Worship in Multicultural Contexts

Criteria for Worship Evaluation (In Progress)

1. Coherence: What is the liturgical theme? Is the entire service coherent to the liturgical theme? In other words, are all the liturgical components intentionally chosen and coordinated in relation to the liturgical theme?

1. Balance in worship components: Are worship components (hymns, prayers, scriptures, preaching, sacraments, etc.) in balance in the liturgy? If not, are there any reasons why a particular 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 are touched deeply or feel the presence of God?
3. Balance between tradition and innovation: Does the worship service help the worshipers experience new or different liturgical practices in an effective way, while their liturgical tradition is respected? What are the creative pieces?
4. Pastoral sensitivity to cultural diversity: Does the service help the worshipers broaden and deepen their spiritual lives from a multicultural perspective? 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? If you place yourself in a racially and ethnically marginalized group in the congregation, do you think that you would feel that you are welcomed to and included in the service? Why or why not?
5. Congregational participation: Are the worshipers expected to be the passive receivers or active participants at the service? What level of the congregational participation is expected?
6. Authenticity and excellence: Do you feel that the service is authentic to you? Is the service so well prepared that you may fully engage in the service? If so, what quality of the service contributes to making worship authentic and excellent?
7. Faith formation: Does the service provide the worshipers with a time for reflection on the relationship with God, other people, and/or nature to help them grow spiritually?
8. Other criteria?