



A Congregational  
Vitality Assessment Tool

**Milwaukie  
Covenant  
Church  
PULSE 3**

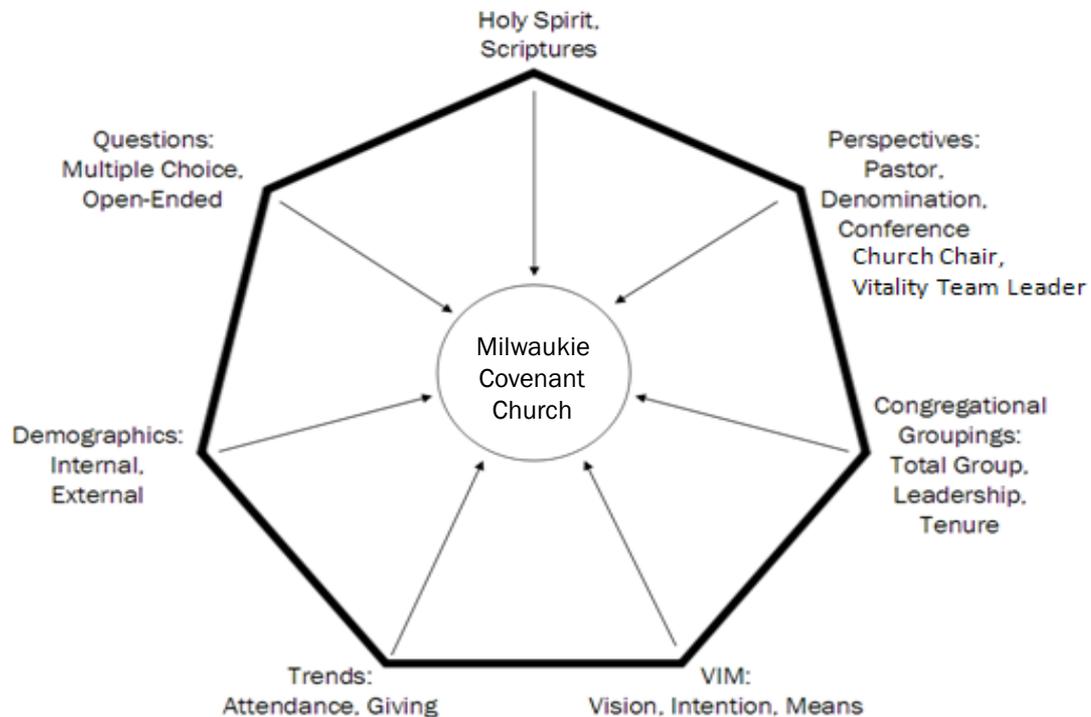
February 2016

# The Purpose of Pulse

The purpose of PULSE is to edify and strengthen Covenant churches. In other words, PULSE...

- **P**rovides awareness of current reality
- **U**pdates progress
- **L**inks the church more closely with the mission and message of Jesus
- **S**uggests next steps
- **E**ncourages spiritual discernment

# What Pulse uses to assess church health



# What makes a healthy missional church?

- ❖ Centrality of the Word of God (*2 Timothy 3:16*)
- ❖ Life transforming walk with Jesus (*John 3:3,30; Phil. 1:6*)
- ❖ Intentional evangelism (*Matthew 28:18-20*)
- ❖ Transforming communities through active compassion, mercy and justice ministries (*Micah 6:8*)
- ❖ Global perspective and engagement (*Acts 1:8*)
- ❖ Compelling Christian community (*Acts 2:42-47*)
- ❖ Heartfelt worship (*Psalms 138:1a; John 4:23*)
- ❖ Sacrificial and generous living and giving (*Romans 12:1-8*)
- ❖ Culture of Godly leadership (*Hebrews 13:7*)
- ❖ Fruitful organizational structures (*Exodus 18:13-26, Acts 6:1-7*)

