

## Profile Survey Results Specific to our Church Now

The May 2008 survey by the Pastoral Search Committee received 100 responses. Near the end of the survey, we included a series of items about our *Mission and Vision Statement* and about the report, *PATHS For Our Future in a Fast-Changing World*. Although the length of these items and their responses has led us to leave them out of the *Church Profile*, the Committee decided to this summary of results with the congregation. (Percents may not sum to 100% because of rounding.)

### A. The Statement of Mission and Vision reflects well what is and should be most important in our faith community.

<i>Strongly agree</i> <u>72%</u>	<i>Somewhat agree</i> <u>21%</u>	<i>Neutral</i> <u>5%</u>	<i>Somewhat disagree</i> <u>2%</u>	<i>Strongly disagree</i> <u>0%</u>
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#### Comments:

Our congregation expresses general and widespread support for this statement as it reflects the priorities of our faith community, but with a few reservations about what is or is not in it.

- Some members urged that we always strive to live up to what is in this statement
- Some expressed a sense of “ownership,” noting that the statement was created by the church community so it does reflect “who we are and where we want to head”
- Some respondents suggest a greater emphasis in the vision statement on Jesus and on spirituality, to complement its emphasis on mind (intellect) and body (justice work and earth mission)

### B. A thoughtful examination of the life and teachings of Jesus of Nazareth as they apply in our world today should be central to the spiritual focus of our faith community.

<i>Strongly agree</i> <u>72%</u>	<i>Somewhat agree</i> <u>21%</u>	<i>Neutral</i> <u>4%</u>	<i>Somewhat disagree</i> <u>2%</u>	<i>Strongly disagree</i> <u>0%</u>
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#### Comments:

Our congregation supports this statement, especially as it applies to the education of our children and youth. Some respondents wonder whether it goes far enough.

- Scripture readings are important; Bible truth is never outdated
- The Old Testament is also powerful and beautiful and it reminds us of our Jewish roots
- Looking to other sources of inspiration and wisdom is also very important
- A few respondents mentioned value in wrestling with traditional claims about Jesus as divine, savior, redeemer, and the anointed one.

In a May 2008 survey of all church members, we asked members to respond to five questions that reflect five of the sections of the *PATHS* report.

(i) *Our church should continue and strengthen its ministry to all people both in our congregation and in the surrounding community.*

<i>Strongly agree</i> <u>83%</u>	<i>Somewhat agree</i> <u>13%</u>	<i>Neutral</i> <u>4%</u>	<i>Somewhat disagree</i> <u>0%</u>	<i>Strongly disagree</i> <u>0%</u>
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#### Comments:

Many members expressed appreciation that we are doing particularly well in this area. One respondent summed it up by noting that we are not an exclusive club with major interest in its members only; we have a Christian responsibility to reach out to those in need.

**(ii) Our church should expand its efforts and resources devoted to education of our children and youth.**

<b>Strongly agree</b> <u>80%</u>	<b>Somewhat agree</b> <u>13%</u>	<b>Neutral</b> <u>6%</u>	<b>Somewhat disagree</b> <u>0%</u>	<b>Strongly disagree</b> <u>0%</u>
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**Comments:**

Our congregation strongly supports expanding efforts and resources directed to the education of our children and youth. They are our future and their integration within our faith community is essential for our church's survival. The demographics of our community suggest that this issue will be a special challenge, and our church has identified a need for a full-time children and youth director. We are presently trying to strengthen communications with children and with parents, and we are working toward including children in all aspects of worship.

**(iii) Our church should work in specific ways to promote peace among all people and justice for all persons.**

<b>Strongly agree</b> <u>75%</u>	<b>Somewhat agree</b> <u>16%</u>	<b>Neutral</b> <u>5%</u>	<b>Somewhat disagree</b> <u>3%</u>	<b>Strongly disagree</b> <u>1%</u>
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**Comments:**

Our congregation affirms this value. Members tend to support beginning locally and then working globally. We should respond to human needs in deed as well as in thought. Some respondents favor a preference for work in this area without our being explicitly political.

**(iv) Our church should practice unconditional acceptance of all individuals.**

<b>Strongly agree</b> <u>88%</u>	<b>Somewhat agree</b> <u>10%</u>	<b>Neutral</b> <u>0%</u>	<b>Somewhat disagree</b> <u>1%</u>	<b>Strongly disagree</b> <u>1%</u>
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**Comments:**

The congregation overwhelmingly affirms this basic principle of our church life which is thoroughly articulated in the church's Mission and Vision Statement. Further, although the congregation affirms the principle of unconditional acceptance of all, some respondents question whether we are living into this principle fully.

**(v) Our church should develop or participate in programs that promote stewardship of all the Earth's resources.**

<b>Strongly agree</b> <u>73%</u>	<b>Somewhat agree</b> <u>24%</u>	<b>Neutral</b> <u>4%</u>	<b>Somewhat disagree</b> <u>0%</u>	<b>Strongly disagree</b> <u>0%</u>
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**Comments:**

Environmental challenges are foremost in the minds of many church members. A very high proportion of the congregation favors involvement in Earth stewardship and justice issues. However, although support is high, a few respondents also wonder whether the church is the best vehicle to address these issues and if they should rank among the church's top mission efforts.

*Pastoral Search Committee, August 2008*