Sustaining Pastoral Excellence Clerk Survey

Thank you for responding to our request. Please answer each of the following questions to the best of your ability, avoiding extraneous marks. There is ample space for comments at the end of the survey. All responses are guaranteed confidential by CSR; call 616 526-7799 or email csr@calvin.edu with questions.

To enable us to mark your response complete, please write in:

your Authentication Key or CRC church Yearbook ID: ______________________

1. How would you describe your congregation?
   Use percentages, which should total 100.
   
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percent</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>North American Indian/Aboriginal</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian/Asian American</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black/African American</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic/Latino</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Native Hawaiian/other Pacific Islander</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White/Caucasian/Anglo</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other (specify)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

   Total: 100%

2. Is your ministry located in an area that is
   Please mark only the best choice.
   
   O₁ Urban
   O₂ Suburban
   O₃ Rural

3. In what year was your congregation established?
   ____________ (year)

4. How many pastors has your congregation had during this time?
   ____________ Please write in one number, not a range.

5. Has your pastor gone on a spiritual retreat in the last twelve months? If you currently have more than one pastor, please evaluate the pastor (usually senior) who will complete the companion pastor's survey.
   O₁ Yes
   O₂ No

6. Does the council encourage your pastor to meet regularly with one or more other Christians for the purpose of deepening his/her relationship with God?
   O₁ Yes
   O₂ No

7. Does the council (or its representatives) reflect with the pastor on the pastor’s own goals for spiritual formation and growth and how to sustain these goals?
   O₁ Yes
   O₂ No

8. Does your congregation have vision and mission statements?
   O₁ Yes → Please answer Q8a, Q8b and Q8c as well
   O₂ No → Please skip to Q9

8a. If yes, how well does your pastor embrace and advance your congregation’s mission and vision through his/her preaching, other ministry roles, and personal life?
   very well O₁ O₂ O₃ O₄ O₅ poorly

8b. How well do you as council members live out the congregation’s mission and vision through your ministry roles and personal lives?
   very well O₁ O₂ O₃ O₄ O₅ poorly
8c. How frequently do you, the council, review your church’s vision and mission statements?
- O1 bi-annually
- O2 annually
- O3 every 5 years or more

9. Does the council systematically offer feedback on your pastor’s preaching?
- O1 Yes
- O2 No

10. Has the council encouraged your pastor to participate in a workshop/seminar on pastoral preaching/teaching in the last 12 months?
- O1 Yes, and s/he attended.
- O2 Yes, but s/he did not attend
- O3 No

11. How well do you as council assist and encourage your pastor by reflecting together on his/her assigned role and personal sense of calling and vision?
- very well O1 O2 O3 O4 O5 poorly

11a. Does your church have a pastor/church committee through which support of the pastor is demonstrated?
- O1 Yes
- O2 No

12. How satisfied are you with the pastor’s life balance in the following areas?
Please rate each item from 1 = very satisfied to 5 = very dissatisfied.
- Vocational ministry ___
- Personal devotional time ___
- Time with spouse ___ Write N/A if not applicable.
- Time with children/family ___ Write N/A if not applicable.
- Physical/emotional self-care ___

13. Is your council supportive of your pastor receiving continuing education and training?
very O1 O2 O3 O4 O5 not at all

13a. Does your church have a budget line for the pastor’s continuing education?
- O1 Yes → Please answer Q13b and Q13c as well
- O2 No → Please skip to Q14

13b. If yes, how much is it?
$ ______________ dollars
Canadian churches, please use Canadian dollars.

13c. Does the pastor use all of the funds available each year?
- O1 Yes
- O2 No
14. How many continuing education events (conferences, lectures, workshops etc) has your pastor attended in the last year?

- O1 None
- O2 One
- O3 Two
- O4 Three
- O5 Four
- O6 Five
- O7 Six
- O8 More than six

15. Is your pastor a part of a peer learning group?

- O1 Yes → Please answer Q15a as well
- O2 No
- O3 Don’t know

15a. Does your pastor share experiences/learnings from this group with the council?

- O1 Yes
- O2 No

16. Is your pastor currently in a mentor/mentee relationship?

- O1 Yes
- O2 No
- O3 Don’t know

17. How many of the above (continuing education events, peer learning groups, mentor-mentee relationships) were/are connected with the CRC Sustaining Pastoral Excellence project (which is funded by Lilly Endowment Inc)?

- O1 3 or more
- O2 1 or 2
- O3 None
- O9 Don’t know

18. Below, please rate the overall effect of the Sustaining Pastoral Excellence (SPE) project on each area.

SPE has included pastor peer learning groups, continuing education events, mentoring relationships, regional pastor funding, pastor couple learning events, pastors’ spouses’ peer groups and pastors’ spouses’ conferences/retreats. You may answer “NA” if your pastor and/or pastors’ spouse have not been a part of any SPE programs and/or you are unaware of their effects.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rate SPE’s effect:</th>
<th>very positive</th>
<th>positive</th>
<th>little or none</th>
<th>negative</th>
<th>very negative</th>
<th>N/A</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a. on your pastor’s role as a pastor and on the pastor’s ministry.</td>
<td>O1</td>
<td>O2</td>
<td>O3</td>
<td>O4</td>
<td>O5</td>
<td>O9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. on your pastor personally.</td>
<td>O1</td>
<td>O2</td>
<td>O3</td>
<td>O4</td>
<td>O5</td>
<td>O9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c. on the culture of the CRCNA.</td>
<td>O1</td>
<td>O2</td>
<td>O3</td>
<td>O4</td>
<td>O5</td>
<td>O9</td>
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19. OPTIONAL COMMENT: Your frank comments as a clerk are important to us and will be considered carefully by the Sustaining Pastoral Excellence committee. Is there anything on your mind as a clerk that you would like to communicate to us? Any feedback on the survey? Write your thoughts as legibly as possible in the space below. Please do not identify yourself.
If you have any questions and/or suggestions concerning the Sustaining Pastoral Excellence program, please contact:

Lis Van Harten  
(877) 279-9994, ext. 0805  
lvanharten@crcna.org

Thank you very much for your time. When you have completed the questionnaire, please do one of the following:

1. **FAX** the survey to CSR at **616 526-7683**

   - or -

2. Print the attached postage-paid label for your country, tape it securely to a 6x9 inch envelope, and mail the survey in it

   - or -

3. Mail the survey with your own envelope and stamps to:

   Center for Social Research  
   Calvin College  
   3201 Burton St. SE  
   Grand Rapids, MI 49546

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Thank you! Please see survey return directions on the next page!