

CHURCH & MINISTRY SCREENING SURVEY

The survey is intended to reflect an INDIVIDUAL, not a family. (Each adult family member is invited to complete a survey of their own.)

Name of person completing survey _____ Position: _____

1. WHAT IS THE APPROXIMATE POPULATION OF YOUR CHURCH FAMILY (MEMBERS AND NON-MEMBERS)?

- 1 less than 50 2 51-100 3 101-200 4 201-500 5 501-1000 6 1000 +

2. EXCLUDING THE SUMMER VACATION PERIOD (MID-MAY THROUGH MID-AUGUST), ABOUT WHAT PERCENTAGE OF THE CHURCH POPULATION ATTENDS AT LEAST ONE WORSHIP SERVICE A WEEK?

- 1 less than 20% 2 20-30% 3 30-40% 4 40-50% 5 50-60% 6 60-75% 7 75%+

3. IN WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING MINISTRIES TO THE SECULAR COMMUNITY DOES YOUR CHURCH CONSISTENTLY ENGAGE? (check all that apply)

- a Sponsoring or providing low-income housing or rent assistance
- b Sponsoring or providing food or clothing for the needy,
- c Taking the gospel to non-Christians through organized evangelism programs
- d Sponsoring or providing "step" programs, e.g., for alcohol, drug, or nicotine addiction
- e Sponsoring or providing job training, G.E.D. training, adult literacy programs
- f Making peaceful protests (e.g., against war, injustice) in public places
- g Sponsoring or providing legal aid services
- h Some form of AIDS outreach or fellowship
- i Prison ministries
- j Promoting social or political change through community organizing or advocacy
- k Providing emergency financial assistance to persons in crisis
- l Participating in parachurch ministries, e.g., Habitat for Humanity, Campus Crusade, World Mission
- m Visitation to the elderly and shut-ins of the secular community
- n Maintenance/repair of homes/apartments of the elderly and disabled
- o Providing transportation and/or shopping service to the elderly and shut ins
- p Some form of ministry to teens (sports, academics, pregnancy counseling, literacy programs, etc.)

Describe up to three other ministries to the secular community that your church consistently provides.

- q _____
- r _____
- s _____

4. ABOUT WHAT PERCENTAGE OF YOUR CHURCH FAMILY OVERALL IS ENGAGED IN THE MINISTRIES CHECKED ABOVE?

- 1 less than 10% 2 10-20% 3 20-30% 4 30-40% 5 40-50% 6 More than 50%

5. THE IDEAS FOR SECULAR MINISTRY IN THIS CHURCH COME MOSTLY (circle a single number that best answers the question):

From the pastoral leadership of the church 1 2 3 4 5 6 From the congregation

6. THIS CHURCH'S MINISTRIES TO THE SECULAR COMMUNITY ARE (circle a single number that best answers the question):

Directed mainly by the pastoral leadership 1 2 3 4 5 6 Directed mainly by lay leaders

7. PLEASE NAME A CHURCH IN YOUR AREA THAT YOU THINK DOES AN EXCEPTIONAL JOB OF COMMUNITY OUTREACH:

Church name _____

Denomination _____

CHURCH & MINISTRY INVOLVEMENT QUESTIONNAIRE¹

Dear Friend in Christ:
Grace and peace to you!

As you may well know, in many places the Christian church is in a major decline. The fundamental purpose of this questionnaire is to provide an improved understanding of people like you, your church, and your involvement with the church's ministries, so that we may understand better how to increase the effectiveness of the church. Your answers will be anonymous; do not write your name on the survey. Please return your completed document as soon as possible.

We hope that you enjoy filling out this questionnaire and reflecting on your church and its ministries. Your response is very important, because you are the only one who can tell us about your unique opinions and activities, and give us clues to expanding the Kingdom of God through the activities of churches and congregations across the country, and around the world.

Thank you very much for your participation!

I. DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

1. Which age bracket are you in? 1 20 or under 2 21-30 3 31-45 4 46-60 5 61 or above
2. Are you: 1 Female 2 Male
3. Are you: 1 Unmarried, in a Domestic Partnership 2 Single (divorced, widowed, separated, never married) 3 Married
4. Are you: 1 Employed full-time 2 Employed part-time 3 Unemployed 4 Retired
5. Do you have a subscription to:
a newspaper? 1 Yes 2 No
a national news magazine (e.g., Newsweek, Time, U.S. News)? 1 Yes 2 No
6. How often do you watch the news on television?
1 About every day 2 3-4 times a week 3 1-2 times a week 4 Less than once a week 5 Never

II. QUESTIONS ABOUT YOUR INVOLVEMENT WITH THE CHURCH

7. How long have you lived in this general area?
1 Less than one year 2 2-4 years 3 5-9 years 4 10-19 years 5 20+ years
8. How long have you been attending this church?
1 Less than one year 2 2-5 years 3 6-10 years 4 10+ years
9. How long does it usually take you to get to church?
1 Under fifteen minutes 2 Between fifteen and thirty minutes 3 Over half an hour
10. Please indicate the *single main reason* you remain involved with your church (mark ONE response only)
 - a. ___ Church social ministry/community outreach
 - b. ___ The church's denominational affiliation
 - c. ___ I grow spiritually at this church
 - d. ___ I feel the presence of the Spirit in this church
 - e. ___ The church reaches non-Christians with the gospel
 - f. ___ I feel this church is under the leadership of Jesus
 - g. ___ The church is committed to promoting social justice
 - h. ___ Opportunities to do ministry
 - i. ___ Church evangelistic program
 - j. ___ The Church's theological or religious orientation
 - k. ___ Other (please write in your reason)
11. Do you *usually* attend: 1 Sunday school only 2 Worship Service only 3 Both Sunday school and Worship Service

III. QUESTIONS ABOUT YOUR CHURCH AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

12. Have you participated in any community outreach ministry programs in the last 12 months?

- 1 No (Skip to question 15) 2 Yes (Go to question 13)

13. Do you *routinely engage* in community outreach ministries?

- 1 No (Skip to question 15) 2 Yes (Go to question 14)

14. For each of the following "reasons for doing outreach ministry," please circle a single number between 1 and 6 on each line, showing how important each reason is for your involvement in outreach ministry.

<u>Reason</u>	<i>Very important</i>		<i>Somewhat important</i>		<i>Not at all important</i>	
a. Showing compassion to individuals in need	1	2	3	4	5	6
b. Helping make society more just	1	2	3	4	5	6
c. Helps me experience God in a deeper way	1	2	3	4	5	6
d. Bringing persons served by outreach ministries to the Christian faith	1	2	3	4	5	6
e. Bringing persons served by outreach into church as potential members	1	2	3	4	5	6
f. Obeying a sense of call or direction from God	1	2	3	4	5	6
g. Showing thanks for what God has done for me	1	2	3	4	5	6
h. Doing what is expected by church leaders	1	2	3	4	5	6
i. I'm following the leadership of the Spirit	1	2	3	4	5	6
j. I feel called to do it as a Christian duty	1	2	3	4	5	6
k. It gives me a sense of spiritual fulfillment	1	2	3	4	5	6
l. It gives me a sense of being true to my faith	1	2	3	4	5	6
m. I feel "gifted" in those areas of ministry	1	2	3	4	5	6
n. I believe it's what Jesus wants me to do	1	2	3	4	5	6

15. Check the **SINGLE, MOST IMPORTANT** reason you have not spent time involved in your church's outreach ministries:

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1 <input type="checkbox"/> I'm too busy with work, family, and activities outside the church | 5 <input type="checkbox"/> I live too far away |
| 2 <input type="checkbox"/> These ministries don't seem important | 6 <input type="checkbox"/> The church's ministries are not well organized |
| 3 <input type="checkbox"/> No one has asked me to get involved | 7 <input type="checkbox"/> I don't think I'm gifted or called in this area |
| 4 <input type="checkbox"/> I was involved in the past and got burned out | 8 <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please write in) _____ |

