

Asbury United Methodist Church
Summary Action Report

The following five pages provide a brief summary of the church survey completed between June 2015 and August 2015 by church attendees. The full eighty-two page survey results document is available upon request at the church office or can be downloaded from the church website.

Initially approved by the Asbury Leadership Team in March 2015, the church survey tool was intended to provide church leadership feedback from church members and attendees to assist goal setting opportunities. The following document contains only results of the survey. These results are currently being discussed through committees within the church leadership. Action steps will be generated shortly to address identified needs.

I. Survey Population

How old are you? (age in years)	How long have you attended Asbury? (# of years)	Observations / Summary
18 to 25 = 7 26 to 35 = 16 36 to 50 = 63 51 to 70 = 123 71 or older = 54	Less than a year = 7 1-5 years = 33 6-10 years = 47 11-15 years = 33 16-20 years = 31 20 or more years = 113	

The surveyed population attends the following services.

Age Ranges	8:45 AM Traditional	CAYR	11:00 AM Traditional	All Equally
18 to 25	3	1	3	0
26 to 35	0	8	7	3
36 to 50	6	23	28	5
51 to 70	14	44	55	11
71 or older	6	9	40	0
Observations / Summary – One in every three individuals surveyed attends the CAYR service. Half of those surveyed attend the 11 AM traditional service. Twenty nine of surveyed individuals attending the 8:45 AM traditional service.				

II. Population surveyed attendance

Age Ranges	Attend Weekly	Attend Twice a Month	Attend fewer than 12 times a year	Attend only when my children, myself, or family are participating in the service.
18 to 25	4	2	0	1
26 to 35	9	4	0	5
36 to 50	35	11	9	9
51 to 70	72	37	12	5
71 or older	44	8	3	1
Observations / Summary: 84% of the surveyed population attend church weekly or at least twice a month.				

Select factors which may prevent you from attending worship services at Asbury on a more regular basis.

Age Ranges	Not meeting spiritual needs	Sundays are my ONLY day off	Children in other activities	Does not strengthen my faith	Trouble making connections	I travel frequently	Work on Sundays	Other
18 to 25	3	2	0	1	0	1	0	1
26 to 35	2	6	1	1	0	4	1	0
36 to 50	12	11	10	1	1	6	4	0
51 to 70	12	7	0	9	6	43	2	0
71 +	8	0	2	2	0	9	1	0

Observations / Summary: 36% of the surveyed population have identified that Asbury is not meeting their spiritual needs or believe that regular attendance does not strengthen their faith. If 84% of individuals surveyed do attend at least every two weeks, there is a statistical overlap between those who are attending regularly but are not having their spiritual needs met.

III. Service times

Ninety percent of those surveyed shared that they are opposed or “not thrilled” about changing the Sunday service schedule. However, 40% of those surveyed identified a need to re-evaluate the need for having a traditional and non-traditional service scheduled for the same time. Of that 40%, questions about the effective use of church resources and the burden placed on church clergy to attend two services at the same time surfaced through comments. 30 % of those surveyed shared that it was an “excellent idea” to hold Sunday school at the same time as a church service. Of that 30%, 24 individuals were identified in the 18-50 age bracket. These 24 individuals represent 27% of total individuals in the 18-50 age bracket. Concerns about holding concurrent Sunday school and church services include: “If they are attending Sunday School, we would miss them”; “I know some people have been interested in having children attend Sunday School while they attend a worship service. I feel that would make Adult Sunday School/Small Group appear to be a lesser focus for Asbury when I feel it should be a larger focus”; “Some other churches offer that already and I don't think Asbury should offer the same as others, we need to be what we feel called to be”; “Why would we encourage children to choose between Sunday School and worship?”; “We presently have a lot of adults who like to attend a specific service and then Sunday school....it is nice now to see the children participate(choirs/bells) in the early service that might not be able to if Sunday school and a church service were held at the same time”.

IV. Components of Worship

85% of those surveyed reported that the music component of worship is meeting their spiritual needs. Nine comments were recorded in support of the music component of worship. Those comments highlighted the many talents that our musicians so regularly share throughout our worship services. Twenty seven comments were recorded for opportunities to improve the music component of worship. Many of these comments cite the volume of music during worship and a worry that music may often dominate the worship service itself. All comments gathered regarding the music component of worship have been forwarded to the music leadership committee for their review.

85% of those surveyed reported that the sermon component of worship is meeting their spiritual needs. Seven comments were recorded in support of the sermon component of worship. Fourteen comments were recorded for opportunities to improve the sermon component of worship. Comments expressed a continued desire to balance the educational benefits of a sermon with opportunities for the congregation to integrate what is being preached with our day-to-day lives. All comments regarding the sermon have been forwarded to our pastoral staff for their review.

7% of those surveyed shared that the liturgy did not meet their spiritual needs. The single comment shared for this component suggested the need for a worship planning committee. The comment was forwarded to the pastoral staff.

