

Saints Peter and Paul Vision 2025  
“Reaching Forward to What Lies Ahead”

Report of the 2015  
Opinions & Ideas Survey

Respectfully Submitted by

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### Introduction

In January 2015, a Strategic Planning Committee was formed by Fr. Panagiotis Boznos and the Parish Council to formulate the future vision and goals of the parish. Members of the committee met monthly through 2015 to work on the strategic plan. All aspects of the planning engaged parishioners for their ideas and concerns about the future of the parish. In order to gain maximum input from parishioners, an Opinions and Ideas Survey was conducted during the month of October, 2015. This report offers a complete summary of that project.

### Survey Goals and Objectives

The Opinions and Ideas Survey was developed around three goals:

- Assess current functioning of parish life
- Provide a baseline for future comparisons
- Engage stewards in the strategic planning process

The focus was specifically on parishioners' current views of the parish because the committee believed that it needed a current state assessment in order to know how to move forward with planning. By focusing on current strengths and weaknesses, a plan could be developed from this point in time, rather than from an historical view.

Furthermore, a current state assessment also provided a baseline for future comparisons. It is the parish council's plan to reassess parishioner opinions and ideas by conducting the same survey every 1-2 years and comparing growth and change over time. Last, by offering a survey, the committee sought to engage parishioners in the strategic planning process by giving an opportunity to voice concerns, ideas and hopes for the parish.

Considering the above goals, the survey focused on answering the following questions:

- How satisfied are parishioners with overall parish life?
- Is the parish meeting parishioner needs for spiritual growth, fellowship, & outreach?
- Is the parish offering enough ministries for all age & demographic groups?
- Is the parish being administered effectively?
- What ideas do respondents have for improvements to parish life?
- Are there correlations between demographics and opinions or between engagement & opinions?

Each of these broad questions allowed an assessment of parish life that could be used in further planning for the future.

## Background Rationale for Survey Questions

The survey was largely grounded in a model of parish health put forth by the Natural Church Development organization (Schwarz, 1999; Schwarz & Ivanoff, 2008). These researchers conducted a comprehensive study of over 1000 churches in 32 countries in order to discover what makes parishes grow and thrive, regardless of size, denomination, country or culture, leadership style, or ministry model. What these researchers identified is that parishes that have healthy growth all demonstrated eight “quality characteristics.” These “quality characteristics” are: Empowering Leadership, Gift-based Ministry, Fervent Spirituality, Effective (Functional) Structures, Inspiring Worship Services, Holistic Fellowship Groups, Need-Oriented Evangelism, and Loving Relationships. Furthermore, the research noted that it was the adjective in describing each item that was most important. In other words, it’s not good enough to have worship services for growth, but those services need to be inspiring in order for parishioners to further their spiritual growth. Likewise, having administrative structures in place is good, but how effective they are at helping the church thrive is what matters most.

A study of generosity and giving by Orthodox Christians in the United States was released by the Assembly of Bishops in Sept, 2015 (Krindatch, 2015). Results from this study provided additional rationale for some of the survey questions, especially those related to stewardship. For example, the study found that *“three characteristics of an Orthodox parish have the strongest positive influence on greater giving. These three characteristics are: a) being a parish that cares about and supports members in times of difficulties and needs; b) being a parish with a participatory and inclusive process of decision making where all members (not only parish leadership) are engaged in discussion, deliberation and actual decisions; c) being a parish that is successful in engaging its members in various volunteer positions and tasks.”* Thus, questions were included that assessed the parish on the above three characteristics that positively influence giving.

Additional questions were included to assess areas that the strategic planning committee believed to be particularly important to SS Peter and Paul parishioners, such as the amount English vs Greek in the Liturgy. Because ministries are an integral part of parish life, several questions involved ranking the quality of each of the parish ministries, including those ministries specifically related to youth and young adults.

