



ROMULUS COMMUNITY BAPTIST CHURCH

Community Dance Ministry (CDM)

...Let us PRAISE HIM in the DANCE. (Psalm 149:3)



Community Dance Ministry (CDM) functions within Romulus Community Baptist Church under the leadership of Pastor Hiram McBurrows Jr. We are ready to minister when called upon.

THE VISION

Our goal and ambition is to worship the Lord in dance! We aim to take dance out of the room and into the world, bringing the message of hope and love to the sick, shut-in, lost, and the broken through Jesus Christ. RCBC Dance Ministry believes and operates according to John 14:12-13 and Romans 12.

THE MISSION

Liturgical dance is not about performing, this is why when we are called upon we respond with an acceptance of an opportunity to “MINISTER” not PERFORM.

So we use our dance as:

1.) *An offering unto the Lord;*

Everyone and everything is called to praise...but when it comes to giving God our offering of Dance for HIS service, we are operating in the area of Liturgy, which is defined in Webster's as; “A form or formulary according to which public religious worship, especially Christian worship, is conducted.” Therefore we have to be mindful of what is in our hearts before we minister. As it relates to the Tabernacle of Moses, when the High Priest went into the Holy of Holies, if there was anything unclean or not right (even down to his attire), not only would His sacrifice not be accepted, but he would be killed...God wants pure worship...a pure sacrifice.

Therefore, we must do as Romans 12:1 says, and present our bodies as a LIVING SACRIFICE.

2.) *An opportunity to shift an atmosphere, prophesy, and bring forth healing and deliverance through motion;*

This can only be achieved once we have spent time in the Most Holy Place with God. Your ministry is most effective when you have relationship with the Father. You know His heart, and what He is saying to His people. Therefore, you can use what HE gives you to do His work on the Earth.

Let us praise Him in the dance (Psalm 149:3)... worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness (Psalm 29:2)." Dance is an outward expression of freedom to worship.

CDM endeavors to reach the nations, showing the love of Jesus Christ, setting the atmosphere for deliverance and the power of God to move freely. As dancers and choreographers, we are to be a light in the midst of darkness, maintaining a standard of integrity and artistic excellence that honor this great gift given to us.

RULES AND GUIDELINES

DANCE REHEARSALS

Community Dance Ministry will strive for perfection consequently rehearsals are mandatory. Currently, rehearsal starts promptly at 12:00 Noon on the second, third and fourth Saturdays of every month. Please arrive at least 10 minutes before scheduled class to allow yourself enough time to change and sign in. It is important that we maintain communication with one another. If you can not make a scheduled rehearsal, please be courteous and let us know. Also, we must be mindful that everyone's time is valuable so being present and on time for rehearsals is not only necessary but crucial.

ATTIRE

During all rehearsals each dancer (male/female/child) must dress in comfortable, loose clothing (NO JEANS) that is neither see-through nor revealing. Women should wear leotards under t-shirts or secure undergarments. When choosing attire, please keep that in mind. Please do not wear chains, large earrings, watches or bracelets in class.

Garments for ministry will be distributed the day of. In your repertoire you should have: Black short sleeved leotard, black tights, white tights, and all black under garments. On occasions when we are called upon to minister, please be sure to remove all colored nail polish from hands and feet, any polish that does not have a natural look will need to be taken off before garments are put on. The only jewelry permitted during class and at times of ministry are studded earrings (no hoops or dangles).

CDM MINISTERING GUIDELINES

The Lord expects everything that we do to be done decent and in order, coupled with a spirit of excellence. Therefore, each dancer has a *minimum* of a one month period of preparation, in which study of the dance ministry and conditioning of the body takes place. This is an opportunity to learn what is required as a participant with Community Dance Ministry. Dancers will be notified on an individual basis of their completion and approval to minister. Evaluation by CDM leadership is based on preparedness, faithfulness to the ministry, observation and prayer.

GARMENTS

There are basic garments that each member of CDM should have in their repertoire. I have attached a list of basics, so that when we are called upon to minister, we will be prepared.

DUES

Dues for CDM members are \$10 per month. Dues will help cut cost for garments and will help facilitate procurement of items needed for the ministry.

CDM WEEKLY MEETINGS/POW WOW's

Takes place every rehearsal Saturday from 12:00 – 12:10. Parents are encouraged to attend the meetings during this time to ensure all announcements are relayed properly.

