

1. Introduction

Rev. Dr. Sheldon Sorge has served as the General Minister of Pittsburgh Presbytery since 2010 and will retire at the end of December. In preparation for this transition, the Executive Committee is seeking input from the members of the Presbytery. Any individual who is a member of a congregation within the Presbytery or a minister member is encouraged to complete the survey.

All congregants and clergy within our Presbytery are invited to complete the survey.

Please do not discuss the questions with one another prior to completing the questionnaire, so that the responses you record are your own.

Please give your impression as it is now, even if you feel that your opinions are not well informed and could change by talking with others.

Use the "Don't Know" response only in those rare cases where you have no impression at all.

At the end of the survey, you will be given a chance to respond to questions about which you wish to comment.

You will need about 15 minutes to fill out the entire survey and to make comments. You cannot save your responses and return to the survey later, so please complete the survey in one sitting. Otherwise, you must start over from the beginning.

Thank you for your time, your thoughts, and your continued prayers.



2. Your Role

* 1	. Which statement below best describes your role within the Presbytery?
(Congregation Member
(Session Member Serving in the last 5 years
(Ruling Elder who has served in Presbytery leadership in the last five years
(Minister Member currently serving a congregation
(Minister Member not currently serving a congregation.



Landscape for Pittsburgh Presbytery

3. Your Perspectives

1. The Presbytery makes available policies and procedures that are helpful in the day to day							
operation of a church.							
Strongly disagree Disagree	Tend to disagree	Tend to agree	Agree				
Strongly agree Onn't know							

2. I experience a high level of collegiality as members work together in various Presbytery functions including the annual convention, on boards and committees, in collaborative ministries, and in partnership with the Presbytery staff.								
Strongly disagree Disagree	Tend to disagree	Tend to agree	Agree					
Strongly agree Onn't know								
3. The clergy and lay leaders of our Presbytery show a genuine concern to know what people are thinking when decisions need to be made.								
Strongly Disagree Disagree	Tend to Disagree	Tend to Agree	Agree					
Strongly Agree Don't Know								
4. Our Presbytery leadership has do	ne a good job of dev	eloping a shared v	ision that unites us					
Strongly Disagree Disagree	Tend to Disagree	Tend to Agree	Agree					
Strongly Agree Onn't Know								
5. Persons serving in various Presbytanother and new persons entering in	•	-	•					
Strongly Disagree Disagree	Tend to Disagree	Tend to Agree	Agree					
Strongly Agree Don't Know								
6. There is frequently a small group majority want to do.	of members in our F	resbytery that opp	poses what the					
Strongly Disagree Disagree	O Tend to Disagree	Tend to Agree	Agree					
Strongly Agree Don't Know								
7. Members have discovered that invof energy and spiritual renewal.	volvement in the wor	rk of our Presbyte	ry can be a source					
Strongly Disagree Disagree	Tend to Disagree	Tend to Agree	Agree					
Strongly Agree Don't Know								
8. Problems between groups in this l	Presbytery are usual	lly resolved throug	h mutual effort.					
Strongly Disagree Disagree	Tend to Disagree	Tend to Agree	Agree					
Strongly Agree Don't Know								
9. Our Presbytery is effective in reco		e larger society an	d in helping us					
Strongly Disagree Disagree	Tend to Disagree	Tend to Agree	Agree					
Strongly Agree Don't Know								

