

LPC
Discernment Survey
Review

March 14, 2009

Overview

- **Research was done both in Qualitative (comments) and Quantitative (numbers) Data sets**
- **Qualitative data was collected through group panel discussions, whereas quantitative data was collected through surveys**
- **Comments reflect the concerns of the congregation – as they perceive them**
- **Groups included both 8:45 a.m. and 11:15 a.m. worship service parishioners**

Overview cont.

- Overall the groups expressed strongly positive feelings toward the direction of the church and the activities & outreach ministries
- Overwhelming majority enjoy the church and feel they have a strong sense of belonging, being shown care and concern
- High majority feel there are many opportunities at LPC to grow in faith with God
- Majority of suggestions for improvement seem to be linked to a lack of understanding or inability to get communication to the congregation as they need it

Qualitative Overview

- **Majority of parishioners expressed their support and enjoyment with LPC, described as**
 - Enjoying the church because of being shown caring environment, fellowship, family orientation & inclusion, including WNT
 - Spiritual, diversity of services, lots of activities, vibrant ministry for the youth, diversity in people, mission focused at home and abroad
- **Many strengths were described for LPC, which included**
 - Diversity – referring to age, music, service choices, activity, programs for youth, children's ministry
 - Biblical teaching, community service & mission work

Qualitative Overview

- **Majority of suggestion for improvements included 3 major focuses**
 - **Communication with parishioners**
 - **Bringing the two Church Service Congregations closer together**
 - **Reevaluating the Goals/Activities of the Church (including dreams and vision for the church)**

Suggestion

- **Improved Communication with parishioners**
 - Develop or utilize current email network
 - Use of Electronic Bulletin Board/ large communication Board Center
 - Usher 'Training' to effect a more welcoming and informing environment
 - Phone to church should always reach a live person-enhanced personal touches
 - Better communication around 'small groups' and 'prayer groups' and what is available
 - Follow up when you sign up for 'every member in ministry'
 - Review what types of communication are currently available, evaluate if they are sufficient and consistent in content
 - Specific to Seniors - More outreach to seniors with smaller groups/ communication on transportation needed/ assessment of handicap needs

Suggestion

- **Bringing Congregations Closer Together**
 - Develop a way to integrate between the two services more
 - Have more whole church events
 - Identify ways to overcome the disconnect between the two service styles
 - Bring a little of both services to the other

Suggestion

- **Revisit Goals/Activities of Church**
 - Enhance the small groups program with Christian support group, divorce group, cancer support group, college group
 - Be understanding to the 'real' situations people are dealing with, such as divorce, financial hardship, loss of loved ones, raising children, being single, etc.
 - "people often appear as they have it all together, but this is just appearance, and we need to be more open to help those and allow them to be helped"*

Suggestion

Revisit Goals/Activities of Church

- Increase the spending on missions, and decrease the missions donation to the presbytery**
- Have measurable ways to check our effectiveness of programs, missions, etc**
- Increase Local outreach and missions (help those at home)**
- Have Elders be more proactive and involved/ maintain Christ at the center of all things**
- Increase/maintain our percentage of membership as it pertains to the growth of our community**

Adult Education

Quantitative Questions (scale 1-7)

Average (mean)

Question #5

How important is Christian Education in your spiritual walk? 6.33

Question #6

I feel that I am growing in my faith. 5.31

Question # 8

From your current spiritual practices, how would you rate your experience with God? 5.24

Adult Education

Strongest: Importance of Christian Education

Notes:

People appear to believe that they are having some degree of growth and positive experiences with God with current practices, but that more is possible for them. Subjectively, people appear to recognize that the resources are here and their growth is more limited by the degree to which they are able/choose to participate than by the availability of opportunities

Questions 14 & 15 (best days and times) reveal that only Sundays and midweek (T,W,Th) evenings are possible for more than a few people

Adult Education

- **Top 5 issues that are important to parishioners:**
 - **Spiritual growth**
 - **Family relationships**
 - **Marriage**
 - **Balancing work, home, & ministry**
 - **Reaching other people**
- **What is liked most:**
 - **Sunday School classes & variety of classes**
 - **Wednesday Nights Together & classes offered**
 - **Bible Study & Small Groups**
 - **Fellowship with other Christians**

Adult Education

- **Various recommendations for improvement**
 - **Offer variety of schedule times for classes**
 - **Training for teachers**
 - **Variety of types of classes which includes more variety of new materials, classes for younger adults, & Healing & support groups**

