

A Word from the Minister of Music

It is a great joy for me to greet you and share my appreciation for your interest/involvement in the Music Ministry at **Covenant Life**. As you know, it requires many individuals, such as yourself, working together, praying and sacrificing together, to create music that exalts and glorifies God. We are so blessed to have so many musically gifted and anointed people by our side in this ministry. We are glad you are one of them.

Together, we are a team and are accountable to God and each other. Commit yourself to the Lord first, and then to this ministry and see what He will do through us as we make ourselves available to Him! Let us continue to move forward and “Raise the Standard” so that we may please God with our efforts.

God Bless you as you serve Him through music.

Cyndi McAfee

Minister of Music

MISSION AND OBJECTIVES

MISSION

Our mission is “to lead in worship” as we publicly praise the Lord, proclaiming the Gospel and leading God’s people into a deeper knowledge and experience of Him through the ministry of music. We also want to stress **worship** as a life-style, not a separate activity to be engaged in only at specific times and places.

OBJECTIVES

- To reach outside the walls of the church as well as ministering to the church family.
- To minister to the needs within the choir as a “church within a church” to promote unity, healing, and discipleship.
- To exhibit the character of Christ so our musical activities will have a greater meaning and impact.
- To provide special musical events that will uplift hearts, inspire commitment and draw people to the flame of the Gospel.
- To provide an outlet for people to utilize their diverse artistic God given talents within the spiritual and physical context of the church.

REQUIREMENTS / QUALIFICATIONS

The Music Ministry is open to anyone who regularly attends and supports the Covenant Life Church and is in agreement with its goals and objectives as a church body. A prospective singer or musician must also meet the following requirements:

- Must be a born again Christian
- Willing to make a one year commitment upon joining. However, if a situation arises during that year that would cause you not to be able to fulfill your commitment, it is your responsibility at that time to contact the Minister of Music to explain the circumstances of your absence. **Please keep in mind that your commitment to this ministry is your promise to God - not to the church or Music Ministry leadership.**
- Must be willing to commit to **make every effort** to faithfully attend all rehearsals and scheduled services.
- Must be in agreement with and dedicated to the principles outlined in this handbook and must be willing to follow all decisions made by those in leadership with a good, supportive attitude.
- New choir members must attend three rehearsals before singing in service with the choir.

GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR
CHOIR, PRAISE TEAM, AND BAND MEMBERS

1. Although the music team is a volunteer ministry, it is a ministry unto the Lord, to the believers, and to the lost. Therefore, every member should recognize that his time, talents, and all that he is and has belong to the Lord.
2. As a part of this ministry, if you have not already done so, you are strongly encouraged to become a member of Covenant Life. By doing so you are stating that you agree with the beliefs and mission of the church as a whole.
3. As a leader in worship, you should be loyal to the church with your tithes and offerings and support the total program of Covenant Life.
4. A music ministry member should seek to be filled with the Holy Spirit according to Acts 2:4.
5. Cooperation with the Senior Pastor, Minister of Music, and other music ministry members is necessary.
6. The music ministry members must be constantly aware that the congregation is viewing the platform and should act accordingly. Members must not do anything that will draw attention to themselves. It is most important to be attentive and involved in the service at all times.

7. Every music ministry member is encouraged to be looking for other talented people that might be interested in becoming a part of our team. Their name and phone number should be given to the Minister of Music for follow-up.

ATTENDANCE GUIDELINES

Attendance and punctuality is a reflection of one's personal commitment to the Music Ministry and the important task of leading in praise and worship. As a member of the Covenant Life Music Ministry, you are required to prayerfully examine your commitment to God. We are **all** called to give our best and "commit" ourselves to the calling God has placed within us.

The best philosophy to adopt for rehearsal is... "If I am in town and physically able to be in rehearsal, I WILL BE THERE." Rehearsal time is just as important as being in the service!

The Leadership of Covenant Life understands that even the most dedicated music ministry member may sometimes not be able to attend a rehearsal or a scheduled service due to circumstances beyond their control such as sickness, work schedules, or family crisis. We are also aware that our dedicated members will be involved in well-deserved

vacations times throughout the year. We ask that when you are going to be out for any of these reasons, please contact your Minister of Music as it will aid in song selection for services and/or rehearsals. Reporting “expected” absences as far in advance as possible will be much appreciated. Thank you in advance for this!

