NEW HOPE MISSION & VISION

Mission Statement
We will LOVE our neighbors, LEAD them to Christ, and GROW them spiritually.
They will then GO back to their neighbors.

Vision Statement
To be an irresistible influence in our community.
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We are so pleased that you have expressed interest in the Worship Ministry here at New Hope Church (NH). We believe that worship is one of the primary responsibilities, if not the defining characteristic, of a believer in Christ. Therefore, we treat God’s requirement to worship Him as a priority in our lives and lifestyles.

The Worship Ministry Team Handbook details important steps to take in the process of becoming a Worship Team member. Those desiring to serve as sound, dance, video, lighting, or camera technicians should also read and familiarize themselves with the concepts and information pertinent to their specific ministries.

This handbook gives guidelines you can use to examine your reasons for deciding to participate in New Hope’s Worship Ministry, shares a basic look at how we approach worship, and provides you with the procedures we follow as we strive for order and excellence in serving and worshiping the Lord. It also lays out the scriptural foundations of your role in the Worship Ministry.

**Why Do People Get Involved in Worship Ministry?**
Some people get involved in the Worship Ministry because that is where their abilities are found. They are musicians and technicians. It seems like a natural place to minister. Others just have a desire to serve and are looking for a place to “plug in.”

We believe that the basis for involvement should begin with a sense of God’s calling. Do you believe that at this point in your life, God has called you to lead others into worship through your involvement in the Worship Ministry? Once that question is addressed, then your spiritual giftedness, natural talents, and developed abilities will help clarify your role in the Worship Ministry.

**WHAT WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES EXIST?**
*Praise Team Musicians, Singers, Dancers and Technical Artists*

The worship ministry facilitates worship each week using a Praise Team comprised of musicians and singers, as well as technical artists (who use their talents for sound reinforcement, computer, media, lights, and camera). There will be mid-week rehearsals (to be scheduled by the various ministry leaders) with warm-up rehearsals on Sabbath mornings. (“Rotation Schedules,” “Weekly Rehearsals,” and “Rehearsal Times” are discussed later in this handbook.)

**Featured Music**
In an effort to incorporate more featured music during the Worship Service, we will implement a Featured Music Database. This can be provided either by the Praise Team, gifted believers from the congregation, or by guest worshipers. Featured singers and musicians will be asked to “sound check” before the service on the day of their offering.

It is not necessary to be a Praise Team member to be placed on the Featured Music Database, but interviews may be required of those who have not already been through the interview process.
When placed on the Featured Music Database, you will be invited to share a selection on a specific day. You will also receive instructions and guidelines for preparation of your special music.

**Special Choirs & Volunteers**

Special choirs may be formed and other volunteers may be asked to participate in special events such as Christmas, Easter and other special programs. Rehearsal times will be set based upon volunteer availability; usually once a week and commonly during weekend services.

**Expanded Worship Arts**

The worship ministry is also open to other forms of fine art and technical talents such as painting, sculpting, interpretive dance, drama, film & video production, and more. If you have ideas or know someone with special gifts and talents to be used by the Lord, please contact the Worship Pastor to discuss the possibility of worship involvement.

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**DISCOVERING YOUR CALL — ARE YOU CALLED TO WORSHIP MINISTRY?**

The worship ministry is one of the most vital ministries in the local church and should be viewed as a sacred office. Discovering your call begins with a DESIRE to be used by God to IMPACT the local church and the community around you. To examine your ministry calling, refer to the following four “voices” that can help provide a level of guidance.

1) **THE VOICE OF THE SPIRIT** (inward impression)

You always know when God is speaking to you because His prompting will burn within you. (Galatians 5:25, “Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit.”)

2) **THE VOICE OF REASON** (common sense)

We sometimes don’t use common sense when making decisions. For example, common sense would involve looking at your skills relative to the area of ministry you’re interested in.

3) **THE VOICE OF FRIENDS** (trusted friends)

If you surround yourself with believers that have your best interests at heart, they will provide the necessary guidance you need. (Proverbs 11:14, “For lack of guidance a nation falls, but many advisers make victory sure”; Proverbs 12:15, “The way of a fool seems right to him, but a wise man listens to advice”; Proverbs 15:22, “Plans fail for lack of counsel, but with many advisers they succeed”).

