

College Park Greenwood Worship Arts Handbook

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the Worship Arts Team! I am so excited that God has given you a passion to serve in this ministry! Everyone is made in a unique and wonderful way and it is such a joy to see God bring our paths together! I'm so excited to help you steward these gifts and strive to put God on display through worship arts!

This handbook can seem overwhelming but it exists to give you an overview of our **VALUES & PHILOSOPHY, PROCEDURES**, and **COVENANT**. Our church mission is: *Igniting a Passion to Follow Jesus*. Our prayer is that the following will help us achieve that mission together as we embrace our calling to be worship leaders at College Park Church Greenwood.

VALUES & PHILOSOPHY

The Trinity

The artistic elements of our worship services are intentionally designed to regularly include language which refers to each Person of the Godhead – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Matthew 28:18-20 *Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."*

The Scripture

All art forms used in our worship gatherings are tethered to the Word of God. While Scripture does not speak definitively on every color, rhythm, style, genre, etc., we believe we have everything we need in the Bible to design creative, God-exalting, relevant, and edifying worship environments and services.

2 Timothy 3:14-17 *But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it, and how from infancy you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in*

Christ Jesus. All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God[a] may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

Gospel-Centeredness

God has prescribed means for worshiping him throughout the ages. In the Old Testament, God designated that he be approached and worshiped through the sacrificial temple system. However, in the New Testament, Jesus Christ is the Savior and Mediator by which God's people worship Him in spirit and truth. Therefore, we strive to keep the Gospel central and at the core of our worship gatherings.

1 Timothy 2:5 *For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus.*

Hebrews 10:19-22 *Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus, by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh, and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.*

Lifestyle Worship

We believe that worship must not be isolated to corporate worship settings, and therefore we take seriously the responsibility to equip the Body to be a worshiping community between the weekend gatherings wherever God has planted us.

Romans 12:1-2 *Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.*

Passion

The worship leaders/artists at College Park Church Greenwood seek to model passionate expressions of worship in an effort to inspire freedom to fully and sincerely direct our affections toward God and his glory. Our strong desire is that all who attend College Park Church Greenwood, even first-time attenders, will clearly see we are passionate followers of Jesus.

Luke 10:27 *And he answered, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself."*

Excellence

Psalm 33:3 tells us to play skillfully which means we are admonished to work hard to create beautiful art pointing to the One who gave us the talents to do so. We strive to eliminate any

distractions that would pull someone away from focusing on God, either by a lack of preparedness or by a lack of appropriate skill. God only gave His best to us, and we want to bear His image well by purposing to only ever give our very best to Him.

Psalm 33:1-3 Sing joyfully to the LORD, you righteous; it is fitting for the upright to praise him. 2 Praise the LORD with the harp; make music to him on the ten-stringed lyre. 3 Sing to him a new song; play skillfully, and shout for joy.

1 Chronicles 25:6-7 All these men were under the supervision of their father for the music of the temple of the Lord, with cymbals, lyres and harps, for the ministry at the house of God. Asaph, Jeduthun and Heman were under the supervision of the king. Along with their relatives—all of them trained and skilled in music for the Lord—they numbered 288.

Spirit and Truth

We intentionally try to connect our minds to our emotions, balancing our worship gatherings with both biblical teaching and appropriate artistic expression. We believe there is beauty and depth expressed in the “both” of worship.¹

John 4:23-24 Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in the Spirit and in truth.”

Balance

We value what God has done in and through the Church past. We also value what God is uniquely doing in and through the Church right now. Therefore, we employ both old and new expressions of worship, connecting us to the past and celebrating the current work of God in his church.

Psalm 96:1-3 Oh sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the LORD, all the earth! Sing to the LORD, bless his name; tell of his salvation from day to day. Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous works among all the peoples!

Diversity

We consider it a great privilege to be able to learn from other cultures and ethnic backgrounds so that we might be an inclusive house of Christian worship for all people. We affirm that there are many God-honoring styles of music and mediums of art, reflecting the endless creativity of our God.

¹ For a complete treatment of the concept of the “both” of worship see: <http://cpcresources.net/the-both-of-worship/>

1 Corinthians 12:4-7 *Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone.*

Unity

Our Worship Arts Ministry works diligently to be unified, believing that when we worship together in unity, we are best able to show each other and the world the Image of God.

Ephesians 4:1-6 *As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.*

Intimacy

We acknowledge that as we draw closer to our Lord in worship settings, we will grow closer to one another, resulting in corporate expressions of the Gospel. We strive to make our worship arts ministries a shepherding community, caring for the spiritual development of one another.

Philippians 2:1-2 *Therefore if you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any common sharing in the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind.*

Authenticity

Our programming is designed to create environments where there can be honest, open expressions of worship from the congregation as they walk through many different stages in their spiritual journey.

Colossians 3:9-10 *Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator.*

Stewardship

We believe that God holds us accountable for how well we invested our talents in His work. This directly applies to how we utilize the creative arts in His Church.

Matthew 25:20-21 *The man who had received five bags of gold brought the other five. 'Master,' he said, 'you entrusted me with five bags of gold. See, I have gained five more.' His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!'*

Servant leadership

Our worship arts ministry seeks to model servant leadership, by avoiding a performance-based, self-serving mindset.

Mark 10:45 *For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."*

Love

We remind ourselves often that the best "performance" is empty without a deep love for God in our hearts. We want to utilize worship arts that express a sincere love first for our God, and then extending that love to every person God brings to our worship gatherings.

