



Regathering Survey

Survey Response Summary Report

The Regathering Survey was sent electronically and by postal mail to the Holy Comforter Congregation. 65 completed surveys have been analyzed for inclusion in this report. Survey respondents participate in both the 8:00 and 10:00 services and tend to be frequent attendants. Responses were collected from individuals, couples and families all of whom attend church. This survey is estimated to reflect the opinions of 85-100 congregants.

We consider that this survey represents the majority of the core membership of the Church of the Holy Comforter. We conclude from the data in the survey that *the majority of survey respondents highly value religion including the Church of the Holy Comforter in their lives*. 55% of respondents indicate that they watch Sunday Virtual liturgies each week.

Viewing trends for Sunday virtual liturgies averages at above 120 per Sunday Service, this is higher than Holy Comforter's average Sunday attendance in 2018. Weekly compline services average between 25-30 participants per evening. This is higher than other weeknight services that Holy Comforter has offered. We conclude that *participants in this survey are continuing to engage in organized religious activities*.

Respondents indicated that they were overwhelmingly supportive of the statement that their "spiritual needs are being met with virtual services." We consider that during the current pandemic period and understanding of individual's needs as opposed to solely their wants must be considered for any planning.

Regarding regathering, we do not make any strong conclusions based upon the data. While 79% of respondents have a desire to return prior to the end of the pandemic, *there was not a majority for any proposed timeline*. Additionally, we consider that only 38% of respondents understand the logistical and other organizational implications for in-person services to resume.

Additional analysis was focused on individuals who specified that they were not feeling their spiritual needs are being met. We also examined alternative service models (including other service times). We can make the conclusion that *a mid-week in person service will reach those congregants who are least satisfied with current offerings*.

Considering the overall data, it is impossible to state that this survey constitutes a mandate towards any specific regathering action. We believe that there is a fervent desire for regathering for in-person liturgical purposes however the majority of the congregation considers their spiritual needs satisfied. It is clear from the data presented in this report as well as guidelines from the Diocese of Maryland that there will be the need for virtual liturgies for the foreseeable future. Attendance and satisfaction from Virtual offerings has been high across the past 6 months. Careful cost-benefit analysis is required to determine the value of in-person worship services while still providing essential virtual offerings.

A full report on this data was provided to the Vestry and can be viewed on the Church's Website.