Components of a “Worship Culture”  
(adapted from Jeff Todd Titon’s “Model of a Music-Culture” [2009])

1. Ideas about Worship

- Describe your church’s beliefs about worship.
  o What is worship? What is worship supposed to do?
- Describe your church’s aesthetics (ideas about what is beautiful), and give some examples of how aesthetic preferences are embodied in worship practices.
- In what contexts (when and where) does worship happen in congregational life? Are there any practices deemed appropriate in one setting but inappropriate in another?
- What sources chronicle the history of your church worship culture?

2. The Social Organization of Worship

- Describe worship’s “division of labor” — who participates in it? What are the different roles for participants and leaders? Is there anyone who is not allowed to participate in leadership?
- What is the status of the worship leader(s) relative to congregation members, and the social role of leaders in relationship to one another?
- Describe the spatial orientation of worship leaders and worshipers.
- How do the factors of gender, ethnicity, class, or age affect how people participate in worship?

3. Liturgical and Musical Repertoires

- Describe style characteristics of verbal and musical genres used within worship.
- List the predominant musical genre performed in worship.
- Describe the texts (including song lyrics) used in worship. Are they fixed, seasonal, improvised, etc.?
- How are liturgical texts and congregational music composed?
- How are worship practices learned and transmitted?
- Are there particular bodily movements that accompany worship?

4. Material Culture of Worship

- Give several examples of objects belonging to the material culture of worship.
- How and when did these objects come to be a part of this worship culture?
- Do these objects have symbolic value? If so, what do they symbolize?
- What audio and visual media are used in worship (e.g., books, printed bulletins, projection screens)? How do these various media facilitate (or fail to facilitate) participation in worship?
- Describe the worship space. What elements are fixed and which can be altered?