## Survey Outline and Question Development

The following table provides an outline of the structure of the survey:

Part 1	General Satisfaction
Part 2	Membership and Outreach
Part 3	Worship
Part 4	Adult Ministries
Part 5	Finances and Administration
Part 6	Youth Ministries
Part 7	General Satisfaction
Part 8	Demographic Information
Part 9 (optional section)	Future Focus Questions

Parts 1 and 7 included general satisfaction questions. Parts 2-6 included questions related to membership and outreach (need-oriented evangelism and outreach and loving relationships per NCD), worship (inspiring worship and fervent spirituality), ministries (gift-based ministries and holistic fellowship groups), and finances and administration (effective structures and empowering leadership. Demographic questions were included in part 8. Part 9 was an optional section of the survey that included questions that the committee thought would be helpful, but were not necessarily related to NCD or the Assembly of Bishops report. Many of these were questions that ministry leaders wanted answered in order to clarify aspects of their committee work.

Within each section of survey questions, an open ended box was included to give respondents an opportunity to share comments and specific ideas about that area of inquiry. While a quantitative analysis could not be done on these responses, every response was shared with the strategic planning committee members, who then used the comments to develop aspects of the final strategic plan.

Once questions were written, they were reviewed by the entire strategic planning committee and edits were made with some questions added and others deleted. In addition, questions that were particularly relevant to the Stewardship committee, the Outreach committee, and the Parish Council were closely reviewed and edited by the leaders of those groups. Father Panagiotis carefully reviewed questions regarding worship and spiritual life.

After a final review by the committee, five parishioners completed a pilot test of the survey. These parishioners each gave insightful input regarding the on-line process of taking the survey and the survey length, as well as made comments about particular survey items that seemed confusing or unclear. The survey was then edited one last time, integrating the pilot test reviewers comments and suggestions.

### Distribution Methods

The survey was posted on Survey Monkey, and an e-mail with the survey link was sent to all parishioners who had provided an e-mail to the church office, either through the listserv or through a ministry, such as Church School and Coffee Connection. Included on the distribution list were stewards from 2014 and 2015. Although the goal was to assess views of current stewards, 2014 stewards were also included because many stewards do not contribute until the end of the calendar year, and so some 2015 stewards may not have given prior to October and would otherwise not have been included. Every effort was made to e-mail the Survey Monkey link to all stewards. Announcements were placed in the bulletin, newsletter and listserv asking parishioners to contact the committee if they did not receive the link. In addition, parishioners were invited to call the church office or visit the strategic planning table at coffee hour to be added to the e-mail list if they had not received a link. Anyone who was added to the e-mail list was checked to ensure stewardship status was current. There were no cases of individuals requesting a survey who were not current stewards.

In addition to Survey Monkey, paper copies were made available during coffee hour each Sunday in October. Parishioners could also call the church office and request a paper copy be sent to their home. Paper copies were then collected either at coffee hour or sent to the church office.

**Response Rates**

Of the 754 stewards who were sent the e-mail link, 43% completed the survey. This amounts to 32% of all stewards (both those who were and were not sent the link).

**Demographics of Survey Respondents: Age**

There was a fairly even spread of age beyond 40. Only about 13% of respondents were between the ages of 20-39.

Age	Response Percent
<b>20-29</b>	3.9
<b>30-39</b>	9.3
<b>40-49</b>	22.4
<b>50-59</b>	25.1
<b>60-69</b>	18.5
<b>70+</b>	20.8

**Demographics of Survey Respondents: Marital Status**

A large majority of the respondents were married:

Answer Options	Response Percent
<b>Single</b>	3.5%
<b>Married</b>	84.2%
<b>Divorced</b>	3.5%
<b>Widowed</b>	8.9%

**Demographics of Survey Respondents: Gender**

A majority of respondents were female:

Answer Options	Response Percent
<b>Female</b>	60.6%
<b>Male</b>	39.4%

## Report of the 2015 Opinion Survey

### Demographics of Survey Respondents: Annual Stewardship Contribution

A majority of respondents give between \$500 and \$1999 in stewardship. Less than 21% of stewards give over \$2,000 annually.

