

Congregational Survey February 2010

A survey conducted by the Leadership Team of First Baptist Church, Orillia

Introduction:

This survey is intended primarily as a dialogue tool. With it we hope to gather useful information and feedback that will help us lead better as we together pursue God's call on our congregation. The survey is intended for every member and regular attendee who considers this their church home. Visitors are welcome to fill one out as well, though many questions will require some background history and familiarity. In such cases, visitors should mark the question N.A. as in 'not applicable.' **Please do not feel obligated to answer every question.** It is quite long and there may be a section or two you feel unable to speak to – that's fine. As much information as you can provide will be gratefully received. If you wish to put your name on the survey please do; that will make it easier to analyze the information. However if you prefer to remain anonymous, that is perfectly acceptable. Thank you so much for taking the time to fill in this survey.

General Questions

(Circle the most appropriate answer)

1. How often do you attend services at First Baptist Church, Orillia?

First time *Seasonally* *1/month* *Every week*

2. How long have you attended this church?

One month *+ 1 year* *+ 5 years* *+ 10 years*

3. How old are you presently?

18-30 *31-50* *51-70* *Over 70*

4. Please indicate your congregational status: (circle only one)

Member Non-member regular attendee Visitor

5. Are you presently in a Primary Path group or some other type of Bible Study?

Yes *No*

Which one? (Use the space below if you feel comfortable providing that information)

6. Are you presently in a weekly prayer group? Please circle any that you attend:

Sunday 7 a.m. Monday 7 p.m. Monday 8 p.m.(Elder Prayer)

Tuesday 8 p.m. Wednesday 7 p.m. Wednesday 7 p.m. 2

Thursday 7 a.m. Friday 7 a.m. Saturday 7 a.m.

7. Do you have a weekly or monthly ministry at this church? (Examples: KidzStreet teacher, Discoveryland, nursery volunteer, Family Circle helper, worship leader, board member, usher etc.)

Yes No

If yes, please indicate your weekly/monthly service in the space below.

8. Do you give regularly to the ministries of this church?

- a. Yes – we tithe (10% of gross income)
- b. Yes – as the Lord enables (an amount the Lord laid on our heart)
- c. No – I am not able to at this time
- d. No – I give elsewhere

9. What would be your preferred method of giving? (Circle one)

- a. I like the discipline of putting it in the plate.
- b. I would like to use P.A.R. (Pre-Authorized Remittance)
- c. I would like to use a debit machine at the Welcome Centre.

Evaluation and Feedback Based Questions:

10. I would describe our present worship blend as (Please circle **one** answer)

90 – 10 Contemporary to traditional.

80 – 20 Contemporary to traditional.

70 – 30 Contemporary to traditional.

60 – 40 Contemporary to traditional.

50 – 50 Contemporary to traditional.

11. Our present service is about 90 minutes, with communion going 15 minutes further past that. Do you find the service.... (Circle **your** preferred answer, please try and avoid answering for others. They will fill in their own survey and we often guess their feelings incorrectly.)

Too long.

Just right.

Too short.

12. Please circle the phrase that sounds most like you. (Circle a maximum of two)

In general...

- a. I come to church for the sermon.
- b. I come to church for the fellowship and connection.
- c. I come to church for the worship.
- d. I come to church for healing and restoration.
- e. I come to church because of the urging of family members.

13. My favourite thing about First Baptist Church is... (Please circle TWO only)

- a. The preaching.
- b. The music.
- c. The people.
- d. The children's ministry.
- e. The prayer time.
- f. The Core Values.
- g. Their heart for the lost.
- h. The generous spirit.
- i. Other: _____

14. I find the preaching here at First Baptist to be ... (Please circle TWO only)

- a. Too complicated. Please simplify.
- b. Very Biblical.
- c. Very engaging.
- d. Too confrontational.
- e. Too long.
- f. Very helpful to my growth as a Christian.
- g. Just what we need to hear.
- h. Out of touch with what people need to hear.
- i. Other: _____

15. I find the Children's Ministry (nursery through grade 5) here to be (circle max. two)
- a. Top notch! Great work!
 - b. Very well organised.
 - c. Very well staffed.
 - d. In need of improvement.
 - e. Disorganized.
 - f. Poorly staffed.
 - g. Improving.
 - h. Loving, safe, fun and helpful to me as a parent.

