



New Covenant

COMMUNITY CHURCH

Worship Arts Handbook



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New Cov Vision and Values

New Covenant Community Church is committed to creating a space for **genuine faith, authentic relationships,** and **meaningful impact** to happen.

- **Genuine faith** in Jesus and his plan means we trust Jesus for our salvation, and we're honest about where we're at on the journey. There's grace for all in Jesus, and there's hope that helps us press on.
- **Authentic relationships** are fostered in ministry, in small groups, and outside our building. We love each other because Jesus loved us first.
- **Meaningful impact** happens within us and around us when we follow Jesus. He is transforming us, and the Holy Spirit leads us to minister to the world around us in meaningful ways.

Because Jesus Christ—the author and perfecter of our faith—embodied these values, we embrace:

- Dependence on God over self-sufficiency.
- People over position.
- Transformation over information.
- Community over independence.
- Contribution over consumerism.
- Authenticity over good impressions.
- Freedom over restriction.

Worship Arts Ministry

The Worship Arts Ministry exists 1) to respond to the Father through the arts, 2) to nurture inspired worship expressions, 3) to create environments where people encounter Jesus Christ, and 4) to invite the Holy Spirit to transform lives.

Worship Arts Teams

There are several teams where you might serve within the Worship Arts Ministry. Some teams serve monthly, others less frequently. You may serve on multiple teams if your schedule allows.

Music:

- Worship Band - typically guitars, drums, keys, but open to others
- Other Instrumentalists - strings, winds, especially for special services
- Vocal Team - 2 or 3 part harmony, expressive, lead singers
- Choir - all levels welcome, typically around holidays

Tech:

- Cameras - livestream cameras during Sunday services
- Slides/Screens - ProPresenter software for lyrics and sermon visuals
- Sound - livestream and house
- Lights - help to focus attention and enhance the space
- Online Hosting - welcoming and engaging those attending online

Creative Arts:

- Photo/Video - opportunities across all ministries of New Cov
- Visual Artists - painters, illustrators, sculptors, mixed media
- Acting/Communicating - scripture reading, announcements
- Stage Design/Building - as needed light to medium design and build

Joining the Worship Arts Ministry

Audition. *Musicians* (singers and instrumentalists), *actors*, and those interested in delivering *announcements* must audition. Scheduled auditions happen in January, April, July, and October. During a 25-minute audition time, you will present a song of your choice and an assigned song. For the assigned song, we will send you music 1-2 weeks ahead of time. Following your audition, we will encourage you to build on your talent, or we will invite you to interview.

Interview. *All others* who are interested in being part of the Worship Arts Ministry will be invited to a brief interview so we can get to know you better. More important than your talent, we want to know your character. Why are you interested in serving? Are you committed to following Jesus? Are you committed to being an example for our church on and off stage?

Trial Period. After your audition and interview, you may be asked to go through a trial period. For example, musicians might be invited to rehearsals to see how well they prepare, adjust, and work with a team; Tech Team members may shadow an existing member to learn the role. Depending on how this goes, we will determine a date for you to officially join the teams.

Not everyone is suited for serving in the Worship Arts Ministry. If it looks like it will not be a good fit, we will help you find another area where you can serve within New Cov.

What We Will Expect of You

Being part of the Worship Ministry is a great chance to shine as an artist, and to build friendships with other creative types. But because many of our roles are up front, we need to exemplify lives of high character. If you join any of our teams, here are the expectations we'll have of you:

1. **Spiritual Growth.** Be dedicated to following Jesus above all, through disciplines and relationships that help you grow in your faith.
2. **Community Engagement.** Be a visible part of the faith community of New Cov: attending, serving, investing, and giving regularly.
3. **Artistic Growth.** Be an artist who turns your God-given talent into more. Practice regularly, risk failure, and be teachable.
4. **Worship Leadership.** Be a worshiper who leads others to Jesus, both in the worship service and outside of Sunday morning. Praise in a way that inspires and encourages those we lead.
5. **Integrity.** Your worship leadership on Sunday morning is only as effective as your character and conduct the rest of the week (including how you conduct yourself online). Live a life that is an example to others. (Psalm 101:2, Hebrews 13:18, Titus 2:7, 2 Corinthians 8:21)
6. **Humility.**
 1. Be a servant, not a spotlight seeker. If your motivation for joining the Worship Arts Ministry is to show off, then ask God to transform you *before* you audition. We are here to point people to Jesus, and inspire through the arts, not to glorify ourselves.
 2. Further, be a servant within your team. Be a team player, follow your leader, come alongside other artists on the team, find ways to build each other up.
7. **Excellence.** This does not equal perfectionism. Excellence is making the most of your gifts. Give God your best! Musicians, memorize your music so you can better lead the congregation. Try new techniques. Stretch yourself.
8. **Commitment.**

1. *Commit to practice.* Know your parts before rehearsal. The more time you can commit to practice before mid-week rehearsal and before Sunday, the better we can lead in worship.
 2. *Commit to being early.* Arrive 5-15 minutes early whenever you can to set up your instrument, get water, use the restroom, review music, and/or help us start sound check early. A late start time means a late finish time. Your time is valuable: so is the time of your team members.
 3. *Commit to community at New Cov.* If you are not a member, please consider membership. Attend even when you aren't leading, and be an active part of our faith community. Don't treat Sunday morning worship-leading as just another gig.
 4. *Commit to worship.* Above all, commit to a lifestyle of worship, prayer, and evangelism. We believe strongly that God has called us here for such a time as this, and we commit together to making Jesus known in our homes, schools, workplaces, and community.
9. **Grace.** Despite our best efforts, we are human. We will fail at times. Treat those around you with grace, keep short accounts, and offer forgiveness and treat each other with respect and kindness.

