GOOD CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP IS ...

• **Covenantal.** Services are a conversation between God and God’s people in which we renew the covenant of grace.

• **Participatory.** Worship leaders are not performers but enablers encouraging the full, conscious, active participation of the congregation (not “audience”).

• **Holistic.** We bring all of ourselves to worship: old and young, body and soul, brain and heart, doubt and belief, lament and joy.

• **Expansive.** We make creative use of words, music—and more!—from many times, places, peoples, and cultures to enlarge our vision of God’s kingdom and situate ourselves properly within it.

• **Reverent.** Even when playful, our worship acknowledges that we deal with a mysterious God when we gather together.

• **Spirit-directed.** We are led by the Holy Spirit in form and in freedom, both in prayer-filled planning and in the surprising moments of worship.

• **Expectant.** The Spirit blows where it will, so we worship with our sails raised, expecting great things of God and enjoying, rather than engineering, a contagious spiritual energy.

**The above worship principles appear in Ron Rienstra’s *Ten Service Plans for Contemporary Worship*. Used by the author’s permission.**