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### Moving Worship: What is Liturgical Dance?

Julia Start Fletcher

*Millbrook Christian Reformed Church*

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Fletcher, Julia Start, "Moving Worship: What is Liturgical Dance?" (2013). *Symposium on Worship Archive*. 12.

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## Moving Worship | What is LITURGICAL DANCE?

Calvin College Symposium on Worship | January 2013

Julia Start Fletcher

### Workshop A10: Friday and/or Saturday

Scripture References for Dance:

Exodus 15:20-21

I Chronicles 15:29

Jeremiah 31:4

Judges 11:34

Psalms 30:11

Lamentations 5:15

Judges 21:21-23

Psalms 149:3

Matthew 11:17

I Samuel 18:6-7

Psalms 150:4

Luke 15:25

II Samuel 6:14-23

Ecclesiastes 3:4

#### • Liturgical Dance vs. Sacred 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
- Worship = dialogue between the Creator and the created
  
- Corporate Movement
  - Scripture References

#### **Exodus 15:19-21: Miriam Dances in Celebration**

<sup>19</sup> When Pharaoh's horses, chariots and horsemen 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. <sup>20</sup> Then Miriam the prophetess, Aaron's sister, took a tambourine in her hand, and all the women followed her, with tambourines and dancing. <sup>21</sup> 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**

<sup>12</sup> 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. <sup>13</sup> When those who were carrying the ark of the LORD had taken six steps, he sacrificed a bull and a fattened calf. <sup>14</sup> David, wearing a linen ephod, danced before the LORD with all his might, <sup>15</sup> while he and the entire house of Israel brought up the ark of the LORD with shouts and the sound of trumpets.

#### **LITURGICAL DANCE**

- How dance can be used within the liturgy
  - Processional/Recessional
    - Entrance/Closing Procession
      - EXAMPLE: *Opening Procession*
    - Word or Gospel Procession
    - Gifts Procession
    - Table Procession
      - EXAMPLE: *Celebrating the Lord's Supper*

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

- Proclamation
  - Scripture
  - Creeds
    - EXAMPLE: *Apostles' Creed*
- Prayer
  - Intercessory
  - EXAMPLE: *Lord's Prayer*
- Meditation
  - Reflective
- Celebration
  - Circle Dances
  - EXAMPLE: *Hebrew Movement*

- Space Limitations
  - Larger Space
  - Behind Pews

\*\*\* *How might dance work within your context?*

\*\*\* *What tools do you need to create a dance?*