

The BIG Reveal

Survey Results from 2015 and 2018

HolyCow!
COMMUNITIES



The Beginning of the Conversation Starts with Listening

We listened to you through your completion of surveys (2015 Self-Study, 2018 Holy Cow). There were strong parallels between the two, the parallels and the number of people who completed both surveys were the tools that made this Reveal an accurate assessment of us, God's faithful congregation, First Presbyterian Church Warren.

The information in this brochure will first tell you the bottom line: the (4) priorities (by compilation of both surveys); the direction you want your church to move next on its journey with Christ. Second, we will share with you the snapshot of who we are at this time in Warren, Ohio. Third, we will share our strengths, and fourth, our challenges. Overall the good news is that we can still be a viable source of God's love through our Lord and Savior, working as the Holy Spirit so moves us.

*I will go before you and make the crooked paths straight-
Isaiah 45:2*

+ PRIORITIES

■ **Growth:** Strategy to reach new people and incorporate them into the life of the church.

■ **Growth:** Make necessary changes to attract families with children and youth to our church.

■ **Tithing:** Develop the spiritual generosity of the people to financially support the ministry of the church.

■ **Growth:** Provide more opportunities for education and spiritual formation at every age and stage of life

Without exception across all age groups these were your priorities:

- **Growth:** strategize to reach new people and incorporate them into the life of the church
- **Growth:** make necessary changes to attract families with children and youth to our church
- **Tithing:** develop the spiritual generosity of the people to financially support the ministry of the church
- **Growth:** provide more opportunities for education and spiritual formation at every age and stage of life

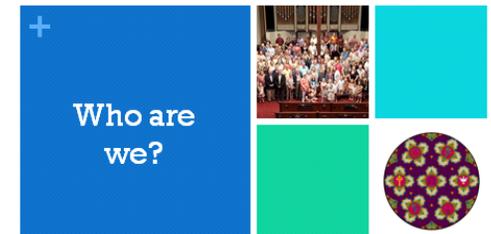
Ironically, to achieve the growth and tithing priorities we must start with the last priority, Spiritual Formation.

You will soon see more opportunities for your individual spiritual growth on the church calendar. In this interim time as we await our new pastor there is much we can do about our spiritual formation. If you have a particular area of spirituality you'd like to pursue please let Rev. Betty Angelini know.

Further, a small committee will be working behind the scenes to make Spiritual Education plans for all age groups and life styles. Whether you are an empty-nester, or an over-tired parent we want to provide you with comfort through studying the scriptures.

By wisdom a house is built and through understanding it is established; through knowledge its rooms are filled with rare and beautiful treasures.
Proverbs 24:3

"To thine own self be true. Thou thenst can be false to no man." - SHAKESPEARE



Descriptive Indices

The Holy Cow Survey showed that we are a congregation that is inclined to be settled.

We are a *Hearth and Home* people with some tendency to be flexible in our spiritual understanding.

The majority of us are okay with the status quo... humming along and knowing what will happen each season of the year gives us a sense of the familiar. There are others of us who desire to move out of the box and be led to do other things in addition to the status quo.



STRENGTHS:

- Theological Diversity-we are diverse on the scale of progressive to conservative and we honor one another's theological beliefs
- Conflict Management-we are a people who resolve differences easily
- Worship and Music-we place great value on our worship experience and the service music
- Hospitality-we take good care of each other, we are happy to see and greet one another

Note: there is another indicator of our Hospitality in the next section

Mark 4:3-20 The Parable of the Sower

Some seed will fall on road and be trampled, some on the side of the road and not root well, some will fall on good ground and produce a thousand fold. (paraphrased)



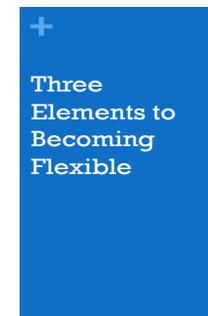
CHALLENGES:

- Hospitality-here it is...while we are hospitable to one another we do not feel we are equipped to talk with newcomers to our church.
- Spiritual Vitality-we have a deficit of programming for spiritual growth for all ages and stages of life.
- Readiness for Ministry-we do not feel equipped for ministry because we have not discovered our gifts or been educated about how to use them
- Educational Engagement-similar to Spiritual Vitality, we desire to be in company with others as we journey through life.
- Flexibility-you've heard it..."We've never done it that way before..."indicating that we don't want to do anything differently. A pretzel is flexible until it is baked...we're not completely baked yet.

NOW WHAT?

Be strong and of good courage; be not frightened, neither be dismayed; for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go. Joshua 1:9b

"Nothing changes, if nothing changes."



- Mission vs. Programs
- "Let's try it!" attitude
- Courageous Leadership

Similar to the start, the last of the challenges (Flexibility) will create the environment for growth in our other Challenges.

THREE STEPS TO FLEXIBILITY

- Mission vs. Programs- Our mission includes the priorities and growth opportunities which were discerned by the survey. There are many possible routes or programs to accomplish our mission.
- "Let's try it!" Attitude -We will need to try some new things, they might not all work perfectly, when they don't we'll need to be able to keep our eye on the goal and try something else.
- Courageous Leadership -We will certainly need a courageous leader with a jaw set to the goal. A leader with determination and stamina; who has proven abilities in this leadership skill.

*Sources: 2015 Self-study, 2018 Holy Cow Survey
Transition Task Force 2-0: Rev. Betty Angelini, Mary Ann Bromley, Lynnette Devanny, Mary Kilpatrick, Marty Nadenichek, Marilyn Pogue, Ray Rubrake*

| | | |
|--|--|--|
| | | |
|--|--|--|