

# Mills River Presbyterian Church

Mills River, North Carolina



*“Building Christ’s Church, Piece by Piece”*

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## Mission Study Report — March 2021

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Presbytery of Western North Carolina  
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## 1. Mills River Presbyterian Church (MRPC) Mission Statement

*“Building Christ’s Church, Piece by Peace”*

Mills River Presbyterian Church has had a presence in the Mills River Valley for more than 160 years. Pastor Randall Boggs faithfully and lovingly served the congregation for the last 20+ years, so naturally our church



is moving forward with a bit of uncertainty. Change brings challenges, but it can also bring excitement and opportunities!

*Let There Be  
Peace On Earth  
And Let It Begin  
With Me*

The Mission Study Team appreciates the trust our Session placed in us for the very important task of helping plan for our church’s future, and for their support and prayers.

We gathered valuable information from our congregation through Congregational Conversations facilitated by our Interim Pastor Merri Alexander.

We also collected data from the congregation using the U.S. Congregational Vitality Survey from PC-USA Research Services. This allowed us to dig deeper into who we are and what we want to do in the future to continue God’s ministry in Mills River and beyond. Our sincere hope is that these activities help lead us to the person God has chosen to pastor our beloved church.

### Choosing Our Mission Statement

We are a genuinely welcoming, loving, praying church that wants to continue finding new ways to minister to our congregation, our community, and the world. Our desire is to show God’s love, mercy, and peace, and to build on our deeply held Christian values.

Our Mission Statement captures this desire. We have hosted a “puzzle fest” for 10 years during the winter. Like many of our events, it’s open to the community. Thankfully many people have attended and ultimately become members or friends of our church. We

embrace them and welcome the chance to help them put together the pieces of their lives with God’s guidance.

A puzzle is also an excellent representation of what we want to do, using pieces such as a new pastor, a welcoming spirit, and a sincere desire to help people through worship, service, and prayer. We hope that our Mission Statement will challenge younger individuals to join us in our efforts.

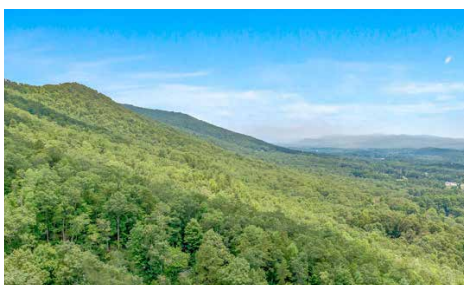
At our church, peace also plays a critical role in who we are. The song “Let There Be Peace On Earth” has a deep and very special meaning to our congregation. In past turbulent times, we began circling the sanctuary at the end of each service, singing and holding hands. “With God our Creator, Family all are we, Let us walk with each other, In perfect harmony” captures the peace we are seeking to attain together through Christian service.

Trusting God for all guidance, we believe the pieces of our church, combined with our dedicated efforts, will lead us to the finished product ... God’s Peace!

## **2. Community Study**

The Town of Mills River is located in Henderson County, North Carolina. Currently on a fast track of growth, Mills River has a population of about 7,500 people within 22 square miles. The community expects 800 new housing units, 2,500 new residents, and 1,300 new jobs by 2040.

Our town’s racial composition is approximately 90% White, 4% Black, 3% Native American, and 3% Asian/Other. Mills River has pockets of moderate poverty and a very low crime rate. About 80% of our population owns homes versus renting, and almost half have achieved a Bachelor’s Degree or higher.



Our rolling hills in Mills River were originally dotted by family-owned farms, and while our primary industry is still agriculture, in recent years the trend has been toward high tech, and environmentally-friendly agri-business like TriHistle and Lakeside

Produce. The town has also seen an increase in commercial growth in manufacturing, distribution, and hospitality with the addition of a Lowe’s distribution center, Norafin, Amazon Prime





distribution center, Sierra Nevada Brewery, Bold Rock Hard Cider, Mills River Brewery, and other large projects.

