

# Joining the Worship Team



Thank you for expressing interest in getting involved and contributing to the worship team here at Edgewood! The worship ministry focuses on Edgewood's value of gathering by developing, planning, and leading God-glorifying, Christ-exalting, and Gospel-saturated worship services. At Edgewood, worship is more than just singing songs. When we gather we come to meet with the Lord and to declare and experience His glory as His people, people that He purchased through His death and resurrection.

Whether you have been part of Edgewood for weeks or years my hope is that this document will paint a picture of how we go about building God's worship team at our church. Our team is made up of many people who are committed to Gathering, Growing, Giving and Going with the gospel. Who we are in Christ is primary. Our musicality is secondary when it comes to serving with our gifts at Edgewood.

At Edgewood we take the role of leading worship very seriously. What we do is so much more than merely making music or leading songs. We intend to engage hearts in glorifying God in worship! Therefore, we must be certain that individuals that serve with our team have both hearts of worship and the necessary musical ability to contribute to our efforts of leading others in worship. The musical worship and congregational singing time is not a warm up, opening act, or purely just preliminary for the sermon. All the aspects of our service are unified in the purpose of letting *"the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God."* - Colossians 3:16 NASB.

Vocalists and instrumentalists have the same standards on our team. What this means is that we view all members on the platform as fulfilling the same purpose whether they are singing on the front line or playing an instrument on the back line.

The process we use to help determine ministry fit has three steps:

- 1) Application/Questionnaire
- 2) Interview/Audition
- 3) Invitation to Join the Team

The remainder of this document explores these three steps in detail.

# 1. Application/Questionnaire

To start the process we need to get a picture of who you are and how you have been led to investigate serving with the worship team. I have created a questionnaire to help with this process. You can fill out the questionnaire online by visiting [www.edgewoodbaptist.net/worship](http://www.edgewoodbaptist.net/worship) and looking for the “Join the Team” tab. Your responses to this questionnaire will help to determine how the next steps of an interview/audition will look.

**You must be a member of Edgewood to serve with the regular rotation worship teams.**

If you are not a member, but plan to pursue membership, I encourage you to proceed and complete the questionnaire to get this process going. Edgewood embraces this requirement because it helps ensure that our team has unity in the following items:

- Assurance that you understand, believe, and have embraced the Gospel of Jesus Christ.
- Commitment to strive to live in obedience to Christ and grow in Christlikeness by Gathering, Growing, Giving and Going with the Gospel.
- Commitment and acceptance of the beliefs and witness of Edgewood.
- Intentionally accountable to the people of Edgewood and it’s leadership.
- **Worship leaders (that’s the whole team) should be committed to the common goals of those we lead.**

Edgewood’s membership process is the most straightforward approach to ensuring unity concerning these items.

## **Membership? Really?**

To some the idea of church membership is a sensitive issue. I understand that there are many things that could cause concern for new believers and long time believers concerning church membership. Some have experienced church hurt and membership may have had a part of the unhealth. Others take issue with membership because of foundational misunderstandings of the nature of church membership and why it exists in the first place. Church membership in the USA has many examples that detract from a healthy understanding of membership, for example, the idea of country club or membership as “privilege” model. Biblically speaking, the New Testament church understood that one could be a part of the body just as they understood one could be apart from the body. In other words: one could be a “member” of the body and there was at times a need for someone to no longer be a “member” of the body. I appreciate what Ed Stetzer says about church membership in a recent [christianitytoday.com](http://christianitytoday.com) article: “God makes us part of his larger family when we are born again. But then we should covenant in a local body and live in community with them, agreeing to live by certain established godly principles and standards.”

Please do not be fearful of the membership process at Edgewood. Our pastors and leadership are servants that desire to lovingly lead you to Gather, Grow, Give and Go with the Gospel for the Glory of God. That's a lot of "G"s but it really is that simple! If you have any questions about church membership I'd love to help answer them for you.

## 2. Interview/Audition

If you have been part of any group musical endeavor you know just how loaded the word "audition" can be, perhaps your experience has been positive, or perhaps the mention of the word brings back emotional trauma. In the past couple of decades the process of an audition has been even more tainted with television talent shows sensationalizing and glorifying the carnage of the audition process (this is no doubt for the purpose of entertainment and not edification). For my use of the word "audition" the goal is not to cause emotional trauma! Auditions are necessary in our process to determine your skill level and how you could contribute to the worship team. Likewise, the "interview" portion is to get a sense of who you are and your heart.