What You Can Expect of Worship Ministry Leaders

For one thing, you can expect of the Worship Ministry leadership all of the above expectations. We go before you, and we go with you, and Jesus leads us all.

You can expect that we'll do our best to help you serve, and to help you *shine* for Jesus! We don't take for granted the time you've put into developing your talent, and we will bend over backwards to make it easy to jump in with your best.

You can expect us to listen. If you have suggestions, we want to hear them: let's build something special at New Cov! If you have corrections or grievances, please come to us, because we want to hear you.

Dress Code

The way we dress says a lot. As ambassadors for Christ, and as representatives of New Cov, we seek to not be a distraction with what we wear. Even though we dress casual at New Cov, there are some guidelines for being on stage:

- **Look put together** and not like you just rolled out of bed. Iron your clothes, put on your best outfits.
- **Don't be a billboard:** try to stay away from clothes with prominent logos or words.
- **Neutral colors are best.** Please avoid neon or really bright colors.
- **Try layering:** shirts, jackets, scarfs, etc. Layering tends to look more put together and modest.
- **Men:** no cut off shirts or tank tops, excessively tight or “skinny” jeans, shorts, or sandals.
- **Women:** no bare shoulders (or spaghetti straps), cleavage, short skirts/dresses (knee level or above), or shorts. If you wear tights or leggings, please pair them with something like a dress or skirt.
- **Jeans** are great, but please, not too many holes, or overly distressed.
- No **hats**.

If you are questioning whether or not something is appropriate, chances are you should find something else to wear.

A Life of Worship

We tend to think of worship as the hour we gather on Sunday: Singing to God, Hearing God's Word, Responding through Giving, Gathering for Communion, Sent Into The World. But that is only one aspect of worship.

In a fuller sense, worship is our *response* to the *revelation* of God. Wherever and however God shows up or reveals Himself, we respond: through prayer, through song, through our craft, through our work... in every part of our lives, we want to respond to God. Developing and practicing a life of worship that gives glory to God is our goal in this life (Romans 12:1; Colossians 3:17; 1 Corinthians 10:31).

How do we know how to best live a life of worship? Jesus explained it this way to his followers: remain—or abide—in me (John 15:4-8). This sounds passive, but it is an active process. **We must draw near to Jesus and keep our focus on him.** This includes spending regular time in prayer.

Romans 12:2 tells us not to conform to the patterns of this world, but to be transformed by God, by the renewing of our minds. **Our minds are formed by our practices,** so we must spend regular time reading the Bible (2 Timothy 3:16-17).

Finally, Acts 2:42-47 shows **worship is lived out best in community.** We are to do ministry together (Luke 10:1), sharpen each other (Proverbs 27:17), keep each other accountable (Galatians 6:1-2), and build each other up (Ephesians 4:12-13). So we must spend regular time in fellowship and service (Hebrews 10:24-25).

In this way, our Sunday morning worship becomes a beautiful expression of what God is doing in our midst and in our lives throughout the week. We come to Sunday filled up, so we can pour out our praise to Jesus, like perfume on his feet. Worship is participation in Jesus' perfect life of worship, because we are in him, and he is in us.

Stay Connected

No one walks alone with Jesus. We are a community of faith, and we look forward to serving and drawing near to Jesus together. Let us know how we can serve you.

New Cov

- newcovchurch.org/worship-arts
- Facebook - [/newcovchurch](https://www.facebook.com/newcovchurch)
- Twitter - [@newcovlincoln](https://twitter.com/newcovlincoln)
- Instagram - [@newcovlincoln](https://www.instagram.com/newcovlincoln)
- 6000 S. 84th St, Lincoln, NE 68516
- 402.484.5033

Worship Ministry Leadership

- Dr. Bret Welstead - Pastor of Worship & Creative Arts - bret@newcovchurch.org
- Anitra Lechtenberger - Communications Director - anitra@newcovchurch.org
- Jenni Watson - Worship Ministry Assistant - jenni@newcovchurch.org
- Terry Peterson - Tech Team Leader - peterson.terryd@proton.me

Resources

- planningcenteronline.com - Online tool and app for scheduling, sharing service orders, chord charts, and rehearsal mp3s, required for most Worship Arts team members. We'll start to set up your account when you audition.
- worshipartistry.com - Optional online tool and app for vocal and instrumental song tutorials and lessons. We have a limited number of spots available for free, and it's a great resource if you're looking to up your game.
- praisecharts.com - Great resource for finding sheet music and vocal music for worship songs. You can purchase charts here for yourself, but ask first: we regularly purchase charts for use at New Cov and might have what you need!