

# Basic Church Profile Inventory Sample

This is a sample of all the questions contained in Hartford Institute's Church Profile Inventory Survey that can be completed online.

A church that chooses to offer the Inventory to its members to do completely online, or online with an option to have members fill out a paper copy which the church then enters online. Additionally we can customize the look of the survey somewhat, add a logo or photo, change the introduction and concluding remarks, select which questions are asked and even include additional open-ended questions if you are interesting all for the same price. Requests for extensive alteration of the survey may require additional charges.

The cost of this basic service (which includes several reports produced by the online software program and additional materials about interpretation of the results) is a church \$300.00 no matter how many questionnaires are entered. The raw data can be given to the church in a tab-delimited, Excel or other format for additional processing by persons at the church skilled in statistical analysis.

### **The following introductory text can be customized to fit your context**

This moment provides an important opportunity for us all to share together in assessing who we are and where we see ourselves going.

This survey is designed to assist in this task. This survey was developed by the Hartford Institute for Religion Research in Connecticut ([www.hartfordinstitute.org](http://www.hartfordinstitute.org)).

The survey not only asks several sets of questions about our congregation's current ministry and your own involvement, but also seeks your input on church dynamics and your vision for our future.

Completing this survey ensures that your views have been heard and it will give us a baseline from which to measure whether we are moving in directions that we think are important. We ask that each member of your household over the age of 15 complete the survey.

You may complete this survey online at this site or on paper. If you choose to fill out the survey online, please try to complete it in one sitting. However if you are disconnected or are otherwise interrupted, you won't lose any of this information as it is automatically saved. To complete the survey, you can begin a new questionnaire and page forward to pick up the survey where you left off.

If you complete the paper survey please return it to the church so that your responses can be entered into the computer. This survey will take approximately 30 to 45 minutes to complete.

When answering this survey, please check the appropriate box or supply the required information as indicated. If answering questions with a limited number of choices, please choose the answer that comes closest to the right answer for you, even if it does not fit perfectly. Unanswered items reduce the usefulness of the inventory. It is important that everyone participate in this survey!

Your responses are anonymous. Thank you for your cooperation. We hope you enjoy filling out the questionnaire and that in addition to assisting our church, you find this process helpful in reflecting on your faith, the meaning of your church experience, and your hopes for the future.

If you have any questions about the survey, please contact the church at [email address].

## Your Church Participation

### 1. How long have you been a member of this local church?

- Not a member                       2 - 4 years                       10 -19 years  
 One year or less                       5 - 9 years                       20 or more years

### 2. How long does it usually take you to travel from home to church?

- 5 minutes or less                       11 - 15 minutes                       31 - 44 minutes  
 6 - 10 minutes                       16 - 30 minutes                       45 or more minutes

### 3. On the average, about how many times have you attended church worship during the past year?

- None                                       About once a month  
 About once or twice a year                       About two or three times a month  
 Once or twice every three months                       Four times a month or more

### 4. In how many church organizations, committees, and groups do you hold membership (not counting congregational membership itself)?

- None                       One                       Two                       Three                       Four or more

### 5. Has your involvement in the congregation increased, decreased, or remained about the same in the last few years?

- Increased                       Remained the same                       Decreased

### If your participation has INCREASED, which of the following are reasons for that? (check all that apply):

- More time available                       Better health  
 Because of children                       Stronger faith  
 Accepted office or other new responsibility in the church                       More positive attitude toward the church

### If your participation has DECREASED, which of the following are reasons for that? (check all that apply):

- Less time available                       Health problems  
 Because of children                       Decreased faith  
 Given up office or other new responsibility in the church                       More negative attitude toward our church

**6. Approximately how much does your family household contribute to our church per year? (If single or widowed, you as an individual?)**

- Under \$200
- \$200 - 599
- \$600 - 999
- \$1,000 - 1,499
- \$1,500 - 2,499
- \$2,500 - 3,499
- \$3,500 - 4,999
- \$5,000 - 7,499
- Over \$7,500

**7. How many persons or families have you invited to visit or join the church in the past year?**

- None
- One
- Two
- Three
- Four or more

**8. How many of your closest friends attend this church?**

- None
- One
- Two
- Three
- Four or more

## Tasks of the Church

**Listed below are a number of tasks that a local church is likely to perform. Please respond to each item by indicating whether you feel your congregation needs to give it more emphasis; whether you are very or generally satisfied with your congregation's current performance of the task; or whether you feel the task currently receives too much emphasis.**

