

Crossing Worship Manual and Policies

As of March 20, 2008

WORSHIP TEAM GUIDELINES Responsibilities and Policies

- Members of any worship team in the Crossing are expected to be in an ongoing personal, and growing relationship with Jesus Christ in which they daily are in prayer and worship and are accountable and in relationship with other believers
- Maintain Crossing Songbook/Charts/File system (Ongoing)
- Promptness to all scheduled events
- Adequately prepare all music prior to rehearsal
- When absent, find replacement and notify team leader
- Receive candid or formal musical direction on an individual and group basis (includes lessons, practice on your own, etc.) -
- Participate in workshops as scheduled
- Members are to practice for a consistent month of practices before being allowed to play, sing, dance, etc in any service
- Members are strongly encouraged to be part of a JWAY group and to go through the Crossing leadership tracts (including but not exclusively Encounter weekends, Post-Encounter classes, and School of Leaders)

Required Skills (While desire and passion are valuable characteristics for leadership, it takes a high level of competence to empower and engage people for life change. To maintain top quality excellence, we accept into membership those who possess competence that reflects experience and maturity in musical abilities and continued spiritual growth). The following skills are required:

Vocalists

- Proficient in vocal technique
- Must be able to harmonize and hold vocal part
- Strong solo potential
- Confident stage presence
- Control over unnecessary vocal distractions
- Musically versatile

Band

- Read charts proficiently
- Own and maintain high quality instrument
- Solid tempo
- Good ensemble technique
- Musically versatile

Dress Code (*We believe in excellence and modesty in this area.*)

- Casual to moderate dress attire is the standard for practices.

- For Crossing services men are required to wear a nice shirt (excludes t-shirts, etc.) and khaki pants. Women may wear nice dresses, skirts (no shorter than 2 inches above knee), or pants with a nice shirt. Cleavage should not be seen. Nice jeans are acceptable only if wearing a suit jacket (which must remain on for the entire service). As you dress for worship, remember the stage (if you are on it) is about 21” higher than the congregation.

Required Events

- Monday Rehearsals (Monday 6pm to 8pm) (every third week of each month full team meeting with discussion and “harp and bowl”)
- Sunday sound-check (45 min. prior to worship)
- Sunday worship services (10am Windham and/or 5pm Fenway)
- Special conferences and extra curricular venues (as desired and requested)
- Seasonal events and rehearsals as scheduled (for example, every quarter we have a full team hangout of some sort).

Attendance Standard

The worship ministry places high value in rehearsal attendance. In order for the team to succeed and perform at optimum level, rehearsal attendance is a priority. Without regular attendance the team suffers. While it is expected that members may pursue other passions outside of the Crossing worship teams, it is also expected that members demonstrate a high sense of value in the area of rehearsal attendance. Members must be present for rehearsals in order to participate in the Sunday service. The worship director preserves the right to wave this policy under certain circumstances. However, special considerations for excused absences must be made in advance. Each member is allowed 5 absences per semester (6 months). This includes rehearsals and Sunday services. Members should use these absences only when absolutely necessary. Absences include: family illness/death, maternal leave, vacations, work related activities, business travel, personal activities, etc. All of these are legitimate reasons for accruing absences. However, it can become increasingly difficult to administrate legitimate and non-legitimate reasons. Thus, a reasonable amount of absences have been allotted (5). Once a member exceeds the allotted absences, he/she will be asked to take a six month sabbatical from the team to fully evaluate their continued participation.

Auditions

Auditions are usually required. The musician and vocalists need to have enough skill so that they can follow the Holy Spirit. Musicians and vocalists should have open hearts to receive advice, correction, training, and should be committed to becoming proficiently skilled at their ministry. **"Kenaniah the head Levite was in charge of the singing; that was his responsibility because he was skillful at it".** (*1 Chronicles 15:22 NIV*) One does not need to be a professional musician to worship the Lord, but God honors the discipline of additional practice and preparation. "Failing to prepare is preparing for failure".

Sound Team/Visual Team

Sound engineers and visual equipment operators are important members of the music ministry. Visual equipment operators are asked to arrive early, so that projector screens/powerpoint slides can be selected. These members should be quick to respond when a song is needed. The sound engineers are also asked to arrive early, and help the music team as much as possible. Sound engineers must be alert and responsive, especially during the worship service, and should be ready to make adjustments with quickness! Sound checks should kick off at 45 minutes prior to service and should be completed by 30 minutes before service.

Loading Team

The loading team is relied upon to not only load and unload equipment but to keep everything on schedule. If they are on time, all will be. This is a very important task. Loading teams in Windham should arrive at Foster's at 7:45am sharp and be unloading at the school by 8:30am sharp and teams in Fenway should arrive at Ruggles at 4pm sharp.

Pre-service Prayer

It is our hope that we will always create and allow for an atmosphere of expectancy, faith, and reverence in our corporate gatherings. Though we do desire a family atmosphere and deep, fun relationships with our brothers and sisters we must maintain a reverent approach to our worshipping the Lord in corporate services. Pre-service prayer is to do just that. It should start promptly at 30 minutes until service. (If for some reason the sound check is not done, it should begin anyway). The hope is that people will be praying even before this.

Team Leaders

It is our desire to see many gifted and Spirit-filled and led worship leaders raised up in our midst and sent out from here if God wills. Leaders are given chances to exercise their leadership abilities through:

- leading practices
- leading songs
- leading full services in the Crossing and at YS events and "Prayer Furnace" gatherings.

We also establish team leaders to lead in specific areas such as with singers, musicians, sound team, etc. These leaders are expected:

- to keep tabs on the people on their team (ex. attendance, dress code, attitudes, etc.)
- maintain an atmosphere of respect and peace in services and practice, as well as maintaining focus of all participants.
- Instruct and mentor those on team in skill, policy, attitude, and worship

All leaders are required to be part of a JWAY group and to go through the Crossing leadership tracts (including but not exclusively Encounter weekends, Post-Encounter classes, and School of Leaders).