

MTC WORSHIP & ARTS

STYLE GUIDE

VIEW THIS HANDBOOK ONLINE AT WWW.MTCWORSHIP.COM/INFO

THIS STYLE GUIDE HAS BEEN DESIGNED TO HELP US PREPARE OUR WORSHIP ATTIRE WITH EXCELLENCE.

FROM PASTORS ADAM & OLIVIA AZIZ

What an honor it is to GET to do what we do! We have been given an opportunity to lead, engage, and influence God's people through worship. Our moments on the platform are not an opportunity to be seen or heard but to lead people toward Jesus! Therefore, it is important that we look excellent, unified, current, classy, not too casual, and not too flashy. Being "on trend" in our attire to remain relevant is a good thing, however, as believers there are lines that must be drawn in certain areas of fashion. We must remember that we are called to challenge and change the culture... not conform to it. We must remember that it's not about us, what we want or don't want, what we like or don't like, or our preferences... it's about Jesus and submitting to the HIGH and HOLY calling of God on our lives as lead worshippers!

WHY DO WE HAVE A DRESS CODE?

We serve to point people to God. One way that we can do that is by dressing appropriately for our role that day. For those on platform, what you wear should not distract people, draw attention to yourself, or be inappropriate. And for those off-platform, what you wear should be as distraction-free as possible, so that you can operate quietly and assist in pointing people's attention to God.

WHAT IS OUR ROLE?

We have a priestly and dual role as lead worshipers. First, we worship God. Second, we are helping others worship God. So, we are called to engage and encourage the congregation to enter worship. We can't (and shouldn't) be invisible, but we can (and should) do everything in our power to move the attention off ourselves and onto Jesus.

So our attire is part of the visual engagement of leading people towards worship. What we wear should be INTENTIONALLY chosen to bring glory to God, not attention to us.

QUESTIONS ABOUT ATTIRE?

Men text Pastor Adam (423-598-3538)

Ladies text Pastor Olivia (423-322-3355)

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QUESTIONS TO ASK BEFORE THE SERVICE

MODESTY QUESTIONS

- How would this outfit look under stage lights?
 - Is there anything that should be hidden that won't be hidden under the lights?
- Is the fit of this distracting in any way / any area?
 - Front and back - be conscious of both.
 - Is it too tight or too loose?
- Are there any rips in your pants?
- How's the cut of this shirt?
 - Is it too low, too loose, too thin?
 - Will you see cleavage?
 - When you lift your hands in worship, is there anything that will be revealed?
- Do I really want to show my feet to so many people?
 - If my feet are showing, are they pedicured?
 - Can I move comfortably / freely in these shoes?
 - Is there a chance I'm going to fall in these shoes?
- On the occasion that you want to wear a dress / skirt:
 - How does the fabric look in stage lights?
 - Can you see through it?
 - Is it calf-length or longer?
 - Can you genuinely move / worship / jump etc. freely in this?
- With my hairstyle, can people still see my face and expression as I worship?
 - Is my hairstyle, haircut, or hair color distracting in anyway?

OUR HEART / MAIN QUESTIONS

- Am I being the best version of me?
- Am I trying to be someone else?
- Is there anything about the brand, logo, or pattern on my outfit that's distracting or promotes something that could be considered inappropriate?

MEN

THE BASICS

- Make sure what you're wearing (from head to toe) is comfortable and supportive so that you can worship God without being restricted.
- Be neat and well-groomed in your appearance.
- No tight or revealing clothing. (Undergarments should not be visible.)
- No hats or big flashy jewelry.

SHIRTS

- No sleeveless shirts. Shirts must cover your underarms. If your underarms are showing you will need to wear a jacket or cardigan.
- No slogans / words / images.
- No MTC Shirts unless scheduled.
- No low-cut shirts.
- No sheer tops.
- No bright colors.
- No large patterns or prints (no tie dye, no plaid, no gingham, no large polka dots, no large floral prints, etc.) Solids are best and preferred.
- Undershirts / layers are encouraged. Bright lights on platform can cause light colored shirts to become see-through.
- Shirts must cover hips and crotch area. Do not tuck in shirts. If the event/service is formal and a tucked shirt is required, pants must not be fitted.

PANTS

- We always wear pants. No shorts. No patterns or prints. Solid only.
- Jeans can be distressed. No rips or holes.
- No sweatpants or joggers.
- If you wear skinny jeans/pants, they should not be extremely tight or tapered.
- A belt is always a good idea.

