

Good News from the CAT

In late May your elders and deacons received the results of our CAT (Congregational Assessment Tool). You can read the executive summary [HERE](#). There was lots of good news in this CAT! The levels of satisfaction and energy in our congregation are very high. We are a very adaptable congregation, which means that we have the potential to change in response to the nudges of the Holy Spirit. Compared to our 2016 and 2019 CAT reports, we scored higher in virtually every category. Thanks be to God!

The CAT results tell us that we have the capacity to act on the priorities which emerged as important to our congregation, which I will sum up as “going deeper”—in discipleship, in relationship, in leadership. People in our congregation understand that they are called to be disciples, in the church and in the world, and want to church to equip them for that mission.

Our elders and deacons will be reflecting this summer on how to focus on these priorities. Meanwhile, I have suggestions that each one of us can act on, starting today, to respond to the top two priorities that emerged.

Priority #1: Develop and implement a comprehensive strategy to reach new people and incorporate them into the life of the church. We love our church and want to share it with others! Consider how you can spread the good news about FPC this month:

- Invite a friend or neighbor to church
- Post about the church on social media
- Give us a positive review on [Yelp](#)
- Wear your FPC t-shirt to a Waypoint Wednesday or AFAC distribution (see below)

Priority #2: Create more opportunities for people to form meaningful relationships (for example, small groups, nurtured friendships, shared meals, etc.). What a great priority to have! Consider how you can reach out to build meaningful relationships this month:

- Arrive for church a few minutes early and introduce yourself to someone new
- Stay for coffee hour and introduce yourself to someone new
- Attend the Sabbath Bible study which continues this summer in the parlor at 9:30—each week's lesson stands alone and drop-ins are always welcome.
- Join one of the peer spiritual direction groups starting up this fall. Small groups of friends will meet monthly on a weeknight for 2-3 hours to collectively listen and learn about each other's journeys. Please reach out to Maggie directly at maggieoverseas@gmail.com if you are interested or speak to her on Sunday about this opportunity.

Come to our June 23 congregational meeting to hear more about our takeaways from the CAT and the invitations it contains to go deeper in our collective call to be disciples of Jesus Christ.