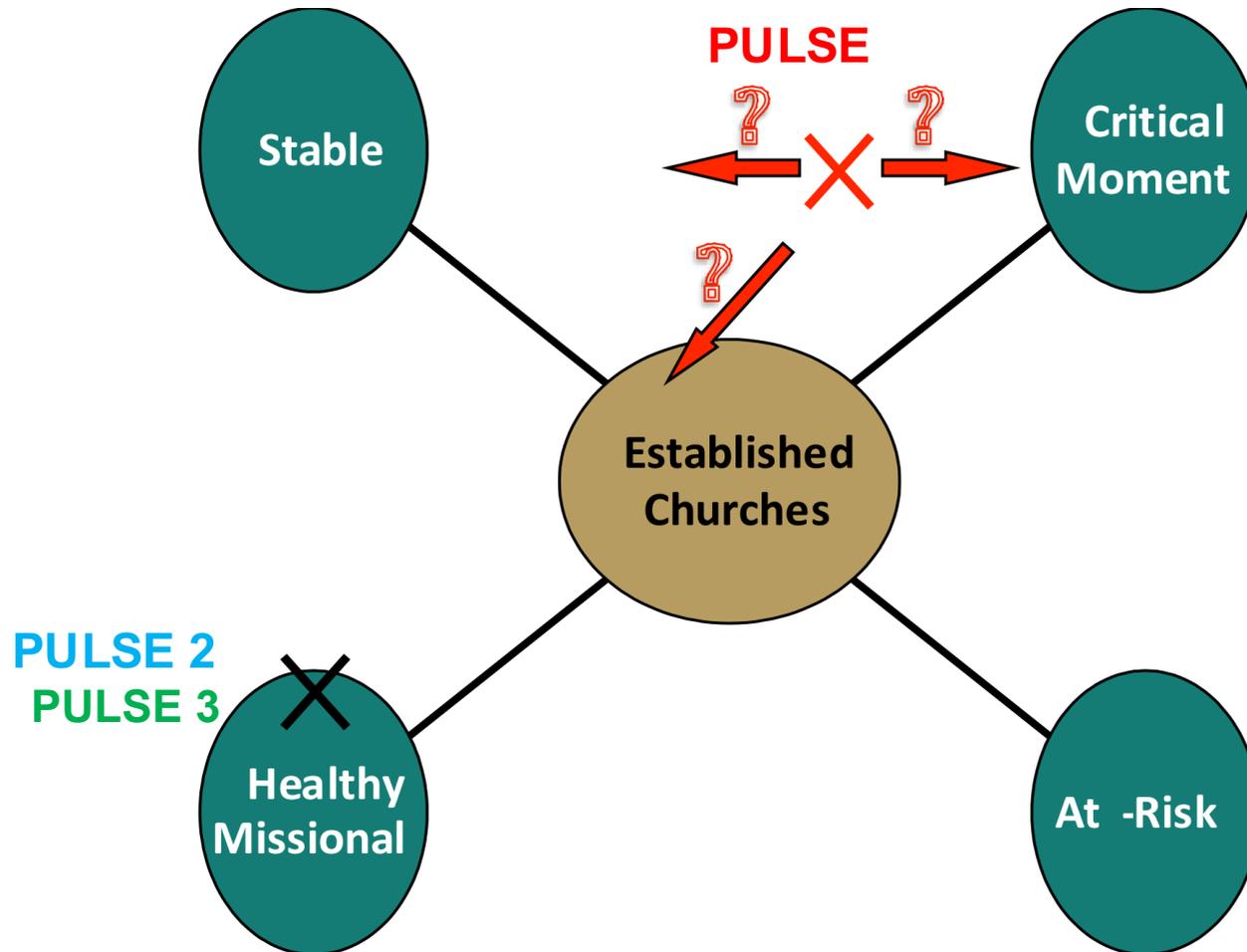
# Participation in the survey

**PULSE 2010: 59** Assessments  
**PULSE 2012: 69** Assessments  
**PULSE 2016: 82** Assessments

# Summary of missional marker scores

<b>Missional Marker Scores</b>			
<b>Marker:</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2016</b>
Centrality of the Word	3.04	3.26	3.50
Life Transforming Walk with Jesus	3.09	3.61	3.71
Engaging God in Worship	2.75	3.11	3.42
Intentional Evangelism	2.85	3.26	3.17
Transforming Communities through CMJ Ministries	3.07	3.29	3.44
Global Perspective and Engagement	3.40	3.38	3.23
Compelling Christian Community	2.83	3.37	3.68
Sacrificial and Generous Living and Giving	2.92	3.21	3.19
Culture of Godly Leadership	2.86	3.44	3.73
Fruitful Organizational Structures	2.90	3.41	3.43
Average Score	2.97	3.33	3.45