Adult Education

- **Parishioners current spiritual practices:**
 - Prayers is strongest spiritual practice
 - Bible study, Christian books, Small group participation, & Classes all are considered important, but secondary to prayer
- **Spiritual growth and Relationships are considered the most important to their adult education**

Adult Education

- **Newsletters and the Worship Guide are strongly considered to be the best way to communicate with parishioners, with email as a second tier choice**
- **Ways to encourage those not currently participating in Christian education:**
 - Time issues, such as change of schedule times or more openings in their personal life schedule
 - Explanations as to why they should attend – what are the benefits to them
 - Topics of interest
 - Personal interaction to ask for persons engagement

Children's Ministry

Quantitative Questions (scale 1-7)	Average (Mean)
How satisfied are you, overall, with the current children's ministry?	5.84
Do you feel the Sunday School provides a welcoming environment?	5.84
Do you feel that your children are safe in Church?	6.34
Do your children enjoy coming to Church & Sunday School?	5.40

Children's Ministry

Strongest: Safety

Least Strong: Enjoyment (there is also more variation on this question)

Missions Survey

Quantitative Questions (scale 1-7)

Average (mean)

Question 2

It is important to me that LPC is a Mission-Driven Church. 6.30

Question 4

I would like to hear more about LPC missions. 5.44

Question 15

What is our greatest need? Tutor/Mentors for at-risk children (64), Support Group for teen substance abuse (62), Soup Kitchen (40), Christian Counseling Center (38)

Question 16

What more could we do to serve Christ in the community? Support school teachers and administrators, involve youth in leadership of LPC, support orphanages, more local missions, partner with nursing homes, more prayer vigils, open gym time, more mission trips, healing groups

Question 17

Rate our effectiveness in mission outreach. 5.71

Missions Survey

Strongest: Importance of being Mission Driven Church

Least Strong: Keeping everyone aware of the work of our many missions partners is challenging.

Notes:

Question 2: The **majority** chose **7 “very important”**. This is a very strong result.

Question 3: There appears to be quite a bit of existing awareness but also room for quite a bit more. This data should be **very** useful to the missions committee as they plan ongoing communications activities.

Questions 4 & 5: Most responses in 5-6 range probably means people enjoy hearing about missions but don't necessarily think this needs to increase. Preferred communications methods seem to be in line with current practice.

Missions Survey

Questions 6-9: Many people have been on mission trips and/or hope to go in the future.

Questions 15 and 16: Areas of perceived further need captured. There is quite a variety.

Question 17: Most responses 5-6 indicates we are fairly strong but people would like to see us become even stronger.

Student Ministry Survey

Student Ministry Survey

Quantitative Questions (scale 1-7)

Median (Middle 50+%)

How would you rate the LPC Student Ministry?	5.30
Sunday School	5.40
Evolve (Wednesday)	5.10
Encounter (Sunday)	5.08
Small Groups	4.89
Mission Trips	6.36

Student Ministry Survey

Retreats 5.84

Conferences 5.33

Building Relationships 4.91

Making Disciples 4.70

Fellowship, Fun & Games 5.32

Strongest: Mission Trips

Least Strong: Small Groups, Building Relationships, Making Disciples

Student Ministry Survey

Notes:

Mission trips really stand out as a strength, with a mean almost a full point higher than any other aspect of the program.

All three of the areas identified as “least strong” (means below 5.0) also have a great deal of variation. It appears that while the majority are having positive experiences (5 or more) in these areas, a significant minority are not.

Music and Worship Survey

<u>Question</u>	<u>1st Service</u>	<u>2nd Service</u>	<u>Alternate</u>
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#3 Saturday Evening Service			
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	3.90		
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		4.54	
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			4.40
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#4 Sunday Evening Service			
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	4.00		
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		3.59	
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			3.60
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#6 Comfortable Inviting Friend			
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	6.01		
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		6.12	
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			6.31
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#7 Presence of God in Worship			
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	5.48		
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		5.38	
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			5.36
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Music and Worship Survey

<u>Question</u>	<u>1st Service</u>	<u>2nd Service</u>	<u>Alternate</u>
#8 Sermons Help Me Understand the Bible	5.36	5.71	5.50
#9 More Sermons on Life Issues i.e. marriage, parenting, work, finances and stress	5.09	5.75	5.38
#10 More Sermons on Spiritual Issues i.e. grace, prayer, healing, the Holy Spirit and forgiveness	5.65	5.55	5.58
#11 Enjoy Preaching/Sermons Speak to Me	5.30	5.39	5.49

