

**THE
Rock COMMUNITY
CHURCH**

WORSHIP HANDBOOK

Thank you for expressing interest in the RockCC Worship Ministry. Please take some time to familiarize yourself with this handbook. My prayer is that it brings clarity as you prayerfully consider joining this vital ministry.

Warmly,

Bill White

Bill White
Director of Music Ministry
billw@rockcc.com

*“Enter His gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to Him and praise His name.”
Psalm 100:4*

The Rock Community Church **Worship Handbook**

Thank you for your interest in serving within the Worship Ministry at The Rock Community Church. God has placed a high calling upon your life. Our hope and prayer is that the Lord will direct your steps as you seek to discern how He's leading you.

As His humble servants, we consider it a privilege to minister to and serve the church family. In doing so, we are fulfilling the purpose for which God gave us spiritual gifts – “The building up of the body of Christ” (Ephesians 4:12). It is important for us to be responsible with this privilege as members of the Worship Ministry, so please take a few moments to read through this Worship Handbook to familiarize yourself with some simple guidelines to help you enjoy serving within the Worship Ministry.

Mission/Purpose Statement

The mission of RockCC is to make disciples who KNOW Jesus, FOLLOW Jesus, SERVE Jesus and OBEY JESUS. Our Worship Ministry seeks to engage all members of The RockCC family through worship to experience God in spirit and in truth.

Our Foundation for Worship

Jesus' teaching from John 4:23-24 serves as the biblical foundation for our philosophy of worship: “But the hour is coming, and now is here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship Him. God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship Him in spirit and truth.

Worshipping in Spirit

At RockCC, corporate worship is highly participatory. We strive to worship in spirit and invite our people to worship passionately and energetically with the proper heart attitude. Scripture allows for a great deal of freedom in worship (clapping, kneeling, raising hands, etc.), but we should never lose sight of the object of our worship. Emotions are an expected part of worship but should never be manipulated or fabricated. Healthy and appropriate expressions of emotion are part of what it means to worship genuinely in spirit.

Worshipping in Truth

The Bible is the ultimate authority when it comes to worship. At RockCC, we strive to worship in truth (the truth of who God is as revealed in Scripture). Strict attention is paid to theological content, ensuring that every lyric that is sung, every word spoken, and every art form expressed is biblically sound and supported. We also look to God's Word to discern how God desires to be worshiped rather than follow the words of man or the latest cultural fad.

A Personal Relationship with Jesus Christ

This is the foundational requirement for ministry within the church. Without a personal relationship with Jesus Christ, it is impossible to please Him. Scripture tells us in John 15:5 that "Apart from Me, you can do nothing." As believers, we have the internal dwelling of the Holy Spirit allowing us to minister to others within the Body of Christ. In addition to knowing Jesus Christ as our personal savior, we continually need to be growing in our walk with Him; this is the abundant life, which in turn brings more glory to His name.

Worship Ministry servants are required to attend The Rock Community Church on a regular basis to better equip them to lead this body of believers. We are more effective for the Lord if we understand the "pulse" of our church, including what books of the Bible the various ministries we serve within (Main Service, One Eighty, etc.) are teaching. There are rare instances when someone who does not regularly attend The Rock Community Church may be allowed to participate temporarily within the Worship Ministry. These exceptions will be handled on a case-by-case basis by the Director of Music Ministry.

Remember, worship is an attitude and focus of the heart. Therefore, during weeks we are not scheduled to serve on-stage or behind the tech booth, we have the privilege to lead through our participation in worship along with the congregation.

Beyond regular attendance, we strongly encourage you to be plugged-in to other ministries within The Rock Community Church for fellowship, accountability, and to grow in your relationship with Jesus Christ.

Commitment

We can best serve the Lord when our time, treasure, and talents are kept in balance. Your time commitment in serving within the Worship Ministry must be kept in perspective as it relates to other areas of your life including family relationships, career, and our church activities.

As members of a team of worship leaders, we have an amazing opportunity for accountability in this area and we expect you to be open and honest at all times about your availability to serve while still maintaining balance in your life.

