

JOYFUL GIVING



“BEARING FRUIT FOR
GOD’S KINGDOM”

Background

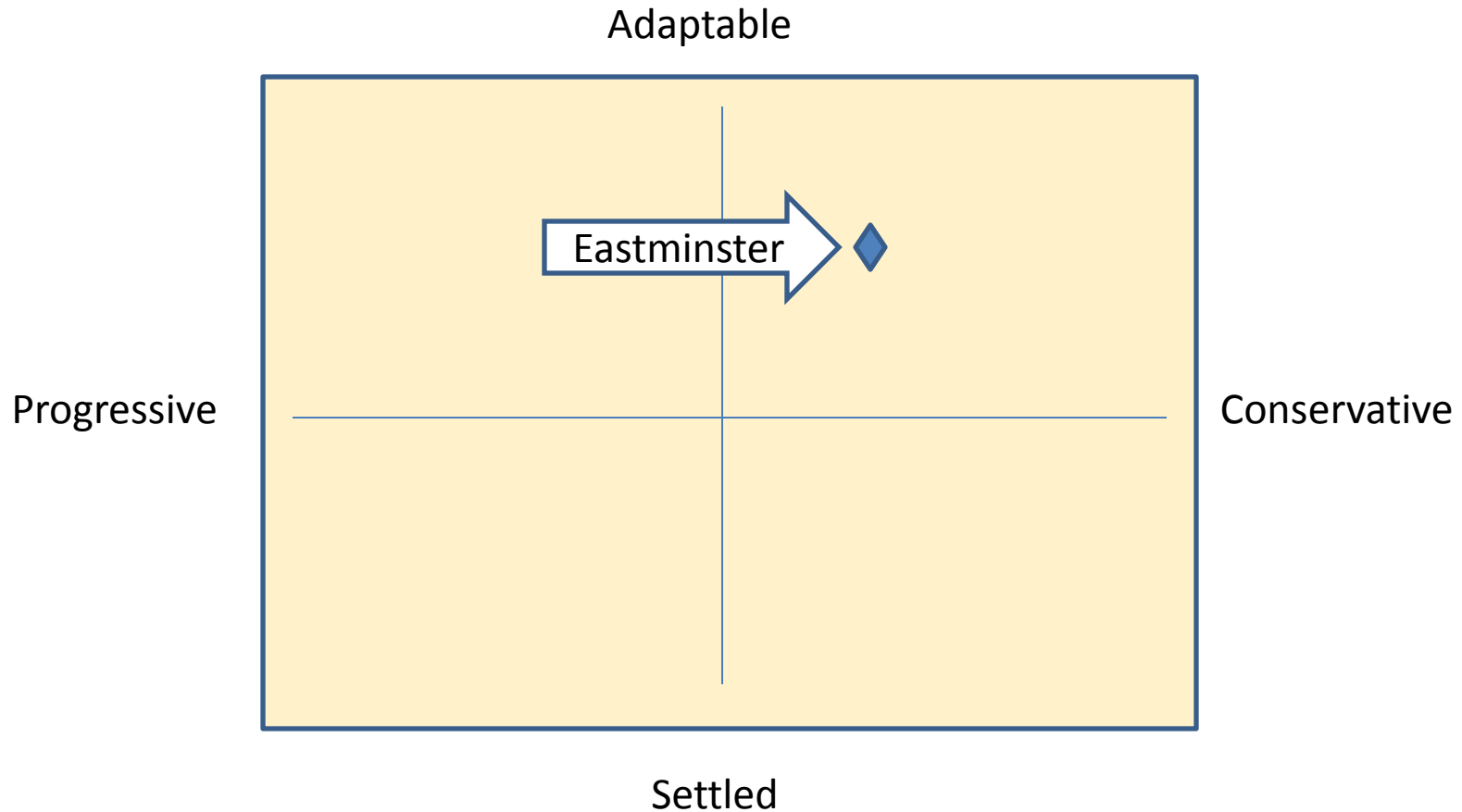
- Strategic Planning Team was formed last Spring to look at long range goals, issues, and plans leading up to the 75th anniversary of Eastminster in 2025
- Initial activity was to engage a church survey company to come in and assess the current status and identify any issues
- The survey was run in Aug/Sept and results are now available