# Where Pulse indicates MCC is



# Missional Markers Score

## Grading Scale:

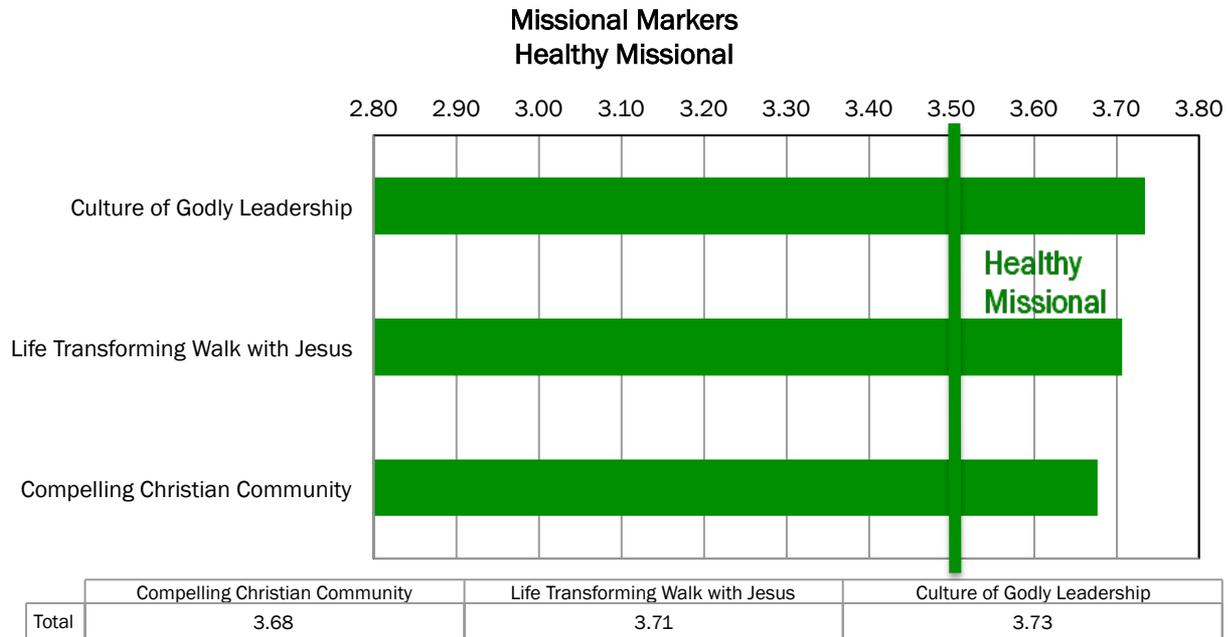
Healthy Missional	3.50 – 4.00
Stable	3.10 – 3.49
Critical Moment	2.70 – 3.09
At-Risk	0.00 – 2.69

