

## **Summary**

**Response Rate:** Just over 20 percent, 42 people responded to the survey as of Sunday night, with 12 responses being received Sunday afternoon and evening. A couple of responses came after the last time we updated our files to do the analysis so were too late to be reflected in this report.

**Typical profile of respondents:** The majority of respondents are adults over 36, female, who have been attending the 10AM Sunday service regularly for more than 5 years, and participated in a church activity within the past year. It was possible to give multiple responses for the service they attend but 3 said 8:30 was their primary service (3 of an average 14?), and 6 marked the Wednesday service as their prime service.

**Most important needs:** By far, Worship was the area of most concern among the respondents, with pastoral care second in importance. The areas of Outreach and Education and areas covered by the General questions ranked lower in importance by virtue of many respondents giving “No Answer” to many of the questions.

The high level of No Answer to many questions was a concern of the committee and was looked at in depth.

One question that outranked nearly all the other questions was: whether the church should grow. Ninety per cent said the question was important or very important and 85 per cent agreed or strongly agreed with the question. They want the growth. However their reasons covered a wide range.

**Workshop Retreat:** The responses in this section were all over the place. A lot of No-Answer responses and responses to questions throughout the survey suggest that several significant steps must be taken before we can move ahead with a workshop geared to participation by a large number of congregants.

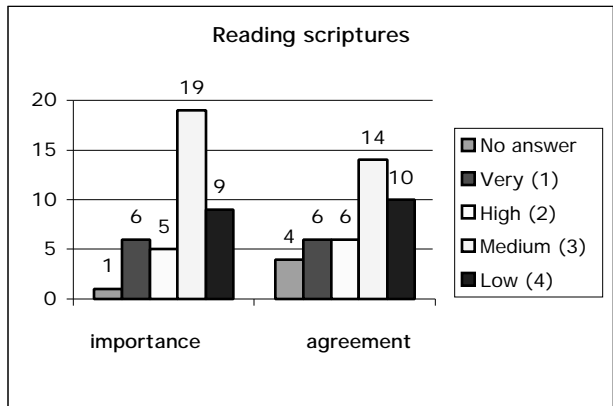
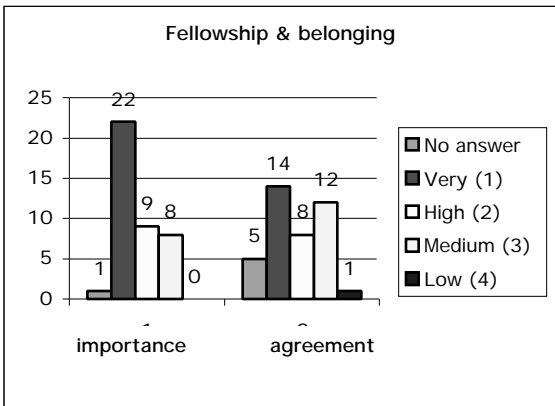
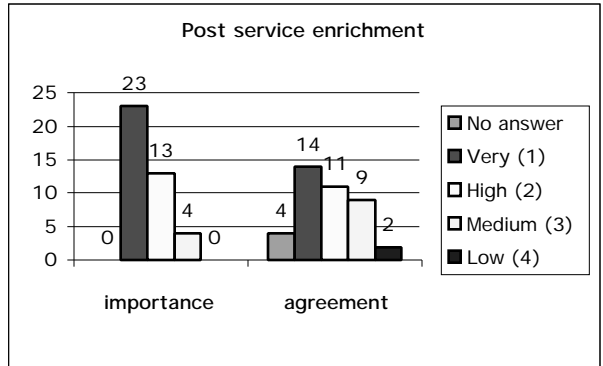
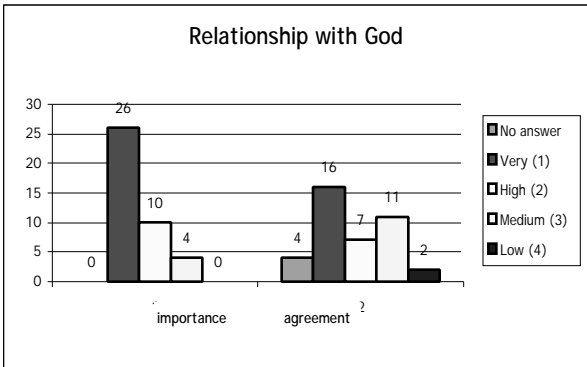
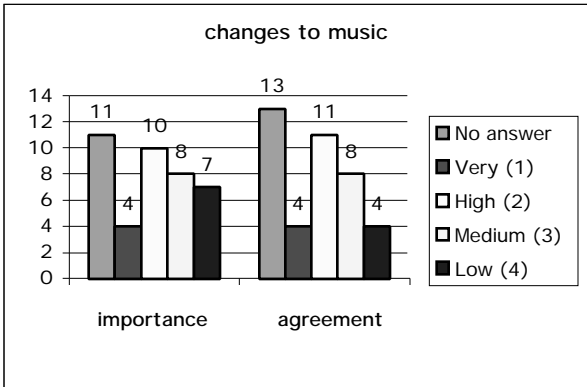
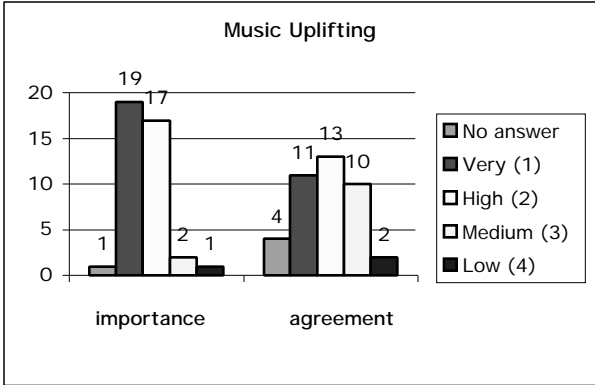
The major problem is most members have a very low knowledge of the operation of the church, how it relates to other congregations in the church center, the value (even the existence of) the Deanery, or even what work the church does at a local level. Without that information they can not be expected to understand where the church should go in its planning and they cannot be expected to be loyal to or participate in the work as St. Francis moves forward.

