

Summary of Congregational Survey

The Opportunity

Our Savior has a unique opportunity at this time in its history as the area very close to Our Savior will grow from 96,127 to 129,552, a growth of 33,425 in the short space of 5 years and the community will also rapidly grow. Many of the people who will move here will not be connected to Jesus and His Kingdom. A bold Kingdom vision and heart for lost people will be required if the disciples at Our Savior are to have a significant role in reaching those people with the Gospel.

Our Savior's next Senior Pastor will be key to this kind of vision. While providing care and equipping of the present flock is important and necessary, Our Savior's next Pastor will have opportunity to lead the church into a new era of growth, health and vitality as it reaches out with the Gospel in creative ways as the hands and feet of Jesus.

Visionary Leadership is Desired

The Pastor should be a visionary leader who can create and articulate a picture of a preferred future for a congregation. Responses would suggest that the congregation is ready and willing to be equipped for leadership and follow a visionary leader. Survey comments also suggest that the new Senior Pastor will need to do this in the context of being a good listener, diplomatic, understanding, positive, personal, etc.

Skill and Energy in Preaching, Active in Evangelism

Skills and energy in preaching, developing meaningful worship and serving as lead teacher of God's Word are the top 3 of the 10 possible priorities as identified by survey respondents. 54% of survey respondents ranked "preaching as either 1st or 2nd highest priority. While "helps us develop strong evangelism..." ranked 4th, the Pastor's own skills in sharing Jesus with non-members only ranked 8th. Research shows that churches that connect well with the unchurched are generally led by Pastors who do this personally.

Strong Teacher of the Word and Actively Involved in Promoting Spiritual Growth and Maturity

The diversity of views expressed by survey respondents suggest that effective Biblical preaching could take a variety of forms and styles to meet the needs of Our Savior's worshippers.

The responses also suggest that Our Savior members are hungry for the Word and our new Senior Pastor should expect many adults to regularly be in Bible class with him each week.

The second highest ranked Teaching score was "Teaches youth confirmation class on a regular basis". Our Savior members value the pastor's personal attention in this area. Many comments expressed a desire for the Senior Pastor to relate well to youth. While

this is desirable, it is important to remember that in a growing congregation like Our Savior, day-to-day ministry with youth may be addressed by another staff person.

Strong Lay Leadership Development Capabilities are Desired

Members ranked Lay Leadership Development as their highest pastoral leadership priority. Members indicated that they are looking for a pastor who enlists, equips and motivates people to use their gifts for servant roles in God's Kingdom including being leaders who help others develop their gifts.

Flexibility in Worship Styles is Important

Members at Our Savior feel strongly about their worship style preference, affirming that to take away either style would likely be damaging to the congregation. The comments about worship style affirmed this as well with 74 people making comments.

It will be important that your new Pastor be able to work with more than one worship style. Comments range from some who want to see the contemporary service eliminated to those who share how important it is to them. Our new pastor will need to navigate and lead in light of these diverse opinions.

Keep Communion Practice the Same

Our Savior survey respondents definitely do not favor a "closed" communion policy with 62% of survey respondents said this was "least like" their current practice. We much more favor a more open policy with 59% of survey respondents stating that it most closely reflects the current practice at Our Savior

Our Savior members value communing twice monthly at each worship service, reflective of current practice.

Lay Men and Women's Current Roles are Valued. Women's Roles Could be Expanded

Members perceive that all lay leadership roles are open to lay men in the congregation. Members also perceive that roles for women are somewhat more limited than for men, however many roles at Our Savior are open to women. Members value the significant ministry roles which women carry out in the life of the congregation and desire women to be involved in congregational decision making.

Call committee members will discuss these roles with candidates to make sure the candidates are agreeable to our current practices.