

Grace Free Lutheran Church Praise & Worship Survey Results

Communications

1. Executive Summary
2. PowerPoint handouts at church
3. Annual Meeting Discussion

Key Themes

_1) Overwhelming positive response to seeing a variety of worship: Positive response from 2/3 to nearly 100% for all areas listed:

- a) More use of contemporary music
- b) More use of simple praise songs
- c) Occasional starting service with praise or worship songs
- d) More use of traditional hymns
- e) More use of children's songs
- f) More use of rhythm instruments
- g) Occasional worship team with choir
- h) Songs of worship during communion
- i) Occasional change order of service
- j) Classical music trio, quartet, or quintet

We recognize that variety seems important to the congregation, as 2/3 to 98% of you are either OK or Like the variety of options listed. We will look for opportunities to consider integrating a number of these items. Given the number of them, we may choose to focus on a few areas, or do some of these things on an occasional basis. We welcome your continued feedback as we consider these options.

2) Worship style/format: There were both commonalities and differences of opinion expressed regarding style and format. When asked for the top 2 choices, here are the key themes:

There was general agreement not to go with liturgical or gospel music as a general practice, and not to jump from one distinct style to the next, from Sunday to Sunday. There was general agreement to have a blended service from a style standpoint.

Differences of opinion were found as follows: Almost 50% preferred hymns and simple chorus (60% if combined with those who prefer liturgical), while almost 60% prefer either Adult Contemporary or Progressive Contemporary as their top 2 preferred styles/formats.

We recognize that we have a church that fairly evenly split in its preferred style of worship, but also that most are accommodating in their preferences. The blended service allows for each group to have a portion of the service to meet their general preference. We want to stress that no style is considered better than another, as the Word of God instructs us to worship our Lord in many ways (e.g., joyfully, in Spirit and quietly in reverence and in truth). It is scriptural to worship God in a variety of ways.

3) The following results showed that participants either Agreed or Strongly Agreed in all areas, by a factor of 60% or more:

- a) Satisfied with praise & worship
 - b) The music set is the right length
 - c) Music/worship quality is right level
 - d) Praise & worship important part of service
 - e) The instrumentation is about right
 - f) Larger screen centered on blue divider
 - g) Words to songs printed in the bulletin
 - h) Song selection allows me to fully enter into worship
 - i) Quiet worship songs during communion
 - j) Variety of musical styles is about right
 - k) Special music is important part of service
 - l) Music important to first-time visitors
 - m) Quality of sound mix is good
 - n) The volume during singing is about right

We plan to continue to do the things listed that we are already doing. In addition, we will plan on considering the feasibility of adding a larger

screen, and will occasionally have of quiet worship songs sung during communion.

4) Instrumentation:

The current instrumentation is well-accepted by everyone. There is also an interest in having additional instruments. These will be considered as people come forward to serve in these areas. It appears that there are differences regarding instruments associated with more contemporary styles of worship (e.g., drums 37% in favor, electric guitar 49% in favor).

The church leadership is supportive of adding other instruments, provided it is done sensitively, with volumes controlled and with a clear emphasis on the words being sung. We will continue to offer a blended worship setting.

5) Themes from the Write-in Comments

- a) People truly care about our music and that we do not lose focus on why we are worshipping.
- b) Keep Christ at the center.
- c) Consider visitors in what we do.
- d) Align our music with the Word of God.
- e) A few concerns about having “I” or “me” in the song lyrics.

Concluding remarks

We greatly appreciate everyone who participated and helped administer the survey, especially the congregational members sharing their hearts. It would be impossible and impractical to try to address every issue or concern listed (e.g., someone wants *more* music song and another wants *less*). We need to continue to pray for unity, respect each others points of view. Please continue to provide feedback to our church and worship leaders. We need your input, guidance and support.