

Community

CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

WORSHIP & ARTS

“Man’s chief end is to glorify God and enjoy Him forever.”

In the Westminster Shorter Catechism this is the answer to the opening question regarding the *chief end*, or purpose of man. Biblically thinking, the primary goal for the sum of our days is to glorify God and *simply enjoy Him*. This is a lifestyle of worship and our desire as the worship ministry of Community Christian Fellowship is to assist our body toward growing to enjoy this posture more fully!

I am blessed by your interest in being involved in the worship ministry of Community Christian Fellowship. My purpose in this document is to help you bring clarity in discerning *if God is calling you to “glorify Him” by serving in this ministry.*

If serving with me and our wonderful team is where God would have you be, we welcome you with open arms and are excited to see how God continues to *shape* our ministry by your addition. If this is not a fit, I hope this process gives you a better understanding of our heart as we seek to continue *growing* our body into passionate worshippers of our Lord Jesus!



James

PHILOSOPHY AND VALUES

At Community Christian Fellowship we believe that man was created for the specific purpose of worshipping God and, within this posture, to finding the fullness of life for which he was created. Worshipping a loving God is the privilege and requirement of every true disciple of Jesus Christ. Often worship is defined through events, activities and programs, though God’s Word tells us worship begins in the temple of our heart. Worship is a disposition of the soul, as we join God’s work within us to make it our lifestyle.

Jesus made it clear that the “summary” of God’s desire for us is to: *“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind”*...and to *“Love your neighbor as yourself”* (Mt 22:37-39). We were created to worship God *vertically and horizontally*: in devotion to God (vertically) and in loving others (horizontally). Though worship is often viewed as strictly a *vertical* experience, scripture tells us that our *“spiritual act of worship”* (Rom 12:1) is seen in the *horizontal*, or how we live our lives. Scripture also makes it clear that if our *horizontal* life is not pleasing to God we cannot draw near to Him as He would desire us to (Ps 24:3-4; Mt 5:23-24). We simply cannot separate our *horizontal* and *vertical* lives. Helping individuals encounter God, both *vertically* (loving Him) and *horizontally* (loving others), is the core of true worship and our passion as a church.

Our philosophy of worship is made up of two components.

THEOLOGICAL FRAMEWORK and VALUES OF CCF: *What worship looks like in our church.*

THEOLOGICAL FRAMEWORK

- Through the work of Jesus Christ, His life, death and resurrection, we can boldly draw near to God (Heb 10:19, 20). Jesus Christ, the Son of God, is the *only* means by which man can know and draw near to God (Jn 14:6).
- Worship is given for the specific purpose of bringing glory to God (Dt 5:7-10). Our worship is directed and focused upon God Himself. We do not just sing *about* God, we sing *to* Him. (Ps 100:1, 2).
- The purest form of worship is a God-focused lifestyle of holiness, honesty and integrity. A God-focused life style must be sought on both the congregational and individual level (Eph 5:1-10). A healthy God-focused lifestyle will propel us toward intimacy with God (Ps 24:3-4). The corollary is also true: a sinful lifestyle will inhibit intimacy with God. We cannot intimately draw near to God if there are barriers or unresolved conflict in our horizontal relationships (Mt 5:23, 24).
- The Holy Spirit is ultimately our director of worship and our role is to respond to Him as He directs (Jn 16:13).
- The natural response of worship is service and giving on a sacrificial level (Jn 13:14-15).
- The fruit of drawing near to God is a humble heart, a desire to serve and love others, and to see Jesus further exalted (Jn 10:14-15, 15:5).
- God will often use praise and worship as a weapon to tear down the kingdom of Satan (Ps 149:5-9). Humbly approaching God in worship may be one of the best ways to resist the devil (Jam 4:7-8).

