

Roswell Presbyterian Church • Vital Signs Summary

The following is a summary of the Vital Signs Report generated from the Congregation Assessment Tool (CAT) survey that was recently administered at RPC. 2135 persons were invited to participate; of these, 778 persons responded, 104% of our average worship attendance for the past year, more than sufficient response to provide valid results from CAT, a scientific tool that generates a complex readout on our congregation, providing important information to guide our search for our next Senior Pastor and to provide discernment for our future.

Overall, approximately 64% of our members are clearly satisfied with things in the church. This, along with other information, indicates that RPC is a healthy church with options that include growth, expansion, replication, and external impact.

Drivers of Satisfaction. The pattern of responses from our members suggests that when they think about how satisfied they are with things in our church overall, they tend to focus on the following areas:

- The worship services at our church are exceptional in both quality and spiritual content.
- Persons who serve as leaders in our church are representative of the membership.
- In important decisions in our church, adequate opportunity for consideration of different approaches is usually provided.
- The leaders of our church show a genuine concern to know what people are thinking when decisions need to be made.
- The whole spirit in our congregation makes people want to get as involved as possible.

Conversely, when our members feel less positive about the areas above, they tend to feel less satisfied with their experience in the church overall. See Energy Satisfaction Map on Page 2.

Strengths and Potential Weaknesses. Every church exhibits patterns in its life that contain strengths and potential weaknesses. **RPC has potential strengths related to stability and clarity of belief. Our potential weaknesses include a tendency to become tradition-bound and conflict-prone.** See the Descriptive Map on Page 3.

Priorities. In looking to the future, *our members identified these top four goals:*

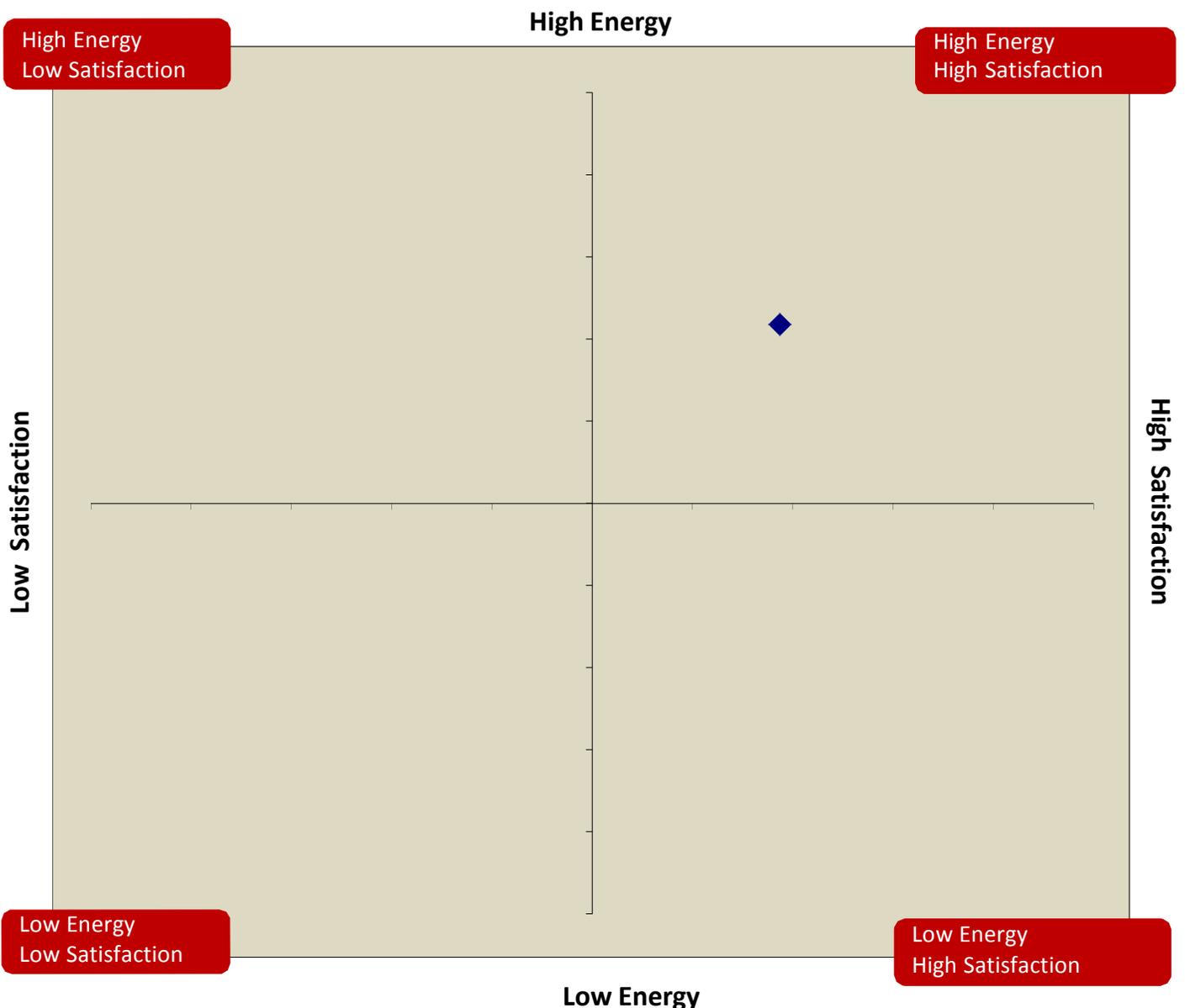
- Develop and implement a comprehensive strategy to reach new people and incorporate them into the life of the church.
- Develop ministries that work toward healing those broken by life circumstances.
- Create more opportunities for people to form meaningful relationships (for example, small groups, nurtured friendships, shared meals, etc.).
- Expand outreach ministries that provide direct services to those living on the margins of society (i.e., homeless, immigrant, transient persons).

