

Poll # 2 - Concerns and Issues within the life of The Congregations in The Presbytery of the Highlands NJ

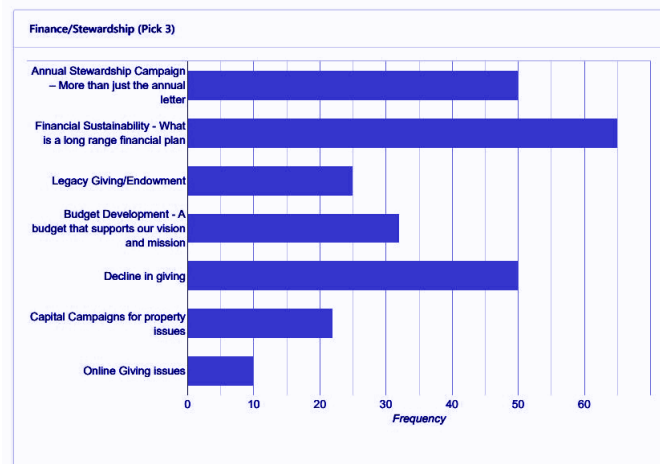
Poll were open September thru October 2023

84 people responded representing 46 congregations.

Top three responses in each category including graph of responses

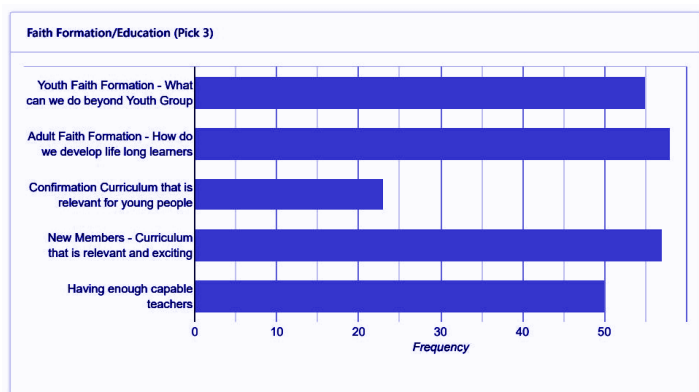
Finance and Stewardship

- Financial Sustainability - What is a long range financial plan?
- Annual Stewardship Campaign - more than just the annual letter
- Decline in giving.



Faith Formation

- Adult Faith Formation - How do we develop lifelong learners.
- New Members curriculum - Curriculum that is relevant and exciting.
- Youth Faith Formation - More than Youth Group



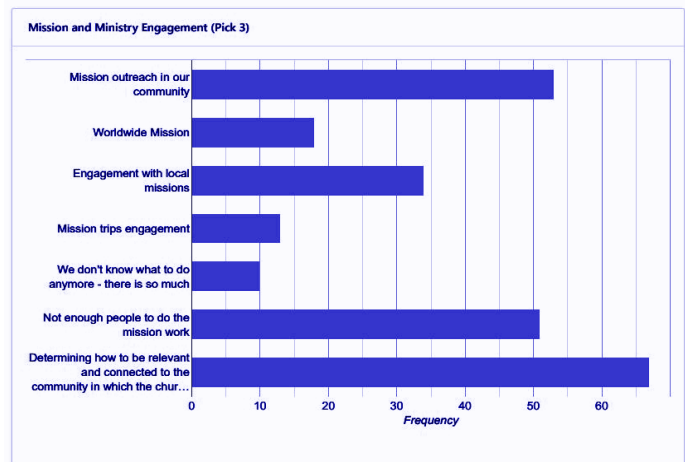
Church Leaders/Church Development

- Visioning with Church Leaders/Discerning God's Call for the congregation
- We don't have enough people to fill session and/or committees.
- Elder /Officer Training



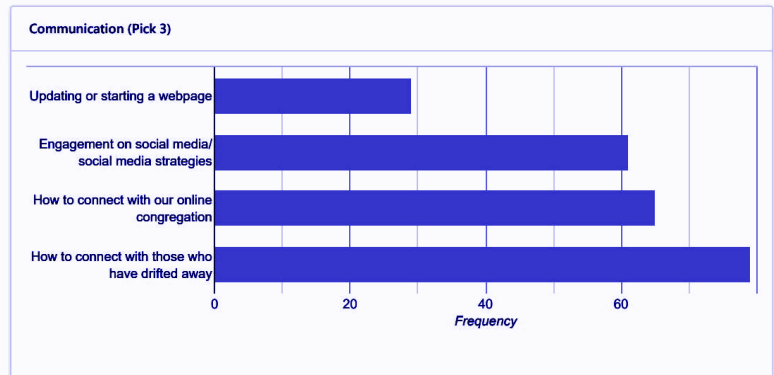
Mission and Ministry Engagement

- Determining how to be relevant and connected to the community in which the church is located.
- Mission Outreach in our community
- Not enough people to do the mission work.



