

Executive Summary of 2008 SJEC Rector Survey Results

General Considerations

- **450** responses. Power Church database currently shows 2,386 people on roll age 13 and older. This response rate means analyzed results are accurate to within +/- 4%.
- Response demographics appear to be reasonably close to the generally observed distribution across our parish. Exceptions do arise around response factors dealing with attendance and overall commitment. These areas trend significantly higher than what is typically observed across the full population of the parish. This can be attributed to two factors – multiple responses from one family and the likelihood that survey responses are significantly biased toward our active and engaged membership.
- These types of surveys are commonly referred to as human factor surveys. As such, individual opinions on topics can, and will vary widely over time and are influenced by many external factors beyond our control. Said another way, results of this survey can be considered directionally accurate today, but 6 months from now things can and will change.
- This Executive Summary will be made available to the full parish
- In order to manage the context and sensitivity of outliers and contradictions within the specific verbatim comments, this information will remain confidential within the search committee. These comments will be useful for discerning broad themes for inclusion in the parish profile and candidate interview questions. In addition, those comments or themes unrelated to the search will be shared with the Vestry and interim rector in the coming weeks to provide them an opportunity to consider the appropriate response and/or action.

I. Demographic Information

Age

- 13 – 34 14%
- 35 – 49 40%
- 50 – 64 25%
- 65 or older 22%

Gender

- 60% female
- 40% male

Marital status

- 81% married
- 9% single
- 4% divorced
- 5% widowed
- 2% partnered

How long at St. John's?

- Under 2 years 12%
- 2 – 5 years 21%
- 6 – 10 years 24%
- 11 – 20 years 20%
- More than 20 years 23%

How often do you attend Sunday services?

- Weekly 66%
- 1 – 2 times a month 30%
- A few times a year 4%
- Religious holidays only <1%

Which service do you attend?

- 7:30am 7%
- 8:45am 65%
- 11:15am 29%

How often do you attend Sunday Christian Ed?

- Weekly 27%
- 1 – 2 times a month 26%
- A few times a year 25%
- Never 21%

Do you make an annual pledge?

- Yes 89%
- No 11%

How many hours per month do you volunteer at St. John's?

- None 18%
- Less than 2 27%
- 2 – 5 28%
- More than 5 27%

What attracted you to St. John's? (Weighted response for priority)

Rank Order	1 (3pts)	2 (2pts)	3 (1pt)	Total Points
Children/Youth Programs	119	64	45	530
Worship	89	80	61	488
Clergy	71	70	34	387
Friendships	43	70	58	327
Location	42	50	81	307
Music	16	14	28	104
Adult Education	12	16	21	89
Sermons	12	18	12	84
Outreach	6	17	29	81

What is most important to your Sunday worship service experience? (Weighted response for priority)

Rank Order	1 (7pts)	2 (6pts)	3 (5pts)	4 (4pts)	5 (3pts)	6 (2pts)	7 (1pt)	Total Points
Eucharist	152	66	51	40	41	40	22	2100
Sermon	94	76	64	57	50	36	35	1919
Liturgy	56	90	54	50	39	65	54	1703
Prayer	28	47	78	80	77	60	32	1571
Fellowship	53	56	58	52	46	59	80	1541
Music	23	38	62	77	63	53	90	1392
Scripture Lessons	14	40	48	47	84	85	81	1269

What style of worship do you prefer?

- 1 – Traditional 43%
- 2 25%
- 3 22%
- 4 7%
- 5 – Contemporary 4%

90% across these 3 groups

Biblical views

- Ancient book of history <1%
- Valuable book written by good people 5%
- Record of responses to God 28%
- Inspired word of God 58%
- Actual word of God 8%

94% across these 3 groups

Theological views

- Conservative 18%
- Moderate to conservative 28%
- Moderate 26%
- Moderate to liberal 16%
- Liberal 7%
- Unsure 5%

70% moderate

II. Rector Expectations

Skill Prioritization (Weighted response for priority)

Rank Order	1 (10pts)	2 (9pts)	3 (8pts)	4 (7pts)	5 (6pts)	6 (5pts)	7 (4pts)	8 (3pts)	9 (2pts)	10 (1pt)	Total Points
Preaching	109	86	60	33	22	13	15	16	3	7	2893
Spiritual Guidance	105	70	38	37	21	23	16	14	10	11	2621
Teaching	28	45	56	40	32	30	27	14	20	20	1965
Administration	46	34	44	29	36	37	20	21	28	24	1945
Liturgical Leadership	29	28	31	38	35	36	22	24	33	16	1688
Pastoral Care	10	44	32	34	34	29	37	24	25	22	1631
Christian Education	7	16	12	37	36	41	37	31	32	27	1322
Evangelism	22	14	17	19	22	26	23	30	18	22	1117
Outreach Ministry	6	7	14	18	22	32	44	37	32	27	1031
Youth Work	14	15	16	22	20	18	22	31	21	33	1023
Stewardship	4	5	18	22	31	31	24	18	33	31	971
Church Growth/Development	10	11	17	15	18	12	17	25	27	26	831
Social/Community Ministry	3	8	17	17	20	16	21	30	23	26	803
Music Ministry	3	7	9	12	9	12	17	10	15	22	513
Home Visitation	0	1	4	7	17	13	18	19	16	18	436
Inter-Denominational Leadership	0	1	3	10	6	9	8	20	24	25	349

Desired Personal Characteristics (Weighted response for priority)

