



## *Developing a Dance Ministry* Rachel Lundstrom

### How to Use This Tool

This *Conference Classics* process tool is designed to accompany an audio recording of a Willow Creek Association conference session. You can refer to the tool while listening to the session and use it afterward to dig deeper into the content, or you can use the tool to get the highlights without even listening to the session.

**This tool consists of three parts:**

- The **PREVIEW** section lists the problem that the session addresses and the recommendation that the speaker makes.
- The **KEY CONCEPTS** section breaks the session down into the core ideas most important for you to understand.
- The **REFLECT** section includes questions to help you practice, apply, and implement what you've learned. Although the questions are geared primarily to individuals, groups can use them as a discussion guide.

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## Preview

**Problem:** Dancers in the church don't know how to start a formal dance ministry.

**Recommendation:** Use a six-step process to determine a plan for implementing a dance ministry in your church.

## Key Concepts

### The History of Willow Creek's Dance Ministry

- The ministry began on Easter of 1994 when the first solo dance was done on stage by Rhonda Hendrickson.
- In 1998, Rhonda moved away, but in 1999, another young dancer named Anne Otto began to build a dance ministry for Impact, Willow Creek's high school ministry.
- This group of young girls began by simply praying at their meetings, and then eventually put together a piece for the high school retreat.
- The piece was such a success that it was done on the main stage of Willow Creek.
- In the fall of 1999, Rhonda moved back to Chicago, and the leaders of the high school group joined her to begin the first formal adult dance ministry at Willow Creek.

### The Steps to Beginning a Dance Ministry

- Step 1: Pray.
- Step 2: Begin dreaming about what the dance ministry could be, writing down whatever comes to mind.
- Step 3: Formulate a plan.
  - Determine the mission, vision, and goals for the ministry.
  - Put a timeline to it.
  - Think about the look and function of the group.
    - Decide on the ability level.
    - Decide if you will hold auditions or allow anyone to participate.
    - Decide when and where you will meet.
    - Determine how often you would like to dance.
    - Determine who will choreograph.
    - Determine your budget for costumes, etc.
  - Know the culture of your church and community.
- Step 4: Meet with the pastor and/or worship director in your church.
  - Bring your plan with you.
  - Be open to their questions and concerns.
  - Ask them to pray about the ministry.
- Step 5: Create interest.
  - It could be word-of-mouth.
  - Hold an informational meeting.
  - Hold a workshop.
  - Hold auditions.
- Step 6: Implement the plan.
  - Start dancing with the team, no matter the size.
  - Your heart is what matters in this, not how many people are involved.