(If you do not have experience with Children's Ministry, leave blank.)

16. I find the Youth Ministry (grade 6 – 12) here to be ... (circle max. two)
- a. Top notch! Great work!
 - b. Very well organised.
 - c. Very well staffed.
 - d. In need of improvement.
 - e. Disorganized.
 - f. Poorly staffed.
 - g. Improving.
 - h. Loving, safe, fun, relevant and helpful to me as a parent.

(If you do not have experience with Youth Ministry, leave blank.)

17. Are there any suggestions that you as a teen participant, parent or grandparent would like to make for improving the Youth Ministry here at FBC in 2010 and beyond? Please use the space below to share any thoughts.

18. In terms of Primary Path (adult groups) my experience has been ... (circle as many as apply)

- a. There are always plenty of groups that appeal to my interests and learning curve.
- b. There are rarely groups that appeal to my interests or learning curve.
- c. My group(s) has been helpful to me in my spiritual growth.
- d. My group(s) have not been helpful to me in my spiritual growth.
- e. I am not aware of what groups are available but would like to be.
- f. I do not find groups to be a helpful aid in my spiritual growth.
- g. My leader has been available to me outside of the group time.
- h. My leader has not been available to me outside of group time.
- i. My group has provided a much needed fellowship and support base for me.
- j. My group offers little in the way of fellowship and support.

Use the space below to record any comments you have regarding Primary Path:

19. In terms of Women's Ministry here at First Baptist Church... (circle all that apply)

- a. I participate in Baptist Women and find that to be very helpful.
- b. I do not connect with Baptist Women and would appreciate it if other options were available.
- c. I'd like to see a Women's Retreat put together that would include women of all ages.
- d. I'd like to see more Primary Path groups that target women.

Use the space below to provide any suggestions for improving our Women's Ministry:

20. In terms of ministry service opportunities... (circle as many as apply)

- a. This church provides many opportunities to serve that appeal to me and use my gifts.
- b. This church does not provide opportunities for me to serve within my interests and giftedness.
- c. I have found a place to serve that makes me feel connected to the kingdom cause.

- d. I would like to find a place to serve that makes me feel connected to the kingdom cause.
- e. I heartily endorse the ministry emphasis of this church to reach out into the city in new and engaging ways.
- f. I do not endorse the emphasis on service to the community. We need to take care of our own needs first.
- g. I have grown as a Christian because of my ministry service.

Use the space below to list any gifts or passions you have that are not presently being utilised:

21. In terms of the way this church does Mission ... (circle as many as apply)

- a. I like the idea of balancing local and global.
- b. I think there is too much emphasis on local mission – the real needs are abroad.
- c. I think there is too much emphasis on global mission – the real needs are here.
- d. I am pleased with our main global emphasis (STEP India) and its work in the area of leadership development, compassionate evangelism (AIDs program, Child Labour Rehabilitation) branch church partnership.
- e. I am displeased with our main global emphasis (STEP India) and think other projects are more deserving.
- f. I am pleased with our main local emphases in the area of addictions and family support (i.e. Family Circle/Couchiching Jubilee House/Orillia Pregnancy Resource Centre etc.). I think these are the main local concerns.
- g. I am displeased with our present local emphases and think other projects are more deserving.

22. In terms of the pastoral care provided at this church ... (circle all that apply)

- a. I think that this church does a good job caring for its people.
- b. I think that this church does a poor job of caring for its people.
- c. I think that this church has made a real commitment to meeting real needs within this church family.
- d. I question the commitment of this church to meeting real needs within the congregation.
- e. I think the addition of a part-time Pastor of Congregational Life has been a huge benefit in upgrading the level of care in this church.
- f. I think the addition of the Pastor of Congregational Life has had little impact on the level of care in this church.
- g. In a church of this size we will all have to be involved in caring for one another – we can't outsource it to one or two.

23. In terms of the Board Leadership of this church (circle all that apply)

- a. I think our Board of Elders is doing an excellent job – well done!
- b. I think our Board of Elders is doing an adequate job.
- c. I think our Board of Elders is doing a poor job – improvement required.
- d. I think our Board of Elders is doing a terrible job and should be disbanded.