4) **THE VOICE OF OPPORTUNITY** (circumstances)

Be aware of the doors the Lord will open for you. He specializes in orchestrating circumstances around you so that you can see His provision. Paul writes of opportunity in 1 Corinthians 16:9, “Because a great door for effective work has opened to me…” and Colossians 4:3, “And pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ….” Remember that vision precedes provision!
PURPOSE OF THE WORSHIP TEAM
The primary purpose of any worship team is to give glory to our Lord, the Creator of Heaven and Earth. He is the Alpha and Omega, the God of the Universe who is to be the whole purpose of our lives. He is worthy of all of our worship, and at New Hope, the responsibility lies with the Praise Team to: create an atmosphere in which people can be led by the Holy Spirit into an encounter with God

Working as a whole, the Worship Team brings several elements to our service of worship including music, but also reinforcement of the spoken message, scripture reading, drama, dance, visual arts, and media. This should not be a responsibility that is taken lightly, nor with mediocrity. We want to bring God the best we have – that is what we call excellence.

In the context of a praise team, our best would include all of the talents and skills He has blessed us with, time devoted to rehearsals, practicing and learning at home, and leading worship services with a genuine heart to glorify God.

WORSHIP PHILOSOPHY
New Hope’s theology of worship is based primarily on Revelation 4 and 5. This is one of the few examples of worship demonstrated in heaven. The description allows us to see how diverse worship is.

Music is an essential part of worship. Psalm 81:1-4 says, “Sing praises to God, our strength. Sing to the God of Jacob. Sing! Beat the tambourine. Play the sweet lyre and the harp. Blow the ram’s horn at new moon, and again at full moon to call a festival! For this is required by the decrees of Israel; it is a regulation of the God of Jacob” (NLT). Music is something that is not only encouraged for worship in the Bible, but it is commanded. It is a very valuable tool for leading people into worship.

But worship music should never be thought of as the entirety of worship itself. Worship is to be an expression of love and praise toward God that comes out from our entire lives, not just our songs. “Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God – this is your spiritual act of worship” (Romans 12:1 NIV).

LIVING THE LIFE OF WORSHIP
We are to live our lives for the glory of God – this is true worship. Someone once said, “every thing we do is either an act of worship or an act of idolatry.” The truth is, many people tend to view music as the only form of worship we offer to God. We sing songs and worship God, and then we go home and live our lives like normal. But this is not what God has commanded. Everything we do can be worship. If we wash the dishes or walk the dog to the glory of God, even that is our offering of worship. But our purpose as a worship team is to glorify God in our gatherings and events to create an atmosphere in which people can be led by the Holy Spirit into an encounter with God. At the same time, our worship offered as a praise team is not just during worship gatherings. The very acts of submitting our talents to God, serving others in worship, and practicing at home are worship.
HOW DO I JOIN THE WORSHIP TEAM?
If you are reading this handbook, then you may have already begun the process of joining the group of musicians, singers, artists, and technicians that make up the NH Praise Team!

Worship Ministry Interview
You will need to participate in a Worship Ministry Interview with the Worship Pastor. During the interview we will explore your calling, background, and leadership role as part of the Worship Ministry. We will highlight the requirements and other considerations defined in this handbook as well as the purpose and vision of the worship ministry. The interview is also important to the Worship Pastor and the Praise Team Leaders in exploring your spiritual gifts as well as your musical or technical experience and skills.

Your interview will incorporate the following components:
– A discussion of the Worship Ministry & Praise Team Handbook. (Please bring your handbook to your interview.)
– A discussion of the Worship Ministry Information & Commitment (Please fill out this form and bring it to your interview.)
– A discussion regarding your ministry calling, spiritual walk, and background

Your audition will be comprised of the following:
– A demonstration of vocal, instrumental, artistic, or technical ability and suitability. Musicians should expect to bring their instrument and play. Vocalist should prepare one song to sing without accompaniment.

Along with God’s leading, the information gathered from the interview enables the Worship Pastor and the appropriate ministry leaders will determine how you might fit into the ministry you are interested in.

