



**PPBC Coordinating Survey Planning Team**  
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# **Results of Congregational Survey Providence Park Baptist Church July 24, 2004**

## **Our Survey Revealed.....**

### **Executive Summary**

#### **Introduction**

In April 2004, the PPBC Coordinating Survey Planning Team developed a survey instrument for the purpose to identify areas of strength and weakness in our ministries. This effort had as its primary goal to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the church ministries. It was decided that survey research procedure would be the most effective tool to gather the necessary data.

#### **Subjects**

Provisions were made to ensure that we had a sufficient number of subjects to ensure a meaningful study. To encourage full participation of the membership, each organizational leader was asked to schedule time for its members to take the survey. To preserve the integrity of the process, participants were required to sign-in before being given a survey form. A cumulative master log of names of participants, and a strict account was made of all survey forms through a system of checks and balances. At the close of the survey period, survey instruments were packaged and mailed to Hostedware, Inc. where results were compiled.

#### **Instrument**

The survey instrument included 47 items composing of eight sections: demographics, discipleship, evangelism, facility services, fellowship, member services, ministry, worship and leadership and a comments section. An opportunity to complete the survey was given to all approximately 250 active members consisting of various ministries of the church including the congregation at large. With 132 people completing the survey and a

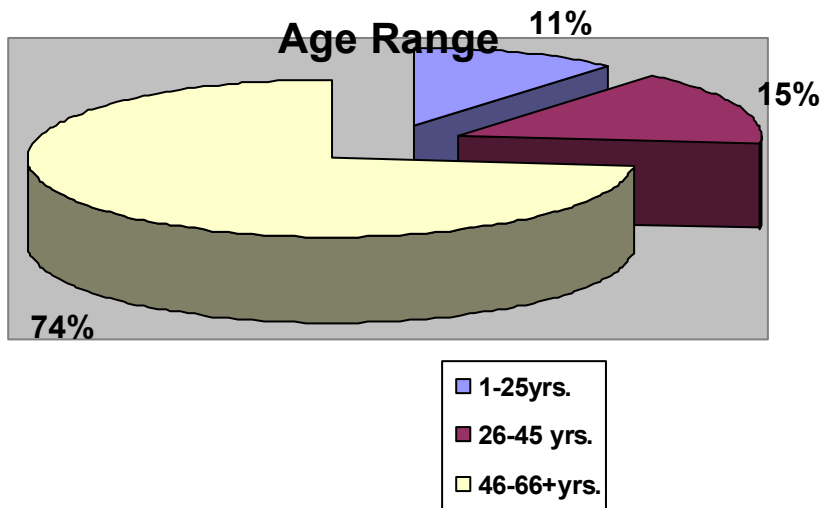
response rate of (53%), we think this sample size provided an excellent description of our congregation.

## Statistical Results

### Demographics

Our demographics indicated both strengths and opportunities. As shown in Figure 1 below, we are a very maturing congregation (74% of respondents range in ages between 46 and 66+ years of age). Half of our respondents (60%) are over 55 years of age. This age distribution means we have many retired members. Thus, there is a clear opportunity to capture and retain younger people to diversify our church membership. Furthermore, 47% of the respondents have been members of the PPBC between 31-36+ years which suggest that these congregants are strongly committed and interested in the future of the church.

Figure 1: I am in the Following Age Group.....



In our survey, we asked members to describe the church’s greatest assets by ranking eleven choices, 5 (lowest) to 1 (highest). It was revealed that the greatest assets were: “worship” (67%), “preaching” (67%) and “prayer” (56%). It is evident that these are the central part of church life. Beyond these three, congregants also had high rankings for “fellowship”, “music,” and “scouting.” It is noteworthy when asked to rank the PPBC strongest areas of ministry, Worship, preaching, scouting and prayer were again

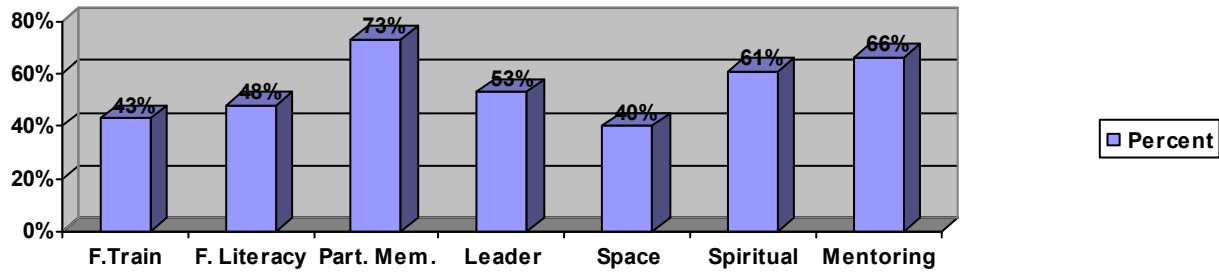
revealed. In the comments section, one respondent expressed an appreciation for the church noted, “I joined PPBC approx. 3 months ago and have enjoyed every moment. I fully trust and believe in the leaders and will continue to support every effort.”

When we asked members to rank urgent needs of the neighborhood of PPBC, from a list of 7 areas, we found that drug abuse predominates with a (75.8% ranking). A need for youth activities (60%) and family stability (67%) were also most frequently chosen and ranked highly.