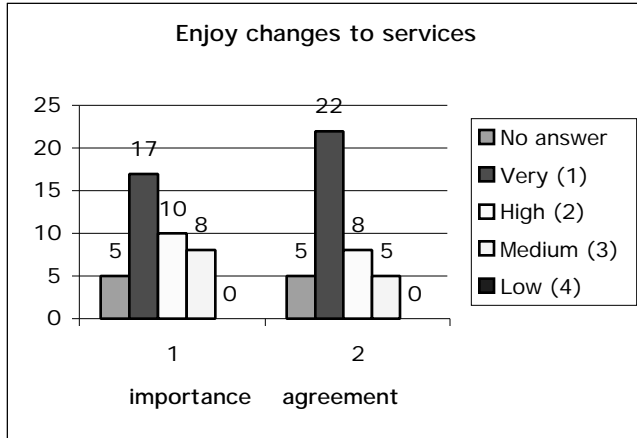
## **Worship**

**What's important:** Respondents said it was important that Music is spiritually uplifting, that they feel spiritually enriched after service, that the service helps build their relationship with God, and that they have a sense of fellowship and belonging'

However, while 90% said it is important that the service helps build relationship with God, fewer than half agree that that is happening at St. Francis.

The attached graphs will give a better idea of the range of responses to these questions.

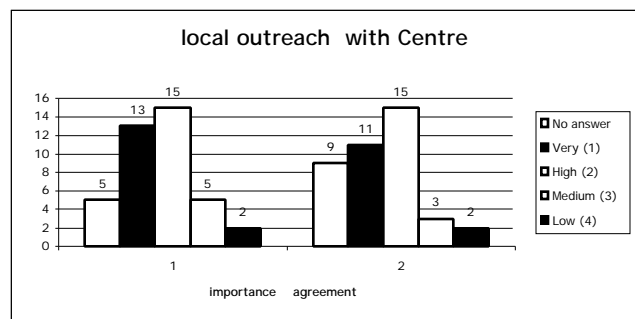
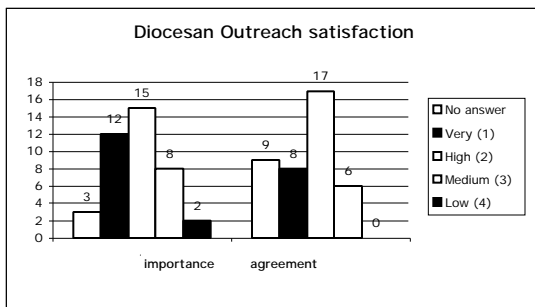