Milwaukie Covenant Church

**Stable 3.45**

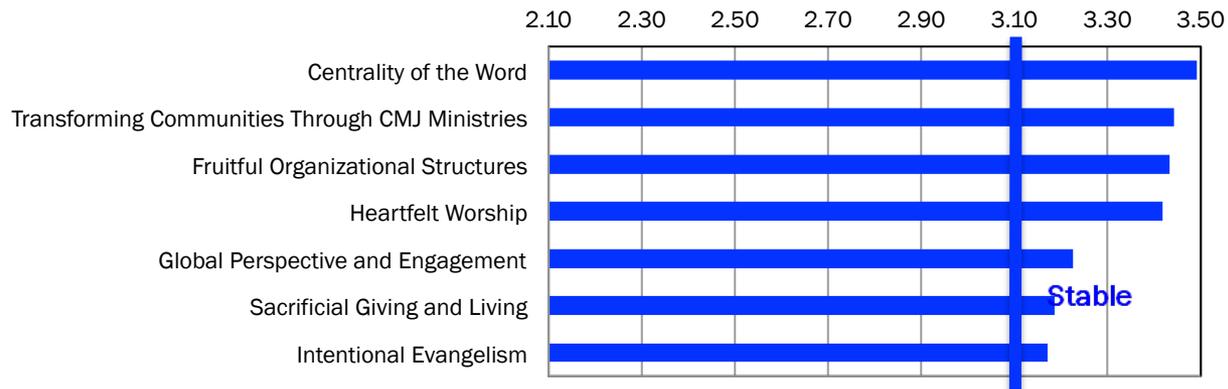
But on the cusp of Healthy Missional

# Breakdown



# Breakdown

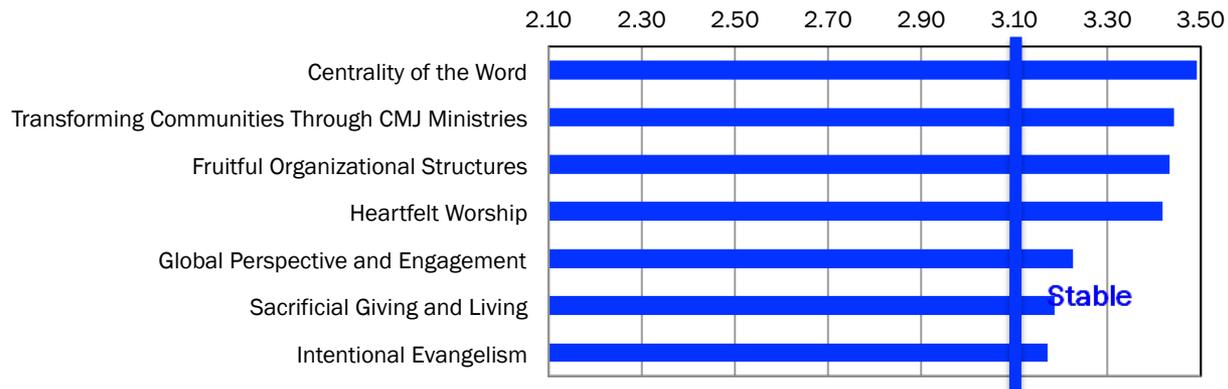
## Missional Markers Stable



	Intentional Evangelism	Sacrificial Giving and Living	Global Perspective and Engagement	Heartfelt Worship	Fruitful Organizational Structures	Transforming Communities Through CMJ Ministries	Centrality of the Word
Total	3.17	3.19	3.23	3.42	3.43	3.44	3.49

# Breakdown

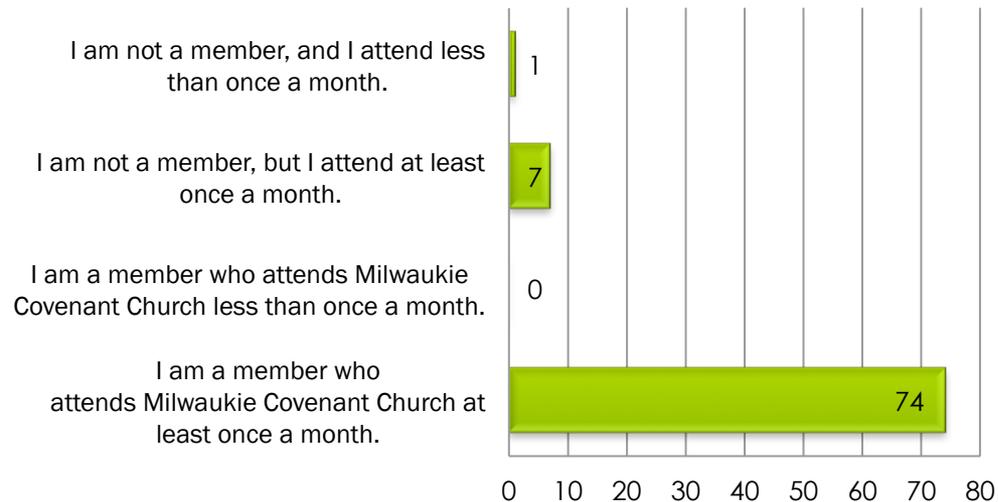
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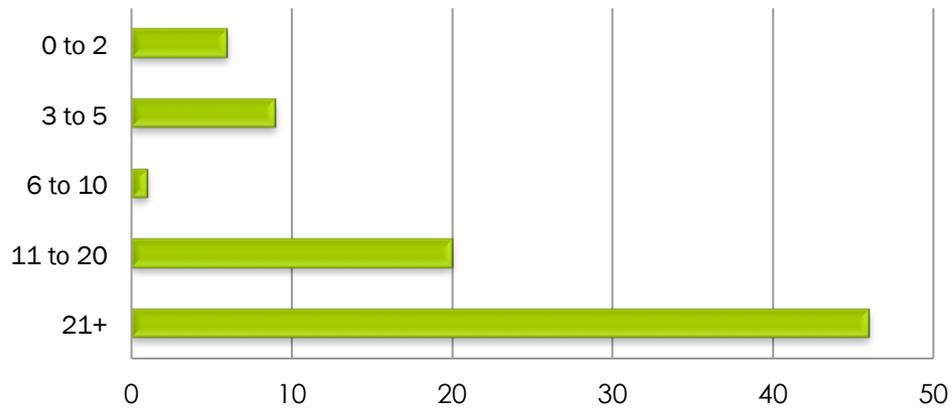
# Breakdown