In comparison to other churches, *three goals that are unusually strong for our church are:*

- Expand outreach ministries that provide direct services to those living on the margins of society (i.e., homeless, immigrant, transient persons).
- Create more opportunities for people to form meaningful relationships (for example, small groups, nurtured friendships, shared meals, etc.).
- Work to renew and revitalize the community around the church by building coalitions with partners that share this vision and commitment.

See Priorities on Page 4 for the complete ranking of the seventeen priority options.

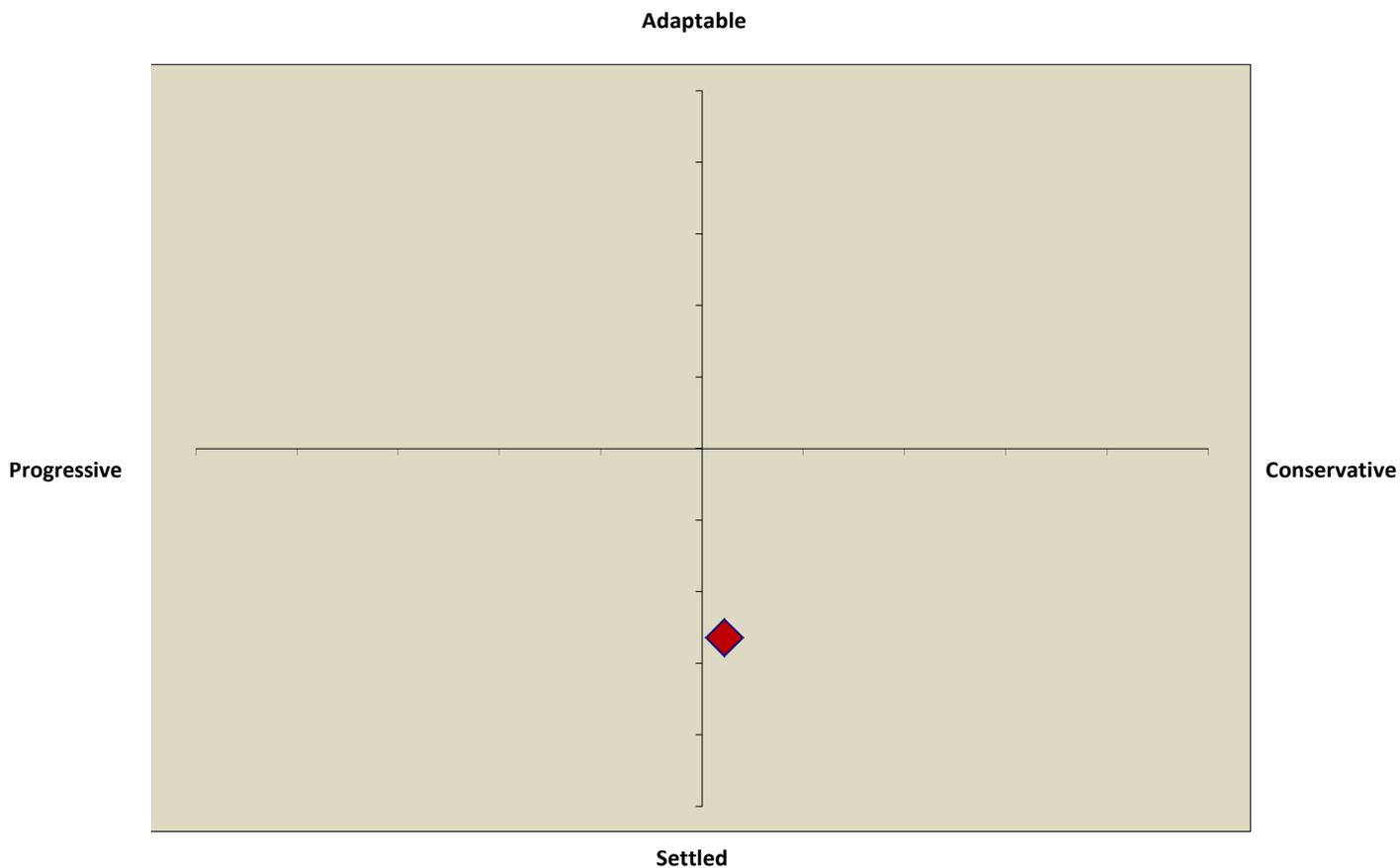
The Energy-Satisfaction Map



The levels of satisfaction and energy have been found to be reliable indicators of the health and vitality of a church. There are four quadrants on this map:

- The **high energy-low satisfaction** quadrant is the chaos quadrant. Churches in this quadrant are often struggling to structure and channel their energy into a direction they feel good about.
- The **low energy-low satisfaction** quadrant is the recovery quadrant. Churches in this quadrant require major changes in order to regain a significant level of vitality and health.
- The **low energy-high satisfaction** quadrant is the static quadrant. Churches in this quadrant have normalized a low level of vitality in the church which enables them to be relatively satisfied.
- The **high energy-high satisfaction** quadrant is the transformation quadrant. Churches in this quadrant are sources of new meaning and purpose for their members. They may also serve as mentors to other churches.

Descriptive Map



This map indicates the particular style of a church using two characteristics. The first characteristic is whether the church is theologically conservative or progressive. The second characteristic is whether the church is more adaptable or settled in its approach to its life. The combination of these two characteristics produces the four different possibilities for the overall style of a church. These are noted in the four quadrants of the map.

1. **Progressive-Adaptable** churches
2. **Progressive-Settled** churches
3. **Conservative-Adaptable** churches
4. **Conservative-Settled** churches

Priorities

When members were asked where they wanted additional energy placed, this is how they ranked the seventeen options on the survey:

Rank	Question #	Priority	Mean
First Average	Question #59	Develop and implement a comprehensive strategy to reach new people and incorporate them into the life of the church.	3.09
