

St. Johns
Presbyterian Church
Survey Results

How do we worship?

11:00 Service	70%
9:00 Service	30%
Small Groups	37%
Sunday School	25%
Service/Volunteer	24%
Children's Ministry	21%
Choir/Worship	13%
Youth Ministry	10%

How is our Connectedness?

I feel very connected with SJPC	56%
I am as much as I would like to be	29%
I wish to be more	15%
Attend Regularly	92%
Frequency of inviting visitors:	
Once in a while	71%
Frequently	18%
Haven't Yet	11%

What Attracted Us or Keeps Us Here?

<u>Attracted</u>	<u>Keeps</u>
1. Location	1. Preaching
2. Contemp Worship	2. Contemp Worship
3. Preaching	3. Friends I have here
4. Music	4. Location
5. Theology of Leaders	5. Music
6. Friends were here	6. Theology of Leaders

What is our Spiritual Life like?

My relationship with Christ is most important one	52%
I have a solid relationship	40%
Believe in God, don't have personal relationship	6%
Just starting to explore my faith	2%
Pray Daily	88%
Read Bible outside church events	83%
Know my Spiritual Gifts	75%
Read Bible Daily	52%

What would we like to see at SJPC?

- More Small Groups
- New Sunday School Class
- Study of a Single Book of the Bible
- New Testament Study
- Dinner and Bible Study at a home
- Old Testament Study
- Dessert and topical discussion/weeknight

We would most like to see SJPC increase...

- Organizing local service projects
- Sending money to local missions

Our most desired goals for SJPC

- | | |
|--------------------------------|-----|
| • Stay Biblically Based | 70% |
| • Prayer | 48% |
| • Biblical Spirit led teaching | 43% |
| • Distinguished by love | 38% |
| • Evangelism | 29% |

Where does SJPC excel?

- | | |
|---------------------------------|-----|
| • Biblically-based | 65% |
| • Biblical, Spirit-led teaching | 42% |
| • Distinguished by love | 27% |
| • Small groups | 18% |
| • Prayer | 18% |

What do we believe about our Community of Faith?

- | | |
|--|-----|
| • Jesus is the only way sinners become children of God | 90% |
| Through His Spirit we have faith that we witness to the lost | 92% |
| In Christ, we are adopted into the family of God/new identity/one Father | 94% |
| • God's Grace is extended through preaching, sacraments, and discipline | 85% |
| We should refrain from proclamations of faith that could make non-Christians uncomfortable | 13% |

What are our Basic / Driving Beliefs

Jesus was crucified, died and rose	96%
Bible is the divinely inspired authoritative Word of God	93%
God reveals Himself through Scripture and the Holy Spirit	96%
The Gospel simply one of many ways to say God is Love	39%
The Bible is be used only as guidance	24%
Changes in moral climate should change interpretation of Bible	12%
Church leaders should freely interpret the scriptures however they wish	9%

What do we believe about sin?

The disordered world is a reflection of humanity's sinfulness	86%
Our desires are not a trustworthy guide to goodness	80%
Our leaders should be aware and honest about sin	88%
World has become too focused on "me-first, now"	86%

What do we believe about Salvation?

No part of human life is off limits to sanctifying by God	95%
Salvation is result of doing good works	15%
There are paths to salvation other than through Jesus	9%
The Gospel is as effective/salvation for us with or without Jesus' death	5%

PCUSA Stand Salvation

Beliefs:

Only followers of Jesus can be saved (strongly agree or agree)

Members	42%
Ruling Elders	45%
Pastors	41%
Specialized Ministers	27%

What do we believe about Choice / Right to Life?

Life begins at conception, all abortion is wrong	52%
Support right to first-trimester abortion in cases of incest, rape, or if it saves the mother's life	48%
Support abortion any time regardless of circumstances	6%
Killing living child after removal during abortion is wrong	81%

What do we believe about Israel?

Israel should be supported as a bastion of peace in a troubled region	70%
Support PCUSA disinvesting from companies who do business in Israel (Hewlett Packard, Motorola, Caterpillar)	16%

What do we believe about Same Sex Marriage?

Homosexuality is sin, forgivable like other sin, thru God's Grace	68%
Legally married homosexual couples should have same rights as heterosexual couples	37%
All love is love and therefore "of God".	29%
God approves of homosexual marriage	8%
Homosexuals should be allowed to marry each other in the church	17%

What do we believe about our denomination?

Our denomination should not be a place for pastors who don't believe in God	95%
The killing of Christians in the Middle East should be denounced by our denomination's leaders	90%
Denomination should express our core foundational beliefs/essential tenets	80%
My connection is to SJPC rather than its denomination	83%

What do we believe about our denomination?

