

St. Peter's Episcopal Cathedral

Highlights of Our 2024 Parish Survey

Thank you for your participation in our Parish Survey that closed on August 7, 2024. The Search Committee received 124 responses expressing your needs, hopes and vision for St. Peter's.

Based on the responses received, we believe this survey affirms that our St. Peter's family is faithfully strong, has a solid commitment to our church and to our community, and desires to grow and share our beliefs with others; yet it also identifies areas in which there is room to live more deeply in our mission to "*Love God and Our Neighbor and Make Disciples for Christ*".

Here are some key highlights from the survey:

Responsibilities most important for our next Dean:

- Collaborating well with staff, clergy and ministries within the church ranked the highest among respondents (98% strongly agreed or agreed).
- Visiting the sick, grieving, and elderly (97%); reaching and engaging well with young people and young families (96%); and preaching faith and beliefs through inspirational sermons (95%) followed closely behind.
- Also of importance to respondents was the ability to develop and strengthen lay leadership (94%), to be open and inclusive of other spiritual leaders (93%), to counsel members (93%), and to lead Christian formation (93%).

The majority of respondents are looking for a pastor:

- Who can relate Scripture to daily life (71% strongly agreed or agreed).
- Who is personal and engaging (also 71%).
- Respondents also indicated in comments the desire for a leader who energizes our congregation with God's joy, is inclusive and welcoming to all, and has a loving concern for all God's people.

Our vision of who we are today:

- While most respondents feel connected to St. Peter's (77% strongly agreed or agreed), a significant number do not feel connected (23% were undecided or disagreed).
- Nearly half of respondents were undecided or disagreed that we have an inclusive culture (51% strongly agreed or agreed and 49% were undecided, disagreed or strongly disagreed).
- Most agreed we offer the right amount of worship services and stream the right amount online (80% and 73% strongly agreed or agreed, respectively).

Our vision of what we "should be":

- Welcoming visitors and embracing new members was of the utmost importance to respondents (99% strongly agreed or agreed).

- Liturgy as well as care and support by church members of the sick, bereaved, troubled, and homebound were also rated highly (96% and 95%, respectively).
- Respondents saw importance in Youth Group and Sunday School (91% and 89%, respectively).

Our church family:

- 75% of respondents reported being sixty years of age or older, while 72% reported being actively involved in church and community ministries.
- Attendance at St. Peter's over the years shows we are a committed, faithful community. One-third of respondents have attended for 21 or more years and 8 identified as lifetime members (21% indicated <5 years, 20% 5-10 years, 20% 11-20 years).
- We are almost evenly divided in numbers between attending 8:00 am and 10:15 am services (46% and 49%, respectively).
- Our combined summer service at 9:00 am has drawn both high numbers in attendance and positive comments for continuing with one service either on a weekly basis or during summer sessions.
- An evening service with more contemporary liturgy and music, Taizé services, and evening activities to accommodate working schedules were common recommendations.
- Families with young children make up a smaller percentage of our present-day community; however, there is a strong desire noted in comments that reaching out to, drawing in, and engaging young families as well as young adults is very important to the continued health and growth of St. Peter's.

As we continue our journey of discernment for a new Dean, your responses help guide us in our search for candidates that align with the needs and aspirations of our community. We will continue to provide updates and information as we move through this process.

Many thanks!

Your Search Committee:

Grace Berger
 Dan Carlson-Thompson
 Sandy Gumbert
 Scott Hibbard
 Barbara Hoag

Keri Jaynes
 Janet Kirkland
 Darcy O'Dell
 Melinda Schell
 Hope Stockwell