

# A MANIFESTO OF A WORSHIPING TEAM

**We are a unified team that strives for excellence in all things!**

- We value relationships, we choose camaraderie over comparison and we seek to give God our best as a unified team.

**We are people of His presence!**

- We depend on the Holy Spirit to move and we value and pursue the benefits that come from being in His presence. (freedom in worship, joy, conviction, deliverance, peace, awe, etc.)

## Philosophy of Corporate Worship

### **• God-centeredness**

The highest priority will always be placed on the vertical focus of our Sunday morning gatherings. Knowing that HE is the source of our satisfaction, our goal is to experience God in such a way that he is glorified in our affections. (Romans 11:36, Psalm 96)

### **• Bible Based and Bible Saturated**

The content of our singing, praying, welcoming, preaching and artistic communication will always conform to the truth of Scripture. The truth of God's Word will be woven through all we do in worship and will be the foundation of all appeal to authority. (Psalm 119:49-56; Rev 22:18-19, Hebrews 4:12)

### **• Head and heart**

Our worship will appeal to clear thinking about spiritual things based on knowable truths about God. We desire worship that aims at kindling deep, strong, and real emotions toward God. (Mark 12:30)

### **• Expecting the powerful presence of God**

We do not just direct ourselves toward HIM. We earnestly seek him to draw near according to the promise of James 4:8. We believe that in worship God draws near to us in power, and makes Himself known and tangibly felt for our good and for the salvation of unbelievers in our midst.

### **• The manifestation of God and the common good**

We expect, hope and pray (according to 1 Corinthians 12:7) that our focus on the manifest presence of God is good for people. Therefore, a spirit of love for each other is necessary to authentic worship.

### **• Earnestness and intensity**

We will avoid a trite, flippant, superficial, frivolous atmosphere, and set an example of reverence, passion and wonder. (Isaiah 6:1-5)

### **• Undistracting excellence**

We will try to sing and play and pray and preach in such a way that people's attention will not be diverted from God-centeredness or from the substance of worship by shoddy ministry, nor by excessive finesse, elegance or refinement. Natural, undistracting excellence will let the truth and beauty of God shine through. (1 Corinthians 14:24-26 & 40)

### · **Honest Communication**

We renounce all sham, deceit, hypocrisy, pretense, artificiality and posturing. We do not want an atmosphere of performance but an atmosphere of a community that has had a radical and personal encounter with the Almighty God. (Ephesians 4:14-16)

### · **The blending of historic and contemporary music**

If a song is scriptural in its content, and singable in nature, it does not matter if it is 500 years old or was written yesterday. We will also seek to be creative, using our musical gifts and talents to write new songs, creating new expressions for the declaration of the glory of God. (Mathew 13:52)

## **The Power of Prayer**

Zechariah 4:6 teaches us that success does not come by might or power but by the very Spirit of God. We can have talented musicians and incredible lyrics in our music but unless the Lord moves those lyrics will be falling on deaf ears. We pray and seek after God because we need HIM to move in our worship services. He is the one who enables real, meaningful ministry to take place. We will always place a heavy emphasis on prayer at The Sanctuary Fellowship.

Acts 17:27- That they should seek God, in the hope that they might feel their way toward him and find him.

Jeremiah 29:13 - You will seek me and find me, when you seek me with all your heart.

Matthew 7:8 - For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened.

Deuteronomy 4:29 - But from there you will seek the Lord your God and you will find him, if you search after him with all your heart and with all your soul.

Matthew 7:7 - "Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you.

Proverbs 8:17 - I love those who love me, and those who seek me diligently find me.

Jeremiah 33:3 - Call to me and I will answer you, and will tell you great and hidden things that you have not known.

The people of The Sanctuary Fellowship need to be in His presence!

Psalms 27:4-5 - One thing have I asked of the Lord, that will I seek after: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the Lord and to inquire in his temple. For he will hide me in his shelter in the day of trouble; he will conceal me under the cover of his tent; he will lift me high upon a rock.

# **Song Selection at TSF**

**Below is the method in which the worship leaders at TSF select the congregational music that will be sung each week.**

Here is the criteria a song must meet before it is ever considered making it into a worship set:

- 1. It Must Affirm the Teachings of Scripture** - The content of our singing and any other form of artistic expression will be measured against the truth of Scripture. Songs used in corporate worship WILL ALWAYS conform to the truth of scripture.
- 2. Songs Must be Playable by TSF Musicians** - The musicians that make up the TSF Worship Team each have different skill sets. TSF worship leaders must ALWAYS take into consideration the musicians strengths and weaknesses when considering new songs.
- 3. The Song fits the Congregational Style** - Every church has a style of worship music. Thankfully, TSF has a very broad range of musical styles that are played on any given Sunday. Before a song is considered for Sunday morning worship, TSF worship leaders will evaluate if the song fits stylistically in the context it will be played in.

