



# Parish Profile Inventory

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**T**he purpose of this questionnaire is to help your church think about its present life and plan for the future. To assist in this effort, the survey not only asks several sets of direct questions about your perceptions of the congregation's current ministry and future goals, but it also includes sets of broader questions regarding your own involvement. Simply check the appropriate box or supply the required information as indicated. When 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.

Please do not sign your name on the questionnaire. We want to guarantee that your individual answers will be held in the strictest confidence.

In some cases, more than one person in a household will receive an inventory. That is the way it is supposed to be. Please work independently and complete separate questionnaires. It is important that everyone participate in this survey! You will receive instructions from your congregation on how to return your inventory. If you misplace these instructions, you may use the address on the back cover.

Thank you for your cooperation. We hope you enjoy filling out the questionnaire, and that in addition to assisting your church, you may find it a helpful means of reflecting on your faith and the meaning of your church experience.

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Congregation Name:

## 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 services 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  
responsibility in the church                                       More negative attitude  
towards the church

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

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

7. How many persons or families have you invited to visit or join your 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	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
2. Providing worship that expresses the Gospel in contemporary language and forms	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
3. Providing Christian education for children and youth	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
4. Providing Christian education programs for adults	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
5. Helping members deepen their personal, spiritual relationship with God	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
6. Sharing the good news of the Gospel with the unchurched	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
7. Engaging in acts of charity and service to persons in need	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
8. Encouraging members to act on the relationship of the Christian faith to social, political and economic issues	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]

	Needs More Emphasis	Very Satisfied	Generally Satisfied	Receives Too Much Emphasis
9. Providing a caring ministry for the sick, shut-ins and the bereaved	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
10. Providing pastoral counseling to help members deal with personal problems	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
11. Providing fellowship opportunities for members	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
12. Helping members understand their use of money, time and talents as expressions of Christian stewardship	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
13. Supporting the global mission of the church/denomination	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
14. Helping members discover their own gifts for ministry and service	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
15. Participating in activities and programs with other local religious groups	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
16. Expressing our denominational heritage/tradition	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]

Please read over the preceding list of 16 church tasks, and answer the following two questions by writing in the number of the appropriate task.

- 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" (DK) response is provided, but please use it only when absolutely necessary.

	Agreement That Statement Describes Congregation				
	Strong	Moderate	Slight	Disagree	DK
1. Members are well informed about what the various committees and groups in the church are doing.	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
2. The activities taking place in the congregation are well publicized to the surrounding community.	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
3. Study of the needs of the congregation and the community is regularly undertaken as the basis for church planning.	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
4. Members and groups get a lot of support and encouragement for trying something new in the congregation.	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
5. Members are encouraged to discover their particular gifts for ministry and service.	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
6. Lay leaders are provided the training they need for their committee and task assignments.	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]

	Agreement That Statement Describes Congregation				DK
	Strong	Moderate	Slight	Disagree	
7. Every member who is capable and interested has an equal opportunity to hold key leadership positions.	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
8. The theological and biblical implications of important decisions are regularly discussed.	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
9. Important decisions about the life of the church are rarely made without open discussion by church leaders and members.	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
10. Disagreements and conflicts are dealt with openly rather than hushed up or hidden behind closed doors.	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
11. It is easy to summarize for visitors and non-members how our congregation differs from other congregations in the area.	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
12. Members help each other out in times of trouble.	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
13. Cooperative programs with churches of other denominations are highly valued in our church.	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
14. The current morale of our church membership is high.	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
15. There is a sense of excitement among members about our church's future.	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]

## Congregational Identity

Listed below are several alternatives touching upon important dimensions of a church's identity. Using the seven point scale between each set of alternatives, please circle the number which best describes where your congregation falls, "1" meaning most like the characteristic on the left, "7" meaning most like the characteristic on the right, "4" meaning an equal mix of both.

- |   |               |  |
|---|---------------|--|
| 1. Our church is more influenced by history and tradition.  | 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 | Our church is more influenced by contemporary ideas and trends.  |
| 2. Members are similar to the people who live immediately around the church.  | 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 | Members are very different from people who live immediately around the church.                                     |
| 3. Our church is very involved with the community around the church.  | 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 | Our church is not at all involved with the community around the church.  |
| 4. Our church is primarily oriented to serving our members.   | 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 | Our church is primarily oriented to serving the world beyond our membership.                                       |
| 5. Our congregation feels like one large family.  | 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 | Our congregation feels like a loosely knit association of individuals and groups.                                  |
| 6. Our church is known as a prestigious one in the area.  | 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 | Our strengths notwithstanding, our church is not considered one of the "status" churches in the area.              |
| 7. Our church's approach to social issues is basically educational, leaving any action to individual conscience.      | 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 | Our church's approach to social issues is decidedly "activist". We take stands on social issues as a congregation. |
| 8. Our congregation's approach to individual salvation emphasizes education, nurture and gradual growth in the faith. | 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 | Our congregation's approach to individual salvation stresses conversion and a born-again experience.               |
| 9. Our congregation gives strong expression to our denominational identity and heritage.                              | 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 | It would be difficult for a visitor to know to which denomination our congregation belongs.                        |
| 10. Our congregation strives to create partnerships with other local churches.  | 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 | Our congregation prefers to work by ourselves or through our denominational channels.                              |

All congregations have an identity, or 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.	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
2. It is easy for me to tell my friends what is unique about our church.	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
3. I have a clear understanding of what our church stands for.	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
4. An effective effort was made to instruct me in our church's mission.	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
5. I have a strong sense of belonging to this congregation.	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
6. Being at this church has made a difference in my spiritual life.	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]

## 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
1. Worship space	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
2. Educational space	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
3. Fellowship space	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
4. Office space	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
5. Parking	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]

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

	Excellent	Adequate	Needs Attention, But Not Immediately	Needs Immediate Attention
1. Worship space	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
2. Educational space	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
3. Fellowship space	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
4. Office space	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
5. Parking	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
6. Exterior and Grounds	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]

## Adult Education and Small Group Programming

If you were going to attend adult programs, which three of the following are the best times for you? Which three are the worst times?