	Needs More Emphasis	Very Satisfied	Generally Satisfied	Receives Too Much Emphasis
1. Offering worship that provides a meaningful experience of God and the Christian tradition	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
2. Providing worship that expresses the Gospel in contemporary language and forms	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
3. Providing Christian education for children and youth	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
4. Providing Christian education programs for adults	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
5. Helping members deepen their personal, spiritual relationship with God	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
6. Sharing the good news of the Gospel with the unchurched	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
7. Engaging in acts of charity and service to persons in need	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
8. Encouraging members to act on the relationship of the Christian faith to social, political, and economic issues	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
9. Providing a caring ministry for the sick, shut-ins and the bereaved	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
10. Providing pastoral counseling to help members deal with personal problems	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
11. Providing fellowship opportunities for members	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
12. Helping members understand their use of money, time and talents as expressions of Christian stewardship	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
13. Supporting the global mission of the church/denomination	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
14. Helping members discover their own gifts for ministry and service	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
15. Participating in activities and programs with other local religious groups	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
16. Expressing our denominational heritage/tradition	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

**Overall, which ONE task does your congregation do best?**

**For the sake of your own personal involvement in your congregation, which ONE task would you most like to see strengthened?**

## Organizational Characteristics

**In order to carry out its tasks, every church must deal with certain organizational issues, such as making decisions, sharing information, and developing resources. Listed below are a number of statements describing such issues. To what extent do you agree or disagree that each statement describes your congregation? A "Don't Know" response is provided, but please use it only when absolutely necessary.**

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know
1. Members are well informed about what the various committees and groups in the church are doing.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
2. The activities taking place in the congregation are well publicized to the surrounding community	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
3. Study of the needs of the congregation and the community is regularly undertaken as the basis for church planning	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
4. Members and groups get a lot of support and encouragement for trying something new in the congregation	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
5. Members are encouraged to discover their particular gifts for ministry and service	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
6. Lay leaders are provided the training they need for their committee and task assignments	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
7. Every member who is capable and interested has an equal opportunity to hold key leadership positions	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
8. The theological and biblical implications of important decisions are regularly discussed	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
9. Important decisions about the life of the church are rarely made without open discussion by church leaders and members	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
10. Disagreements and conflicts are dealt with openly rather than hushed up or hidden behind closed doors	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
11. It is easy to summarize for visitors and non-members how our congregation differs from other congregations in the area	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
12. Members help each other out in times of trouble	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
13. Cooperative programs with churches of other denominations are highly valued in our church	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
14. The current morale of our church membership is high	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
15. There is a sense of excitement among members about our church's future	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

## Congregational Identity

**All congregations have an identity, or a sense of who they are, that all members share in and yet any individual member stands somewhat apart from. Please rate your agreement or disagreement with the following statements from your perspective as an individual looking at your congregation's overall identity and vision.**

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
1. Our church's identity, as it is, is one with which I feel comfortable.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
2. It is easy for me to tell my friends what is unique about our church.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
3. I have a clear understanding of what our church stands for.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
4. An effective effort was made to instruct me in our church's mission.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
5. I have a strong sense of belonging to this congregation.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
6. Being at this church has made a difference in my spiritual life.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

## Worship

**Please identify to what extent you are satisfied with the following aspects of your church:**

	Very Satisfied	Satisfied	Dissatisfied	Very Dissatisfied
1. The music (choir, anthems, and instrumentals) during Sunday worship	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
2. The congregation's Sunday worship, other than the music	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
3. The way your spiritual needs are being met in the worship service	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

**If you could choose any time on Sunday morning, what time would you prefer for worship to start?**

- |                                      |                                |   |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------|---|
| <input type="radio"/> Before 8:00 am | <input type="radio"/> 9:00 am  | <input type="radio"/> 10:30 am          |
| <input type="radio"/> 8:00 am        | <input type="radio"/> 9:30 am  | <input type="radio"/> 11:00 am          |
| <input type="radio"/> 8:30 am        | <input type="radio"/> 10:00 am | <input type="radio"/> 11:30 am or later |

## Program Evaluation: Education

### How satisfied are you with the following aspects of our Christian Education program:

	Very Satisfied	Satisfied	Dissatisfied	Very Dissatisfied
Children's program (0 - 5th grade)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Youth program (6th - 12th grade)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Adult program	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The total number of people in our education programs	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The times and days our programs are held	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The training provided our teachers	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

### If you were going to attend adult programs, which three of the following are the BEST times for you?

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Weekend retreat   | <input type="checkbox"/> Weekday evening |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Saturday morning  | <input type="checkbox"/> Sunday morning  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Weekday morning   | <input type="checkbox"/> Sunday evening  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Weekday afternoon |  |

### If you were going to attend adult programs, which three of the following are the WORST times for you?

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Weekend retreat   | <input type="checkbox"/> Weekday evening |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Saturday morning  | <input type="checkbox"/> Sunday morning  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Weekday morning   | <input type="checkbox"/> Sunday evening  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Weekday afternoon |  |



## Evangelism

**In thinking about what ORIGINALLY attracted you to this congregation, select from the list below those reasons that best match your reasons for coming. You may select more than one.**