Perfectly located between Asheville, Hendersonville, and Brevard (20 minutes to either city in different directions), our Mills River community is located in a tourism destination area.



Within minutes from us there's the famed Biltmore Estate, access to the Blue Ridge historic Hendersonville. Our area is also known for miles and miles of kayaking and fishing streams, along with hiking and biking trails.

This vast array of advantages has brought new interest in Mills River. Our town is at a point of change. Several large residential communities are under construction. New “high end” residential developments make affordable housing hard to find for middle-to-low-income families, which is a challenge to commercial endeavors. The average salary is about \$40,000.



Currently, our town is working on strategic plans to grow our area with more parks and community services. A five-year plan of growth launches in 2021. One of the elements is the creation of a 21.5-acre town park opening within a quarter-mile of our church.

## How We Fit In

What was once described as a “small, sleepy town,” Mills River is now waking up. As a church, we see strong potential for future membership in the people moving to our town. Our goal is to make our presence known, and to encourage and invite new residents into our church in the coming years.

From a demographic standpoint, we're not sure what the age range will be of those new residents ... or our new church members. While our area has many families, we're also known as a “retiree haven” for people from all over the country.

- Approximately 20% of the Mills River population is under the age of 18
- 20% ages 18-34
- 40% ages 35–64
- 20% ages 65 and over

The temperate climate, beautiful mountains, and cultural appeal of our area beckons many newly-retired people. During the past decade, our strongest source of new members has been those moving into our area in this age group.

### **3. Church History and Demographics**

#### **History**

In 1797 Colonel James Brittain donated 10 acres of land for a building to be used as both a school and for religious purposes. Since that time, we have had eight continuous generations of the Brittain family worshipping at our church.

What Colonel Brittain started more than 160 years ago has grown steadily into a “church on the hill” with an amazing history. In 1830 a two-story brick building, known as the Mills River Academy, replaced an original log cabin on our site. Almost 30 years later, in 1859, Mills River Presbyterian Church was organized.



Three generations of Brittain currently attend Mills River Presbyterian Church: Jere Brittain (6th generation), Phil Brittain (7th generation), and Wyatt and Wilson (8th generation).

Our existing sanctuary was completed in 1908. Growth started in earnest in the 1930s when five Sunday School rooms, a main office, and rest rooms were added to the structure. Between 1975 and 1978 a new manse with 1.7 acres of land, located adjacent to the church, was purchased.

In 1995 an ambitious project was begun — the addition of our Fellowship Hall and kitchen. During the years of this construction, a memorial garden was created on the cemetery side of the church. On May 24, 1998, the Fellowship Hall was completed and dedicated to the Glory of God.

Today our church facilities also include a children’s playground (built in 2018), a butterfly garden and a Little Library book exchange. Mills River Presbyterian Church (MRPC) is a Presbyterian Church (USA) congregation, member of the Presbytery of Western North Carolina, and the Synod of the Mid-Atlantic.

## Current MRPC Membership Statistics

Chat with some older members of our congregation and they'll share stories about when our church was "bursting at the seams" with children, families and members. As with many other churches these days, that is no longer the situation.

We currently have about 120 "members and friends" of MRPC in our church directory. Of that number, about 90 would be considered "involved" in the life of our church on a regular basis. Honing down that number still further, the "core" of the active members in our church is about 60. This includes six families with children under the age of 14. This is a group of fully engaged and committed people.

*"Getting married in this church and having our children baptized here has meant the world to us."*

— Noland

Like many churches, MRPC actively seeks new members. We have a strong reputation in the overall Henderson County community for being a church that offers unique programs and activities. Our Growth and Communications Committee continually plans ways to reach area residents, and welcomes new approaches such as the increased use of technology and social media. And, because of the truly welcoming nature of our congregation, once someone walks in our doors, they're family.

## 4. Current Ministries and Programs

### Worship



Sunday service, music, communion, special services. Our Worship Committee does it all. And in 2020, that also meant adapting to live Zoom services.

