

## 2013 CONGREGATIONAL SURVEY OF THE MUSIC MINISTRY AT FCC—COMPOSITE SUMMARY

The Music Committee is grateful to have received 33 completed surveys from the congregation over the course of the fall of 2013. Your responses provide vital information for the ongoing direction of the church’s music ministry—all the more valuable now, as we search for a new music director to succeed Will Ögmundson, who announced his departure from FCC during the survey period.

This composite summary lists all responses, either as total “votes” on a particular question or as a list of salient written comments on various topics (kept anonymous here, even if they weren’t submitted as such). *Please note:* Non-responses to any particular question were counted either as “no preference” or “no opinion.” (There were few such instances.)

### WORSHIP

How important to you and your family are the following elements of worship?

	<i>Not at all important</i>		<i>Very important</i>			<i>No opinion</i>
Prelude/Postlude	0	0	3	9	19	2
Introit	1	1	4	15	8	4
Anthem	0	0	1	9	21	2
Offertory	0	0	0	17	14	2
Hymns	0	0	2	10	19	2
Children’s Hymn	1	2	2	14	12	2
Soloists	0	0	7	20	3	3
Visiting soloists/instrumentalists	1	1	4	13	12	2

We currently sing four hymns in a typical service. Do you feel this is an appropriate number?

Y (27) N (6) **If not four**, how many would you prefer? 3(5), 2(1), “more ok”(1), “12”(1)

Which hymnal do you prefer? 13 *Pilgrim* (Red, 1960) 8 *New Century* (Black, 1995) 12 *No pref*

Should the Committee and Pastor consider finding a new hymnal? Y (6) N (21) *No opinion* (6)

The Children’s Hymn is an effective way to involve and engage our children in worship.

*Strongly disagree* 1 1 8 10 12 *Strongly agree* *No opinion* (1)

The choir is an essential part of worship music and congregational life at FCC.

*Strongly disagree* 0 1 1 7 23 *Strongly agree* *No opinion* (1)

I would like the choir to participate more extensively in worship.

*Strongly disagree* 1 4 10 11 4 *Strongly agree* *No opinion* (3)

I would like to hear the organ played more often in worship.

*Strongly disagree* 1 5 11 4 11 *Strongly agree* *No opinion* (1)

**MUSIC AT THE MEETINGHOUSE**

It is important for FCC to sponsor and support the Music at the Meetinghouse series.

*Strongly disagree*    1            2            10            7            10            *Strongly agree*    *No opinion* (3)

The Music at the Meetinghouse series has been effectively promoted and publicized.

*Strongly disagree*    3            4            10            7            5            *Strongly agree*    *No opinion* (4)

How many M @ M events have you attended in the past year?    0(14), 1-2(15), 3-4(3), 5+(1)

How appealing, satisfying, or rewarding are concerts by the following groups?

	<i>Not at all appealing</i>		<i>Very appealing</i>			<i>No opinion</i>
Bel Canto Chamber Singers	0	0	1	8	10	14
Classicopia	1	0	5	4	8	15
UV Music Center events	0	1	2	7	5	18
Other ( <i>please specify below</i> )	0	0	0	0	5	28
Other: <u>Zazzle(5), Peter Griggs(2), Sunflower Quartet, mandolin, brass/strings, gospel, folk</u>						

**PREFERRED TYPES OF MUSIC**

Please rank your top three preferred genres of music, for both worship and concert contexts:

	<i>Worship</i>	<i>Concert</i>
Classical (e.g. Bach, Mozart, Handel)	<u>1(4), 2(9), 3(2)</u>	<u>1(5), 2(4), 3(1)</u>
Traditional/Standard (e.g. Hymns, Anthems)	<u>1(13), 2(10), 3(7)</u>	<u>1(1), 2(2)</u>
New/Recent/Modern Composers	<u>1(3), 2(2), 3(2)</u>	<u>2(5), 3(4)</u>
Early American (e.g. Wm. Billings, Shakers)	<u>1(2), 2(4), 3(2)</u>	<u>2(3), 3(2)</u>
Spirituals	<u>1(4), 2(13), 3(4)</u>	<u>2(3), 3(1)</u>
Gospel	<u>1(2), 2(6), 3(3)</u>	<u>1(2), 2(2), 3(1)</u>
Jazz	<u>1(1), 2(1)</u>	<u>1(5), 2(3), 3(1)</u>
Folk	<u>1(1), 2(4), 3(5)</u>	<u>1(1), 2(3), 3(2)</u>
Other: <u>multi-cultural hymns, more African-American hymns in black hymnal, praise songs, bluegrass, "variety and experimentation," "whatever can be done well"</u>		

