

Executive Summary The Congregation Assessment Tool

The Congregation Assessment Tool was administered in our church. 254 persons were invited to participate; of these, 177 persons responded. This response rate represents more than our average church attendance (response rate as percentage of average attendance 105%). We can, therefore, consider the results highly reliable. For a complete readout, please review the Vital Signs report that is available in our church office.

Although the percentile of congregational satisfaction with our church was very high (in a field of some 1400 churches surveyed), there are nevertheless many options in our future, including growth, expansion, replication, and external impact (or outreach).

62% of our parish disagreed with the statement: “We are just going through the motions of church activity. There isn’t much excitement about it among our members.” That response rate means we have a **high** Energy score.

St. Gregory’s fell into the category of a Transformational Church by receiving a High Energy and High Satisfaction scores. The chart indicated that although our energy is high, we could still improve by moving our energy level farther from the center.

Top 3 priorities from the assessment:

- Develop and implement a comprehensive strategy to reach new people and incorporate them into the life of the parish
- Expand outreach ministries that provide direct services to those living on the margins of society
- Make necessary changes to attract families with children and youth to our parish

The survey also indicated that we have no critical internal issues that need addressing. This is a very good sign. It simply means that our leadership can turn attention to strategic options that include growth, facilities expansion, or increased external impact.

We learned that from a theoretical perspective St. Gregory’s is a Progressive vs. Conservative parish. This means, according to the survey, “We hold more progressive views with regard to the Scripture, the role of conversion in social change, and the relationship to the historical declarations of the church.”

Another very positive sign for our church is the Flexible Style Index. In relation to other parishes, we fall in 77th percentile bracket for adaptability.

Finally, music and worship at St. Gregory’s scored more inspiring than most of the 1400 other churches surveyed. We scored in the 81st percentile.

Every church exhibits patterns in its life that contain strengths and potential weaknesses. ***St. Gregory’s has potential strengths related to inclusiveness and advocacy.*** The single most identifiable weakness is a measure of difficulty in establishing identity and vision.

Of notable importance, we listed the following three priorities for a new priest:

- Preaching—capacity to inspire and connect people to God’s word (extremely high)
- Pastoral care—capacity to engage people empathetically and care for persons in times of need
- Strategic leadership—capacity to cast a vision and lead the church toward realization of the vision.

As members look to the future, they listed the following top goals:

- Develop and implement a comprehensive strategy to reach new people and incorporate them into the life of the church—preparing people for ministries and helping they discern their gifts.
- Expand outreach ministries that provide direct services to those living on the margins of society. (i.e. homeless, immigrant, transient persons)
- Make necessary changes to attract families with children and youth to our church.
- Develop ministries that work toward healing those broken by life circumstances.
- Work as an advocate for social and institutional change so that society might better reflect the values of the kingdom of God.