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Moving Worship: Encouragement to Engage Our Bodies in Worship

Calvin Symposium on Worship

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Turning Pointe School of Dance

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Moving Worship: Encouragement to Engage Our Bodies in Worship—Julia Start

- 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?

- Movement Exploration