Along with time commitment considerations, we must also work as unto the Lord in all that we do for the Worship Ministry.

Our goal as a Worship Ministry is to set a high standard of excellence as we serve the Lord using the gifts He has given each one of us.

“And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.” (Colossians 3:17)

Practice & Rehearsals

When you are scheduled on a weekend, you are required to attend and rehearse with the team so we can give our best to the Lord. Most rehearsals will be scheduled on Tuesday evenings. Music Team members are expected to practice on their own and arrive at rehearsal prepared to contribute their parts to each song.

Rehearsal Guidelines

Be on Time- All Team Members are expected to arrive with enough time to set up their gear before practice starts at the specific call time unless a prior arrangement has been worked out with the Director of Music Ministry.

Sound Check- Before rehearsal begins, a brief sound check is conducted on each instrument and every mic. Volume levels, EQ, and processing are dialed in over the front-of-house speakers. This portion of our rehearsal is led by the tech team. Please respect this time.

Rehearsal Guidelines- Continued

Come Prepared- Rehearsal is not practice. All Music Team members are expected to arrive adequately prepared. This involves practicing the current week's songs ahead of time and arriving at rehearsal with both instruments and hearts tuned.

Mark Your Music- When you arrive at rehearsal, a pen or pencil will be available on your music stand. No matter how good you think your memory is, we all need reminders now and then. Mark down all structural elements, dynamics, and changes discussed during rehearsal.

Late or Absent- All musicians scheduled are required to be at all rehearsals. However, there may be rare instances when you may be excused from rehearsal and still participate in the worship service. The Director of Music Ministry will make that decision.

Minimize Disruptions- During rehearsals, please minimize distractions, irrelevant side conversations, and extraneous playing (no noodling) to maximize our team rehearsal time.

Rehearsal Leadership- We welcome a collaborative atmosphere during rehearsal in order to allow the best possible worship experience. That said, there is ultimately only one Director of Music Ministry. Final decisions will always be made by that director (or the director that has been asked to lead a given service in that leader's absence).

Equipment- Musicians are expected to set up their own equipment. Our audio tech is available to help as needed, but also needs to be available to the entire team. In-ear monitors and microphones will be provided.

Dress Code

As a member of the Worship Ministry, you serve in a highly visible ministry. This does not mean this ministry is more important, but as visible ambassadors of Christ, it does require us to give an account of our walk with the Lord. Pride and selfishness can easily entangle us and compromise the work of the Holy Spirit. Apart from humility, we must also practice modesty in all things (clothing, conversation, language, actions, etc.)

Ladies- When serving or not serving, make it your goal to dress in the way Paul instructed women in 1 Timothy 2:9 so as to “adorn themselves with proper clothing, modestly and discreetly...by means of good works, as is proper for women making a claim to godliness.” As women making a claim to godliness, we must be just as intentional on how we are representing our Lord, both on and off stage, in our attitude, attire and behavior.

Please avoid the following:

- Blouses or tops that are low or revealing
- Tops that expose undergarment straps
- See-through tops
- Tops that expose your midriff
- Shirts, skirts, shorts, or pants that are too tight
- Tank Tops, Strapless, and/or sleeveless tops and dresses
- Short shorts
- Short dresses/skirts
- T-shirts with inappropriate logos
- Hats

Men- Please also apply the same principles and be considerate in your dress, attitude, and behavior.

Please avoid the following:

- Sleeveless shirts
- Pants or shorts that are worn low
- Pants or shorts that are too tight or otherwise immodest
- T-shirts with inappropriate logos
- Hats

If you ever have an item in question, please err on the side of modesty. Please remember, our congregation of all ages, along with visitors, will view our church in light of what they see and hear on stage.

General Guidelines

Practice Hospitality- While off the stage, greet people, pitch in where you see a need, and engage in the body life of the church. We want to be worshipers both on and off the stage.

