

# Christ Community Church



Music Ministry





## ***Christ Community Church Music Ministry***

### **TABLE OF CONTENTS**

Document Scope ..... 4

Biblical Basis: Music and Song in the Bible ..... 4

    Old Testament ..... 4

    New Testament ..... 4

    Conclusion and Summary ..... 6

*Music Ministry* in our Church ..... 6

    Sunday Gathering / Worship Service ..... 7

    Primary Elements of Christian Gathering ..... 7

*Music Ministry* / the “Worship Team” ..... 8

*Music Ministry* Scope ..... 8

    Leadership of the *Music Ministry* ..... 9

    Guidelines for Participating as a *Music Ministry* Team Member ..... 9

Guidelines for Music, Song, and Hymn Selection ..... 11

    Christ exalting lyrics ..... 11

    Participatory ..... 12

    Cultural guidelines ..... 12

Guest Musicians and Singers ..... 13

Stewardship ..... 13



## Document Scope

We desire to conduct every aspect of our church ministry with excellence so as to bear fruit, be pleasing to God, and completed in a manner worthy of the Lord. In short, we desire to bring glory to God. Our vision for the *Music Ministry* of Christ Community Church is we glorify God in the area of music. The goal of the document is to provide practical, feasible guidelines to shape and lead our *Music Ministry* efforts.

## Biblical Basis: Music and Song in the Bible

### Old Testament

The leading of the congregation through music and song is biblical. Four thousand Levites were set aside for this service in the temple (1 Chr. 23:3-5). Those chosen to lead were not only holy priests, set aside for this service, but were also noted for their giftedness and skill. “Chenaniah, chief of the Levites, was in charge of the singing; he gave instruction in singing because he was skillful” (1 Chr. 15:22).

This establishes the importance of the music ministry, and the standard that should be expected of those who lead. It is in the heart of God’s people to praise Him.

The Psalms, which are in course songs, are filled with encouragement for us to praise God. Clearly, music and singing are an integral part of the lives of God’s people.

Thirty-three times in the Psalms we are told to sing to the Lord. Singing can be an expression of adoration or a declaration of a need. Some examples from Psalms ...

**Psalm 33:1-3** Sing for joy in the LORD, O you righteous ones; Praise is becoming to the upright. Give thanks to the LORD with the lyre; Sing praises to Him with a harp of ten strings. Sing to Him a new song; Play skillfully with a shout of joy.

**Psalm 57:7** My heart is steadfast, O God, my heart is steadfast; I will sing and make music.

**Psalm 98:4** Shout joyfully to the LORD, all the earth; Break forth and sing for joy and sing praises.

**Psalm 104:33** I will sing to the LORD as long as I live; I will sing praise to my God while I have my being.

### New Testament

In the New Testament we find the call to worship God through music continues.

Worshipping God through music is a vital part of the believer’s life. Singing together corporately is a marked characteristic of those who are allowing the Word of Christ to dwell in them richly and who are filled with the Spirit. Music serves as a means to outwardly express the inward joy of new life in Christ and serves as a testimony to the lost. “He put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God; many will see and fear, and will trust in the LORD” (Psalm 40:3).

It is the constant call and desire of every true believer to praise the Lord.



## New Testament Overview

The following is an overview of the mentioning of music in the New Testament.

After the Passover meal, which was the custom for Israelites, Jesus and the disciples sang. This is recorded in Matthew and Mark's gospel.

**Mark 14:26** <sup>26</sup>After singing a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

**Matthew 26:30** <sup>30</sup>After singing a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

In the book of Hebrews, the writer shows singing is part of the New Covenant by both referencing the Old Testament practice,

**Hebrews 2:12** <sup>12</sup>saying, "I will proclaim Your name to My brethren, In the midst of the congregation I will sing Your praise."

and by encouraging the continuation of an attitude of praise by God's people.

**Hebrews 13:15** <sup>15</sup>Through Him then, let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that give thanks to His name.

We see in the book of Acts how Paul and Silas were greatly encouraged and sustained by singing while in difficult circumstances.

**Acts 16:25-26** <sup>25</sup>But about midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns of praise to God, and the prisoners were listening to them; <sup>26</sup>and suddenly there came a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison house were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone's chains were unfastened.

