

## Executive Summary

The Congregation Assessment Tool was recently administered in your church. 437 persons were invited to participate; of these, 148 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 24% 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.

- The leaders of our church show a genuine concern to know what people are thinking when decisions need to be made.

- Persons who serve as leaders in our church are representative of the membership.

- Our church does a good job helping each member understand that he or she is called to ministry.

- The same small group of people seem to make most of the important decisions in our church.

- The worship services at our church are exceptional in both quality and spiritual content.

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.

- Provide more opportunities for Christian education and spiritual formation at every age and stage of life.

- Develop and implement a comprehensive strategy to reach new people and incorporate them into the life of the church.

- Strengthen the process by which members are called and equipped for ministry and leadership.

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

- Change or improve the music of the church to deepen our worship experience.

- Strengthen the management and support of persons in various ministries so that they are able to do what they do best in work that is meaningful and celebrated.

- Adapt the opportunities provided by the church making them more accessible given the pace and schedule of my life. (i.e. online education, early morning classes, lunch discussions)

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.