Introductory Participation & Hands-on Training
Once you have completed the above-mentioned steps, you will be eligible to begin your initial participation, known as the Introductory Period. For sound and video technicians, this marks the beginning of your Hands-on Training period. Introductory Periods are usually a minimum of three to six weeks. During this time, musicians and singers will attend mid-week rehearsals but not serve on the Praise Team at weekly worship services. This will provide for you to observe the way rehearsals are conducted, quantify how much time and commitment is required, and get to know other members of the Praise Team. At the same time, we can assess your gifts, talents, and commitment in serving the Lord through this ministry.

Hands-on Training for technical artists will involve observing a mentor technician during services for several weeks. When you are ready, you will begin running sound, media, lights, or camera under supervision of a mentor technician for several more weeks. After such time it will be up to the discretion of the Worship Pastor and the ministry leader as to when individuals will begin to participate during services. Once your Introductory Period is over, you will be placed on a regular schedule.
WORSHIP TEAM REQUIREMENTS

In any area we use our God-given gifts and abilities, there are certain requirements that help us excel under that particular role in the Body of Christ. We ask you to closely examine yourself to see if the Worship Ministry is the appropriate area in which to use your gifts.

You must…
1. Have an ongoing personal relationship with Jesus Christ
2. Demonstrate an honest, authentic desire to live a life that is honoring to Jesus
3. Regularly attend weekend services at New Hope
4. Attend New Hope’s Entrance to Membership class
5. Demonstrate appropriate musical or technical ability and fit
6. Be faithful in your financial commitment to the church

A Personal Relationship with Jesus Christ
It is impossible for us to lead others in worship if we are not worshipers ourselves. Since Worship Team members provide an example of and create an atmosphere for worship, one must know Christ to participate. Leading worship is an outward expression of your inward impression of God.

Demonstrate a Life That Is Honoring to Jesus
Worship Team is a leadership-type ministry – not more important than other ministries, but certainly more visible. Because of this, we are more accountable in our life and behavior. We approach our ministry involvement as leaders, knowing that our way of life will be “considered by others.” This involves a commitment to being an example and a witness in your attitude, appearance, and behavior. (Ephesians 4:1 “As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received.”)

If at any time during your worship ministry involvement, should you feel that your life is not reflecting well on Christ or His church, we ask that you voluntarily step down and remove yourself from ministry. At the same time, you must know that the Worship Pastor will not hesitate to ask you to step down in such situations if this action is deemed appropriate and necessary.

We do this for your benefit and encourage you to seek council with a member of the New Hope pastoral staff, lay pastors or any other wise and trusted believer in working to restore your fellowship with Christ, the Worship Ministry, and the church body. Our goal is restoration, not condemnation. We all go through times when we need to work through issues and find a place where we can be restored back into ministry, and everyone deserves support to do that.

Regularly Attend New Hope
You must be a faithful participant in the life of this congregation as demonstrated by your attendance and involvement, regularly attending worship gatherings and other church events. (Hebrews 10:24-25 “And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another – and all the more as you see the Day approaching.”) We further encourage you to consider membership with New Hope Church if you are not already an active member.
As one serving in ministry at New Hope Church, you also must support and be in general agreement with the New Hope Church Values, which is outlined at the end of this handbook.

**Attend or Plan To Attend The Discover New Hope Classes**
Being involved means knowing about the heart and soul of New Hope. A great way to learn more about New Hope (or just to review) is through New Hope Entrance to Membership classes that are offered every other month (see our web site – [www.lookingforachurch.org](http://www.lookingforachurch.org)). We require all participants to plan to attend these classes within six months of joining the Praise Team.

**Appropriate Musical or Technical Ability and Fit**
As a Worship Team musician, vocalist, dancer, or technician, you need to be skilled and talented enough to follow along at the level of the other participants. In addition, you must be a good fit in style, blend, personality, and skills as determined by the Worship Pastor and the appropriate ministry leader. Here are some general guidelines:

**Musicians need to be able to:**
- Perform well with others
- Learn new material quickly
- Demonstrate suitable ability and style on an instrument
- Follow lead sheets and chord charts
- Attend rehearsals on time.
- Demonstrate a cooperative attitude
- Diligently practice outside of rehearsal time

**Vocalists need to be able to:**
- Perform well with others
- Learn new material quickly
- Demonstrate suitable style, range, blend, and accurate pitch
- Learn from lyric sheets and memorize words
- Attend rehearsals on time.
- Demonstrate a cooperative attitude
- Diligently practice outside of rehearsal time

