

Christ Baptist Church

Philosophy of Music Ministry

In Ephesians 5:18-21, the apostle Paul notes that the outcomes of Spirit filled worshippers in the Church of Jesus Christ are: addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with their heart, giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, and submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ.

In his parallel letter to the Colossians, in 3:16, Paul further notes that the outcomes of hearts that have the word of Christ richly dwelling in them are: teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in their hearts to God.

Furthermore, the mission statement of CBC states that *“Christ Baptist Church exists as a Biblical community to glorify God by exalting His supremacy in all things, equipping one another for works of service, and evangelising all nations that we may present every person complete in Christ.”*

To prepare for a Spirit-filled and Christ-centred worship through music and to fulfil CBC’s mission, CBC will be guided by this philosophy of music ministry.

1. Scripture

CBC’s identity, values and beliefs are underpinned by the authority of the Scriptures (Ps 19:7-9; 2 Tim 3:16-17; 2 Pet 1:19-21) and are further spelled out in CBC’s statement of faith.

THEREFORE, every music team member must believe the Bible as the final authority that guides every aspect of worship and further comply with CBC’s statement of faith.

2. Theology

CBC has her theology spelled out in her statement of faith which can be found in her website.

THEREFORE, all who participate in the music ministry must read and affirm and comply with the theology spelled out in the statement of faith as it informs CBC’s music ministry.

3. Born-again Baptized Members

CBC requires that regular participants of the music ministry must be baptized CBC members who have a credible testimony of faith, regularly attend church, faithfully fellowship with other believers and exhibit spiritual growth (Matt 28:18-20; Acts 2:36-47; Eph 4:17-5:33; 1 Thess 1:2-10; Heb 10:25; 2 Pet 3:17-18).

THEREFORE, no person with a questionable testimony of faith, who does not value and demonstrate regular church attendance and the fellowship of believers and does not exhibit spiritual growth will participate in the music ministry regardless of his or her giftedness.

FURTHERMORE, no regular music ministry participant who wilfully refuses to be baptized or is deemed not ready to be baptized and become a member of CBC will participate in the music ministry.

IN ADDITION, all members of the music team (including young people who are baptized members of CBC) are expected to express spiritual maturity by being involved in practicing with the team, participating in devotions, and praying with the group before the worship service.

4. Diversity

CBC believes that the diversity of our members and adherents are a gift from God in order to display the manifold wisdom of God in the Heavens (Eph. 3:10). Diversity of people (of any type such as ethnic, economic, intellectual, and age) is not something to be pursued, but rather something to be enjoyed as given by God to more magnificently display God's wisdom and Christ's worth in bringing unity out of diversity.

CBC believes that all her members who represents diverse ethnicity, nationality, culture, languages, age and giftedness are made in God's image and are equal in Christ (Gen 1:26-27; 11; Ps 96; Col 3:10-11; Rev 5:8-10; 7:9-12).

THEREFORE, every music ministry leader will value every member of CBC as made in God's image and diligently pursue various gifted members to participate on the music ministry.

5. Missiology

CBC values the Great Commission (Matt 28:18-20; Luke 24:45-48; Acts 1:8) and seeks to be missional in all that she does.

THEREFORE, the music ministry must also think of Christ's Great Commission in their selection of songs to evangelize the lost through singing.

6. Leadership

CBC believes that the Bible allows only males to take a role of authority (1 Tim 2:9-15).

THEREFORE, since leading music ministry or corporate worship carries authority, no females will be allowed to lead music ministry.

HOWEVER, females will be allowed to participate in music ministry through singing, playing instruments and helping at the media and sound desk.

CBC elders will appoint a music ministry coordinator (aka music pastor) to oversee the music ministry. The music coordinator will work hand in hand with music team leaders to facilitate the smooth running of music ministry. The role and qualifications of the music coordinator will be spelled out by the elders in the music ministry coordinator's job description.

CBC values peace and unity and biblical conflict resolution (Matt 5:23-24; Eph 4:1-3; Philp 4:2-3).

THEREFORE, CBC music team leaders must be men of character who humbly lead music ministry and serve the body of Christ and avoid conflicts with other team leaders and members. Where there are conflicts, CBC leaders must seek to biblically resolve them. If they fail to resolve their conflicts, they need to involve the music ministry coordinator who will serve as an arbitrator to help resolve disputes.

7. Competency

CBC believes that God gives people different gifts to serve the body (1 Cor 12:4-27; Rom 12:3-8; 1 Pet 4:10-11).

THEREFORE, CBC will pursue and welcome all members who meet the above biblical standards in the music team. However, a level of competency or skill in singing and playing instruments will be required.

WHERE there is giftedness, but the person is not yet competent, CBC will encourage and support such a person to develop his or her skill to where he or she can be competent to participate on the music team.

CBC seeks to honour God by striving for excellence in her worship through music. CBC believes that such excellence can be achieved by having music leaders adhere to the following guidelines:

- a. Plan for Sunday worship at least one week in advance.
- b. Plan with the scheduled preaching pastor to align songs with the sermon.
- c. Consider other worship activities scheduled for the day to allocate adequate time for each activity.
- d. Set aside a definite time for practice.
- e. Furnish musicians with songs and their digital version early in the week to rehearse at home.
- f. A music team should at least have one practice session together before Sunday.
- g. Pair a sound team with a specific music team to save time. Sound team must arrive early, at least 5-10 minutes, before rehearsal to save time.
- h. Both the entire church and the music team should prepare spiritually by praying for corporate worship throughout the week.

8. Language

CBC has adopted English as her medium of communication.

THEREFORE, CBC will mostly sing English songs. HOWEVER, songs in other languages can be occasionally sung with subtitles for people to understand what they are singing and must be led by someone who can sing well in that language. Generally, non-English songs will be sung to accomplish a specific purpose desired for the worship service.

9. Attire

CBC values modest attire as it is the evidence of godliness (1 Tim 2:9-10; 3:2)¹.

¹ The word respectable is used in both passages.

THEREFORE, all members of the CBC music team must be respectable in their dress—dressing neatly and modestly in order not to distract, entice, or provoke fellow worshippers and thus causing them to stumble. CBC views smart casual or office or job environment attire to be a good example of modesty.

10. Elders Oversight

- a. CBC elders decide on who is to lead worship. No guest should lead worship without the approval of elders.
- b. A music leader is empowered by the elders to select the music team participants without seeking the eldership or music coordinator's approval. However, the participants must fit the standards spelled out in CBC's philosophy of music ministry.
- c. CBC allows born-again guests who are not CBC members and are not baptized to participate in the music ministry team. However, all guests who are not known to CBC elders and are not coming through one of CBC ministries, e.g. Samaria Mission or Christ Seminary, must be approved by elders or music coordinator to participate in the music team.

This Philosophy of Music Ministry was approved by the elders of CBC on 19 June 2020.

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