

Questionnaire for Parishioners

This survey was part of an ongoing national study, repeating many of the same questions that national and regional leaders in the Episcopal Church answered in a study done 13 years ago. Its purpose was to assess changes in attitudes and actions that affect women and men in the Church, toward informing policy and practice.

The group results for your diocese will be available on-line.

We invite you and your congregation to use this survey for your church's benefit. This survey may serve as a tool in better understanding the current situation and future prospects of women and men in the leadership and congregations of the Church.

A. To what extent do you agree with each of the following statements?

CIRCLE NUMBER OF YOUR CHOICE

	<i>No Opinion or</i>		
	<i>Agree</i>	<i>Not Sure</i>	<i>Disagree</i>
a. Presently there is a lot to interest and challenge women in the life of the church.	1	2	3
b. Presently there is a lot to interest and challenge men in the life of the church.	1	2	3
c. Special efforts should be made to see that there are young (under age 35) persons serving in congregational and diocesan leadership positions.	1	2	3
d. Women now have all the opportunities they need for full participation in the life of the Church.	1	2	3
e. Special efforts should be made to see that there are more women in professional staff positions on the diocesan and National Church levels.	1	2	3
f. Men need to be encouraged to have a meaningful involvement in church life more so than women.	1	2	3
g. More ethnic minorities should be ordained.	1	2	3
h. More women should be ordained.	1	2	3

	<u>Agree</u>	<u>No Opinion or Not Sure</u>	<u>Disagree</u>
i. Applicants' gender should not be considered in filling church positions.	1	2	3
j. Most congregational and diocesan leadership positions should be filled by men.	1	2	3
k. If women move into more of the leadership roles in the church, men's participation will drop further.	1	2	3
l. I often feel alienated from the institutional church..	1	2	3
m. My spiritual growth is best attained through worship experiences shared with both men and women.	1	2	3
n.. I have gained personal and spiritual insights from church-related groups composed only/mainly of persons of my gender.	1	2	3
o. Education and advocacy for women's ministries across the Church should be continued well into the new millennium.	1	2	3
p. Race or ethnicity should not be considered in filling church positions.	1	2	3
q. Heterosexuals and homosexuals are spiritually equal.	1	2	3
r. Lay women should be encouraged to take leadership positions in the congregation, diocese, and national Church.	1	2	3
s. Clergy women should be encouraged to take leadership positions in diocesan and national commissions and committees.	1	2	3
t. This diocese should develop and fund programs to assist women being more involved in ordained or lay ministry.	1	2	3
u. The National Church should educate about and work for women's concerns	1	2	3
v. With exception of direct quotes from the Scriptures, inclusive language should be used in all church worship, e.g. "Give thanks for all men <u>and women</u> " instead of just "for all men".	1	2	3
w. I am comfortable using females nouns and pronouns for God, i.e. Mother, She, Her.	1	2	3
x. I am excited about the future of the Episcopal Church.	1	2	3

B. How Important Are Each of the Following

1. Characteristics of Postulants for the Priesthood *in addition to the essential characteristics of call, mental health and potential ability to pass competency exams for the ordained ministry, in your opinion* which characteristic of each dichotomy (a) or (b) below is the more important characteristic of those who should be encouraged to get M.Div.'s and be priests?

	(a)	(a & b)		(b)		
	<i>More Important</i>	<i>No difference</i>	<i>No difference</i>		<i>More Important</i>	
	<u>Much</u>	<u>Some</u>	<u>in Importance</u>		<u>Some</u>	<u>Much</u>
1. Age						
(a) Under 35	1	2	3	4	5	(b) 35-45 yrs old
2. Gender						
(a) Woman	1	2	3	4	5	(b) Man
3. Race						
(a) white/Anglo	1	2	3	4	5	(b) <u>non-white/Anglo</u>

2 Mission and Ministry Areas

Please indicate how important each of the following are as priorities for mission and ministry on three levels of the Church: 1) *for the national Episcopal Church*, 2) *for your diocese*, and 3) *for your congregation*

by marking for each level whether the particular area is of:

