# Instructions

Sample Community Church has partnered with Community Empowerment Research to conduct a survey of our congregation. This questionnaire helps us discern what the congregation perceives as important and what is not important. Completing the survey will likely take about an hour. The goal of this survey is to discover what goals people feel are important so that we can plan our ministries in line with the congregation's desires. The time you give for this survey is very important to our church.

Completing this survey ensures that your views have been heard and it will give us a baseline from which to measure whether we are moving in directions that we think are important. We ask that each member of your household over the age of 15 complete the survey.



You may use any pencil or pen to mark your answers. Please answer all questions. If you have any doubts, mark the answer that best represents your thoughts.

Do not put your name on this questionnaire. Your answers to this survey will be treated with complete confidentiality. Our church will receive only aggregate (summarized) results. The responses from each individual will remain with Community Empowerment Research and will not be made public.

When answering this survey, please fill in the appropriate circle or check the appropriate boxes as indicated. When answering questions with a limited number of choices, please choose the answer that comes closest to the right answer for you, even if it does not fit perfectly. It is important that we receive input from everyone. Your participation in this survey assures your input on our self-evaluation!

Again, your responses are anonymous. Thank you for your cooperation. We hope you enjoy filling out the questionnaire and that in addition to assisting our church, you find this process helpful in reflecting on your faith, the meaning of your church experience, and your hopes for the future.

The results will give us an excellent indicator of the areas on which we need to work as a congregation.

If you have any questions about the survey, please contact the Planning Committee at [email address].

Thank you for taking the time to help our church do God's work better.



1.	How old are you	?						
	O Under 20	<ul><li>○ 20 - 24</li><li>○ 50 - 54</li></ul>	<ul> <li>○ 25 - 29</li> <li>○ 55 - 59</li> </ul>	O 30−34 O 60−64	○ 35 - 39 ○ 65 - 69	○ 40 - 44 ○ 70 - 74	<ul><li>O 45 – 49</li><li>O 75 or older</li></ul>	
2.	What best descr	ibes your curre	ent marital state	us?				
	O Single, never marr	O Marrie ied remar		vivorced or eparated	O Widowed	<ul> <li>O Domestic partners</li> </ul>		
3.	What do you cor	nsider to be yo	ur race or ethn	icity (mark all th	nat apply):			
	<ul> <li>White/Anglo</li> <li>Black/Africation</li> <li>Other:</li> </ul>	n American	<ul><li>Asian</li><li>Hispanic</li></ul>		American Indian/ Pacific Islander	Alaska Native		
4.	Gender	O Male	OF	emale	2	$\sim$		
5.	What is your hig	hest level of fo	ormal education	1?				
_	<ul> <li>O Less than hi</li> <li>O High school</li> <li>O Associate's or some coll</li> </ul>	gh school or GED equival degree, trade sc	O Mas ent O MD, hool, O PhD	ster's degree , JD, or similar pr ) or similar adva <mark>r</mark> helor's degree		e	~	
6.	Which best desc	•						
	<ul><li>O One person</li><li>O One adult wit</li><li>O A couple wit</li></ul>	ith child/children		o or more adults veral adults living		1		
7.	Number of child	ren living at ho	me and their a	ges:	$\sim$			
	Total:	0 1	2 3		5 6	7 8	<b>9</b> +	
8.	How long have y O Less than 1 O 11-15 years		ding this churc O 1-2 years O 16-20 year	0	3-5 years More than 20 yea		0 years	
9.	How long have y	ou been a Ch	ristian?					
	O Not a Christi	an O Les	s than 1 year	O 1-5 years		0 years	O More than 10 years	
10.	How much time	do you spend		-				
	<ul> <li>O No time at a</li> <li>O 4 - 5 hrs</li> </ul>		O Less than O 5 - 6 hrs		1 - 2 hrs 6 - 7 hrs	O 3-	4 hrs or more hrs	
11.	O At least once	•	e circumstance o or three	o Once every	•	urch? ce or twice	O Almost never	
	week or mor often		es a month	month or tw			O Almost never	
12.	Approximately h	ow much does	s your househo	ld contribute to	our church per	year?		
	O Under \$200 O \$2,500 - \$3,		)0 - \$599 500 - \$4,999	○ \$600 - \$999 ○ \$5,000 - \$7		000 - \$1,499 er \$7,500	○ \$1,500 - \$2,499	
13.	How many times	s in the past ye	ar have you pa	articipated in a s	small group stu	dy on a topic ur	nrelated to the Bible?	
	O More than 30 times	O 20 to 30 times	O 11 to 20 times	O 5 to 10 times	O 1 to 4 times	O Once	O Never	
14.	How many times	s in the past ye	ar have you pa	articipated in Sr	nall group Bible	study or discu	ssion of a Christian boo	אכ?
	O More than 30 times	O 20 to 30 times	O 11 to 20 times	O 5 to 10 times	O 1 to 4 times	O Once	O Never	

