

Congregational Assessment Tool® (CAT)
Frequently Asked Questions

What is the Congregation Assessment Tool (CAT)?

The CAT is an online survey of the SMPC congregation to solicit your opinions about our church and your hopes for our church's future.

Why should I take the CAT?

Because our church matters to you and you want to have a part in shaping the church's future!

How long does it take for people to take the assessment, and can they take it in multiple sittings?

It should take 20-25 minutes. You will need to complete it in one sitting.

What sort of questions are asked in the survey?

They are all multiple choice, with one free response question at the end. The survey asks questions about your experiences at SMPC, what is important for you in your spiritual life, and what are important characteristics of our next permanent senior pastor.

What about the confidentiality of my responses? Will someone be able to identify me as the respondent?

The results are completely confidential, and everyone's opinion matters - whether a person is talkative or shy, young or old, a recent member or a longtime member. All views are equally respected.

What is the purpose of the Congregation Assessment Tool® (CAT)?

The survey results will be used by the Mission Study Task Force to answer the three core questions that serve as the basis of the Mission Study document. Input from the entire congregation is essential!

- 1) Who are we as a congregation?
- 2) Who is our neighbor?
- 3) What is God calling us to be and do as we move into the future?

Who are we asking to complete the CAT?

We are asking members and active visitors 13 years and older to participate in the CAT survey.

What if I don't get an email to take the survey?

There are multiple ways to access the survey! Beginning Sunday, May 10, you will find postcards in the Connection Center and information in your Sunday bulletin insert with a QR code to the survey. You can also choose [to opt in to texts from SMPC](#) and receive a link to the survey via text. Additionally, if you would like to be added to the email list, contact Adrienne Jaquith, Office and Database Manager, adrienne@smpchome.org.

What about those who don't have internet access or are not comfortable doing it online?

For those who are not comfortable completing the survey on the Holy Cow! link, there will be alternative ways to take the survey. We will provide computers or iPads after worship on Sundays while the survey window is open. There will also be paper copies available, which can be keyed in later by the Mission Study Task Force.

Can multiple people sharing email addresses or the same device take the assessment?

Yes. The survey is anonymous and not computer- or email-specific. We ask that each member of your family who is in the target audience complete their own survey.

What if I get called away while doing the survey or am not sure if I submitted my final responses? How will I know my responses have been submitted?

The survey requires you to complete it in one sitting. If you are called away and get “timed out” you will need to restart the survey. You will have to click on a “submit” button at the end of the survey.

What if I do not know the answer to one of the questions on the survey?

There is a “Don’t Know” response for most of the survey questions. It is OK for you to use that as a response where you do not have experience or a view.

What if I run into a problem while taking the survey?

If you do not believe your survey was properly submitted, please let Adrienne Jaquith, Office and Database Manager, adrienne@smpchome.org, or email the Mission Study Task Force, smpccatsurvey@gmail.com, to let them know of your concern. We will need to know the date and time you attempted to complete the survey.

Are we depending solely on the CAT?

No. After the survey is complete and the results are compiled, focus groups will meet to discuss the results and further clarify who we are and what we want to be.

We have done similar processes like this in the recent past. Why is another survey necessary?

The CAT survey is comprehensive and will hopefully reach a broad cross section of our congregation. Because it is a standardized survey, we will also be able to compare our congregation’s responses to other churches that have utilized the same survey.

What’s next after the CAT survey is completed?

After the survey results have been analyzed by the Mission Study Task Force, we expect to share a summary of the results with the congregation. We will also hold a series of focus groups with the congregation to gather additional feedback. This will all be used in the MSTF's work to create the Mission Study report.

Why do I keep receiving emails to complete the survey when I have already submitted?

Since the survey is anonymous, we do not know when you have completed your individual submission. We ask for your patience during the 3 weeks that the survey is open, as we remind those who have not taken the survey that it is still available to them.