

Rector Search Committee Report

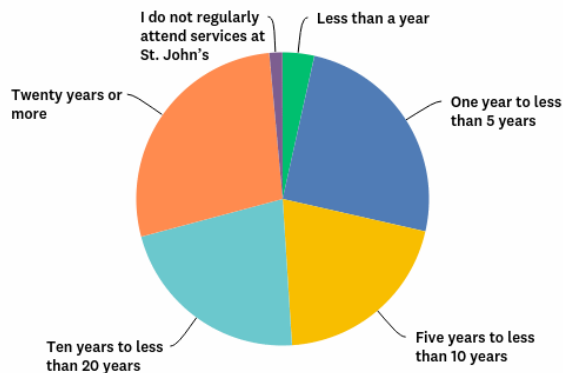
2018 Parish Survey Results



Background: St. John's developed and distributed a survey to congregants in May 2018. The survey was emailed to more than 700 individuals and was posted on the St. John's website and advertised in St. John's internal publications. There was an overwhelming response to the survey as nearly 350 people submitted a response. The purpose of the survey was to gain an understanding of current church demographics and to find out what draws people to St. John's and what they are looking for in their future with a new Rector.

Length of attendance was split fairly-evenly among respondents with 28% attending 20 years or more, 22% attending between 10 and 20 years, 20% attending between 5 and 10 years and 25% attending less than five years.

How Long Have You Been Attending Services at St. John's?



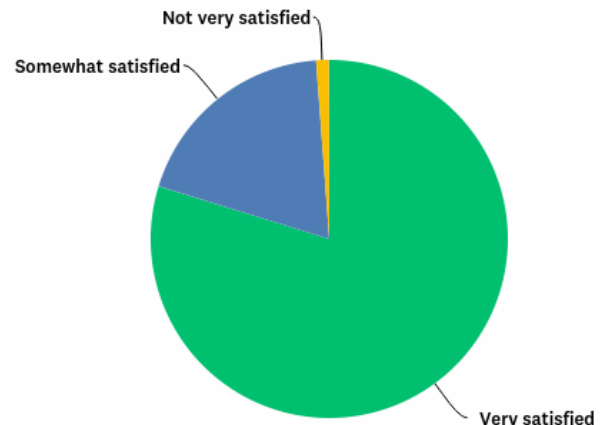
About 85% of the respondents indicated that they attend services at least a few times a month:

- Once a week or more: 35.57%
- A few times a month: 39.07%
- About once a month: 15.74%
- About every other month: 5.25%
- Less often than that: 4.37%

Church Life: When asked about how what drew them to St. John's and their overall satisfaction with their experience, the positive feedback was resounding. Nearly 80% of respondents were "Very Satisfied" with their experience and 19% were "Somewhat Satisfied." 1% reflected that had

some dissatisfaction with their experience, but there were no respondents who were "Not at all Satisfied."

How Satisfied Are You with Your Experience at St. John's?



When asked why they made St. John's their church home, most indicated that they were drawn by the quality of the sermons and music, the rector, and the welcoming church community. Other popular responses centered on the historical aspect of St. John's, its outreach opportunities, and its commitment to diversity. The word cloud below is composed of the most commonly used words in the open responses and the size of each word indicates its frequency or importance.



A number of questions were asked to ascertain which areas of church life were most important to congregants and what qualities they were hoping to find in a new rector. The most important parts of church life primarily echoed the qualities that drew them to select St. John's as their church. The top three responses were: Preaching, Music Ministry,

