

## Executive Summary

The Congregation Assessment Tool was recently administered in your church. 300 persons were invited to participate; of these, 110 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 34% 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.

- **Persons who serve as leaders in our church are representative of the membership.**
- **The leaders of our church show a genuine concern to know what people are thinking when decisions need to be made.**
- **Problems between groups in this church are usually resolved through mutual effort.**
- **There is a disturbing amount of conflict in our congregation.**
- **We are willing to adapt our worship to the needs and circumstances of the people we want to reach in our local community.**

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 stability and clarity of belief. Potential weaknesses include a tendency to become tradition-bound and conflict-prone.

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

- **Deepen our sense of connection to God and one another through stronger worship services.**
- **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)**
- **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.**