Gr = great importance Sm= some importance L/n = little or no importance

AREA	<u>Important Priority For:</u>								
	<u>Nat. Church</u>			<u>My Diocese</u>			<u>My Congregation</u>		
	<u>Gr</u>	<u>Sm</u>	<u>L/n</u>	<u>Gr</u>	<u>Sm</u>	<u>L/n</u>	<u>Gr</u>	<u>Sm</u>	<u>L/n</u>
a. World hunger	1	2	3	1	2	3	1	2	3
b. Domestic violence	1	2	3	1	2	3	1	2	3
c. Spiritual development	1	2	3	1	2	3	1	2	3
d. Poverty in this region or state	1	2	3	1	2	3	1	2	3
e. Ecumenical networking	1	2	3	1	2	3	1	2	3
f. Sexual misconduct and abuse	1	2	3	1	2	3	1	2	3
g. Legislation affecting USA families, welfare reform, medical care	1	2	3	1	2	3	1	2	3
h. Racial or ethnic discrimination	1	2	3	1	2	3	1	2	3
i. Misogyny, patriarchy and sexism	1	2	3	1	2	3	1	2	3

Important Priority For:

AREA	Nat. Church			My Diocese			My Congregation		
	Gr	Sm	L/n	Gr	Sm	L/n	Gr	Sm	L/n
j. Homophobia and heterosexism	1	2	3	1	2	3	1	2	3
k. Ecology and the environment	1	2	3	1	2	3	1	2	3
l. Leadership training	1	2	3	1	2	3	1	2	3
m. Deployment and compensation of ordained & lay professional women	1	2	3	1	2	3	1	2	3

C. Your Involvement in the Ministry of Congregation & Diocese

1. Which of the following positions have you held within the last ten years in a congregation or diocese? Check all that apply

- a. ___ diocesan or church agency staff
- b. ___ rector, vicar, curate, associate/assistant minister
- c. ___ chaplain (prison, hospital, military, educational institution)
- d. ___ permanent deacon
- e. ___ junior or senior warden
- f. ___ Vestry member
- g. ___ director of Christian Education
- h. ___ Sunday school teacher
- i. ___ treasurer of congregation
- j. ___ church social worker or church nurse
- k. ___ choir director or organist
- l. ___ choir member
- m. ___ Altar guild member
- n. ___ member of ECW, or Daughters of the King, or Companions of the Holy Cross
- o. ___ member of the Brotherhood of St. Andrew
- p. ___ Commission on Ministry member
- q. ___ Standing Committee member
- r. ___ Diocesan Council member or other diocesan commission or committee
- s. ___ delegate to diocesan convention or provincial meeting
- t. ___ deputy to General Convention or delegate to Triennial meeting
- u. ___ other. What? _____

2. Within the last year, what kind of activities have you been involved in on the congregational or diocesan level? Check all that apply

- a. ___ planning worship
- b. ___ reading the lesson or leading intercessions in worship
- c. ___ serving as a lay Eucharistic minister
- d. ___ ushering or being a designated “greeter” for worship
- e. ___ attending bible study, prayer group or going on a spiritual retreat (other than on Sunday)
- f. ___ teaching in Sunday school or helping with youth programs
- g. ___ attending adult education programs sponsored by the congregation
- h. ___ attending adult education programs sponsored by the diocese
- i. ___ helping with the cooking, serving, cleanup of coffee, food, etc.
- j. ___ helping with the stewardship campaign of the congregation
- k. ___ helping with other fund raising for the congregation or diocese
- l. ___ attending social or recreational events (e.g. church suppers)
- m. ___ caring for parishioners - visiting sick, shut-in, lonely, in homes, nursing homes, hospices
- n. ___ visiting non-parishioners in hospitals, nursing homes, hospices or prisons
- o. ___ helping with a parish or diocesan-sponsored soup kitchen, food pantry, clothing or shelter
- m. ___ engaging in outreach ministries to those in need in the community (e.g. tutoring inner city children, working with Meals on Wheels, Red Cross).
- n. ___ raising money, preparing aid packages, going on trips to help missions in other countries
- o ___ volunteering for Episcopal Relief and Development Projects
- p. ___ other. What? _____

3. Within the last five years, have you been active with other groups (denominational, ecumenical or secular) in actions needed in this community, the nation, or the world to address any of the following outreach or social justice issues? Check all that apply

- a. ___ providing emergency shelter or subsidies for rent and utilities for those in financial need
- b. ___ donating time or money to shelters for battered women
- b. ___ serving in or supplying a soup kitchen or food pantry
- c. ___ tutoring at-risk or learning-disabled children with academic subjects
- d. ___ helping with social activities and recreational activities for at-risk children and teens
- c. ___ participating in housing construction (e.g. Habitat for Humanity) or repair (e.g. Xmas in July)
- d. ___ visiting the sick in nursing homes, hospices or children’s wards
- e. ___ visiting inmates in prisons or helping with social re-integration programs for ex-offenders
- f. ___ other. What? _____

