

The Congregation Assessment Tool was recently administered in your church. 200 persons were invited to participate; of these, 117 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 40% 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 church provides opportunities for members to engage in active ministry within the church and to the world.**
- **Persons who serve as leaders in our church are representative of the membership.**
- **Our church provides opportunities for education and formation in a variety of ways so that I can find one that fits my complex lifestyle.**
- **Our church prepares our members for ministry by helping them discern their gifts.**
- **The whole spirit in our congregation makes people want to get as involved as possible.**

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

- **Make necessary changes to attract families with children and youth to our church.**
- **Develop and implement a comprehensive strategy to reach new people and incorporate them into the life of the church.**
- **Strengthen the pastoral response of the church in serving people in times of need (emotional, mental, physical, spiritual, etc.).**
- **Create more opportunities for people to form meaningful relationships (for example, small groups, nurtured friendships, shared meals, etc.).**

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

- **Strengthen the pastoral response of the church in serving people in times of need (emotional, mental, physical, spiritual, etc.).**
- **Expand outreach ministries that provide direct services to those living on the margins of society. (i.e. homeless, immigrant, transient persons)**
- **Work as an advocate for social and institutional change so that society might better reflect the values of the kingdom of God.**

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.**