

First Presbyterian Church of Meadville, PA

1. Your Personal Views and Beliefs

In this section of the assessment, we are interested in your views and beliefs in a variety of areas. You will find statements about how you see things in your church community and statements about your spiritual beliefs. Some items deal with the work of your Pastor and other items seek your views about education.

In each case, YOUR impressions, feelings, and opinions are important for church planning. In some cases, you may feel that your opinions are not well informed. Please go ahead and give your impression as it is now, even though you realize it could change by talking with others. Use the "Don't Know" response only in those rare cases where you have no impression at all.

For those statements that begin, "Our Pastor...", think of the head of staff. A summary of these items will be given only to your Pastor to use in planning future growth and development.

IT IS IMPORTANT TO RESPOND TO EVERY QUESTION. For each question below, click on the response that is most accurate:

* 1. My spiritual experiences often impact the way I look at life.

Strongly disagree Disagree Tend to disagree Tend to agree Agree Strongly agree Don't know

* 2. Our Pastor presides over worship with care, engaging the people in a meaningful way.

Strongly disagree Disagree Tend to disagree Tend to agree Agree Strongly agree Don't know

* 3. There is a disturbing amount of conflict in our congregation.

Strongly disagree Disagree Tend to disagree Tend to agree Agree Strongly agree Don't know

* 4. Our members understand that they have a spiritual responsibility for life-long learning and formation.

Strongly disagree Disagree Tend to disagree Tend to agree Agree Strongly agree Don't know

* 5. My spirituality is really the basis of my whole approach to life.

Strongly disagree Disagree Tend to disagree Tend to agree Agree Strongly agree Don't know

* 6. It seems to me that we are just going through the motions of church activity. There isn't much excitement about it among our members.

Strongly disagree Disagree Tend to disagree Tend to agree Agree Strongly agree Don't know

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* 7. Problems between groups in this church are usually resolved through mutual effort.

Strongly disagree Disagree Tend to disagree Tend to agree Agree Strongly agree Don't know

* 8. Our members welcome changes in worship.

Strongly disagree Disagree Tend to disagree Tend to agree Agree Strongly agree Don't know

* 9. I experience the presence of God in my life.

Strongly disagree Disagree Tend to disagree Tend to agree Agree Strongly agree Don't know

* 10. The whole spirit in our congregation makes people want to get as involved as possible.

Strongly disagree Disagree Tend to disagree Tend to agree Agree Strongly agree Don't know

2.

* 11. When conversing with a person, our Pastor listens for feelings, as well as words, and treats feelings as important.

Strongly disagree Disagree Tend to disagree Tend to agree Agree Strongly agree Don't know

* 12. Our church welcomes and is enriched by persons from many different walks of life.

Strongly disagree Disagree Tend to disagree Tend to agree Agree Strongly agree Don't know

* 13. The leaders of our church show a genuine concern to know what people are thinking when decisions need to be made.

Strongly disagree Disagree Tend to disagree Tend to agree Agree Strongly agree Don't know

* 14. Among most of our members there is a healthy tolerance of differing opinions and beliefs.

Strongly disagree Disagree Tend to disagree Tend to agree Agree Strongly agree Don't know

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* 15. Our church provides opportunities for education and formation in a variety of ways so that I can find one that fits my complex lifestyle.

Strongly disagree Disagree Tend to disagree Tend to agree Agree Strongly agree Don't know

* 16. Our church tends to stay very close to established ways of doing things.

Strongly disagree Disagree Tend to disagree Tend to agree Agree Strongly agree Don't know

* 17. Our church does a good job helping each member understand that he or she is called to ministry.

Strongly disagree Disagree Tend to disagree Tend to agree Agree Strongly agree Don't know

* 18. Our Pastor has ensured the development of a plan to care for members with special needs.

Strongly disagree Disagree Tend to disagree Tend to agree Agree Strongly agree Don't know

* 19. Being part of this church community has given new meaning to my life.

Strongly disagree Disagree Tend to disagree Tend to agree Agree Strongly agree Don't know

* 20. Our Pastor articulates a clear vision for our church and keeps it before the people in a compelling way.

Strongly disagree Disagree Tend to disagree Tend to agree Agree Strongly agree Don't know

3.

* 21. Our church provides high quality education that is appropriate to every age and stage of life.

