

## MILL CREEK BIBLE CHURCH MUSIC POLICY

The following policy has been established to give clarity and direction to the music ministry of Mill Creek Bible Church:

### **PURPOSE OF MUSIC AT MILL CREEK BIBLE CHURCH**

The purpose of our music ministry at Mill Creek Bible Church is to promote the overall purpose of the Church as outlined in our Purpose Statement. More specifically, it is to promote both corporate and individual worship toward God as well as to encourage the saints in their personal walk and service to God (Eph. 5:18-20; Col. 3:16-17).

### **MUSIC MINISTRY COORDINATOR(S)**

#### **Qualifications:** *The Coordinator(s) must...*

1. Be a member of MCBC who demonstrates agreement with the Constitution, Statement of Faith, and by-laws of this Church, and specifically the Church Covenant.
2. Work in a Christ-like manner with people of all ages and abilities, demonstrating teaching, communication, organizational and administrative skills with a true servant's heart.
3. Have a working knowledge of music and music theory spanning a broad base of musical styles used in the Church today.
4. Be able to evaluate an individual's musical level and ability and assign them to areas of service consistent with that ability or level of commitment.
5. Be able to lead both congregational and special groups through voice and accompaniment.
6. Have a conceptual knowledge of the sound board and equipment, useful for planning and communication with the sound technicians.
7. Be approved by the Board of Elders; working in unity with the Elders to promote the purpose of music at Mill Creek Bible Church.

#### **Responsibilities: (see guidelines for selecting appropriate music)**

##### *The Coordinator(s) will...*

1. Oversee and coordinate all aspects of the music ministry at MCBC.
2. Schedule worship teams, instrumentalists, special music, and audio/video people for all worship and special services, with consideration given to each person's unique abilities and skill levels and service requirements.
3. Preview, select and/or approve all music used in the worship service and provide direction when necessary in both selection and performance, seeking to maintain a blended worship genre.
4. Provide detailed platform layouts for audio technicians.
5. Create and/or approve video presentations with appropriate song words, titles, graphics, etc. as developed and/or provided by the video technicians.
6. Be watchful for individuals gifted in areas of music leadership for mentoring and integrating into the overall music program.
7. Continue to develop music and leadership skills for the purpose of enhancing the music ministry.
8. Promote unity within the worship team.

### **LAY MUSICIANS (includes vocalists and instrumentalists)**

#### **Qualifications:** *The Lay Musician(s) must...*

1. Have regularly attended MCBC for a period of at least three months. (*This rule does not apply to college students.*) This allows time for the individual to become acquainted with the ministry of the Church and the Church to become familiar with the individual. Membership is not required for participation, but movement toward membership is strongly encouraged if involvement continues.
2. Demonstrate adequate talent in the area of music.

3. Be able to attend scheduled practices. The Director and/or Music Coordinator will have discretion regarding a maximum number of absences. All musicians must be able to attend the final two (2) practices and the dress rehearsal(s).
4. Demonstrate a willingness and ability to participate in various styles of music, in keeping with the blended worship service concept.
5. Complete an application form to be reviewed by the Music Coordinators(s) and the Board of Elders. Applications are available from the Music Coordinator(s).
6. Sign a written statement of agreement and commitment after approval from the Music Coordinator(s) and the Board of Elders.

**Responsibilities: (See guidelines for selecting appropriate music)**

*The Lay Musician should...*

1. Live a life separated from sinful habits of the flesh and worldliness.
2. Be committed to fulfill scheduled practices and scheduled services or inform the Music Coordinator in a timely manner if obligations cannot be met.
3. Be able to practice at home outside of scheduled practices, using either printed music or practice medium to learn the song(s), in order to come to scheduled practices and/or sound checks adequately prepared.

**Worship Team Members & Regularly Scheduled Instrumentalists:**

*Worship Team Members & Regularly Scheduled Instrumentalists...*

1. Are a group of lay musicians with appropriate and usable musical skills who are selected and approved by the Music Coordinator(s) and Board of Elders (see “Lay Musician” Guidelines) to lead regularly scheduled monthly worship services on a rotation basis. Evening and special services may be scheduled by the Music Coordinator(s) and/or Board of Elders that would include the Worship Team members and the regularly scheduled instrumentalists.
2. Will adhere to further training and/or instruction to promote excellence and to enhance overall presentation for the benefit of the congregation.
3. Will attend sound checks and practices as scheduled and will inform the Music Coordinator(s) in a timely manner if conflicts arise.
4. Will strive to promote unity within the team.

**GUEST MUSICIANS**

A guest musician is anyone who takes part in any formal musical ministry of MCBC who normally attends Church elsewhere. Guest musicians must complete an application form to be reviewed by the Music Coordinator(s) and Board of Elders prior to being scheduled. If the guest is a group larger than four (4) members, the leader or director of the group will complete the form. Applications are available from the Music Coordinator(s). Exceptions to this policy are at the discretion of the Music Coordinator(s) and/or the Board of Elders.

**GUIDELINES FOR SELECTING APPROPRIATE MUSIC**

In order to fulfill the purpose of music at MCBC, the following guidelines and comments should be adhered to in selecting music for services, whether for prelude, worship in giving, ministry in music or other assignments.

1. Songs should lead the listener in worship or praise toward God or encourage the listener in his or her personal walk with God. The primary purpose of the musical ministry is not entertainment.
2. The words or message of the song must be doctrinally sound. Avoid using songs that have ambiguous or abstract meaning.
3. When assigned for “Ministry of Music” presentation, the title of the selection should be submitted to the Music Coordinator(s) at least one month in advance to be approved. The approved selection should be audibly presented before the Music Coordinator(s) at least one month prior to actual presentation date.

**PERFORMANCE AND PLATFORM PRESENTATION**

The ultimate desire and goal is to be able to lead in the worship service in a way that does not distract from the congregation’s focus on God. Practical guidelines are simply one of the many ways to help us toward

that goal. It is not about the music or musicians. It is all about Him. Since the primary purpose of the music lies in the message of the songs(s), participants should avoid distractions from that message.

Unless a spoken introduction will enhance the song, it is probably not necessary. Please talk with the Music Coordinator(s) for further instruction on this matter.

It is understood there are areas where Christians differ and that the Bible does not specifically command or condemn. These are left to the discretion of the individual Christian. Dress is one of those areas. While it is not required that every church member have the same convictions concerning this area, we do require, based on the need for unity (Romans 14), and a clear uniform standard, a willingness for those who participate in the music ministry at MCBC to graciously adhere to the following policy concerning dress:

1. Modest clothes are required for all persons on the platform; nice jeans are acceptable.
2. The following should be avoided:  
Shorts; clothing with objectionable words and/or pictures; t-shirts; muscle shirts; spaghetti straps; halter tops; tube tops; clothing that bares midriffs (i.e. low rise pants with shorter shirts, etc.); see-through clothing; excessively short dresses or skirts, and slits in skirts or dresses that are thigh-revealing or inappropriately placed
3. If a musician is uncertain as to whether an outfit is appropriate under the above guidelines, wear it on an off Sunday and ask the Music Coordinator(s). It will be to everyone's benefit to **not** wait until the time of performance to ask.
4. An outfit that may be acceptable in other settings may or may not be appropriate on the platform; again, simply because the music is presented from an elevated platform. That fact alone presents challenges that do not always occur in everyday activities. If you are uncertain, always ask or wear something else until you are sure.