

CHURCH MUSIC PLANNING

PLANNING GUIDE FOR SAFER
WORSHIP IN THE COVID-19
PANDEMIC

DR. HEATHER™
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ABOUT THIS GUIDE

Church leadership all over the country and around the world are working diligently to plan for music programs in their churches during the COVID-19 pandemic. This guide is intended to ask questions in a variety of categories in order to think deeply about how music can be included in safe worship services.

This guide will not necessarily offer solutions. Rather, the intent is to pose the right questions in order for each church to make the best plans possible with the resources at hand. This guide is not intended to replace advice given by local health authorities or denominational leadership.

It is my hope that this guide will help you to strengthen your music program during this time, and lead your people well in worship of a worthy God.

--Dr. Heather Nelson, Vocologist

HOW TO USE THE WORKBOOK

The questions are posed in six broad categories:

1. The current state of the disease
2. Spiritual considerations
3. Ethical considerations
4. Practical considerations
5. Legal and liability issues
6. Communication needs

There is a fair amount of blank space after each question to allow room for writing, sketching, calculating, etc.

Take your time, pray diligently, and think carefully. Your ministry and leadership are vital in this time, and your people will benefit from your careful planning.

Note: This is a shortened version of the complete guide. To purchase the complete guide, please visit:
www.drheathernelson.com/planning

THE CURRENT STATE OF THE DISEASE

What is the current disease track in my city? In the state? In my congregation?

What is the general health and age of the musicians currently on the team?

What are the risk factors I am aware of among members of the congregation?



PRACTICAL CONSIDERATIONS

Who is currently involved in the worship ministry? Consider all musicians, audio, video, support staff, etc.

What are the risk factors I'm aware of among members of the worship ministry team?

Can I physically distance all participants?

Are there enough mics and other equipment to avoid sharing?
How will equipment be stored and/or put into place for use?

Who will be responsible for sanitizing equipment after use?

How will I communicate safety procedures to all team members?

How much time will be needed to do extra cleaning, organizing, planning, etc.? How many people will be needed? Who is providing supplies needed?

How will I communicate the need for any extra time and resources to leadership?

What can I delegate or drop?



ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS

What are my potential biases and blind spots that may affect my decisions?

Is there anyone on the team I should exclude from service at this time? Why should they be excluded?

What concerns do I have with any current plans for reopening or with plans moving forward? Have I adequately discussed my questions, concerns, and plans with leadership?



SPIRITUAL CONSIDERATIONS

How are the decisions we are making following the first commandment to love God above all else?

How are the decisions we are making following the second commandment to love our neighbors?

Through prayer, what is the Holy Spirit saying about the music ministry during this time?

LEGAL AND LIABILITY

Am I personally covered from liability if someone in the congregation becomes ill? If so, am I covered by the church's policy, my own policy, or something else?

Do I need additional liability coverage for myself?

What happens if I become ill? Will the church cover my needs, financial and otherwise?



COMMUNICATION NEEDS

How will I communicate the church's plan for music to the team?

Who will be responsible for communicating any changes to the current plan? Will that come from senior leadership or from the music director?

How will disagreements about the plan for the music ministry be handled?

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V O C O L O G I S T

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