SHOES

- No crocs or flipflops
- No open toe shoes or sandals
- Dress shoes, loafers, sneakers, and boots must be clean.
- Black or white socks only.
- Shoes should be comfortable. Make sure you can still jump and groove in your shoes.

REMEMBER

- Everything should pass the jump test! Can I jump, lift my hands, get passionate in what I'm wearing? When I lift my hands, does my shirt still cover my stomach? When I jump, do my pants fall down? When I move my body, do things jiggle?

Anyone who does not comply with these guidelines will not to serve for that service.

LADIES

THE BASICS

- Make sure what you're wearing (from head to toe) is comfortable and supportive so that you can worship God without being restricted.
- Be neat and well-groomed in your appearance.
- No tight or revealing clothing. (Undergarments should not be visible.)
- No hats or big flashy jewelry.

TOPS

- No sleeveless tops. Tops must cover your shoulders and underarms. If your underarms or bare shoulders are showing you will need to wear a jacket or cardigan.
- No slogans / words / images.
- No MTC Shirts unless scheduled.
- No low-cut shirts.
- No sheer tops.
- No bright colors.
- No large patterns or prints (no tie dye, no plaid, no gingham, no large polka dots, no large floral prints, etc.) Solids are best and preferred.
- Undershirts / layers are encouraged. Bright lights on platform can cause light colored shirts to become see-through.
- Tops must cover hips and crotch area. Do not tuck in tops.

PANTS / DRESSES

- We always wear pants. No shorts. No patterns or prints. Solids only.
- Jeans can be distressed. No rips or holes.
- No sweatpants or joggers.
- A belt is always a good idea.
- PANTS ARE PREFERRED. Skirts and dresses must be mid-calf length or to the ankle. No slits. If it is mid-calf length, you must wear stockings/leggings.

SHOES

- No crocs or flipflops. No stilettos.
- If you wear open toed shoes, feet must be pedicured and toes painted (neutral colors).
- Dress shoes, loafers, sneakers, and boots must be clean.
- Black or white socks only.
- Shoes should be comfortable. Make sure you can still jump and groove in your shoes.

REMEMBER

- Everything should pass the jump test! Can I jump, lift my hands, get passionate in what I'm wearing? When I lift my hands, does my shirt still cover my stomach? When I jump, do my pants fall down? When I move my body, do things jiggle?

Anyone who does not comply with these guidelines will not to serve for that service.

PLATFORM PRESENCE

**PLATFORM PRESENCE IS NOT ABOUT PERFORMING...
IT'S ABOUT ENGAGING THE CONGREGATION IN WORSHIP.**

ENGAGE

- Engage = occupy, attract, or involve (someone's interest or attention).
 - We OCCUPY the position of Lead Worshiper. We are Judah!
 - We ATTRACT people to His Presence.
 - We INVOLVE people in the experience of His Glory.
- You may not always feel like it, but it's our calling and we push through! It's not about faking it. It's about letting your actions lead you to the right attitude. If our expression and engagement weren't needed or necessary... they would simply play a track. See handbook for a list of our values. (*Faith & Expectation, Joy, Enthusiasm*)

TIPS FOR BETTER PLATFORM PRESENCE

- Look in the mirror and watch what you look like... jump, clap, bow, dance, raise your hands, be engaging. If something appears awkward, adjust it to make sure you are communicating what you want to communicate.
- Do not let the congregation determine your level of expression. Sometimes they will not be engaged in worship. As leaders, we always need to be engaged. Show them an example of how to express worship. Most of the time, they simply need to see worship in order to learn how to express it on their own. Remember... we are WORSHIPERS WHO BUILD WORSHIPERS!
- Be sincere. Worship from your heart. Give a warm smile from within. We are leading people from all different circumstances, so remember that a warm smile ministers more than you realize.
- **Musicians:** Be sure to stay engaged in worship. Practice ahead of time and memorize your music so you don't have to focus on your instrument the whole time. Sing while you play. Seeing a musician singing from their heart can help people worship.
- Don't be afraid to move. Move around your area. Use your space to the fullest. When there is no movement, the platform can look stagnant.

HOW TO DEVELOP EXCELLENT PLATFORM PRESENCE

- **Know the music...** Knowing the music gives you confidence and frees your heart to focus on the moment and worship.
- **Study the music...** Take a moment to sincerely look at the lyrics of the song. What is the song saying or communicating?
- **Worship privately...** Your platform worship will never exceed your private worship. We can't just be a worshiper on Sunday. If you just worship on Sunday you're not a worshiper.

VISUAL EXAMPLES

