

MUSIC TEAM

PHILOSOPHY, POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Fairview Baptist Church; Apex, NC

"We strive for excellence by leading the congregation to participate in singing to God and for one another."

A CONVICTION DRIVEN MUSIC PHILOSOPHY

GOD SPEAKS, WE RESPOND.

In Exodus 24 God speaks to Moses on Sinai. After his descent from Sinai, Moses shares God's word with the people and they respond. This is the very heart of worship, God speaks and we respond. For this reason, God's word must be central to our worship gatherings. Therefore, our worship service pattern utilizes Scripture as a call to worship, during times of song transition, expositional preaching, and as our benediction. This also means that our songs should be theologically rich and shaped by Scripture.

THE GOSPEL SHAPES HOW WE STRUCTURE OUR CORPORATE WORSHIP.

How we form our worship services intuitively forms how people approach God. In other words, this is an attempt to thoughtfully structure our worship services. This pattern for our worship service is based on the Biblical pattern of God's revelation to man, and man's response to God (see Leviticus 9, Deuteronomy 5:4-33, Isaiah 6:1-13, the pattern of Revelation 4-22). This pattern includes a call to worship, a time of adoration, confession, thanksgiving, assurance, instruction, response, and a charge and blessing.

CONGREGATIONAL SINGING IS A PRIORITY.

In Ephesians 5:18-21 and Colossians 3:16 God's word is clear, when the church gathers the focus should be on participatory congregational singing. When the church sings together, we sing *to* God and sing *for* one another. Congregational singing admonishes and encourages the church body. Demonstrating that reality in worship requires that we be able to hear ourselves, and hear others singing alongside us. Because of our congregational focus, we might even say the loudest sound in a room should be the congregation.

Since we only gather once a week for worship we must focus those times on congregational singing. This is the only time we have to sing together. It also requires that we intentionally consider the songs we sing, and how we sing them. For this reason, we have a common body of songs written for congregational singing. Many of today's popular radio songs are not written for congregational singing. As a guide, it's been said that we should try to keep the songs pitched so that most of the melody line is between low C and high D, with occasional leaps outside that to allow the congregation to sing with maximum effectiveness.

JOINING THE TEAM

If you are a covenant member of Fairview and interested in joining the music team

1. The pastors/elders will consider your faithfulness to the church, and your witness/character concerning the Membership Covenant.
2. The pastors/elders and Director of Music may request a reference from a former pastor, music leader, or church.
3. The Director of Music may request a recording of you playing your instrument and/or singing.
4. You will audition one Wednesday evening after rehearsal.
5. If the Director of Music is comfortable with your audition, you will be invited to a rehearsal with the music team so that the leader can observe your ability to play/sing with others.
6. If invited to the music team, you will commit to the following.

CHARACTER

While the character of a covenant member of Fairview is outlined further in the membership covenant, the following may serve as a summary for those interested in serving on the music team.

1. A commitment to exhibit a joyful, grateful, & loving disposition toward the Lord & one another (Ps. 34:1-3).
2. A commitment to display patience, forbearance, and compassion toward one another (Eph. 4:32; Col. 3:12ff).
3. A commitment to encourage and build up one another so that the manifold wisdom of God is made known (Eph. 4:29; 3:10).
4. A commitment to walk in the ways of God through prayer, holiness, and humility (1 Pet. 1:13-25; Rom. 12:10).

COMMUNICATION

1. Utilize the blackout/vacation dates feature within the Planning Center/Services App to provide updates regarding your availability to serve.
2. Commit to responding within 7 days to emailed requests sent via Planning Center.
3. Communicate with the Director of Music if your frequency/availability to serve needs to change. This can also be updated in your Planning Center profile.
4. If you have any questions or concerns about the songs or arrangements, provide feedback to the scheduled music leader before the day of rehearsal.
5. Commit to taking up any serious concerns with the music leader in private (i.e., outside of rehearsal).

PREPARATION

A commitment to faithfully practice in preparation for rehearsals and church worship times. This includes:

1. Listening to and familiarizing yourself with the selected music.
2. Reading the music leader's notes in Planning Center.
3. Viewing the lyrics, sheet music, or chord charts.
4. Practicing your instrument or vocal parts.
5. Communicate with the music leader before rehearsal if you have questions or need additional resources.
6. If despite diligent practice you are struggling to play/sing a part correctly please ask the music leader for help.

A commitment to arrive early to rehearsal, and set up my equipment, so we can start on time.

1. Rehearsal Times: Wednesdays 6:30 - 7:45 p.m. and Sundays 8 – 9 a.m.
2. Worship Service: Sundays, 10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

A commitment to not only be prepared musically but also spiritually. Allow your service in the music ministry to be an avenue of your personal worship, so that your joy is evident as you lead. Be in prayer for the music & A/V team for each Sunday.

REHEARSAL

1. Be attentive to the music leader's direction during rehearsal, understanding that he is tasked to lead the entire team in an orderly and timely manner. Submit to the music leader's direction as they have been entrusted to make final decisions on matters relating to the worship service music.
2. Receive feedback and instructions from leaders and other team members graciously. When asked, give feedback to other team members in love.
3. Strive to be flexible and ready to adapt to what best suits the songs and the team each week.
4. Commit to do everything you can to encourage an atmosphere of worship, as appropriate preparation for Sunday.

ABSENCES POLICY

1. If you are unable to participate on a scheduled Sunday, contact the scheduled music leader ASAP so they can make arrangements for a replacement.
2. If you miss rehearsal, you will not be able to participate on Sunday, unless you have made other arrangements with the music leader.
3. Regularly missing or being late to rehearsals/worship times will trigger a conversation from music leadership and reduce opportunities to participate on Sundays.

4. If this is a recurring issue, understand that you may be asked to step down from the music team.

UNPREPAREDNESS POLICY

1. If you arrive at rehearsal ill-prepared, understand that the music leader may choose to have me not play on Sunday. This would be done to avoid distractions that would affect our congregational worship.
2. If this is a recurring issue, this will trigger a conversation from music leadership and you may be removed from the schedule until the matter is resolved.