

Why Dance Questionnaire

Name several different dance styles:

Could these styles of dance be considered appropriate in worship? Explain

What makes dance inappropriate in worship to God?

Name ways that dance can be considered pleasing and appropriate for worship.



The Church of the Holy Cross Episcopal

Faithful + Visible + Uplifting

7507 Kelly Street Pittsburgh, PA 15208

Telephone (412) 242-3209 Fax (412) 243-3269

Email: staff@historichcpa.org

www.historichcpa.org

The Reverend Torrey O. Johnson - Priest-in-Charge



Worship Ministry Organization

The Pastor is responsible for ALL THINGS relating to worship including the conduct and content. The pastor makes final judgment regarding what music, dance or drama is or is not appropriate for worship.

The Director of Liturgical Dance ministry ensures that liturgical dance is spirit-led and done decently and in order. The director conducts the dance rehearsals and facilitates liturgical dance during worship services and for special programs.

DISCIPLINARY/GRIEVANCE GUIDELINES

In resolving any personal conflicts, apply the scripture Matthew 18:15-20). If the matter cannot be resolved, inform the Director of Liturgical Dance Ministry. The director will assess the problems and take these steps:

- ▶ In love, talk to the dancer
- ▶ Remind them of the commitment they made to this ministry and for whom they dance
- ▶ If the problem continues, dancers will be placed on probation.

If the matter still cannot be resolved, schedule an appointment with the Priest-in-Charge.

Because we are a grace-filled church, all guidelines are subject to the power of the Holy Spirit and maybe revised by the Priest-in-Charge of the Church of the Holy Cross.

- † If dance members are not compliant with guidelines, that dance member will be asked to reconsider their commitment to the liturgical dance ministry. Habitual tardiness and absenteeism are grounds for re-evaluation and/or dismissal.

GROOMING GUIDELINES

- † When ministering, all dance members are to be appropriately dressed – decently and in order.
- † Hair must be neat. Personal scarves, hats or wraps must not be worn unless it is a part of the dance uniform. (Women: makeup should be modest and not distracting), preferable done in natural shade of makeup unless required in the dance.)
- † All dance members are to obtain all ministry garments. Sharing of garments on a regular basis will not be allowed. Each dancer is required to keep his/her garment in excellent condition for ministry. Garments must be clean, wrinkle-free and without holes or runs.
- † All dancers must wear dance attire (leotards, tights, shoes, etc) Appropriate attire for individual dances will be determined by dance director. Appropriate attire is necessary to access form during technique training.
- † All dancers are to wear appropriate attire for rehearsals; director will assess what is appropriate for rehearsal.
- † All dancers are required to wear undergarments. Undergarments must be concealed while ministering.
- † All dancers must arrive bathed, clean and ready to minister. Dancers are asked to follow this hygiene procedure when ministering:
bathe, wear extra deodorant, sprinkle body talc or powder, apply body splash, perfume or cologne, wear clean undergarments and dance wear. Keep nails clean and natural, they should not exceed ½" in length.)The hands get a lot of attention when ministering. Please bring towels and toiletries to freshen up before re-entering the church for worship services.

LITURGY - THE WORK OF THE PEOPLE

The Episcopal Church is a liturgical church. "Liturgical" means formal worship following a prescribed order or the work of the people in worshiping God. Worship must convey Christ – the Good News. Worship in the Lutheran faith is based around the glorious good news of Jesus Christ. Nothing more, nothing less.

As individuals worshiping in a universal church, we bring our ethnic background, and traditions and we become a part of the whole body of Christ. Our outward ceremonies should reflect our inner beliefs. Our love of God leads our worship. We love God first and then our neighbors as ourselves.

Authentic worship has the effect of a love affair between the worshiper and God. We worship because the human soul needs the presence of God. We meet together to focus our attention on God, worshiping Him and receiving His blessings and grace. It is a special time of spiritual refreshment.

Through the liturgy we hear the heart of God. We believe that God's heart can be made manifest not only through the sermon, but also through music and dance. The word declares that Jesus is worthy of praise and worship and because of His blood sacrifice we have an intimate relationship with God. We therefore, require as Paul advised that "all things should be done decently and in order." (1 Corinthians 14:40)

Humility is certainly appropriate in our worship. There is no room for vaulting the self and lessening others. We worship in awe and reverence before the almighty God. We bow and kneel before the Lord our God in reverence and to humble ourselves before the Creator and to show respect and acknowledge our status under God.

The Worship ministry requires our actions, motives, and attitudes to be pure of heart and holy before God and man. We expect that those who commit themselves to ministry will make the time and possess the drive to glorify God. THIS IS A MINISTRY – NOT A RIGHT, PRIVILEGE NOR OBLIGATION! These guidelines for participation in this ministry were developed so that God is fully honored and we can reach the full potential of our calling under Christ Jesus.

LITURGICAL DANCE MINISTRY

The liturgical dance is an interpretation of dance and music on a spirit-filled level. The dance is ministered in honor and praise of God – not to the glory of the dance, nor the dancer. Through the dance, grace is received in the selfless act of serving God.

Dance in worship is sometimes met with skepticism and not deemed appropriate for worship. However, scripture tells us of many “*joyful praises*” made unto the Lord in song and dance. The spiritual motto for Liturgical Dance ministry at Holy Cross comes from Psalms 149 verse 3:

“Let them praise his name in the dance, let them sing praise to him with timbrel and harp.”

The purpose of this ministry is to teach and train persons to praise and glorify God through liturgical dance presentations. Participation will be assessed by audition demonstrated by natural rhythmic talent, agility, and ability to learn choreography.

LITURGICAL GUIDELINES

The Episcopal Church revolves around a yearly church calendar. The Christian calendar has six seasons. The first five of those seasons are all about Jesus: his birth, his suffering, and death, and his resurrection. The sixth season of the liturgical year is the longest of them all – up to 28 weeks. This season is also about Jesus, focusing on his teachings, his miracles, his sermons.

Every liturgy that we celebrate is affected by the season and holy days of the church year. That church year determines which parts of the Bible we will hear every week as we worship, as well as the color of the vestments and altar paraments that are used, and the hymns we will sing. The dance uniform and music selection will also be dictated by the church season.

SPIRITUAL GUIDELINES

- † All dance members must be committed disciples of Jesus Christ and must display ongoing growth in relationship with Him
- † All dance members must display commitment to ministry by regular involvement and participation in worship services and special programs,
- † All dance members are expected to fully support the worship leaders through prayer, encouraging words and right standing of relationship.
- † All dance members must give quality and reverent service in worshipping God.
- † All dance members must be students of the Word, displayed by attendance and participation in Christian education classes, i.e. Bible study, Sunday School, Discovery Class, retreats and educational activities sponsored by this ministry.

ATTENDANCE GUIDELINES

- † All dance members are required to attend rehearsals. Worship services, and special programs as dictated by the worship schedule or requested by leadership.
- † All dance members are required to report absences or tardiness for rehearsals, worship services, or special programs. If your excuse is not valid and you are late, you will not be allowed to minister during the service. This brings about distraction of focus during worship service.
- † All dance members are expected to arrive at least 30 minutes before worship service for consecration and prayer.