$10. \ Most \ important \ decisions \ about \ what \ our \ Presbytery \ should \ do \ as \ a \ whole \ are \ really \ made$								
by the same, small gr	roup of people.							
Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Tend to Disagree	Tend to Agree	Agree				
Strongly Agree	Oon't Know							
11. In important decisions in our Presbytery, adequate opportunity for consideration of different approaches is usually provided.								
Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Tend to Disagree	Tend to Agree	Agree				
Strongly Agree	Don't Know							
12. As a Presbytery vaware and engaged.	ve do a good jo	b communicating wit	h one another in a	way that keeps us				
Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Tend to Disagree	Tend to Agree	Agree				
Strongly Agree	Oon't Know							
13. Our Presbytery d		helping each membe	r understand that	he or she has an				
Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Tend to Disagree	Tend to Agree	Agree				
Strongly Agree	Oon't Know							
14. Our Presbytery d Presbytery ministries	-	supporting persons v	vho are serving in	various				
Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Tend to Disagree	Tend to Agree	Agree				
Strongly Agree	On't Know							
15. A positive spirit e	exists between t	the leaders of my cor	ngregation and the	leaders of				
Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Tend to Disagree	Tend to Agree	Agree				
Strongly Agree	Oon't Know							
16. In this Presbytery it seems to me that we are just going through the motions. There isn't much excitement about it among our members.								
Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Tend to Disagree	Tend to Agree	Agree				
Strongly Agree	Oon't Know							
17. Our Presbytery has been successful in helping congregations like mine become more vital and effective.								
Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Tend to Disagree	Tend to Agree	Agree				
Strongly Agree	On't Know							

18. Some leaders in my congr	egation have unresolved	issues with the lead	lership of our
Presbytery that get in the way	of our working together	:	
Strongly Disagree Disa	gree	Tend to Agree	Agree
Strongly Agree Don't K	now		
19. I find Presbytery meetings	s to be a good use of my t	ime and energy.	
Strongly Disagree Disa	gree	Tend to Agree	Agree
Strongly Agree Don't K	now		
20. On the whole, I am satisfie	ed with how things are in	our Presbytery.	
Strongly Disagree Disa	gree	Tend to Agree	Agree
Strongly Agree Don't K	ínow		
21. Among most of the member opinions and beliefs.	ers of our Presbytery the	re is a healthy toler	ance of differing
Strongly Disagree Disa	gree	Tend to Agree	Agree
Strongly Agree Don't K	now		
22. I trust our Presbytery lead congregation during challeng			- •
Strongly Disagree Disa	gree Tend to Disagree	Tend to Agree	Agree
Strongly Agree Don't K	ínow		
23. Our Presbytery leadership cultivate the financial giving o		ource in helping my	congregation
Strongly Disagree Disa	gree Tend to Disagree	Tend to Agree	Agree
Strongly Agree Don't K	now		
24. Because of my involvement life than I did three years ago		l clearer about God	's purpose for my
Strongly Disagree Disa	agree	Tend to Agree	Agree
Strongly Agree Don't K	now		
25. Our Presbytery helps men gifts.	ibers become engaged by	y finding roles for p	eople that fit their
Strongly Disagree Disa	gree	Tend to Agree	Agree
Strongly Agree Don't K	ínow		

26. Our Presbytery tends to stay very close to established ways of doing things							
O Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Tend to Disagree	Tend to Agree	Agree			
Strongly Agree	On't Know						
27. There is a distur	bing amount of	conflict in our Presb	ytery.				
O Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Tend to Disagree	Tend to Agree	Agree			
Strongly Agree	On't Know						
28. Our Presbytery p meaningful.	provides adequa	te opportunities for	members to engag	ge in work that is			
Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Tend to Disagree	Tend to Agree	Agree			
Strongly Agree	Oon't Know						
29. Persons who ser	ve as leaders in	our Presbytery are o	generally represen	tative of the			
members.							
Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Tend to Disagree	Tend to Agree	Agree			
Strongly Agree	On't Know						
30. The whole spirit	in our Presbyte	ry makes people wai	nt to get as involve	ed as possible.			
Strongly Disagree	O Disagree	Tend to Disagree	Tend to Agree	Agree			
Strongly Agree	Oon't Know						
31. Our Presbytery o Presbytery rather th Presbytery.	5 5	J .					
Strongly disagree	Disagree	Tend to disagree	Tend to agree	Agree			
Strongly agree	Oon't know						



4. About The Future

In this section of the survey possible goals are listed for our Presbytery for the next three to five years. The Search Committee is interested in knowing where you believe that some ministries require additional energy. If you believe they are important and need to be expanded or improved, then you would give these a higher score. If you believe that other ministries require little or no additional energy because they are already being performed at an appropriate level of quality, then you would give these a lower score. Using the scale below respond to the questions that follow:

