

A Brief Summary of the Church Assessment Tool Survey

Dear Member of The Memorial Church of The Good Shepherd,

One hundred ten (110) members of our congregation participated in our recent survey. We had sent authentication letters to two hundred sixty-four (264) members. This was an adequate response to provide valid results.

The survey provided us with a huge amount of information, including some extremely positive aspects of our congregation, but it also provided us with issues that need further exploration. The survey indicates that theologically our church tends to be conservative in our perspective and seems to be very settled on the flexible style index.

Overall, approximately 25% of those participating in the survey are clearly satisfied with things in the church. One might optimistically argue that this number for the entire congregation might be much higher since the 60% that did not participate in the survey are pleased with things just the way they are, so they did not see the need to participate. Approximately 55% of the respondents are “on the fence” and only 20% were clearly unsatisfied with things in the church. However, realistically considering the results, the 25% number is very low, which indicates that we need to work on raising the level of morale. Morale is important because it is one of the best predictors of overall health and numeric growth.

As indicated by the survey, some of the top goals of the participants are to develop and implement a comprehensive strategy to attract new people to the church, particularly youth and families with children and to provide high quality education for every age and stage of life.

Some of the issues that need further exploration relate to our worship experience, including the music. We are in the process of developing an additional survey to help us understand exactly what the congregation believes to be exceptional in quality and spiritual content and specifically what may need to be changed.

According to those with experience in the rector search process, it is absolutely imperative that we understand where we are as a congregation and if issues exist, they must be addressed as quickly as possible, before moving to the next step in our search process.

The Venerable Faith Perrizo, Archdeacon for Ministry Development and Deployment for our Diocese, will meet with our congregation during a future Adult Forum to fully discuss the results of the survey and to answer any questions regarding the survey.

Thank you for your continued prayers.

Faithfully yours,
Alan Parks, Chairperson
Rector Search Committee