

## Executive Summary

The Congregation Assessment Tool was recently administered in your church. 600 persons were invited to participate; of these, 304 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 60% of your members are clearly satisfied with things in the church. This, along with other information, indicates that the church has options which include growth, expansion, replication, and external impact. Whether any of these will be realized depends on the choices made.

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.

- **Problems between groups in this church are usually resolved through mutual effort.**
- **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.**
- **The worship services at our church are exceptional in both quality and spiritual content.**
- **Our church provides opportunities for members to engage in active ministry within the church and to the world.**

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

- **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.**
- **Strengthen the pastoral response of the church in serving people in times of need (emotional, mental, physical, spiritual, etc.).**
- **Make necessary changes to attract families with children and youth to our church.**

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

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.**