

Messiah Lutheran Church of Hoffman

Congregational Survey of Confirmed Members

Since the 2009 meeting of the ELCA Church-wide assembly, the Council of Messiah Lutheran Church has been attempting to determine if there is a Church denomination (or denominations) that would best fit with the basic beliefs of the members of Messiah Lutheran Church. To provide some evidence of how the congregation feels about various issues that may be considered in recommending a “best fit” denomination, or denominations, the council has organized a special task force to study a number of denominational alternatives. As part of that charge, the task force has elected to distribute this survey to all confirmed members of the congregation. Since people rarely see issues as “all black or all white”, the survey allows for various shades of grey ranging on a seven point scale from (1) Absolutely not important to (7) Extremely important.

The basic question is “ **How important is this item to me in making a decision about the Church denomination with which I would prefer to affiliate?**” You can respond by simply filling in the number at the end of each item. The following key will help you interpret the meaning of the numbers 1-7.

1. Absolutely unimportant; 2. Not important; 3. Considered but not important; 4. Neutral: neither unimportant nor important; 5. Somewhat important; 6 Very important; 7. Extremely important.

For each item below rank the item on a scale of 1-7. Items are in random order.

ITEM	SCALE
1. Ordination of women	_____
2. Communion open to all believers	_____
3. Liturgical foundation for worship	_____
4. Denomination’s own seminary for training pastors	_____
5. Presence of similar churches in the area to form a community of faith	_____
6. Ordination of committed gay/lesbian pastors	_____
7. International missions	_____
8. Local and US based missions	_____
9. Structured and staffed synod administration	_____
10. Published statement on sexuality	_____
11. Biblical/scriptural study	_____
12. Reliance on scriptural authority	_____
13. Church policy on social issues such as world hunger, world health, climate change	_____
14. No formal church policies on social issues	_____
15. Decision making at synod & denominational level by lay persons	_____
16. Decision making at synod & denominational level by Pastoral representatives	_____
17. Strong fiscal responsibility at synod/denominational level	_____
18. A constitutional provision that grants continuing job security (tenure) to the pastor	_____
19. A Blessing Ceremony for monogamous life long same sex relationships	_____

Three personal questions: Please place a check by your response.

1. Your age: Less than 20 ___ 21-30 ___ 31-40 ___ 41-50 ___ 51-60 ___ 61-70 ___ Greater than 70 ___

2. Your Gender: Male ___ Female ___

3. Knowing what you already know about alternative church homes, including the ELCA, how likely would you be at this time to recommend changing the affiliation of Messiah Lutheran Church to some other Denomination? Highly unlikely ___ Unlikely ___ Probably unlikely ___ Undecided ___ Probably likely ___ Likely ___ Highly Likely ___

Return this survey by mail to: Task force, Messiah Lutheran Church, P.O. Box 486, Hoffman, MN 56339 **or** drop it in the box in the narthex labeled Task Force Survey. Respond by February 15, 2010

(Task Force use only: Recorded / /)