see the true motive of the heart.** All that He asks is that you **evaluate your own relationship** with Him. One particular gentleman in our congregation rarely sings; occasionally I notice his lack of involvement and sometimes it disturbs me greatly. After one service, he came up to me with tears in his eyes and told me how moved he was by the worship and how he could hardly contain himself. **Never judge!** The Biblical exhortation is clear...God is seeking out those who will worship Him in Spirit and in Truth, and **He alone determines who it is!** Don’t fall into the misconception that worship is restricted to musical style...God uses the hymn, the chorus, the rap, the soloist and the orchestra member alike. May we never worship the form, style or genre; rather, may we worship the Creator of all manner of expression! God often speaks to me in dreams and visions in the middle of the night...probably because He has a hard time getting through during the day. I had been troubled by a certain individual that I found myself in total disagreement with. One such night, I received a letter from God that was both an **encouragement and rebuke.** The first page was filled with 12 events that involved me and ministering angels; wonderful things were going to happen. Then I turned the page and there was one paragraph. It said, “David, you have said, ‘God is the one who judges the heart.’ Thank you for allowing me that privilege!” It was God’s way of saying, only He can judge the heart...we can only judge the fruit.

True worshippers never underestimate the power of the Holy Spirit.

Even if we don’t feel Him, **He is at work ministering** to all who will receive Him. There is much more happening than you think...may we **never gauge our effectiveness on the audience response** (or lack of it)! If we could only learn to celebrate God with true authenticity, regardless of how large the crowd or how

minimal the response! If you have ever been in front of people, it's easy to fall into this trap.

True worshippers never bring attention to themselves.

Our goal should be maximum invisibility. Since worship is for God alone, we need to do whatever it takes to make sure He receives all the glory. Our gestures, comments, and even our attire should be modest and Christ-honoring. Since our church encourages clapping after songs, (worship and choir number alike), I have instructed our choir to immediately begin to applaud after a presentation. The act alone does two things: it reminds the choir that they just performed for the Lord and not the audience, and it helps the congregation reflect the attention to the proper source...obviously, the choir is not clapping for themselves! We've all heard comments, "what a great worship service, I was so blessed," or perhaps, "the music was incredible, our church is blessed with so much talent." Probably the greatest compliments I have received were "the worship was so Christ-centered" and "not one person drew attention to themselves." Wow! Now those were compliments!

What's important to God...to worship Him in Spirit and in Truth and to love Him with all that we possess. If we keep these scriptural priorities before ourselves, our congregations and those involved in our respective ministries, I believe we will experience New Testament growth, especially if our worship is more important than our productions. Though it's not within our power to make people worship, His Spirit can! God can use Christ's love in us to break down resistance and inspire them to worship, just by being a worshipping leader, not a worship leader. God will always "show up" if there is genuine worship...it's just not always in the way we expected or even planned.

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I have read the above Ministry Covenant Core Values and fully understand them. Furthermore, I agree to fully and joyfully abide by them.

Printed name: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____