

DR HAOLAM DANCE MINISTRY

DIRECTIVES



1. Please wear appropriate attire to participate in the dance circles so your appearance will not distract onlookers from their focus on Adoni. Skirts should be at or below knees, and full or loose enough to allow for movement and covering modestly even when doing bend-overs in dance. Tops should have a high enough neckline to maintain modesty when dipping or bowing low in dance; and long enough so midriff will not be exposed when arms are raised. While wearing your outfit, practice dips, bows and stretches in front of a mirror so you can see what others see. You may be asked to refrain from dancing if your clothing is inappropriate.
2. The front dance circle is designated for intermediate to advanced dancers, who have attended our synagogue for at least one year on a regular basis, and who are familiar with the beginner dance steps and dances and who have been invited by the dance director and teacher to participate in the front circle. Only those who are in agreement with and have signed on to our congregational commitment and expression of faith will be invited.
3. The back dance circle is for beginner through advanced dancers. All visitors and Children are welcome as well as beginners and there are no pre-requisites other than modest dress, as this is a place of learning.
4. For front circle dancers a one hour practice before service is expected unless other arrangements are made. The front circle will meet for prayer before service is to begin.
5. Follow all directives given by the dance circle leader designated for each of the circles. If at any time a dance circle leader asks you to step out of the circle, please comply immediately. Reserve any questions or discussion about it until after the service.
6. Since the purpose of a public worship service is to express unified worship to Adonai, we have learned that the Davidic dance perfectly fits our congregational vision. Individual worship dance in the service is limited to those that our leaders have invited to dance in that way. Please respect our congregational vision by limiting your dance to the corporate group dance in the line or circle.
7. If you have chosen to dance in the front circle, it is your commitment, your responsibility, to dance there for the duration of the service. Do not run off to

do other things, and do not drop out and join the back circle, unless there is some compelling reason to do so.

8. "Guests" to the front circle: on occasion someone unfamiliar with a dance being done will join the front circle in their enthusiasm. There are times when this is appropriate. Ordinarily, however, it is more of a safety hazard, as well as a possible distraction to other worshipers. Therefore, be attentive to graciously take responsibility to speak discreetly to that guest and go with them to the back circle to finish the dance there with them. Specially choreographed dances done in the front should be more obvious and therefore not a problem.
9. Children: Children are welcome to dance in the back circle. If the dance leader asks you to help out with the children, please do so. If you have small children in the service and you wish to dance, they must be attended by another adult in order for you to dance. Your children should not be left unattended.
10. Regular dancers, even if not dancing, should maintain an attitude of reverence and model appropriate behavior at all times during worship services. Please keep conversation to an absolute minimum, and quickly return your focus to the service.
11. Safety: Feet – Soft soled, low heeled, dance shoes are recommended, or remove your shoes. Please take care for the person on your left and right, in front of or behind you. Dancing with heavy shoes or with sharp heels can cause damage to someone else's feet, if not your own. Keep all shoes not being worn, under chairs and out of any potential line of dance.

Flags – Flags should be used only with prior preparation and invitation of the dance leaders, for the safety of the other dancers and congregation and to avoid damages to the facilities.

Flames - Do not carry any form of open flame unless invited to do so by the dance leaders.
12. Exceptions to any of these directives will usually be announced before or during service.