In writing to the churches, the Apostle Paul encouraged singing as part of Christian fellowship and discipleship.

**Colossians 3:16** <sup>16</sup>Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms *and* hymns *and* spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God.

**Ephesians 5:19-20** <sup>19</sup>speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody with your heart to the Lord; <sup>20</sup>always giving thanks for all things in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to God, even the Father;

Singing praises is a natural outflow of a joyous Christian.

**James 5:13** <sup>13</sup>Is anyone among you suffering? *Then* he must pray. Is anyone cheerful? He is to sing praises.

But, music and singing should not just be an emotional, thoughtless exercise, but should be saturated with teaching of doctrine so as to engage not only the heart, but the mind.



**1 Corinthians 14:15** <sup>15</sup>What is *the outcome* then? I will pray with the spirit and I will pray with the mind also; I will sing with the spirit and I will sing with the mind also.

Throughout eternity we will be signing praises of God's goodness. We see this depicted in John's vision in the book of Revelation.

**Revelation 15:2-4** <sup>2</sup>And I saw something like a sea of glass mixed with fire, and those who had been victorious over the beast and his image and the number of his name, standing on the sea of glass, holding harps of God. <sup>3</sup>And they sang the song of Moses, the bond-servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying, "Great and marvelous are Your works, O Lord God, the Almighty; Righteous and true are Your ways, King of the nations! <sup>4</sup> "Who will not fear, O Lord, and glorify Your name? For You alone are holy; For all the nations will come and worship before You, For your righteous acts have been revealed."

### **Conclusion and Summary**

God created us to take joy in music. God is blessed and glorified when we sing His praises. Whether it be hymns, psalms, or spiritual songs, music is beneficial for God's people. The following principles are taken from the truth of Scripture and should guide us in our *Music Ministry*.

- Music is means of expressing of worship and thankfulness for God and His works.
- Music serves to encourage one another.
- Feasts and special days included music and song as part of the liturgy.
- Believers wrote songs to commemorate or to call upon God's work in their lives (e.g., Moses, David, and Mary).
- Songs are a means of teaching and are useful for helping us remember truth.
- As with all ministry efforts, "all things must be done properly and in an orderly manner." (1 Corinthians 14:40).
- We should be mindful of our culture and be willing to "become all things to all men, so that we may by all means save some" (1 Corinthians 19:22). However, in our adaptation, we need to be mindful that certain styles of music may be deemed offensive and we need to "take care that this liberty of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak" (1 Corinthians 8:9).

### **Music Ministry in our Church**

Music is a welcome addition to any of the church. Music at any and all gatherings in the church should incorporate the principles of music in the Bible.



## Sunday Gathering / Worship Service

At CCC, we identify our Sunday gathering as a “worship service.” Our ultimate purpose is to glorify God and worship Him. We gather for the reasons the first disciples gathered, to devote ourselves to the apostles’ teaching, fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer (Acts 2:42). The New Testament does not prescribe any particular place or time for worship. We choose to gather on Sundays since that is the traditional time.

Oftentimes worship is spoken about in our culture primarily as a time of music and singing. At CCC, we believe Scripture teaches music is an *element* of worship and true worship entails much more. Romans 11:36 says, “For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things. To Him be the glory forever. Amen.” This passage teaches us what true worship involves.

Worship is expressing to God:

- our understanding of who He is and what He does;
- our appreciation for who He is and what He does (all things are from Him);
- our complete dependence upon Him (all things are through Him); and
- our commitment to serve Him exclusively for His pleasure and glory (all things are for Him).

We should also express these things to God with our lips as well as through a manner of living which is honoring to Him. Hebrews 13:15-16 says, “Through Him [Christ] then, let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that give thanks to His name. And do not neglect doing good and sharing, for with such sacrifices God is pleased.”

Worship is from the heart and expressed in every aspect of life. Scripture reading, prayer, the giving of our tithes and offerings, preaching, teaching and learning, and even setting up the chairs before the service all constitute “a spiritual service of worship” (Rom. 12:1). “Whether, then, you eat or drink or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God” (1 Cor. 10:31).

