

NORTH SIDE WORSHIP

northsidebc.org

*"I will praise the
LORD at all
times; His
praise shall
continually be
in my mouth."
-Psalm 34:1*



Guidelines, & Expectations

A large, stylized logo consisting of the letters 'NS' in a bold, white, sans-serif font. The logo is set against a light blue circular background that has a subtle gradient and a slight shadow effect. The logo is positioned in the lower right quadrant of the page, partially overlapping the 'Guidelines, & Expectations' text.



North Side Worship Guidelines

This manual helps explain the guidelines and expectations to serve with the North Side Worship ministry team.

The expectations and application is based upon our 5 core values:

1. **Humility** - leading with perspective
2. **Credibility** - leading with integrity
3. **Capability** - leading with excellence
4. **Availability** - leading with presence
5. **Unity** - leading with selflessness

1. Humility - *leading with perspective*

Worship is all about God. Whenever we serve in a manner to get attention for ourselves, we are attempting to rob God of his glory. People who are called to lead others in worship must be bent on leading humbly before God and his people.

- a) **Genuine Faith** - To lead people in worship, one must be confident of one's own salvation in Jesus Christ.
- b) **Correct Doctrine** - In order to lead biblical worship, one must possess correct biblical doctrine concerning essential truths (the Bible, God, Man, Jesus, the Holy Spirit, Salvation, the Church, Eternity).
- c) **Proper Intentions** - While pride will be a struggle for every believer, each member of this team must have proper intentions on leading boldly on stage and off for the purpose of pointing people to Jesus. We must make war with our pride. If you seek an audience of anyone other than Jesus, this ministry is not for you.

2. Credibility - *leading with integrity*

Those who lead in worship are responsible for holding themselves to a high standard. We stand before congregations representing the church. What people see in us, they tend to generalize about our fellowship of believers. What people see on Sunday mornings (or Sunday nights, Wednesday nights, etc.) must be who we are Monday through Saturday as well, lest we be to blame for people rejecting Christians as hypocrites.

Our entire lives must be committed to God, not just a few hours a week. Of course, none of us can do that perfectly yet because we are stuck in this human condition for now, but it must always be our aim, our ultimate goal. When we mess up, we have to confess it, trust Jesus to bury it, and continue trying again with our eyes fixed on Him.

- a) **Personal Life** - Is there anything in your life that would keep from someone following your lead in worship? There isn't much that is personal when you are in the public eye. Your life is your life, all of it. There isn't the personal side, the work side, the religious side, etc. It's all about God or it's not. What we may think is hidden can be easily discovered.

We must live a genuine life committed to Christ in every area. Be honest. Fulfill your promises. Keep your commitments. Love others. Let your schedule be interrupted to meet a need. Seek forgiveness when you mess up. Focus on eternity. Refrain from murmuring and complaining. Be intentional about leading others to Christ by developing relationships with them. Care for orphans and widows. Do what Jesus would do. We are His representatives until He returns.

- b) **Private Worship** - Our public worship should never exceed our private devotion. If worship does not flow from the overflow of our hearts (Matt. 12:34), then we are in danger of trying to put on a show.

Do you sing worship more on stage or off stage? Are you in God's Word more in a service or outside a service? Is the only time you pray when you are gathered with other believers? Our public worship should be a "public display of affection" but never replace our personal intimacy with Jesus.

- c) **Family's Health** - If you can not lead your own family in worship, then you do not have the right to lead another family in worship. Our families know us best, and they deserve our best. If familial relationships are in danger, you are responsible to put all of your efforts there instead of a ministry team.

We must never spend more time leading others in the body of Christ than we do leading our families to Him. Just as the biblical qualifications for elders require a man to be devoted to his wife and have disciplined children, we must also provide such an example for those in our church fellowship who follow our example. We cannot compartmentalize and think we lead only on Sunday mornings from the front of the auditorium. Others examine our whole lives to see how to live. Caring for our spouses and training our children are of utmost importance, and they are our biblical

responsibility. And God commands us to “Honor your father and your mother.” Others must see that although we may not always agree with our parents, we always treat all of our family members with respect (Rom 12:18).