1. Equip congregations to be more effective in addressing problems affecting their
surrounding communities.
No additional Energy Little additional energy Moderate additional energy
Substantial additional energy High additional energy Don't Know
2. Take a leadership role in new church development in promising regions of our Presbytery.
No additional energy Little additional energy Moderate additional energy
Substantial additional energy High additional energy Don't Know
3. Work with local congregations to increase the awareness of our Presbytery's mission and its unique impact upon the region that it serves.
One additional energy Little additional energy Moderate additional energy
Substantial additional energy High additional energy Don't Know
4. Provide on-site stewardship consultants and programs to local churches in order to substantially increase the financial resources of congregations.
No additional energy Little additional energy Moderate additional energy
Substantial additional energy High additional energy Don't Know
5. Improve the programmatic resources that our Presbytery makes available to congregations to insure that they are the most effective ways to do ministry in the church today.
No additional energy Little additional energy Moderate additional energy
Substantial additional energy High additional energy Don't Know
6. Streamline our Presbytery organizationally and administratively so that it makes better use of financial resources.
No additional energy Little additional energy Moderate additional energy
Substantial additional energy High additional energy Don't Know
7. Cultivate a higher level of trust within our Presbytery.
No additional energy Little additional energy Moderate additional energy
Substantial additional energy High additional energy Don't Know

8. Take a leadership role in working with churches that are struggling.
No additional energy Little additional energy Moderate additional energy
Substantial additional energy High additional energy Don't Know
9. Equip Clergy and other leaders in congregations with strategies that enable them to reach new members.
No additional energy Little additional energy Moderate additional energy
Substantial additional energy High additional energy Don't Know
10. Provide church leaders with the interpretive resources that will build more support for the work of our Presbytery among members of our congregations.
No additional energy Little additional energy Moderate additional energy
Substantial additional energy High additional energy Don't Know
11. Make our Presbytery more responsive to requests for assistance in dealing with particular needs including pastoral transitions, financial issues, or other pressing concerns. No additional energy
12. Develop a discernment process to rethink how to be vital Presbyterian churches in our specific region.
No additional energy Little additional energy Moderate additional energy
Substantial additional energy High additional energy Don't Know
13. Deepen our spiritual capacity as congregations to respond to life with serenity, confidence, and hope.
No additional energy Little additional energy Moderate additional energy
Substantial additional energy High additional energy Don't Know
14. Equip Clergy and other leaders in congregations to help members become growing, vital disciples.
One additional energy Little additional energy Moderate additional energy
Substantial additional energy High additional energy Don't Know



5. Your Involvement

1. Beyond sending representatives to annual Presbytery meetings, how engaged would you say that your congregation has been with any phase of the Presbytery's life and work in the last 12 months?						
Not engaged Little engagement Moderate engagement Highly engaged						
On't Know						
2. Over the last three years how has your congregation's engagement with the Presbytery						
changed?						
Less engaged About the same More engaged Don't Know						
3. If you have served in leadership positions of other Presbyteries/congregations, how would you compare your level of satisfaction with our Presbytery to other Presbyteries you have worked with?						
Less satisfied here About the same More Satisfied here Not Applicable						



Landscape for Pittsburgh Presbytery

6. Information about You

1. My age is	
○ Below 16 ○ 16 - 24 ○ 25 - 34 ○ 35 -	- 44
2. I identify my ethnicity as:	
Black or African-American	Asian
White	Multi-ethnic
American Indian or Alaskan Native	I prefer not to answer
Hispanic, Latino or Spanish Origin	
3. I have been involved in my congregation	
Less than 1 year 1-2 years 3-5 years	○ 6-10 years ○ 11-20 years
20+ years	
4. What would you say is your level of awareness	ss regarding the work of our Presbytery?
Unaware Somewhat Aware Moderate	ely Aware Very Aware
5. When I think about my gifts, interests, and ti our Presbytery but don't know how to give it.	me, I often feel that I have something to give
○ Strongly disagree ○ Disagree ○ Tend to d	lisagree Tend to agree Agree
Strongly agree Don't know	



7. Change and Trends

When searching for a new leader, it is important to have an idea of how much change we believe is required in our Presbytery.