In our survey, we asked members to identify and rank the weak areas of our ministry from a list of 11 areas with 5 (lowest) and 1 (highest). It is always a challenge for a member to put a value on any one ministry for each one is valued and members may not have participated in some of the ministries. Therefore, all members opted not to rank all choices. Survey results revealed that the most frequently chosen area was “Sunday School” (50.7%) and was ranked highest as a weak area. This choice validates a longstanding need to attract more youth via building up our church school program. In addition to asking to rank PPBC weak areas of ministry, the survey asked members to rank the most urgent needs of PPBC. As shown in Table 1, a large majority (73%) indicated that: “membership participation was an urgent need.” Sharing the second largest group were “youth mentoring” (66%) and “spiritual nurturing” (64%).

The emphasis on attracting more youth, spirituality enhancement, encouraging member participation and youth mentoring are consistent with our desire to attract more youth to our Sunday School Program. In the written section, several people remarked that “I think that the youth should be able to have more rights to do more.” Another respondent added this comment, “I believe that spiritual nurturing and programs that encourage our growth are critical.” Too much emphasis is given to nonspiritual issues and our congregation has lost its focus.”

Table 1: Urgent Needs of PPBC

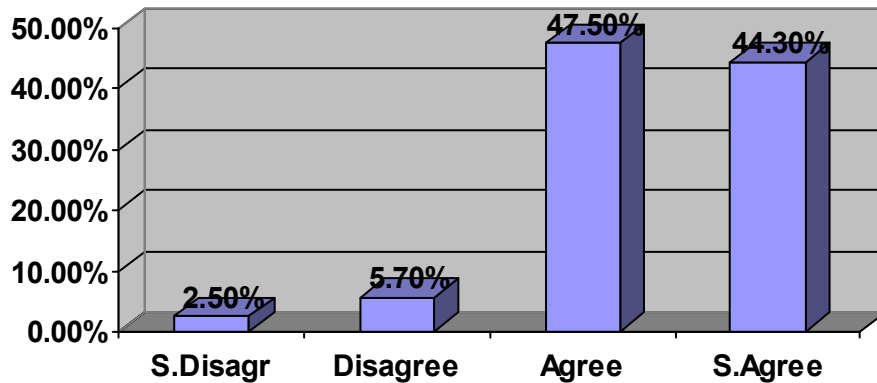


## Conclusion

In sum, the survey gave us empirical data that will support why our members attend and what they expect from worship and our pastor. The demographics have revealed that PPBC is well rooted in a dedicated membership. It is evident that the church maintains a sense loyalty to all of its members especially the seniors. Further, the survey revealed that PPBC has as assets in its worship, preaching and praying as well as some concerns (i.e. low percentage of members under 36).

There is an interesting conflict in respondents who revealed a need for participation (73% in Table 1) versus (92% in Table 2) of the respondents that noted, "I strongly agree/agree that there are opportunities for me to become involved in the life of PPBC." This inconsistency shows that while members have the opportunity to participate, for some reason, they are not electing to get involve. It is evident that members are seeking a sense of belonging. Perhaps they are seeking both an internal and external authentic church community. An investigation of a future study could uncover the causes of this disconnect.

**Table 2. Opportunities For Involvement**



It is not surprising that areas of real agreement are that the congregation wants to engage the PPBC community, bolster youth membership and enhance the spirituality of the church. We would like to see our leadership put forth a real team effort and attack these concerns. We must rally around the strengths of the congregation, seek to understand the urgent need to change and strategically usher up a strong intentional move toward the church’s vision.

### **Opportunities For Change**

The survey results revealed that PPBC can benefit from needed changes in the following areas:

<b>Max. Need for Change Areas</b>	<b>Moderate Need for Change Areas</b>	<b>Min. Need for Change Areas</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Membership Participation</li> <li>• Youth Mentoring</li> <li>• Spiritual Nurturing</li> <li>• Church School</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Family Training</li> <li>• Financial Literacy</li> <li>• Leadership Training</li> <li>• Space facility</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Facilities Services</li> <li>• Discipleship</li> <li>• Evangelism</li> <li>• Fellowship</li> <li>• Member Services</li> </ul>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Drug Abuse</li> <li>• Family Stability</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Upgrade</li> <li>• Security</li> <li>• Housing</li> <li>• Unemployment</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ministry</li> <li>• Worship and Leadership</li> </ul>

### Recommended Next Steps

- **In Africa, the giraffe\* is recognized as a symbol of friendship and has great vision.\* Giraffes can also reach things that others cannot reach. Hence, a think tank ministry referred to as the Giraffe (G-Team) Team will be formed.**
- **Identify two very ‘creative’ volunteers from each of the church ministries. We are looking for exponentially thinking volunteers who believe in God in greater ways than ever.**
- **Names of volunteers will be identified and submitted to Rev. Ross on or before Sunday, September 12, 2004. The Giraffe Team will determine the church’s core values and purposes.**
- **The G-Team will clearly understand the vision and mission of the church.**
- **The Giraffe Team will be charged with using survey results to examine specifically where change should occur.**
- **Using the strength and weaknesses of the church, the team will develop strategic church goals (short and long range).**
- **Giraffe Team will present a preliminary/draft strategic action plan with specific budget request by November 1 at the Fall ’04 Executive Board Meeting.**
- **Giraffe Team will present a final plan with goals, objectives, implementation strategies, timelines and persons or group responsible for each task by January 2005 (Church Business Meeting).**
- **The Coordinating Survey Planning team will act as consultants and will monitor all of the above activities.**

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\*Notes of reference were taken from, “I’ve Always Looked Up to