**Sound/Video Technicians need to be able to:**
- Cooperate well with others on a team
- Learn new information quickly
- Demonstrate suitable ability to run appropriate equipment

**Faithfulness in Your Financial Commitment to the Church**
Faithful financial giving is a leadership expectation at New Hope Church. It is a New Hope Church belief that stewardship is an outward sign of one's trust in God.
OTHER CONSIDERATIONS & ONGOING EXPECTATIONS FOR
PRAISE TEAM INVOLVEMENT

As mentioned, this is a leadership ministry and others look to our lives and behavior as examples. Everyone on up front and behind the scenes serves an important part in leading worship, and is therefore responsibly accountable for their actions in doing so. (See 1 Corinthians 4:2 “Now it is required that those who have been given a trust must prove faithful” and James 3:1). In addition to the qualifying characteristics previously outlined, consider the following:

Submitting To God

One thing that honors God within a worship team is submitting the talents He has given you to Him, to the other team members, and to the congregation. As musicians and singers for instance, we are not called to be rock stars, but to humbly submit ourselves. Sometimes this is hard on the ego. While leading worship, how often can we fall into the trap of thinking about how people are looking at us? We might say to ourselves that they're all thinking, “Man, he's got a good voice,” or “She's really passionate about worship, she must be a really great Christian.”

This is not submitting to God. In these cases, we are seeking to glorify ourselves and others instead of Him. When we do this, it is cheating God, cheating the congregation, and cheating ourselves of true worship.

Another act of submission that honors God is to submit ourselves to the overall sound or mix of the music. A lot of times people may want to play and or sing every song, be loud, and be heard by the congregation. But playing and singing like that can ruin the overall sound of worship.

We must realize that balance is what makes a good sound, and most times, less is more. The simpler we keep the sound, the better. Sometimes the best thing for us to do as musicians and singers during a song is to not play or sing during a certain section. As an individual, you are one part of a group whose goal is to worship God. We all need to find out how we can work together as a team to create the best possible sound for our worship. It is never about one person.

Personal Worship

Our worship needs to be an expression of our hearts as well. If we are not really worshipping God through our music or artistic expression, but just singing the words and playing the notes, it will show through to the congregation. But if we are genuine, and our hearts are really focused on God, it will be evident to the congregation, and it can inspire them in their own worship. We need to make sure we are worshipping God for the pure reason that He deserves it. Spend time with God throughout the week so that He is not a stranger when we come together in our weekly worship gatherings. Make room for worship and meditation in your own time of personal devotion. That way, when we minister to a group of people in a worship setting, our worship will only be an overflow of what we are doing privately.

Leading Worship

A big part about leading worship is creating flow – no matter what your role on the Worship Team (sound, video, lights, camera, and other arts included). This is the process where we illustrate a journey for worshippers to enter into the gates of God's throne room. It is accomplished by merging all
the elements of a worship gathering into one message and flow with minimal distractions or interruptions. By eliminating distractions and most interruptions, we keep the focus on God and off the other things that might distract us and the congregation.

While wrong notes, loud instruments, and off-key singers can be a distraction in worship, so can the sound reinforcement, lighting and media. We need to make sure that the lighting is set up so that it will reflect and help the mood of the worship atmosphere. Errors and delays in the media presentation can also be a big distraction. The technical artists (sound, light, media, and camera) have the responsibility to always be alert and ready. It is our goal to give God our best presentation of praise.

**Group Dynamics and Your Role**

Working in a team can be tough, especially if there are clashing personalities within the group. As with any group, being on the Worship Team takes patience, understanding, and most of all, humility. 1 Peter 5:5 instructs, "...All of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, because, 'God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.'" Pride causes some big problems within a team. Sometimes I think God can put us in group situations in order to be a check on our pride. In a group, we come across ideas different from our own, and we can learn to see the situations from the perspective of another. We may come to realize that we are not always right.

It is important to hold your role in ministry "with a loose hand," giving God and those you serve under the ability to use your gifts as they best serve New Hope. (Hebrews 13:17 "Obey your leaders and submit to their authority. They keep watch over you as men who must give an account. Obey them so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no advantage to you.")

