

Congregational Meeting #1:

Reflecting on the HISTORY of the Church

Based on our history, we are a church who (some people crossed out this word and wrote “which”)...

... has a history of Missions and youth involvement, as well as member involvement. Times have changed – socially and culturally – how do we adjust to keep up our tradition?

... wants to share government and know what is going on. Do not have theological concerns but want more spiritual nourishment. We are eager to go forward in a healthy way.

... works to develop programs to attract people. Good people doing good things. We want to be relevant in the community.

... has always been congregational by which I mean self governing, where everyone has their say. We are a community that works together to solve problems and determine and follow God’s word.

... cares about each other, works to improve our lives and wants to be good citizens. However, we have struggles similar to other human endeavors and we are intent on meeting these struggles for the common good.

... is passionately invested in this church and in this community.

... has members committed to the vitality of the church and always seeking ways to “improve” the spiritual community by volunteering on committees and projects, instituting new programs, strengthening our finances, while dealing with different views on how the church should operate.

... is a self governing local community of people who believe in spiritual equality, respect individual beliefs, and the priesthood of all.

... cares, invites, listens, reaches out gives. We do bounce back from adversity. We are a church that cares.

... has been active both in and outside of our church.

... cares and is passionate! We want to know what’s going on. We appreciate accomplishments and traditions. We hope to move forward, accepting and respecting differences and challenges.

... teaches the community to be inter-dependent, self-reliant, praiseful, historically respectful, and accepting of differences.

... has place of welcoming and joyous worship. Has interest in helping with community concerns. Pulls together.

... I see the church as becoming less important in the everyday lives of people. We are aging. Fewer people will become involved in the church workings.

... brings support and community to those who have been hurt by events of life.

... has always included our community and have shown support through adversities.

... has accomplished much, but has far more untapped potential.

... are members of God's family. Blessed with God's love but troubled at times. Lack of communication: causing problems. Not taking the time to get to the source. But also works together for many in a positive way.

... which members do not consistently communicate well with each other, yet do our best to rejoice in our love for God as well as one another. We have our faults but we respond to spoken needs.

... cares for others

- local community
- Missions
- Heifer
- Open Door

- Shut-ins
- People with medical issues

Congregational activity involves a willingness to make progress via committees.

...provides a sense of family

cares and prays for each other and those in need

is open to different denominations

can be pushy to engage more than someone can give at a phase in their life

lacks a diversity in its language of faith or any clear language.

... excels at traditions and events, who is a good steward of our buildings, who is eager to grow and expand but doesn't quite know how to effectively, who is in search of a more spiritual and enlivening religious life and spiritual nourishment

... gather each week for spiritual enlightenment. We have a strong sense of a very long history on this very site.

... continues to "work on" making this a place for God's love and praise - for all

... has strong mission activity but maybe too much. Has a strong church community through volunteering, Women's Fellowship, Book groups, Care Team, etc., spiritual connection.

Has few members with young families. Who needs more communication. Church is needy for volunteers.

... always comes together in times of need.

... we see events differently. We lack deep trust that leadership is advocating for us, even when they are indeed doing that. We seek more closeness to God, more vitality, more participation. We rejoice with each other and serve each other in times of need. We need a leader (minister) like Pastor Marlayna. God is our ultimate leader.

... exhibits the love of Jesus

Celebrate in the Christian spirit in our words and by our actions. Both within our congregation and into the greater community and world.

... has a wide variety of activities and people with various philosophies yet has remained united through its faith

... always questions the status quo! Yet comes together somehow with the grace of God. The ebb and flow of human events and cultural changes in the dynamics of the church. The ages of members, participation in the community, involvement with one another

... works together as a community

... changes over time, as needed

... strives to overcome adversity

...cares about its members

... have experienced a lot of pain, like any family, from a lack of communication. We are a community that is linked by much more than our spiritual/religious linkage. A church who needs to be asked to step up and be better people, to follow Christ's direction.

... Includes many individual or small group experiences of faith and service, but has little sense of who we are as a total community beyond the most basic faith traditions.

... is striving to meet the needs of members and to be responsive to needs of broader community. This church's history is achieving balance between exterior needs/events and internal needs of the members.

... teach about scripture, Bible, God

... encourages fellowship

... have little time for committee work

... enjoy receiving, have difficulty with giving

... have moments/events of great joy

...have gone from Orthodox to 1st Parish