

Christ Church, Valdosta

A Summary of our Responses to the Church Assessment Tool

Survey conducted April 2013 with a 90% response rate



PRIORITIES

Top three priorities (95% of churches respond as we have)

- Attract families with young children
- Reach and incorporate new people
- Develop more opportunities for Christian education and formation

More than other churches, Christ Church wants to

- Provide outreach to individuals and groups marginalized by society
- Support individual and group ministries
- Schedule and accommodate parishioners with busy lifestyles

Worship attendance is increasing slightly (by 3% over a 3-year period)

Quality of worship and spiritual content of worship is of high importance to us but 67% report valuing activities beyond worship.

Our Church is seeking to increase its vitality; however, collaboration and major changes are required for us to achieve this goal. Therefore, the rector should be attuned to and work with

- Worship
- Programs for lifestyle
- Support for individual and group ministries
- Education – for all ages and stages
- Lay help with worship and lay participation in decision-making
- Create and sustain a friendly atmosphere

All aged respondents listed the following as primary concerns

- Education
- Children and youth
- Financial support

Unique concerns for those

- Under 35 – offering worship and activities which can adapt to my schedule
- Over 65 – reaching out to those living on the margins of society

Unique concerns for those who are

- Infrequent attendees – more opportunities to form relationships
- Frequent attendees – adequate and sustainable financial support

DESCRIPTIVE INFORMATION

- **Theological perspective** – *moderate* but diverse; a new rector will need to appreciate our differences
- **Flexibility** – *low* which can present obstacles to growth; system is inert so change produces conflict; changes are reversed to reduce conflict and cycle continues

PERFORMANCE INDICES

The survey provided a number of performance indices which compared Christ Church to approximately 500 other churches which have taken the Church Assessment Tool. Of the performance indices, Christ Church was rated *high* on **Spiritual Vitality**.

CRITICAL ABILITIES FOR RECTOR

1. Preaching
2. Strategic leadership
3. Pastoral care
4. Teaching/training
5. Change management
6. Administration
7. Negotiate/resolve conflict
8. Community catalyst

FINANCIAL INFORMATION OF SURVEY RESPONDANTS

Number of households: 190

Our annual giving is reported at 1.87% of household income; the average is 2% of household income yet 3% is considered ideal.

Future planned giving: 93.9% of respondents reported plans to give the same or higher next year. We are in the 84th percentile for planned giving of churches with similar profiles.

We give primarily because of our personal faith and secondarily because of the effectiveness of the church's ministries in making a difference in our own lives and the lives of others.

DEMOGRAPHICS OF SURVEY RESPONDANTS

Age

Below 19	19-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+
1%	1%	3%	9%	24%	19%	44%

Length of Membership

Under 1 year	1-2 years	3-4 years	5-10 years	11-15 years	16-20 years	20 + years
2%	5%	6%	14%	10%	13%	50%

Education, Race, Gender, and Distance

79% are college graduates (47% have graduate degrees);

97% white; 61% female; 65% live more than 3 miles from church

COMMENTS FROM THE VESTRY

The Vestry met on June 15, 2013 for study and discussion about the results of the Church Assessment Tool. Based on the survey, the Vestry chose stewardship, unifying the church family, and Christian education as areas for concentrated effort in the coming months. As we begin exploring and piloting your suggestions, we ask for your prayers, patience, and support, all of which will be key to the growth and success of our parish.

MORE INFORMATION

The full survey results and interpretive video are available for checkout in the church office. Please note, you must watch the video on your computer in order to fully understand our results. Contact a member of the search committee with any questions.