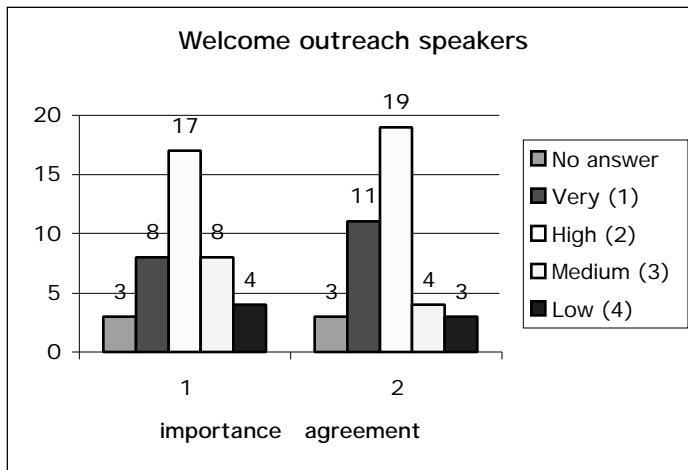
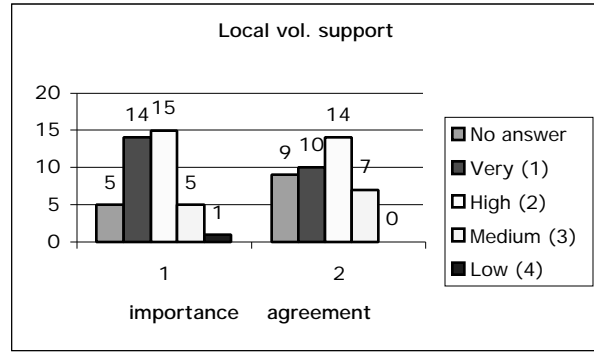
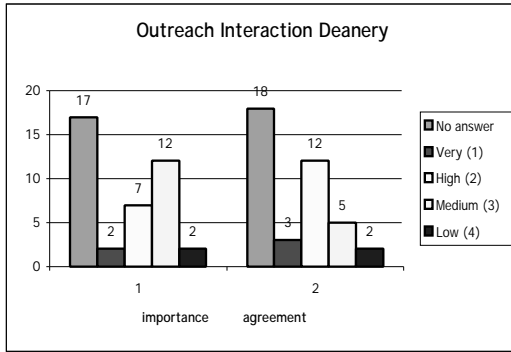


## Outreach

Support of St. Francis at the Diocesan level is important, Church and community are important as well, and most agree they are satisfied Guest speakers: they find the area important and welcome the outside views. Over 40% did not answer regarding St Francis' interaction at deanery level. Some of the comments reflect this absence of responses: "What interaction do we have at the Deanery level? Other than the Rev. Ann Smith is the Dean. I think Ann could use more support in the Villa Forum."

"I don't know enough about it (deanery interaction) is about (to comment). Ditto on local outreach at the church centre level." "For all of the above, I don't know enough of what our contribution is. I just seem to recall that we are behind in our financial stability."





## Education

There was an overall low response rate in the area of Education — 40 to 50 per cent did not answer most questions. Most important: Sunday School, bible school & Children's Festival, study sessions on the Bible and on spiritual growth, courses or seminars on a range of subjects (now less than 50 per cent).

Comments generally did not shed light on the lack of response. The responses covered a range. For Sunday school they went from: "Has a Sunday school program" and "My grandchildren have never been so excited by one day of Sunday School, especially in light of the fact they were with new people. This really excites me." To: "The Sunday School has to be re-formatted. Separate the children in age appropriate groups. Teach the older children the scriptures, ten commandments, etc... Presently, Sunday school is comparable to babysitting."

"Children should be taught 10 commandments and verses from the bible in Sunday School classes should be split by age group"

"(Don't use the Sunday school program so no comment)"

Regarding adult education: Those who did answer and comment are looking for adult programs. Part of the problem is one of perception, that adult programs do not exist. There may be a need for publicity about existing programs as well as looking at how to accommodate those who are looking for more that is presently being offered.