- d) **Physical Appearance** - There is enough variety in clothing today to show your style without showing anything else. You can be stylish and appropriate. We must show we respect God, our bodies (which are temples of the Holy Spirit), and others (who are Christ’s body).

Before you leave home for worship ask yourself, “Is anything I am wearing questionable in any way? Is it tight? Short? Low? Sloppy?” Let your conscience be your guide. How we dress is no small thing. It immediately sends a message. We have to protect our brothers and sisters in Christ by not sending tempting messages to their brains. There must be an even higher standard simply due to the elevation of the stage and the use of cameras that highlight members’ bodies.

Clothing must be:

- Neat - style is not as important as much as not looking sloppy
- Non-Distractive - if your clothing calls attention, it is distracting people from worship
- Modest - no legs should be shown (guys and girls), not too tight, not too revealing at top

If clothing does not meet expectations, that member will be asked to go home and change or sit out that Sunday.

3. Capability - leading with excellence

“Sing to Him a new song; Play skillfully with a shout of joy.” -Psalm 33:3

Worship leading starts with the heart, but the skills are pivotal to the role as well. We are not performing for others, but offering our voices and talents to God which means we must continually develop our skills.

a) Ability

- 1) **Skill** - These basic skills should be in any person desiring to lead with the team:
 - a. Vocalists:
 - find missing harmony parts during rehearsal
 - sing lead part whenever necessary
 - b. Drummers:
 - play with click track
 - keep a steady tempo
 - find and keep the right "feel" for each song
 - be confident with entrances

- play full without playing busy

c. Instrumentalists:

- follow a basic chart
- understand basic music theory ("play a 4 chord" etc)
- defer to the lead instrument for the song - fill in the "spaces"
- know what the other instruments are playing and not play over them

- 2) **Audition** - To be a member of this ministry team, once you fill out the following application, you will have an audition. You will be scheduled a time to come and sit before a couple team members. You will be given approximately 1 week to prepare a few songs that will be assigned to you. You will receive chord charts, lyrics, and an mp3 to listen to concerning the assigned songs. During the audition, you will be asked to improvise as well on a couple of songs just to see if you can be flexible to follow the worship leader if he heads in a different direction than that which is on the script.

b) Development

- 1) **Preparation** - While this is a volunteer position, the weight of this ministry holds a high level of accountability concerning preparation. We expect all members to be prepared for rehearsal time on Wednesday nights. You will receive music charts and mp3s through Planning Center a week out which allows adequate time to be prepared. You will normally receive an email on Thursday to play the following Sunday. If you have not responded by Monday, you will be replaced since you do not have adequate time to prepare. In the days leading up to practice, each member is expected to listen to the set list repeatedly and learn their specific parts *before* coming to practice.

If someone is repeatedly unprepared for practice, the worship leader will have a conversation with that person to see if they are too busy to commit to this ministry. If it continues to be a problem, the person will be removed from the team. It is not our goal to sound like flawless, professional musicians, but it is our responsibility to lead in worship as skillfully as we are capable of. We don't want the congregation to focus on the quality of the music, but we don't want them to be distracted by it either.

- 2) **Practice** - Practice starts Wednesday nights promptly at 6:30. We will start with our team development time at 6:30 which means that you need to have all instruments, mics, in-ear monitors, etc. in place *before* practice begins.

After development time, we will go through the musical selections. It is important that when the sound techs are checking things upstairs that everyone on stage is quiet except whoever the sound tech is working with. In between songs, it is imperative that people pay attention to the leader's direction. Please no talking or messing around during transition times so that we can finish practice in a timely manner. Having to work on parts during those moments show that we are

unprepared. If someone needs to miss a practice, they need to get in touch with the worship leader ASAP. Most likely, that person will need to sit the week out.

