



Listening Sessions

How CtK members feel about our shared work

Main Themes

Overall, the main themes that continually came up during the sessions focused on these themes.

People

Leadership

Communication

People

CtK is first a congregation, a group of people who come together to be in God's presence, which can be messy at times. The overall themes around people focus on our shared time together and how members are enriched, nurtured and sometimes challenged. There is obvious opportunity for how we can improve, and the insights obtained from the listening sessions will help to shape the conversation going forward..

Leadership

Whether it is concern over the current leadership of the congregation or the way in which leaders support various ministries, the people of CtK made it clear that the leaders play an important role in shaping the life of the congregation. The congregation voiced their opinions that they want the work of leadership to be shared and shaped by the members of the church.

Communication

Communication, while not always the top response, was something that was underneath a large percentage of the comments. Better communication between staff, council and the congregation on a variety of things will help to mitigate any issues that may exist as well as help people feel more connected to the on-going life of CtK.

Connection

What keeps you connected to
CtK?

People

Involvement & Participation

Familiarity

People

There was a general theme of family, friends and children that keep people connected at CtK. This theme continued to come up in all the different areas.

Participation

Involvement and engagement with various ministries were mentioned during the listening sessions. These ministries served as an integral part for connecting members to something bigger.

Familiarity

The location of CtK and the familiarity with the congregation was another major theme that brought people together. This presented itself in the history of the church and with the church, the physical location of CtK and the consistency of the congregation.

Challenges

What has been the biggest challenge for you in our recent life together as a congregation

Worship Experience

Loss of People

Communication

Worship Experience

Experiences in worship are very important to the life and rhythm of a church and this was something that appeared in our conversations as well. We have received great feedback from the participants which will help to inform and shape the worship experience that we share in the coming years.

Loss of People

We acknowledge that we have seen a change in the makeup of the congregation in the past few years, whether it is staff members leaving or friends and families departing. This creates a challenge for the congregation and much doubt about reasons, which are not always apparent. This theme will serve as an opportunity for us to continue this conversation and find ways as a community to address this concern and shape the future of our congregation.

Communication

The flow of information between the staff, leadership and congregation is something that was expressed as a concern by the congregation. People brought their concerns about financial transparency, lack of communication about change and support for the ministries that are occurring around CtK. This is a big opportunity and large challenge, due to the many ways that members want to be communicated with in today's society.

Dreams

If money, time and
people-power were no object,
what would your dream be for
CtK?

Outreach

Youth Ministry

Worship and Music

Outreach

Outreach was centered around increasing participation in ministries around New Brighton and serving our members in new and imaginative ways. These ideas are exciting and create a new level of challenge for how CtK might reach out and share the Gospel in new and different ways.

Youth Ministry

Youth ministry dreams were discussed widely by the participants in the listening circles. The feedback that was provided will serve as a huge input into the interim ministry process and help to shape the future of faith formation for our younger and older generations.

Worship/Music

The ideas that were shared around worship and music were illustrative that the congregation is very engaged in the life of the community and can add a great amount additional life, vibrancy and depth to the worship and music ministries at CtK.

Sharing

What do you want to communicate to your pastors, staff and lay leaders?

Youth Ministry

Mission & Vision

Leadership

Youth Ministry

Many participants stated that CtK needs to put a strong emphasis on youth ministry and wanted leadership to be sure that it was a focus for them going forward. They lamented the loss of staff members and the overall drop in Sunday School attendance in the past few years. They also expressed concern over the ability to focus on all ages of youth.

Mission & Vision

Many comments were made around needing to better understand the mission and vision of CtK and communicating it in a clear and understandable method. They want to ensure that the mission and vision of the church is aligned across all members of CtK, from staff, council and congregants.

Leadership

There were mixed comments related to leadership, with a focus on how we can make our way through the changes that have been embarked upon. There were also comments on how the leadership needs to model how we can manage the changes.