Strongly disagree Disagree Tend to disagree Tend to agree Agree Strongly agree Don't know

* 22. Our church prepares our members for ministry by helping them discern their gifts.

Strongly disagree Disagree Tend to disagree Tend to agree Agree Strongly agree Don't know

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* 23. The same small group of people seem to make most of the important decisions in our church.

Strongly disagree Disagree Tend to disagree Tend to agree Agree Strongly agree Don't know

* 24. Converting persons to Christ must be the first step in creating a better society.

Strongly disagree Disagree Tend to disagree Tend to agree Agree Strongly agree Don't know

* 25. Our Pastor makes things happen.

Strongly disagree Disagree Tend to disagree Tend to agree Agree Strongly agree Don't know

* 26. A friendly atmosphere prevails among the members of our church.

Strongly disagree Disagree Tend to disagree Tend to agree Agree Strongly agree Don't know

* 27. Our Pastor helps us accomplish our mission by bringing out the best in everyone.

Strongly disagree Disagree Tend to disagree Tend to agree Agree Strongly agree Don't know

* 28. We are willing to adapt our worship to the needs and circumstances of the people we want to reach in our local community.

Strongly disagree Disagree Tend to disagree Tend to agree Agree Strongly agree Don't know

* 29. In preaching, our Pastor engages people with a message that enriches their lives in the world.

Strongly disagree Disagree Tend to disagree Tend to agree Agree Strongly agree Don't know

* 30. Our congregation is committed to abide by the historic faith as handed down through the centuries.

Strongly disagree Disagree Tend to disagree Tend to agree Agree Strongly agree Don't know

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* 31. Scripture is the literal Word of God without error, not only in matters of faith, but also in historical, geographical, and other secular matters.

Strongly disagree Disagree Tend to disagree Tend to agree Agree Strongly agree Don't know

* 32. Our church changes its program from time to time to meet the changing needs of its members.

Strongly disagree Disagree Tend to disagree Tend to agree Agree Strongly agree Don't know

* 33. I sense an atmosphere of genuine care and concern among our members in time of personal need.

Strongly disagree Disagree Tend to disagree Tend to agree Agree Strongly agree Don't know

* 34. In important decisions in our church, adequate opportunity for consideration of different approaches is usually provided.

Strongly disagree Disagree Tend to disagree Tend to agree Agree Strongly agree Don't know

* 35. In our congregation the laity work with the Pastor in leading and planning worship services.

Strongly disagree Disagree Tend to disagree Tend to agree Agree Strongly agree Don't know

* 36. There is frequently a small group of members that opposes what the majority want to do.

Strongly disagree Disagree Tend to disagree Tend to agree Agree Strongly agree Don't know

* 37. I work to connect my faith to all the other aspects of my life.

Strongly disagree Disagree Tend to disagree Tend to agree Agree Strongly agree Don't know

* 38. Members in our church have been prepared to personally welcome guests in worship services.

Strongly disagree Disagree Tend to disagree Tend to agree Agree Strongly agree Don't know

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* 39. Our Pastor preaches with integrity.

Strongly disagree Disagree Tend to disagree Tend to agree Agree Strongly agree Don't know

* 40. The music at our church is outstanding in quality and appropriate in style to our congregation.

Strongly disagree Disagree Tend to disagree Tend to agree Agree Strongly agree Don't know

5.

* 41. On the whole, I am satisfied with how things are in our church.

Strongly disagree Disagree Tend to disagree Tend to agree Agree Strongly agree Don't know

* 42. Persons who serve as leaders in our church are representative of the membership.

Strongly disagree Disagree Tend to disagree Tend to agree Agree Strongly agree Don't know

* 43. Our church provides opportunities for members to engage in active ministry within the church and to the world.

Strongly disagree Disagree Tend to disagree Tend to agree Agree Strongly agree Don't know

* 44. Although my faith is important to me, I feel there are other things more pressing in my life right now.

Strongly disagree Disagree Tend to disagree Tend to agree Agree Strongly agree Don't know

* 45. The main purpose of Christian education is to help people know what is in the Bible.

Strongly disagree Disagree Tend to disagree Tend to agree Agree Strongly agree Don't know

* 46. The worship services at our church are exceptional in both quality and spiritual content.

Strongly disagree Disagree Tend to disagree Tend to agree Agree Strongly agree Don't know

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* 47. Our Pastor communicates with people in a way that keeps us informed and connected.