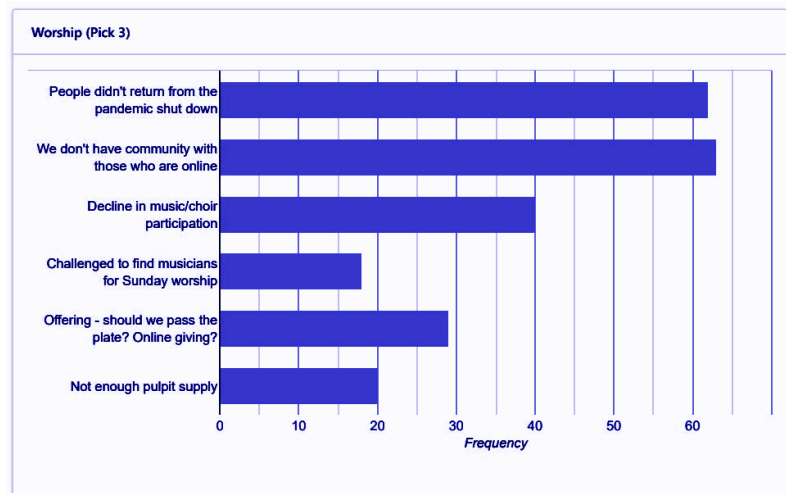
Communication

- How to connect with those who have drifted away
- How to connect with our online community
- Engagement on social media/social media strategies



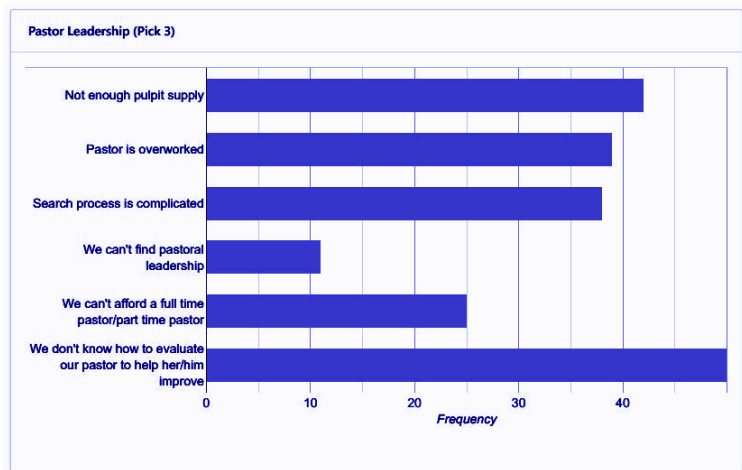
Worship

- We don't have community with those who are online
- People didn't return after the pandemic shut down
- Decline in music/choir participation



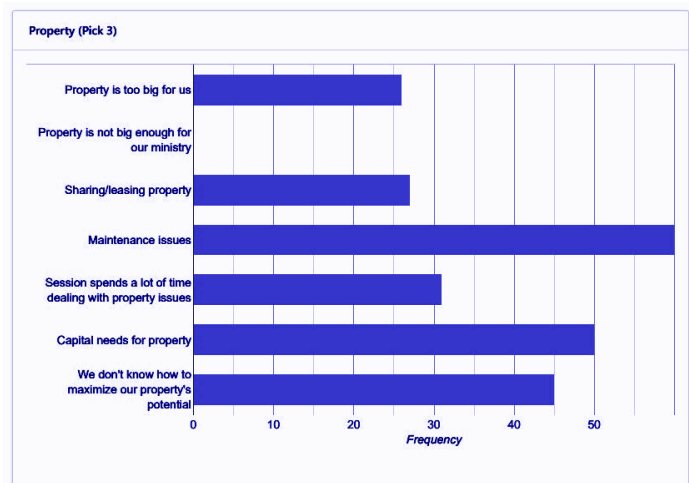
Pastoral Leadership

- We don't know how to evaluate our pastor to help him/her improve
- Not enough pulpit supply
- Pastor is overworked



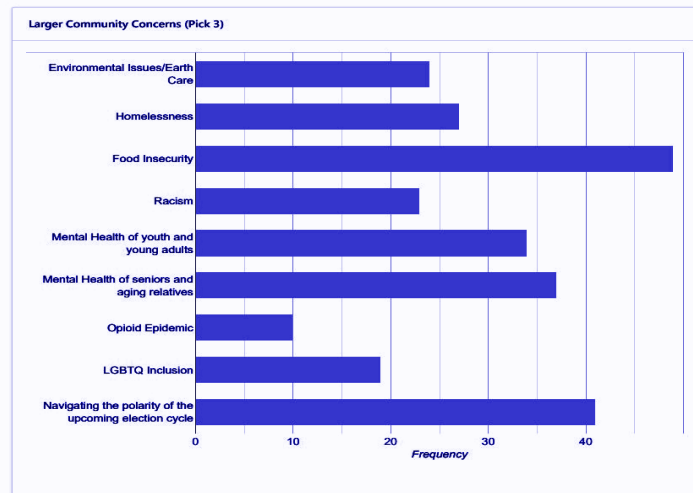
Property

- Maintenance Issues
- Capital needs for property
- We don't know how to maximize our property's potential



Larger Community Concerns

- Food Insecurity
- Navigating the polarity of the upcoming election cycle
- Mental Health for youth and young adults **tied** with Mental Health for Seniors/aging relatives



Other concerns

- Connecting with younger families
 - Property issues
 - Polarity of views
 - Shortage of worship leadership for small churches
 - Creative ways to have fellowship and build community
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