Guidelines for choosing a song for worship at Anewchurch.

1. Is it Biblical? Do any of the lyrics contradict sound biblical truth?
2. Is it "catchy", simple to learn, or "wordy" (busy and complicated)
3. Can you find a simple chord chart for musicians to work with?
4. Is it in a vocal range for everyone, or is the melody line "tricky" to sing?
5. Are we singing directly TO God or About God?
6. Is this a "story" song for performance, like a "special" to observe, or can we all participate?
7. Can we easily understand the message?
8. Is it sentimental or "romantic" more than Godly?
9. Does it require complex musical parts that are beyond the musicians?
10. Does it fit our personal church "culture"? (country, rap, rock, modern)
11. Is it fast or slow, (tempo and rhythm) and where does it fit in the setlist?
12. Does anybody else use this in congregational worship? CCLI, worship top songs, etc.
13. Is this a seasonal song, or only for Christmas, Easter, etc?
14. Are the lyrics like an "inside joke" or only insiders understand it?
15. Can the lyrics be typed and formatted for our stage use (IPADS)
16. Do the lyrics "resonate authentically" with our collective hearts? Do we "get it" ?
17. Does the Pastor and the worship leader approve of the song?
18. Does the setlist move us from the outer court to the holy of holies?
19. Is our setlist full of all "new" or all "old" songs for us as a church?
20. Have we thought through the transitions and key changes?

Obviously, it is hard for every song to pass every single "litmus" test.
This is a guide, not a LAW.
An article titled "The definitive guide to choosing songs" states this:

Choosing the right worship songs is probably 50% of all what good worship leading is all about—if not more! When we talk about worship inside the church, songs are the primary language of the soul to express worship. So you see, one of the easiest mistakes we can make is to choose the wrong set of songs. "Those who are most prepared are the most led by the Spirit of God." – Chris Tomlin