Comments:

24. In terms of the Pastoral Staff as a whole (Lead Pastor, Director of Youth Ministry, Director of Children’s Ministry ½ time, Pastor of Congregational Life ½ time, Pastor of Spiritual Life ½ time I think... (circle all that apply)

- a. I think our staff if doing an excellent job – well done!
- b. I think our staff is doing an adequate job.
- c. I think our staff is under performing – improvement required.
- d. I think our staff is completely inadequate.

Comments:

25. In terms of our upcoming sanctuary renovation and updating ... (circle any that apply)

- a. I think the carpet needs to be updated.
- b. I think chairs would make the main sanctuary more flexible for multiple uses.
- c. I think the main focus should be expanding the lobby – too congested!
- d. I think the main focus should be updating the sound and lighting.
- e. Keep it simple! Let’s not spend more than needed.

Comments:

26. In terms of more far future planning, what areas of our building plan most need updating to keep pace with our expanding ministry and vision focus? Circle all that apply)

- a. I think that if we are going to be a 'hub facility' serving this and partner branches, office space will need to be reconfigured and expanded.
- b. Children's Ministry space needs to be expanded and improved upon.
- c. Youth Ministry space needs to be expanded and improved upon.
- d. Meeting space for groups needs to be expanded and improved upon.
- e. Parking needs to be expanded.

Spiritual Assessment And Evaluation Questions:

The following questions are intended to gauge spiritual growth, health and progress. Asking these questions every year allows us to gauge progress and change.

27. How often do you read your Bible? (5 minutes or more)

Daily 2-3 times/week weekly irregularly

28. How often do you spend time in prayer:

Multiple times per day daily weekly occasional

29. How much time do you spend in prayer when you pray?

Less than 5 min. 5-20 min. 20-60 min. Over 1 hour.

30. How would you describe your times of prayer? Circle all that apply.

- a. Deeply enriching.
- b. Very intimate – God speaks to me in special ways.
- c. Very powerful – I see strongholds falling and miracles being initiated.
- d. Routine – I do it but am not sure if God hears or will respond.
- e. Dull – I know I should so I do but wish I could forget the whole thing.
- f. Much better recently, almost like God has drawn nearer.

31. How often have you shared your faith in the last 12 months?

Never Once 2-5 times More than 5 times

32. Have you served the poor, needy, oppressed or disadvantaged in any tangible way in the last 30 days? (i.e. volunteered at the Lighthouse, helped out with Family Circle, visited a sick non-relative)

Yes – once

Yes – more than once

No

33. How would you describe your time in God's Word? Circle all that apply.

- a. Incredibly useful! Truly the Holy Spirit is my guide, teacher and reminder!
- b. Deep and empowering. The Word of God is sharper than any two edged sword and is transforming me by one degree of glory to the next.
- c. Routine – I do it but don't feel any different and seem to be going through the motions.
- d. Dull – I do it because I know I should but I would rather be doing something else.
- e. Much better of late. Almost like God has drawn nearer.

Spiritual Type Analysis and Survey:

These questions are not about 'right and wrong' so to speak. They are about measuring your spiritual type and wiring. Please answer honestly.

34. I feel closest to God when ... (circle the TWO that best applies)

- a. In prayer
- b. In community experiences
- c. In the Word
- d. I'm worshipping
- e. I'm serving
- f. I'm giving
- g. I'm witnessing
- h. I'm alone in nature

35. When I worship I like to ... (circle all that apply)

- a. Sing for all I'm worth, regardless of how it sounds.
- b. Carefully consider the words to make sure they are theologically sound.
- c. Dance.
- d. Clap.
- e. Raise my hands for joy or adoration.
- f. Watch others and enjoy their passion.

36. I think that healing (circle all that apply)

- a. Is something the church should seek for people who are ill.
- b. Is something best left to doctors and scientists.
- c. Is something God grants whether we ask for it or not.
- d. Is something God did more frequently back in Bible days to validate the Gospel.

- e. Still goes on where people have faith and step out in obedience.
- f. Can be impeded if there is sin, apostasy or deadness in a church.
- g. Would happen far more often if we were more humble, more dependent on the Lord and had a deeper faith.

