

Worship Team Covenant – by Pastor Paul Tracy

We all bring different experiences, ideas and expectations to what it means to belong to the Worship Team. This is not an attempt to put down rules; it is our hope that all involved will be responsible for their own actions and attitudes and will be mature in the application of them. In the spirit of the New Testament, we will seek to operate under the realm of grace and mercy at all times, realizing that none of us are already perfect. However, this is not a license for cavalier behavior and careless attitudes. This is a ministry of Tahoe Community Church and we must remember that at all times.

First and foremost, the purpose of the Worship Team is to enhance the worship experience for all who attend. Its focus is on the musical building blocks of these services. Music is one of the tools that God uses to bring our hearts and minds into alignment with His will and His purposes. We sing and play our instruments for His glory and His pleasure first. Our singing and playing should also be an expression of our praise and worship to God and a way to model and inspire those in the congregation to do the same. It is never about us, it's about Him.

Since this is a ministry, this means that everyone has the privilege to participate in it, but with this privilege comes certain responsibilities and expectations. It is important to understand that the team members need to practice together as often as possible. While it is obvious that different people have different skill levels, there is more than just music involved. Building a ministry team requires that the members invest their time and energy into their relationships with each other as well as the music. This is done primarily through the weekly practices. While missing a scheduled practice is bound to happen, the appointed leadership of the team will decide if participation in the Sunday service is appropriate.

These weekly practices are the appropriate times for instruction and training about the music. It is the place and time for proper guidance and preparation for the presentation of music for Sunday. It is intended to be a time for helping each other with a desire to upgrade the quality of the end result, not a time of criticism and judgment. Members must be able to deal with each other in an atmosphere of patience and understanding and not be overly sensitive. A “teachable spirit” is needed for all participants. Special music and solos will require a public practice in front of the team leadership.

It is the desire of our pastoral leadership for a variety of musical styles and songs. Looking at the world around us, God enjoys variety in His world. Members have freedom to suggest new songs; it helps if music and lyrics are provided. We each have preferred styles, but we must be flexible enough to sing a new song unto the Lord.

Communication is extremely important. Worship team members should go above and beyond to inform the leadership of schedules and availability. It is a matter of common courtesy to notify the leadership if you will not be able to attend a rehearsal or service, and a necessity for the technical set up.

Audio and Visual Media workers are considered a part of the worship team, and their involvement extends beyond just the music to the entire worship. It is in their best interest for the technicians to participate in the scheduled practices. Seamless and smooth are the goals that we are striving for and what we are asking God to help us achieve.

This is an investment of our God-given talents for God's glory and for the benefit of this local body of believers. It is important that we view our participation in a serious light.