	Three Best Times	Three Worst Times
1. Weekend retreat	[ ]	[ ]
2. Saturday morning	[ ]	[ ]
3. Weekday evening	[ ]	[ ]
4. Weekday morning	[ ]	[ ]
5. Weekday afternoon	[ ]	[ ]
6. Sunday morning	[ ]	[ ]
7. Sunday evening	[ ]	[ ]

## Worship

	Very Satisfied	Generally Satisfied	Somewhat Dissatisfied	Very Dissatisfied
1. Overall, how satisfied or dissatisfied are you with the music (choir, anthems and instrumentals) during Sunday worship?	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
2. Overall, how satisfied or dissatisfied are you with your congregation's Sunday worship, other than the music?	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
3. Overall, how satisfied or dissatisfied are you with the way your spiritual needs are being met in the worship service?	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
4. If you could choose any time on Sunday morning, what time would you prefer for worship to start?				
[ ] Before 8:00 a.m.	[ ] 9:00 a.m.	[ ] 10:30 a.m.		
[ ] 8:00 a.m.	[ ] 9:30 a.m.	[ ] 11:00 a.m.		
[ ] 8:30 a.m.	[ ] 10:00 a.m.	[ ] 11:30 a.m. or later		

## Evangelism

In thinking about what originally brought you to this congregation and what keeps you here, select from the list below those reasons that best match your reasons for coming and staying at this church. You may select more than one.

<b>Then</b>		<b>Now</b>
<i>What originally attracted you to attend this congregation?</i>		<i>What is the foremost reason you remain a part of this congregation?</i>
_____	The Minister	_____
_____	My friends are here	_____
_____	The church's reputation	_____
_____	Adult education program	_____
_____	Child and youth program	_____
_____	The music program	_____
_____	The social outreach	_____
_____	The worship style	_____
_____	The self-help groups	_____
_____	The denominational ties	_____

## 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.	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
2. Human beings have developed over millions of years from less advanced forms of life.	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
3. Jesus' resurrection from the dead was an actual event.	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
4. All religions are equally good ways of helping a person find ultimate truth.	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
5. The Bible has answers for all of the basic questions of life.	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
6. Social justice is at the heart of the Gospel.	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
7. It is often difficult to live out my faith in daily work, leisure and community life.	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]

Please indicate 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?	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
2. How often do you use the Web at home or at your office?	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
3. How often do you use email?	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
4. How often do you look at religious Internet sites?	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
5. How often do you volunteer your time in social service?	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]

## Background Information About Yourself

1. Gender?

Male  Female

2. Age?

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

3. Racial/Ethnic Background?

White  Black  Hispanic  Asian  
 Native American  Pacific Islander  Mixed

4. Marital Status?

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

5. Number of children living at home?

\_\_\_\_\_ Age 0 - 5 \_\_\_\_\_ Age 19 and over  
\_\_\_\_\_ Age 6 - 12 \_\_\_\_\_ No children living at home  
\_\_\_\_\_ Age 13 - 18 \_\_\_\_\_ Do not have children

6. Which best describes your current household?

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

7. What is your highest level of formal education?

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

8. Are you (*check one*)?

Retired  Employed part time  
 Employed full time  Full time "houseperson" or student  
 Not currently employed

**If currently employed**, presently job-hunting or retired, what is/was your occupation?

- (1)  Service worker: policeperson, barbers, janitors, beauticians, waiters, ushers, etc.
- (2)  Clerical worker: bookkeepers, secretaries, mail carriers, telephone operators, etc.
- (3)  Farmer/Rancher
- (4)  Operative or Laborer: semi-skilled and unskilled workers in construction and manufacturing, etc.
- (5)  Tradesperson: carpenters, masons, plumbers, electricians, machinists, etc.
- (6)  Sales worker: insurance and real estate agents, brokers, salespersons, etc.
- (7)  Proprietor, manager or public official: city manager, credit officers, buyers, floor managers, etc.
- (8)  Professional, technical: teachers, doctors, computer programmer, architects, accountants, artists, etc.
- (9)  Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**Are you self-employed** or an independent business person?

- Yes  No

**If married**, is your spouse employed?

- Yes, full time  Yes, part time  No

**9.** What is your household (family or single living alone) income range?

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

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

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

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

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

**12.** 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?

- (1)  Baptist
- (2)  Disciples of Christ
- (3)  Episcopal
- (4)  Lutheran
- (5)  Methodist
- (6)  Presbyterian
- (7)  United Church of Christ
- (8)  Unitarian/Universalist
- (9)  Other Protestant: \_\_\_\_\_
- (10)  Roman Catholic
- (11)  Other: \_\_\_\_\_
- (12)  None

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*Prepared by:*



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FOR RELIGION RESEARCH

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