## **Finding Music at TSF**

There are many ways TSF worship leaders come across new music. Below are the most common ways.

- 1. Look at the Charts** - CCLI lists the top 100 songs being sung at churches across the country. We look over the charts weekly to see if there are any great songs that are being released. Services like [praisecharts.com](http://praisecharts.com) help us do this.
- 2. Worship Playlists** - TSF Worship Leaders are currently subscribed to several worship playlists on Spotify. The vast majority of personal listening from worship leaders is worship music. Several songs from our current list of songs have come from personal listening.
- 3. Word of Mouth** - TSF Worship Leaders highly value the opinions and suggestions of people in our congregation. If someone suggests a song TSF worship leaders will take the time to listen and evaluate it to see if it could fit in our context.
- 4. Pastoral Leadership / Guest Speaker Suggestions** - TSF Worship Leaders will always consider any song that has been suggested by our senior pastor or any guest speaker that is preaching on a Sunday morning.

## **Planning a Worship Set**

Here is the process for selecting worship music on a week to week basis.

- 1. Prayer** - TSF Worship Leaders always begin the process of planning a worship set in prayer. We ask the Lord to move and lead us in the right direction.
- 2. Thematically Choosing Music** - TSF worship leaders take into consideration how the the theme of a certain song fits in with the message and direction of the morning. We will look at the text from the morning and see if there are any elements of the worship set we are working

around. Those elements may include: communion, a prayer and ministry time, baptism, corporate scripture, etc.

3. **Team Considerations** - Our team consists of musicians with different strengths and weaknesses. TSF worship leaders must take the time to look at who is scheduled and take their weaknesses and strengths into consideration when selecting music.
4. **Keys, Temp and Time Signature of Songs** - TSF worship Leaders must consider if the musical aspects of each song help the flow of the set and promote undistracting excellence.
5. **Congregational Response** - If a song is familiar to the congregation, TSF worship leaders consider the emotional EQ of the song and let that determine where it should be placed in the set. The peak of most worship sets is the fourth song or fifth song. We also try to incorporate any new music in the middle of each set. Very rarely will a new song be placed as the first or last song in a worship set.
6. **Length of Time Before the Song was Last Used** - The newer the song, the more we will do it over the course of several months. If a song is already established in our song catalog, TSF Worship Leaders will purposefully use it sparingly so it doesn't get overplayed and lose its weight and power.

## Implementing New Songs

- TSF worship leaders will only introduce new songs if they meet the selection criteria and if they fit with other aspects of the worship set (playability of musicians, key and tempo, theme, etc.).
- TSF worship leaders will never introduce more than one song on any given Sunday. Worship leaders will also make sure that the remaining songs in that week's set are familiar to the congregation.
- If a song is introduced at TSF and received well, TSF worship leaders will put it in the schedule at least 3 out of five consecutive Sundays. Many times we following the following schedule:
  - 1st Sunday - New Song Introduced
  - 2nd Sunday - Introduced Song is played again
  - 3rd Sunday - The new song that was introduced is purposefully taken out of the rotation
  - 4th Sunday - The introduced song is played again
  - 5th Sunday - The song is taken out of the rotation but is now in the TSF song catalog to be used during later dates

# General Worship Team Member Requirements

TSF is always looking for qualified musicians who meet our general requirements for worship team members.

All current and potential TSF musicians and vocalists must:

- Be a Christian
- Have a heart and passion for God and genuine love for His church
- Committed to growing in their faith
- Have a demonstrated and maintained musical talent/ability
- Be able to read chord charts if playing a musical instrument
- Be able to sing a harmony if a vocalist
- Be able to play to a metronome if a drummer
- Be teachable
- Be passionate about corporate worship
- Be a team player
- Do their best to live above reproach in both personal and social media environments.
- Live with integrity in both public and private arenas.

For Potential New Members - If it's determined that member requirements are met, the following steps will take place in a timely manner:

- TSF Worship Leaders will send out a Planning Center request email
- A set of various songs and styles will be prepared and emailed to the person showing interest.
- An audition will be scheduled within 1 week of prepared set being emailed.
- "The Worship Team Manifesto" and the "Philosophy of Corporate Worship" will be given to the potential new member. They will be expected to read through everything prior to their audition.

During the Audition, TSF worship leaders will evaluate the person's ability to:

- Read Chord Charts
- Play Comfortably
- Learn and play specific musical parts of a song
- Sing a harmony if auditioning as a vocalist
- Lead a song out if auditioning as a vocalist
- Play to a click if auditioning as a drummer

If worship leaders conclude that the person showing interest is capable and agrees with TSF's Philosophy of Corporate Worship and Manifesto, he/she will be placed in the musical rotation for a 3 month probationary period.

