

## **Congregational Assessment Tool Results First Presbyterian Church, Franklin**

### **Executive Summary**

The Congregation Assessment Tool (CAT) was recently administered at First Presbyterian Church, Franklin. The church had excellent participation (246), representing 109% of our most recent average Sunday attendance (225). This level of participation offers a broad representation of the congregation. A summary of survey results is provided below.

Overall, approximately 65% 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.

- **The worship services at our church are exceptional in both quality and spiritual content.**
- **Being part of this church community has given new meaning to my life.**
- **Our church provides opportunities for education and formation in a variety of ways so that I can find one that fits my complex lifestyle.**
- **Persons who serve as leaders in our church are representative of the membership.**
- **The whole spirit in our congregation makes people want to get as involved as possible.**

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 opportunities for improvement. Your church has potential strengths related to inclusiveness and advocacy. Potential opportunities for improvement include a tendency to intellectualize every issue and difficulty in establishing identity and vision.

Additionally, as noted below, your results indicate a strong desire to grow and make changes in certain areas. There are indications in your responses, however, that the church may not be as adaptable to growth and change as it could be. The congregation needs to be mindful of these potential stumbling blocks as you move forward.

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.**

- **Develop ministries that work toward healing those broken by life circumstances.**
- **Expand outreach ministries that provide direct services to those living on the margins of society. (i.e., homeless, immigrant, transient persons)**

In comparison to other churches, three goals that are unusually strong for your church are:

- **Change or improve the music of the church to deepen our worship experience.**
- **Expand outreach ministries that provide direct services to those living on the margins of society. (i.e., homeless, immigrant, transient persons)**
- **Work as an advocate for social and institutional change so that society might better reflect the values of the kingdom of God.**

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.**