73% of those surveyed shared that lay readers met their spiritual needs. 59% of those surveyed believe that ushers are meeting their needs. However, nine comments were shared for opportunities to improve the usher's contributions to the church service. Those comments reflect a potential need for more training and diversity. All comments about the ushers have been forwarded to the church head usher and the pastoral staff for review. 76% of those surveyed noted that greeters effectively meet their needs during regular worship.

85% of those surveyed supported that the bulletin meets their needs during worship. Ten comments were recorded suggesting opportunities for improvement. Those improvements primarily centered on reducing the size and therefore the cost of the weekly bulletin. Comments from this section have been forwarded to the church staff and senior pastor for review.

77% of those surveyed supported that the children's message meets their spiritual needs. 20 % of those surveyed had no opinion. Comments gathered were limited but have been shared with church staff and the senior pastor for review.

10% of those surveyed reported that the sound system is not meeting their needs during the church service. However, 27 comments were shared citing the various concerns for the current system. Comments included the music being too loud and the system as a whole being inaudible to those in attendance. Comments regarding the sound system have been shared with church staff and the Trustees.

V. Reconciling ministry

77% of those surveyed shared that they are ready for dialogue about how we can make our church fully welcoming to persons of all sexual orientations and identities. Forty-four comments were shared in support of dialogue as opposed to 19 comments against continuing the discussion about reconciliation. Comments in support of the dialogue cited a desire for Asbury to remain open to all individuals while emphasizing that the life of Jesus and our Christian faith promote love for all. Comments against highlighted individual discomfort with promoting specific life styles, believe that Asbury is already open to all, and supported that scripture from the Bible is against same sex relationships. Down significantly compared to individual readiness, 52% of individuals believe that the congregation is ready for dialogue about how we can make our church fully welcoming to persons of all sexual orientations and identities. Twenty-eight comments supported the belief that the congregation is ready to continue dialogue with twenty seven comments proposing reasons for why the congregation may not be ready. Many comments suggest that the older generations are not prepared for dialogue regarding reconciliation. There are six comments in opposition from those surveyed in the 71 and older age bracket compared to fourteen comments in opposition from the 36 to 50 age range. Comments regarding reconciling ministries are being reviewed by the church staff, Asbury Leadership Team, and the reconciling ministries committee.

VI. Diversity

66% of those surveyed believe that there are opportunities for more diversity at Asbury. Eighty two comments suggest that Asbury needs to review current attendance of youth, individuals of different race, different nationalities and sexual orientations to better promote a more diverse population. Twenty comments support that Asbury does not have concerns with diversity citing that our neighborhood and faith do more to define attendance while emphasizing that the church is already open to all.

VII. Church Descriptors

85% of those surveyed supported that they feel a sense of “belonging” within the congregation. 87% of those surveyed believe that opportunities for fellowship meet their needs. 89% of those surveyed cited that they have ample opportunities to put their “Faith into Action.” 82% of those surveyed identified that there are opportunities to explore their faith through ministry. 68% cited that small group ministries meet their spiritual needs. 45% of those surveyed believe that adult Sunday school meets their spiritual needs with 46% of those surveyed citing that they had no opinion on the topic. 46% of those surveyed supported that youth activities meet their needs with 46% also citing no opinion on the topic.

VIII. Church Parking Lot

86% of those surveyed shared that they would support a capitol campaign to redo the church parking lot.

IX. Church Steeple

88% of those surveyed shared that they would support a capitol campaign to repair the church steeple.

X. Kiosk

27% of those surveyed indicated that they would use a giving kiosk if provided the opportunity.

XI. Opportunities for Improvement

21 comments were shared by those surveyed citing a need to address relationship building, fellowship, and new member acclimation opportunities at Asbury. This volume of comments is in line with the 15% of individuals who identified that a sense of belonging was not currently meeting their needs at Asbury. Please note that 84% of those surveyed attend church on a regular basis.

32 comments reflecting opportunities to improve worship were recorded. Comments referenced times of services, changing the style of sermons, order of activities during worship, expanding the CAYR service in both seating and resources, and changes to the bulletin. All comments have been shared with church staff.

13 comments were shared concerning the Music ministry. Comments suggested reducing the amount of resources channeled to the music ministry, placing less of a focus on music during worship, and reducing the volume of the organ. All comments have been forwarded to the Music Leadership Committee.

9 comments were shared regarding sermons. All comments have been shared with the pastoral staff.

4 comments cited opportunities for improvement of the youth programs. All comments have been forwarded to the church staff.

7 comments illustrated opportunities for improvement to ministries with 6 additional comments supporting the need to expand small group ministries in particular. Comments involved modernizing our current ministries, expanding bible study opportunities, reaching out more to local universities, and growing ministry opportunities for both singles and young couples. An additional 9 comments made recommendations for fellowship opportunities including a men's softball team, more "food" related events, and small group meetings at members' homes.

19 comments cited the need to improve the church building. Comments targeted the parking lot, sound system, expanding CAYR, and sharing a long-term plan for facilities maintenance and replacement.

XII. What we like about Asbury...

Over 200 comments were shared citing specific things those surveyed like about Asbury. Comments reflect people, sermons, the music, youth programs, holiday services, fellowship, the staff and meaningful ministries. A full list of these comments can be reviewed upon request at the church office.