

# ELDERS' STATEMENT ON WORSHIP

We see worship as a means of partnering with God so it should be approached as an intentional, transformational experience. We are not just singing. Our worship ought to be a catalyst which the Holy Spirit uses to transform people into the image of Jesus Christ. Our intention is to have 'worship band' style contemporary songs and hymns that engage the congregation in worshipful singing.

We believe the following will help us accomplish our goals:

## Regarding the Music Selected

1. Song lyrics must be honoring to God and promote sound, biblical theology in keeping with the doctrinal commitments of our congregation.
2. Viewed over a period of time songs and hymns should engage both the head and the heart expressing the full range of a relationship with God: praise, thanksgiving, lament, repentance, and trust. They should teach and inspire; rebuke and encourage; challenge and comfort.
3. Songs should be selected and rejected on their ability to engage our congregation in singing. It is good for songs to reinforce the teaching of the day but its singability is of prime importance.
4. New or unfamiliar songs—songs whose melodies or lyrics are not known well enough for our congregation to sing readily—should be introduced no more than one or two per month. The rest should be familiar songs which the congregation can easily sing. When unfamiliar songs are introduced the plan should be to sing them several times over a short period so the congregation can learn them.
5. Since we have a "worship band" contemporary style older hymns may be contemporized. However, because those hymns are the heart language of many in our congregation it is good to sing some as they were originally written.

## Regarding the Band and Vocalists

1. Regular team members must be born-again Christ followers whose lifestyle honors his Name.
2. Team members should come spiritually prepared to lead in worship not just to sing and play. Instrumentalists are encouraged know their parts well enough that they can sing worshipfully with the congregation.
3. Although we recognize the importance of a pure heart, musicians and vocalists need to have enough skill so their contribution will enhance and not detract from corporate worship. They also should be open to receive advice, correction, training, and should be committed to growing in their ministry ability.
4. Team members need to have the flexibility to drop, repeat, or even add a song at the last minute.
5. As up-front leaders, members must dress in keeping with the general dress of our congregation so they are not a distraction.

6. The participant's family needs to be supportive of the time commitment required to prepare well.

#### Other Elements

1. We desire to incorporate the reading of Scripture or historical creeds on a regular basis.
2. Drama, video, personal stories of God at work, and other creative elements are encouraged when appropriate to the theme of the day and done with excellence.
3. It is our desire to observe the Lord Table at least once per month (usually on the last Sunday of the month). The worship leader should plan for appropriate music while the elements are being distributed.