

## **THE ANNUNCIATION CATHEDRAL FOLK DANCE PROGRAM DANCE PROGRAM GUIDELINES**

The Annunciation Cathedral Greek Folk Dance Program is but one component of the Cathedral's overall youth program. Therefore, participants are expected to be active in other areas of parish life as well. Since worship is the main reason for our existence as the Church, participants in the dance program will attend Divine Liturgy/Sunday school/Elpida/altar. The minimum attendance at the Divine Liturgy is **50 percent**. Participants in the dance program, 18 years of age and older, may teach Sunday school/Elpida or attend the Divine Liturgy.

In addition, ALL participants in the Greek dance program must be Greek Orthodox Christians and members in good standing of the Annunciation Cathedral San Francisco, either through their parents (if they are minors under 18 years of age), or by filling out a stewardship pledge card (if they are 18 years of age or older) and fulfilling their pledge. All pledges must be fulfilled annually by December 31<sup>st</sup>. This requirement also applies to parents, dancers, directors, and board members.

**Annual dance dues will be \$350, per dancer payable by October 31<sup>st</sup> each year.** This amount may be adjusted annually by the dance board. **Non-competitive groups (Division III or IV for FDF) will pay an annual dance fee of \$175.** Dance dues help to pay for dancer costumes, workshops, musicians fees, director expenses relating to FDF, etc.

All Dance Program Participants – Board Members, Parents, Directors, and Dancers are Orthodox Christians. As such, Christian behavior, Christian love, forbearance, harmony, and unity will govern all our actions.

Concerning demeanor, dancers and parents should remember that practice takes place on the Cathedral church property.

With respect to attendance at dance practice, dancers must attend all dance practices, except when excused by the director. Beginning October 1<sup>st</sup> of every year, three (3) unexcused absences will result in a probationary meeting with the Dean of the Cathedral and the directors. Any further infractions will result in being pulled out of a dance at FDF or dismissal from the group (\*unexcused means no prior notification to a director personally by text, email or phone call.)

As of December 1<sup>st</sup> of each year (in anticipation of the annual Metropolis Folk Dance Festival (FDF)), dancers are expected to attend practices as many as (2) times per week. Additional practices may be scheduled upon approval of the Dean of the Cathedral. If a dancer is not planning to attend FDF, at this time they will stop attending practice so the directors can focus on the exhibition/competing group. After FDF, the dancer may rejoin practices.

## **STRUCTURE OF THE DANCE PROGRAM**

- The Annunciation Cathedral's Greek folk dance program, as one of the Cathedral's overall youth and young adult ministries, is under the leadership of the Dean of the Cathedral.
- The Dance Board is a qualified group, appointed by the Dean of the Cathedral. It is the governing group of the dance program, and offices (President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer) are held by members of the Board.
- Each dance group shall be assisted by one or two Board members, to be selected by the director(s). The board member(s) may be a parent of a dancer in the same group or another group, who can make a specific contribution to the well-being of the program.
- One Parish Council representative will also be assigned to the dance board. The Parish Council President is an Ex Officio of this board.
- Normally, dance groups formed in August or September are expected to remain intact through FDF. Please note that participation in a dance group does not guarantee participation at FDF.
- Each dance group has two or more directors. A director may be a dancer, a former dancer, a parent, or other member of the Cathedral.

## **GUIDELINES APPLICABLE TO THE BOARD MEMBERS**

- Board members are recommended by the board and approved by the Dean.
- Board members are directly responsible for assisting the dance program, insofar as the management of their respective dance group is concerned, and in an effort to strengthen the dance program overall.
- Board members are responsible for assisting the director(s) during dance practice, helping to keep order during practice, supervising and assisting the directors, as needed.
- Board members serve as liaisons between the parents and directors. They regularly attend practice, supervise as needed, assist the directors as required, and encourage and coordinate parent involvement. Board members are concerned with fund raising events, travel to and from performances and FDF, supervision, and parish registration forms, just to name a few.
- Any problem that may arise concerning an individual dance group normally is handled by their respective director(s). If the director(s) are unable to resolve the particular problem, the matter shall be referred to the board members. If the board members are unable to resolve the problem, the matter shall be referred to the Dean of the Cathedral.

