

Asbury Stakeholder Interview Summary

The following feedback was given through a series of conversations carried out between Asbury's Strategic Planning Team and individuals/couples from Asbury. Based on the feedback received from these interviews, responses were collected and assessed in order to identify what people saw as Asbury's strengths and challenges, and to hear what dreams Asbury's members have for the future of the church. Responses are listed below, followed by a number indicating how many different interviews mentioned that particular strength, challenge, or dream along with additional context, when appropriate.

Strengths

Top 5

1. *Missions*- 16
2. *Music*- 13
3. *Family feel/friendly*- 12
4. *Preaching/Pastors*- 12
5. *Digital Ministries*- 10

Additional areas:

Groups and Bible studies (5), Generosity (4), Prayer ministry (prayer chain and in person) (3), Children's Ministry (commitment to CM in spite of struggles, VBS) (2), Adaptability (2), History and longevity of members (2), Location, Authenticity, Simplicity, Inclusive congregation, Roxie

Challenges

Top 5

1. *Youth*- 14 (*staffing, investment in spaces/resources, prioritization of YM, engagement with youth in general*)
2. *Aging congregation/Lack of those under 45 and their children*- 8
3. *Volunteer engagement and leadership development*- 7
4. *Friendly but not always hospitable*- 4
5. *Children's Ministry*- 4 (*low numbers, poor communication*)

Additional areas:

Unused space (stewardship of resources) (4), Not an affirming church (vague on inclusion) (2), Lack of small groups (2), Visitation (hospital/elderly) (2), Facilities as a limiting factor on Sunday mornings due to high volume, Not much children's outreach besides choir, 10:45 service (size), Relevance on contemporary issues beyond sermons, Evangelism, Communication, Nothing for parents/young adults

Dreams

Top 5

1. *Better use of the building- 9 (possibilities for use such as Christian counseling, financial services, first-time homebuyers' classes, adult daycare, fix-it ministry, head start...)*
2. *More young families (rebuild multi-generational makeup)- 5 (more activities and opportunities for fellowship)*
3. *Small groups- 4 (groups geared towards 30-40's/young families, issues based small group)*
4. *Bigger investment in youth- staffing, programs- 4 (possibly missions as a catalyst)*
5. *Serving the neighborhood- 3 ("Church without walls" doing community work together rather than just giving money, Laura Wilder efforts geared more toward students- those behind on lunches, after-school program...)*

Additional areas:

More volunteer engagement (2), Increase diversity, Sunday school option during one of the worship services, Fellowship (Supper club, New Year's Brunch, Lenten meals...), Stronger Children's Ministry

Other comments

Miss Sunday night services and potlucks

Miss paper bulletins & passing the peace

Love the acapella doxology

Could Sunday schedule be simplified to create opportunities to connect with more people?

Not a fan of the TV in the nursery

Maybe a Saturday evening service

Joint song with adult and children's choirs could be cool

More help with children's choir

In future- possibly remove pews for more room use options and discussion-oriented seating

Possibly partner with other churches for youth- 2

Communications possibilities including easier access to newsletters, financial updates

Would love to see more for parents/children through online ministry

How do we reach out to the neighborhood? Do we need more social activities with an invitation to join us again?

How might we engage more with LW families?

Could we make our building more welcoming with perhaps a coffee bar and different furniture in the downstairs entry?