Answer Options	Response Percent
<b>\$0 - \$499</b>	17.0%
<b>\$500 - \$999</b>	27.9%
<b>\$1000 - \$1999</b>	34.4%
<b>\$2000 - \$2999</b>	10.9%
<b>\$3000 - \$3999</b>	3.2%
<b>\$4000 - \$9999</b>	6.1%
<b>\$10,000+</b>	0.4%

### Demographics of Survey Respondents: Frequency of Sunday Church Attendance

A majority of respondents attend Sunday Divine Liturgy regularly at the rate of 2-4 times per month. This is important to note because it indicates that most of those answering the survey are there often enough to make an informed evaluation.

Answer Options	Response Percent
<b>Weekly</b>	39.0%
<b>Two to three times per month</b>	35.1%
<b>Once per month</b>	13.9%
<b>Several times a year</b>	12.0%

### Demographics of Survey Respondents: Participate in Ministries (Leader or Member)

A majority of respondents indicated that they are not leaders or committee members within the various parish ministries. The survey question: Do you participate in any ministries as a Leader or Committee Chair or Committee member?

Answer Options	Response Percent
<b>Yes</b>	29.7%
<b>No</b>	70.3%

## Results & Discussion

### General Satisfaction

Questions 1 & 22 assessed overall satisfaction with the parish, while question 23 gauged parishioner opinion about the direction in which the parish is moving. Results from these general questions indicated that the survey respondents are generally pleased with the parish. 75% are either satisfied or very satisfied with the parish at this time. 93.7% feel that the parish is meeting their needs well or somewhat well. 71% of the parish believe it is moving in a positive direction.

*1—Overall, how satisfied are you with the parish of SS Peter and Paul at this time?*

Answer Options	Response Percent
<b>Very satisfied</b>	32.8%
<b>Satisfied</b>	42.2%
<b>Neutral</b>	18.8%
<b>Dissatisfied</b>	5.3%
<b>Very dissatisfied</b>	0.9%

*22—How well is the parish of SS Peter and Paul meeting your and your family's needs in terms of ministries, worship, administration, and outreach?*

Answer Options	Response Percent
<b>Very well</b>	46.5%
<b>Somewhat well</b>	47.2%
<b>Not very well</b>	6.3%

*23—Based on the current state of parish life at SS Peter and Paul, in which direction is the parish moving?*

Answer Options	Response Percent
<b>Very positive</b>	29.0%
<b>Mostly positive</b>	42.0%
<b>Some positive, some not</b>	22.3%
<b>Mostly negative</b>	3.7%
<b>Stagnant</b>	3.0%



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### Regarding Membership and Outreach

Question 2 asked respondents to rate the parish on various aspects of outreach both within the parish and the local community. Average ratings lower than 3 are considered areas in need of improvement. In particular, respondents gave the parish the lowest ratings on outreach to non-Orthodox, both within and outside of the parish community.

*2—Using the scale below, please rate the parish on the following:*

Answer Options	Excellent (4)	Good (3)	Fair (2)	Poor (1)	Don't know	Rating Average
<b>The parish is generally welcoming to all.</b>	90	135	48	10	4	3.08
<b>The parish readily engages new members on ministries and worship.</b>	54	110	46	16	60	2.89
<b>The parish reaches out to non-Orthodox members and shares the faith.</b>	34	66	54	43	90	2.46
<b>The parish reaches out within the local community to share the faith.</b>	29	68	49	52	89	2.37
<b>The parish reaches out to the local community to offer help to those less fortunate.</b>	60	92	45	25	64	2.84
<b>The parish offers joint programs and events with other Orthodox parishes in the area.</b>	37	81	67	37	64	2.53

Regarding Worship

Regarding language used in the Liturgy, 42.9% would prefer more English and 14.9% would prefer more Greek to be spoken by the clergy. Similarly, 33.9% prefer more English and 18% would prefer more Greek to be used by the choir. Regarding worship being inspirational, 62.9% often or always feel inspired by the Liturgy and 56.4% feel the sermons always or often help improve their spiritual life and/or make changes in daily life.