Music and Worship Survey

<u>Question</u>	<u>1st Service</u>	<u>2nd Service</u>	<u>Alternate</u>
12. In terms of length, I think the sermons are			
Too long	13	5	1
Too short	0	3	1
About right	113	61	31

Music and Worship Survey

<u>Question</u>	<u>1st Service</u>	<u>2nd Service</u>	<u>Alternate</u>
13. I would prefer to worship on Sunday mornings for			
1 Hour	102	35	25
1.25 Hours	19	25	7
1.5 Hours	3	3	1
> 1.5 Hours	1	0	1

Music and Worship Survey

<u>Question</u>	<u>1st Service</u>	<u>2nd Service</u>	<u>Alternate</u>
#14 Enjoy PowerPoint for Sermons	3.81	5.61	4.94
#15 Enjoy Media i.e. slides, videos (& like to see more)	3.97	6.04	4.94
#16 Enjoy Drama in Worship (& like to see more)	4.28	5.19	4.94

Music and Worship Survey

<u>Question</u>	<u>1st Service</u>	<u>2nd Service</u>	<u>Alternate</u>
17. I enjoy the following music styles in worship			
Classical	67	37	26
Gospel	88	46	26
Country	44	39	15
Traditional	108	47	27
Contemporary	39	56	28
Rock	25	44	9
Choral	69	34	23
Bluegrass	32	30	12

Music and Worship Survey

- LPC Members are very comfortable inviting friends to our church
- Majority of people did not desire a Saturday evening nor a Sunday evening services. (However, it was noted when discussing the results that perhaps these options would appeal to those not currently attending church.)

Music and Worship Survey

- **Greatest Difference Between Services:**
 - 8:45 a.m. Service – liked current Worship Time & do not want more PowerPoint or videos during services
 - 11:15 a.m. Service – would like to have earlier service time & enjoy PowerPoint for Sermons, and also enjoy slides, video, & film clips (like to see more)
- **Both Services enjoyed variety of musical preferences (see Q# 17)**
 - 8:45 a.m. service appreciates Traditional, Gospel, Choral, and Classical music (in that order).
 - 11:15 a.m. service appreciates Contemporary, Traditional, Gospel, Rock, Country, and Classical (in that order). Traditional, Gospel, and Classical apparently appeal to all three groups.

Music and Worship Survey

- **A praise and worship concert was the most desired alternative worship experience among all three groups**
- **Most people do experience the presence of God during worship at LPC,** (but it is sad to see that there are individuals who do not.)
- **Overall people enjoy the preaching at LPC, feel the sermons speak to them, and help them understand the Bible.** (People appear to want both sermons on practical life issues and sermons on spiritual issues)

Music and Worship Survey

- **Vast majority of people feel that the sermons are the right length, and that the worship service should last between 1 hour – 1 hour 15 mins.**
- **Church service times: Traditional service people preferred attending at 8:45 or 9:00**
- **Contemporary service people were evenly divided between 10:00, 10:30, 11:00 and 11:15 (no later options were included). It seemed evident that Second service people would like to have earlier service times**

Recommendations

Recommendations

- Maintain strong sense of 'belonging' and following path of love of Christ
- Maintain strong focus of 'Mission-based' church
- Bring congregations closer together/develop integration of activities
- Increased and diverse variety of communication with parishioners @ all church activities and involvement
- Revisit goals/activities of the church
- Adult Education:
 - Encourage new participation in Christian Education with classes focused on top 5 issues
 - Training of teachers
 - Variety of schedule times for classes

Recommendations

- Adult Education:
 - Continue with WNT, Bible Study & Small Groups
 - Use personalized invitation to reach out to current non-participants
- Student Ministry:
 - Continue outreach with mission trips & retreats included in curriculum
 - Determine how to be more inclusive for relationship building
- Missions:
 - Increase communication channels @ mission involvement and activities
 - Increase opportunities that allow parishioners to know how they can get involved
 - More local charity support

Recommendations

- Music & Worship:
 - Continue sermons with focus on both spiritual and practical life issues
 - Continue variety of music in both services (with a tendency to more traditional/classical in 8:45 a.m. service)
 - Alternative worship experience – Praise and Worship Concert
 - 11:15 a.m. Service would prefer an earlier start time
 - 11:15 a.m. Service are more likely to be engaged by alternative forms of preaching which includes additional media technology (PowerPoint, slideshows, drama, etc)
 - Both services see 1hr – 1hr 15mins as the appropriate length of service
 - Current parishioners did not see a Saturday or Sunday evening service as a benefit