The fact is, in a praise team, each member needs to serve one another. When we are serving, we are loving and building unity within the group. ("Make every effort to keep yourselves united in the Spirit, binding yourselves together with peace" Ephesians 4:3 NLT).

There needs to be mutual respect and love among the members. There should be no member who is spotlighted above the rest, but we should all have the attitude that everyone has their place, and no one else could fill it like they could. A fantastic way to build unity is to set aside time together outside our gatherings and rehearsals. So as a group, the Worship Team not only worships God together, but we meet occasionally for fellowships and training. We also meet together each week for prayer and devotions and as we grow together spiritually, and it will show through our ministry. Depending on what ministry you are apart of, you’ll be invited to join others from your team to worship together.

**Your Involvement is Ministry**

Remember that whether you participate in the Worship Team as a musician, singer, or technician … it is your ministry. You are there to serve others and minister to them. It is the task of the Worship Team to make it easy for them to get into a mode of worship. A crucial aspect of leading worship through music or the technical arts is that it is an act of service. We are serving those that we are leading, giving them an outlet for their worship.

**Group Rehearsals**

Remember, the mid-week rehearsal is the time when you sharpen your sound and technical cues for the glory of God. It is a group rehearsal APART from our personal rehearsal time and learning of songs.
You are expected to listen to the song samples online and be able to capture the musical style (or recognize song cues for techs). Then we can come together to bring all our individual roles together in a group rehearsal.

Make sure you are ready to work as a team, take notes, and most of all, use the practice time as an act of worship. Psalm 33:3 says, “Sing to him a new song; play skillfully, and sing with joy” (NIV). We are to be joyful in our worship, but at the same time, play skillfully, because God deserves our best. Rehearsal is the time when we can practice both.

**In Our Weekly Worship Services**

Worship is not about us; it is about God. In worship, the congregation will feed off of you. So make sure that your heart is focused on God. It will show through to the listeners, and if you are passionately worshiping, it can inspire them to do so as well. It goes the other way, too. If you look dead and show no emotion at all, it could de-energize the congregation.

Our weekly worship services are the culmination of our expression of worship. Above all, make sure this is the time where you are completely submissive to God and the moving of the Holy Spirit. Sometimes, you may have something planned out from rehearsal, but the Holy Spirit might spur the leader to play that bridge one more time at the end of a song or to just vamp on a chord progression for a while, creating a contemplative atmosphere. Be flexible and allow room for the Spirit to work in your hearts and the hearts of the people in the congregation. It is your role to lead the congregation to God’s throne. You are the guide.

**One-On-One Meetings**

Part of creating order, clarity, and excellence in ministry requires finding ways to continually spur one another forward. That’s what Worship Leadership Luncheons are all about. Once per quarter (four times per year) the entire Worship Ministry group will meet for a time of giving and receiving feedback regarding your experiences and your role on the Worship Team. These quarterly meetings are a two-way opportunity for you to let us know what is and is not working for you, and for us to challenge you to move beyond your present place and skill level. At times, one-on-one meetings with the Worship Pastor and/or your ministry leader may be scheduled. You may ask for a meeting, or you may be asked to attend one. These are times when a specific topic may need to be discussed, and can be handled outside of the quarterly meetings.

Many churches have difficulty implementing any evaluation of their ministries, but worship is a high and holy calling and so prayerful consideration should be given to how we lead worship. Evaluating people’s gifts and hearts is not easy, but when we commit to it we find that it causes people to place a higher value on their participation in the ministry; it encourages them to make a higher quality commitment; and it forces them to face their fears and overcome their tendency toward comparison and insecurity.
WORSHIP MINISTRY DETAILS
To familiarize you with the Worship Ministry, we have listed some our important details and processes. These details are subject to change.

Praise Team Rotation Schedules
There are four Praise Teams at New Hope. Each team is headed by a Praise Team Leader who organizes the music elements on the week they are responsible for. Currently, the weekly schedules look like this each month:
- Week One – Katina Chappell’s team
- Week Two – Chris Howell’s team
- Week Three – Lauri Preston’s team
- Week Four – Jeff Dunn’s team

In the months where there are five weeks, a guest team or the youth team, Search & Rescue will lead worship on the fifth weekend.

