

# Philosophy and Statement of Purpose

*The River Dance Company* was founded in 2002 as an extension of the ministries of Central Church Fine Arts Ministries to provide Biblical instruction and practical training in dance and the creative arts with a heart of worship. We also implement the arts of drama, singing, and visual arts in an effort to effectively communicate the Gospel through our outreach and ministry events. Currently RDC instructs over 60 students of various ages and skill levels each week with a distinctly Christian emphasis. Time is also given to instruction in the Word as well as proper use of creative worship tools. Our studio represents more than 20 different churches from the region.

As a Company, we intend to train for the purpose of ministering to God and man. We believe that every child and adult possesses the ability to bring beautiful worship to God with dance and creative worship tools. Our goal is to train dancers' bodies, minds and spirits, and to develop in them the desire to worship God through dance and the creative arts with excellence. As a performing Company we resolve to craft Holy Spirit-inspired productions for the intent of bringing those who watch into a new, deeper experience with the living God; we desire to be conduits of God's love and minister with the anointing of the Holy Spirit.

We are a decidedly Christian institution which seeks to glorify God by:

**G**rowing dancers of varying abilities, ages and fitness levels in their ability to worship God through movement and the creative arts.

**L**oving all students with Christ-like love.

**O**ffering parents a place where they can trust our music, movement, and costume choices.

**R**eaching our community with the good news of Jesus Christ.

**I**nstructing students in creative and technical excellence.

**F**ocusing our dance on the worship of God rather than on ourselves.

**Y**ielding ourselves to the will of the One True Living God.



All students trained under the auspices of *The River Dance Company* are provided the opportunity to expand their God-given abilities or acquire the skills necessary to function in the creative and movement arts. Our goal is to launch individuals into areas of ministry and worship that minister to the LORD and impact their local church and community.

## Our Mission Statement

The River Dance Company purposes to bring to the world a forum for the manifest presence of God through the ministry of the arts. Our goal is to use the creative gifts God has given us to inspire Christ-like transformation in the lives of those we touch.

## Student Statement of Purpose and Commitment

We are believers in Jesus Christ. He lives in us, and we are His holy temple. <sup>(1 Cor. 3:16)</sup> Therefore, we will not use our bodies for ungodliness, but as instruments of righteousness used to glorify God. <sup>(Rom. 6:13)</sup> We will offer them up to God as living sacrifices, pure and acceptable to Him. <sup>(Rom. 12:1)</sup> We are worshippers of the one, true, living God; we will serve no other gods. <sup>(Ex. 20:3)</sup> We dance because of God, unto God, and through God as an act of obedience and worship according to His holy Word. <sup>(Ps. 149)</sup> We dance so that, through us, God may manifest His glory and power to set people free. <sup>(Is. 61:1)</sup>

## *Statement of Faith*

*The River Dance Company* is committed to this basic statement of faith . . .

### *God*

There is but one eternal, all-powerful, all-knowing and everywhere-present Triune God – one God existing in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit – who is the creator and sustainer of all things (Deuteronomy 6:4-5; I Timothy 2:5)

### *Jesus Christ*

Jesus Christ is God incarnate, yet human. He lived a sinless life, died to make atonement for the sins of mankind, was bodily resurrected, and is now mediator at the right hand of the Father seated in the heavenlies. He is assuredly coming in power and glory for His believing followers, and is the only Savior of men (John 1:1, 14; Titus 2:11-14).

### *Holy Spirit*

The Holy Spirit is God and convicts the world of sin, righteousness, and judgment, regenerating all who repent of their sins and believe on the Lord Jesus Christ. He sanctifies, empowers, teaches, guides and comforts the believers (John 16:7, 8, 12-15).

### *Bible*

The Bible is the divinely inspired Word of God, without error and authoritative in all matters it addresses (2 Timothy 3:16, 2 Peter 1:20-21)

### *Salvation*

Salvation is the result of genuine repentance of sin in faith in the atoning work of Christ. It brings forgiveness to the penitent, makes him a partaker of the divine nature and gives peace with God (Titus 3:5; I Peter 1:3-5).

### *Church*

The Church is the invisible and universal people of God. It is composed of all believers in the Lord Jesus Christ who have been vitally united by faith to Christ, its living Head and sovereign Lord (Matthew 16:18; Hebrews 12:22-24).

### *Spiritual Gifts*

The Holy Spirit empowers believers in the Lord Jesus for ministry by means of Spiritual Gifts. While the gifts given are varied and their use diverse, they are given for the purpose of the glorification of God and the edification of the Church (Romans 12:6-8; I Corinthians 12:4-11, 28-31; Galatians 5:22-23).

# RDC – Fulfilling the Great Commission

*"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." Acts 1:8*



To think a little dance ministry in the Midwest could reach the “ends of the earth” seems improbable. Praise God that His ways are higher than ours. Since it’s beginnings in 2002, RDC has been privileged to influence and plant seeds far beyond the Schwartz Road address. . .

***Jerusalem & Judea:*** Through our spring events, we have ministered directly to the people of Ft. Wayne and the surrounding region. In each production, our focus has been on Christ and the truth of the cross. We have offered alter calls and unique items for congregants to take home to remind them of our message. We have also ministered in area nursing/retirement homes with a Christmas message of the Christ Child as well as in the marketplace at area fairs and the local mall.



***Samaria & the Ends of the earth:*** Several alumni have gone from RDC equipped to begin teaching and leading others in the creative arts and dance for the glory of God. Besides other areas of the States, we have had several extensions of influence beyond our mainland borders. Lynelle, a 2004 alumnus, established a flourishing ministry in Ecuador, leading a group of women and girls in worship dance. Marilou Galo, a woman from the Philippines, requested teaching videos and dances to teach to a group of women there. And Pamela, another former student, worked in the mission field in Papua New Guinea.