

Joys and Sorrows Survey

1. Welcome to the Joys and Sorrows Survey

We're hoping to learn how your congregation offers Joys and Sorrows (or Concerns) during worship and how joys and sorrows impacts your church experience.

First we'll ask a couple of questions about your congregation and your relationship to it; next we'll ask 12 questions of a statistical nature about your experience; after that will be 10 qualitative information questions.

We believe this survey should take less than 15 minutes to complete. We greatly appreciate your participation - as do your congregants and your colleagues!

1. My name is

2. Check one of the following

- I am a religious professional in paid service to my congregation
- I am member of my congregation serving as a volunteer

3. As a volunteer, my involvement in the congregation is primarily in the area of (disregard if you are staff)

- Worship
- Pastoral Care
- Communications
- Board of Trustees
- Other (please specify)

4. My congregation's website address is

2. Joys and Concerns - Statistical information

5. The number of adult members in my congregation is

- <50
- 50 - 100
- 100 - 150
- 150 - 200
- 200- 250
- 250 - 350
- 350 - 600
- 600 - 1000

6. My congregation has experienced net numerical growth in adult members of more than 5% over the last five years?

- Yes
- No

7. My congregation is served by:

- Lay led ministry
- ¼ time professional ministry
- ½ time professional ministry
- ¾ time professional ministry
- Full time professional ministry
- Multiple ministers

8. The governance system in my congregation is best described by

- Most Board officers are also committee/program representatives
- Board is comprised of executive officers and committee / program representatives
- Board and Program council are separated / interdependent
- Policy Governance
- Other (please specify)

9. My congregation has policies / restrictions regarding (check as many as apply)

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- Who can contribute to the newsletter
- Who can use electronic communication to church membership at large
- Who can send out mailings / advertisements to membership at large

10. My congregation has a behavior / relationship covenant in place

- Yes
- No

11. My congregation has a way - other than joys and sorrows - to declare a pastoral need

- Yes
- No

12. My congregation regularly includes intercessory prayer as part of joys and sorrows?

- Yes
- No

13. My congregation has an active (check as many as apply)

- Pastoral Care Team
- Small Group Ministry Program
- Weekly opportunities (other than Sunday) specifically and intentionally for fellowship and socializing

14. In my congregation the average number of people who share during joys and sorrows is

- < 3
- 4-5
- 6-7
- 8-9
- 10-11
- > 12

15. How long does the joys and sorrows portion of your service typically last?

16. The length of time given to Joys and Sorrows in my congregation's weekly worship service is

- Not long enough
- Too long
- Just right

3. Joys and Concerns - Qualitative Information

And now 10 more questions about your congregation.

17. Please list main reasons why you believe your congregation has the numerical growth pattern it has (i.e., why you have experienced an increase in members, a decrease in members or no change)

18. Describe the method of Joys and Sorrows your congregation uses:

- Open Microphone – After some introduction “Now is the time we share the joys and sorrows” and people are invited to come to a microphone and share in their own words
- Silent Candles
- “Embracing Meditation” A bell is sounded after which people are invited to call out the names of those who they want to bring into the sanctuary of care.
- Intercessory Sharing – joy or sorrow is written on something and the worship leader shares it with the community during worship
- Intercessory Prayer
- Nothing that resembles joys and sorrows
- Describe variation

19. Choose 1- 5 on the following

	Not at all	Not much	Some	A significant amount	a leading factor
How much does your method of joys and sorrows contribute to the effectiveness of	j0	j0	j0	j0	j0

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worship

How much does your method of joys and sorrows contribute to the effectiveness of pastoral care

jn

jn

jn

jn

jn

How much does your method of joys and sorrows contribute toward a growth in relationships within the congregation

jn

jn

jn

jn

jn

How much does your method of joys and sorrows contribute toward a growth in size in your congregation.

jn

jn

jn

jn

jn

20. What, if any, response have you received about your method of joys and sorrows from

Visitors

Members

21. Have you made any changes in joys and concerns in the last three years?

jn Yes, we've made important changes.

jn No, no changes of note.

22. If Yes to the question above--please describe the change(s), and why you made it(them).

23. Joys and sorrows in the worship service are connected to the pastoral care efforts outside the worship service by

€ having the joys and sorrows recorded and shared with the rest of the congregation in some electronic or printed form.

€ having a staff member or committee member follow up,

€ No, there is no link between joys and sorrows in worship and pastoral efforts outside of worship.

€ Other (please specify)

24. What are the ritual words your congregation uses ?

to close joys and concerns?

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to introduce joys and sorrows?

25. What ritual or symbolism accompanies joys and sorrows? (check all that may apply)

- Candles in sand
- Pebbles in water
- Flowers in vase
- Other ritual (please specify)

26. What else do you think is important to say about how joys and sorrows meets - or doesn't meet - the needs of your congregation?

4. Thanks!

We appreciate your feedback. Thanks again! Rev. Greg Ward, Dr. David Keyes and Jamie McReynolds