1. In order to make significant progress tow	ard your vision for our Presbytery, how much
change will be required?	
Almost no change	Large amount of change
Small amount of change	Changes in nearly every area
Moderate amount of change	On't know
•	resbytery three years ago, would you say the
Presbytery is	
Much weaker Weaker About the	same Stronger Much stronger
On't know	
3. In their actions, our members demonstratelead of our Executive Presbyter and other P	te open-mindedness and readiness to follow the
Strongly Disagree Disagree Tend	l to Disagree
Strongly Agree Onn't Know	
4. I am clear regarding where the Presbyter	y is headed and how we are going to get there.
Strongly Disagree Disagree Tend	l to Disagree
Strongly Agree Onn't Know	



8. Characteristics of Our Next Presbyter

Your responses to these questions will help us determine the critical position requirements for our next Presbyter and guide our search for a person who is a good fit for our Presbytery.

1. What are the CRITICAL ABILITIES our new Presbyter needs to possess in order to be effective in our Presbytery? You may consider many abilities to be important, but some are more important than others. Please RANK the abilities in the list below. Because you are RANKING these items, you can only have one "1st", one "2nd", etc. NOTE: Personal qualities/characteristics will be addressed in the next section.

Most 2nd most 3rd most 4th most 5th most 6th most 7th most 8th most Least important im

	ımportant	important							
Ability to identify and develop new leaders									
Ability to administer and insure fiscal responsibility	\bigcirc							\bigcirc	
Ability to articulate a clear vision for the future									
Ability to preach						\bigcirc	\bigcirc		
Ability to create unity of purpose among diverse groups									
Ability to be pastoral and approachable				\bigcirc	\bigcirc	\bigcirc			
Ability to organize	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	\bigcirc				\bigcirc	\bigcirc	\bigcirc
Ability to work with congregations of all sizes	\bigcirc							\bigcirc	
Ability to work effectively within our regional culture									
What other CRITICAL ABILITIES do you believe are important for our new Presbyter?									

2. What are the PERSONAL QUALITIES our new Presbyter needs to possess in order to be effective in our Presbytery? You may consider many qualities to be important, but some are more important than others. Please RANK the qualities in the list below. Because you are RANKING these items, you can only have one "1st", one "2nd", etc.

2nd most 3rd most 4th most 5th most 6th most 7th most 8th most Most Least important important important important important important important important Sound judgment and wisdom Deeply spiritual and prayerful Commitment to traditional Creeds of the Christian Church Strong theological background Compassionate Sense of humor Possesses and exhibits humility Personal Integrity Flexible, openminded What other PERSONAL QUALITIES do you believe are important for our new Presbyter?



Landscape for Pittsburgh Presbytery

9. Strategic Planning

Your answers to these questions are designed to help your leaders develop a strategic plan for your Presbytery.

Our Mission Statement:

Our God is a missionary God; we are a missionary people. In response to God's call, through our congregations and staff, and by means of our money and other resources, we will turn out to the communities of Pittsburgh Presbytery in love, bearing fruit through evangelism, training disciples, serving with mission agencies, working for racial, social and economic justice and strengthening ecumenical bonds.

 Our Presbytery has mission statement. 	s been effectiv	e in fulfilling the mis	ssion as expressed	in our current
Strongly disagree	Disagree	Tend to disagree	Tend to agree	Agree
Strongly agree (Don't know			
2. Our Presbytery neefuture.	eds to rethink	its basic purpose an	d mission if it is to	be effective in the
Strongly disagree	Disagree	Tend to disagree	Tend to agree	Agree
Strongly agree				
3. Most Presbytery m	embers are cl	ear about how the ro	ole they play will h	elp the Presbytery
achieve its vision.	_	_	_	_
Strongly disagree	Disagree	Tend to disagree	Tend to agree	Agree
Strongly agree				
4. As Presbytery men are clearly influenced		•	ous projects, conve	ersations and plans
Strongly disagree	Disagree	Tend to disagree	Tend to agree	Agree
Strongly agree				
		A		