*In thinking about the use of language in the Liturgy by the clergy, how satisfied are you with the balance of English and Greek?*

Answer Options	Response Percent
<b>Prefer a lot more English</b>	27.3%
<b>Prefer a little more English</b>	15.6%
<b>Satisfied with balance</b>	42.2%
<b>Prefer a little more Greek</b>	11.4%
<b>Prefer a lot more Greek</b>	3.5%

*In thinking about the use of language in the Liturgy by the choir, how satisfied are you with the balance of English and Greek?*

Answer Options	Response Percent
<b>Prefer a lot more English</b>	19.4%
<b>Prefer a little more English</b>	14.5%
<b>Satisfied with balance</b>	48.1%
<b>Prefer a little more Greek</b>	13.5%
<b>Prefer a lot more Greek</b>	4.5%

*7—How often do you feel inspired and rejuvenated after the Sunday Liturgy?*

Answer Options	Response Percent
<b>Always</b>	23.5%
<b>Often</b>	39.4%
<b>Occasionally</b>	28.0%
<b>Rarely</b>	8.3%
<b>Never</b>	0.7%

*8—How often do the Sunday sermons help you improve your spiritual life and/or inspire you to make a practical change in your daily life?*

Answer Options	Response Percent
<b>Always</b>	16.8%
<b>Often</b>	39.6%
<b>Occasionally</b>	33.0%
<b>Rarely</b>	9.1%
<b>Never</b>	1.4%

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### Regarding Adult Ministries:

Parishioners were asked to rate all of the parish ministries. Average ratings below 3 indicate need for improvement. Only Parish Council and Garden Club rated below 3. Cancer Support and Men's bible study had the highest overall ratings.

Answer Options	Excellent (4)	Good (3)	Fair (2)	Poor (1)	Don't know	Rating Average
<b>Cancer Support</b>	30	19	1	0	200	3.58
<b>Choir / Chanters</b>	70	66	11	3	98	3.35
<b>Coffee Connection</b>	68	65	5	3	109	3.40
<b>Coffee Fellowship Hosting</b>	79	75	11	4	83	3.36
<b>Divorce Rebuilder's Group</b>	10	11	2	0	221	3.35
<b>Dynamis</b>	11	31	4	0	200	3.15
<b>Garden Club</b>	2	7	8	3	219	2.40
<b>Greek Festival</b>	93	74	28	3	57	3.30
<b>Habitat for Humanity</b>	33	33	6	1	168	3.34
<b>Lenten Lecture Series</b>	49	43	6	1	149	3.41
<b>Men's Basketball</b>	17	15	4	2	204	3.24
<b>Men's Bible Study</b>	23	8	2	1	205	3.56
<b>Outreach Committee Activities</b>	22	32	10	4	173	3.06
<b>Parish Council</b>	31	45	20	7	140	2.97
<b>Philoptochos</b>	89	49	14	3	96	3.45
<b>Prospora Baking</b>	54	37	5	3	147	3.43
<b>Summer Book Club</b>	15	13	3	4	208	3.11
<b>Ushers</b>	51	52	15	3	127	3.25
<b>Wednesday Bible Study</b>	19	7	4	4	212	3.21
<b>Young Adults (YAL)</b>	11	17	4	2	205	3.09

Respondents were also asked to rate ministries on aspects that contribute to a healthy parish and increased stewardship (per NCD and the Assembly of Bishops stewardship report). Average ratings lower than 3 are considered areas in need of improvement.

*Considering the ministries above and using the scale below, please rate the ministries of SS Peter and Paul on the following. SS Peter and Paul ministries...*

Answer Options	Excellent (4)	Good (3)	Fair (2)	Poor (1)	Don't know	Rating Average
<b>... meet my needs for caring relationships</b>	46	107	33	20	53	2.87
<b>... offer opportunities for me to help others less fortunate in the local and international communities.</b>	48	89	54	18	51	2.80
<b>... meet my needs to learn more about the Orthodox faith.</b>	55	102	50	10	43	2.93
<b>... offer help to parishioners in their times of difficulties and needs.</b>	37	76	33	21	93	2.77
<b>... offer adequate opportunities for me to share my talents in various volunteer positions and tasks.</b>	60	98	43	11	49	2.98

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### Regarding Youth Ministries:

Parishioners were asked to rate the various youth ministries within the last year. An average rating lower than 3 indicates need for improvement. All youth ministries rated above 3, with Faith, Love, Joy and Junior Olympics receiving the highest ratings.