Fortunately, before the COVID outbreak happened, we were able to send Pastor Randall Boggs into retirement with a wonderful celebration. After that, we were fortunate to call Merri Alexander as our Interim/Transitional Pastor.



In the future we hope to return to our sanctuary to once again share in the musical talents and creativity of Gary Mitchell, our Extended Interim Musician. His thoughtfulness and innovative ideas have come shining through during our Zoom services. We're eager to return to church to once again hear our Adult Choir, Hand bell Choir, and the talents of our many musicians.

*"The start of the bell choir truly changed my life. This is a wonderful program at MRPC that we've embraced."*

— Lois

Our Worship Committee coordinates several important services each year. Along with our Lent and Easter and Christmas Eve Candlelight service, there are unique events, including our Moravian Love Feast and Kirkin' of the Tartans.

## Christian Education

At MRPC our Christian Education efforts have long included an Adult Bible Study on Sunday mornings plus special evening "series" of studies held occasionally throughout the year. As with many churches, our efforts toward providing our children with educational efforts are at the forefront of our goals.

*"We visited MRPC for a year before joining. I liked how my parents and their ideas for a Moravian Lovefeast were embraced by the church."*

— Erin

During non-COVID times, we host a nursery with a paid caregiver for children under the age of three each Sunday. Those over that age attend the first few minutes of church



service and then are invited down to the front for a special "Message for Children." Once that is complete, the children go off to their Sunday School classes.

We have a small number of children at MRPC. Due to that, we host two Sunday

School classes led by church volunteers. The first is for children ages three to six, where arts and crafts and Bible story telling takes place. The second class is for the remaining children where







more extensive lessons are mixed with activities. Each summer a themed Vacation Bible School is held for everyone, and children are involved in seasonal church pageants. During the autumn, we have both a Pumpkin Carving Party and a Trunk-or-Treat event for families and church friends.

## Missions



Our mission efforts at MRPC are widespread. For more than 20 years we've been involved in efforts in Guatemala. During the past several years we've worked closely with our partner church Monte Horeb, in the village of Coyolate. We've had two work teams visit Monte Horeb in the past for mission work. And, year-after-year we provide student scholarship funds, send



representatives to Coyolate, and share in their programs for growth.

*"Coming up with unique activities like the pet blessing, puzzlefest, and mission trips to Guatemala really made an impact on me at MRPC."*

— Jessica

Closer to home, we hold a monthly 5 Cents-a-Meal offering to support local and international hunger efforts.



Our church hosts several special offerings throughout the year and provides a Unified Giving Pledge to the Presbytery. We have an ongoing relationship with the Black Mountain Home for Children, Youth, and Families

that we hope to strengthen in the coming years.



Locally, we are the chartering organization for Scout Troop 624 and Cub Pack 624, who have also helped the church through various service projects. We do quarterly collections of food and clothing for the Interfaith Assistance Ministry (IAM) in Henderson County.

In the community, some of our members regularly donate their time to home-building workdays with Henderson County Habitat for Humanity. On a quarterly basis, our Adopt-a-Highway Program has volunteers cleaning the three-mile stretch in front of our church.





Thanks to a \$3,500 grant from Western North Carolina Presbytery, MRPC hosted a special Rise Against Hunger event in 2019. Fifty-seven people, including representatives of three other churches in the community, packaged 10,152

meals during the two-hour endeavor.

*“We really felt like a united congregation when we all pulled together for the Rise Against Hunger food packaging event.”*

— Jean

## Growth and Communications

This committee uses publicity, special events, and unique activities to connect with both the community and our church members. Our goal is to increase awareness of MRPC on a continual basis, with the hope that our efforts bring new people to the church.

In 2019, this committee accomplished the following:

- A year-long **160th anniversary celebration** for MRPC complete with a Homecoming Service. Along with sharing historical information on our church during the year, we also highlighted church members. Anniversary songs were created and sung, commemorative ornaments created, and historical “memory boards” organized and shared.
- **Fourth Annual Festival of Tables and Second Annual Spring Tea** – community fundraising events that bring 90 people to the church for unique activities.



