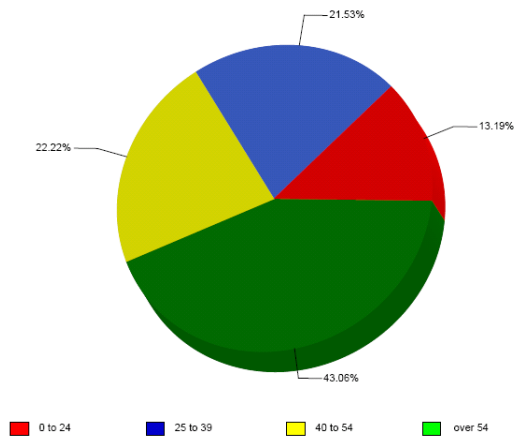


FIRST CHURCH CHURCH PROFILE REPORT



First Church began in 1940 in a small home with a few families. Jump ahead to 2009, 69 years later, and we are a large church family with three pastors, church secretary, preschool, youth program, college and career program, Awana program, Bible Adventures program, adult Sunday school class, weekly care groups, yearly DVBS program, weekly Kumon classes, a monthly Blood Donor Clinic, and possibly other programs. We meet in a large facility which we share with the community. We have a history and heart for world missions. As we look to the future, it has become apparent that before we move on effectively, we need to become honest with ourselves. We need to know our strengths and weakness so that we can address the issues and make the most of our opportunities.

Of the people completing the Ministry Fitness Check Survey (MFC), the percentage of people in the age category of over 54 is quite a bit higher than all the other age groups, with the 0-24 age group being the smallest percentage. Like most churches, we have our strengths and weaknesses, but there are no big issues or problems that threaten our ministry. Our average response score of 4.07 out of 6.00 as an overall satisfaction rate is quite high and indicates that people are happy with the way most things are moving along.

Areas of Strength

Prayer

We are a church that values prayers, which scored a satisfaction rate over 80%. This score represents both the practice of prayer as well as the high value we place upon prayer. All of the age groups scored high in this area. Although we may not attend traditional prayer meetings in great numbers, we do pray, both personally and in small groups. We certainly have room to grow in this area, but there is a willingness to take God seriously.

Care Groups

It is important to the people of our congregation to be involved in a care group. The survey shows that all age groups believe this strongly and are actively involved, although there were a few comments from others that would like to be involved but aren't sure how to do so. There are currently 14 different care groups that meet during the week with a total of about 110 to 120 people attending. These numbers do not include youth or the college and career group. It would appear that most of the personal sharing takes place in care group settings as people become comfortable with each other and are more willing to share about hardships or triumphs they may be going through. It is likely that a certain amount of mentoring also takes place in this type of setting.

Connecting with Each Other

The youngest (0 – 24) and middle aged (40 – 54) groups seem to be more satisfied in this area than the other age groups. The survey strongly shows we enjoy warm hospitality within the church but this does not always extend past Sunday morning into our homes. One expression of our healthy connection with each other is how well our leaders are perceived to work together as a team.

My Experience – Worship

We are a church that enjoys worship in all its different aspects and areas. In terms of worship music, we seem to have struck a balance that most are comfortable with. Each of us have our preferences, but we are tolerant of other styles and realize that what we like may not be what everyone else likes. As a church body, we firmly believe that God's Word is taught by our pastors with clarity, enabling us to apply it in our daily lives. One comment that reflects a large percentage of our body was: "I appreciate the fantastic work being done by the church leadership. They work hard and selflessly. We are a fortunate congregation."

Youth

Our youth are being ministered to very effectively, and this showed in their above average response to the Ministry Fitness Check. They are pleased with our church and their youth leadership and are very active. Whatever we are doing with our youth, we would be well advised to continue. It is definitely an area of ministry that is positively received and rejoiced in by all.

Areas for Improvement

Ministry Preparation

The MFC Survey shows that we definitely have room to improve in the area of Ministry Preparation. These questions related to the way we recruit and train people into ministry positions and how we track their ministry within the church. We feel we do not have an obvious way of recruiting people to fill ministry positions based on a clear understanding of their giftedness. People seem to be glad to serve and we feel they are competent to do so, but we need to be more deliberate about the way we recruit, train and track people in ministry.

The survey also identifies that the people within our 25 – 39 age group and the over 54 age group (which is our largest group), have a lower satisfaction rating in almost all categories. This may be caused by a feeling of lack of support for both groups, and for the Seniors in particular, a lack of leadership and planned activities.