For the interview portion I'm hoping to learn about:

- Your heart for God
- Your passion for serving through music
- Where you are at in your walk with God
- Your family, school, and/or work life and how that impacts potential involvement in worship ministry

For the musical portion of the audition I'm looking to get a picture of the following:

- Overall musicality
- Personal musical style and stylistic flexibility
- Pitch, Intonation, Range, and Rhythm
- Tone Quality (vocal & instrumental)
- Understanding of your musical role in the group (vocal & instrumental)
- For instrumentalists: whether you have the equipment necessary to participate (i.e. electronic pickups in acoustic guitars, effects pedals for electric guitarists)
- For vocalists: can you sing harmony?, can you use printed musical scores to help learn vocal parts?
- Ability to interact and prepare with the musical resources Edgewood uses each week
- Introduction to Planning Center Online.

## **Planning Center Online**

To help facilitate the scheduling and provide access to resources for the interview/audition you will be given a login to this website tool that we use to administrate our worship ministry. Because of our dependance on this tool, it is required that you have consistent access to the internet and email. Planning Center also provides an option that uses texting as well if you prefer. To learn more about Planning Center Online you can watch this 4 minute video:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=\\_7o8PoT1SKY](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_7o8PoT1SKY)

The scheduling of an interview/audition depends on a number of factors including, but not limited to, current ministry season (no interview/auditions leading up to Christmas & Easter), number of individuals in the process, status of church membership. In all cases I want to make sure that you are well prepared for your interview/audition, this could mean scheduling weeks or more than a month in advance.

## **3. Invitation to Join the Team**

The first two steps are to bring us to a determination whether or not you will be invited to join the team. If you are invited to join the decision to accept is in your hands. It is my hope that after this process you are fully informed on how participation may or may not fit with your life's schedule and commitments. If you are not invited to join the answer does not necessarily mean a resounding "no". It very well might be a "not yet". I will not leave you hanging! You'll hear from me within a couple of weeks. I will do my best to give you constructive feedback in any case. Also, the decision at that time will not solely focus on musicality as the whole process is to determine a big picture ministry fit. Part of the decision will also be impacted by the strength/depth of the team members that are already serving. While at the time of writing this document we have healthy room for growth on our teams; the availability of positions to serve may be limited due to the size and health of our teams in the future.

Because joining the team requires membership, the commitment to the worship ministry you'll be making will include these ministry specific items:

- Commitments and agreements as church members to Gather, Grow, Give, and Go with the Gospel in solidarity with others.
- Commitment to be punctual and prepared musically for rehearsals and services to the best of your ability for the weekends that you are scheduled.
  - Rehearsals are currently scheduled for Tuesday evenings during the week prior to the weekend you are scheduled.
- Commitment to serve Edgewood by embracing items of preference that may not be your own. Items including musical style/arrangement, etc.
- Commitment to following our platform apparel guidelines:
  - Be careful not to bring attention to yourself by your apparel

- Please avoid shorts, spaghetti straps, clingy material (tight tops or bottoms), yoga pants, short shirts, low-cut blouses, short skirts (if in doubt its probably too short), tank or tube tops, too much bling, excessive jewelry, large writing on shirts, backless blouses, hats.
- Saturday evening is more casual dress than Sunday mornings, however, we should strive to wear clothing that is respectful and that falls inside the previous guidelines.
- Commitment to communicate by responding to serving requests via Planning Center or about challenges and/or frustrations you may have contributing whether they be conflicts with scheduling, personal, philosophical, or musical in nature. Please bring critiques and frustrations to me personally and not in front of the group or with others.
- Commitment to gather consistently for worship on weekends that you do not serve. Please take in the entirety of the sermon at least once during the weekend that you serve with the worship team.

## Conclusion

The thought occurs to me that the very act of spelling out and explaining a process that includes web forms, questionnaires, and logins to web applications may communicate that this is an impersonal automated process. This couldn't be further from the truth. The goal is to get to know you! Whether the final determination is for you to join the team or not, the end result is that we get to explore together how God is working in your life. As one of your pastors, whether you serve on my team or not, it is a great privilege to hear your story and get to know you on a personal level. I look forward to this process with you. May God bless you as you seek to serve Him in all you do!

In Christ,  
Chad Doran