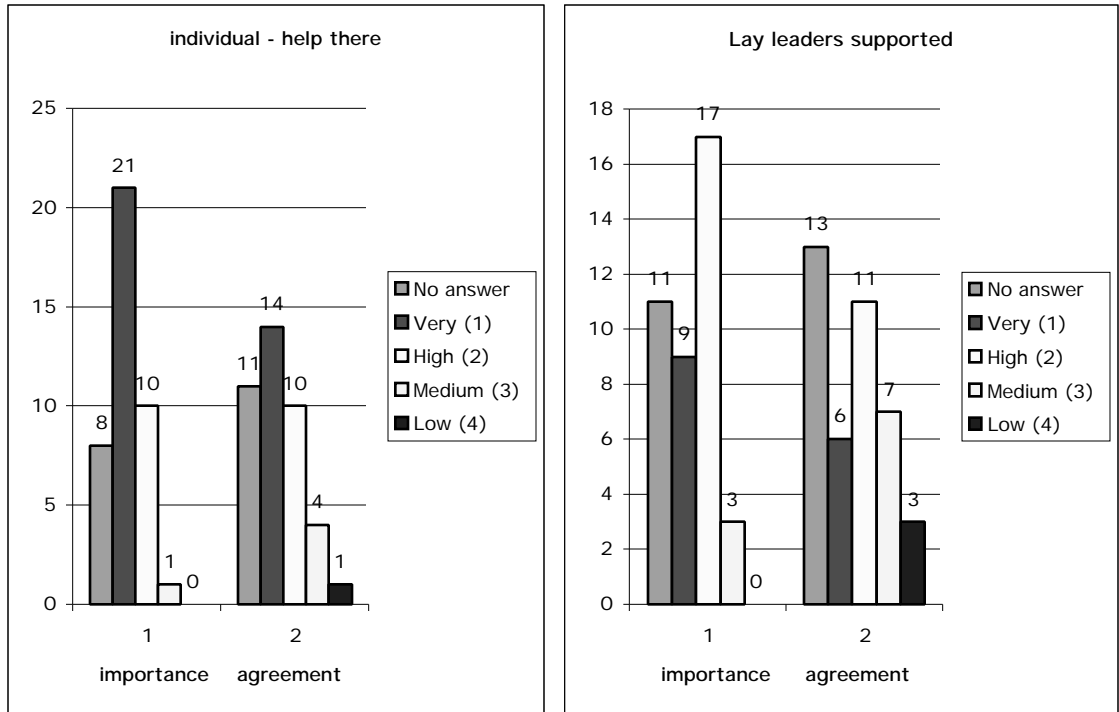
“I don't see much about Christian education for adults in our church. Most of it seems to be driven by the diocese when they want use to do something for them (discussion about gay marriage, making all of our church leaders get screened by the police before they can volunteer for church work...)”