***Additional comments, suggestions, etc.***

**Children's Hymn—**

"A great idea" but doesn't effectively teach the hymn, since most kids can't read music and some can't read at all; "Most of [the children] can't read and just sit looking confused"; "Watching the children during the C. H., it's apparent they could[n't] care less, and most can't even read the words. Just one more hymn to sing." [several made this observation]

"Unless parents take it home to learn, it is useless."

"I would rather have a longer C. H. [or sing more verses] and one fewer grown-up one."

Some hymns chosen are difficult, even for adults

Should do more verses; "one is not enough"

"I don't believe kids can *learn* the hymns without singing 2 verses minimum. We teach as we have learned!"

"Some have lovely harmonies and are better sung that way" (choir could sing harmony)

#### **Choir—**

"Our choir has a fine blend and makes a great contribution to worship—no matter how many or how few."

"Choir can be a wonderful addition to services."

"The choir should be able to sing more during service."

"I would rather listen to the choir sing one more song, than sing a hymn myself."

"Very unbalanced"

Should sing more only if we "can find stronger female voices...Soprano section is weak."

"Music has to be appropriate to the skill of choir"

Choir could participate more in worship only if there were enough/more singers

Could help with Children's Hymn by singing harmony

"Spirituals always get applause, should probably sing more of this type. You might even get more members if the songs were easier to sing!"

"Spirituals and folk tunes would be appropriate when you have a small number"

"Female solos—only when you have great voices"

"Recruit more choir members"

"I would stick to simple, easy pieces unless Brian sings [or] others with strong voices"

"We are totally blessed to have Will and our faithful few to add music to our lives. I miss Susan Montmagny's voice (and her daughter's). Brian Clancy is a wonderful soloist."

#### **Handbells—**

"What is the status of a handbell choir? It would seem like a good way to involve some more people with musical talent and interest."

#### **Hymnals/Hymns—**

"There are more important things to spend money on...the two we have are fine"

"Good to have both [hymnals] to expand our view"

Prefer to use red hymnal more often

"Just get rid of the black one...The black hymnal is really horrible. I don't like how it changes the words to traditional and beloved songs."

Black hymnal "has many traditional hymns which are seldom used"

"If we want old hymns, we should get a new book to replace the red"

We should sing more Epiphany hymns (e.g. Black #157)

"Sing more popular hymns we all know. I hate to, and can't, sing 4 verses of one I've never heard. Too many verses sometimes."

Number of hymns fine, but "please, not 6 verses"

#### **Music at the Meetinghouse/Concerts—**

"Cost can be an issue"; "money and/or transportation" [prevented me from coming]

"We need \$ to advertise the music concerts. It is terrible that we don't get more people."

Effectiveness of publicity/promotion varies from concert to concert

"Will should do another ragtime concert at some point!"

## **Organ—**

“I miss organ music at the church, almost to the point of finding another church. I view the piano as a supplement but not the main source of music. Organ music to me is soothing, elicits memories, reminds me of family and how important my faith is. I do not have these feelings when listening to a piano.”

“The organ should be played every Sunday! It is a shame not to play it.”

“We have a beautiful baby grand”

## **Worship music (general)—**

“Music, prayers, and silence are most important to me in worship.”

“I miss [the Introit]”

“Love getting variety—really enjoyed soloist last week, Zazzle, Shaker music has been nice to hear in past... Having guests is fun.”

“Would be good to do easy praise songs too.”

“Would like to hear ‘Angel Band’ (Stanley Bros.)”

“More barbershop-type harmony (e.g. Zazzle)”

“Try more acoustic guitar and folk; try some rock and jazz with drums; try some electric guitar; recruit more musical talent from the community for choir and worship, as a strategy to liven up worship and grow our congregation.”

“Will is wonderful, and good choir voices”

“Will is a treasure—make sure he knows he is appreciated.”