



Responses to the 2020 St. John's Congregational Survey

These responses will be the starting point for the discussion at our December 20 Town Hall meeting. Your input will be a major component of the description of St. John's in the church profile information that will be shared with candidates for rector.

We hope you will join us immediately following Sunday's service. Your thoughts are very much desired.

A condensed version of this will be shown at the meeting.

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Q1: My age falls within this range:

Answered: 36 Skipped: 1

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
18-29	0.00%	0
30-40	8.33%	3
41-55	13.89%	5
56-69	25.00%	9
70 and above	52.78%	19
Rather not say	0.00%	0
TOTAL		36

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Q2: My gender

Answered: 35 Skipped: 2

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Male	42.86%	15
Female	57.14%	20
TOTAL		35

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Q3: The highest level of education I have attained

Answered: 35 Skipped: 2

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Student in Grades 6–12	0.00%	0
High School	5.71%	2
Vocational Training	0.00%	0
College	31.43%	11
Graduate studies	62.86%	22
TOTAL		35

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Q4: I would describe my current employment status as

Answered: 35 Skipped: 2

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Employed	25.71%	9
Unemployed	0.00%	0
Retired	68.57%	24
At-home parent	0.00%	0
Student	0.00%	0
Other (please specify)	5.71%	2
TOTAL		35

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Q5: I would describe my marital status as

Answered: 36 Skipped: 1

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Single	5.56%	2
Married	72.22%	26
Separated	0.00%	0
Long-term relationship	2.78%	1
Divorced	5.56%	2
Widowed	13.89%	5
Other (please specify)	0.00%	0
TOTAL		36

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Q6: My family includes children of the following ages

Answered: 26 Skipped: 11

ANSWER CHOICES	AVERAGE NUMBER	TOTAL NUMBER	RESPONSES
N/A	0	0	5
# pre-kindergarten children	0	0	1
# elementary school children	1	2	2
# middle or high school children	9	17	2
# Adult children at home or at college	4	29	7
# Adult children no longer living at home	2	37	16
Total Respondents: 26			

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Q7: The distance I live from St. John's Church is

Answered: 36 Skipped: 1

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
less than 5 miles	63.89% 23
5–10 miles	22.22% 8
11–15 miles	2.78% 1
16–20 miles	8.33% 3
21–30 miles	0.00% 0
31–40 miles	2.78% 1
41–60 miles	0.00% 0
Currently I do not live locally	0.00% 0
TOTAL	36

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Q8: How do you most commonly get to St. John's?

Answered: 35 Skipped: 2

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
I travel in a car	80.00%	28
I take public transportation	0.00%	0
I take a taxi/rideshare	0.00%	0
I come with a friend	2.86%	1
I walk	11.43%	4
I ride a bike	5.71%	2
TOTAL		35

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Q9: I was raised in the following denomination or faith

Answered: 35 Skipped: 2

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Episcopal	31.43%	11
Lutheran	2.86%	1
Methodist	2.86%	1
Baptist	11.43%	4
Roman Catholic	34.29%	12
Presbyterian	0.00%	0
Jewish	0.00%	0
None	0.00%	0
Other (please specify)	17.14%	6
TOTAL		35

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Q10: I have been a confirmed or received Episcopalian for:

Answered: 37 Skipped: 0

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
2 yrs or less	0.00%	0
3-5 yrs	2.70%	1
6-10 yrs	8.11%	3
11-20 yrs	16.22%	6
more than 20 yrs	59.46%	22
Not confirmed	13.51%	5
TOTAL		37

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Q11: How long have you attended St. John's?

Answered: 37 Skipped: 0

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
2 yrs or less	8.11%	3
3-5 yrs	5.41%	2
6-10 yrs	13.51%	5
11-20 yrs	35.14%	13
more than 20 yrs	37.84%	14
TOTAL		37

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Q12: I first came to St. John's because (check all that apply)

Answered: 36 Skipped: 1

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Nearest Episcopal church to my home	27.78%	10
Nearest church to my home in general	13.89%	5
Attracted to the historical church building and setting	16.67%	6
Recommended by a friend	25.00%	9
I was married here	13.89%	5
Programs for children	8.33%	3
Sampled several churches and liked St. John's the best	25.00%	9
My family attends	0.00%	0
Pastoral contact with the clergy	13.89%	5
Information I saw on the St. John's website	2.78%	1
Other (please specify)	27.78%	10
Total Respondents: 36		

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Q13: I continued coming to St. John's because: (check all that apply)

Answered: 35 Skipped: 2

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
It is a supportive community	82.86%	29
Style of worship appeals to me	57.14%	20
The music	20.00%	7
The rector	40.00%	14
I enjoy one or more of the church programs or ministries	42.86%	15
My family has always attended	11.43%	4
I enjoy the fellowship and social activities	45.71%	16
I want my children raised at St. John's	2.86%	1
Closest Episcopal church	17.14%	6
Other (please specify)	25.71%	9
Total Respondents: 35		

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Q14: Generally, sermons seek to provide greater insight into Sunday's Biblical lessons. What topics do you like them applied to? (check all that apply)

Answered: 37 Skipped: 0

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Biblical Teaching	24.32%	9
Spiritual Development	51.35%	19
Everyday Life Issues (relationships, family, work, etc.)	56.76%	21
Current Events	24.32%	9
Social Justice Issues	27.03%	10
All of the above	37.84%	14
Other (please specify)	5.41%	2
Total Respondents: 37		

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Q15: My preference in Worship time is:

Answered: 37 Skipped: 0

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
8 a.m. service	10.81%	4
10 a.m. service	86.49%	32
Either one is fine for me	2.70%	1
TOTAL		37

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Q16: My preference in Worship liturgy is:

Answered: 37 Skipped: 0

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Rite 1 Eucharist (traditional language)	18.92%	7
Rite 2 Eucharist (contemporary language)	45.95%	17
Either one is fine for me	35.14%	13
TOTAL		37

What skills, gifts, and talents are most important in Clergy?

