

# March 2016 St. Philip's Questionnaire Results

This is a descriptive summary of highlights, produced to support our "Vision 2025" process; as such it does not include results regarding our future rector. An alternative is to read the complete summary (20 minutes to read quickly, longer to digest), available via our Vision page: <http://stphilipsdunbar.com/mystphilips/parish-vision/>

## Participation Rate and Age of Parishioners

103 parishioners answered the survey - resulting in an impressive 42% participation rate. **All age groups participated**, with the majority being over 65 - reflective of our congregation:

Age	15-22	23-35	36-50	51-65	Over 65
%	7%	3%	13%	25%	52%

## Years as Parishioner

St. Philip's is a loyal family with the vast majority having been members for 11+ years

Years	0-2	3-5	6-10	11+
%	5%	12%	9%	75%

## Welcome and Fellowship

The congregation feels **very positively** about how we handle Welcome and Fellowship, indicating we treat newcomers well, have a good reputation in the neighbourhood, feel like a community of friends and are happy to be members. The two areas of **challenge** are with regard to inviting others to visit our church and feeling comfortable approaching newcomers.

The most common theme expressed in the answers to the **open question** on Welcome and Fellowship was that "**Welcoming is very important**", summarized as: "Welcome newcomers during announcements, even spending more time on this. Done well by a core group; can be done by everyone. Make new friends. Can come second to socializing and church business, but is important. Was ignored at first. Welcome table at coffee again. Welcoming makes people want to return. Welcome made a big difference to me. I felt included. I still remember nice welcome after 40 years."

## Involvement

The congregation is **extremely positive** regarding Involvement - as the 'agree' ratings ranged from 84% to 93% in this section - indicating that we: consider ourselves to be active members of the congregation, empowered to share our talents, expect to be a member of St. Philip's three years from now, are comfortable seeking support from others in this

community, know who to talk to regarding concerns, know what ministries and programs are available, find communication open and easy, and know how to get involved.

The top ideas expressed in response to the **open question** on Involvement centered on **“Website Improvements”**: “Information about groups: activities, contacts, volunteering options and needs. Easier to find meetings and events. Organization Chart. Governance information. Calendar on website.”

## Worship and Prayer

Questions touched four areas: 1) **Worship**: parishioners feel strongly that Worship impacts their daily lives, is vibrant and relevant, they almost always get something out of it and it is a joyful experience. 2) **Prayer**: There may be an opportunity to discuss *healing* prayers as 89% agree that prayer is an important part of church life, while 68% agree that healing prayers are an important part of our worship. 3) **Evensong**: 42% would like an Evensong service, 47% were neutral. 4) **Music**: 85% felt music during services is inspirational to them.

The most common themes expressed in the answers to the **open question** on Worship and Prayer revolved around **“Music”**: “Music is one of the most important elements, with an impressive standard that draws people into church. Include the congregation more in music. Would like different types of music: rousing; Gospel; Jazz/Rock/Folk - Sundays or evenings.”

## Programs and Ministries

Parishioners were very positive with regard to our Programs and Ministries, but indicated a desire to further explore what is appealing to children and teenagers within the programs available to these groups. The adult Christian education is appealing to a smaller group and it would be worth exploring why some feel neutral or skipped this question.

The most common themes expressed in the answers to the **open question** regarding Programs and Ministries were: “How to engage youth, the quality of our music, the importance of outreach, and a request for more adult education programs”

## Leadership

Leadership is well regarded, but there are some concerns regarding listening to suggestions, and a need to more effectively broadcast what Church Committee does and who attends. There were also requests to post the names of committee members, organization charts and descriptions of governing bodies. Concerns were expressed about changes to the Chapel.

## Vision and Mission

The survey indicated we feel we have a clear sense of mission, but with a need to plan for emerging changes. Top ideas expressed were that we want to grow and support our parish, have a wide appeal with good community connection, clarify what has worked, and be financially sustainable.

# Open Questions

There were 295 responses to the following 4 open questions which asked:

1. What are you **most excited** and energized about for St. Philip's right now?
2. What are you **most concerned** about for St. Philip's right now?
3. What do you hope St. Philip's will be **known for in 5 years**?
4. What should the parish **priorities be to reach those goals**?

The *main* themes touched upon by these questions are as follows:

Open Question	Top Themes touched on by 'Open Question'
<b>Most Excited</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● To get a new rector (continuing with good sermons and the new directions we will follow)</li> <li>● About the music program</li> <li>● About our spiritual growth</li> <li>● Change, new ideas and visioning</li> </ul>
<b>Most Concerned</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● To get a new rector soon (someone who meets our needs)</li> <li>● Losing parishioners (also the 'mirror concern' of attracting parishioners)</li> <li>● About Finances</li> </ul>
<b>Known for in 5 years</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Welcoming to all</li> <li>● A Spiritual centre / home</li> <li>● Important to and connected to the Dunbar community</li> <li>● We care for and listen to those in need</li> <li>● That the St. Philip's family is healthy</li> <li>● That we are a caring, accepting, loving, compassionate community</li> <li>● That we are known for our music and performance space</li> <li>● As family oriented</li> </ul>
<b>Priorities to reach those goals</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● That we engage the community and friends</li> <li>● We keep the St. Philip's family strong</li> <li>● Support and strengthen our children's and youth programs</li> <li>● Support and strengthen our outreach</li> <li>● Sponsor refugees</li> <li>● Select the right rector</li> </ul>