

## *Five Considerations for Choosing Appropriate Worship Music*

©Rev. Dr. Constance Cherry

### **1. What is the objective of this song?**

- Based on the text alone, what is it trying to express?
- What is the song's purpose?
- What "voice" is being expressed?

### **2. Does the text have theological merit/integrity?**

- Does the text use explicit and biblical names/titles for God?
- Is the text utterly true?
- Is it true for my theological tradition?
- Does it represent *biblical* ideas of Christian experience?
- Does it represent a fair picture of biblical teaching?
- Does it recognize the Triune nature of God?
- Does it represent a fully developed theological idea or does it only provide "thought bytes" of theological ideas?
- Does it tell the Story of God?

### **3. Is the text constructed well?**

- Does the song text use complete sentences?
- Does it use comprehensible words?
- Does it make use of rhyme? Metaphor?
- Will the poetry connect with the congregation's imagination?\*
- Is there a logical flow of thought?
- Do the words fit the music?

### **4. Is the music written well?<sup>1</sup>**

- Are the musical phrases well constructed?
- Is the melody line memorable?
- Is the tune accessible to the average singer?
- Is the tune interesting enough to sustain the participation of the singers?
- Does the tune fit the text?

### **5. Does the text speak to the experience of our congregation?**

- How is the cultural suitability for our people?
- Is this a song our congregation can sing well?
- Does it represent the perspective of my worshiping community?
- Can my people relate to the imagery, ideas, etc.?
- Is it inclusive to all groups within my congregation?

---

<sup>1</sup> Constance M. Cherry, *The Worship Architect: A Blueprint for Designing Culturally Relevant and Biblically Faithful Services* (Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2010), 203. This page may not be reproduced or distributed without the written consent of the publisher.