

Parish Survey Results

Demographic data:

124 surveys were completed representing **96%** of average Sunday attendance of 129.

71% of the respondents are over 65 years of age.

Attendance and giving remain stable.

Members are well-educated (**47%** with graduate degrees).

75% live 1-9 miles from the church.

Average percentage of income giving is **2.86%**.

St. Barnabas is:

A transformational church with members indicating high satisfaction and very high energy.

A transformational congregation is characterized by:

- High morale
- A distinct mission
- Vibrant worship
- Open and shared leadership
- Adaptability
- An emphasis on life-long learning and spiritual vitality

Factors to overall high energy and high satisfaction include:

- Confidence in the lay leadership of the congregation.
- The ability of the Rector to lay out a vision for the church and bring out the best in everyone.

The survey responses are consistent with a progressive theological culture that values diversity and intellectual curiosity.

With respect to worship:

- Open to variety, yet value traditional practices and forms.
- Gifts of compassion and healing.
- Intellectually curious and open to receive others wherever they are in their spiritual journey.
- However, in times of stress, the congregation can become rigid, overwhelmed and sentimental.

Top 5 Priorities:

1. Attract families with children and youth to our church.
2. Reach new people and incorporate them into the life of the church.
3. Provide more Christian education and spiritual formation.
4. Develop ministries for those broken by life circumstances.
5. Enlarge or improve the physical facilities of the church.

Church life:

Worship and Music – 95% agree that the music and worship of the congregation are exceptional.

Conflict management – 95% agree that there is a healthy tolerance of differing opinions; conflict is resolved through mutual effort.

Morale - 90% indicate satisfaction with how things are in the church; however, 60% are not sure that the spirit in the congregation makes people want to get as involved as possible.

Governance – 80% indicate a strong trust in congregational leadership.

Hospitality – 76% believe there is a genuinely friendly atmosphere in the congregation

Readiness for ministry – 68% feel that the congregation provides opportunities for engaging in ministry, there is also a desire for more effort to help members discern their gifts for ministry.

Educational engagement – 40% understand the importance of life-long learning, and there is a desire to provide high quality education for all ages.

Spiritual vitality – 36% feel that their faith is central to their lives.

Rankings from Parish Conversation:

- #1 Music
- #2 Faithfulness and respect to the liturgy
- #3 A warm, welcoming, cohesive congregation

During this transition time:

97% will continue supporting the church financially.

96% will be involved at the same or greater level.

92% are available to take on further responsibilities.

91% want the same responsibilities and skills in the next Rector.

90% believe that the church should continue in the same overall direction.

69% trust in the current leadership as representative of the parish as a whole.

63% are comfortable with the timing of the transition.

4% may consider exploring other churches.

Additional Questions:

53% attended St. Barnabas during the last Rector search in 2006.

90% indicated understanding of the search process.

The Elijah Project:

54% attended the presentation about the project.

64% feel informed about the current status of the project.

57% intend to support the project with **26%** indicating they don't know.

Skills and talents for next Rector:

1. Respect for BCP and Liturgy
2. Music
3. Rite I and II
4. Good preacher
5. Spiritual and business skills
6. Nurturing and pastoral care
7. Admin skills
8. Five-year commitment
9. Open to various views/ transparency

In Summary:

We are ready to begin the process to call our next Rector.

Next Steps:

1. Design and produce the Parish Profile.
2. Call the Search Committee to begin its work.

It always seems impossible until it's done. Nelson Mandela