Strongly disagree Disagree Tend to disagree Tend to agree Agree Strongly agree Don't know

* 48. Our church does a good job supporting persons in ministry by reminding them that they are making a difference.

Strongly disagree Disagree Tend to disagree Tend to agree Agree Strongly agree Don't know

* 49. Our Pastor is present in times of crisis.

Strongly disagree Disagree Tend to disagree Tend to agree Agree Strongly agree Don't know

6. Priorities Among Goals

In this section of the assessment possible goals are listed for your church in the coming year. The leaders of the church are interested in knowing where you believe additional energy needs to be applied to expand or improve our ministries. If you believe that some ministries require additional energy because they are important and need to be expanded or improved, then you would give these a higher score. If you believe that other ministries require little or no additional energy because they are already being performed at an appropriate level of quality, then you would give these a lower score.

REMEMBER: IT IS IMPORTANT TO RESPOND TO EVERY QUESTION. For each goal below, please check on the response that best represents your view:

* 50. Deepen our sense of connection to God and one another through stronger worship services.

No additional energy Little additional energy Moderate additional energy Substantial additional energy High additional energy Don't know

* 51. Create more opportunities for people to form meaningful relationships (for example, small groups, nurtured friendships, shared meals, etc).

No additional energy Little additional energy Moderate additional energy Substantial additional energy High additional energy Don't know

* 52. Develop the spiritual generosity of the people to financially support the ministry of the church.

No additional energy Little additional energy Moderate additional energy Substantial additional energy High additional energy Don't know

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* 53. Enlarge or improve the physical facilities of the church to expand or enhance our ministries.

No additional energy Little additional energy Moderate additional energy Substantial additional energy High additional energy Don't know

* 54. Strengthen the process by which members are called and equipped for ministry and leadership.

No additional energy Little additional energy Moderate additional energy Substantial additional energy High additional energy Don't know

* 55. Strengthen the pastoral response of the church in serving people with special needs.

No additional energy Little additional energy Moderate additional energy Substantial additional energy High additional energy Don't know

* 56. Change or improve the music of the church to deepen our worship experience.

No additional energy Little additional energy Moderate additional energy Substantial additional energy High additional energy Don't know

* 57. Make necessary changes to attract families with children and youth to our church.

No additional energy Little additional energy Moderate additional energy Substantial additional energy High additional energy Don't know

* 58. Provide more opportunities for Christian education and spiritual formation at every age and stage of life.

No additional energy Little additional energy Moderate additional energy Substantial additional energy High additional energy Don't know

* 59. Develop and implement a comprehensive strategy to reach new people and incorporate them into the life of the church.

No additional energy Little additional energy Moderate additional energy Substantial additional energy High additional energy Don't know

* 60. Expand the international mission of the church with both financial resources and personal involvement.

No additional energy Little additional energy Moderate additional energy Substantial additional energy High additional energy Don't know

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* 61. Adapt the opportunities provided by the church making them more accessible given the pace and schedule of my life. (i.e. online education, early morning classes, lunch discussions)

No additional energy Little additional energy Moderate additional energy Substantial additional energy High additional energy Don't know

* 62. Work as an advocate for social and institutional change so that society might better reflect the values of the kingdom of God.

No additional energy Little additional energy Moderate additional energy Substantial additional energy High additional energy Don't know

* 63. Strengthen the management and support of persons in various ministries so that they are able to do what they do best in work that is meaningful and celebrated.

No additional energy Little additional energy Moderate additional energy Substantial additional energy High additional energy Don't know

* 64. Work to renew and revitalize the community around the church by building coalitions with partners that share this vision and commitment.

No additional energy Little additional energy Moderate additional energy Substantial additional energy High additional energy Don't know

* 65. Develop ministries that work toward healing those broken by life circumstances.

No additional energy Little additional energy Moderate additional energy Substantial additional energy High additional energy Don't know

* 66. Expand outreach ministries that provide direct services to those living on the margins of society.
(i.e. homeless, immigrant, transient persons)

No additional energy Little additional energy Moderate additional energy Substantial additional energy High additional energy Don't know

7. Participation in Church Life

The following section of the assessment will give a picture of your participation in the church. For each question, click on the response that is most accurate:

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* 67. On the average, about how many times did you attend regularly scheduled church worship during the past 12 months?

