

DCBC English Worship Praise Ministry Packet

“Speak to one another with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs. Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord, always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.” (Ephesians 5:19-20)

Purpose of the Praise Team

The primary purpose of any praise team is to give glory to our Lord, the Creator of Heaven and Earth. He is the Alpha and Omega, the God of the Universe who is to be the whole purpose of our lives. He is worthy of all of our worship, and at DCBC, the responsibility lies with the Praise Team to: ***create an atmosphere in which people can be led by the Holy Spirit into an encounter with God***

Working as a whole, the Praise Team brings several elements to our service of worship including music, but also reinforcement of the spoken message, scripture reading, visual arts, and media. This should not be a responsibility that is taken lightly, nor with mediocrity. We want to bring God the best we have – that is what we call excellence.

In the context of a praise team, our best would include all of the talents and skills with which He has blessed us, time devoted to rehearsals, practicing and learning at home, and leading worship services with a genuine heart to glorify God.

The philosophy of church music at DCBC should be God centered- Is God pleased with our worship? Is it as measured by His written word? It is not about whether one is satisfied or feel good after the service. The WORD takes the primary role in our worship- not the music, play/skit, audio/video tapes, or others. These tools are there to support the Word. Worshipers’ heart preparation before weekly worship and musicians’ skill mastery are keys to reaching the goals of our worship- Monday to Saturday is important; Saturday evening is critical; Holiness and obedience through the week are essential; and only trained and skillful musicians are to serve.

(1 Chr 15:22; 25:1-7, etc)

Dallas Chinese Bible Church

Standards & Expectations for Praise Ministry Members

As a Praise Ministry Member, a leader to the English congregation, you are expected to follow a few rules in order to continue to be part of the ministry member. Please read through this carefully and prayerfully consider all of the requirements before signing the covenant.

Our goal is to ensure the best quality worship experience and a welcoming environment for the congregation. We are to serve together as a small group where obedience and intimacy with Christ and each other drive our passion for service.

- A. Be a member of DCBC and/or a regular attendee on Sunday worship for at least 3 months.

- B. Be a baptized Christian.

- C. Personal Bible Study - As a member of the Praise Ministry, you are called to be a follower of Jesus Christ who seeks Him regularly through personal worship, prayer and Bible study. We encourage you to set aside some time each day to spend with God and His Word. Even Jesus was committed to spending time alone with the Father. “And after He had sent the multitudes away, He went up to the mountain by Himself to pray; and when it was evening, He was there alone.” (Matthew 14:23)

- D. Personal Code of Conduct – As leaders and ministers to the church, you will be expected to “Conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel.” (Philippians 1:27) This verse refers to a personal code of conduct. We are called to be above reproach and to set an example for others.

You are expected to be an example to others in every area of your personal life (language, decision making, relationships, your trust in God, your pursuit of purity in dating, your family life and entertainment) not just on stage. Who you are off stage says more about who you are than what you do on stage.

- E. Humility in Leadership - As a ministry member, you are expected to share the vision and purpose of this ministry team. This will require humility, a Christ-like attitude and servant-hood on your part. There needs to be a consistent communication between you and the praise ministry coordinators and the pastoral staff to pray and for

accountability purposes. As a leader, we expect you to be honest with the English Pastor(s) and Praise Ministry Coordinator(s) at all times.

As a ministry member, you will be committing to the unity of the group and to helping each other grow musically and spiritually. There is no room for dissention among believers.

F. Demonstrate appropriate musical or technical ability – You need to be skilled and talented enough to follow along at the level of the other participants. In addition, you must strive to be a good fit in style, blend, personality, and skills as determined by the English Pastor(s), Music Director of DCBC and the Praise Ministry Coordinator(s).

G. Please be on time. We cannot stress this enough. Please respect each other by being on time. Be early for all practices and for the day that you are serving. Please call and notify other ministry members immediately if one is delayed. If you do not let someone know ahead of time and fail to show up to a rehearsal and/or performance, it will be considered a “**NO CALL - NO SHOW.**” If you have more than one “NO CALL – NO SHOW”, then you will be relieved of your responsibilities without warning. For members under 17, please arrange rides accordingly. Your parent(s) are asked to sign your application form; therefore, it is their promise to support you by bringing you to church on time! Please talk to them and stress the importance of this issue.

H. **DRESS CODE** – Your attire should not make your fellow sister or brother in Christ stumble, nor draw attention to yourself.

