

# **Berean 'Praise Team' Policy**

**Purpose & Vision:** To worship the one true living God. To be more committed to being a worshipper than a leader. It is our belief that the Praise Team is a vital part to the ministry of this body of believers. Consequently, members should view their function as Ministers of the gospel through music and song...Membership on the Praise Team (in any way) is a position of Christian leadership. The primary function then, is to lead, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, the congregation at hand in true worship. **"God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship Him in spirit and in truth". (John 4:24).** We emphasize that our purpose and calling is that of leading others into the very presence of the Living God. There is no calling issued for "performances" and "showmanship" - - only true praise and worship. Therefore, members must strive continually through prayer and example to be pure of heart before God and others.

**Praise Team Practices:** Practices are held the 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesdays of each month at 7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary of the church. Other meetings may be called when it is felt necessary to do so. On the first Sunday of each month the Sunday morning practices will begin at 8:45 a.m. so the Praise Team members will be able to attend the church's Coffee Fellowship Time. This is one of the important outreach fellowship opportunities with the body of Christ.

## **Requirements:**

1. A life-style that is continually growing to conform to the image of Christ. Participants must be born-again believers of Christ, and their lifestyle must resemble that of a born-again Christian.
2. A good testimony to the body (the church family). Cheerful . . . considerate . . . caring (not proud or boastful of position). Participants must be worshipers on and off the front stage. Anyone who has difficulty worshiping at home or in the congregation is not ready to be a leader!
3. A cooperative spirit within the Praise Team. A desire to care more about the team than self. Be sensitive to giving your full attention during practice sessions and to starting on time.
4. Faithful attendance for practices: ***Attendance and punctuality*** are very important factors for being a member of the Praise Team. Rehearsing is required, and members should arrive ready to work on the designated material. Poor attendance and punctuality reflect a lack of discipline and respect for the Lord's ministry.
5. Strive to maintain a Great, Positive, Christ-like Attitude as a 'Praise Team' member and in all areas of life! **Ephesians 5: 1-2 "...And walk in Love, as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us."**
6. ON TIME Arrival at all practice sessions! It is good to make it a habit that on time is 5 minutes early! In case you must be absent for any practice or morning worship service, you need to call the Leader [Rick Fleharty / 520-5825] (If we are singing a new song for Sunday, we want you to make the Tuesday night practice & the Sunday morning practice before the Sunday morning Worship Service, If there are no new songs, we expect you to practice Sunday morning to sing with the Praise Team that morning.)
7. Dress for Morning Worship Service and any other Praise & Worship type Services:

- a. Nothing Short/Nothing Tight!
- b. LADIES: Slacks/Skirts/Dresses/Dressy-type shoes. No shorts or tennis shoes.
- c. MEN: Dressy-type pants, shirts, & Dressy-type shoes. No shorts or tennis shoes.

As leaders, members must dress properly. Realizing that outward appearance is not judged by God, we affirm that others may be offended by improper attire. Consequently, members are encouraged to be neat, clean, and appropriately dressed for all services. (T-shirts, old jeans, sweats, short skirts, tennis shoes, etc. are not considered appropriate for Worship Services). Let's go into the Lord's presence with respect. **"All the Levites who were musicians . . . stood on the east side of the altar, dressed in fine linens . . .". (2 Chronicles 5:12, NIV)**

8. The Elders are involved in selecting the leaders of the Church. In working with each other, all issues within the Praise Team need to be addressed initially by the song leader. He may delegate issues to others, but is responsible to the Elders for leading the worship service. When working with others, please be mindful of how to treat one another in a spirit of meekness and love. Ephesians 4:2, Colossians 3:16, 1 Peter 5:5, 1 Timothy 5:1

### **New Applicants and Waiting Periods:**

- Under most circumstances, new applicants to the Praise Team will be required to audition, receive approval from The Elders, and attend practices and rehearsals before singing with the Praise Team. Further, we currently have a maximum amount of mics that are available for each Sunday, so newer members that are above that number, may not be able to serve each Sunday morning but just on those Sundays that mics are available. Every effort will be made to involve newer members as much as is possible.

### **Sound Engineers, Visual Equipment Operators, Etc.:**

- Sound engineers and visual equipment operators are important members of the music ministry. These operators are asked to arrive early for Sunday morning practices to prepare and to work with the Praise Team on sound and visuals needed for the Praise Team.
- Sound engineers and Visual Equipment Operators must be alert and responsive, especially during the worship, and should be ready to make adjustments with quickness! It is desired that Sound Operators get in on some training, from time to time, to stay current with what's out there in this field. Music Committee members will seek out such training opportunities. Further, it is requested that Sound Engineers try to make Tuesday evening practices periodically.

***Psalms 9:1-2: "I will praise you, O Lord, with all my heart; I will tell of all Your wonders. I will be glad and rejoice in YOU; I will sing praise to your Name, O Most High."***