CDM MONTHLY COMMUNITY SERVICE

As our vision states, our responsibility extends beyond the four walls. As such, we will have monthly community service initiatives. We will visit the sick, help our neighbors, and spread the message of our Lord wherever we go. We are always open to ideas and suggestions on how we can serve together as a ministry.

PARENT/GUARDIAN PARTICIPATION

Parent/Guardian participation is crucial! We expect all parents to play active roles in the ministry in various capacities. Support from parents is needed with garments, transportation, and ensuring that the dancers gifts are being used for the glory of God. It takes a *community!*

YOUTH DEPARTMENT PARTICIPATION

It is a requirement of all youth CDM members to be present and active during all youth services. It is important that we lead by example, by being faithful to what God has called us to; in every aspect. Our department must be exemplary, as we represent the Kingdom of God.

COMMUNICATION

As a unified body, dance ministry members should keep the lines of communication amongst each other open in order to establish and maintain clarity on what everyone's role is within the ministry. This will create harmony and help us to operate in an orderly fashion.

Once you have committed to an upcoming event, please make every effort to govern yourself according to scheduled dates, times and location. Once we have given out information, please be sure to get clarity. It is your responsibility to be at the location, on time, on the scheduled date of ministry – prepared and ready to go.

Repeated unexcused absences and excessive tardiness shows lack of commitment thusly may result in dismissal from a particular event and/or dance ministry. Please contact the dance ministry leaders if you are going to be absent or late.

CDM Ministry Leader

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CDM Ministry

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Preparation Packet

Ask Yourself:

1. What is dance ministry to me?
2. Why do I dance?
3. Compare dance in general and dance ministry?

Think about these questions, answer and revisit them throughout the preparation process. Your answer will change as you learn more about dance ministry.

Scripture Referrals:

Preparation for Dance Ministry - Spiritual

- 2 Timothy 2:21
- Romans 12:1
- 2 Timothy 4:2

Prayer - Ministry, Preparation, Choreography, Etc.

- Proverbs 3:5
- Philippians 4:6

Priestly Garments - Garments of excellence

- Exodus 28:4

Fasting - Power comes through fasting and prayer.

- Mark 9:14-29

Study- Lessons on dance ministry

- 2 Timothy 2:15

Training - physical (ballet, modern, contemporary, sign language, flags)

- 2 Timothy 2:15

Outreach- The Great Commission!

- Matthew 28:16-20

Keys to Powerful Personal Dance Ministry
(Taken from: Praise Dance Life with Jocelyn Richard)

1. Position yourself as a worship leader

You are more than a dancer. You are a worship leader, and dance is the medium that you use to lead the people of God into worship. It is very important that we have that mindset of a worship leader. So we might have to begin to change our vocabulary. We shouldn't say, I'm going to perform or I'm just going to dance, but I'm going to minister, I'm going to lead worship. It's very important that we change our mindset and our vocabulary to think that way, and as we do, we will make a powerful impact. As a worship leader do not be satisfied with ordinary dances that lead to responses like, "Oh that was a nice dance, you dance so beautiful." When we make a powerful impact and lead worship with dance, we will get responses like, oh when you ministered in dance, I saw the glory of the Lord; "When you danced, I was healed; "When you danced, the atmosphere changed in this place."

1. Dance at home

Dance in the secret place: I know you've heard 'go to your prayer closet'. Well, we need to go to our prayer closet to dance and pray. Give the gift of dance that God has given you back to Him in a private closed-door setting. Make it a sacrifice of praise for the Lord's eyes only.

It's a sad thing if you can only dance when other people are looking. What about at home for the audience of one, Jesus? What about in the wee hours of the morning, getting up and just lifting your hands and turning and bowing before Your King?

Jesus will enjoy the dance and He'll give you more dances. You will find that you will be dancing together! He wants to see and enjoy your dance. He dances over you with joy. Zephaniah 3:17 — "His banner over us is love." You and Your Jesus, Your Father, Your Best Friend will dance together. He will give you choreography and He will answer questions. He will set in your mind the purpose for the ministry and you will be even more powerful. You will develop a better relationship with Him. Give your dance to the Lord first. Dance with Him, before Him, at home, in your private place, in the inner court, in the closet, and you will see a change. Try it today. I know that you will love it.