## Primary Elements of Christian Gathering

Our time of corporate gathering is for the sake of eagerly and carefully worshiping God with testimonies, prayer, Scripture reading, preaching, teaching, singing, serving, giving, and faithful living. Our gatherings are marked by the following primary elements<sup>1</sup>.

### Teaching and Preaching

Bible teaching in corporate gatherings of believers is the central and clearly discernible priority of the church. Many New Testament examples show teaching as the prominent feature of every public service. The Apostle Paul emphasizes to Timothy,

**1 Timothy 4:13**<sup>13</sup> Until I come, give attention to the *public* reading of *Scripture*, to exhortation and teaching.

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<sup>1</sup> Much of the information in this section is from “Life in the Father’s House” by Wayne A. Mack and Dave Swavelly; 2006; P&R Publishing; pg. 125-143



Hearing and studying the Word of God properly is a scriptural responsibility emphasized perhaps more than any other aspect of our maturing in Christ. The Bible informs us to desire the “pure milk of the word” (1 Peter 2:2). We are to commit the teaching of the Scriptures to others who will teach (2 Timothy 2:2)

### Prayer

Prayer was an important element of Old Testament gatherings and continues to be important with New Testament believers. Frequently in the book of Acts we find the early church praying together. We are encouraged throughout the New Testament to pray individually and corporately. At CCC, we incorporate prayer into every gathering since we know we are totally dependent upon God for all things.

### Music

In the earlier section of this document, “Biblical Basis: Music and Song in the Bible” we learn music has a two-fold purpose. Music provides a means which to praise and petition God. Second, music serves to encourage and teach other believers. The talent of singers and musicians is very helpful for uplifting, comforting, and inspiring God’s people.

### Ordinances

The observation of rites and sacraments is an important aspect of the Mosaic Covenant. The New Covenant incorporates two ordinances—baptism and the Lord’s Supper.

Every believer has the responsibility to outwardly identify themselves as being in union with Christ and entering the New Covenant through the ordinance of baptism. The idea of an unbaptized Christian is not ever contemplated in the New Testament.

Participation in the Lord’s Supper, communion, is how believers remember the Lord’s death. It is commanded by Christ and frequently practiced in the New Testament. The importance of the ordinance is emphasized in 1 Corinthians 11:26-30.

### Giving & Serving

According to the Word of God, the primary place giving takes place is in the local church. Giving to the church enables the growth of the gospel ministry to take place. Principles about giving are found in 1 Corinthians 16:1-2 and other New Testament passages.

Serving is the opportunity to encourage one another and to help meet needs within the body. Our love for one another may be expressed through serving. Serving is accomplished in many ways.

## ***Music Ministry / the “Worship Team”***

### ***Music Ministry Scope***

The *Music Ministry* at Christ Community Church encompasses the evaluation and selection of music and the leading of corporate singing through vocal and instrumental accompaniment. The “*Music Ministry*” is a group of individuals committed to the goals of the *Music Ministry*. They sing worship songs publically together, with the



specific purpose of serving, assisting and encouraging others in the corporate worship of Jesus Christ. The *Music Ministry* team consists of leadership, instrumentalists, singers and A/V personnel.

### **Leadership of the *Music Ministry***

Biblically, the responsibility of worship falls upon the elders of the church. Therefore, the ministry is overseen by the elders. Depending upon gifting and availability, the elders may choose to lead the music ministry or delegate the responsibility to another. The elders will select someone capable to provide spiritual care, teaching, and leadership of the music ministry team.

A good definition of the *Music Ministry* leader is as follows:

*A faithful worship leader magnifies the greatness of God in Jesus Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit by skillfully combining God's Word with music, thereby motivating the gathered church to proclaim the gospel, to cherish God's presence, and to live for God's glory.<sup>2</sup>*

The leadership should have exemplary Christian character, be skilled musically themselves, have a reasonably broad range of musical tastes, be well versed in hymnology as well as more contemporary styles of music, be doctrinally and theologically well-grounded and supportive of the teaching ministry of the elders. In addition, the leadership must have the ability to complete the practical work of scheduling, leading practices and joyfully work with others in the *Music Ministry*.

