

Ministry in the Small Membership Church

Survey

Date _____

The information provided in this survey will help us strengthen our service with smaller congregations (under 200 members) or shared ministry settings (Cooperative Parishes, faith-based ventures, ecumenical, etc. that extends beyond one congregation). This list is not for distribution. Thanks for your support!

I. Background Information *(Please Print)*

Name _____
Title First Name Middle Last

Street Address or PO Box _____

City, State, and Zip Code _____

Phone () _____ Fax () _____ E-mail _____

My Current Position

_____ *Please include me in your mailing list*

_____ *Do not include me*

II. Ministry Description

Church(s) _____ District _____

Conference _____ Jurisdiction _____

Membership Size _____ Average Worship Attendance _____

Location: (circle) Rural Suburban Urban Other: _____

1. My Ministry Description (Check)

- | | | |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pastor | <input type="checkbox"/> Lay person | <input type="checkbox"/> Denominational Staff |
| <input type="checkbox"/> DS | <input type="checkbox"/> Author | <input type="checkbox"/> Lay Speaker |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Professor | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ | |

2. I serve/work in a

- Church Multiple-Point Charge Ecumenical Setting

- Seminary Judicatory (District, etc.) Denominational Office
 Agency Parish Other
-

3. Our local church organization is

- Administrative Board Council on Ministries
 Administrative Council Other _____

III. My Viewpoints on the Small Church (Please check the appropriate responses)

A. Which ministry most defines the small church?

- 1 Worship 2 Sunday School
 3 Mission/Outreach 4 Fellowship
 5 Practice Spiritual Disciplines 6 Other _____

B. Choose three strengths of your congregation(s):

- 7 Close relationships 8 Sense of family
 9 Responds to needs of others 10 Spiritually nurturing
 11 Resourceful/creative 12 Depth of caring
 13 Makes disciples 14 Dedicated lay leadership
 15 Innovative Ministries 16 Tradition valued
 17 Tenacious 18 Spiritual Leaders
 19 High level Trust 20 Financially Secure
 21 Vision 22 Other _____

C. Which 3 leadership qualities do you believe are essential in the small church today? (Designate "L"= Laity, "P"= Pastor, & "D" = DS/Denominational Staff)

- 23 Commitment to Christ 24 Growing Spiritually
 25 Spiritual Leadership 26 Visionary
 27 Works well with others 28 Organized for ministry
 29 Open to Change 30 Resolves conflict
 31 Concern for Unchurched 32 Innovative
 33 Able to Implement Plans 34 Listens and gathers information
 35 Preaches Relevant Sermons 36 Leads effectively
 37 Involved in mission 38 Good sense of humor
 39 Person of Integrity 40 Good communication skills
 41 Knows Denomination 42 Biblically literate
 43 Reliable 44 Caring and Compassionate
 45 Uses common sense 46 Knows the small church
 47 Energetic 48 Other _____

D. Name three frustrations, challenges or issues that concern the small church:

- 49 Membership Decline 50 Lack of adequate finances
 51 Connecting to community 52 Limited Resources
 53 Resistant to change 54 Unresolved Conflict
 55 Rapid Pastoral Turnover 56 Lack of Vision
 57 Demographic shifts 58 Rising cost of clergy compensation

- 59 Lack of appreciation
- 60 Discerning effective ministry
- 61 Past-oriented
- 62 Closing smaller churches
- 63 Revitalization
- 64 Negotiating mergers/partnerships
- 65 Attracting new members
- 66 Lack of children and youth
- 67 Inadequate facilities
- 68 Feeling abandoned by larger church
- 69 Aging Congregation
- 70 Other: _____

IV. Ministry Support/Resources

A. Select the ways in which your District, Conference or Judicatory supports ministry in small churches:

- 71 Training/Workshops
- 72 Ministry Grants
- 73 Consultation
- 74 Appoints quality pastors
- 75 Recognitions/Awards
- 76 Organizes Pastoral Groups
- 77 Resource/Lending Library
- 78 Continuing Education Funds
- 79 News Articles
- 80 Events held in small churches
- 81 It doesn't!
- 82 DS (or others) visit us
- 83 Cluster small churches
- 84 Understands small churches
- 85 Small Church Events
- 86 Links with larger church resources
- 87 Encourages parish models
- 88 District Mission Teams/Projects
- 89 Small Church Committee
- 90 Equitable Salary Support
- 91 Provides Lay Speakers
- 92 Other _____

B. Check any resource formats you would use as a leader in a small church:

- 93 Audio-cassettes
- 94 Books
- 95 Booklets
- 96 CD
- 97 Video
- 98 Pamphlets/Fliers
- 99 Training
- 100 Web articles
- 101 Chat Rooms
- 102 Other _____

C. Suggested topics for resource development:

- 103 Funding Ministry
- 104 Children's Ministry
- 105 Youth Ministry
- 106 Organizing for Ministry
- 107 Conflict Resolution
- 108 Leadership Development
- 109 Dynamic Worship
- 110 Outreach Projects
- 111 Sharing Ministry
- 112 Using Technology
- 113 Starting small groups
- 114 Christian Education
- 115 Music
- 116 Faith Sharing
- 117 Urban Ministry
- 118 Rural Ministry
- 119 Transitions
- 120 Other _____

V. What would you like the General Board of Discipleship staff to know that we have not asked you about the small church?

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