GENERAL APPEARANCE AND HYGIENE GUIDELINES

Because this ministry is unavoidably in the position of serving as an example both inside and outside the church; our appearance and behavior should be both modest and moderate – not drawing undue attention to ourselves or being a distraction to the congregation.

Also, **proper hygiene** and **cleanliness** are of the utmost importance. Please take every effort to guard against any embarrassing and offensive situations.

THE CHOIR MEMBER'S BEATITUDES

1. **Blessed** is the choir member who attends rehearsals regularly, for he shall receive a crown for faithfulness and make fewer mistakes on Sunday.
2. **Blessed** is the choir member who never shuns Sunday choir responsibilities with a trivial excuse that would not keep him from a secular job, for a full choir inspires great congregational participation.
3. **Blessed** is the choir member who is not easily offended, for he shall be known to possess LOVE, the virtue esteemed greater than faith and hope.
4. **Blessed** is the choir member whose Spiritual life is in accord with the beautiful harmony he sings, for he shall never be known as a hypocrite.
5. **Blessed** is the choir member who; participates in revival choir efforts, for he shall have a vital part in the winning of souls.
6. **Blessed** is the choir member who sings with the Spirit and with the understanding also, for the Lord shall add His blessings to the song.
7. **Blessed** is the choir member who reflects a spirit of reverence and enthusiastic participation, for his noble qualities shall be reflected in the congregation.
8. **Blessed** is the choir member who sings, not for music's sake alone, but for the message, for the Holy Spirit often sends the dew of conviction on the wings of song.
9. **Blessed** is the choir member that sings for an appreciative Pastor, Elders and people, for an enthusiastic spirit shall permeate their ministry.
10. **Blessed** is the choir that sings for the glory of God, for that choir shall have a spirit of unity and peace that shall bless the entire congregation.

Amen

THE TEN (OR SO) CHOIR COMMANDMENTS

1. Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, with all thy soul, with all thy mind, and with all thy strength.
2. Thou shalt love thy choir neighbor as thyself.
3. Thou shalt honor thy ministry leaders that thou mayest live long in the ministry the Lord thy God gives thee.
4. Thou shalt be faithful to thy commitment.
5. Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's solo, seat, robe, or microphone.
6. Thou shalt not commit murder nor bear false witness against thy choir neighbor.
7. Thou shalt depart from iniquity.
8. Remember the Sabbath Day and **keep it early.**
9. Thou shalt dwell in the choir loft until dismissed.
10. Thou shalt present thy body wholly and appropriately dressed before the Lord.
11. Thou shalt preserve thy robe without spot or wrinkle.
12. Thou shalt not whine.

PRAISE AND WORSHIP TEAM GUIDELINES

- Praise and Worship Singers are involved in leading the congregation in Worship when called upon at anytime during the service.
- Praise and Worship Singers are to help sing during Altar Services at all services.
- Singers must be faithful members of the choir.
- Singers must be well groomed and well dressed.
- Must attend and be actively involved in choir rehearsals and functions.
- Contact Minister of Music in advance of absence from rehearsal or scheduled service. (A MUST)
- Must be “**team players**”.

Remember, Glory follows Order!

CHOIR, PRAISE TEAM, AND BAND PLEDGE

We will endeavor, by the aid of the Holy Spirit, to walk together in Christian love; to serve for the advancement of Covenant Life Church and its' ministries; to promote its' prosperity and spirituality; to sustain its' worship, ordinances, discipline, and doctrines; to contribute cheerfully, and regularly, to the support of this ministry; to spread the Good News of Jesus Christ to all people who see and hear our witness of God's greatness and love.

We also determine to walk circumspectly in the world, to be faithful in our engagements and commitments, to avoid criticism or negative attitudes; to remember one another in prayer; to aid one another in times of difficulty, and to cultivate Christian character in our lives individually and as a choir, praise team, and band.

Signed _____

(Please print and sign that you have read the above guidelines and return to Minister of Music.)

Ephesians 5:19 - "Speak to one another with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs. Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord."

Psalms 19:14 - "Let the words of my mouth and the meditations of my heart be acceptable in your sight, Lord, my strength and my redeemer."