Team Time- After the church service is finished, the band will have an opportunity to evaluate the worship set. The positives should be highlighted and celebrated. Improvements and changes should be communicated, discussed, and implemented. The intent is to improve the service where needed in order to bring Jesus and the congregation our best efforts. Suggestions and critiques ought to be communicated openly and honestly, wrapped in humility and love. Regular evaluation improves quality both for you and our people. We all want to grow.

Hang Out- Take time to get to know your teammates and their families. Building relationships will help both on and off the stage.

Leaving and Entering the Stage- Please enter and exit the stage from the rear entrance, not from the congregation. When entering the stage during prayer, please do so as quietly as possible so as not to be a distraction.

Give Attention- Please give attention to whoever is presenting on stage. It is very distracting to the congregation to be trying to pay attention to someone addressing them when there is a musician who is tuned out or practicing some line in the background.

Music Memorization- While not mandatory, this will greatly increase your ability to connect with one another and the congregation during our worship.

Keep Visual Contact with the Worship Leader- At times the Worship Leader will need to give visual cues to the team.

Tempo- If we are not using a click, by default, the drummer will be the primary tempo keeper. Unless specified otherwise, follow the drums for tempo.

Mistakes- If you make a mistake (and you will from time to time), don't stress out! You are among family. Jesus regularly works through us despite our mistakes and imperfections.

General Guidelines- Continued

Keep Tidy- Please help keep the stage free of extra equipment, cables, cups, wrappers, etc. Water and your caffeine vehicle of choice are welcome, but please make sure that they are not in a distracting vessel, in a publicly visible place, and have a lid so that they will not be spilled on the stage/equipment.

Don't Forget to Worship- What an encouragement it is to the congregation to see the people on stage playing their instruments and lifting their voices in worship with everything they have. When you do this as a lead worshipper, it encourages our people to worship that way as well. When all musicians (not just the vocalists) are fully engaged and even sing (as they are able), it communicates a powerful, united message. This is where memorizing your music whenever possible really helps. We strongly encourage our instrumentalists to step outside their comfort zone and bring some energy to the stage.

Rehearsal Materials

Planning Center Online (PCO) - It is a requirement for all Worship Team Members to know and be able to navigate the Planning Center App. If you need login assistance, please see the Director of Music Ministry. Generally, chord charts and rehearsal media will be posted in the Planning Center App as far as two to three weeks in advance of the given weekend service. Digital rehearsal files can also be viewed online or downloaded. Audio files can be streamed on iOS or Android through the PCO app.

Worship Team Member Schedules

Team Member Schedule- The weekly schedule assignments will generally be discussed and posted up to a month in advance. These will then be emailed to all Assigned Team Members for that given month. All requested assignments should be responded to in a timely manner. It is better to accept a request that you are pretty sure about and, then, decline at a later date than to not respond to it until you know for sure one way or another. Once accepted, you may log into Planning Center through the link provided in the request email. There, you will be able to see the order of service, rehearsal and service times, download and print the chord charts, and play audio or video of the scheduled songs.

Special Accommodations- Team members who do not have sufficient access to the rehearsal files may request hard copies from the Music Director.

Song Changes- In the event a song is changed or added to the plan, the Director of Music Ministry will notify the team of the change and will have reasonable expectations of the team’s level of preparation of newly added songs.

Above Reproach

As a member of the Worship Ministry, the code of conduct is centered on one important standard that reaches into every aspect of our lives. This standard is to be above reproach, blameless, and free from accusation. We are to be above reproach in all situations, in our behavior, our relationships, our communications, and our work, both inside and outside the church.

God establishes this high standard within Scripture for us as examples of Christ and leaders within the church.

“So that you will prove yourselves to be blameless and innocent, children of God **above reproach** in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you appear as lights in the world, holding fast the word of life...” Philippians 2:15-16a

I have read the Worship Ministry Code of Conduct and agree to be bound by those Codes in service to the Lord at The Rock Community Church.

Print Applicant’s Name

Date

Applicant’s Signature

Date

Signature of Witness – Spouse / Friend

Date