THE TRANSFORMING CHURCH INDEX

2008

The Transforming Church Index (TCI) measures our congregation's key strengths as well as opportunities for improvement. It is designed to be the first step in a process of understanding our church.

TAG, the management consulting firm that developed the TCI has a data base of over 23,000 records or responses to the survey that have been analyzed. From these responses, national norms have been created that give our church a relative benchmark. Churches from virtually every major denomination, as well as non-denominational churches have participated. Churches of all sizes, from under 50 to over 13,000 members have participated. These churches represent the fabric of American church and virtually every model that exists among Protestant churches in America (traditional, contemporary, city, rural, conservative, liberal…….)

Beautiful Savior Luther Church had 60 respondents who completed the survey. This represents 30% of the approximately 200 worshipers who attend church on a given Sunday. This exceeds the 15% of respondents necessary for accuracy in terms of interpreting the responses.

Only one respondent reported their age as 40 or less. The majority of respondents have attended BSLC for 5 or more years. The majority of respondents travel from 1-20 minutes to get to BSLC.

BEAUTIFUL SAVIOR'S RELATIVE STRENGTHS

Compared to the national norm, BSLC scored highest on the following questions:

- **I am involved in a regular smaller group within the church.**
- **This church's buildings and facilities are effective in supporting our ministries**
- **I have participated in an outreach event sponsored by this church within the last twelve months**
- **My church is …. warm**
- **I am aware of our church's financial condition**
- **My actions influence the church**
- **Changes at the church rarely catch me by surprise**
- **When big decisions are made, many people are included in the decision-making process**
- **I help support the church financially**
- **I am helpful around here**

The consultant who interpreted the results for us indicated that these strengths indicate that people are personally connected at BSLC. They feel valued and have a sense of belonging.

Of the 15 total scales covered by the survey, our highest percentile scores were on the following scales: Communication About Change, Social Connections and Personal Connection to the Church's Purpose.

BEAUTIFUL SAVIOR'S RELATIVE OPPORTUNITIES FOR IMPROVEMENT

Compared to the national norm, BSLC scored lowest on the following questions:

- **The church promotes a healthy balance between work, home and church responsibilities**
- **Our local community (or neighborhood) knows what our church stands for.**
- **Our church's programs and ministries are effectively promoted in our community**
- **Our church effectively closes down programs or ministries that are no longer effective.**
- **This church effectively meets the needs of its families**
- **My church is … family**
- **Our leaders effectively establish the church's direction, purpose, and objectives.**
- **Our church effectively meets the needs of its single adults**
- **Our church has an effective follow-up program for those who have visited our church.**
- **Our leaders are unified in purpose and direction.**

Our consultant commented that these areas reflect need for improvement in members and visitors knowing what BSLC is about and learning how individual members come together around a vision and strategies for reaching that vision. Lay leadership needs to grow and that leadership needs to come together to do the corporate work of the church.

Of the 15 total scales covered by the survey, our lowest percentile scores were on the following scales: Meets Needs, Personal Growth, and Local Impact.

Three significant needs have come to the forefront as the Mission Academy Team, and the Church Council have begun to study the survey results.

We have a need for:

- **A strategic plan**

- **Increasing the number of discipleship groups and growth in discipleship opportunities**

- **Asking God's help in helping us discover our Unique Focus. Who are the people that we are trying to reach and bring the Gospel to? Who do we need to serve in the community outside our front doors?**

In between the strengths and the opportunities for improvement and the three highest scales and the three lowest scales, are many, many relative strengths and positives at BSLC. We will be highlighting more information from the survey in the future.