3) Performance - After preparation and practice, we arrive on Sunday mornings. This is not a performance for people, but this is the time when we offer our worship to God and try to encourage people to worship with everything they have. During this time, each member is responsible to:

- **Execute Skillfully** - pull off well what we practiced. That doesn't mean we don't make mistakes, but it means we are focused on our parts and offering our absolute best.
- **Express Passionately** - show that we mean it when we worship. People in our presence don't necessarily believe what we believe, but they must believe that we believe it. Don't be fake in expressions, but realize that our passion and expression sets the standard.
- **Maintain Professionally** - don't acknowledge when mistakes happen. If something goes wrong, keep your stage face on. Keep on, don't talk about it, don't frown about it, but just continue on for the good of the service.

4. Availability - *leading with presence*

It does North Side a disservice if we lead from a distance. That's why we place a high priority for every member to be very involved in the life of the church not just the activity on stage. If we are not in the lives of those worshipping with us, we lose touch of the Body of Christ and can risk just performing songs for people. To be truly available, the following is necessary:

- a) Church Member** - In order to participate as a regular team member, you must be a member of this church for the sake of accountability and discipline. You can join through the church's Connect class. After a reasonable amount of membership time which allows church leaders to gauge one's commitment level, he or she can be considered for this ministry. If needed, a letter of recommendation from the pastor or worship leader of a previous church would be beneficial in getting to know the commitment level of a new worship team member.
- b) Connected with Other Believers** - It is more important for you to be in a small group of believers than it is for you to be on this ministry team. If you only have time for one, you need to be in a group of believers intent on developing your faith. Whether it is a community group, Sunday School class, accountability partner, etc., you need to be involved in some type of Christian community.
- c) Ministry Involvement** - Demonstration of Christian values and beliefs should be shown on and off the stage, whether through participation in another ministry or community group. The congregation needs to see genuine worship from this person in every aspect of their life. That's why it is important that members are involved or have been involved in other areas of church life rather than just on stage.

- d) **Service Attendance** - While the Connect room can serve as a place to get breakfast or rework parts between services, it is required that each member sit in at least one Sunday morning service on the weeks they lead worship. We do not want to give anyone the idea that we are too good to sit in the service.

5. Unity - *leading with selflessness*

"How good and pleasant it is when brothers live together in unity!...For there the Lord bestows His blessing..." Psalms 133:1-3

As a team, we have to understand that "a team" is exactly that. We all have areas where we may be stronger as well as areas where we need to learn more. Sharing and working to be the best, for the sake and cause of lifting up Jesus, is what would honor Him. Working as a team to develop our skills is necessary to lead others in worship, but more important is our unity and desire to please God in the way we treat and respect one another, giving honor to God.

- a) **Conflict** - If there is a disagreement, they should work it out between the two people or have a third person to help resolve the issue. Sometimes we can perceive something wrong, and hearing it in a different way can give understanding and many times resolve what was just a misunderstanding. Then, if there's a need for forgiveness, ask for it, or give it, and reconcile quickly so no root of bitterness can grow (Heb. 12:14-15).
- b) **Discipline** - "Let no unwholesome talk..." (Eph. 4:29-32). Love is not rude, but love also is not easily offended. Love covers a multitude of wrongs. So if someone is rude or, more so, consistently rude, this person will be addressed. If something is wrong, a leader will try and help address that need. If rudeness to other team members or church members continues, that person will be removed from leadership.
- c) **Selflessness** - "He must increase, we must decrease." (John 3:30). We will never endure "divas." Those seeking a spotlight do not need to join this team. Put others before yourself and treat others the way you would like to be treated. Team work takes pressure and attention of being in the spotlight. So lifting up the only name that matters should be our focus - Jesus.
- d) **Servanthood** - Even Jesus came to serve, not to be served (Mark 10:45). Jesus gives us the example in Phil. 2:5-8: "Jesus, being the very nature of God, **made** Himself nothing, **taking** the very nature of a servant, **humbled** Himself, and **became** obedient to death - even death on a cross." We probably will never have to become obedient to death, but we could certainly choose to humble ourselves and serve one another. One of the greatest ways to achieve unity is by serving other team members.

Once you have read this entire manual, request an application by sending Travis Agnew an email: travis@northsidebc.org.

This manual was developed by members who have served in this ministry for years: Travis Agnew, Amy Cromer, Angela McCall, Peggy McHugh, and Woody Nivens.