

Congregational Survey F.A.Q. Sheet

*The Southern Ohio/Kentucky District Church of the Brethren
in partnership with ArtistryLeads*

Why should we participate in this survey?

The survey is designed to give you a snapshot of your congregation's life at this moment. It will provide a cumulative reflection on the best experiences and challenging aspects of your congregation's life at this time, as viewed by your congregational participants. The survey report will provoke questions, promote dialog, and spur imagination as a springboard for strengthening your congregation's ministries.

Where does the survey come from?

The Missional Renewal Team (MRT) of the Southern Ohio/Kentucky District, working with District Executive Minister Dave Shetler, commissioned the development of the survey. Working collaboratively with Jonathan Shively of ArtistryLeads, a range of characteristics and behaviors of vibrant congregations was developed and transformed into the survey. The MRT is made up of experienced pastors, professors, and laypersons. Jonathan Shively has over 25 years of experience as a pastor, seminary leader, and denominational executive, as well as a lifetime of local congregational participation.

How does the survey work?

You will be given a link to the survey for your congregation. You are encouraged to take it online, since it makes processing the data more efficient. If you require a paper survey, congregational leaders will provide one for you. The survey will be available between certain dates, your survey "window." Complete the survey during that window to ensure your responses are included in the final report. The survey will take you approximately 20-30 minutes to complete.

Who will see my responses?

Individual survey responses will only be seen by ArtistryLeads in the writing of the report. At no time will individual responses be correlated to individual's names, except for written responses for which respondents voluntarily provide their name at the conclusion of the survey and ask to be submitted to church leaders.

Who is writing the report?

Jonathan Shively, ArtistryLeads, will process the data and write the report.

What happens with the report?

Once the report is written it will be shared with congregational leaders, determined by the congregation, during a meeting with Jonathan Shively (ArtistryLeads) and a district representative (usually the District Executive Minister). This meeting typically will be held by video conference.

Once the report has been reviewed with congregational leadership and the district representative, they will work together to outline steps for sharing the report with the rest of the congregation and for considering the implications of the report. This process will vary by congregation.

Do I have to be a church member to participate?

If you consider this congregation *your* congregation, you are encouraged to participate in the survey. The broader the input, the more helpful the information will be in reflecting on the congregation's life.

What is the cost?

There is no cost to individuals. The cost to congregations will be determined by the district MRT based on agreements with ArtistryLeads.

What happens to the data?

The data remains the property of the Southern Ohio/Kentucky District and ArtistryLeads. Each congregation's data will be added to a larger data set which will help provide an overview of the strengths and struggles of congregations throughout the Southern Ohio District and beyond.

How can our congregation participate?

Contact District Executive Minister David Shetler at dshetler@brethren.org, 937-475-6377 (cell) or 937-996-0187 (home office).