Select three as “A’s” and three as “B’s”

Clergy Gift	A Votes	B Votes	Total Votes	Points (A=2; B=1)
Preacher	17	10	27	44
New Member Growth	18	6	24	42
Pastoral Care	16	9	25	41
Administration	13	11	24	37
Worship	11	12	23	34
Education for All Ages	8	8	16	24
Spiritual Growth	6	12	18	24
Mission / Outreach	8	6	14	22
Stewardship	7	2	9	16
Program Planning	1	11	12	13
Prior Work Outside Ministry	2	6	8	10
Children’s Ministry & Youth Group Development	1	7	8	9
Music Ministry	2	3	5	7
Broad Church Experience	1	5	6	7

What personality traits are most important in clergy?

Select three as "A's" and three as "B's"

Trait	A Votes	B Votes	Total Votes	Points (A=2; B=1)
Accepting of all people	22	4	26	48
Personable / Outgoing	13	9	22	35
Open to New Ideas	12	10	22	34
Good Sense of Humor	10	13	23	33
Enjoys Social Events	8	11	19	27
Empathetic	9	9	18	27
Energetic	7	10	17	24
Relates to all Ages	8	7	15	23
Accessible	5	12	17	22
Reliable	5	9	14	19
Deeply Spiritual	3	12	15	18
Mature	7	3	10	17

What do you want our new rector to focus on?

Check your top three priorities.

Focus Area	Responses
Grow church membership	28
Develop opportunities for spiritual growth	14
Provide vision and mission for parish; help ministries understand their connection to mission	14
Strengthen outreach into local community	12
Strengthen pastoral care efforts	10
Energize current ministries	9
Develop adult formation and education opportunities	5
Support children and youth ministries	4
Improve stewardship	3
Develop staff and delegate responsibilities	3
Manage business and oversee operations	2
Develop new ministries	1
Other: I think growth comes out of offering a church that inspires and supports, so I look for a rector who can guide us in becoming a church more alive with the spirit of love.	1
Improve communications between church and diocese	0

What do you seek most from worship services?

Choose your top three.

Category	Responses
Sermons that teach and inspire	34
Spiritual growth	18
Fellowship with parishioners	17
Enjoying the sanctuary/chapel	11
Liturgy	11
Music	10
Ritual	8
Other (please specify)	1

Music - needs to inspire - recordings would suffice if a group presence is not possible because of low membership.

What do you seek from St. John's in general?

(outside of worship services)

Choose your top three priorities.

Category	Responses
Sense of a parish family	21
Inclusiveness	17
Community/Friendship	16
Spiritual growth	15
Outreach/Ways to be involved in larger community	9
Participation in ministries	8
Social events	6
Sunday school and other activities for children and youth	5
Adult formation/education	4
Pastoral care/counseling	4
Intergenerational activities	2

How many activities are you involved in at St. John's?

Number of Activities	Number of Responses
0	2
1	1
2-3	9
4-5	5
more than 5	18

What is most valued at St. John's:

The people of St. John's

Almost everyone cited the people of St. John's as being extremely valued, using terms including fellowship, family, a sense of community, love, kindness, inclusiveness and acceptance. This is a representative comment:

"I value the sense of community, acceptance of all people, lack of pretension, and many opportunities to participate in ministry. For a small church, St. John's does an incredible amount. Despite experiencing the pandemic, loss of our rector, and vast amounts of change in general this year, most everyone has stayed active and committed and we have not missed a beat."

Opportunities to serve and help

Sermons, faith tradition, and spiritual development

1

What area needs most improvement at St. John's:

- **Growing membership was mentioned by almost all respondents**
- **Enthusiastic and inspiring leadership, including vestry**
- **More community building with Cristo Rey and the Seventh Day Adventists**

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What would you want the next rector to know about St. John's?

- **State of our finances and the narrow base of support**
- **Need for strong clergy leadership**
- **Despite its size, St. John's is still alive and looking to survive**
- **The congregation is committed, hard working, caring, and accepting.**

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What do you especially want the Profile Committee to know?

- **St. John's needs a rector who has charisma and is outward looking.**
- **Remember that a rector is both a pastor and a chief operating officer.**
- **The vestry and search committee need to be fully informed of options when it comes time for the vestry to accept or reject the search committee's recommendation, and to have guidance as to how to handle potential conflict over accepting the search committee's recommendation.**
- **The survey was regarded as being a comprehensive questionnaire that forced decisions on what was important in seeking a new rector.**
- **More than anything, I believe that we need a rector who can demonstrate flexibility and a positive, open-minded attitude.**

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Our thanks to all the members of the Profile Committee for their work in generating the survey: Chair Lisa Pope, Dave Dunlap, Jeff Aitken, Peter Olivere, Del Hunt, Lynn Robinson, ex officio Senior Warden Sandy Winger, and consultant Rev. Larry Packard.

Our thanks also to the congregation for its full participation and support of the effort by responding to the survey and participating in the Town Hall.