



DATE COMMUNICATION MODE CHURCH TRADITION	World View / Perspective	Nature of Truth	Nature of Faith	Relating the Gospel	Worship Structure	Worship Music	Architecture
LITURGICAL ORAL 4000 BC - 1500 AD	DIALECTIC: An open-ended point/counterpoint “dialogue” that creates the context for continual discovery. The auditory character of dialogue creates an intimate, connected relationship to the universe.	RELATIONAL: Understanding and truth are inherently connected with the speaker. The message and messenger cannot be separated.	TRUST: Faith is not a concept but a personal promise and faith's substance is found in the credibility of the one making the promise. The Hebrew word for “believe” actually communicates complete reliance upon what was spoken.	RE-ENACTMENT: A symbolic re-enactment of the Gospel becomes a mystical drama and connection to Christ, creating sacred time and sacred place.	LITURGY: A ceremony centered on ritual, symbols and the common “mystical” experience of the Eucharist.	CHANT: Simple songs originally sung around scriptures, creating a mystical quality where the position of the notes held significance and augmented the content.	ORNATE / FOREGROUND: A physical expression of the heavenly realm — a sacred place.
REFORMED PRINT 1500 AD - 1950 AD	LOGIC: Writing's sequential structure and linear progression provides the foundation for rational logic. The visual character of print creates a detached, discriminating relationship to the universe.	PRINCIPLE: Truth is abstracted from its source and is embodied in its content. Truth and revelation produce intellectual conclusions, which instruct and discipline the human will (heart).	BELIEF: Faith is experienced as a concept with content as opposed to a relationship. The content of faith creates a moral structure providing discipline to the soul.	RE-TELLING: A logical presentation of historical evidence and biblical texts, word studies in scripture to validate the Gospel story.	SERVICE: A meeting centered on singing “classic” hymns, confirming doctrinal truth in scripture and preaching the gospel.	HYMN: Complex melodies and harmonies aided by a printed system of writing music. Hymns communicated complex truths of the faith.	RATIONAL / BACKGROUND: Designed to focus on the effective preaching of the word. Only primary symbols are used so there is no distraction from the purpose of the building.
CELEBRATION BROADCAST 1950 AD - 2000 AD	RELATIVISM: Reasoning has shifted away from “either/or” conclusions. It has become more important to understand how one arrives at the conclusion (the process) than the conclusion itself. The experiential character of broadcast media creates a subjective existential relationship to the universe.	EXISTENTIAL: Truth is a process that has to be personally validated, no longer gaining its authority based on the credibility of an outside source or in the substance of its content.	CONVICTION: Faith becomes a point of tangibility, a verifiable moment between the person and God.	PERFORMANCE: A celebration of faith — drama, personal testimony, preaching — to help you sense the relevance of the message. The intent is to make the Gospel “hit home” to reach the audience where they live.	PROGRAM: An event centered on celebration-style worship, motivational preaching and personal revelation.	SONG: Simple content and complex rhythms aided by amplification and numerous electronic instruments shape this style of music. Songs express more relational than doctrinal subject material.	PROMOTIONAL / CENTER STAGE: Designed as theater to provide full view of the participants. The space creates an audience/performer relationship.
INCLUSIVE INTERACTIVE 2000 AD - FUTURE	SYSTEMS THINKING: New assumptions describe reality as complex and interconnected. The fluid nature of interactive media reflects a reality requiring the ability to deal with variable events governed by overarching system patterns.	ARCHETYPAL: There is a neutral or skeptical outlook toward the content of truth in favor of finding a larger context. Themes of truth work better than formulas in a complex, rapidly changing, interconnected universe.	FAITHFUL SKEPTICISM: Faith will be experienced as a many-layered journey. There will be great faith in the medium. Certainty of faith will be viewed as naïve or dishonest, while struggling with faith will be seen as a deeper expression of faith — “Lord I believe, help my unbelief.”	SIMULATION: Multiple venues and a variety of media will be used like a prism to refract the truth of the Gospel into a wide spectrum of insight. A single-point message will be illustrated seven ways for 20 minutes.	GATHERING: Designed to be an interactive collaboration without preconceived outcomes.	FUSION: A blend of musical forms. There will also be simpler services with “unplugged” acoustical worship balancing highly technical productions. Worship will move from audience participation to audience collaboration in a stimulating and intimate experience.	BARRIER-FREE / BACKDROP: Effective buildings will have an open-ended nature, facilitating and encouraging change. They will be content-rich and provide a multi-sensorial experience.

“I am the Alpha and the Omega,” says the Lord God, “who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.” Rev. 1:8 (NASB)

M I N I S T R Y T R A N S I T I O N T I M E L I N E

MEDIEVAL

- Manuscript/Oral Communication
- 312 Constantine — unites Rome, converts to Christianity
- 400 St. Augustine — mystic/theologian



MODERN

- 1452 Printing Press — transforms communication
- 1492 Columbus — discovery of the New World
- 1517 Luther — 95 Theses, Protestant Reformation
- 1564 Galileo — origins of modern science and mathematics
- 1611 King James Version — God is object to study
- 1644 Descartes — “Cogito ergo sum” (I think therefore I am)



END OF MODERNITY

- Broadcast — transforms communication
- 1872 Darwin — man explains his origin
- 1927 Freud — “man creates God”
- 1954 Maslow — Hierarchy of Needs
- Radical Individualism — Consumerism

POSTMODERN

- Internet — transforms communication
- Nietzsche — Nihilism (loss of meaning)
- Derrida — Deconstructionism
- Popular Culture — media influences, *Contact, The Sixth Sense, Touched by An Angel, The Celestine Prophecy, Oprah's Spirit Moment*