Eastminster Priorities

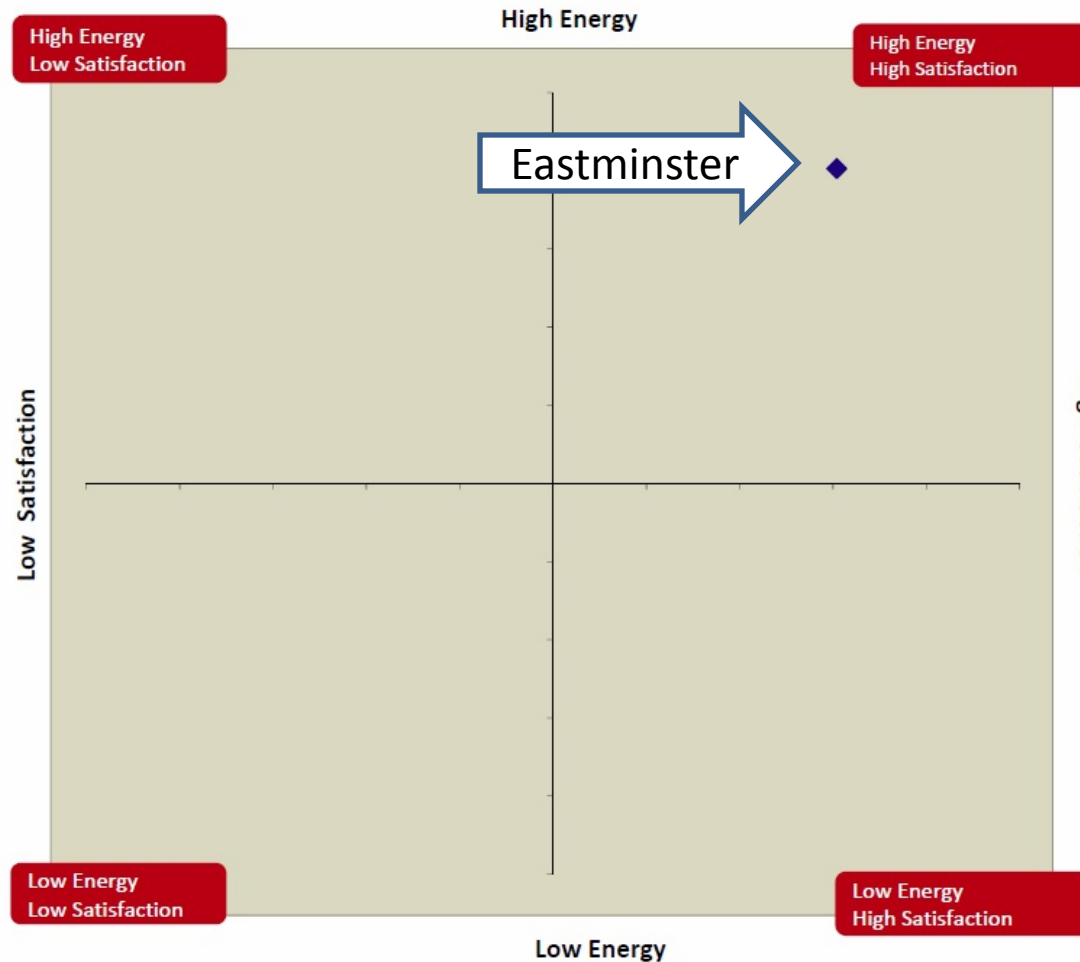
Based on the congregation's votes, the top 4 Eastminster priorities are :

- 1) Make necessary changes to attract families with children and youth to our church.
- 2) Develop and implement a comprehensive strategy to reach new people and incorporate them into the life of the church.
- 3) Provide more opportunities for Christian education and spiritual formation at every age and stage of life.
- 4) Work to renew and revitalize the community around the church by building coalitions with partners that share this vision and commitment.