*“Community events like Festival of Tables and lasagna dinners got me in the door at MRPC. I stayed because of the feeling of warmth and togetherness in this church.”*

— Judi

- **First Annual Cookie Walk and Craft Sale** – Bringing people into our church and raising funds for MRPC.
- **10th Annual Puzzlefest** – “Putting the Pieces Together” of the second half of a 9,000-piece underwater seas puzzle during our yearly event.



- **11th Annual Blessing of the Pets** – Bringing together animals and their owners for a special service while raising funds for Blue Ridge Humane Society.



Behind the scenes work progresses on maintaining our church's



electronic sign with relevant messaging, updating church directories, issuing press releases, and coordinating the church Facebook page. A new church website is currently “under construction” and will be introduced in early 2021.

## Congregational Care

Whether it's preparing food for our monthly church luncheons or calling on home bound members, our Congregational Care team consistently touches the lives of our church members and friends.



This committee maintains a church prayer list (along with the Session's Elder Call List), and a prayer chain, so that our members continually feel a connection to each other and the church.

Our dedicated team of people take seasonal baskets to shut-ins, make and distribute Prayer Shawls, arrange for receptions and support following a death, organize special event



luncheons and first Sunday coffee gatherings. From January's Souper Bowl of Caring to baby showers and meals for those in need, our Congregational Care committee spreads love throughout MRPC.

*“I was looking for a church when I moved to Mills River. The first time I visited and felt the friendliness of the members, I knew I was home.”*

— Kathy

## Buildings and Grounds



Our Buildings and Grounds Committee has the responsibility of general maintenance of the church, manse and property, Christian Education building, pump house/storage building, and playground. They also oversee a historic cemetery that we manage across the street from the church.



A group of volunteer men meet regularly to tackle projects in and around the church, generally on Wednesday mornings. The church also hires outside services for weekly cleaning of the church, along with lawn maintenance.



With the departure of Rev. Boggs, time was spent cleaning out the manse in 2020. A subcommittee is reviewing the status of the house and options for the future.

Twice yearly an “all call” goes out and we have work days for both inside and outside the church property. Everything takes place from tree trimming and mulch placement to cleaning windows.

## Presbyterian Women

Our active members of Presbyterian Women at MRPC meet regularly. As in many churches, these women are rock solid in their faith and commitment to God’s work.

There are two circles for Bible study at MRPC. Dues and donations go toward monthly contributions to local



organizations, including Hendersonville Rescue Mission, Safelight, Black Mountain Home for Children, Youth, and Families, The Storehouse, Mills River Elementary School and Nikhoma Hospital and Guatemala (through Presbytery of Western North Carolina).





## 2020 — Our Year With COVID

All our lives turned upside down in 2020 with the onslaught of COVID-19. Our church was closed and Session moved quickly to form a subcommittee, which developed a several-tiered plan.

*“There are no ‘big egos’ in this church. I feel supported by the membership. I admire how flexible the church leaders were during COVID, making it possible for us to meet through Zoom calls.”*

— April

Within a short time we added online giving to our website in conjunction with The Presbyterian Foundation. We were flexible and started live Zoom church services on Sunday mornings, which attract about 40–45 people weekly.

The worship liturgy is emailed and hard mailed out in advance each week, plus the recorded service is made available each Sunday. Zoom is also being used for bible study classes, Sunday morning “text talks,”

Session meetings, social gatherings, and a series of Congregational Conversations led by Pastor Alexander.

While we tried hosting in-person parking lot services in the summer of 2020, the attendance did not support the volume of work required to host the service. However, we were able to successfully transform our annual blessing of the pets and cookie walk sale into drive-through events. We were even able to host an advent wreath-making class in an outdoor pavilion at a local park.



For our church, the worst element of the COVID quarantine is the inability to worship, visit, and meet in person. Ours is an extremely welcoming and friendly congregation. While we understand and respect the restrictions placed on all of us, we’re eagerly looking forward to a time when we can meet again together.

