Worship in Multicultural Contexts

Criteria for Worship Evaluation

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

1. Balance in worship components: Are worship components (hymns, prayers, scriptures, preaching, sacraments, etc.) in balance? If not, which liturgical component dominates the liturgy?
2. Flow and movement: Does the service flow naturally, following the stream of human consciousness? Is there a moment in which you have an inspiring experience of the presence of God?
3. Balance between tradition and innovation: Does the worship service respect the congregational tradition, while at the same time helping the congregants open to new or different liturgical practices? What are the creative pieces?
4. Pastoral sensitivity to cultural diversity: Does the service represent racial and cultural diversity? What kind of liturgical model (e.g., the melting pot, the salad bowl, the mosaic, the kaleidoscope, the metamorphosis, and something else) is used for this service? Do you feel that you are welcomed to and included in the service? Why or why not?
5. Congregational participation: Are the congregants expected to be the passive receivers or active participants in the service? What is the level of congregational participation?
6. Authenticity and excellence: Do the worship leaders engage with the congregation authentically? If so, what quality of the worship leaders contribute to making worship authentic and excellent?
7. Faith formation: Does the service provide you with a time for reflection on the relationship with God, other people, and/or nature, and help you grow in faith? 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?