### **Guidelines for Participating as a *Music Ministry* Team Member**

The *Music Ministry* leadership determines who qualifies both spiritually and musically to serve on the *Music Ministry* team. Throughout Scripture, God places a high value on those who lead His church in worship.

#### Church members in good standing

*Music Ministry* Team members must be members in good standing of Christ Community Church. Team members must be a faithful participant in the life of this congregation as demonstrated by attendance and involvement.

#### Practical guidelines

The music and worship team ministry involves a very public presence on the part of those participating it is important that other standards be maintained. These standards could be summed up by stating that you should never do anything that would draw attention to yourself and away from Christ during worship. Although no one would do this intentionally, these general guidelines help maintain standards that are appropriate and distraction free. Worship team members should always wear appropriate and modest attire. The men should be dressed neatly and conservatively. The women should not wear short dresses or skirts, low cut tops or excessively tight clothing.

#### Committed to the *Music Ministry*

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<sup>2</sup> *Worship Matters*, Bob Kauflin; Crossway Publishers, 2008; p.55



Participants in the *Music Ministry* must be committed to the purpose of our *Music Ministry*. While it is true that the *Music Ministry* team is a “band” that plays music together; the playing of music is much more than a performance or show. We are a fellowship of believers in ministry together and *Music Ministry* members are to be involved in the life of the Church and committed to caring for and loving those in the local Church. Therefore, the “music” and our worship is an outpouring of our God-centered fellowship. *Music Ministry* members must understand these principals and be committed to exemplifying them in their lives.

This ministry is a “team” effort. For the sake of others, faithfulness, punctuality and practice is critical. Everyone scheduled to participate should be present at the weekly practices. It is expected members will practice new songs at home so when the team comes together for practice as a team, it is not for individual honing of skills but for meshing together as a musical unit.

#### Members of the *Music Ministry* need to demonstrate musical talent

Musicians need to be able to:

- Perform well with others
- Learn new material quickly
- Demonstrate suitable ability on an instrument
- Able to practice songs individually at home
- Play from sheet music, chord sheets, or by ear

Vocalists need to be able to:

- Perform well with others
- Learn new material quickly
- Demonstrate suitable range, blendability, and accurate pitch
- Able to practice songs individually at home
- Sing from sheet music, chord sheets, or by ear

A/V technicians need to be able to:

- Know the music so as to operate the equipment appropriately
- Know how to use the equipment well
- Show a commitment to be a good steward of the equipment and be available when needed to operate the equipment

#### Spiritual Growth and Christian Witness

Have as your highest aim to publicly confess Jesus Christ as your personal Savior. Be an example for believers in conversation, in love, in spirit, in faith, and in purity while “giving attendance to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine” as in 1 Timothy 4:12-16. This involves a commitment to being a witness inside and outside the church walls in your attitude, appearance, and behavior.

Any time during your *Music Ministry* team involvement, should you feel that your personal life is not reflecting what our ministry and church is about or what Christ would have, we ask that you voluntarily step down and pull yourself from ministry so as to not disgrace the name of Christ. We also encourage you to seek council with an elder or the Worship Leader in working to restore your relationship with Christ and the church body.



As a Christian example, you need to strive for continued maturing in your spiritual walk by growing in grace and knowledge in the Lord. Spiritual growth is nurtured through the Word, prayer, faith, and fellowship.

### Unity

*Music Ministry* team members must have a spirit of unity. Remember Colossians 2:12-13: “Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another...” We should encourage and build up one another and have the responsibility of eliminating any word or action that is not constructive to our team. Therefore, think twice before speaking. Don't overemphasize skill, but rather total dependence on the Lord.

In Worship Ministry, there is always the specific temptation of “the lure of the stage” – the fleshly need to be out front. We need to look at our team as not just a collection of separate musicians but as a single unit with a single purpose. You must maintain a teachable spirit, open to insight and constructive criticism from others. Our heart attitude should not be to shine forth our own skills and opinions, but to enhance the team as a whole. This includes maintaining an attitude of positive encouragement and embracing the overall direction and vision of the church as revealed to church leadership. We are to submit to each other and to our leadership, out of respect for each other as fellow brothers and sisters in Christ. (Hebrews 13:17, “Obey your leaders and submit to their authority. They keep watch over you as men who must give an account. Obey them so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no advantage to you.”)

