

MAM Next Steps

09.12.2021

Survey

There were 49 Maple Avenue Members who participated in the Next Steps Survey. The following report is a compilation of most consistent responses and thoughts amongst the participants while intentionally incorporating input from participants of color.

Current Sunday Participation



Programing

I. Most important programs to restart in order of interest:

1. Youth Group (53%)
2. Nursery (49%)
3. Childrens Church (47%)
4. Neighborhood Engagement (47%)
5. Bible Study (36%)
6. Prayer Team Meetings (29%)
7. MAMily Meal (27%)
8. After school tutoring program (17%)
9. Coffee/snacks before church (17%)
10. MAC Rec (11%)

**indicates a large majority of the feedback

II. Key phrases in response to what “Centered in Christ” looks like

1. Biblically rooted teachings and embracing ministries
2. Inviting Christ into all that is done
3. Being “others” focused
4. Re-engaging in prayer meetings, bible studies, etc.
5. Using Christ as a centering point in our vision casting

III. Key phrases in response to what “Called to the Core City” looks like

1. Intentionally engaging our neighbors individually and with community events
2. Building community partnerships with organizations or programs that align with our mission (like I AM academy, Escape Ministries, Westcore Neighbors, etc)
3. Applying our energy and resources in addressing the affordable housing crisis in Holland
4. Embracing our Spanish speaking community more intentionally
5. Using Christ as a centering point in our vision casting

IV. Key phrases in response to what “Committed to becoming a multicultural community reconciled to Christ and to one another” looks like:

1. Ensuring that we have leadership and staff members of color** and that we are centering multicultural voices**
2. Expanding our embracing to more ethnicities and cultures
3. Having intentional conversations around race and social justice
4. Engaging as a community outside of church services

V. Concerns congregation members have about MAM during this season:

1. Losing our congregation members of color** and not centering white voices as vision casting begins

**indicates a large majority of the feedback

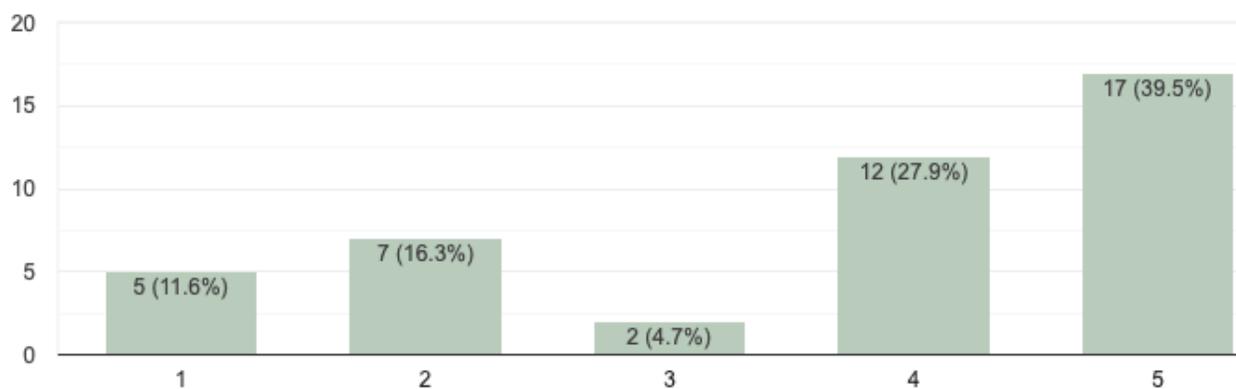
2. Sustaining an old, broken down building
3. Decreased congregational engagement

VI. Things our congregation is excited about during this season

1. Reconnecting/reenergizing as a community
2. Having a chance to live up to our mission and values
3. The opportunity to cast renewed vision and to see MAM flourish in new ways
4. The addition of Jeremy Simpson during this transitional time

VII. Congregational opinion on utilizing an Interim pastor

- A. 1 (strongly desire interim pastor) to 5 (no interim pastor, fill the pulpit with guest preachers)



VIII. Things the congregation wants to preserve as a church:

1. Gospel music and musical diversity**
2. Multicultural membership**
3. People of color in leadership**
4. Commitment to our core values

**indicates a large majority of the feedback



IX. Ways MAM can change and grow:

1. A broader focus on all cultures and peoples and God's invitation to them through us.
2. Increased communication
3. Follow through with vision casting
4. Tapping into congregants interests and skill sets intentionally
5. Ways to connect socially as a community

X. Other thoughts:

1. The grieving process of losing Pastors CJ and Denise will take time. We need to allow time and space for people to process and feel.
2. Focusing on youth is vital
3. Getting back into a rhythm as a church community (including programming outside of Sunday services) will feel good again.

**indicates a large majority of the feedback