## **GUIDELINES APPLICABLE TO THE DIRECTORS**

- The directors of the dance groups are responsible to the Dean of the Cathedral and the dance board. The directors are appointed by and dismissed by the Dean.
- Each dance group shall be under the direction of its respective director(s). The director(s) shall select and teach the dances to be learned for practices, performances, and competition.
- Directors serve as Christian role models to the participants of the dance program.
- Directors shall work closely with the dance board, parents, and dancers for the success of the dance program.
- During dance practices, the directors are responsible for the supervision of the dancers in the practice rooms. At the conclusion of dance practice, the parents are responsible for their children.
- The directors shall not be paid for their teaching. However, depending on the availability of funds, the directors' reasonable expenses in connection with FDF (i.e., FDF packet, hotel, or travel expenses) may be reimbursed, in whole or in part, subject to the approval of the Dean and the board members.
- Any other dance-related expenses (i.e., workshops, musicians, costumes, etc.) must be pre-approved by the board members and the Dean of the Cathedral prior to any monies being paid out.
- Any problem that may arise concerning an individual dance group normally is handled by the respective director(s). If the director(s) are unable to resolve the particular problem, the matter shall be referred to the board members. If the board members are unable to resolve the problem, the matter shall be referred to the Dean of the Cathedral.
- ALL directors and youth workers of the Cathedral must complete the Archdiocese Youth Protection Training by December 1<sup>st</sup> annually, prior to FDF.

## **GUIDELINES APPLICABLE TO ALL DANCERS**

- Dancers should wear gym shoes (particularly shoes that do not leave marks on the floor) to practice, unless otherwise instructed.
- Dancers are not permitted to leave practice or the church grounds, unless permission is given by their parents. When dancers leave church grounds, they are the parents' responsibility.
- All cell phones, ear buds and other electronic devices must be turned in at the door to directors or left with parents during practice time.
- Dancers may not chew gum during practices or performances.
- For all practices and performances, punctuality is a must.
- If a dancer cannot attend a practice or a performance, he/she must contact (via telephone, text or email) his/her director prior to the practice or performance. If it is close to the practice/performance time, or an emergency arises, please call directors cell phones.
- All dancers must come to practice prepared (i.e., knowing steps or song lyrics). If repeatedly unprepared, directors have the authority to remove dancers from dances up to the date of the performance/competition.

## **GUIDELINES APPLICABLE TO ALL DANCE PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS**

- Dancers, directors, board members and parents are expected to exhibit good sportsmanship, cooperation, and respect among themselves, and especially to directors and board members, as well as respect for Cathedral property.
- Dancers, directors, board members and parents are expected to participate actively in ALL fundraising activities throughout the year, including but not limited to, the Cathedral's annual food festival.
- Dancers and/or their parents are responsible for anything that they damage, break, or vandalize during practices, performances, or at FDF. Perpetrators will be suspended from further participation in the Dance Program for one full FDF cycle.
- Vulgar language and disrespectful tones by dancers, directors, board members and parents will not be tolerated. Substance abuse, including smoking, alcohol, or drugs, is strictly prohibited, and if any dancers, directors board members must be reminded of this, he/she may be suspended from the dance program.
- Whichever dance space is used (chapel, Kytherian room, hall, outdoor and upstairs spaces), all dancers, directors, and parents must assist in returning the room to the condition it was found (i.e., chapel – all chairs down and books on the chairs).
- There is no eating upstairs. All food items must be disposed from all practice areas.

## **COSTUME GUIDELINES**

- Each year, a costume contract must be completed and signed by a parent or dancer (if 18 or older).
- All costumes are the property of the Cathedral and must be treated with extreme care and respect. When not in use, costumes need to be kept in garment bags, on hangers, with all pieces accounted for.
- Dancers must arrive at performances and competition prepared with items needed to secure costumes and pieces (bobby pins, safety pins, rubber bands, etc.).
- Before costumes are returned, they will need to be dry cleaned. Costumes should be returned in the condition received. If any costume pieces are lost or damaged, parents or dancers (if 18 or older) will be responsible to pay to replace the pieces in accordance with the price list given when the costume contract was signed.