Examples That Are Acceptable:

- : Dresses
- Sleeveless Tops
- : Pants
- : Dockers or Slacks
- : Knit, Button-Up or Polo Shirts
- : T-shirts (when worn under a jacket or Shirt)

Examples That Are Not Acceptable:

- : Tank, Tube, Strapless or any
- : Denim Blues jeans
- : Excessively Worn or Torn Clothing
- : Exercise Pants or Sweats
- : Exposed Belly Buttons or Midriffs
- : Shorts (Including Walking Shorts)
- : Short Skirts
- : Dresses with High Slits
- : T-shirts with Logos/Writing

I. Have a clear understanding and knowledge of current rehearsals/service

schedules. You will be required to participate in regular rehearsals when scheduled. Please check it against your family's calendar to make sure you are available. Things can change at the last minute, so please be flexible. Please respond to emails regarding praise team scheduling promptly for better coordination and cohesiveness. We must be dedicated to excellence in our area of ministry for the glory of a magnificent God. The musicians in King David's court were required to be skilled. We also see the importance of playing together in 2 Chronicles 5: "When the musicians played in union the glory of the Lord filled the temple." It is important that you be at every scheduled rehearsal and worship time. You are depended on as a vital part of the Praise Team and your absence hurts the efforts of the entire Team.

J. Develop appropriate relationships/boundaries in your interpersonal dealings with people whether they are on the worship team or not. This includes non-Christian dating, dating without parents' consent, friends with benefits, problems in marriages and any behavior that would make your brother or sister fall into sin. Counseling or advice is available by the Pastoral Staff at DCBC as needed. When boundaries are crossed or you are not able to maintain a Christ-like example to your peers, we will ask you to step down.

K. When there is struggle or a form of addiction (porn, grades, money, lust, hobbies, etc), we would like the member to be upfront, humble and honest with the Pastoral staff and Praise Ministry Coordinator(s). This is not so we can ridicule the individual but to help him/her grow and be redirected to Christ. If there is a heart of repentance, willingness to change and determination to be obedient to God's word, we would love to help, while you continue to serve. "Is any of you in trouble? He should pray. Is anyone happy? Let him sing songs of praise. Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective. My brother, if one of you should wander from the truth and someone should bring him back, remember this: Whoever turns a sinner from the error of his way will save him from death and cover over a multitude of sins." (James 5:13, 16, 19-20)

OF COURSE there is GRACE AND RESTORATION. We welcome back any member to rejoin if he or she had enough time to rethink his or her actions with a heart of repentance and restoration. However he or she must reapply and set a meeting with the Worship Coordinator.

PERSONAL INFORMATION

Name: _____ Age (if under 18): _____
Occupation: _____
Instrument: _____ Years of Lessons/Experience: _____
Are you interested in helping with SOUND and/or MEDIA? YES NO
Address: _____
City/State/Zip: _____
Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____
Email: _____
Parents' Names (for under 18 members): _____
Email: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Member Commitment to DCBC English Worship Praise Ministry

As a member of the praise ministry for English Worship, I promise to strive for:

- Commitment to the people and leadership of DCBC (A-B): I commit myself to work joyfully under the leadership of DCBC...
- Spiritual and musical maturity (C-F): I commit myself to grow spiritually and musically...
- Time commitment (G): I commit myself to being on time in respect of others...
- Teamwork (H-I): I commit myself to work in unity with other team members for the glory of God...
- Accountability (J-K): I commit myself to be transparent and accountable to leaders and other team members...
- See attached list of Requirements and Expectations for praise team members (lists A-K)

I am committing myself to serve in the DCBC English Worship Praise Ministry 2010-2011. I have read and understand all of what is required and expected of me. I realize that this is a great privilege and responsibility and will serve on this Team as a service to the Lord. I promise to abide by all of the requirements set out for me in this covenant and will do my best to reflect Christ at all times. I accept a high level of accountability and realize I am a minister of the gospel of Christ. I understand if my conduct does not match my promise I will step down from my position.

Team Member

Date

Parent Commitment to DCBC English Worship Praise Team (for members under 18)

I realize the importance of my son/daughter's commitment to serve as a leader in the

DCBC English Worship Praise Ministry. I have read and understand the requirements and expectations placed on him/her. I will support my son/daughter in this commitment by encouraging and praying for him/her. I will make every effort to help him/her grow musically and spiritually so he/she can become a better minister to his/her peers. I will also hold him/her accountable to the commitment he/she has made to the Lord, his/her Team leaders and the other members of the English Worship Praise Ministry.

Parent/Guardian of Ministry Member

Date