None

About 1 to 4 times

About once a month

About twice a month

About 3 times a month

All but 4 weeks a year

Every week

* 68. Whether in this church or a former one, how does your present attendance in the preceding item compare with three years ago?

About a third as much

About half as much

Somewhat less

About the same

Somewhat more

About twice as often now

Three times as often now or more

* 69. Please indicate the degree of your participation during the past year in church activities other than worship such as choir, education, study group, committee or Board, service or recreation group, etc. Count the total of all such activities.

I do not attend any of these activities

I attended about one time every other month

I attended about once a month

I attended about 2 or 3 times a month

I attended about once a week

I attended about twice a week

I attended more than 2 times a week

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* 70. In relation to the activities of the preceding question, please indicate your agreement/disagreement with the statement, "On the whole, participation in church activities is very meaningful to me."

Strongly disagree Disagree Tend to disagree Tend to agree Agree Strongly agree Don't know

* 71. How often do you find time for your own individual spiritual growth?

- Almost never
- About every other month
- About once a month
- About twice a month
- About once a week
- About every other day
- Regularly each day

* 72. How long have you been attending this church?

- Less than one year
- 1 to 2 years
- 3 to 4 years
- 5 to 10 years
- 11 to 15 years
- 16 to 20 years
- Over 20 years

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73. Approximately how much do you contribute INDIVIDUALLY to your church per year? If you are married and you and your spouse contribute jointly, use the number beside one-half of that annual contribution.

- Under \$104 (less than \$2 per week)
- \$104 to \$208 (\$2 to \$4 per week)
- \$209 to \$520 (\$4 to \$10 per week)
- \$521 to \$1040 (\$10 to \$20 per week)
- \$1041 to \$2600 (\$20 to \$50 per week)
- \$2601 to \$3900 (\$50 to \$75 per week)
- \$3901 to \$10400 (\$75 to \$200 per week)
- \$10401 + (more than \$200 per week)

* 74. What is your gender?

- Male
- Female

* 75. What is your ethnic background?

- Black
- Caucasian
- Native
- Latino
- Asian
- Other

* 76. What is your age range?

- Below 19
- 19 to 24
- 25 to 34
- 35 to 44
- 45 to 54
- 55 to 64
- 65 or older

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* 77. What is your highest level of education?

- Less than high school
- Some high school
- High school graduate
- Some college or vocational training
- College graduate
- Some post graduate work
- Graduate degree

* 78. About how far is your residence from the church building?

- 4 blocks or less
- 5 to 8 blocks
- 1 to 2 miles
- 3 to 4 miles
- 5 to 9 miles
- 10 to 15 miles
- Over 15 miles

8. Household Data

If you live alone, or if you are the only member of your household completing the assessment, please respond to the following items, Questions 79 to 85. If two or more members of the household complete the assessment, only ONE of you should respond to this part. Remember that responses are confidential. In each case "household" means persons living at your address who you consider to be in a family relationship. Include college students if their legal residence continues to be at your household. REMEMBER: ONLY ONE PERSON PER HOUSEHOLD SHOULD ANSWER THESE QUESTIONS. If another member of the household is completing this section skip now to Question 86. Otherwise, please click on the best response for each of the questions below:

79. How many persons are in your household? Please include yourself in the count.

- One
- Two
- Three
- Four
- Five
- Six or more

80. How many children age 0 - 5 are in your household?

- None
- One
- Two
- Three
- Four
- Five
- Six or more

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81. How many children age 6 - 12 are in your household?

- None One Two Three Four Five Six or more

82. How many youth age 13 - 18 are in your household? I include yourself if you are in this age group.

- None One Two Three Four Five Six or more

83. How many young adults age 19 - 24 are in your household? I include yourself if you are in this age group.

- None One Two Three Four Five Six or more

84. How many adults age 25 or older are in your household? Again, include yourself, if you are in this group.

- None One Two Three Four Five Six or more

85. What is your household annual income range? If there is more than one wage earner or income from other sources, add all such sources for an approximate total. If you do not know the income range, enter your best estimate.

- Below \$20,000
 \$20,000 to \$34,999
 \$35,000 to \$49,999
 \$50,000 to \$69,999
 \$70,000 to \$99,999
 \$100,000 to \$149,999
 \$150,000 to \$299,999
 \$300,000 or more

9. THANKS!

Thanks for taking the time to complete this assessment. Your responses will help us as leaders to do a better job in guiding the church through our transition.