Second Average	Question #65	Develop ministries that work toward healing those broken by life circumstances.	2.95
Third High	Question #51	Create more opportunities for people to form meaningful relationships (for example, small groups, nurtured friendships, shared meals, etc.).	2.81
Fourth Very high	Question #66	Expand outreach ministries that provide direct services to those living on the margins of society.	2.72
Fifth Low	Question #57	Make necessary changes to attract families with children and youth to our church.	2.71
Sixth Average	Question #64	Work to renew and revitalize the community around the church by building coalitions with partners.	2.66
Seventh Low	Question #58	Provide more opportunities for Christian education and spiritual formation at every age and stage of life.	2.65
Eighth Low	Question #52	Develop the spiritual generosity of the people to financially support the ministry of the church.	2.65
Ninth Average	Question #50	Deepen our sense of connection to God and one another through stronger worship services.	2.64
Tenth Average	Question #63	Strengthen the management and support of persons in various ministries.	2.63
Eleventh Very low	Question #54	Strengthen the process by which members are called and equipped for ministry and leadership.	2.62
Twelfth Average	Question #62	Work as an advocate for social and institutional change so that society might better reflect the values of the kingdom of God.	2.48
Thirteenth Average	Question #61	Adapt the opportunities provided by the church making them more accessible given the pace and schedule of my life.	2.45
Fourteenth Average	Question #55	Strengthen the pastoral response of the church in serving people with special needs.	2.40
Fifteenth Average	Question #56	Change or improve the music of the church to deepen our worship experience.	2.11
Sixteenth Average	Question #60	Expand the international mission of the church with both financial resources and personal involvement.	1.95
Seventeenth Average	Question #53	Enlarge or improve the physical facilities of the church to expand or enhance our ministries.	1.56

Note: Items can be at the bottom of this list for one of two reasons. An item can be at the bottom of the list because it is *less important to respondents*. Alternatively, it can be at the bottom of the list because it is very important to respondents, but *already being performed at such a high level that additional energy is not required*. The rating beneath the priority rank (**very low, low, average, high, very high**) indicates its strength compared to other churches.