16. Does your church offer training in the following areas? (Check all that apply)

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1 <input type="checkbox"/> Lay leadership (for example, how to lead a Bible study) | 5 <input type="checkbox"/> Community or economic development ministries |
| 2 <input type="checkbox"/> Evangelism | 6 <input type="checkbox"/> Race reconciliation or cross cultural relations |
| 3 <input type="checkbox"/> Social Justice issues | 7 <input type="checkbox"/> Peaceful demonstration/ passive resistance |
| 4 <input type="checkbox"/> Ministry to the homeless | 8 <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please write in) _____ |

IV. QUESTIONS ABOUT YOUR CHURCH

17. Would you say that the pastoral leadership in your church is *hands on* (engaged in all the ministries of the church) or *hands off* (allows lay members and leaders a free hand in organizing and managing functions such as community outreach, bible studies, prayer groups, etc.)? 1 Hands On 2 Hands Off

18. Below is a list of words or phrases that might be used to describe a church. ON EACH LINE, please circle a *single* number from 1 to 6 according to how much you think each phrase describes *your* church. *Very much describes this church* *Does not describe this church*

a. Traditional	1	2	3	4	5	6
b. contemporary	1	2	3	4	5	6
c. like a family	1	2	3	4	5	6
d. an agent for social change	1	2	3	4	5	6
e. refuge for members	1	2	3	4	5	6
f. evangelistic	1	2	3	4	5	6
g. empowering	1	2	3	4	5	6
h. respected by other churches and the community	1	2	3	4	5	6
i. compassionate	1	2	3	4	5	6
j. community partner	1	2	3	4	5	6
k. cares for people outside the church	1	2	3	4	5	6
l. tries hard to live up to gospel principles	1	2	3	4	5	6
m. a spiritually vital and alive community	1	2	3	4	5	6

19. How would you rate how your church deals with the following organizational issues?

	<i>Excellent</i>	<i>Good</i>	<i>Fair</i>	<i>Poor</i>	<i>Not Sure</i>
a. Keeping people informed about the various ministry groups and opportunities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Keeping people informed of community outreach needs	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. Giving people opportunities to have input into decisions affecting the church	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. Dealing with disagreements and conflicts	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e. Cultivating people for leadership positions	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
f. Encouraging members to identify ministry opportunities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
g. Involving people in the church's various ministries	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
h. Empowering lay leadership to manage outreach ministries	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

20. Please identify the priority you believe your congregation places on each of the following ministries:

	1. High priority	2. Medium priority	3. Low priority
a. Outreach and ministry to people who do not attend church	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Evangelism in the local community	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. Sponsoring/providing social service ministries to meet basic needs (food, shelter)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. Spreading the gospel through organized evangelism programs	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e. Welcoming age, ethnic, and/or income diversity in the church	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
f. Aggressively promoting social/political change through community organizing or advocacy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
g. Sponsoring community development programs (e.g., job training)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
h. Training members to share their faith with friends and strangers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
i. Giving emergency assistance to persons in crisis (e.g., help with rent)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
j. Financially aiding denominational or other agencies' ministry programs	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
k. Working with youth to help them develop values and life skills	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
l. Educating the church on social concerns	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
m. Encouraging members to participate in short-term mission trips	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
n. Networking with local nonprofits, civic groups, and other churches	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
o. Promoting member ministry to the hungry, homeless, etc.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
p. Providing health programs – parish nurse, fitness classes, weight loss programs, "step" programs for addictions (e.g., nicotine, drugs, gambling)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

V. QUESTIONS ABOUT YOUR BELIEFS

21. For each set of statements below, please circle the *single* number that best describes your beliefs. "1" means you agree entirely with the statement on the left, "2" means you agree somewhat with the statement on the left, "3" means you are undecided, "4" means you agree more with the statement on the right, and "5" means you agree entirely with the statement on the right.

