

The purpose of the study was to determine the expectations of the congregation regarding the level of service in visitation, substitute officiates, and bible study in order to ascertain pastoral staff requirements. The survey consisted of questions plus an opportunity to submit comments. Just over fifty questionnaires were received; however, the responses to each question do not always the same because some respondents did not answer every question and some marked multiple choices. Specific comments are set forth verbatim below, except that several respondents made general comments regarding the frequency of visits expected would depend on the severity of the illness or nearest to death. The questions were designed to determine a “best guess” of the number of visits expected under normal circumstances. It is expected that the frequency of visits would increase as the condition of the person deteriorated.

Frequency of Visit by location of Congregant Questions 1, 2, 3										
Location	# Daily	% Daily	# Wkly	% Wkly	# Bi-Wkly	% Bi-Wkly	# Mthly	% Mthly	# Other	% Other
Home or assisted living	N/A	N/A	11	22	20	40	15	30	4	8
Hospital	0		32	68.0	10	21.2	1	2.1	4	8.5
Hospice; end of life	6	12.7	29	61.7	6	12.7	1	2.1	5	10.6
Totals	6	4.2	72	50.0	36	25.0	17	11.8	13	9.1

Acceptance of Volunteers by Location Questions 1a, 2a, 3a				
Location	Number Yes	Percent Yes	Number No	Percent No
Home or assisted living	39	78.0	10	22.0
Hospital	36	75	12	25
Hospice; end of life	28	58.3	20	46.7

Frequency of visits by Location Questions 1b, 2b, 3b								
Location	Every 2 <sup>nd</sup> visit	2 <sup>nd</sup> visit %	Every 3 <sup>rd</sup> visit	3 <sup>rd</sup> visit %	Every 4 <sup>th</sup> visit	4 <sup>th</sup> visit %	Other	Other %
Home, Assisted Living	20	55.5	8	22.2	4	11.1	4	11.1
Hospital	21	56.8	6	16.2	8	21.6	2	5.4
Hospice, End of life	14	48.3	5	17.2	10	34.5	0	0

Would Volunteer visit  
Question 4 Ten people, who identified themselves, volunteered.

Time Commitment  
Question 5 A total of 79 hours were volunteered

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Substitute Pastor Question 6	Number Same 17	Percent Same 30.9	Number Variety 38	Percent Variety 69.1
Accept Lay Bible Study Teacher Question 7	Number Yes 35	Percent Yes 83.3	Number No 7	Percent No 16.4
Bible Study Class Question 8	Number Substitute 33	Percent Sub 84.6	Number Cancel 6	Percent Cancel 15.4
Use Visitation Service Question 9	Number Yes 11	Percent Yes 20.3	Number No 43	Percent No 79.7
Attend Bible Study Question 10	Number Yes 15	Percent Yes 29.4	Number No 36	Percent No 70.6

Verbatim Additional Comments:

<p>We strongly believe there should be a second pastor part time, and are sad that Paul Nelson was not offered it.</p> <p>We have an aging congregation. Lifetime members should have regular calls from their church's <u>pastor</u>, with time for spiritual discussion, prayer, and <u>communion</u>.</p> <p>Family member was ill, appreciated Pastor Paul's and Lou's visits. Would have liked to have Pastor Rick come also.</p> <p>A responsible, reliable person is needed. There are too much to be done for one person. A careful determination of the person hired should be made.</p> <p>At my age, any hospital or care facility may be my last. Thus a social visit would not serve my needs. At a younger time in life, perhaps it would not be as necessary.</p> <p>It is nice to have one person dedicated to this care.</p> <p>If I was in the hospital for a few days, I would want Pastor Rick to visit at least once. If I was in a rehab center for an extended amount of time, a lay person would be fine for me.</p> <p>Any person on staff that the Pastor approves would be preferable (to a volunteer).</p> <p>Frequency of visits (if any at all) would depend on how I was feeling &amp; the reason for being out of my home. If visits were requested, I would like "the real thing"—not a volunteer.</p> <p>In all cases of "visitation," I would accept a phone call to "check-in" in place of an actual visit.</p> <p>Dedicated volunteers are valued. Yet I thirst for career-devoted pastoral leadership, which also lessens the burden on Pastor Rick</p>	<p>Not needed—the church is too small to justify a second pastor. The current pastor is already paid to do this WORK.</p> <p>At this time, I don't think we have sufficient attendance to warrant another pastor or intern. I don't have the Lutheran interest in prayer, prayer chains, etc. At times I view it as an invasion of privacy. Some of it is related to my need to comply with HIPPA regulations.</p> <p>Lay volunteer can certainly help. All depends on how many lay volunteers agree to help. Reinstating Stephen Ministries would certainly solve <u>many</u> problems.</p> <p>Use lay volunteers, second pastor not needed unless the present need increases. <u>Encourage</u> more volunteers to become interested in making calls.</p> <p>Lay volunteers are fine! In fact, we need more!</p> <p>Stephen Ministries have performed visitations for years.</p> <p>In 2002, I was in the hospital for 70 days. Nurse Helen visited me and phoned to check on me. I thought it was wonderful, and I wasn't expecting the pastor. I didn't know Helen until this time. When I returned to church, I then spoke to her frequently. It made us closer as church family members. I am in favor of members, other than pastors, reaching out to those in need.</p> <p>Would be interested to know why Paul left.</p> <p>Substitute bible study teacher would be okay if prepared for what we were discussing.</p>
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