

# WORSHIP

*From Our Leaders*



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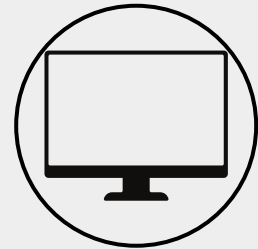
*From Our Leaders*



New Team Members



New Songs



Software

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**WORSHIP**—showing regard with great respect, honor, or devotion.

## **WHAT IS A WORSHIP LEADER?**

Great worship leaders tend to make what they do look easy. It can seem as though they effortlessly get up on stage, strap on their instrument, and effectively lead a worship team, as well as an entire congregation, through a set list without breaking a sweat. Those with limited experience may find themselves frustrated if ([click here](#) for more)



A background image showing a man and a woman singing into a microphone. The man is on the left, wearing a grey t-shirt, and the woman is on the right, wearing a light-colored top. They are both smiling and appear to be in a worship or performance setting.

TEAMS

## **INCORPORATING NEW TEAM MEMBERS**

**Question: Do you hold Tryouts and if not, how do you incorporate new Team Members?**

**Highpoint Church, Aurora** - Tryouts are held online. Depending on the skill level and need of the team, they either begin in our Advance (our development program) or Sunday team. Those individuals that begin on the Sunday team, will come observe rehearsal once, come play for a rehearsal once (but not play on Sunday. I schedule a veteran member that will have no problem jumping in without rehearsal and has the capability of coaching the new team member to serve on Sunday Team this week.) and then they are scheduled for their first week. We have a culture of feedback so as a bonus, I have a scheduled person each week to come to rehearsal that is not on Sunday team that sits through and gives real-time feedback.

**The Sanctuary, Fort Morgan** - When new members are accepted on the team, they are required to practice 3 times with the team without participating in service. After 3 practices, leaders confer with the new member and agree about whether they are ready or need a few more practices. Because new members know that when they begin, it generally is well-received.

**Church at Briargate, Colorado Springs** - Those interested in serving on the Worship Team are asked to complete an online sign up sheet. This sheet asks what part of the team they are interested in and how much experience they have. It also informs them that we use technology such as in ear monitors and online scheduling. Once they have completed the form and the Worship Pastor has interviewed them, they are scheduled for a midweek service where their abilities, attitude, etc. are observed. This could be considered a tryout. Once they have shown that they can play/sing/etc, then they are scheduled on a Sunday Morning.

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TEAMS

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**Question: Do you hold Tryouts and if not, how do you incorporate new Team Members?**

**Southwest First Assembly, Lakewood** - When we have someone that is interested in joining the worship team we usually will meet with them one on one and chat about what our vision is for worship and team expectations and ask them what worship means to them. We then have that person attend a practice and see how they interact with the team as well as listen to them sing. We can usually tell in one or two practices whether they are a good fit.

**Abundant Life, North Salt Lake** - As there is interest in joining our team, we will have interviews to discuss abilities/talents and heart for worshiping Jesus. We discuss the structure of the team, the level of involvement and set expectations for being in a leadership role including life style and social media presence. We also cover expectations for conflict management internally. We actually find that there is less conflict when these expectations are set upfront. We will then invite them to a practice to assess fit with the team and make sure it is still something the interested singer/musician wants to move forward with and to what frequency they are available to commit to.

**Friendship Assembly of God, Colorado Springs** - We do not hold tryouts, but we do ask interested parties to complete a form on our church app. Then, I meet with them to discuss worship and allow them to audition with me to see if they would be a good fit.



## NEW SONGS

# INCORPORATING NEW SONGS

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**Question: How often do you introduce a new song?  
When you do what is your structure with that song?**

**Friendship Assembly of God, Colorado Springs** - I introduce a new song every other month but working on changing that to every month. To introduce a new song, I add the song to our pre-service and post-service playlist, so that the congregation starts hearing it at least a month before we use it during worship. I start teaching it to the team about 6 weeks before we use it (I add it to our worship team group resources in Planning Center and email them the YouTube link to start listening to, as well).

**Church at Briargate, Colorado Springs** - We notify team members that we will be introducing a new song in the next 2-4 weeks. They are given the Spotify and YouTube Links to begin listening to it as well as loading it into Services so that they can download the music. Once the song is scheduled we notify the team that it's scheduled for that week to make note of the new song that needs to be learned and ready for practice. That song is then repeated for three weekends in a row so that the congregation becomes familiar with it. Sometimes we share it on the Church's Social Media page so that the church can also listen and be familiar with it.

**Highpoint Church, Aurora** - We introduce a new song about once per month, and do it three weeks in a row. It isn't until about the third time that the congregation gets to know it and engages. I send out my set lists 4-6 weeks in advance. The team is expected to learn it on their own time and come ready for rehearsal.



## NEW SONGS

# INCORPORATING NEW SONGS

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**Question: How often do you introduce a new song?  
When you do what is your structure with that song?**

**Southwest First Assembly of God, Lakewood** - We typically introduce one every six weeks.

The new song or songs are sent to the team at the beginning of a quarter to start practicing. We then hold a practice with each "team" on one night before we introduce the song. We would hold this single practice at least 2 weeks before we introduce the song. We usually will put it in the preservice music so the congregation starts to get familiar with it.

### Schedule of new song

- Week 1 and 2 - play during pre-service
- Week 2 - play as special, pre service or altar call
- Week 3 - 6 - have it in the setlist for the congregation to learn.

