

OCC CONGREGATIONAL SURVEY

What Brings Newcomers To Church And What Keeps People Feeling Connected?

Survey conducted January-February, 2009

TOTAL REPLIES – 99

Replies include people who have attended the church since 1932 to those who began attending in 2008.

WHAT FACTORS LED YOU TO FIRST VISIT OCC? (multiple answers were permitted)

- 34 – New to Community and looking for a church
- 32 – Wanted to find a place for my children to learn about faith.
- 24 – I was invited by a neighbor or friend.
- 24 – Unhappy with other church and wanted a change
- 14 – Sought a church with UCC ties
- 14 – was invited by a relative
- 12 – I sought a church with ties to the United Methodist denomination
- 11 – I first came here as a youth or child
- 9 – I sought a church with no denominational ties
- 8 – New and OCC was the only protestant church
- 6 – Invited by a Pastor
- 5 – Attended a Holiday service
- 4 – Saw the building sign and decided to attend
- 2 – Someone offered me a ride and offered to sit with me
- 2 – Attended a community event and then attended worship
- 1 – Phone book, Newspaper, etc.

OTHER :

- I was impressed by the example, ministry and preaching of Rev. Ken Halstead
- We were looking for a church that would accommodate differing faith backgrounds
- Daughter attended preschool here.
- Came with my husband
- Came with my fiancée
- Appreciation of the organ

WHAT HELPED YOU TO DECIDE TO JOIN OR CONTINUE ATTENDING? (multiple answers were permitted)

- 69 – I received a friendly welcome
- 65 – I liked the way worship was conducted
- 55 – The beliefs expressed seemed to fit with my own
- 44 – I liked the way the children and youth were included
- 40 – I recognized friends or neighbors in the congregation
- 38 – My children seemed comfortable here
- 36 – I liked the music program
- 29 – There were others in the congregation like me
- 23 – I felt a personal connection with the pastor
- 22 – I appreciate the mission outreach of the church
- 22 – I was asked to join to participate in a project and felt accepted.
- 19 – There was diversity in the congregation
- 9 – I was confirmed here as a youth
- 2 – I had no choice

OTHER:

- Liked the personal connection & friendly atmosphere, don't feel like a number. Small hometown feeling.
- Plan on getting married here in October
- I love pipe organ music and the Casavant is the best in the area.
- I appreciate the inclusion of lay people (both men and women) in worship and in governance of the church.
- I am pleased & proud about how this church is truly a Community church by meeting the needs of many community groups.
- Someone in choir asked me to join
- It was my husband's church
- Youth group – Sunday school
- OCC has a strong family orientation, we have fun here! There are lots of opportunities for outreach and fellowship.
- Wanted to get married here
- I liked the small and intimate atmosphere & feel like I grew up with. The church has a warm and inviting feel.
- It felt very similar to the church where I grew up and I felt comfortable here.
- I joined Friendship circle and am friends with those ladies even now!