Question 46: Please select the statement that best describes you:



# Breakdown

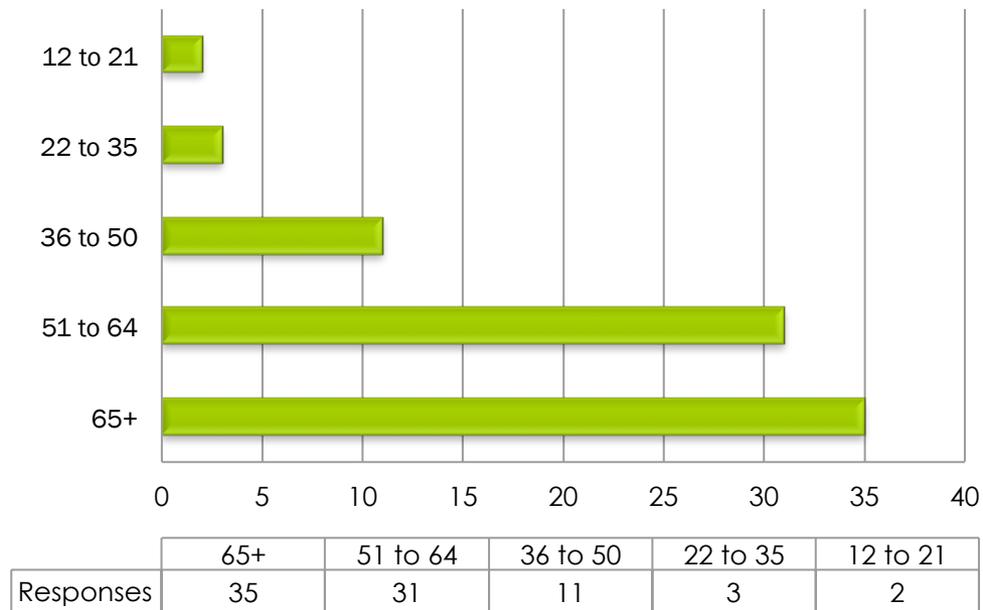
Question 47: I have been attending Milwaukie Covenant Church for the following number of years:



	21+	11 to 20	6 to 10	3 to 5	0 to 2
Responses	46	20	1	9	6

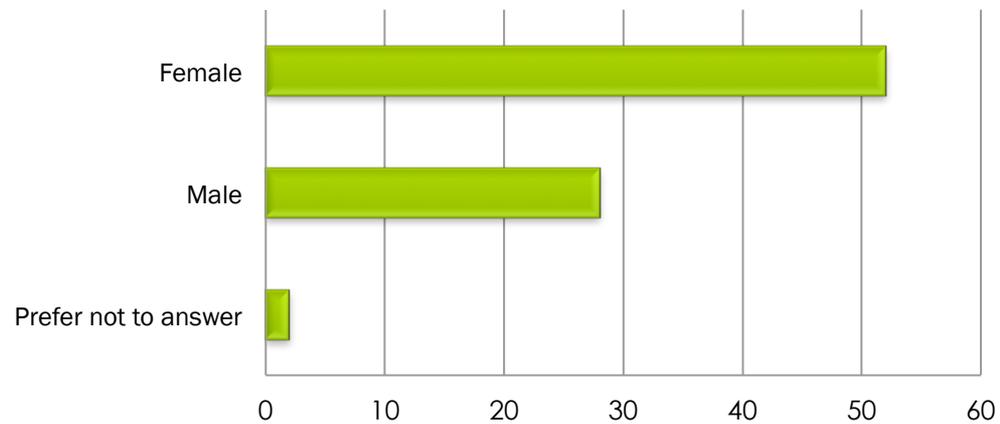
# Breakdown

Question 48: I am in the following age category:



# Breakdown

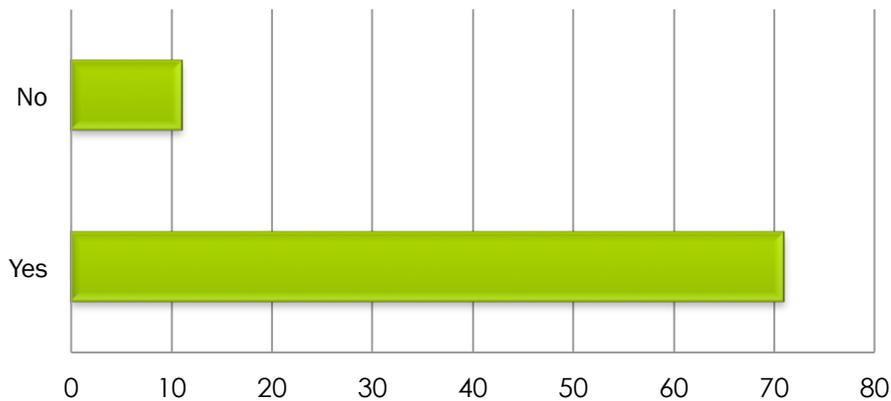
Question 49: I am:



	Prefer not to answer	Male	Female
Responses	2	28	52

# Breakdown

Question 51: When asked I could clearly state our church's mission and/or vision:



	Yes	No
Responses	71	11

## In your opinion, what is the single greatest strength of Milwaukie Covenant Church?

- The greatest thing about Milwaukie Covenant Church is the love and sense of community shown to one another. This has grown in recent years to some degree with the addition of small groups to our body. Although I am not in small group, I can tell the difference they have made.
- The love and support of each person in our church. When things are not going well in our lives, we can count on the support from the entire church.
- The love and support of the congregation when a member is in need. They are there for you with prayer, time, food, anything that you may need and it is done quickly.
- The spiritual growth of the church. It's so encouraging to see God working in the lives of His people. God does answer prayer.
- The church communicates well and makes sure that the congregation is in the know.
- The ability to welcome newcomers into the body, making them feel loved and wanted and to help them in their walk with God.
- Making visitors feel welcomed.
- Sense of communal identity.
- Bible centered teaching and preaching.

## In your opinion, what is the single greatest area for improvement?

- We need an infusion of young adults. We have a few but need more!
- Attracting 25-35 year olds to become members of our church.
- We need to capitalize on our healthy missional status and go into our own community and make disciples and not just sit in pews and send money to missionaries in the "dark corners of the world."
- Make new people and visitors more welcome we tend to stay with in our own little groups.
- The music program needs to be explored as to obtaining a program to get more people involved and use their talents to enhance worship services. Also, more attention needs to be paid to music selection for congregational use.
- Lay leadership development, especially Bible teachers and Elders.
- Prayer availability with others. There is a prayer room, but it was empty after church and no one was there to pray with. :(
- Communication for newcomers. Both in what to do on their first Sunday (where are the classes, info on the coffee time after, etc.) and how the church works.
- A venue for young adults. We just don't have anything to draw college age or single young adults to our church.

## In your opinion, what is the single greatest area for improvement?

- I think we need more youth programs and volunteers for those programs. We have a growing children's program but our teens, college age and young adults need programs.
- That would probably be evangelism. We are growing in our faith, now we need to realize the impact this growth has on others. It is probably now happening, but we all need to build up more confidence in being a witness for the Lord.
- More intentional development of outreach programs to meet the needs of the community. The church needs to open its doors to help groups so that we are reaching those who have difficulties in areas such as substance abuse, finances and divorce. This will bring new people into the building and maybe into worship.

## In a few sentences, how would you describe the overall health of Milwaukie Covenant Church?

- Good people, good foundation, loving caring attitude among the congregation
- We are growing stronger in faith and prayer. A lot of new faces. We have ongoing mission activities and community outreach. We are maturing.
- I am proud to call Milwaukie Covenant Church my home church and be involved in it.
- Overall health is great. There is a variety of ministries that provide opportunities to learn, grow and share spiritual gifts. Since beginning the many Care and Share Groups, people are feeling more connected with the church and able to share more deeply with people they have gotten to know better.
- Leadership is responsive to the Spirit and open to the congregation, the congregation is engaged and respectful of the leaders. The Pastor is preaching the Gospel truth, and people are involved and working for Christ out of their own poverty of spirit.