2. Focus on dance

If dance is what God has called you to do, focus on dance. Pour yourself into the ministry. Sometimes I meet dance ministers and they are involved in so many things other than dance. These other ministries are good to be a part of, but dance takes such of us emotionally, physically, and mentally. If you are torn in different directions, it might become burdensome to minister with joy, excellence, and power. I am not saying do not be involved in other things, but really pray and make sure it is what God would have you to do. Dance ministry is very time-consuming. Being part of a worship dance team requires many hours of training and rehearsing. We also have other things in our lives that we're responsible for (family, school, work). Be very wise of where you put your time and energy. You are called to dance for the Lord. Focus.

3. Become a lifelong student of the art of dance.

Become a lifelong student of the art of dance. In Christian dance we might come into the dance ministry with no formal dance training wondering if training is necessary for ministry. I know that God can use us right where we are. If we want to dance in excellence, avoid injuries with longevity, training is a must (dancing incorrectly can cause injuries). I encourage all worship dancers to get more training, and to study dance (ballet, modern dance, jazz, or a type of structured class). Go to professional dance concerts to experience movement on a stage with theatrical lighting, costumes, music and skilled choreography. The experience of a live dance concert is a priceless asset to your ministry. Looking at dance will make you a better student of dance. It is never too late to study the art of dance. A dance education can only help you to be more powerful with excellence for our Lord.

4. Always look like a praise dancer.

Yes, we are dancing this unto the Lord — and yes, I understand we don't want people to focus on us. But — we do not have a problem with the singers sounding like a singer. We don't have a problem with the preacher being a charismatic orator. Well you know what? The dance minister, the worship leader who leads the people into worship, with movement should look like a dancer. That means we have to eat well and keep our bodies in tip top shape. We have to have endurance, strength. And grace for powerful worship dance. 'How beautiful are the feet of them that bring good news' [Isaiah 52:7]. Remember, dance is a visual ministry. How we look does impact the overall ministry presentation and the message we want to show forth. Look like a dancer, a praise dancer.

5. Be Committed To A Local Church

If you know Jesus as your Savior, you should be part of a local fellowship. I do not mean just going in and out and then dancing all over the world. I mean really in grafted in the life of the Church. You should know the pastor and the pastor/ leadership should know you. Give your resources, and service to your church. You should receive the church's resources, prayer support, and pastoral covering through relationship. That is important for your protection and accountability. The dance ministry is a serious ministry, and we should be accountable for the things that we do outside of the local body. So please, be part of a church, adhere to the tenets and the culture of that body. Your national and international worship dance ministry will be more powerful and far reaching if you are dedicated to and supported by a local church. There is no place like home church.

6. Always have a worship dance solo ready.

As a worship leader, you should have a solo ready to minister on a moment's notice. This solo should be well choreographed, with excellent music, garments, flags, and props. Your solo should be your signature piece. If you have a solo ready, God will open doors for you, and you will be ready. It will be more powerful than if you are hurrying at the last minute trying to find music, and creating choreography. Someone might call you this week and say I have an event and I just felt in my spirit that we need a dance minister and I thought of you. If you have that solo ready, you will be ready to say yes and you will be equipped. The pastor might be teaching a sermon and he says (at a moment's notice) well I just want one dancer to come forward to emphasize what I'm teaching in the message with a visual demonstration. If your solo is ready, you can deliver powerful dance ministry.

7. Connect with a Christian dance organization (be part of a dance consortium , fellowship or network)

Dance ministry organizations provide opportunities where dance ministers can support each other, with prayer, and wisdom. They can share music, choreography, and resources. As we collaborate in unity it brings strength, honor and legitimacy to the worship dance ministry. The Bible says that it is good and pleasant for brethren to dwell together. These organizations offer training and empowerment workshops, seminars, conference and retreats. There are many local, regional and international dance ministry organizations to choose from.

8. Be successful in life and ministry.

Proverbs 31 teaches us about a woman who was successful in all that she did. She took care of her husband, children and home. She was a creative, manager and, entrepreneur, who ministered to the poor. She ministered encouragement and wisdom. She feared the Lord. Her children and husband praised her. If you are a wife, and or mother, your husband and children is your first ministry. An excellent dance minister should also be an excellent, business owner, manager, employee, neighbor and citizen. It is easier to minister freedom and victory with your dance if you know that you have ministered to your family well. Your dance of joy and victory is a powerful witness if you are living it out on the job on in your business. A balanced and successful life is essential for powerful worship dance ministry.