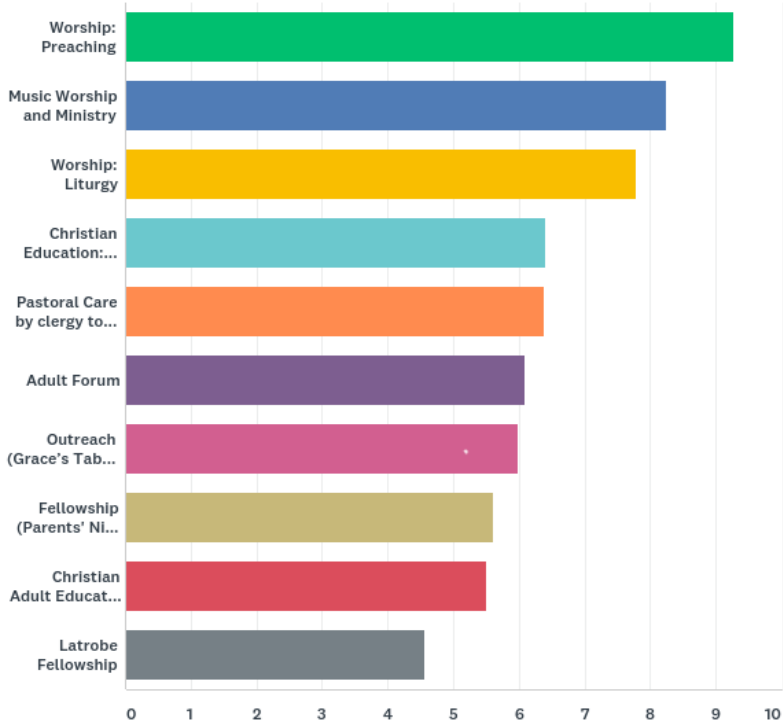
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and Liturgy. Christian Education and Pastoral Care were also important elements of church life.

How Important Are the Following Components of Parish Life to You? (shown in order of respondent preference)



When asked for additional information, numerous responses centered on the need for more emphasis on programming for children, improving the Sunday School program, and creating a more engaging community for families with children.

"I would hope the new Rector and Vestry would conduct a comprehensive evaluation of the role of children in the parish."

"...Most young families move on after a few years."

"More opportunities for families with children to meet."

"More commitment to Sunday School for Children."

In addition to engaging families, many expressed an interest in having more parish events that offer an opportunity for fellowship. Suggestions included groups for singles, older parishioners, and LGBT parishioners. Some felt the church should make more of an effort to welcome newcomers and offer events to help people establish meaningful relationships with other parishioners.

"There should be more active welcoming of newcomers, learning their names, encouraging them to come back next week, etc. I felt fairly anonymous for quite a long time"

"Having more community building events or any other events can connect each parishioner."

"More interest groups: Lunch Bunch, Dinner Out, Bridge, Travel...more opportunities to meet in smaller groups."

Many wanted a greater focus on pastoral care and to establish a more vibrant Christian Education focus for all ages.

"Add programming to Adult Forum that relates to Christian formation, spirituality, church history."

There were numerous suggestions as to changes in liturgy and music. A number of responses indicated an interest in offering morning prayer services periodically. Also, several suggested that the music program could be enhanced.

Rector Search: Parishioners were asked to rank 15 qualities of a new rector. The top 10 qualities ranked in order were: preacher; liturgist; promoter of diversity; theologian; music ministry leader; traditionalist; pastoral care; manager and administrator; spiritual leader; and educator.

In the open-ended responses, several desired personality traits in a new rector were identified: warm and engaging with a sense of humor; down



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to earth; able to relate messages to everyday life; and a personality that allows parishioners to feel comfortable reaching out to him or her. Many were looking for someone who is intellectual and a learned theologian but is also able to connect with a diverse community and congregation.

In all the open-ended responses, there were numerous references to the inherent political posture that comes from being the "Church of the Presidents." Many were drawn to St. John's because of its commitment to social justice issues, but an equal number of respondents indicated that they were uncomfortable with sermons that strayed too much from scripture and focused on current events. Not surprisingly, a number of respondents felt that we need a rector who is able to engage with important news of the day without becoming a partisan ideologue. As one respondent said:

"There's a big amplifier on the voice of the rector of the "Church of the Presidents". If a rector engages on every issue of the day, he or she would be seen as shrill. However, when a serious issue demands a reaction but gets none, the silence is deafening. This is a difficult needle to thread. We need someone who is not gratuitously political, but they must have the courage to "seek the truth, come whence it may, cost what it will."

Other comments included an appreciation for the historic context of our church, strong managerial skills, and commitment to stewardship.

Respondent Demographics:

Age

Under 18: 0.3%
18-29: 5.8%
30-44: 29.9%
45-64: 29.87%
67-74: 22.7%
75+: 9.1%
Prefer Not to Answer: 2.3%

Gender Identity

Female: 58.1%
Male: 40.6%
Prefer Not to Answer: 1.3%

Marital Status

Single: 18.8%
Married or Living in a Committed Relationship: 69.5%
Separated or Divorced: 4.6%
Widowed: 5.2%
Prefer not to Answer: 2%