a.	The task of the church is to work to change society.	1	2	3	4	5	The task of the church is to work to change the lives of individuals.
b.	The way to share God's love with people is by telling them about Jesus.	1	2	3	4	5	The way to share God's love with people is by demonstrating it with caring actions.
c.	Government is responsible for meeting the needs of the poor.	1	2	3	4	5	The church is responsible for meeting the needs of the poor.
d.	Christian faith should focus on growing in one's relationship to God.	1	2	3	4	5	Christian faith should focus on promoting peace, wholeness, and justice in society.
e.	The church should focus on helping people here and now.	1	2	3	4	5	The church should focus on preparing people for eternal life after death.
f.	Churches should care mostly for people's social and emotional well-being.	1	2	3	4	5	Churches should care mostly for people's spiritual well-being.
g.	Poverty is largely due to a person's immoral lifestyle, laziness, or drugs.	1	2	3	4	5	Poverty is largely due to social, economic, and political factors, racism, and lack of good jobs.
h.	Christian ministry should be directed mainly to other members of the Christian faith.	1	2	3	4	5	Christian ministry should be directed to all members of society.
j.	Any church's social action should be directed to all who are in need in the world.	1	2	3	4	5	Any church's social action should be directed primarily toward its local community.
k.	The Kingdom of God is a spiritual realm that can only be attained after death.	1	2	3	4	5	The Kingdom of God could exist on earth if only everyone would live by gospel principles.
l.	Christians should always practice love, tolerance, mercy, forgiveness, healing, and grace.	1	2	3	4	5	Love, tolerance, mercy, forgiveness, healing, and grace must be tempered by Justice.
m.	Christians should minister to all who are sick, hungry, homeless, or otherwise needy.	1	2	3	4	5	Christians should minister only to those who first accept Christ as their savior.
n.	Christians should follow the leadership of the Spirit.	1	2	3	4	5	Christians should follow the direction of their church leadership.

Note

¹ Adapted from Ronald J. Sider and Heidi Rolland Unruh, *Congregations, Community Outreach, and Leadership Development Project* (Hartford CT: Hartford Institute for Religion Research, 1999), <http://hrr.hartsem.edu/research/churchoutreachindex.html>; and Nancy Tatom Ammerman, *Congregation and Community* (New Brunswick NJ: Rutgers University Press, 1997). Used by permission.

INTERVIEW QUESTIONS

1. Tell me a little about the history of your church. (Does the church have a formal written history?)
2. What do you see or what have you heard about as being the major accomplishments of this church?
3. How has the church changed in the last decade, and why?
4. What motivated people to join this church? What does the church expect of its new members, and how are they made aware of these expectations?
5. Does the church have a “mission statement”? If so, what is it? How old is it? How much congregational participation was there in its development? Does the church live up to its mission? If so, in what way? If not, why not?
6. What does the church expect of its members, and why? How do members know those expectations? What are the expected levels of participation and investment in the congregational and secular communities? What activities energize the congregation?
7. What is the church’s attitude toward ministry to the immediate community? How active is the church in “get your hands dirty” community ministry? What motivates the congregation in this regard? (If the church is not engaged in community ministry, what are the reasons?)
8. Does this church partner with other churches for any reason? If so, which other churches, and why?
9. What structures exist in the church for the identification, authentication, and administration of outreach ministry? How are the financial and human resources for ministry obtained?
10. Describe what you see as the difference between humanitarian motivations and spiritually-driven motivations to help others.
11. How are Jesus and the Holy Spirit portrayed within this community? Where would you go, or in what activities would you engage, to experience a sense of “holiness” or “spirituality”?
12. How do you “engage the sacred”? What language do people in the church use to describe their understanding of the sacred?
13. Who makes the decisions in the church, and how? What role does the pastor play in leading the church? What is the church’s administrative structure? Who do you think has “control” in the church, and why?
14. What do you see as the major issues facing your church? The church in the U.S? In the world? What language is mainly used within this congregation to talk about these issues—theological or political?
15. Describe the nature of any youth/young persons group activities in the church, including any activity in outreach ministry.
16. What else would you like me to know about your church?