Landscape for Pittsburgh Presbytery

10. Communications

1. Our Presbytery does a good	job communicating how	our congregations	' financial support is
used in our Presbytery's work.			
Strongly disagree Disagr	ree	Tend to agree	Agree
Strongly agree			
2. Our Presbytery communicate	es in a way that gives m	ne clarity about wha	t services and
support it offers congregations	like mine.		
Strongly disagree Disagr	ree	Tend to agree	Agree
Strongly agree			
* 3. To stay informed with what	is happening with our	Presbytery, I prefer	to receive
information:			
Weekly Twice a month	Monthly When	ever there is an importa	ant event
4. Which types of social of med	ia do you use? (Please o	check all that apply)
Facebook	Tu	mblr	
Instagram	☐ Sn	apchat	
Twitter	Til	кТоk	
Linkedin	I d	o not use social media	
Pinterest	_		
* 5. Overall, the frequency of c	ommunications from ou	r Presbytery is:	
Not enough The right an		Don't know	
5 5			



11. Supplemental Questions

1. The size of my congregation could best be de	escribed as:			
○ Small (under 50 average Sunday attendance)	Program size (226-800 average Sunday attendance)			
Family size (50-75 average Sunday attendance)				
Pastoral size (76-140 average Sunday attendance)	Resource size (over 800 average Sunday attendance)			
Transitional (141-225 average Sunday attendance)	On't know			
2. The context of my congregation could best be	e described as:			
Rural (draws congregants from close by)				
Regional (draws congregants from surrounding areas)				
Suburban (in residential community)				
Urban (downtown)				
Prayer community with no formal structure				
On't know				
3. How often does your congregation regularly work with another congregation? Examples would be: Sharing a pastor/staff, shared worship services, shared service/mission projects, shared events, etc. Weekly Monthly Seldom				
Monthly	Seldom			
Monthly				
·	Seldom Never			
Monthly A couple of times per year	Never			
Monthly A couple of times per year Occasionally	Never			
 Monthly A couple of times per year Occasionally 4. As we emerge from the COVID-19 pandemic,	Never			
 Monthly A couple of times per year Occasionally 4. As we emerge from the COVID-19 pandemic, Reduced participation 	Never			
Monthly A couple of times per year Occasionally 4. As we emerge from the COVID-19 pandemic, Reduced participation Financial concerns	Never			
Monthly A couple of times per year Occasionally 4. As we emerge from the COVID-19 pandemic, Reduced participation Financial concerns Utilizing technology	Never			
Monthly A couple of times per year Occasionally 4. As we emerge from the COVID-19 pandemic, Reduced participation Financial concerns Utilizing technology Physical and mental health of members	Never			
Monthly A couple of times per year Occasionally 4. As we emerge from the COVID-19 pandemic, Reduced participation Financial concerns Utilizing technology Physical and mental health of members Increased level of congregational conflict	Never what is the greatest source of anxiety?			
Monthly A couple of times per year Occasionally 4. As we emerge from the COVID-19 pandemic, Reduced participation Financial concerns Utilizing technology Physical and mental health of members Increased level of congregational conflict Fear and anxiety among church members 5. Our Presbytery needs to rethink its primary page 1.	Never what is the greatest source of anxiety?			
Monthly A couple of times per year Occasionally 4. As we emerge from the COVID-19 pandemic, Reduced participation Financial concerns Utilizing technology Physical and mental health of members Increased level of congregational conflict Fear and anxiety among church members 5. Our Presbytery needs to rethink its primary participation.	what is the greatest source of anxiety? purpose and mission if it is to be effective in			

6. What did your congregational or Presbytery leadership do during that pandemic that
you're grateful for?



12. Thank you!

Thank you very much for taking the time to complete this survey.

For an update on the search process and for more information about our search for our next Bishop please visit <u>our webpage</u>.