

Ministerial Search Committee Update

Dear Fellow Members:

We would like to provide you with an update as to where your Search Committee is with the Search process.

First, we would like to thank all those of you who attended the different cottage meetings and those of you who completed the Survey that we had developed in early November. We received some very good information that we will be using in our Church Profile. Here is some basic information:

- **Return Rate:** We emailed survey links to 619 email addresses and mailed 130 hard copies of the survey to members/friends who receive the Cornerstone – total of 749. We received 191 responses to the survey so we had a return rate of 23 pct. Having said that, the highest number of responses to any one question we had was 168 and towards the end of the survey where we asked for demographic information, we dipped to 144.
- **Membership overview:** Not surprisingly and not dissimilar to the other comparative surveys from other churches, the majority of those who responded to the survey were long-time, older members. For example, 71 pct. of the people who answered this question have been members for over ten years (133 people out of 187 people). 54.4 pct. of the respondents (102) have been members over 20 years.
- **Gender:** Of the 144 who answered this question, 70 pct. were female and 30 pct. were male.

Age: Of the 147 who answered this question, 125 were over the age of 45; 45-54 were 23.1 pct. (or 34 people); 75 or older were 22.4 pct. (or 33 people); 55-64 were 21.8 pct. (or 32 people); and 65-74 were 17.7 pct. (or 26 people). We only had 14 respondents from 35-44; 5 respondents from 25-34 and 5 respondents from 25-34. We only had 2 responses for the youth under 20.

As you can see, we did not obtain as broad a representation as we would have hoped but we did receive some excellent feedback and information from those who did complete the survey.

Second, we have been working extremely hard on completing the first draft of the Church Profile. It is a 32-page document that asks a number of questions about the history of First Church, demographics of the Church and the town, financials of the Church as well as the more involved questions relating to the congregational life of First Church: what do we see as major trends; how do we go about planning; what do we see as our major strengths; how do we structure our educational programs; how do we view the different components of worship: schedule, preaching style as well as content delivered by the minister; and what roles do we expect the senior minister and lay people play in worship as well as other aspects of First Church. As you can see, all these questions are thought provoking and have required a great deal of discussion.

We have finished our first draft and will be meeting with Rev. Tamara Moreland, our Associate Conference Minister, so that we may obtain her comments. Once that is done, we will incorporate any suggestions she may have and then work on a final draft that we expect to have completed by the end of February or early March. Once that is completed, we then will be in a position to share a copy of the Profile with the Congregation.

In the meantime, please do not hesitate to reach out to any members of the Search Committee should you have any questions or comments.

Sincerely,

Search Committee