37. I think that 'speaking in tongues' is ... (circle all that apply)

- a. Something God gave for the edification of the individual believer and if practiced properly can be a real blessing.
- b. Something that God used once, a long time ago to validate the Gospel message. It has no further use or purpose.
- c. So much religious gobbly gook. Silly people acting silly to get attention.
- d. A deception of the Evil One.

38. I think that God speaks to people (circle all that apply)

- a. Through the Bible.
- b. Through dreams and visions.
- c. Through circumstances.
- d. Through other Christians.
- e. In prayer – sometimes whispering right into our hearts through his Spirit.
- f. Through angels.

39. I think that it is good for Christians to eagerly desire new spiritual gifts as long as they are used for God's glory.

Agree

Disagree

Value and Vision Reflections:

As we move forward into the unique call of God on this place we want to dialogue broadly about how we are collectively experiencing this sense of call and how we are hearing from the Lord as we pray into it. Your input here is important and much sought after.

As a church leadership team, we believe that God has embedded certain passions and giftings within us that can serve as a guide to our forward vision casting. Please consider our Core Values listed below and then address the questions that follow.

Core Values:

1. We deeply believe that lost people matter to God, and therefore, ought to matter to our church.

"I tell you that in the same way there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent." (Luke 15:7 TNIV)

2. We deeply believe that prayer connects us to God's purpose, peace and power for life and ministry.

And the LORD said to Moses, "I will do the very thing you have asked, because I am pleased with you and I know you by name." (Exodus 33:17 TNIV)

3. We deeply believe that it will take more than this church to accomplish God's purpose in our town. Therefore, we are committed to team work.

"My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, 21 that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you." (John 17:20-21a TNIV)

4. We deeply believe that anointed, biblical teaching is the catalyst for transformation in individuals' lives and in the church.

"All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, 17 so that all God's people may be thoroughly equipped for every good work." (2 Timothy 3:16 TNIV)

5. We deeply believe that our Gospel presentation to this culture must involve more than words. The Gospel must also be presented in tangible, fleshy ways.

"What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if people claim to have faith but have no deeds? Can such faith save them?" (James 2:14 TNIV)

6. We deeply believe that as Christians we must maintain intentional presence within our streets and neighbourhoods in order to be salt and light.

"You are the salt of the earth... You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden." (Matthew 5:13-14 TNIV)

7. We deeply believe that the church should be culturally relevant while remaining doctrinally true.

"I have become all things to all people so that by all possible means I might save some." (1 Corinthians 9:20 TNIV)

8. We deeply believe that loving relationships should permeate every aspect of church life.

"May the Lord make your love increase and overflow for each other and for everyone else, just as ours does for you." (1 Thessalonians 3:12 TNIV)

40. In terms of the above listed Core Values I find that I am in wholehearted agreement with: (circle the answer that most reflects your conviction)

- a. All of them. We should pay close attention to these God given values as we move forward.
- b. None of them. The process needs to be done over again.
- c. Most of them. I disagree with number(s) : _____

41. In terms of the above listed Core Values which values have the most ministry wrapped around them? By that we mean, which Values are exerting the most influence on our ministry planning? For example, does Value #2 get reflected in ministry planning? Are there prayer groups and prayer programs that would reflect that value? Circle any values that you feel are adequately reflected in our ministry planning:

CV1	CV2	CV3	CV4	CV5	CV6
CV7	CV8				

42. In terms of the above listed Core Values which values have the least ministry wrapped around them? By that we mean, which Values are not exerting enough influence on our ministry planning? For example, does Value #2 get reflected ENOUGH in ministry planning? Are there ENOUGH prayer groups and prayer programs that would reflect that value? Circle any values that you feel are inadequately reflected in our ministry planning:

CV1 CV2 CV3 CV4 CV5 CV6
CV7 CV8

43. As a church leadership team we also identified some supporting values. These are values that the Lord has pressed on us recently that will exert influence over the next planning cycle. They are listed below:

1. We deeply believe in the Lordship of Jesus Christ over every believer and over the life of the church.

"Why do you call Me, 'Lord, Lord,' and do not do what I tell you?" (Luke 6:46. NRSV)

2. We deeply believe in the importance of holiness and consecration for the leaders, the members and the entire church body.