We use a song cycle method which is to select 15-20 songs per quarter to rotate through so that each team has an opportunity to really learn the songs; so when they come back into rotation later not only the team but the congregation will remember and they will be familiar. We typically will pick 2 to 3 "Classics", 6-8 "churn" (familiar songs that the church knows well and engages in) and 2-3 "new". We would try to pick out music a month in advance and make changes along the way.

**Abundant Life, North Salt Lake** - We introduce a new song about one or twice a quarter.

I introduce the new song to the musicians, two weeks out. When we introduce to the congregation we will repeat the chorus more than normal to help them learn the song.



## SOFTWARE

# TYPES OF SCHEDULING AND MUSIC SOFTWARE

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**Question: What software do you use for scheduling, weekly set and more?**

**The Sanctuary, Fort Morgan** - We used Planning Center for a time. Having videos of songs easily accessible for practice was a plus. But considering I have several older, less-tech-savvy members, I get more response from a group text. Lineups are provided on paper (to musicians and techs) and by text a week in advance.

**Friendship Assembly of God, Colorado Springs** - I use Services by Planning Center to schedule out 2 months at a time.

**Highpoint Church, Aurora** - We use Planning Center Online for scheduling, set list, and all details.

We use Multitracks Playback for tracks, click, and guide. Multitracks has a function in which you can share the tracks you will be playing with so they can rehearse at home with the exact sequence and tracks the team will be using on Sunday (called Team Sharing). Multitracks also has a Rehearsal Mix option that singles out their instrument for rehearsing and is directly integrated with Planning Center.

Slack is used for all team communication. A private channel is created for each week to communicate set list/service-specific changes and anything else needed to be communicated. This is a great middle ground as most people do not check their email anymore or want their cell phones blown up with text messages. They can choose which channels to mute or get notifications on. It has improved our communication tremendously.

## SOFTWARE

# TYPES OF SCHEDULING AND MUSIC SOFTWARE

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**Question: What software do you use for scheduling, weekly set and more?**

**Southwest First Assembly of God, Lakewood** - We really liked [Worshipteam.com](https://www.worshipteam.com) for scheduling, adding new songs and picking sets. [Worshipteam.com](https://www.worshipteam.com) has more songs to choose from and I like some of the features it has that Planning Center doesn't. Michael uses Planning Center.

We also use rehearsal mix by [MultiTracks](https://www.multitracks.com) for some of the songs. We can add in each instrument track so the team member can play along and has a click track with it. Very helpful when learning new songs especially.

We use [Livemix](https://www.livemix.com) for our in-ear monitor system at the church. This takes away a majority of the stage noise and allows the sound person to mix what is coming out of the mains without having to factor in the monitor wedges. Very user friendly and easy to use.

**Abundant Life, North Salt Lake** - We use [Planning Center Online](https://www.planningcenteronline.com).

**Church at Briargate, Colorado Springs** - We use [Planning Center Online](https://www.planningcenteronline.com) for scheduling, set list, and all details. Since all of our ministries schedule using Planning Center, it helps keep people from being double scheduled or missed. We communicate through Planning Center as well.

We use [Multitracks](https://www.multitracks.com) Playback for tracks, click, and guide. It's a great software to help your team members learn and practice their specific area by breaking it down by individual track. For instance, acoustic guitar, keys, piano, alto vocal, tenor vocal, etc.

We have a Sunday Morning [Spotify](https://www.spotify.com) Playlist that each member can have access to that holds the songs in order for that weekend. There is also a "new songs" playlist they have access to.



# WISDOM

## WISDOM FROM OUR LEADERS

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### Question: What word of wisdom would you give to new Worship Directors?

**Church at Briargate, Colorado Springs** - Worship! Yes, you need to be proficient, excellent and ready to lead but once you have done all you can do, Worship! He abides there!

**Highpoint Church, Aurora** - KEEP GOING, stay focused, stay faithful, stay rooted in where God has called you and how He has called you to lead this team. You have been chosen and anointed to be where you are at this moment in time. Rest in that and HAVE FUN! This is the BEST JOB.

**Friendship Assembly of God, Colorado Springs** - Remember that leading worship is first and foremost a gift: to be able to use the talents that God has blessed us with to give Him praise should always be our focus - even when people complain, or the team is struggling, or the tech is seeming to fall apart, we are so privileged to be able to serve God in this way. It's all for His glory, never for our glory.

**The Sanctuary, Fort Morgan** - We're all volunteers. Don't work for perfection. Seek excellence with the skill sets available in your team. Affirm and coach them. Cultivate an atmosphere of only Jesus being in the limelight. Give people in the shadows opportunity to shine along with the accomplished musicians. Team them up so they all feel valued.

**Southwest First Assembly of God, Lakewood** - Find a mentor. Someone that you trust that you admire to come alongside of you to keep you accountable, challenge you, share your struggles with and grow you in your faith and lastly do not require more of your team than you are willing to give yourself!

**Abundant Life, North Salt Lake** - Keep the worship set about Jesus and creating the environment where people feel free to worship Jesus. With the worship team - encourage them in Christ and giving their best to Christ. Set expectations early and keep avenues of communication open, soliciting feedback from the team to keep them engaged and heard.

THANK YOU

# **SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR LEADERS**

**Nicole Polanco, Worship Director**  
**Highpoint Church, Aurora**

**Tierney Williams, Worship Pastor**  
**Friendship Assembly of God, Colorado Springs**

**Pastor Chris Griffin**  
**The Sanctuary, Fort Morgan**

**Linda Bottoms, Interim Worship Pastor**  
**Church at Briargate, Colorado Springs**

**Harmony Dunnick**  
**Southwest First Assembly of God, Lakewood**

**Jorge Roman, Worship Director**  
**Abundant Life Church, North Salt Lake**