Survey: Theological Perspective vs Flexibility

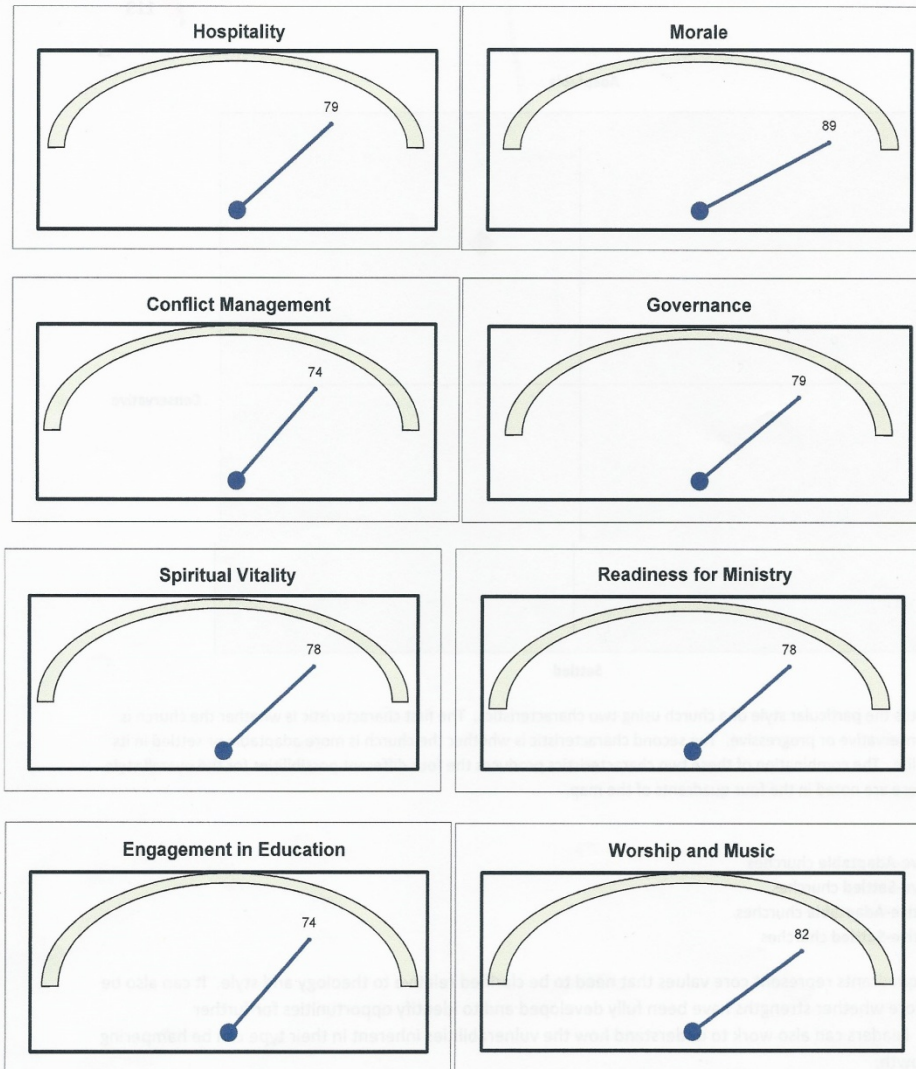


Survey: High Satisfaction, High Energy



Churches in this quadrant are sources of new meaning and purpose for their members. They may also serve as mentors to other churches. These results are great!

Survey: Dashboard



All parameters are high; no issues identified

Growth Goals

The Strategic Planning Team added a question to the survey on church growth. Results:

- Stay the course, no net growth 28%
- Add net 10% new members each year (70 people) 64%
- Add net 20% new members each year (105 people) 8%

72% of respondents voted for at least 10% growth.

Home Gatherings





This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit,
showing yourselves to be my disciples.
As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now
remain in my love.