	the circle that best represents the priority you feel should be given to each of ollowing activities.	Highest Priority	High Priority	Moderate Priority	Low Priority	No Priority
15.	Actively and visibly promoting the church's stewardship program	0	0	0	0	0
16	Adult education programs on the meaning of Christian stewardship	0	0	0	0	0
17.	Adult faith formation	0	0	0	0	0
18	Building a sense of community within the congregation	0	О	0	0	0
19.	Calling attention to social issues from the pulpit and in groups	0	0	0	0	0
20	Ministry to preschoolers in the church (birth through kindergarten)	0	О	0	0	0
21.	Children's ministry (grades 1-5)	0	0	0	0	0
22	Adult Christian Education	0	0	0	0	0
23.	Adult discipleship	0	Ŏ	0	0	0
24	Conducting fundraisers such as fairs, bazaars, rumage sales, etc.	0	0	0	0	0
25.	Directly providing social services for persons in need	0	0	0	0	0
26	Encouraging donations to a church endowment through wills and bequests	0	0	0	0	0
27.	Encouraging membership pledging	0	О	0	0	0
28	Encouraging the minister to work with community groups	0	0	0	0	0
29.	Encouraging tithing or proportionate giving	0	О	0	0	0
30	Giving money to ecumenical or non-denominational programs	0	0	0	0	0
31.	Hiring a professional fund raising consultant or group	0	О	0	0	0
32	Lobbying and petitioning corporate government officials on peace and justice issues	0	0	0	0	0
33.	Mailing church literature to newcomers in our community	0	0	0	0	0
34	Mailings to members clearly setting forth the reasons for Christian stewardship	0	0	0	0	0
35.	Maintaining the church web site	0	0	0	0	0
36	Ministry to the divorced and separated	0	0	0	0	0
37.	Ministry to those grieving	0	О	0	0	0
38	More small group prayer opportunities	О	О	0	0	0
39.	Organizing social issue advocacy or action groups	О	О	0	0	0
40	Outreach to Inactive Members	О	О	0	0	0
41.	Pastoral or lay visits to newcomers in our community	О	О	0	0	0
42	Providing a style of worship that appeals to unchurched	О	О	0	0	0
43.	Providing opportunities for members to help the needy	О	О	0	0	0
44	Providing retreat opportunities	О	О	0	0	0
45.	Special giving appeals for a charitable cause or mission effort	О	О	0	0	0
46	Strong appeals from the pulpit for stewardship	О	О	0	0	0
47.	Supporting community social service programs for persons in need	О	О	0	0	0
48	Visitation to the sick and homebound	О	О	0	0	0
49.	Young adult ministry	О	О	0	0	0
50	Youth ministry (grades 6-12)	О	О	0	0	0

