OBSERVATION OF WORSHIP
(Areas of Response)

1. Who are the people assembled? (approximate grouping by age, race, sex, and number)

2. How do the people arrive and leave? [Any particular actions they perform; their disposition (talking, reverent, etc.)] Especially, are the people quiet and reverent before the service or is there a lot of social interaction? Do you see any connection between the way people arrive/leave and the general tone of the service?

3. What leadership roles (from usher to preacher) are apparent? Is there a clear distinction between leaders (ordained ministers) and the people in the pews (laity)? Is this distinction visible (viz., clothing)? If there is a clear distinction, is there a role for non-ministers?

4. Historically, a Christian liturgy consists of a service of Word and Table. Was this basic form recognizable in the liturgy?

5. House of Worship – sketch roughly the house of worship. What are the visual focal points? What does the placement of the focal points tell us about what is important in worship for this faith community?

6. Was there anything present in the architecture or liturgy that reflected a theological stance by this church towards the arts?

7. Evaluate the use of music in the service both as to how it was used (namely chorus or congregational singing) and your impressions of its effectiveness.

8. Give your impressions of the sermon or homiletic equivalent.

9. What was the attitude of the church toward strangers (i.e. was it friendly)?

10. How would you rate the level of formality in the worship service? Do you think it helped or hindered the worship experience?

AJM/rk
1-18-11