

The student will write out the answers to the following questions:

1. What attracted you to stay at Abundant Life when you first attended?

Quality of the Teaching & Preaching of the Word of God
 Quality of the Worship
 Presence of the Lord manifest during services
 Stability due to Integrity and Accountability of Leadership
 Multi-racial and Multi-cultural Community

2. What attracts you to Abundant Life today?

Emphasis on Prayer & the Word of God
 Growth of emphasis on relationships
 Presence of the Lord manifest during services
 The fact that Youth are Stake-Holders and Participants in Ministries
 Multi-racial and Multi-cultural Community
 Freedom of all people to minister/participate in Impact Groups

Abundant Life's Core Values:

Integrity
 Truth
 Prayer
 Unity
 Love

Strategic Pillars:

Discipleship
 Worship
 Christian Education/Spiritual Development
 Outreach
 Resource Management
 People Capability Development

Survey Results:

I surveyed 32 church members and received 17 respondents, despite 3 separate broadcast attempts via email and text messages. I was a bit frustrated with so few respondents, as the results definitely skewed from the overall picture, based on the fact that I know each of them, and I fully expect those who did not respond would have greatly increased the lower totals of some of those listed below. Also, if I had a broader list of congregants with more diverse ages, cultures, and family situations the results would give a clearer picture. Results are tabulated as follows:

| <u>Responses:</u> | <u>Initial Attractions</u> | <u>Attractions Today</u> |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|
| Biblical Teaching/Preaching | 15 | 12 |
| Quality/Integrity of Leadership | 9 | 9 |
| Worship | 7 | 4 |
| Presence of the Lord | 6 | 2 |
| Fellowship/Relationships | 5 | 6 |
| Multicultural Community | 2 | 2 |
| Prayer Opportunities | 2 | 2 |
| Children & Youth Ministries | 3 | 3 |
| Variety of Ministries/Impact Groups | 0 | 4 |
| <u>Gospel/Missions Outreach</u> | <u>0</u> | <u>1</u> |
| Totals | 45 | 41 |

Questions/Analysis:**1. Do the answers align with your core values? Explain any differences. Do they reveal any core values not held by you? Should any of your values be changed?**

My personal core values generally correspond to the church's core values, and I do not see any need for changes. My wife and I appreciate the multicultural and multiracial community we have at Abundant Life, as our family is both multiracial and multicultural. We also appreciate the strong commitment to Children & Youth Ministries, especially that the Youth have been integrated into the various ministries, like the Worship Team, so we are truly a multi-generational congregation. I've seen too many churches where the older generations are exclusively in control of the services, and the youth end up migrating to other churches because they no longer relate to their parents' churches.

2. Do the answers align with the core values of your church? Explain. Should any of the church's values be changed?

In accordance with my survey instructions, most respondents listed multiple attractions. I did not give a comprehensive list of menu attractions, but left it up to respondents. There were a few respondents that listed things like invited or pressured by family to visit the church in answering the first question, so I had to reword the first question in my second broadcast to ask what attracted them to stay.

There are strong correlations between the responses and our core values of Integrity and Truth, as shown in the attractions of Biblical Teaching/Preaching and Quality/Integrity of Leadership. These were the top two responses in both initial attractions and attractions today.

The core values of Unity and Love show up in the responses of Fellowship/Relationships and Multicultural Community. I expect these values would have had many more responses with a wider list of surveyed individuals and responders. There were very few respondents from many races and cultures, and yet we have so many represented in our congregation – a more diverse congregation than I've ever seen in other churches. Also, from my personal perspective, Abundant Life has undergone a shift from being a program-oriented church to a more relationship-oriented church in the past several years, and I see this as an improvement. It used to be much more difficult to get to know people and build relationships in the congregation in the past. I think there are several reasons for this improvement, from the different personalities of the Pastors now, to the turnover of the congregation members due to Covid-19, to the effect of Impact Groups helping us to interact and get to know each other. Abundant Life is finally becoming a much more friendly church than it was in the past.

Prayer received very few responses. That seems to reflect the general condition of the Church in America today, and in Abundant Life on the local level. During the Charismatic Renewal of the 1970's there was a much stronger interest in prayer groups. I expect another revival will revive interest in prayer.

3. Do they reveal any core values not held by the church? If so, how important are they?

Gospel and Missions Outreach are not listed in our core values, but Outreach is one of the Pillars, and is a strong component of Abundant Life. The few responses listing these attractions are probably also due to the limited number of respondents, as I know there are many in the congregation who are committed to and involved in Missions.

4. With your leadership's input, create a strategy that explains how you would change your values and how you would help lead your church to recognize these changes.

I have not had a chance to discuss any of this with Leadership.