Three weeks prior to their scheduled time to present worship, it is the responsibility of each Praise Team Leader to notify all other ministries, the Minister of Music and the Worship Pastor regarding their plans for the coming worship service.

Because the rotations and schedules are revised from time to time, expect to work with a variety of people within the Worship Ministry.

Weekly Rehearsal Attendance
Worship Team members are required to be faithful and punctual in their attendance of rehearsals, services, and other events for which they are scheduled. If you are not able to make a rehearsal or be there for the worship service, please inform your ministry leader as soon as possible so that other arrangements can be made. Additionally, you will generally not be able to participate in the weekend service if you cannot make the mid-week rehearsal unless arrangements have been made.

Rehearsal Times
The Praise Team generally meets for a mid-week rehearsal and for a warm-up rehearsal on the day of a service or event. It is expected that musicians and singers, as well as sound and video technicians attend mid-week rehearsals. Lighting and camera technicians are added to the mix during the warm-up rehearsal. The following times should be verified during your interview:

Sabbath Morning Meeting for Prayer
Sabbath mornings, the prayer warrior(s) on duty will meet with the team to pray about 10 minutes before each service. In addition to the crucial need for prayer, this helps gather everyone together in time. After prayer, all worship participants will get in their places (on or off-stage) to begin the service.

Dress Code
As mentioned before, this is a leadership ministry and we are all leaders. We have an example to set. Therefore, our dress code is casual, but modest and presentable. For instance, men should avoid wearing clothing that is excessively worn or very casual. Women should avoid wearing revealing
clothing such as low cut blouses or short skirts. Remember this tip when making decisions on your clothing, “if you are unsure if it is acceptable, you probably shouldn’t wear it.” **Note:** Stage lights can affect the transparency of your outfit.

Examples That Are Acceptable:
- Dockers or Slacks
- Dresses
- Nice Dressy, Dark-Colored Jeans
- Knit, Button-Up or Polo Shirts
- Pants
- Skirts
- Unmarked T-shirts (when worn under a Jacket or Button-Up Shirt)

Examples That Are Not Acceptable:
- Dresses with High Slits
- Excessively Worn or Torn Clothing
- Exercise Pants or Sweats
- Exposed Belly Buttons or Midriifs
- Short Skirts
- Shorts (Including Walking Shorts)
- Tank, Tube, or Halter Tops & Other Strapless Tops
- T-shirts with Logos/Writing

**NOTE:** While New Hope upholds a “come as you are” philosophy in terms of dress, keep in mind that this sentiment is mainly directed at seekers.

**Weekly News Via Email**
If you have an email address, you can check the weekly Worship Ministry announcements and rehearsal reminders by viewing the New Hope Worship Team web site (coming soon). The preliminary Worship Flow will be also posted there, usually by Wednesday evening. Music charts, lyric sheets, and song samples can be found on www.planningcenteronline.com.

**Introduction of New Music**
Beginning in July, we will periodically distribute new music CDs, lyrics, and/or music charts. These new music packages include new songs that the Praise Team may incorporate into our worship in the future. The packages are provided for you to get familiar with the songs before they are introduced. There may be times when special rehearsals will be scheduled to go through these songs for practice and suitability.
Worship Pastor Contact Information
Pastor Rajkumar Dixit can be contacted by phone or email. Tuesday is his day off. If you are unable to reach him at church, be sure to try other methods. The following information will be verified during your interview:

Church Office phone: 301-854-1866
Pastor Dixit’s email: kumardixit@yahoo.com
Pastor Dixit’s cell phone: 301-502-8566

NOTE: Please see the New Hope Worship Ministry Organizational Chart for an overview of the various worship ministries, their leadership and contact information.

FINAL THOUGHTS
There is no higher calling than to worship the Lord of the universe. It is what we were created to do. It is how we, as humans, connect with our Creator and give him back all the honor that is due to Him. What an honor and privilege it is to be able to facilitate part of that worship for people! As worship leaders (for that is what the Praise Team is doing), we have been called to usher people into the throne room, where they will have an opportunity to touch the heart of God. Pray that we will never lose sight of that mission. Pray that God will give us the strength, the resources, and the abilities to praise Him. And pray that our focus will never be taken off of Christ as the Object of our worship.