VALUES OF CCF: *What worship looks like in our church*

- Worship is a *response* to God as He prompts and directs through the Holy Spirit. Our worship is not to be bound by religious traditions, nor by cultural trends, but is a reverent response to the person of Jesus Christ for who He is and for the love He has extended to us. In the context of corporate worship, true worship is not merely musical, but goes deeper, involving our attitudes, our motives; our whole person.
- Responsive, thankful worship from our hearts can be expressed in bodily posture and the utilization of relevant indigenous art forms (*special music, drama, dance, reading, etc...*) within our services and lifestyles. Such expressions are simply the overflow of our gratitude toward our gracious God as we keep God as the *focus* of our expression.
- Our goal in worship leading is to assist the body to move from a horizontal focus (*our smaller stories*) to a vertical focus (*God's presence*). We believe that merely singing *about God* does not transform lives, but *communing with God* will change our lives and ultimately bring true glory to Jesus.
- In the Worship Ministry, our calling is to:

Assist people into the presence of Jesus (Mk 2:1-5)

To be embraced and made whole (Mk 2:5)

To grow in relationship with Jesus

through lifestyles of receiving

and responding to His kindness (Ps 116:12-14).

- Worship is to be a participatory activity of God's family and, as mentioned previously, is the privilege and requirement of every true disciple of Jesus Christ. We seek to provide opportunities for our body to engage personally and intimately with Jesus.
- Although technical excellence is not our purpose, we give to God from what He has given to us, in worship as in all other parts of life. Though most of us don't have gifts conducive to truly excellent music by cultural standards, we desire excellence in God's eyes rather than man's. Toward this end, the *heart* from which our worship flows is paramount as we give back to Him the best offerings we have.
- We believe that there is great depth in the history of the church and how God's people have worshipped Him through the ages. We value a variety of worship styles, both contemporary music and traditional hymns and liturgy, that we may be blessed by the richness of our past as well as all God has for us today.
- In Jesus, God has provided everything our spiritually depleted culture hungers for. We seek to allow God's presence, manifested within the worshiping church, to be discernable and attractive to unbelievers, and believe worship is one of the greatest evangelistic tools of our day. We are conscious of the seekers among us, and hope their experience would allow them to "*worship God and declare that God is really among you*" (1 Cor. 14:25). In our worship we strive to bring glory to God and to point seekers toward Him. Toward this end **our services are geared to be "God sensitive, and seeker conscious."**

We believe that the fruit of a healthy, worshiping church will be a deeper love for Jesus throughout the Body. This will be made visible in lives of integrity, humility, and a deep passion to join God in fulfilling His purposes.

LEAD WORSHIPERS

One element absent from the New Testament is specific *Job Descriptions* for modern ministry roles. Many roles in the church today are not identified in the New Testament, and we are left to prayerfully consider what God would desire such positions to look like. It is clear that under the Old Covenant, God made specific provisions and had specific expectations of those who would serve Him. In the arena of worship God set apart a group of individuals to oversee and assist His people in presenting their offerings. It began with Aaron and his sons, and later a group called the Levites joined the service.

Levites were from the tribe of Levi (relational descendants) and had specific responsibilities and blessings within the body as they assisted the priest in care of the tabernacle and in the corporate offerings.

We can glean great insight today by examining the call, duties and lives of the Levites of old, and by asking the Spirit of God to clarify our call to worship ministry today in light of their call.

The Levites Qualifications and Duties:

Numbers 3:5-10 gives the account of the appointment of Levites to assist Aaron the priest in the service of the tabernacle and the offerings of God's people.

The following are the qualifications and duties of the Levites.

QUALIFICATIONS:

- Descendants of Levi and set apart as ministers in worship (Nu 1:47-54; 3:6-16; 26:57-62)
- Known for their religious passion (Ex 32:23-28; Dt 33:9-10; Mal 2:4-5)

DUTIES:

- Cared for the tabernacle (Nu 1:50-53; 3:6-9, 21-37; 4:1-15)
- Ministered and cared for the Ark of the Covenant (1 Ch 16:4)
- Prepared the bread of the Presence (1 Ch 23:28-29)
- Assisted with the priests in preparing and administering the sacrifice (2 Ch 29:12-36; 35:1-18)
- Were gatekeepers of the temple (1 Ch 23:2-4)
- Were overseers in the temple and made repairs (1 Ch 23:2-4)
- Were musicians of the temple service (1 Ch 15:16)
- Maintained the burnt offering (Lev. 6:8-13)

Performed their duties according to the regulations laid down for them

1 Chronicles 6:31

It's pretty obvious that Levites were not "stars" but rather servants in the community of God's people.

Trying to glean insight from the role of Levites, below are some specific qualifications and duties that transfer quite well to the role of a modern lead worshiper.

