

First Presbyterian Church Self-Assessment Survey 2010

Survey comments 2010

1. This church could be improved by:
 - a. Having people attend Biblically based classes (for youth and adults,) more activities are needed for the youth/get them involved and participating, not allowing people to serve on committees who don't actually attend on a regular basis, Also, we're too "Presbyterians always do this, Presbyterians never do that, Presbyterians are the 'frozen chosen.'" (Sorry, Glen!)
 - b. I think the church has improved in being more friendly. But we need more participation of coffee hours. People really do enjoy them. I plan to volunteer as a member of the Member Care committee to do these after church services this summer. (I did it last year and it is easy to do
 - c. I love Glen's ad-lib children's sermons!
 - d. I miss the opportunity for people to ask for prayers for people during the service. I feel like the Spirit is hindered by not allowing this anymore. I don't like needing to resubmit prayer requests every two weeks- once a month seems more reasonable. I would like to see continued encouragement on worthy community involvement (relay for life) in things that may not be "Christian"- but that would certainly allow for opportunity to be a witness.
 - e. Be more involved in the development of the church and be committed to helping the church grow to further God's kingdom and not for the good of themselves.
 - f. Consistent teen/preteen program outside of Sunday morning to develop a strong bonded group of young people devoted to God and each other not just through study of the Word but actually doing activities to bless others and learn what it really means to pursue God
 - g. Church has been very successful to bring back families who have not attended in many years
 - h. 11:00 AM service s year round instead of 10:00 AM summer services
 - i. Contemporary Worship songs-instruments other than organ and piano although it is a cool sound. Also I enjoyed the choir NOT wearing the robes today, they sounded great and it felt personal
 - j. I would like to see the children involved and sing a praise song now and then (wake the people up and get their attention)
 - k. I like it!
 - l. more use of email- more timely mailing of the Witness (before the month begins)

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- m. a shepard ministry or Stephen ministry; appointing (asking) a few people (apart from the ushers) to welcome guests enthusiastically each week.
- o. getting more people involved
- p. give more of their time- Me included; I would like not usher and serve communion.
- q. spending more time in small groups and prayers
- r. its members getting involved

2. Perceptions of worship

- a. I enjoy the worship service and sermon. However, would be glad to have varying services
- b. A longer sermon that continues to teach from the bible.
- c. Making better use of e-mail; developing interpersonal relationships using group processes
- d. I prefer the preacher use a “conversational” style rather than a more “lecturing” style
- e. I would like to see more praise songs sung by the congregation and get us a little “unfrozen” There is nothing wrong in letting you feet tap, standing up and swaying and maybe even raising your hands in response to a very moving song!
- f. A bit of a “slow down” when we pray the Lord’s prayer
- g. I miss the postlude (2)
- h. It is ok to clap in church if you are moved- it is no worse than shouting “AMEN”. People are upset about being told not to
- i. Strong up beat hymn to end the service; choir walking out as well as in: teenage lay readers; song at beginning (choir) omitted: children’s choir, instruments; better lighting
- j. Looking into more contemporary music and additional worship opportunities
- k. Better organized/equipped ushers, lay person to read announcements

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3. Mission of the church

- a. I would like to know what the goals are for the mission of the church. Unfortunately, when we had missionaries come to our church, I was away but would welcome that. If possible the missionaries in the Congo (I don't recall their names. Could we get more information about them? Perhaps emails telling us how their work is progressing and also would it be possible to hear from the young man we are helping through seminary – nothing long and drawn out – just what he is doing and how he is maturing in his studies and faith.
- b. More than just giving money. Activities that allow us to donate time and energy are also important and help us to be more in touch with our own blessings and the needs around us. For instance, the mission bags filled and packed recently enabled lots of people to make a personal donation that they saw would help an individual. This may be more meaningful to some of us than a fiscal donation to building a school or hospital.
- c. Active participation by an increased number of members of the congregation
- d. Children are the leaders of tomorrow. Invest in them! This church needs a strong foundation before it can effectively meet the needs of the community
- e. Is the 10 AM summer worship service cast in stone? Can we have more frequent praise music? Why is thanking God with applause for providing an exceptional, inspirational event inappropriate only in our church?
- f. Need to give more to the American Indians
- g. Ecumenical events; workshops, retreats, forums, hymn festivals; adult class to focus on mission area with guest speakers; need key latch program for after school
- i. More planned outreach
- j. More needy people
- k. Increased opportunities for Christian ministry in the community and an international mission trip
- l. More hands on/ personal experiences rather than check writing
- m. Action; higher % of budget; increased priority: clear direction: leadership
- n. Fellowship hour and lack of volunteers to host it that should be a mission of the church