#### Page 4

	the circle that best represents the priority you feel should be given to each of ollowing activities.	Highest Priority	High Priority	Moderate Priority	Low Priority	No Priority
51.	Stressing from the pulpit the importance of members inviting others to visit our church	0	0	0	0	0
52	Appealing to members to personally share their faith with others	О	О	0	О	0
53.	Using newspaper advertisements	0	0	0	0	0
54	Using radio or television (including cable stations)	О	0	0	0	0
55.	Developing church programs especially targeted at unchurched persons in our community	0	0	О	О	0
56	Changing the style of our worship to make it more appealing to the unchurched	О	О	0	О	0
57.	Building small-group Bible and study groups in which members can grow in spiritually, emotionally, and in knowledge of God	О	0	0	О	О
58	Providing occasional classes or workshops where members can learn how to grow spiritually and in knowledge of God	О	О	О	О	0
59.	Providing occasional classes or workshops where members and non-members can learn how to improve their lives or overcome or prevent difficulties (such as a financial planning seminar)	0	0	0	0	0
60	Developing home Bible and study groups to which non-members (neighbors, friends, newcomers and those unchurched) are invited	0	0	О	О	0
61.	Encouraging people to invite friends to church	0	О	0	0	0
62	Encouraging people to read and study the Bible regularly	0	О	0	0	0
63.	Encouraging people to spend time in prayer and/or meditation	0	О	0	О	0
64	Encouraging people to actively seek social and economic justice	0	О	0	0	0
65.	Encouraging people to take care of those who are in need	О	О	О	О	0
66	Encouraging people to attend church regularly	О	0	О	О	0
67.	Encouraging people to seek to bring others to faith in Christ	0	О	0	0	0
68	Encouraging people to practice Christian values in your home	0	0	0	0	0
69.	Other:	О	О	О	О	Ο
	Ir judgment what priority should our congregation put on these ways to be ved with the community outside our church?	Highest Priority	High Priority	Moderate Priority	Low Priority	No Priority
70	Providing or supporting social services for persons in need	О	О	О	О	0
71.	Providing meeting rooms in the church for community groups working on various issues and problems	О	0	О	О	О
72	Encouraging the minister to use a portion of his/her time working with community and social action groups	0	0	О	О	0
73.	Calling attention to social, community and world issues from the pulpit and in study groups	О	О	О	О	0
74	Organizing social issue advocacy or action groups	0	О	0	0	0
75.	Linking interested lay members to denominational, ecumenical or nonchurch social service or advocacy programs	О	0	О	О	0
76	Giving money to denominational programs	0	0	0	0	0

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#### Page 5

	ir judgment what priority should our congregation put on these ways to be lved with the community outside our church?	Highest Priority	High Priority	Moderate Priority	Low Priority	No Priority
77.	Giving money to ecumenical or nondenominational programs	0	0	0	0	О
78	Helping organize or support disadvantaged groups to pursue their own causes	0	0	О	О	О
79.	Lobbying and petitioning corporate and government officials on peace and justice issues	0	0	0	0	0
80	Related to Stewardship, what priority should be given to: Strong appeals from the pulpit	0	0	0	0	0
81.	Adult education programs on the meaning of Christian stewardship (priority)	0	0	0	0	0
82	Other:	0	0	О	О	О
	much priority should be given toward outreach to each of these groups in the munity?	Highest Priority	High Priority	Moderate Priority	Low Priority	No Priority
83.	Children (ages 4 to 12)	0	0	О	О	О
84	Teens (ages 13 to 17)	0	0	0	0	О
85.	Young adults (ages 18 to 35)	0	0	О	О	О
86	Senior citizens (age 65 and older)	О	О	О	О	О
87.	Single adults	0	О	О	О	О
88	Married couples	0	0	0	0	0
89.	Those divorced or separated	0	0	О	0	О
90	Single parents	0	О	0	О	О
91.	Those sick or homebound	О	О	0	0	О
92	Those grieving	0	О	0	О	О
93.	Those in financial need	0	О	О	0	О
94	Inactive members	0	О	О	О	О
95.	New members	0	О	О	0	О
96	Visitors and guests	0	О	0	О	О
97.	Other:	0	0	О	О	О
	t priority should be given to each of these aspects of children's Christian cation (thru grade 5)?	Highest Priority	High Priority	Moderate Priority	Low Priority	No Priority
98	Teaching children about the Bible and the church	О	О	О	О	Ο
99.	Giving children the feeling that they are loved by God and the church	0	0	0	0	0
100	Developing in children a sense that Christian love includes respect for and service to others	0	0	0	0	0
101.	Providing examples of what it means to be a Christian in today's world	0	О	0	0	0
102	Offering enjoyable fellowship activities	0	О	0	0	0
103	Including the children in the worship service	0	0	0	0	0
104	Other:	0	О	0	О	О