. Social advocacy or lobbying efforts (letter to public officials and politicians, and news media; conferences, rallies, “walks” marches, picketing, etc.) on behalf of :

- g. ___ saving the environment, protecting the seas, rainforests, atmosphere from contamination
- h. ___ halting human rights abuses world-wide
- i. ___ adequate health care for all
- k. ___ rights for gays and lesbians
- l. ___ protecting animals from abuse; or saving endangered species
- m. ___ prison reform
- n. ___ moratorium on the death penalty
- o. ___ other. Describe: _____

4. Are you currently a member of a group composed of members of your own gender connected with the congregation or diocese with which you meet regularly?

yes no, but was no, have never been

If **no**, would you like to be a member of such a group?

yes maybe no

D. Questions about Your Congregation

1. **About** how many adults attend this congregation? *Check one size category below*

under fifty 50-149 150-349 350-599 600 or more

2. In terms of membership, compared to *five years ago*, would you say this congregation is:

growing staying about the same declining

3. In what size community is this church located? *Check one*

a. rural or open country
 b. town or village of less than 10,000

in or around a city of:

c. 10,000 - 49,999
 d. 50,000 - 249,999
 e. 250,000+

4. In this congregation which of the following positions are filled by women? *Check all that apply*

rector associate. minister vicar interim minister
 senior warden junior warden treasurer director of Chris.
 Ed.

5. **About** what % of the Vestry are women? About _____% are women have no idea

6. In your congregation, to what extent would you agree with each of the following?

I feel in this congregation

	<u>AGREE</u>		<u>DISAGREE</u>		
	<u>Strongly</u>	<u>Smwhat</u>	<u>Not Sure</u>	<u>Smwhat</u>	<u>Strongly</u>
a. my participation is appreciated	1	2	3	4	5
b. supported in my paid or volunteer work outside this congregation.	1	2	3	4	5
c. spiritually uplifted	1	2	3	4	5
d. that persons of all races & ethnicities are welcome	1	2	3	4	5
e. members are active in making this a vital parish	1	2	3	4	5

7. How willing would (1) you be and (2) would most in this congregation be to have a woman as:
Please answer for both (1) and (2):

<u>Woman as:</u>	<u>(1)</u> <u>You</u>					<u>(2)</u> <u>Most in your Congregation:</u>				
	<u>Willing</u>		<u>Mixed</u>	<u>Unwilling</u>		<u>Willing</u>		<u>Mixed</u>	<u>Unwilling</u>	
	<u>Very</u>			<u>Very</u>		<u>Very</u>			<u>Very</u>	
a. Senior warden in this parish.	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
b. Assistant minister in this parish	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
c. Rector of this parish	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
1) if she has young children	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
2) if she is lesbian with partner	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
d. Diocesan Bishop of this diocese	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
e. Suffragan or Assistant Bishop	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
f. Deputy to General Convention	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5

D. Adult Education and Training Opportunities

Which of the following possible seminar topics or workshops might you be interested in attending? Please answer for each by circling number of your answer

I WOULD BE INTERESTED IN THIS :	<u>YES</u>	<u>MAYBE</u>	<u>NO</u>
a. leadership training	1	2	3
b. conflict management	1	2	3
c. spiritual growth and development	1	2	3
d. marriage enrichment	1	2	3
e. effective parenting	1	2	3
f. sexuality and sex education	1	2	3
g. addictive behavior (alcohol, drugs, sex misconduct)	1	2	3
h. domestic violence issues	1	2	3
j. protecting the environment	1	2	3
k. community organizing	1	2	3
l. aging in today's society	1	2	3
m. Christian education for children and youth	1	2	3
n. Christian education for adults	1	2	3
o. women's issues in public policy and legislation	1	2	3

I WOULD BE INTERESTED IN THIS :	<u>YES</u>	<u>MAYBE</u>	<u>NO</u>
p. social advocacy for economic reform	1	2	3
q. theological reflection	1	2	3
r. Christian meditation and prayer	1	2	3
s. Biblical studies	1	2	3
t. stewardship for mission and ministry	1	2	3
u. evangelism and church growth	1	2	3
v. encouraging ministry of the laity in the workplace, community, and home	1	2	3
w. other: Describe: _____	1	2	3