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IV; Congregational goals

- a. People need to be reading the Bible and need to understand that just going to church on Sundays doesn't make you a Christian. We have a serious lack of knowledge about the Bible and what it says.
- b. I don't think I've ever seen a statement of the overall goals of the church other than the mission statement. We found in the last survey that we all agreed with the goals but were unable to state them. Has anything changed? Has Session created a 5 or 3 year plan? If so, has it been shared with the congregation? I don't remember seeing it, and I do read the Witness.
- c. Obviously, goals must be defined and incorporated.
- d. Be more willing to step up and volunteer to support efforts of the Church. Pulling hen's teeth gets old and tiring and is an extremely poor way for a congregation to operate.
- e. While it is important to be challenged as a church, I believe we also need to be encouraged, uplifted, and feel positive about our church, and not feel as if no matter how much we do its never enough....
- f. one less hymn. Not so much standing, sit for one hymn
- g. The church needs to focus on living out our faith
- h. The government has taken Christ out of the schools and now school activities are pushing him further into the background
- i. fiscal responsibility needs to be added
- j. hard to answer some of the questions if you are not on session
- k. all groups for study and fellowship; consider a weekly prayer group, perhaps after church for 10 minutes
- l. at least an occasional mention of giving the tithe
- m. have planned time together
- n. I do not like surveys that don't make you own up to your answers (name provided)
- o. Goal setting with members of the congregation and maybe a new mission statement
- p. develop a high level of expectations regarding the giving of time and treasure of members
- q. building a youth, young adult/family ministry
- r. gather together periodically socially at church rather than just on Sunday mornings in the sanctuary
- s. try to increase young membership
- t. increased mission

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I get my information from: (all positive)

2. The bulletin/announcements during church
3. keeping my eyes and ears open
4. church/my parents
5. Do not forget the Website!
6. get info from my spouse

Care to share:

_The sermons are very good and I get a lot of knowledge and inspiration from them. I also enjoy the Bible studies that I have been in both the women's bible studies and the Bethel Bible course. I would like to see Bible study continue.

- I think we can improve on the communication. There have been a lot of things we have not been aware of, and we have been feeling out of the loop. It is extremely important to me to hear the announcements on Sunday morning. I would like to see better efforts made for announcements, prior to worship, even with the microphone so others can make announcements. NOT about exhibits at the Gmeiner, but church activities and committee announcements.

-Thank you to Pastor Glen for his enthusiasm and sound teaching. --- Thank you to our musicians, Sunday school staff and elders/committee members for all your hard work!

- Witness needs a new look and format; more upcoming events- shorter articles, column of personals (re; members), graphics, etc; regular committee reports; Do we need an editor?

- Better use of website as a current communication tool

-need a second service: informal

- mid week communion or healing service, perhaps with a light supper or Bible study. Many of us thirst for mid week refreshment of Living Water

-Thanks for doing the survey

-Perhaps we need to be more aware of the specific goals of the congregation in the sharing and spreading of Christianity and living a Christian life

-I am so impressed with Glen, he so caring, intelligent, funny and "down to earth." type of guy. We are very lucky to have him to head our church.

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-Perhaps I am not “seeing” the value of giving praise to people that “do” and “give”. The Bible tells us if we have praise here on earth we will be not savings the rewards God would give us in heaven.

-I think the church needs to begin a time of serious reflection on why it is here, what it is supposed to do and how it will achieve those goals. It seems like a Sunday only social club. It needs leaders who will lead and make the church the priority in their lives

-I truly enjoy coming to church now that Pastor Hallead and his family are here

-The help and support I receive from my church are directly related to what I give! Questions on personal involvement desires