Denomination should speak against immorality in the culture	78%
PCUSA refused to denounce third trimester	18%
Denomination shouldn't say things that make non-Christians uncomfortable	18%
Amending Book of Confessions is good way to show sorrow for apartheid (Belhar)	6%

We would support leaving our denomination . . .

(Strongly Agree + Agree / Neutral + Strongly Agree + Agree)

If Tenets and Values of the denomination changed drastically	76%/93%
For strong theological reasons	76%/92%
If strong moral differences arose	79%/94%
If it ceased supporting Israel	44%/86%

How do we feel about our Church Property?

SJPC should have absolute title, free from denomination	97%
Holding absolute title worth some cost to obtain	96%
If our witness suggests alignment with another denomination, it is worth some cost	94%

Noteworthy differences between PCUSA and SJPC

- Abortion
 - Late term botched abortions can result in babies born alive in the hands of trained medical staff. PCUSA was asked to denounce the practice of killing these babies. The PCUSA General Assembly #221 (2014) voted ‘no’ by overwhelming majority.
- Belief in God
 - John Shuck is a PCUSA pastor in Oregon who does not believe in God; believes religion is a purely human construction; believes the Jesus you and I know is a myth; does not believe the Bible is the Word of God. Despite outrage by many, he remains unpunished, and actively ordained preacher in PCUSA
- Salvation in Jesus Christ
 - Recent surveys of PCUSA teaching elders, special ministers and clergy (collectively, “Preachers”) and ruling elders (“Session Members”) show that 65% of Preachers do not agree that Jesus is the sole path to salvation. Only 45% of Session Members agree or strongly agree that faith in Jesus is the key to our salvation.
- Israel
 - PCUSA voted to disinvest in three corporations (Hewlett Packard, Motorola and Caterpillar) because they support Israel’s defense by selling Israel technology. Shockingly, the PCUSA blamed Israel for human rights violations in the region, and failed to even mention the rockets that had been raining down on Israel at the time
 - PCUSA allowed a vote on removal of the term “Israel” from its hymnal. A Palestinian ruling elder proposed the change because he was “offended” by the term Israel. Recall that God changed Jacob’s name to Israel. The PCUSA did not vote to delete the term from the hymnal, but did decide to include the antagonistic insert in its hymnals: *Promises of land generally come with obligations to God for justice to be practiced with all inhabitants.*

- PCUSA touted its reasons for divestment in a public letter, calling Israel an “occupier” of Palestine, guilty of human rights violations, and commanding Israel to “live in peace with the Palestinian Authority.” No condemnation was offered toward Palestinian terrorist organizations like Hamas or Hezbollah (which has called for nothing less than the immediate and total destruction of Israel and every Israeli as well as those who support them).
- Supporting Embattled Christians
 - PCUSA decided not to join in a multi-religion letter denouncing the killing of Christians. The letter asked faith leaders to encourage prayer and awareness that Christians were being killed for being Christian. According to a U.S. Congressman with knowledge, the PCUSA decided not to sign the letter to avoid offending Muslims.
- Relaxing Ordination Requirements
 - Year after year, the PCUSA considers relaxation of its ordination requirements
- Gay Marriage
- Belhar Confession
- Trending Away From Scripture; Toward the World
 - There are reachable people in the world; and becoming more worldly might reach them
 - Alienating current members by the redefinition of sin and other actions mentioned above, however, with the hope that such ‘worldliness’ will attract new previously unchurched members, is unwise and not Biblical. God’s Truth should be taught.

Gracious Dismissal Policy

Presbytery of St. Augustine

- Crisis Response Team (CRT)
 - Purpose is to determine whether the congregation wants to leave, and why
 - Discussions with Session and Congregation Members
 - Investigates whether reconciliation is likely
 - After prayerful discussions, Session may ask for dismissal
- Administrative Commission
 - If Session asks CRT for dismissal, CRT notifies the presbytery’s Committee on Ministry
 - The COM or the Stated Clerk may appoint an Administrative Commission (AC)
 - Role of AC:
 - Investigate reconciliation
 - Determine whether a congregation will remain in PCUSA
 - Advise elders and church re: implications of dismissal (pension, property, etc)

- Conduct congregational meetings
 - Review work of Session
- AC Roles (continued)
 - Interview congregation members
 - Verify Session and pastors are following the Book of Order
 - Negotiate terms of dismissal
 - Recommend dismissal
- If Dismissal is Recommended
 - Terms of dismissal will be negotiated
 - Only to other “Reformed Tradition” denomination
 - ECO ? EPC ?
 - Majority vote at a presbytery meeting to approve the AC report and recommendation
- Options:
 - Reformed Tradition
 - Covenant Order of Evangelical Presbyterians (ECO)
 - Mandarin Presbyterian
 - First Presbyterian
 - Evangelical Presbyterian Church (EPC)
 - Several congregations in Orlando/Tampa
 - Presbyterian Church in America (PCA)
 - 4 local congregations