Colossians 3:12-17 *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 one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity. Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts. 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.*

PROCEDURES

Auditions

Anyone who desires to serve in College Park's Worship Arts Ministry will be asked to audition. We value creativity and excellence; so we are looking for musicians who are serious about their craft, and who demonstrate a desire to give their best. We believe that when God calls an individual to any particular position, he equips them with talents and abilities necessary to fulfill that call. We aim to effectively guide you through the process of determining where you can best steward your talents.

At your audition you will be asked the following questions:

- 1 When and how did you come to know Jesus as your personal Savior?
- 2 What has been your experience with a local church? (i.e, baptism, membership, previous involvement)
- 3 How are you growing in your relationship with Him right now?
- 4 What is your musical background?
- 5 Why are you interested in using your talents as a part of our Worship Arts Ministry?

Please send questions to Mitchell McIntyre (mmcintyre@yourchurch.com)

Next Steps

Once you have auditioned you will be contacted and formally asked to join the worship arts ministry and sign the Worship Arts Covenant. Then, you will be put into the rotation for a Sunday morning service. If you have any questions please reach out to Mitchell McIntyre at (mmcintyre@yourchurch.com)

Rehearsals and Worship Service Schedule

Our rehearsal schedule is *typically* as follows: (Any exceptions will be communicated in advance.)

Sunday Morning Rehearsal

- 8:15am – Call Time/Sound Check. This means that you are plugged in, tuned up, well-prepared, and ready to play at 8:15 pm. We ask that each member determine what they need and then arrive with as much time as it will take them to be ready to play when our rehearsal begins.
- 9:15am – Live Run-Through. After a musical rehearsal of each song, we will have a live run-through of the entire set list/service order.
- 9:40am Team Prayer before the service.

COVENANT

A covenant is an agreement between two parties who are working toward a common goal. In this case, the two parties are you and College Park Church Greenwood (specifically, the leadership of College Park Church Greenwood Worship Arts Ministry).

It is a high calling of God to be a worship leader! In fact, not one person who has ever lived has been worthy on their own merit to lead others into the presence of God. But, not only has God made a way for us to be intimately connected to Him in worship, He actually uses fallen people to be a part of that process. Therefore, we want to take great care in coming to God on His terms, offering our best to Him.

To ensure that expectations are clear, we ask all who are called to participate in College Park's Worship Arts Ministry to agree to and sign the following covenant.

What You Can Expect From Us:

- We will provide you with opportunities to use your gifts in the Worship Arts Ministry.
- We will love you, affirm you, and seek your good through encouragement, shepherding, fellowship, serving, and training opportunities.

- We will strive to communicate with you clearly in worship team meetings/rehearsals, emails, Planning Center Online invitations, etc.
- We will work hard to make sure you have charts & demos in a timely manner.
- We will hold you accountable to living a life of a true follower of Jesus. In the event that your life does not reflect being a child of God, we are committed to loving you well by taking appropriate steps as outlined in Scripture (Matt. 18:15-17, 2 Cor. 2:5-11), while extending to you compassion and extravagant grace, in the hope that you will be reconciled.

What We Expect From You:

CHARACTER

- 1.) I will work diligently to continually develop my relationship with Jesus Christ and to live the life of a true disciple. (2 Peter 1:5-11)
 - a. We strongly encourage you to spend time with Him regularly in prayer, Bible reading and personal worship to foster a deeper walk with Him.
- 2.) I will be a person of biblical integrity and live a life that “bears much fruit”. (Galatians 5:16-24)
- 3.) I will live in a manner worthy of the calling I have received, above reproach, by avoiding lifestyles and situations that may “cause a brother to stumble” (1 Corinthians 8:9-12).
 - a. Modesty in appearance and demeanor is an important aspect of ministry leadership. While we want to avoid unhelpful legalism, we encourage & expect you to be responsible in what you wear and how you present yourself, especially when on the platform, protecting people who will attend our services from distraction or temptation.
- 4.) I will uphold and live out the value of Christian community in my life through involvement in Small Groups, Bible Studies, or Adult Big Groups.
- 5.) I will actively look for opportunities to encourage/mentor others that God puts in my life.
- 6.) I will represent College Park Church Greenwood positively by communicating honorably about the church, and by handling disagreement in a mature way as outlined in Matthew 5:22-24 and 18:15-17.
 - a. We are counting on you to exercise discretion and wisdom with social media and any other mode of communication, as you embrace more influence as a worship leader at College Park Church Greenwood. As influence grows, the need for wisdom increases as to how we represent our Lord in all areas of life.
- 7.) I will serve with a humble heart and work together with all involved in this ministry with a spirit of unity, cooperation, understanding and grace. (Ephesians 4:1-7)

EXCELLENCE

- 1.) I will practice my instrument (voice or musical instrument) diligently and frequently to develop my talents on my own time.
- 2.) I will take care when handling equipment, treating it as my own.
- 3.) I will work hard to arrive at my scheduled rehearsals with all music well-rehearsed.
- 4.) I will strive to be prepared enough to perform the music from memory. (if possible)
 - a. This will enable you to be more free to engage in worship and to lovingly lead the people, rather than having your head buried in your charts.

COMMITMENT

- 1.) I will commit to serve in the Worship Arts Ministry at College Park Church Greenwood for one year, and will renew or terminate this commitment each subsequent year.
- 2.) I will commit to attend all scheduled rehearsals and to arriving on time.
- 3.) I will commit to be a strength to my other team members by being well-prepared at rehearsals.
- 4.) I will regularly attend College Park Church Greenwood worship gatherings, whether I'm scheduled to lead worship that day or not.
- 5.) I will pursue church membership at College Park Church Greenwood within the next 6 months (if not already a church member).

I have read College Park Church Greenwood's Worship Arts Ministry Handbook in its entirety and agree to the commitments of each section in their entirety.

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Printed: _____