We appreciate your dedication and service and recognize the sacrifice you are making in serving the Lord in this way. A lot of time and work goes into preparing for our gatherings each week, and your dedication will reflect a commitment to making each and every gathering a blessing. May you glorify the Lord!

NEW HOPE CHURCH WORSHIP MINISTRY VISION

Worship Ministry Vision
We will be a team of servant-leaders who seek passion and purpose through inside-out worship.

The Vision Unpacked
*We will be a team of servant-leaders*
We must work together toward the same goals and with an understanding of the same values. Leadership is still important, but we must realize that the leadership Jesus modeled was that of servant-leadership; He taught that whoever loses his life shall gain it; the first shall be last, etc. As leaders, our first concern must be for the people we serve. We must all be ministers, pouring our hearts out for the people of God and for others. We must remember that people are never a tool to serve the music, media or art, but that the music, media, or art always serves the people who seek passion and purpose.

*We will be in pursuit of God*
We will develop a passion for an intimate, devoted, and sustained relationship with God in Christ
through the guidance and dependence of the Holy Spirit. We will also seek to create an atmosphere of worship within the people of our congregation that also embodies this same passion in their lives.

*We will pursue passion for God with the sense of purpose He has given us*

We will not be distracted by looking to the left or the right of our goals, but will forge ahead as He guides. At the same time, we will encourage each individual of our congregation (as well as the others we come in contact with) to fulfill the specific purpose for which God has created them with excellence, beginning with the broad understanding that we were all created to worship Him with our lives through inside-out worship.

*We will be intentional about inside-out worship*

Inside-out worship is created from revelation and personal experience, and a devotion that flows from a changed life. Through this process we can begin to recognize that true worship begins on the inside and is not dependent on, but only enhanced by our outward expressions.

**WORSHIP MINISTRY VALUES**

- **Team** – We are working together toward the same goals with the same values.
- **Servant-leadership** – Our first concern is the people we serve.
- **Passion** – We are in pursuit of God with a passion for a sustained, intimate relationship with Him.
- **Purpose** – We are in unwavering pursuit of God’s purpose for our lives, encouraging others to fulfill their purpose in Him through excellence.
- **Inside-out worship** – Our worship will begin on the inside, born from revelation, personal experience, and a devotion that flows from a changed life.

**NEW HOPE CHURCH VALUES**

**Grace Centered**

What does it mean to be grace oriented? Some people think the word “grace” refers to a prayer prior to your meal. This little word is filled with deep meaning. To be grace centered means to have an abundance of generosity towards others. At New Hope, it means we are not going to judge you – no matter where you came from is what your past involves. We are going to go the extra mile to accept you because Jesus did the same for us. A church is a hospital for those who are spiritually ill. It is our goal to see you living a healthy life that brings honor to God. Then you too can extend grace to others. *Romans 5:20*

**God Worshiping**

At New Hope we are committed to honoring God through joyful expressions of corporate worship. We are open to hearing and experiencing the power of God’s presence through the ministry of music and practical Bible teaching, and creativity of the arts. We acknowledge God’s sovereignty over our lives and invite Him into our hearts through music, praise and exaltation. *Psalms 96.9*
Spiritually Transforming
Understanding the vitality of spiritual growth within the church, we actively encourage our members and friends to grow in their personal relationship with Christ through the disciplines of prayer, the study of God’s word and making four basic commitments:

- Commitment to Christ and Membership in the Body of Christ
- Commitment to Maturity in Christ.
- Commitment to a Ministry with Christ
- Commitment to Missions for Christ

A variety of Sabbath morning classes, small groups and various ministries and education classes meet throughout the week to provide opportunities for people of all ages to interact and grow spiritually, sharing challenges and asking questions that lead to a deeper understanding of Christ and His plan for our lives. *Philippians 3:14*

Culturally Relevant
Unfortunately, many churches in America are stuck in culture that existed 600 years ago (or longer). We understand that culture changes, therefore we are committed to sharing the gospel in a way your friends will be able to understand it. We are committed to making our music, preaching, “lingo”, the way we reach people, to be relevant to the culture of our zip code. Because we are committed to reaching the surrounding communities, we will do everything to “speak to same language.” *Galatians 2:14-15*