Answer Options	Excellent (4)	Good (3)	Fair (2)	Poor (1)	Don't know	Rating Average
<b>Altar Boys</b>	23	22	5	0	88	3.36
<b>Agape Preschool</b>	24	14	2	1	97	3.49
<b>Basketball</b>	21	16	2	1	98	3.43
<b>Church School</b>	44	39	11	3	44	3.28
<b>Faith, Love, Joy (for K-5th grade)</b>	24	10	1	1	99	3.58
<b>Greek School</b>	18	10	3	3	102	3.26
<b>Hope Group (for 0-5 years)</b>	17	10	4	2	102	3.27
<b>Junior GOYA (for grades 6-8)</b>	16	13	3	0	106	3.41
<b>Junior Olympics</b>	28	12	0	1	95	3.63
<b>Senior GOYA (for grades 9-12)</b>	17	16	1	1	100	3.40

Respondents rated youth ministries on aspects that contribute to overall health of the program. Parishioners would like to see more opportunities for their youth to help others in need.

*Please use the scale below to rate the youth ministries of SS Peter and Paul on the following. SS Peter and Paul ministries...*

Answer Options	Excellent (4)	Good (3)	Fair (2)	Poor (1)	Don't know	Rating Average
<b>... meet my child(ren)'s needs for caring fellowship groups.</b>	40	43	14	5	42	3.16
<b>... offers opportunities for my child(ren) to help others in need.</b>	31	33	22	9	48	2.91
<b>... meet my child(ren)'s needs to learn more about the Orthodox faith.</b>	37	47	14	6	40	3.11

## Report of the 2015 Opinion Survey

### Regarding Effective Structures and Empowering Leadership:

Respondents rated the parish council and lay leadership on aspects of administration. Average ratings below 3 are in need of improvement, and these areas include communicating with and involving parishioners on parish affairs, as well as cultivating new leaders and volunteers. Of note is that the respondents are satisfied with the management of parish finances and communications about parish events.

*Using the scale below, please rate how well the parish council and lay leadership of SS Peter and Paul do the following:*

Answer Options	Excellent (4)	Good (3)	Fair (2)	Poor (1)	Don't know	Rating Average
<b>Manage the parish finances</b>	54	97	19	2	88	3.18
<b>Communicate with parishioners about parish business</b>	48	102	60	28	22	2.71
<b>Communicate with parishioners about parish events</b>	82	119	44	5	14	3.11
<b>Involve and develop new leaders and volunteers</b>	25	75	68	45	50	2.38
<b>Involve parishioners in deliberation and decision making regarding parish business</b>	27	72	68	45	51	2.38
<b>Explain how stewardship funds are used</b>	36	91	65	31	39	2.59

Regarding staffing needs, a majority of respondents believe the parish has enough clergy and paid office/janitorial staff.

*How well staffed is the parish with paid clergy and youth minister staff to meet parish needs?*

Answer Options	Response Percent
<b>Need a lot more</b>	5.8%
<b>Need a little more</b>	29.6%
<b>Well balanced now</b>	64.2%
<b>Need a little less</b>	0.0%
<b>Need a lot less</b>	0.4%

*How well staffed is the parish with paid office and janitorial staff to meet parish needs?*

Answer Options	Response Percent
<b>Need a lot more</b>	2.8%
<b>Need a little more</b>	14.8%
<b>Well balanced now</b>	80.4%
<b>Need a little less</b>	1.6%
<b>Need a lot less</b>	0.4%

## Report of the 2015 Opinion Survey

Parishioners were asked what form of communication they prefer for parish news. E-mails from the parish office, the Sunday bulletin and the monthly newsletter were the top preferences by large margins. It appears that parishioners prefer to be given the information directly, rather than have to seek it out as they would by going to the website or looking at a bulletin board.

