

Rector Search Survey Report

On February 25, 2008, the Rector Search Committee mailed and emailed copies of a comprehensive survey to all parishioners. The survey had several important objectives:

- To provide demographic information about the parish that will help us describe St. Andrew's to potential rector candidates,
- To help us identify the specific ministries that we support now, and that we wish to support in the future,
- To measure our satisfaction with the liturgical styles we currently follow,
- To help us focus on the missions and programs that most deserve our attention and energy in the future, and
- To help us clarify the abilities that are most important to us in a new rector and the personal characteristics with which we are most comfortable.

As of March 25, 2007, we received 147 surveys - 132 online and 15 keyed in from printed copies. When considering the survey results outlined below, it's important to bear in mind that survey results "suggest" findings; they don't prove or dictate results. Surveys also reflect the opinions of the respondents, not necessarily the congregation as a whole. We don't know how closely these two groups overlap.

Key Findings

Who we are as a congregation

- Respondents live an average of 16 minutes from St. Andrew's and have been members for an average of about 15 years. But the reported time spent traveling ranges from less than 2 minutes to about 2 hours. Membership ranges from less than a year to more than 70 years.
- Respondents were almost exactly split between those who have held or not held leadership positions. 59% attend church between 27 and 51 times annually. One question on the print survey was accidentally left off of the online version. It asked respondents to indicate their current level of activity at St. Andrew's. Because so few print surveys were received, we did not report data for this question.
- 71% of the respondents pledge, and another 13% contribute regularly.
- 37% of respondents are couples with children, 33% are couples without children, 23% are single, and 5% are single parents. 29% have children under 18 at home.
- The average age of all respondents was 51, but the actual ages ranged from younger than 10 to more than 80 years old.

Our current ministries

Respondents ranked the following ministries in this order of importance for St. Andrew's today.

1. Music
2. Local outreach
3. Pastoral care
4. Fellowship (tied with pastoral care for importance)
5. Buildings & grounds

Our future ministries

Respondents ranked the following ministries as most important for St. Andrew's in the future:

1. Music
2. Fellowship (tied with music for importance)
3. Local outreach
4. Pastoral care
5. Buildings & grounds
6. Adult education
7. Children's education

How we worship

- 95% of respondents attend the 10:30 AM Rite II service. However, almost 20% said that they have attended the 8:00 AM Rite I service.
- 70% of those who attend the 10:30 service said that they are very satisfied with the liturgical style of the service and 30% said that they are somewhat satisfied.
- Of those who attend the 8:00 service, about 50% are very satisfied with the liturgical style and about 50% are somewhat satisfied.
- 79% of respondents are not familiar with the Wednesday noon service; 75% are not familiar with the Sunday evening EACM service; and 48% are not familiar with the 8 AM service

Respondents ranked these programs and missions as most meriting our attention and energy in the future.

1. Developing a financial base that supports important parish programs.
2. Enhancing programs that develop a deepening spirituality.

3. Maintaining the physical plant of our church.
4. Maintaining a vital youth group.
5. Serving a diverse congregation.

What we want in a new rector

Respondents picked the following as the most important responsibilities and abilities that they seek in a new rector:

1. To motivate and inspire us toward personal and spiritual growth (66%).
2. To have strong preaching skills (61%).
3. To be actively involved in pastoral caring and counseling (45%).

Respondents also said that it is very important for sermons to be intellectual (65%), scripturally based (55%), and address social issues (52%). At least 60% of all respondents said that they would be very comfortable with the list of personal characteristics in the survey, with the exception of physical challenges (50%) and a co-minister team (33%).

Next Steps

Highlights of the survey results will be posted on the St. Andrew's website by the end of April, and the members of the Search Committee are always happy to answer your questions. The Search Committee is very grateful to the congregation for their strong response to the survey, and their attention and interest at the small group meetings. Your participation in this part of the search and transition process will be reflected in parish profile, which we are writing now with input from all the small groups. We expect to publish the profile early this summer after it's been approved by the Vestry and the Bishop.