9. Give your dance away

Take your dance to the community, mission field, performance venues, schools, parks higher education, and another country. Give your dance away, because it is time to dance. Recently a sister invited me to teach her Church's couple's ministry ballroom dancing. I don't know anything about ballroom dance. I've always loved to watch it, but I had no experience with ballroom dancing, and I tried to get out of it. God wouldn't let me get out of it, and she wouldn't either. So I finally said yes. It was Christian; it was for the Lord; it was to enhance the couple's ministry for an event they were having. I went to the library and did research on the waltz. I taught five couples, the waltz and it was the most rewarding experience of my life. I had the opportunity later at couple ministries formal event to teach about 200 couples the waltz. My husband was my partner. We all had a glorious, fun evening. One thing the experience showed me is that we can't put dance ministry, or God in a box. We have to let God use it the way He would have it used. And we have to give it away. If this is my ministry and my gift why would I hold it to myself and say no," I'm not teaching ballroom dancing — I only teach ballet." Well, if at the moment, the need is ballroom dancing and God has opened the door, then I should go in to make a powerful impact. Give your dance away.

Types of Dance in Ministry

Praise – A dance of thanksgiving, giving glory to God by using your movements to either testify to others of His goodness or thanking Him for His goodness.

Worship – An intimate dance between you and the Lord. Movements are personal, reverent, and yielding.

Celebration - A victory dance full of excitement! A dance that celebrates His mighty acts and His excellent greatness (Ps. 150:4).

Warfare - A militant, forceful dance full of confidence and boldness encouraging the saints to stand firm, stand fast, submit to God and resist the devil so that he can flee. Please be aware that this type of dance or expression of dance does nothing in the spiritual realm. This is an example of praise dance being over mystified. When we perform sharp movements, stomp, twirl or spin we are not doing anything to Satan and his demons. Scripture clearly teaches us that our battle is a spiritual one and we defeat Satan by the methods defined only in Scripture. Saints of God, we have to learn how to fight or engage in spiritual warfare the Biblical way in order to be effective.

Travail – A dance of encouragement either to yourself or others, in times of discouragement or trouble. It ministers to the saints to encourage them to trust in God for help, guidance, direction, and relief.

Worship in the Arts

- I. Pray! Pray! Pray! Never attempt to choreograph or write a skit or play without first seeking the Lord in prayer. We need to spend quality time with Him so that He could accomplish His plan through us to encourage and edify His people. Seek His face and spend time in His presence.
- II. The message expressed in the music should be of great importance when choosing a selection to dance/minister to. It should always be in accordance to the Word of God and never contradicting it. We are admonished to praise and worship Him with our whole hearts, and we should prayerfully choose a song that confirms Christ and His Covenant so that we are able to worship Him in Spirit and in Truth.
- III. Spend time in Bible study and on the message expressed in the song (i.e.: if you pick a song that speaks about God's mercy, sit down with a concordance – search the Scriptures and soak in exactly how merciful God has been to you.
- IV. Whenever you do anything in the Lord's name or unto the Lord, are sure that He is your main focus.



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COLOR SYMBOL & SCRIPTURE REFERENCES

- ❖ Blue - Heavens, Holy Spirit: Numbers 15:38
- ❖ Gold- Divine Nature: Revelation 3:18
- ❖ Green - Life Everlasting: I John 5:15
- ❖ Iridescent - Overcoming: Revelation 21:11-19
- ❖ Orange - Praise: I Chronicles 23:13
- ❖ Pink - Right Relationships: Romans 3:25, Revelation 19:8
- ❖ Purple - Royalty, Kingship: John 19:2, Judges 8:26
- ❖ Red - Blood Atonement: Matthew 27:28, Isaiah 1:18
- ❖ Violet - Invisible, Supernatural: Ephesians 2:7, Exodus 35:6
- ❖ Yellow - Shekinah Glory: Ezekiel 1:4, 8:2; Psalms 68:13
- ❖ White - Purity: Daniel 12:10
- ❖ Black - Sin, Death: Jeremiah 8:21, Lamentations 4:8-5:10
- ❖ Silver - Redemption: Matthew 27:2-9, Isaiah 1:18