John 15: 8-9 (NIV)

Discussion Topics

- We can be joyful about many things!
- Budget stability has been achieved
- Our church is happy and wants to spread God's word to others
- What might Eastminster do to honor God and reach the community for Christ? In 2017? In the years beyond?

Good News!

- Things to rejoice about:
 - Attendance is up; new members are coming in. So far in 2016, 31 new members for a net gain of 23.
 - Youth program is growing
 - Financials are stable
 - We are fully staffed
 - Great church survey results

Good News!

- Theme based monthly potluck dinners continue
- Stephen Ministry, His Hands, PrimeTimers and pastors are caring for those in need.
- Youth went to Montreat, Washington DC, Presbyterian Youth Triennium, Choir Camp
- Mission projects included Day of Hope event with Masters Workshop and support for Seafarer's Ministry at Port Canaveral, Built Habitat House
- 110 children at VBS
- Music program expanded to include themes (Bluegrass) & public events (July 4 concert, fall concert series), full praise band at EPIC
- Back to Church Sunday celebrated with 30,000 churches worldwide
- Chaplain Norris Burkes book launch
- There are 22 teams active at Eastminster: Session, Missions, Music, Children, Youth, Facilities, Outreach, PrimeTimers, Dorcas, PW Women, and more.
- Over 100 Eastminster volunteers recognized

Our Mission

Led by the Holy Spirit, Eastminster exists to:

- Invite into Fellowship
 - Back to Church, July 4, potlucks, after church fellowship
- Equip for Service
 - Preschool, VBS, youth programs, Bible studies, Spiritual Formation
- Reach out in Support
 - Stephen Ministry, Dorcas, Grief Support, prayer shawls
- Serve our world for Jesus Christ
 - Masters Workshop, Daily Bread, Habitat, Salvation Army, Christmas Child, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance

Budget Stability

- Projected 2016 budget had loss of \$60,000 out of a total budget of \$500,000
- Current 2016 estimate is a loss of \$10,000 or less, reflecting increased giving and reduced expenses over initial budget
- Question from last year's Stewardship campaign. "Can we get to budget stability in 2016?"

Answer: **Yes!**

Home Gathering Feedback

- 65 comment cards
- Comment Card: My hopes for EPC are:
 - 74% said growth; not only membership but growth in love for God

Comment Card: Concerns for EPC

- 32% had no concerns
- 9% wanted more youth and families
- 9% said not to grow too fast
- 8% concerned with keeping current programs
- 8% said stay within budget
- 6% said not enough outreach
- 6% said the aging membership is a problem

Comment Card Suggestions-Outreach

- Information packet for visitors
- Rotate seating of congregation to meet new people (2)
- Encourage people to greet others at worship
- Train official greeters and ushers to be hospitable to guests
- More special events: dancing, special talks, life management
- Reach out to young families (4)
- Place ad in Saturday newspaper w/ links to our media.
- Ask community leaders about their needs
- Ask nursing home admin for needs

Comment Card Suggestions-Facilities

- Get grounds cleaning service
- Get full time facilities manager
- Take care of Sanctuary windows
- Re-do inside of Melvin Hall (3)
- Use manse for temp housing/youth house
- Demolish manse and use the space for parking
- Use specific targets for fundraising (like new soundboard)

Comment Card Suggestions

Congregational Care

- Help with transportation to church
- Strong Stephen ministry
- Keep reaching out to those in need
- Focus on the Bible like non-denomination churches.
- Email prayer groups
- Keep the faith, bury the past, don't get complacent
- Get new members involved quickly
- Day trips to events
- Sunday morning café

Comment Card Suggestions-Worship

- Keep traditional Christmas services
- Sing old songs with familiar words
- Stream service to Fellowship Hall

Comment Card Suggestions-Missions

--Foreign missions support

Comment Card Suggestions-Children & Families

--More fundraising for youth

Next Steps

- Planning retreat Nov 19 to address issues and priorities
- Session committees will be asked to analyze priorities for their areas and develop specific programs and activities to achieve results
- Results monitored on a continuing basis by SPT

Comments or Questions?