

Executive Summary

The Congregation Assessment Tool was recently administered in your church. 478 persons were invited to participate; of these, 286 persons responded. A response from every member is not required to provide valid results. For a complete readout, please review the Vital Signs report that was sent to your church. A summary of that report is provided below.

Overall, approximately 35% of your members are clearly satisfied with things in the church. This, along with other information, indicates that members can imagine a church with a higher level of vitality than they are currently experiencing and are searching for a pathway that will lead them to a stronger church.

Not every question is of equal importance to members. When asked how satisfied they are, members tend to focus on the issues addressed in the questions below. When they feel more positive in these areas, they tend to feel more positive overall.

- **Our Interim Pastor is present in times of crisis.**
- **Our Interim Pastor has ensured the development of a plan to care for members in times of need (emotional, mental, physical, spiritual, etc.).**
- **The worship services at our church are exceptional in both quality and spiritual content.**
- **Our Interim Pastor helps us accomplish our mission by bringing out the best in everyone.**
- **When conversing with a person, our Interim Pastor listens for feelings, as well as words, and treats feelings as important.**

Conversely, when your members feel less positive about the areas above, they tend to feel less satisfied with their experience in the church overall.

Every church exhibits patterns in its life that contain strengths and potential weaknesses. Your church has potential strengths related to openness and structure of religious practice. Potential weaknesses include a tendency to become tradition-bound and overwhelmed with needs.

As members look to the future, their top four goals are

- **Develop and implement a comprehensive strategy to reach new people and incorporate them into the life of the church.**
- **Make necessary changes to attract families with children and youth to our church.**
- **Create more opportunities for people to form meaningful relationships (for example, small groups, nurtured friendships, shared meals, etc).**
- **Develop ministries that work toward healing those broken by life circumstances.**

In comparison to other churches, three goals that are unusually strong for your church are

- **Create more opportunities for people to form meaningful relationships (for example, small groups, nurtured friendships, shared meals, etc).**
- **Deepen our sense of connection to God and one another through stronger worship services.**
- **Strengthen the pastoral response of the church in serving people in times of need (emotional, mental, physical, spiritual, etc.).**

These may warrant attention from the leadership even if they are mid-level priorities.

All the information in this report should be explored and validated in further conversation. **Survey data is not the end of a conversation but the beginning.**