What priority should be given to each of these aspects of Christian Education program for youth (grades 6 - 12)?	Highest Priority	High Priority	Moderate Priority	Low Priority	No Priority
105. Educational programming that is biblically centered	О	0	О	0	0
106 Educational programming that helps youth clarify values and beliefs	О	0	О	О	0
107. Programming that involves youth in serving others	0	0	0	0	0
108 Providing fellowship opportunities for youth to have fun in Christian setting	0	0	О	О	0
109. Youth choirs or other kinds of musical groups	0	0	0	0	0
110 Including the youth in the worship service	О	О	О	О	0
111. Other:	0	Q	О	О	О
What priority should the Christian Education program for adults of this church give to	Highest Priority	High Priority	Moderate Priority	Low Priority	No Priority
112 Study groups dealing with the Bible and theology	О	0	0	0	0
113. Study, and discussion groups dealing with contemporary issues, topics, and problems	0	0	О	О	0
114 Prayer, meditation, and spirituality groups	О	О	О	О	0
115. Support groups in which members share with each other at the level of feelings and personal experience	0	О	0	0	0
116 Fellowship events or hobby groups	О	О	О	О	0
117. Evangelistic outreach and visitation groups	0	0	0	0	0
118 Social concern groups for planning and working on projects directed at community or social issues/problems	0	О	0	0	О
119. Recreation/Athletic activities	0	0	0	0	0
120 Literary/culture groups	О	0	О	О	0
121. Groups and classes that explore marriage, the family, and parenting issues	0	0	0	0	0
122 Other:	О	О	О	О	0
How important to you are these worship service objectives:	Highest Priority	High Priority	Moderate Priority	Low Priority	No Priority
123. Build community	О	0	О	0	0
124 Help us understand ourselves better; self-reflection	0	0	0	0	0
125. Inspire reverence and awe	0	0	0	0	0
126 Promote a supportive environment for developing and sharing individual feelings and beliefs	0	О	0	0	0
127. Show new paths for individual growth and change	0	0	0	0	0
128 Spur individuals to act on their own convictions	О	0	О	0	0
129. Celebration of common values	0	0	0	0	0
130 Intellectual stimulation	О	О	О	О	0
131. Fellowship period before or after services	0	0	0	0	0
132 Hearing, playing, or singing music	0	О	О	0	0

#### Moderate Priority Highest Priority High Priority Priority No Priority Low How important to you are these worship service objectives: 133. Mystical, spiritual experience Ο Ο Ο Ο О 134 Personal reflection and meditation Ο Ο Ο Ο Ο 135 Sense of belonging Ο Ο O Ο Ο 136 Support and encouragement for social action Ο Ο Ο Ο Ο 137. Uplifting emotional experience 0 Ο Ο Ο $\mathbf{O}$ 138 Other: $\mathbf{O}$ $\mathbf{O}$ $\mathbf{O}$ $\mathbf{O}$ $\bigcirc$ Moderate Priority Highest Priority Priority Low Priority No Priority How important to you as part of a worship service is... 139. Providing time for members to greet one another Ο Ο Ο Ο Ο 140. Providing emotionally moving worship Ο Ο Ο Ο Ο 141. Providing intellectually challenging worship $\mathbf{O}$ $\mathbf{O}$ Ο Ο $\mathbf{O}$ 142 Attention given to sacraments Ο Ο Ο Ο Ο 143. Use of inclusive, non-sexist language Ο Ο Ο Ο Ο 144 Use of creeds or statements of faith Ο Ο Ο Ο Ο 145. Time of silent prayer or meditation Ο Ο Ο Ο Ο 146 Having parts of the worship especially for children Ο Ο Ο Ο Ο 147. Use of new or unfamiliar hymns or worship songs Ο Ο Ο Ο Ο Corporate prayer in which the entire congregation participates 148 Ο Ο Ο Ο Ο 149 Providing worship at times other than morning Ο Ο Ο Ο Ο Use of contemporary worship styles, music, and language 150 Ο Ο Ο Ο $\bigcirc$ 151. Announcements Ο Ο Ο Ο Ο 152 Celebrating religious holidays Ο Ο Ο O Ο 153 Candle lightings Ο Ο Ο Ο Ο Child baptisms or dedications 154 Ο Ο Ο Ο 0 155 Adult baptisms Ο Ο Ο Ο Ο Choir or Music Program 156 0 Ο Ο Ο Ο 157. Coffee hour $\mathbf{O}$ $\mathbf{O}$ Ο $\mathbf{O}$ $\mathbf{O}$ Instrumental music 158 Ο Ο Ο Ο Ο 159. Lay participation in leading worship Ο Ο Ο Ο Ο Meditation 160 Ο Ο Ο Ο Ο 161. Multicultural sensitivity Ο Ο Ο Ο Ο Prayer 162 Ο Ο Ο Ο Ο 163 Biblical Readings Ο Ο Ο O Ο Reciting historical creeds 164 Ο Ο Ο Ο Ο 165. Recognizing visitors $\mathbf{O}$ Ο Ο Ο Ο Responsive readings 166 Ο Ο Ο Ο Ο