Rank Order	1 (5pts)	2 (4pts)	3 (3pts)	4 (2pts)	5 (1pt)	Total Points
Inspirational (inspires through leading, teaching, preaching)	118	60	60	37	27	1111
Leader (is able and willing to lead, even amidst divisive issues)	96	78	50	42	33	1059
Visionary (provides direction for our parish)	29	42	55	49	45	621
Compassionate (shows empathy towards others)	25	35	50	51	41	558
Engaging (seeks out new and enduring relationships with parishioners)	26	40	38	58	38	558
Charismatic (is led and empowered by the gifts of the Holy Spirit)	42	37	27	29	35	532
Accessible/Visible (attends functions beyond Sunday worship)	31	35	30	40	58	523
Interpersonal (possesses excellent interpersonal skills)	19	39	42	37	38	489
Facilitator (facilitates productive dialogue in presence of conflicting opinions)	11	24	34	36	30	355
Witty (has a good sense of humor)	9	12	14	19	47	220

III. Church Life

Relative importance of aspects of church life (Weighted response for priority)

Rank Order	Very Important (3pts)	Important (2pts)	Not Important (1pt)	Total Points
Worship services	308	80	1	1085
Sermons	290	93	10	1066
Youth programs (Jr. and Sr. EYC)	284	77	16	1022
Children's education and care	276	77	24	1006
Pastoral care by clergy	217	154	9	968
Outreach (e.g., Room in the Inn)	219	138	20	953
Adult education	165	185	30	895
Stewardship	171	182	13	890
Communication (Voice, Bulletins, website)	129	242	10	881
Volunteer opportunities	141	216	16	871
Fellowship; social functions	119	232	30	851
Music	145	177	59	848
Lay leadership	117	229	29	838
Bible studies	126	199	50	826
Relationship with greater community (e.g., Boy Scouts)	95	240	36	801
Building and grounds	70	264	44	782
Evangelism	78	187	104	712
Relationship with diocese	86	163	121	705
Rite 4 Service	50	115	203	583

How satisfied with aspects of church life? (Weighted response for priority)

Rank Order	Very Satisfied (3pts)	Satisfied (1pt)	Unsatisfied (-1pt)	Very Unsatisfied (-3pts)	N/A or Don't Know (0pts)	Total Points
Youth programs (Jr. and Sr. EYC)	200	105	4	1	57	698
Children's education and care	170	134	14	3	56	621
Buildings and grounds	121	226	14	1	18	572
Communication (Voice, Bulletins, website)	132	208	24	6	10	562
Outreach (e.g., Room in the Inn)	129	202	15	4	27	562
Music	144	187	32	9	12	560
Overall, how satisfied are you with St. John's?	130	210	31	4	8	557
Worship services	125	214	29	5	6	545
Volunteer opportunities	91	233	13	3	26	484
Pastoral care by clergy	127	140	30	3	76	482
Relationship with greater community (e.g., Boy Scouts)	66	214	13	1	71	396
Fellowship; social functions	61	237	45	12	22	339
Lay leadership	63	199	32	7	70	335
Sermons	69	215	71	16	12	303
Adult education	79	166	52	17	68	300
Bible studies	62	141	43	12	119	248
Stewardship	41	218	57	14	39	242
Evangelism	28	182	45	11	107	188
Rite 4 Service	41	126	52	42	109	71
Relationship with diocese	31	116	58	46	119	13

91% satisfaction overall

If you could change one thing about St. John's, what would it be? (218 comments)

- Changes to the worship services received the most comments. The comments revolved around times of the services, type of service to be offered (e.g. Traditional, Rite 4, contemporary) and improving sermons (58 comments)
- The community of the church – comments centered around a feeling that it is hard to feel a part of the church due to the size; the perception that there are cliques that “run” the church that are exclusive; and that the same people get asked to serve on committees and the leadership roles in lay ministry (27 comments)
- Issues of whether or not we are a unified church - We are letting personal views and social/theological beliefs divide us (26 comments)

What is one thing about St. John's that you want to preserve? (252 comments)

- Positive sense of community (73 comments) – how welcoming, warm and friendly the parishioners are.
- Preserve strong youth program (52 comments) – primarily this was referring to EYC, but also mentioned Children's education as well
- Worship services (48 comments) – Like traditional services we offer currently
- Clergy, outreach and educational programs also mentioned consistently – most of the comments about the clergy, specifically mentioned Gale

IV. Looking Forward

Most important goals for St. John's in next 2-3 years (239 put at least 1 goal; 175 put in 2 goals)

- Improve stewardship and finances (69 comments) – balancing budget, increasing pledges, paying off debt – but also getting more people involved at the church through volunteer opportunities
- Finding a rector (54 comments)
- Unify the congregation (53 comments) – determine our position with the broader church and move forward healing the division within our parish
- Sustained focus on Christian education programs (46 comments) – adult, children and EYC mentioned – particularly EYC with Brian leaving and Matt not having an assistant
- Maintaining Outreach
- Growing Spiritually as a church

Most pressing need/issue for new rector to address (187 comments)

- Unifying the church (52 comments) – make us one parish in a general sense; many comments referenced specifically theological/social views driving division within the church
- Relationship with the Diocese/National Church (29 comments) – many were neutral simply stating that we need a firm position one way or another allowing us to move forward; some focused on repairing our relationship with the Diocese; and a few recommended us splitting from the Episcopal church
- Strong leadership (28 comments) – to help the congregation with vision and direction – especially if that means change

Other comments

- Many comments relate to thanks to search committee and prayers for our work as a committee