**Training Strategy for Church Sound Tech Volunteers**

# Foundation First (Week 1–2)

**Week 1:**

* Orientation & Vision: Explain why audio is important for worship (serving, supporting, not spotlight). Walk through the church’s audio goals: clarity, consistency, distraction-free.
* Basic Sound Concepts: Sound 101 (signal flow, volume vs gain, EQ basics). Explain microphones (dynamic vs condenser, wired vs wireless).

Week 2:

* Hands-On Demo: Trace a microphone signal from stage to speakers. Let them see and hear the difference when gain/EQ/volume changes.

# System Familiarization (Week 3–4)

* Tour of Equipment: Mixer layout (physical or digital), stage inputs, snake/audio interface, monitors, mains.
* Checklist Training: Walk through startup/shutdown process. Teach proper cable handling and labeling.
* Hands-On Practice: Each volunteer practices setting up a mic, plugging into the mixer, routing to speakers.

# Mixing Basics (Week 5–6)

* Levels: Teach how to set input gain properly (use PFL or meters). Practice balancing vocals vs instruments.
* EQ & Tone: Show them how to fix problems first (mud, harshness, feedback). Let them A/B with EQ on/off so they hear the difference.
* Practice Mix Sessions: Use multitrack playback (if possible) or band rehearsal. Rotate volunteers on the console with coaching.

# Service Workflow (Week 7–8)

* Soundcheck Training: How to run an efficient soundcheck (check mics, monitors, mains). Teach communication with worship leaders/musicians.
* During Service: How to follow the flow of worship & anticipate changes. Managing feedback, muting unused channels, riding faders.
* Post-Service: Shutdown, storing gear, documenting issues.

# Advanced Skills (Ongoing)

* Troubleshooting: No sound? Teach a step-by-step problem-solving checklist. Feedback control and quick fixes.
* Scene/Recall (if digital mixer): How to save/load settings.
* Broadcast/Streaming: Teach separate mix considerations for livestream (if applicable).

# Mentorship & Rotation

* Pair new volunteers with an experienced lead for several weeks.
* Slowly increase responsibility: Shadowing → Running rehearsal mix → Running one service with supervision → Solo with backup nearby.

# Resources & Growth

* Provide simple handouts or cheat sheets (gain staging, EQ tips, startup/shutdown checklist).
* Record short video tutorials on your actual system for review.
* Hold quarterly refresher sessions and Q&A.;