## In a few sentences, how would you describe the overall health of Milwaukie Covenant Church?

- It is a healthy, growing church and provides good leadership in the community. The sense of community welfare and involvement is outstanding. There are many projects for congregants to participate in - from manual work to financial aid.
- Overall we are much healthier than before. Sunday school classes center on the Bible; several midweek small groups meet. We have some great community and world service projects happening at regular intervals. However, we need to acknowledge that following Christ runs counter to our surrounding culture, and address those issues (and priorities) directly.
- It is fantastic. Great, I look forward [to] coming to church.
- A healthy church. Members very caring of one another and those outside the church.
- I honestly feel like we have a very healthy church. Prayer & teaching from the scriptures is so plentiful at our beautiful church. Generosity in the form of volunteer work is encouraged & gratitude is abundant.
- Overall I think we are healthy. When I look around I see that many/most people have found others to walk beside them. We take good care of immediate needs in the congregation.

## In a few sentences, how would you describe the overall health of Milwaukie Covenant Church?

- I believe that MCC is growing in overall health. I have been a member since 1979 and the last 5 years or so have been the best.
- We are a loving, caring, energizing church.
- I feel the church is very much alive, and growing.
- Maintaining but not increasing in maturity.
- Good but we can always do better.

Keeping things in perspective...

“Good but we can  
always do better.”

A point to ponder

# If you could change one thing about Milwaukie Covenant Church, what would that be?

- A program devoted to seeking younger family involvement. Keeping and strengthening our college age members.
- More involvement of congregation in helping with Sunday School and youth.
- To be more intentional in attracting the 25 - 35 year old demographic.
- We need to have a specific and focused discipleship program where older, more experienced Christians help train up the next generation of not just leaders but also the body as a whole. We need to train each and every person to seek God no matter what and how to do it. That way the teacher and the student both learn from experience and circumstances.
- We need to do more to reach our immediate community. To make sure that all are welcome in our church.
- Our church has the typical 20-25% of the membership doing 80-90% of involvement. An increase of overall involvement (including giving) would propel MCC into the future.
- We have many members with cancer and other ailments. I would like to see a regular corporate prayer time for healing led by the pastor and elders and anointing with oil as in the scriptures

# If you could change one thing about Milwaukie Covenant Church, what would that be?

- How our Elders work. They are present, but after many years I still don't usually call on my elder for prayer. They may do things in the background, but I don't know that their role is very obvious to many. I think the elders could play an important mentoring role for the congregation.
- Focus on Sunday School (Education Hour) bringing in more children. Also, to focus on the college age group and provide classes and social events.

# Is there anything else you would like to share about Milwaukie Covenant Church?

- This place feels more and more like Paul and Timothy's New Testament experience in many ways. We are honest, open, Gospel centric, and inviting. People are coming and the church is growing, but we are not sharing the Gospel with our neighbors, new people are NOT coming to Christ, and we are not putting enough focus on stewardship, practical applications of Christ's justice for the oppressed, and discipleship of adults into a deeper faith.
- I have been attending Milwaukie Covenant Church for over 35 years and it has been a tremendous blessing to me and my family. It has help my faith and supported us in good and bad times. I consider the church as my family.
- MCC is my family, and [an expression of] my heritage in Jesus Christ, imperishable. What a great legacy!
- When I was looking for a church it was the music welcoming me as I was invited inside.
- Our pastor is Great and is very transparent with us. We all know that he is sold out for Christ.
- Love this group of believers.

# Is there anything else you would like to share about Milwaukie Covenant Church?

- Great pastoral care, wonderful warmth in the members, many opportunities to fellowship and study God's word.
- We love to go every Sunday, or any of the special events. We love meeting new people when they come to attend or speak.
- We love attending this Church---it is filled with love and caring
- In general, a wonderful church.
- I have been a member now for about 12 years. I can't imagine describing any other church in the area as "my church". I have been given the opportunity to serve, and do so proudly and humbly before God. I pray that it will strengthen my family, even when my memorial service is held there.

# Conclusion

“According to your responses and from what we know about other established churches in the Covenant, Milwaukie Covenant Church is **-Healthy Missional**. You increased significantly in the number of people participating in the PULSE assessment. The challenges ahead for you are to develop the strategies, and the sacrifices they may take by existing members, to attract younger families in the future. You had only five responses in the 12 to 35 age group, and 80% of your respondents were over 50 years of age. What are the ways you are seeking to reach younger families, instead of hoping they will simply show up at your church?”

“You are to be commended for your continued positive movement towards being a healthy missional church. May you continue to use that momentum to spread the love of Christ to the people of the Milwaukie area.”

*From the 2016 Pulse report*