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> The Minister            | <input type="checkbox"/> The music program       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> My friends are here     | <input type="checkbox"/> The social outreach     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> The church's reputation | <input type="checkbox"/> The worship style       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Adult education program | <input type="checkbox"/> The self-help groups    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Child and youth program | <input type="checkbox"/> The denominational ties |

**In thinking about what KEEPS you as part of this congregation, select from the list below those reasons that best match your reasons for coming. You may select more than one.**

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> The Minister            | <input type="checkbox"/> The music program       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> My friends are here     | <input type="checkbox"/> The social outreach     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> The church's reputation | <input type="checkbox"/> The worship style       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Adult education program | <input type="checkbox"/> The self-help groups    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Child and youth program | <input type="checkbox"/> The denominational ties |

## Size and Condition of Facilities

**Please assess each of the following in terms of size.**

	Excellent	Adequate	Needs attention, but not immediately	Needs immediate attention
Worship space	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Educational space	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Fellowship space	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Office space	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Parking	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

**Please assess each of the following in terms of general condition and aesthetic appeal.**

	Excellent	Adequate	Needs attention, but not immediately	Needs immediate attention
Worship space	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Educational space	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Fellowship space	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Office space	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Parking	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Exterior and grounds	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

## Religious Beliefs and Personal Practices

### Which one of the following best expresses your view of the Bible?

- The Bible is an ancient book of history, legends and cultural stories recorded by man. It has little value today except as classic literature.
- The Bible is a valuable book because it was written by wise and good people. I do not believe it is really God's word but it can teach us many moral precepts.
- The Bible is the record of many different people's response to God and because of this, people and churches today must interpret the Bible's basic moral and religious teachings for themselves.
- The Bible is the inspired Word of God and its basic moral and religious teachings are clear and true, even if it reflects some human error.
- The Bible is the actual Word of God and is to be taken literally.

### Please rate your agreement or disagreement with the following belief statements.

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral or Unsure	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
1. There is no other way to salvation but through belief in Jesus Christ	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
2. Human beings have developed over millions of years from less advanced forms of life	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
3. Jesus' resurrection from the dead was an actual event	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
4. All religions are equally good ways of helping a person find ultimate truth.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
5. The Bible has answers for all of the basic questions of life	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
6. Social justice is at the heart of the Gospel	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
7. It is often difficult to live out my faith in daily work, leisure and community life.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

### Please rate how often you engage in the following practices.

	Daily	Few times a week	Once a week	Few times a month	Seldom or never
1. How often do you spend time in private devotional activity such as prayer, meditation, reading the Bible or other spiritual books?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
2. How often do you use the Web at home or at your office?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
3. How often do you use email?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
4. How often do you go on Facebook?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
5. How often do you look at religious Internet sites?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
6. How often do you volunteer your time in social service?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

## Background Information about Yourself

### Gender?

- Male  Female

### Age?

- Under 20  35 - 44  65 - 74  
 20 - 24  45 - 54  75 or over  
 25 - 34  55 - 64

### Racial/Ethnic Background?

- White  Hispanic  
 Native American  Mixed  
 Black  Asian  
 Pacific Islander

Other (please specify)

### Marital Status?

- Single, never married  Widowed  
 Living in a committed relationship  Separated or divorced  
 Married

### If you have children living at home, how many are in each age group?

Age 0 - 5

Age 6 - 12

Age 13 - 18

Age 19 and over

### Which best describes your current household?

- One person living alone  
 A couple without children  
 One adult with child/children  
 Two or more adults with child/children  
 Several adults living in the same household

**What is your highest level of formal education?**

- Less than high school graduate
- High school graduate
- Some college, trade or vocational school
- College degree
- Post graduate work or degree

**Are you?**

- Retired
- Employed full time
- Employed part time
- Not currently employed
- Full time "houseperson"
- Student

**What is your household income range?**

- Under \$25,000
- \$25,000 - 49,999
- \$50,000 - 74,999
- \$75,000 - 99,999
- \$100,000 - 149,999
- \$150,000 or more

**How many years have you lived in this general area?**

- One year or less
- 2 - 4 years
- 5 - 9 years
- 10 - 19 years
- 20 or more years

**How likely is it that you might move out of this general area within the next few years?**

- Definitely will move
- Probably will move
- Might move (50/50)
- Probably will not move
- Very unlikely to move

**In what denomination were you raised? If you were involved with more than one denomination when you were growing up, with which did you have the greatest identification?**

- Baptist
- Disciples of Christ
- Episcopal
- Lutheran
- Methodist
- Presbyterian
- Other (please specify)
- United Church of Christ
- Unitarian/Universalist
- Other Protestant
- Roman Catholic
- None

## **The Future Church**

**Now that you have spent this time reflecting on the congregation present situation, think for a bit about your vision for the future of this church. Please take a few final minutes and discuss your hope for the church's future. What are your dreams, desires, and wishes for the church over the next five years?**

**Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey.**

**We appreciate the time and thought you have given to it.**

**Thank you again.**