Community Connecting
Being continually prepared through our experience of worship, discipleship, nurture and evangelism, it is our privilege to offer our time and our talents in service to our local community and our world. We fix our eyes on the example set by Jesus, embracing all people as our brothers and sisters in Christ, and striving to extend unconditional kindness and service to all who are in need. Through various ministries that serve the local community, we are impacting people because they are children of God. *Luke 4:18-19*

Family Empowering
Children are the most impressionable people in the community. According to researcher, George Barna, most decisions are made (44 percent) by children before they are become teenagers. As a result, New Hope church is committed to reaching children and equipping families to make life long decisions for Christ. *Matthew 19:14*

Mission Compelled
Believing wholeheartedly that the good news of Jesus Christ is the best news for the world, it is our mission to reach out to the unchurched and share the hope that is ours through the cross of Christ our Savior. We embrace the great commission of Christ as being personally relevant to each member of our community and prayerfully seek opportunities to invite others into full fellowship with the body of Christ. We have taken Jesus’ words to “go” at heart. We are committed to going to the community before asking them to come to us. Our passion is to reach lost people for Jesus. *Matthew 28:19-20*
WORSHIP MINISTRY INFORMATION & COMMITMENT FORM

Contact Information: Please print clearly and fill out the following information for your interview.

Name:____________________________________________________________________________________

Mailing Address/City/Zip:____________________________________________________________________

Home Phone: (____)__________________________   Work Phone: (____)__________________________

Cell Phone: (____)____________________________  Other Phone: (____)________________________

Email:_______________________________________   Alt Email:_______________________________

Do you have weekly access to the Internet & email to check Praise Team updates? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Identify your three favorite ways of spending free time (e.g., hobbies, interests, etc.) ________________
____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________

Why would you like to be involved in the Worship Arts Ministry and/or Praise Team?
____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________

Have you made a decision to receive Jesus Christ as your personal savior? ☐ Yes ☐ No

How long have you been a Christian? (Give a brief description of your relationship with Jesus Christ)
____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________

How long have you been attending New Hope Church?_______________________________________

Are you currently serving in any other areas of ministry at New Hope Church? If so, please list:
____________________________________________________________________________________
VOCALISTS: What vocal part do you sing? ____________________ Do you read music?  ○ Yes  ○ No
Can you sing by ear?  ○ Yes  ○ No    Can you pick out harmony part by ear?  ○ Yes  ○ No
What style(s) of music do you have experience singing? (worship, jazz, rock, etc.)__________________

MUSICIANS: What instrument(s) are you interested in playing for Praise Team ____________________
Do you read music?  ○ Yes  ○ No    Can you play by chord charts/lead sheets?  ○ Yes  ○ No
What style(s) of music do you have experience playing? (worship, jazz, rock, etc.)__________________

ALL: What musical, technical, or arts experience have you had? (professional, church, school, garage band)
____________________________________________________________________________________

Worship Ministry Commitment Statement
If you have questions regarding any of the Worship Ministry & Praise Team Handbook, please first discuss them with the Worship Pastor. Otherwise, please read & sign below:

I have read through the Worship Ministry & Praise Team Handbook and I understand that by participating in the New Hope’s Worship Ministry, it is implied that I meet the requirements for Worship Team participants, agree with the vision & purpose of the NH Worship Ministry, and agree with the ongoing expectations for Worship Ministry participants as outlined in the handbook.

Signature:_____________________________________________________ Date:__________________
KEY SOURCES IN CREATING THIS HANDBOOK

The Worship Leader’s Handbook, by Tom Kaeuter
Planted By The Water, by Chris Falson
Experiencing Worship, by Stephen M. Newman
Worship Team Handbook, by Alison Siewert, Andy Crouch, Matt Frazier, Sundee Frazier
Fishnet Web site Worship List Archives,
A posting from Mike Moore of Salisbury Church, Charleston, Illinois
www.fni.com/worship/199901/msg00195.html or www.salisbury-church.org
Boston Chi Alpha Campus Ministries Web site, Worship Training
Experiencing Worship Web site
Guidelines and Qualifications for the Worship Team, by Stephen M. Newman
www.experiencingworship.com/articles/general/2001-7-Worship-Team-Guidelines.html
Praise Band Handbook: A Guide to Managing a Praise & Worship Band
by Ben Wulpi, Worship Leadership, May 3, 2007