Criteria for Worship Evaluation (Winter 2014)

1. Coherence: Were all the components of worship coordinated in relation to the central theme/topic or the central text?

1. Balance in worship components: Were worship components (hymns, prayers, scriptures, preaching, sacraments, etc.) in balance? If not, which liturgical component dominated the worship service?
2. Balance between tradition and innovation: Did the worship service respect the congregational tradition while at the same time helping the congregants open to new or different liturgical practices?
3. **Flow and movement**: Did the service flow naturally, following the stream of human consciousness? Was there a moment in which you could have **an inspiring experience** of the presence of God?

1. Creativity: Did the service include any creative piece (in relation to prayer, preaching, scripture reading, songs, etc.) through which you could experience **a transformational moment**? Were technology and other audio-visual elements (e.g., images, artifacts, candles, light, music, flowers, etc.) used creatively and effectively to evoke the experience of the Holy?
2. Pastoral sensitivity to diversity: Did you feel that the worship leaders knew about their congregation and considered its diversity (in race, gender, ethnicity, theological orientation, sexual orientation, religious and cultural background, etc.) when designing the service? Did they use inclusive language, inclusive images of God, etc.? Did you feel that you were welcomed to and included in the service? Why or why not?
3. **Faith formation**: Did the service provide you with a time for reflection on the relationship with God, other people, and nature and help you **grow in faith**?
4. Authenticity and **excellence**: Could you feel that the service was well prepared? Did the worship leaders engage/communicate with the congregation authentically? If so, what quality of the worship leaders contributed to experiencing the service as authentic and **excellent**?
5. Congregational participation: Were the congregants expected in the service to be the passive receivers or active participants? What was the level of the ritual participation of the congregation?

In general, do you feel that the service is live and dynamic through which you can “worship the living God” (Hebrews 9:14)? Why or why not?