"Instead, as he who called you is holy, be holy yourselves in all your conduct". (1 Peter 1:15. NRSV)

3. We deeply believe that it will take a team of gifted, empowered leaders and servants to accomplish God's call.

"The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, 12. to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ" (Ephesians 4:11-12. NRSV)

4. We deeply believe in the ministry of the Holy Spirit in the believer and in the church.

"To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good." (1 Corinthians 12:7. NRSV)

5. We deeply believe that full devotion to Christ and his cause ought to be normal for every believer.

"Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me; and whoever does not take up the cross and follow me is not worthy of me." (Mathew 10:37-38. NRSV)

If these value promptings are of the Lord, they must result in certain actions and emphases on our part. Consider the list of POTENTIAL responses to the above listed values. Please circle any you think would be reasonable responses to what we believe are promptings from the Lord.

- a. If we really think the matter of Lordship is so important, we better be a little more intentional with our disciple making efforts.
- b. If we really think holiness is so important, we better emphasis humility when it comes to sin. We'll need to get a little more comfortable with confession and repentance.
- c. If we really think holiness is so important, particularly among the leadership, we'll need to take our Nominating process more seriously. We'll also need to make better use of our Servants' Pledge process. The higher the level of service and leadership the more important these matters become.

- d. If we really think that it takes a team of diversely gifted leaders and servants to accomplish God's call we'll need to improve our attitude towards working with others. We may also need to bring in some people who have certain gifts we lack.
- e. If we really value the ministry of the Holy Spirit we may require some more teaching on that to ensure we are positioned to receive it and participate fully in it. We cannot simply cherish old opinions out of habit.
- f. If we really believe in the concept of full devotion for every believer, we may need to be more committed to all forms of correction and sanctification. We can't just blow kisses at each other. From time to time we may have to rebuke, confront and even discipline. We need to get in line together, as a body.

Comments:

44. At the November Vision Casting meeting we introduced the term 'overflow church' to describe our sense of near future vision. We said that the critical issues for an overflow church are as follows:

- 1. Source (The Holy Spirit)
 - Worship
 - Prayer
 - The Ministry of the Word
- 2. Flow (The Health Of The Church)
 - Contaminates
 - Obstructions
 - Capacity
- 3. Utility (The Effect Of Our Presence)
 - Proximity
 - Relevance
 - Impact
- 4. Connection (The Point Of Partnership)
 - Compatibility
 - Communication
 - Collaboration

In order to move into this vision of ministry we identified some short term priorities listed below:

- a. Leadership development
- b. Prayer ministry development
- c. Careful communication
- d. Shock and snake (removing obstructions to our spiritual functioning)
- e. Priming (getting partnership ministries up and running)

Are there any short term priorities that we have missed that need to be added if we are to successfully move our church into this vision trajectory? Are there any aspects of this plan that make you nervous or concerned? Use the space below to provide your feedback.

45. In January of this year we launched the first active phase of our overflow vision by engaging the Orillia Life Centre in comprehensive partnership. This has involved bringing Pastor Mike Knoll on staff part time as the Pastor of Spiritual Life, it has involved extending aspects of our Family Circle program into the OLC campus and it has involved a joint effort around their Sunday services. How do you view this initial effort? Circle any responses below that reflect your opinion at this time. Use the blank space below to provide additional comments:

- a. I think it has been great so far!
- b. I have really enjoyed Pastor Mike's ministry in our church.
- c. I can see how this partnership will benefit our church.
- d. I can see how this partnership will benefit the Orillia Life Centre.
- e. I think both churches will be built up and edified by this partnership.
- f. I see no value to this sort of approach.

46. In May of this year we will do an extensive evaluation of our partnership with OLC. If the partnership moves forward a potential aspect of the next planning phase is to prepare 30-50 people for membership transfer. This means that they would become tithing, serving, leading, following MEMBERS of OLC. No one will be forced or even asked to move, only those feeling a sense of call will be considered. There will be extensive orientation meetings over the summer for any interested parties. Would you like to participate in those meetings, understanding that your participation does not obligate you to make a commitment at the end?

Yes

No

Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey. Please submit your responses into the communication slot no later than March 28th.

Leadership Team
First Baptist Church, Orillia
February 15th, 2010