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Moving Worship: Encouragement to Engage Our Bodies in Worship

Calvin Symposium on Worship: Word, Music, Vision, Action

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Recommended Citation

Calvin Symposium on Worship: Word, Music, Vision, Action and Start, Julia, "Moving Worship: Encouragement to Engage Our Bodies in Worship" (2023). *Symposium on Worship Archive*. 58. <https://digitalcommons.calvin.edu/uni-cicw-symposium/2010/allitems/58>

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**CICW Worship Symposium 2010 * B23 (Friday):
Moving Worship: Encouragement to Engage Our Bodies in Worship—Julia Start
Dance: Liturgical Movement in Worship**

- Liturgical Dance

Liturgical Dance according to Ronald Gagne, *Introducing Dance in Christian Worship* → “Liturgical dance includes body movement, attitude and shaping, and may involve an individual dancer, a group of dancers or an entire assembly.”

- Liturgical Dance is functional, yet reflects the definition of worship

- Corporate Movement

- Scripture References

Exodus 15:19-21

Miriam Dances in Celebration

¹⁹ When Pharaoh's horses, chariots and horsemen ^[d] went into the sea, the LORD brought the waters of the sea back over them, but the Israelites walked through the sea on dry ground. ²⁰ Then Miriam the prophetess, Aaron's sister, took a tambourine in her hand, and all the women followed her, with tambourines and dancing. ²¹ Miriam sang to them: "Sing to the LORD, for he is highly exalted. The horse and its rider he has hurled into the sea."

II Samuel 6:12-15

David Danced Before the Lord in a Processional

¹² Now King David was told, "The LORD has blessed the household of Obed-Edom and everything he has, because of the ark of God." So David went down and brought up the ark of God from the house of Obed-Edom to the City of David with rejoicing. ¹³ When those who were carrying the ark of the LORD had taken six steps, he sacrificed a bull and a fattened calf. ¹⁴ David, wearing a linen ephod, danced before the LORD with all his might, ¹⁵ while he and the entire house of Israel brought up the ark of the LORD with shouts and the sound of trumpets.

- Types of Liturgical Movement

- Processional/Recessional
 - Entrance Procession
 - Word or Gospel Procession
 - Gifts Procession
 - Table Procession
 - Closing Procession/Recession

Flowing movement from point A to B: purest form of movement.

- Proclamation
 - Inspirational
 - Evangelical
 - Prophetic
 - Homiletic

Proclamation of the Christian Scriptures and Creeds.

- Prayer
 - Acclamation
 - Invocation

Movement for a prayer/as a prayer.

- Meditation
 - Reflective
 - Homiletic

Reflective and can be in response to something in the gathering

- Celebration
 - Circle Dances

What are some movements that would reflect each of these categories?

- Space Limitations
 - Larger Space
 - Processing
 - Bowing
 - Kneeling
 - Standing
 - Behind Pews
 - Arm/Upper Body Gestures

How can you achieve the same movements behind pews as you would in a larger space?

- 3 Hymns with Movement

**CICW Worship Symposium 2010 * B23 (Saturday):
Moving Worship: Encouragement to Engage Our Bodies in Worship—Julia Start
Dance: Developing a Dance Ministry in Your Congregation**

- **Leadership**
 - Importance for excellence
 - Training
 - Technique is important
 - How and where can you get training?
 - Person sent of God, skillful in dance

Exodus 31:1-11

Bezalel and Oholiab

¹ Then the LORD said to Moses, ² "See, I have chosen Bezalel son of Uri, the son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah, ³ and I have filled him with the Spirit of God, with skill, ability and knowledge in all kinds of crafts- ⁴ to make artistic designs for work in gold, silver and bronze, ⁵ to cut and set stones, to work in wood, and to engage in all kinds of craftsmanship...

- Training in all areas of life—not just dance
- Minister of Dance in Worship
 - Embodied Worship
- Artist – Creativity
- God's Inexhaustible Creativity—He invites us to imitate Him

Genesis 1:1-28

¹ In The Beginning ... God CREATED

the heavens and the earth. ² Now the earth was ^[a] formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters. ³ And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. ⁴ God saw that the light was good, and He separated the light from the darkness. ⁵ God called the light "day," and the darkness he called "night." And there was evening, and there was morning—the first day... ²⁷ So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. ²⁸ God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and over every living creature that moves on the ground."

- Servant-Leader
 - Collaboration
- **Structure**
 - Team Effort
 - Leader Delegates to others
 - Team Building
 - Ministry Ensemble
 - All ages: intergenerational worship; worship together
 - Practice
 - Prepared Practice
 - Creative Practice
 - Costuming
 - Modest
 - Contemporary
 - Choreography

- Copyright
- Originality
- Contextualized
- Processes for Choreography

What are some ways to choreograph?

Improvisation
Prayer
Mirror
Lyrics
Tempo
Shapes

- **Getting Started**

- Pray
- Purpose
 - God's Purpose
 - The vision of the Church
- Less is More

Things to Consider:

Budget?
Traditional vs. Contemporary?
Progressive?
Conservative vs. Charismatic?

- Relationship of Music and Dance

- **Discipline**

- Respect
 - Time
 - Each other
 - Our Bodies
 Especially the use of bodies in worship

I Corinthians 6:19-20

¹⁹Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; ²⁰you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your body.

- Commitment
 - Commitment is necessary and should be taken seriously
 - Cannot just "wing it"
- Accountability

Scripture References for Dance:

Exodus 15:20-21

Judges 11:34

Judges 21:21-23

I Samuel 18:6-7

II Samuel 6:14-23

I Chronicles 15:29

Psalm 30:11

Psalm 149:3

Psalm 150:4

Ecclesiastes 3:4

Jeremiah 31:4

Lamentations 5:15

Matthew 11:17

Luke 15:25