

Reflections on the Future of the Synod

Summary of the Florida-Bahamas Synod Survey, conducted June 19 through July 22, 2017
Percentages based on 202 responses, unless noted otherwise.

1. Which of the following descriptions fits you best? (N=202)

%

- 59.4 I am a member and/or active participant of a congregation in the Florida-Bahamas Synod
- 33.7 I am a rostered leader in the Florida-Bahamas Synod
- 6.9 Other (responses included parish deacon, retired rostered leader, lay church staff)

2. How do you believe the synod actively lives out its mission: "Boldly sharing Christ, passionately making disciples and faithfully doing justice"? (135 comments were coded)

- 24% of comments were about the synod having room for improvement in this area
- 19% of comments were about the synod providing necessary leadership, structure and oversight to help live out its mission
- 13% of comments were about the achieving its mission through ministry, collaborations and initiatives at both the congregational and synodical level

3. The synod should focus on supporting congregations and leaders in the following five (5) ways? (N=202)

%

- 58.4 Help congregations connect with their communities**
- 57.9 Help congregations increase vitality & sustainability**
- 42.1 Promote spiritual behaviors and discipleship**
- 41.1 Identify ways congregations can collaborate**
- 39.1 Encourage identification & development of leaders**
- 35.1 Provide training for elected congregational leaders
- 32.7 Support social justice efforts
- 25.7 Support & equip congregations in communication technologies
- 24.3 Promote Youth and Family Ministry
- 16.3 Promote outdoor and campus ministries
- 15.8 Coordinate youth and family ministries and events
- 14.9 Promote Young Adult Ministry
- 9.9 Deepen financial generosity
- 9.4 Deepen connections with global partners
- 8.4 Promote Women's Ministry
- 5.4 Promote Men's Ministry

4. What challenges lie ahead of us as a synod in the next three (3) years? (146 comments coded)

- 19% of comments were about the need for better outreach or evangelism efforts
- 14% of comments were about being relevant to people whom need the gospel
- 13% of comments were about the state of small churches with low numbers of members

5. Identify the strengths and gifts you think will be most important for the effectiveness of the new bishop. Please look through the list of gifts first, then choose the five (5) gifts you feel are most important. (N=202)

%

46.5	Pastoral care of pastors
40.6	Development of leaders
36.1	Innovation and creativity
34.7	Working with congregations during crisis & transition
31.2	Evangelism and mission
25.7	Building community
23.3	Strategic planning
23.3	Theological interpretation and reaching
21.8	Ecumenical relations
19.8	Multicultural ministry
19.8	Preaching/worship leadership
18.8	Social ministry and Public policy advocacy
17.3	Conflict management
15.8	Children, youth and family ministry
15.8	Media and communication
15.3	Ministry in daily life
11.9	Administration
8.4	Stewardship
7.4	Financial management
7.4	Ministry with seniors
6.4	Christian education
3.5	Global mission

Finally, in a sentence or two, please share what gifts you or your congregation bring to the synod. (123 comments were coded).

- **23% of comments suggested the congregation or individual works well with their community**
- **11% said their congregation is small but vibrant or has a strong tradition**
- **Nine percent indicated their congregation is loving and giving**