Evangelism – Connecting with Others

While we speak sincerely about desiring to be a witness and reaching out in our community, we feel we are not really very effective in personal or corporate evangelism. We scored the lowest in this area. In fact, we are not quite sure what evangelism means for us or how to do it and perhaps feel insecure about it. We feel guilty and frustrated, but really don't know how to plan for it. Therefore at present, we do not perceive ourselves as intentionally reaching lost people. There seems to be no strategy for sharing our faith (witnessing) with others or connecting others with FC. We do, however, feel strongly that our Pastors and leaders set the example for carrying out our vision to share Christ with our neighbors.

Spiritual Formation and Growth

The results of the MFC Survey suggest that we do not have an overall, effective plan for spiritual formation and growth/discipleship. Even though our preaching ministry is strong, all age groups indicate we are lacking an effective plan to mentor and develop new believers to maturity. Another observation is that our Sunday morning attendance has declined from 250 people per Sunday in 1998 to 214 people per Sunday in 2008. It is true, however, that our giving has increased from \$5151 per Sunday in 1998 to \$6778 per Sunday in 2008.

Conclusion

We see ourselves as a genuine, committed group of believers who are working in harmony together to serve the Lord and one another. But, if we are honest, we will admit that we are a bit too content and are letting some of our responsibilities slip, like evangelism. With God's help we can choose to face our challenges truthfully and resolve to strengthen our ministry. We celebrate all that God is accomplishing in and through us and renew our determination to become all that God wants to us be!

Purpose & Values of First Church

Purpose Statement for First Church:

The *purpose* of First Church is to be a centre of worship, fellowship, evangelism and teaching to develop disciples who will touch the world with the gospel and a practical hand of friendship.

Core values (as identified in the Purpose & Values survey):

- ❖ Caring for One Another
- ❖ Bible Teaching & Discipleship
- ❖ Meaningful Worship
- ❖ Prayer
- ❖ Missions
- ❖ Respect for All Ages

Core Value Statements:

- ❖ Caring for One Another – We show Christ’s love by accepting and caring for one another through friendship and hospitality.
- ❖ Bible Teaching & Discipleship –We value Scripture-based teaching to encourage mentoring in the faith, enabling people to serve Christ with their God given abilities.
- ❖ Meaningful Worship – We value Spirit-led worship that honors and glorifies God through meaningful, practical preaching and quality music.
- ❖ Prayer – We believe in seeking God’s guidance and direction through the power of prayer.
- ❖ Missions – We understand Christ’s calling to reach the spiritually lost and value the commitment to serve people both at home and abroad.
- ❖ Respect for all Ages – We value **all** people and the multi-generational diversity we experience together.

Summary Statements for Congregational Meeting

1. CHURCH PROFILE : *Who we are*

FC started in a small home in 1940. Today, we are a large church family with three pastors, a secretary, pre-school, youth programs, a college and career program, and so many other programs.

From the Ministry Fitness Check, we found that people are happy with the way most things are moving along. The following is an outline of our Areas of STRENGTH and Areas for IMPROVEMENT as identified from the Fitness Check:

STRENGTHS:

- Prayer
- Care Groups
- Connecting with Each Other
- My Experience – worship
- Youth

IMPROVEMENTS:

- Ministry Preparation
- Evangelism – connecting with others
- Spiritual Formation and Growth

2. COMMUNITY PROFILE: *Where we are*

- 35,000 people live in our city and 55 per cent say they are Christian
- 66 per cent are under 45 year of age
- 11,000 cars pass First Church each day.
- Our city has 100 homeless people
- High rate of single parent families
- Almost nine per cent of children are on welfare
- Youth is the fastest growing segment of the population
- Churches are not prominent in government plans to solve community problems.
- A community survey showed the plight of the homeless. Strong and positive youth initiatives and programs, and services for seniors are at the top of the needs for our community.

3. PURPOSE AND VALUE STATEMENTS: *Who we want to be*

Proposed Purpose Statement for FC: The *purpose* of First Church is to be a centre of worship, fellowship, evangelism and teaching to develop disciples who will touch the world with the gospel and a practical hand of friendship.

These are the suggested core values (as identified in the Purpose & Values survey):

- Caring for One Another
- Bible Teaching and discipleship
- Meaningful Worship
- Prayer
- Missions
- Respect for All Ages