

SUMMARY OF THE CBMC SURVEY ON INVITING AND WITNESSING

Fifty eight online and two paper responses to the survey were received.

A. Describe your congregation.

1. What is your congregation's average worship service attendance?

Responses were fairly evenly distributed from among the three categories of weekly congregational attendance (1-20, 21-40, greater than 40).

2. In what kind of facility does your congregation meet?

Two thirds of responders meet in a traditional church building, with the remainder in an alternative setting.

3. How frequently does your congregation gather, on average, for scheduled activities?

Half reported that their congregation meets once per week on average. Most others indicated they gather more than once per week.

B. Describe your role in the congregation.

1. Do you currently hold an elected or appointed leadership position in the congregation?

A little over half of responders are currently elected or appointed congregational leaders.

2. Have you previously held an elected or appointed leadership position in this or another congregation?

A large majority have been in leadership roles in their current or a previous congregation at some time.

3. In what area(s) of ministry are you most active in your congregation?

Responders are active in a wide range of ministry roles with worship being the most frequently indicated.

4. Please indicate your age range.

A large majority listed their age range as 36 to 65. The next largest group is 66 and over. Only 7 of 60 are 35 or younger. Four in the 18 to 25 range responded. No one under 18 responded.

C. Put yourself in the position of a first-time visitor to your congregation (not a family member).

1. Check the top three categories that you, as a visitor, would find most appealing about your experience.

When asked to consider the experience of a visitor, the most commonly reported strengths involved greeting, acceptance and worship. Educational programs and outreach ministry were the least frequent responses.

2. Check the top three categories that you, as a visitor, would find least appealing about your experience.

The most common weaknesses in the eyes of a visitor were related to facility, educational program and fellowship activities. However, all categories received significant responses.

D. Consider your actual experience inviting people to your congregation.

1. Which word best describes how you feel about inviting people to your congregation?

About one-quarter of responders indicated they are "willing" to invite people to their congregation. About half indicated they are less than willing likely to invite.

2. What do you see as your greatest barrier to inviting people to your congregation?

The greatest barrier to inviting is uncertainty about the quality of the experience likely on any given Sunday. Almost as common is the observation that most people they know already go to church somewhere else.

3. What is your greatest motivation to inviting people to your congregation?

The greatest motivation to inviting is a desire to bring people into relationship with Christ and the Church. No one is motivated by conviction about the correctness of our beliefs.

E. Consider your actual experience witnessing to people about your faith.

1. Which word best describes how you feel about talking to people about your faith?

About 40% of responders are "willing" to talk with people about their faith. A significant number responded that they are motivated or excited to do so.

2. What do you see as your greatest barrier to witnessing about your faith?

The greatest barrier to witnessing most commonly expressed is a preference to witness by the example of one's life. Many chose the "other" category and wrote a text reply.

3. What is your greatest motivation to witnessing about your faith?

Almost two-thirds of responders find their greatest motivation to witnessing in the awareness that all people are children of God and in their own encounter with the divine. Only one responder is motivated by the story of Jesus and his teachings. Only two are motivated by priesthood responsibility.