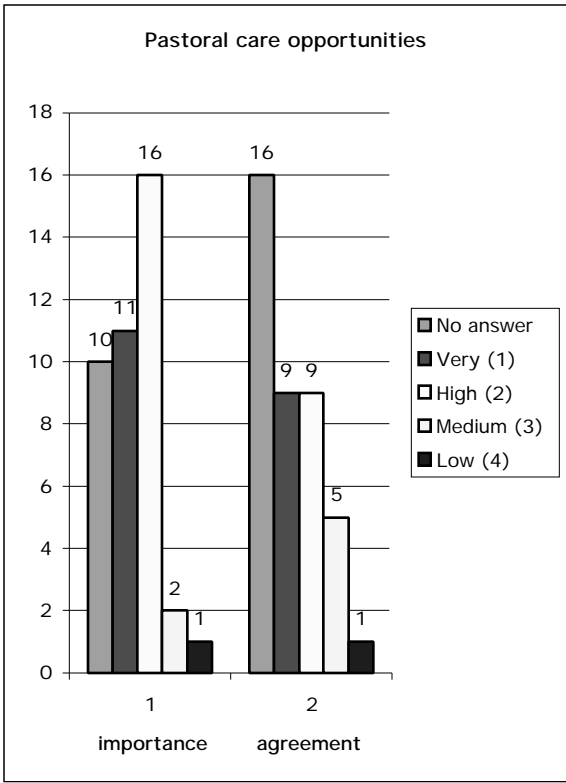
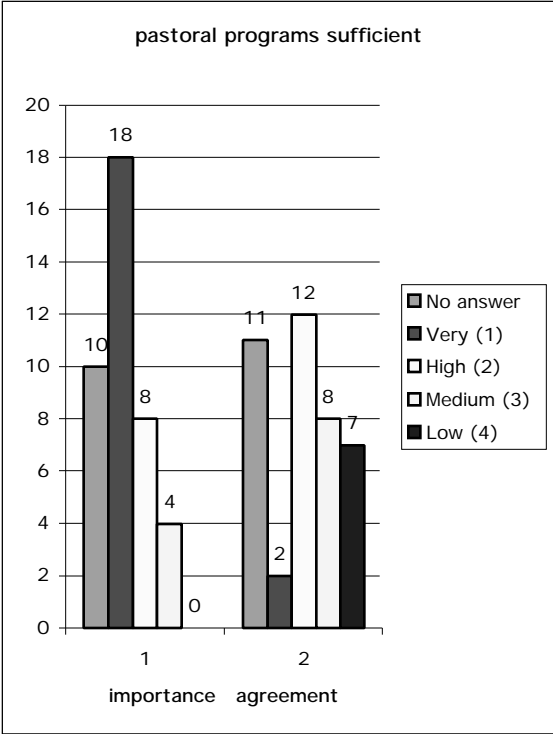
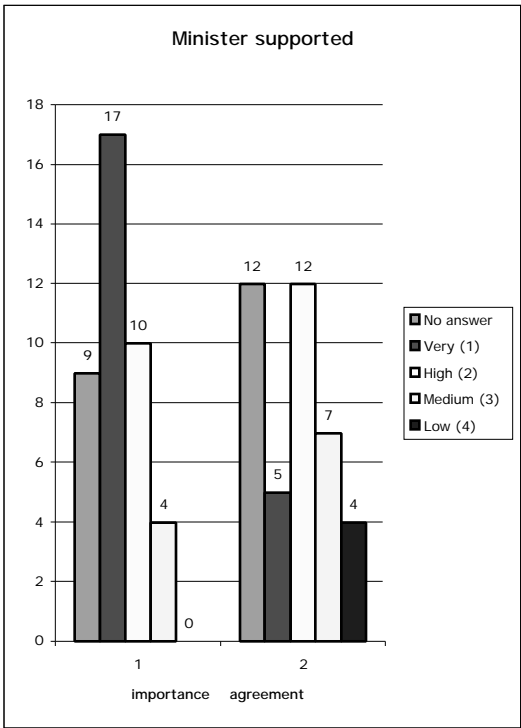
“How do we attract and keep more teenagers to our services?”

“Logos courses, and other avenues - open to the community as a whole; instructed eucharist; guest speakers and/or other "special" events open to the community.”

**Pastoral care**

This is one area where levels of satisfaction tend to disagree with importance of the question. Keep in mind that 20-40% did not reply to each question. All issues are important for those who did respond (65-78% very or high). About 30-60% strongly or mostly agree with each statement 60% mostly or strongly agree support is there when individual help is needed. Here are the graphs from the questions.





## **General Information**

Important issues identified here are: Bulletin boards be informative, The Fransiscan needs to keep members current, that the population grow, the churches in the centre should work together in outreach, and St Francis' work be supported by Diocese.

For those who answered, communications vehicles like the bulletin boards and Franciscan are important to keep them informed. These methods are doing a passable job. The website is not well used, although about half the people responding to the survey used the electronic version.

However, there are other issues of communications that came to light in the survey. One person made a very appropriate comment in that regard: "Having gone this far in the survey, I think communications is seriously lacking in our church. I would like to see us have more people in the pews each Sunday. This would help us build community and maybe reduce our financial problems too. But we would have to have something more to offer than what we do now, if the number of people on Sundays is any indication. We seem to be losing people, especially young children although Meadowvale is still growing by great numbers. How can we solve that problem? Does the Diocese do anything for us? Or do we have to go after them everytime we need something? My impression is that we get little support and that only if we go after them, not like what is described in the Bible during the times of the apostles and St. Paul."

## **Church Centre operations**

Being in the Church Centre did not seem to rate high in importance among respondents, although they thought the churches should work together on outreach.

Some of the responses are polar:

"The space and people are inviting and the Church Centre makes St. Francis part of something larger and fairly unique. It increases our visibility in and sense of community and provides some unique opportunities and potential synergies that have been only partly realized to date."

"This is my community, the place where my friends are. However, I believe far too much energy is going into trying to resolve issues with the MWCC. I believe that the MWCC is ineffectively managed. My preference would be to find a new place to worship and move out. If all this energy were to go into building a relevant program and reaching out into the community, we would be much further ahead."

The one very positive highlight was the question about the congregation growing. Virtually everybody believed it important and want that to happen.