*What forms of communication do you prefer most for information about parish news and events? Check the top three:*

Answer Options	Response Percent
<b>E-mail from parish office (listserv)</b>	80.7%
<b>Sunday bulletin</b>	63.7%
<b>Monthly newsletter</b>	58.3%
<b>E-mail from organizations to which you belong</b>	24.7%
<b>Parish website</b>	14.7%
<b>Parish Facebook page</b>	9.3%
<b>Word of mouth</b>	3.9%
<b>Text messaging</b>	3.9%
<b>Outreach table</b>	3.5%
<b>Bulletin boards</b>	0.0%

### **Part 9: Optional Section**

When asked what demographic groups are the most underserved, young adults and non-Orthodox spouses are considered as having the least ministry offerings.

*Which, if any, of the following age and demographic groups do you believe are underserved at SS Peter and Paul? Please put a check mark by all groups you believe do not have adequate ministry offerings.*

Answer Options	Response Percent
<b>Ages 0-5</b>	3.0%
<b>Ages 6-12</b>	4.2%
<b>Ages 13-18</b>	8.5%
<b>Ages 19-22</b>	13.9%
<b>Ages 23-35</b>	24.8%
<b>Ages 36-50</b>	10.3%
<b>Ages 51-65</b>	6.7%
<b>Ages 65+</b>	12.1%
<b>Married Couples</b>	14.5%
<b>Married Couples with Children</b>	17.0%
<b>New Parents</b>	13.9%
<b>Recent College Graduates / Young Professionals</b>	39.4%
<b>Divorced Individuals</b>	4.2%
<b>Retired Adults</b>	10.3%
<b>Non-Orthodox Spouses</b>	35.2%

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<b>Interfaith Married Couples</b>	29.7%
<b>Special Needs children</b>	18.2%
<b>Men</b>	1.2%
<b>Women</b>	4.2%
<b>"Empty Nesters"</b>	13.9%
<b>Homebound</b>	13.3%
<b>Singles</b>	20.0%
<b>Widows / Widowers</b>	15.8%

A large majority of parishioners feel they understand the Liturgy's meaning and symbolism.

*How well do you understand the Liturgy in terms of its meaning and symbolism?*

Answer Options	Response Percent
<b>Extremely well</b>	18.4%
<b>Very well</b>	38.9%
<b>Somewhat well</b>	33.6%
<b>Not so well</b>	9.0%
<b>Not at all well</b>	0.0%

With regard to congregational participation in the hymns and responses in the Liturgy, 43.8% would like more participation, while 48.8 are satisfied with the amount currently.

*To what degree would you like congregational participation in the hymns and responses of the Liturgy to be encouraged?*

Answer Options	Response Percent
<b>More than currently</b>	43.8%
<b>Same as currently</b>	48.8%
<b>Less than currently</b>	3.3%
<b>Don't know</b>	4.2%

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Parishioners were asked about how likely they would be to attend additional services that are currently offered, as well as those proposed to be added:

*How likely are you to attend the following additional services throughout the year?*

Answer Options	Extremely likely	Somewhat likely	Uncertain / Unsure	Not very likely	Would not attend
<b>Holy Week Services</b>	164	54	8	4	3
<b>Presanctified Liturgy (Wednesdays during Great Lent)</b>	70	68	35	48	16
<b>Salutations / Akathist to the Theotokos (Friday evenings during Great Lent)</b>	56	65	44	48	21
<b>SS Peter and Paul Feast Day Vespers and Liturgy (June 28 &amp; 29)</b>	52	60	52	50	20
<b>Vespers for the Protection of the Environment (Aug. 31)</b>	33	32	62	69	35
<b>Weekday Liturgies (for saints and feast days)</b>	26	49	43	89	26
<b>Paraklesis (during the 15 days prior to the Dormission of the Theotokos)</b>	24	51	54	78	26
<b>Compline (Monday evenings during Great Lent)</b>	20	43	55	83	27

*How likely would you be to attend the following proposed additional services throughout the year?*

Answer Options	Extremely likely	Somewhat likely	Uncertain / Unsure	Not very likely	Would not attend
<b>Paraklesis (on occasional Wednesday evenings throughout the year)</b>	19	38	66	73	41
<b>Saturday Vespers (weekly evening prayers in preparation for Sunday Liturgy)</b>	13	29	59	80	52



## Report of the 2015 Opinion Survey

Most parishioners feel parish assemblies are at least somewhat effective for involving stewards in parish administration.

