



## CONGREGATIONAL SURVEYS

Opportunities for congregations/parishes and denominations to participate in ongoing survey data collection in their own context.

# Summary

Our purpose is to conduct and share Canadian and tradition-specific research on congregations/parishes that are flourishing.

Building on past interview, focus group, and survey research with Catholic, mainline, and conservative Protestant congregations across Canadian regions, part of our work now expands to help Canadian congregations learn more about themselves via ongoing congregational/parish survey opportunities. Our survey, piloted already with over 250 congregations and over 9100 respondents, is updated based on feedback from the first round of survey data collection, plus with new COVID-related questions for congregations.

This brief document summarizes the opportunities for congregations/parishes and denominations to participate in ongoing survey data collection in their own context, including **why** a group might do so, **structure and costs** for survey work, and **next steps** for congregations who wish to partner with the Flourishing Congregations Institute in this way.

## Why A Congregational Survey?

Research is clear that participating in research can help a congregation toward its own self-discovery and flourishing. There are several benefits to churches involved in a congregational survey.

01

### Strengths and Opportunities

Learn about the strengths and opportunities for development within a congregation.

02

### Church-Specific Report

Receive a church-specific report, including general guidance and tools on how to interpret the report, ways to present the report in one's congregation, and possible avenues forward in light of the report.

03

### Meet with Research Team

Opportunities to meet with members of the research team to dig deeper into the report findings, implications, and imaginative possibilities for a church moving forward (for an additional fee).

04

### Create a Baseline

Establish a baseline set of findings that can be compared with future survey responses across time (e.g., every couple of years).

05

### For Denominations

For denominations, a way to assess strengths and opportunities for development across a denomination/region.

06

### Data Informed Tools

Contribute to a larger set of data on Canadian congregations across theological traditions, yielding data-informed tools and resources for further congregational flourishing.

# Structure & Costs

There are three survey-based structures available to groups:



## New Church

New churches signing up for the survey for the first time



## Returning Church

Churches who would like to re-do the survey, to compare results across time (e.g., after one year, five years, etc.)



## Denominations

Groups who would like a denominational/diocese report

## Costs

### Individual Congregations

The following figures are based on average attendance figures (pre-COVID). A participating congregation will receive a personalized report (see below on what's included).

- Under 150 = \$750
- 150-499 = \$1000
- 500-1500 = \$1500
- Over 1500 = \$2000

### Denominational Reports

The following figure is based on denominations who want several congregations to complete the survey. Each congregation who participates will receive a personalized report, plus an aggregate denomination-level report is provided.

- 5+ congregations = \$1000/report
- 15+ congregations = \$800/report

## What's Included

The fee includes the following services:

- Survey materials and promotional support for a congregation to complete the survey;
- Survey report, detailing the congregation's responses to the survey questions;
- General guidance and tools to interpret the survey report, best practices to present the report to one's congregation, and possible avenues forward in light of the report findings;
- Copy(ies) of the book, *Signs of Life* (2021) – one copy for congregations with fewer than 150 weekly attenders (average, pre-COVID), two copies for congregations between 150-499 weekly attenders (average, pre-COVID), and three copies for congregations with more than 500 weekly attenders (average, pre-COVID).

# Next Steps

Interested in doing your first ever congregational survey with the Flourishing Congregations Institute, doing another survey to compare results with an earlier survey you did with us, or do you wish to include a number of congregations across your denomination? Send us an email at [flourishingcongregations@ambrose.edu](mailto:flourishingcongregations@ambrose.edu) and we'd love to talk about next steps. While you're at it, be sure to sign up for our newsletter at [flourishingcongregations.org](http://flourishingcongregations.org), where you'll receive further resources for local churches in Canada, and follow us on Twitter and like us on Facebook!



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