

Executive Summary

The Congregation Assessment Tool was recently administered in your church. 495 persons were invited to participate; of these, 136 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 38% 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 whole spirit in our congregation makes people want to get as involved as possible.**
- **Our Interim Rector helps us accomplish our mission by bringing out the best in everyone.**
- **The leaders of our church show a genuine concern to know what people are thinking when decisions need to be made.**
- **Our church does a good job supporting persons in ministry by reminding them that they are making a difference.**
- **There is a disturbing amount of conflict in our congregation.**

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 inclusiveness and advocacy. Potential weaknesses include a tendency to intellectualize every issue and difficulty in establishing identity and vision.

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.**
- **Develop ministries that work toward healing those broken by life circumstances.**
- **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)**
- **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.**

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.**