Lead Worshipers Qualifications and Duties:

QUALIFICATIONS:

- Heirs with Christ Jesus through faith and set apart, by God's will, as ministers in worship
- Known for our passion for Jesus

DUTIES:

- Care for the order of worship
- Prepare the Body to enter into God's presence
- Assist each other (various teams) in administering corporate worship
- Oversee our equipment and make necessary repairs
- Musicians of corporate worship
- Maintain the offering (musical) of the corporate community

Perform our duties according to the regulations laid down for us

WHAT A LEVITE/LEAD WORSHIPPER LOOKS LIKE:

- Embraces and rejoices in the truth of our call into relationship with God through Christ Jesus
- Cultivates personal intimacy with Jesus as a priority
- Intimately concerned with the worship experience of God's people. This includes our musical offering, but may also include the seating and aesthetics of the room.
- Coordinates our schedules to be available for opportunities to grow deeper spiritually, advance our skills, or to intercede for our body.
- *When not leading from the front, leading from the congregation in modeling posture, passion and focus of a passionate worshiper*
- Prays weekly or even daily for the worshiping heart of our church
- Takes care of personal musical gear and church equipment
- Committed to growing in skill with their instrument toward a more quality offering

- Exercises humility and seeks unity
- Punctual and prepared for all rehearsals, Sunday morning setups and other ministry events
- Willingly serves and submits to the duties associated with worship (rehearsal, prayer, rolling cables, putting gear away, etc...)
- Goes beyond the minimum expectations of a lead worshiper

NEXT STEPS

You may have caught the point that though we serve on a stage, the worship ministry really is a service ministry. It's not the glamorous "platform" ministry many may think of, but rather we enjoy the satisfaction of serving our body, and blessing God with our humility, creative offerings and the posture of our hearts.

PRAYER

Serving in the worship ministry at CCF begins with praying for clarity that God is calling you to serve in this ministry. Since we are all "called" to be worshipers, I ask everyone to ask the Father to clarify *their call* to serve in this ministry.

INTERVIEW/AUDITION

If you sense God is in fact calling you to serve in this ministry, we will schedule a time to get together. In that meeting you will need to be prepared to:

- Share your testimony of how you came to know Jesus Christ
- Share what your relationship with Him looks like today and how you are currently cultivating nearness with Him
- Sing or play for me. The word "audition" is loaded and often so negative. My desire is to see if a person is going to fit in our ministry, and if they are not to give them practical advice on how to develop the necessary skills to participate in the future.

At this point you will either be invited to attend some worship ministry rehearsals, or you will be given a specific next step in your development.

If you proceed, I will ask you to attend four Wednesday night rehearsals, without the expectation to lead on Sunday. This will allow you to get a feel for the ministry, my leadership style, and to meet the other people without the pressure of Sunday.

If you still like us, you will be added to our rotation and asked to participate in services.

TEAM COMMITMENT

REHEARSALS

Our worship teams rehearses for about 2.5 hours on Wednesday nights (in the CCF Ministry Center) for the coming Sunday worship service. During our weekly rehearsals we:

Pray: *for our body and each other*

Arrange songs: *feel, transitions, vocal parts, etc...*

Enjoy Fellowship: *we have an embarrassing amount of fun together!*

Due to the work and unity that we gain at rehearsals I will usually have someone stand down and find a replacement if they can not attend a rehearsal.

ROTATION

As a general rule, people usually serve 1-2 weeks a month in this ministry. On one hand I don't want to wear anyone out, or cause strains in marriages and families. Additionally we need team members to **passionately lead the response** in the congregation week after week. In some ways, this is the more important area of service because you are modeling what worship *looks like* in the congregation.

Life changes, and different seasons bring different pressures and opportunities. Rather than asking my team for a yearly commitment, I ask them to commit to faithfully serve in our ministry for three month windows at a time. At the close of each quarter (January-March, April-June, July-September, and October-December) I ask everyone in the ministry to pray, process (with family), and consider what is on the horizon. If God confirms that serving in this ministry is a part of the next *season* for them, I love having people back quarter after quarter. I am equally happy when people pull away because they sense the Spirit calling them to care for their family, serve in another ministry, or simply rest for a season. The bottom line is that I desire for your service to be a part of your healthy lifestyle (spiritually, emotionally, socially, and physically) .

If this information has spurred on your heart and you continue to sense God calling you to move forward into possibly serving in this ministry, please contact me at your earliest convenience.

Blessings!


James



All for the audience of One.

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