During that time the new worship team member will be expected to:

- Serve and be present when they are scheduled
- Be on-time and prepared to serve in their assigned roles.
- Be presentable, wearing apparel that reflects a contemporary atmosphere. (See Dress Code)
- Communicate schedule conflicts in advance
- Develop a good relationship with musicians and worship team leaders
- Assist in clearing the stage after practices and Sunday Services as necessary

After 3 months, worship team leaders will schedule a follow up meeting to discuss if the TSF worship ministry is a right fit for the potential new member. They will also discuss ways TSF worship leaders can support the potential new team member.

# Worship Team - Best Practices

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## The following practices should be completed prior to Sunday morning rehearsal:

- Respond to all Planning Center requests
- Block any dates you are unavailable with as much notice as possible
- Go over every aspect of the order of worship
- Spend adequate time listening to and learning arrangements to all songs in set-list
- Practice at least two times prior to Sunday
- Prepare your outfit for Sunday morning worship. (See Dress Code)
- Spend time in prayer, preparing your heart to minister and lead well
- Go to sleep at a reasonable time on Saturday night so you are refreshed and ready to minister on Sunday.

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## The following practices should be practiced on Sunday mornings:

- Park in Wal-mart parking lot
- Arrive to TSF and be completely ready to rehearse by 7:30.
  - Your in-ears, instrument, iPad should be ready to go **by 7:30!**
- Do not play or speak into the microphone while someone else is sound checking
- Direct all questions and suggestions to assigned Worship Leader during rehearsal
  - Sunday morning usually isn't the time to question a specific song or arrangement. If you have an issue with something in the set please let a worship leader know during the week.
- Make notes during rehearsal in your "Music Stand" app to help you remember specific parts
- Stay flexible. Things can change quickly in a worship set and we need to be flexible to move as the Spirit does
- Be respectful of the prayer team. After rehearsal take all conversations to the foyer
- After rehearsal, be back in worship center at 9:50 for prayer
- Be findable
- After prayer, meet with worship leaders and a/v team to run through the order one last time prior to the service
- Greet people in the worship center, especially if you see someone new
- Be on stage at 10:12 ready to worship at 10:15

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## The following practices should be practiced after the Sunday morning service:

- Place your in ear monitors and iPads back in storage
- Make sure your iPad is plugged in to an outlet
- Pick up any clutter and make sure your area is tidy (cables rolled, water bottles thrown away, etc.)

# TSF WORSHIP TEAM

## DRESS CODE

Our goal for dress at TSF is a modest and dressy (not sloppy), culturally relevant style.

### **General Guidelines:**

- As leaders on the platform, the clothes we wear need to be considered intentionally and with care.
- Our clothes should come across as relevant to our culture and the people we are leading.
- Clothing should be worn so as not to inhibit your ability lead worship or prevent forms and expressions of worship.
- Clothing should not draw unnecessary attention to yourself and should not be distracting.
- Rule of thumb: If you have a question about a clothing item, don't wear it.

### **MODESTY GUIDELINES: [MEN]**

- Shirts must be non form fitting and cover your body at all times
- No sleeveless shirts
- Wear an undershirt of an appropriate color if needed
- Make sure your shirt is buttoned up at an appropriate place
- No shirts with words or logos (i.e. teams, schools etc...)
- No flip-flops or sandals
- No shorts, work out pants, or sweat pants
- No holes, rips, or tears in jeans/pants
- Hats are permitted, but please be tasteful; no caps

### **MODESTY GUIDELINES: [WOMEN]**

- Shirts should be non form fitting and cover your body at all times (make sure you can raise your hands without your stomach showing)
- No shirts with words or logos (i.e. teams, schools etc...)
- No sleeveless shirts without a covering
- Wear an undershirt of an appropriate color if needed
- Do not show cleavage
- Ensure that nothing is revealed when you lean forward
- Bras should be inconspicuous
- Bra straps, spaghetti straps and tank tops should be covered at all times
- No shorts, yoga/work out pants, or sweat pants
- No short skirts or short dresses (length should be determined by where your fingertips hit your legs when standing)
- Skirts and dresses should be worn with leggings unless they hit below the knee
- No holes, rips, or tears in jeans/pants
- Avoid see through or sheer clothing (be aware that stage lighting exposes)
- No flip flops
- Nice sandals are permitted during warmer months
- Avoid gaudy/over-sized jewelry
- Hats are permitted, but please be tasteful; no caps

\* If there is an issue with clothing, the worship leader will make you aware and appropriate changes need to be made.