E. Background Information About You

1. Are you a: ___woman ___man
2. What is your age: ___under 25 ___25-34 ___35-44 ___45-54
___55-64 ___65-74 ___75+
3. What is your race/ethnicity: _____
4. What is your marital status? ___single, never married ___widowed
___divorced/separated ___married (1st marriage) ___remarried
___in a committed relationship (not married)
5. In what denomination were you raised? _____
6. How many children and youth currently live with you all or over half the year?
#_____ children and youth
7. In total, how many persons live in your household including yourself? #_____ persons
8. Do you have a salaried position or paid work of some kind?
___yes, full-time ___yes, part-time on a regular basis ___yes, part-time, not regular basis
___no, not at the present ___no, I am retired
If Yes, what is this work/occupation? _____
9. Are you ordained? ___yes ___no
If yes, in what year were you ordained to the diaconate? 19_____

10. In which of the following categories does your **total family income** fall before taxes?
(Include spouse's income and trust funds, if any but do not include housing allowance):

Check One:

- | | |
|---------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> under \$25,000 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$65,000-\$84,999 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$25,000 -\$34,999 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$85,000-\$119,999 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$35,000-\$44,999 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$120,000-\$149,999 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$45,000-\$64,999 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$150,000 and over |

11. What is your highest level of formal education?

- | | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> some college or less | <input type="checkbox"/> two year college degree |
| <input type="checkbox"/> four year college degree | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> some graduate education, no degree | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> masters degree (M.A., M.S.) | <input type="checkbox"/> M.Div. or S.T.M. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> doctorate | <input type="checkbox"/> post-doctorate formal academic study |

E. SPECIAL QUESTIONS FOR DIOCESAN LEADERS

1. To what extent would you agree or disagree with each of the following statements about **this diocese?**

<i>In This Diocese:</i>	<u>AGREE</u>		<u>Not Sure</u>	<u>DISAGREE</u>	
	<u>Strongly</u>	<u>Smwhat</u>		<u>Smwhat</u>	<u>Strongly</u>
a. Diocesan staff and committees make good use of volunteers.	1	2	3	4	5
b. Lay women are well represented on diocesan commissions and committees.	1	2	3	4	5
c. Clergy women are well represented on diocesan commissions and committees.	1	2	3	4	5
d. A woman would have a better chance of being priested if she went to a diocese other than this one.	1	2	3	4	5
e. Ordained women are compensated at the same level as men in comparable positions.	1	2	3	4	5
f. Lay people are encouraged to exercise their ministries in their places of work, communities, and homes.	1	2	3	4	5
g. Episcopal women, whether lay or clergy, do not hold position or influence in this diocese comparable to lay or clergy men.	1	2	3	4	5

<u><i>In This Diocese:</i></u>	<u>AGREE</u>			<u>DISAGREE</u>	
	<u>Strongly</u>	<u>Smwhat</u>	<u>Not Sure</u>	<u>Smwhat</u>	<u>Strongly</u>
h. The diocese encourages laity to engage in continuing Christian adult education and leadership training.	1	2	3	4	5
i. There is a communication gap between clergy and lay leaders of this diocese.	1	2	3	4	5
j. It is as easy for <u>women</u> as it is for <u>men</u> to:					
1) become postulants to the priesthood	1	2	3	4	5
2) obtain a full-time asst. minister position	1	2	3	4	5
3) become rectors of multi-staffed parishes	1	2	3	4	5
4) become a bishop in this diocese	1	2	3	4	5
5) be member of the Standing Committee	1	2	3	4	5
6) be appointed to diocesan committees & commissions	1	2	3	4	5
k. There is a high morale among clergy and lay leaders and enthusiasm about the future of the diocese.	1	2	3	4	5

2. About how many clergy do you talk with fairly regularly (a least once a month) in total? # _____ of clergy

Of this total, how many are clergy women?

___ none ___ 1-2 ___ 3-6 ___ 7-10 ___ over 10

3. How much of your own income is derived from employment through the Episcopal Church (in the congregation, diocese, church agency, etc.)?

___ all or almost all ___ around half ___ a fourth or less
 ___ none, my income is derived from secular employment
 ___ none, I do not work for money
 ___ none, I am retired

F. Do you have comments or suggestions about improving the participation of women and/or men in the life and leadership of the Episcopal Church?

If so, please write these below or go over to the back of this page, if needed

(Any comments you write will be retyped without any identifying information.)