*How effective are parish assemblies for involving parishioners in parish administration?*

Answer Options	Response Percent
<b>Extremely effective</b>	5.4%
<b>Very effective</b>	18.3%
<b>Somewhat effective</b>	40.4%
<b>Not very effective</b>	15.0%
<b>Don't know</b>	20.8%

Most stewards understand how their donations are used at least somewhat well, but 28.6% do not understand how funds are use.

*How well do you understand how stewardship funds are used?*

Answer Options	Response Percent
<b>Extremely well</b>	9.5%
<b>Very well</b>	18.3%
<b>Somewhat well</b>	43.6%
<b>Not so well</b>	19.1%
<b>Not at all well</b>	9.5%

A majority of parishioners feel their stewardship at least adequately supports ministries of the parish, but 25.6 percent either are uncertain or do not think they adequately support the parish.

*How well do you feel your stewardship contribution supports the ministries of the parish?*

Answer Options	Response Percent
<b>Extremely well</b>	10.4%
<b>Very well</b>	29.5%
<b>Adequately</b>	33.6%
<b>Not so well</b>	7.1%
<b>Don't know</b>	19.5%

*If our parish more clearly communicated our mission and goals, benefits to parishioners, and impact each dollar creates, how likely would you be to increase your stewardship contribution to achieve that vision?*

Answer Options	Response Percent
<b>Very likely</b>	5.8%
<b>Likely</b>	36.5%
<b>Neutral / Not sure</b>	46.5%
<b>Not very likely</b>	9.1%
<b>Not at all likely</b>	2.1%

### Conclusions

Returning to the original questions the survey sought to answer, we can conclude the following from the data:

- Parishioners are generally satisfied with the parish at this time and encouraged that the parish is moving in a positive direction. Our fundamental priority is on the spiritual development and fulfillment of our parishioners. Results reveal we believe it is important to develop a stronger parish with thriving ministries and outreach programs. Improving in these areas will generate more engaged stewardship of time, talent and treasure.
- Parishioners' needs are generally being met for inspiring worship and fervent spirituality, but there is room for improvement. Our parishioners reveal a strong desire inspirational worship and intellectual faith engagement. As the parish evolves, it is important to identify innovative ways to engage parishioners on Sunday and beyond, balancing aspects of parish life outside of Sunday liturgy that resonate with parishioners and involve them, with the necessity of active participation in liturgy.
- The demographics of our parish and the communities that we serve suggest that we need to embody an approach to the Orthodox Faith and parish life that is responsive to current and future concerns and needs while preserving fundamental Orthodox beliefs.
- Parishioners are generally satisfied with the *quality* of the ministries offered at the parish for both adults and youth. However, several parishioner groups, which represent important segments of our parish and the needs of our community, are underserved and need deliberate attention as we consider future ministries and programming.
- Young adults and non-Orthodox are identified as the most underserved demographic groups.
- Parishioners report in various ways the need to improve outreach efforts to Non-Orthodox members of parish, new members, as well as non-Orthodox in the local community.
- There is a need for increasing the involvement of new leaders to help support our existing and new parish efforts.
- While the parish believes finances are well managed, they would like more involvement in decision-making and better communication about parish business, including how stewardship funds are used.
- Parishioners would like to strengthen the supports and overall infrastructure of our church in order to sustain as well as continue the growth of our programs and ministries.
- Data reveal that our community members are increasingly relying on technology for communication about our parish. Modern techniques must be developed to enable effective engagement with our youth, young adults, millennials and even older generations that have adapted to new communication methods.
- There were no correlations between demographics and opinions or between engagement and opinions.

### Summary

The 2015 Opinions and Ideas survey revealed that while parishioners are generally satisfied with the parish at this time, they identified key areas for improvement. Outreach to young adults, non-Orthodox spouses and new members could become immediate areas of focus. Furthermore, creating more opportunities for education and learning about the faith are also areas for future growth. Maintaining open communication and involving parishioners in decision making will also create the environment of transparency that parishioners desire.

### References

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