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		Highest Priority	High Priority	Moderate Priority	Low Priority	No Priority
How important to you as part of a worship service is				0	0	0
	haring joys and concerns	0	0	0	0	0
	inging of hymns or worship songs	0	0	0	0	0
How in	mportant to you are these various sermon topics:	Highest Priority	High Priority	Moderate Priority	Low Priority	No Priority
170 C	Christian traditions	О	0	0	О	О
171. C	Coping with life	0	0	0	О	О
172 C	Creative and artistic abilities	О	О	О	Ο	О
173. C	Current political events	О	О	О	О	О
174 E	Earth-centered traditions	О	О	О	0	О
175. F	Family relationships and values	О	О	О	О	О
176 J	lewish traditions	О	О	О	О	О
177. N	Non-western religions	О	О	О	О	О
178 P	Personal growth	О	О	О	О	О
179. P	Philosophical ideas	О	0	О	О	О
180 P	Psychological perspectives on life's issues	О	О	О	О	О
181. R	Religious implications of science and modern knowledge	О	О	О	О	О
182 V	Vays to grow spiritually	О	О	О	О	О
183. S	Stimulate action of convictions	О	О	О	О	О
184 T	heological thought	О	0	0	О	0
185. D	Denominational issues	О	О	0	О	О
186 D	Denominational history	О	О	О	О	О
187. V	/alues and perspectives on social issues	О	О	О	О	О
188 C	Other:	О	О	О	0	О
-	u, how important are each of the following in the mix of qualities that make a sermon:	Highest Priority	High Priority	Moderate Priority	Low Priority	No Priority
	A bulletin outline with blanks to fill in to help me remember the points of the nessage	0	0	0	0	0
190 B	Based on a clear, unambiguous religious authority	О	0	0	0	0
191. C	Contains scholarly or literary illustrations	0	0	0	0	0
192 E	Expository preaching that covers entire portions of scripture verse by verse	О	О	0	О	0
193. ls	s Biblically based	0	0	0	0	0
194 ls	s carefully composed and skillfully delivered	О	О	0	0	0
195. ls	s challenging and thought-provoking	0	0	0	0	О
196 ls	s comforting and reassuring	0	0	0	0	0

#### Page 9

-	you, how important are each of the following in the mix of qualities that make a d sermon:	Highest Priority	High Priority	Moderate Priority	Low Priority	No Priority
197.	Is spiritually moving and inspirational	0	Ο	0	0	0
198	Makes me reflect on issues and events that go beyond my personal life and local community	0	0	0	0	0
199.	Obviously flows from the depth of the preacher's own personal faith and spiritual convictions	0	0	0	0	0
200	Outlines inserted inside the bulletin or printed on the bulletin so I can save them for later use	0	О	0	0	0
201.	Sets forth a clear guide for making decisions and living a faithful life	0	0	0	0	0
202	Sets forth various sides of an issue without advocating one position as the only Christian position	0	0	0	0	0
203.	Slide shows projected on a screen	0	0	0	0	0
204	Topical preaching that deals with subjects relevant to my life drawing scripture from various places in the bible	О	О	О	0	О
205.	Touches directly on my everyday life	0	0	0	0	0
206	Other:	О	0	0	0	О
	e congregation were able to raise significantly more money than currently geted, how high a priority would you give to the following uses of that money:	Highest Priority	High Priority	Moderate Priority	Low Priority	No Priority
207.	Increased support to our denomination	0	0	0	0	0
208	Increased support for community social service programs	0	0	0	0	0
209.	Increased support for world missions	О	О	О	0	О
210	Increase current staff salaries	О	О	О	О	О
211.	Hire additional staff	О	О	О	0	О
212	Renovate, enlarge, or add to current facilities	О	О	О	О	О
213.	Increase budget for educational and program materials and resources	О	О	О	0	О
214	Begin an endowment or add to an existing one	О	О	О	О	О
215.	Increase evangelistic efforts and advertising	О	О	О	0	О
216	Other:	0	0	0	0	0

217. Please indicate the range of your total annual family income:

O Less than \$15,000

O \$15,000-\$29,999

O \$30,000-\$49,999

- O \$50,000-\$74,999
- O \$150,000-\$199,999
- O \$75,000-\$99,999 O \$200,000 or more
- O \$100,000-\$149,999
- Thank you for completing our church priority survey.

#### The results of the survey will be available in a few weeks and will be shared with everyone.

# But don't worry, Community Empowerment Research will maintain total confidentiality of individual surveys.