### Commitment and availability

Involvement in this ministry needs to take high priority in your life without detriment to family, school, and work. It is important family members are willing to accept the necessary time commitment and be supportive concerning your role on the *Music Ministry* team.

## **Guidelines for Music, Song, and Hymn Selection**

Great care should be given to ensure the Music Ministry incorporates music, songs, and hymns which are in keeping with the principles discussed in the Biblical basis section of this document. We need to be practice what the Bible teaches; doers of the Word and not hearers only. The following describes a few ways the principles may be put into practice.

### **Christ exalting lyrics**

All music should be evaluated for its spiritual value. Lyrical content is the primary reflection of a song's spiritual value and should always be used in determining what is appropriate for the corporate worship of the church. The lyrics are what engage the heart and mind in worship. Theologically inaccurate lyrics which result in a false view of God or of His work can never result in God-honoring worship. Secular music is created for entertainment purposes and not intended to glorify God. Although we may sometimes be able to use secular music in our personal lives, it is unwise and inappropriate for it to be used as part of our corporate music ministry efforts.



Each piece being considered for use in the corporate worship of the church must be evaluated for soundness of doctrine in order to ensure that the lyrics are biblically based and instructive to the heart and mind. Music is a means of “teaching and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs” (Col. 3:16).

### **Participatory**

Music in the church is to be participatory and not a spectator event. There are times when people may perform a solo or a small group might sing a special song, but even in these events, the goal of the performance must be the edification of the greater congregation and not the exaltation of the performer.

Because the music ministry is participatory, great care must be given to select songs which may be sung congregationally. Here are some guidelines<sup>3</sup>:

- The songs should be sung in a key the average singer is capable of signing (The basic range of the average singer is an octave and a fourth from A to D)
- Songs need to be suitable for congregational singing with rhythms and ranges that are not too complicated.
- Care must be given to help people learn new songs. Only one new song should be introduced at a time.
- We need to ensure the platform for the worship team does not resemble a stage and have the appearance of a performance or professional concert. The platform and lighting should be functional, but not flashy.

### **Cultural guidelines**

The universal body of Christ will always have members of diverse musical tastes. The selection of music for the corporate worship at CCC reflects that diverse character. Believers with a taste for the more contemporary styles of music can be instructed by great hymns of the faith, many of which are steeped with a depth of theological understanding and knowledge of the divine rarely seen today. Believers with a preference for hymns and more traditional styles of music can also be encouraged by the joy and elicited by compelling and theologically sound contemporary music. Musical diversity is appropriate, but, respect for others and tasteful discretion must not be overlooked.

Other essential qualities in the music involve the overall response that it elicits. It should enhance the teaching ministry; stimulate spiritual thought and wholesome actions; and inspire high ideals and behavior as it instructs the heart. In short, “whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, let your mind dwell on these things” (Phil. 4:8).

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<sup>3</sup> <http://blog.ncbaptist.org/renewingworship/2014/06/11/nine-reasons-people-arent-singing-in-worship/>



Simply put, the music should be broad in its range of musical content and style, always tasteful, and designed to speak to a diversified congregation.

## **Guest Musicians and Singers**

In some cases we have guests who desire to lead us in worship or desire to give a musical performance. This may be done as a concert, special music during the service, or special music at an event.

Special music as part of a church service is not a performance, but an act of leading a congregation in worship. God expects all that is done in the service to be done with excellence and inspire worship. There is a level of expected competency for anyone who desires to lead a congregation in worship.

Those who perform special music as part of a service must be born again believers who are walking with the Lord and who are willing to submit to the guidelines we espouse. They need not be members; however, they must be interviewed and/or evaluated by those responsible for planning the worship service.

## **Stewardship**

The Music Ministry uses very expensive, delicate, and intricate equipment. Much care needs to be given in how the equipment is used. Because of the nature of the equipment, only persons authorized by the *Music Ministry* Leadership may use the equipment. The stewardship of the equipment, care and inventory may be delegated by the leadership to a responsible individual.

Annually, during the church budgeting process, the Music Ministry team should evaluate the equipment and, if needed, make recommendations to the elders and deacons.