

Serving in the Music Ministry at FBC of Longwood

Overview:

The worship team is reserved for participants who feel God calling them into a greater role of leadership within the worshipping community at FBC of Longwood.

Requirements:

A Level of Integration in the Church: You must be a faithful participant in the life of this church, as demonstrated by your attendance and involvement (regularly attending Sunday school and worship services). You must demonstrate a supportive attitude for our church programs, leadership, and staff. You should also support and be in agreement with the Baptist Faith and Message 2000.

A Level of Spiritual Maturity: As a general rule, worship members serve a leadership function, and with the help of the Holy Spirit lead the congregation in worship of God. You must be a Christian example, accountable to others as they look to your life and behavior. For these reasons, the team is not a place for new Christians or unbelievers. To serve in the worship ministry you must demonstrate a personal relationship with Christ. Also, if you have not been baptized as a believer in Jesus Christ, we strongly encourage you to follow through on this act of obedience and public witness for Christ. We expect that participants on the worship team are members of FBC of Longwood or are in the process of pursuing membership.

A Level of Support from Your Family: Involvement in this ministry needs to take high priority in your life without detriment to family, school, or work. It is also important that your immediate family members (spouse, children, parents, etc.) are willing to accept the necessary time commitment and be supportive concerning your role in the worship ministry.

A Level of Musical or Technical Ability: As an instrumentalist, vocalist, or technician, you need to be skilled enough to serve in your capacity with excellence. Your contribution to the team is important, and it is our desire to be consistently growing in our strengths. Since this is a specialized ministry, our team needs to be fully able to lead effectively and efficiently.

Ongoing Expectations:

This is a *public leadership* ministry and others look to our lives and behavior as examples. Everyone on the platform and in the tech booth has a part in leading the congregation in worship, and is therefore responsibly accountable for their actions in doing so. These guidelines apply to anyone involved within the ministry.

Preparation for Service: We are seeking “true worshippers,” as described in John 4:23-24, so we expect you to be such during rehearsals and services, as well as during the rest of the week. This means carefully preparing your heart for worship through prayer and personal bible study. Our spiritual preparation has a direct impact on our effectiveness as a team. Preparation also means coming to rehearsal and services ready not only to sing, play music, or work the equipment, but to worship God. It cannot be emphasized enough that worship—not music—is our first priority. Furthermore, you need to engage a commitment to continued maturing in your spiritual walk by growing in grace and knowledge in the Lord. This is as important on an individual basis as it is with the team. Nurture your growth through the Word, through prayer, through faith, and through fellowship.

Excellence in Service: Recognize that God is not looking for perfection, but *excellence*. We need to work at our music and technical abilities so that we are constantly improving and growing in our skill sets. Keep in mind that the team will only be as proficient as the individuals that comprise it. You must be willing to expand your abilities and knowledge through such avenues as personal practice, additional training, attending conferences, etc. Regarding these, be prepared to humbly share with and learn from others in regard to new information and techniques.

Unity in Service: All members must have a cooperative spirit, always ready to encourage and support others on the team. We should build up one another and have the responsibility of eliminating any word or action that is not constructive to our team. We need to look at our team as not just a collection of separate musicians but as a single unit with a unified purpose. You must maintain a teachable spirit, open to insight and feedback from others.

Humility in Service: Have as your highest aim to publicly confess Jesus Christ as your personal Savior. We see this is most effectively lived out by our covenant with one another in membership. ***If at any time during your involvement in the worship ministry, should you feel that your personal or spiritual 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 Jesus Christ or His church.*** We also encourage you to seek counsel with the Lead Pastor and/or Worship Pastor in the pursuit of growth and accountability.

Helpful Information:

Weekly Rehearsal Attendance & Punctuality: All members (choir, praise team, instrumentalists) are required to be faithful and punctual in their attendance of rehearsals, services, and other events for which they are scheduled. If you are not able to make a rehearsal or service, please inform the Worship Pastor as soon as possible via phone or email. Additionally, you should not participate in the Sunday service if you feel that you will be unprepared to lead in worship due to a missed rehearsal. Special arrangements can be made through the Worship Pastor with certain circumstances.

Solos and Special Groups:

Soloists must be a part of the ongoing worship ministry. In other words, soloists are found through the involvement of the choir and/or praise team. Special Group performances are admissible as long as they follow the previously stated requirements of being a part of the worship ministry at FBC of Longwood.

Dress Code: As mentioned previously, this is a leadership ministry and as leaders we have an example to set. Our dress can be informal, but it should be *modest and presentable* (conservative, dressy casual, no strapless or sleeveless shirts, no skirts above the knee). Modesty is the rule and if any questions exist, it is always best to err on the side of conservative as far as dress is concerned.

Planning Center Online: We use an online resource for service planning. You can access the site for PDF's of song sheet music and audio files. This website makes planning, scheduling, and rehearsing much simpler. If you are on the worship team, you are expected to access the site during the week in order to access resources or confirm your availability. You will be given an individual account for accessing the site using your own email address. It will also be helpful for Worship Team leaders to "block out" dates that you prefer not to be scheduled.