## 5. Financial

MRPC is faced with a challenging financial situation, and we recently completed a much more extensive stewardship campaign than had been conducted in the past. The campaign generated approximately 30 pledges totaling \$105,000 for 2021, and additional income of about \$40,000 has been budgeted. This will come mostly from individuals who, for a variety of reasons, prefer not to pledge.

Annual expenses for 2021 are budgeted to be \$173,000 at our church. This includes 72% for staff, 19% for building and grounds, and the remaining 9% for administration, benevolences, worship, Christian education, growth, communications, and congregational care. This leaves a 2021 shortfall of about \$28,000 (\$173,000 – \$145,000). These figures exclude our anticipated one-time transportation and lodging costs associated with the hiring of a new Pastor, which could run as high as \$21,000.

To address the 2021 and future shortfalls, although it may be possible to reduce expenses to a limited extent, or to receive additional contributions from the congregation, MRPC will most likely spend down its reserve fund accumulated from past years. Our church Vanguard Fund totals an impressive \$195,000. In addition, our MRPC campus includes more than 5 acres of land, and a manse that is rather worn and dated, but with excellent potential.

Repairing the manse and renting it out, or repairing and selling it along with a portion of the land, are also being considered to provide increased financial sustainability into the future. In this regard, we have planned on an estimated \$10,000 for mold and water related repairs, over and above the spending noted above. This will most likely take place in 2021.

Overall, the preference of our membership is to increase revenue by increasing our membership. We will greatly welcome the leadership of a new Pastor to help us achieve this goal.

### 2021 Budget



## **6. Congregational Involvement**

In the summer of 2020, Interim Pastor Merri Alexander and the Session divided our congregation into seven groups. We conducted three rounds of Congregational Conversation Meetings with each group via Zoom. A total of 20 questions were posed and sent to church members in advance of the discussions. Ice breaker topics included “What hymnals was the congregation using when you joined the church?” to the much more serious “To what kind of ministry do you believe God is calling Mills River Presbyterian Church as we move forward into the 21st century?”



For the seven most critical questions the Mission Study Team categorized the congregation’s answers to identify common themes and ideas. A recap is in [Appendix A](#).

In January of 2021, our church participated in the U.S. Congregational Vitality Survey from Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Research Services. The standard survey, along with 9 additional questions developed by the Mission Study Team, was mailed to 95 members of our congregation. 54 individuals responded and the full results are contained in [Appendix B](#).

### **Summary of Appendix A — Congregational Conversations and Mission Study Team Questions**

We hear it time after time. MRPC members were originally drawn to our church in large part because of our extremely welcoming nature. The warmth and friendliness of our congregation is our hallmark.

In the survey, quotes such as “I was amazed at the welcome I received” and “I was immediately welcomed” are very common. When asked about the best thing that MRPC has done, social and interpersonal aspects rank high, along with various aspects of the worship service itself, our church’s open-minded philosophy, along with community service and mission work.

Within the survey, more than three-quarters of responding members commented that the worship service continues to be their primary reason for attending MRPC. While almost three-quarters prefer the current traditional style, almost a quarter would like it to be

more contemporary, with several nodding in the direction of wishing for more traditional style. Our church has held its main service at 11:00am for many years. The majority would like it to remain at that time, but there is a growing number of respondents who would prefer an earlier start time.

Looking to the future, when asked to select only ONE AREA that a new Pastor should focus on, the results were:

- 43% of survey respondents selected “Membership Growth”
- 37% chose “Pastoral Duties”
- 11% favored “Community Service”
- 9% “Religious Study”

If hands-on community service projects are to be initiated in the future, an overwhelming majority of those surveyed are interested in participating. Many organizations in the community were suggested that we might work with and are included in [Appendix C](#). Our members also have a general desire to work more closely with other churches via interfaith ministries, and to hold religious-oriented speakers/music/social events.

Encouragingly, almost all of the survey respondents plan on remaining active in church activities in the future. And, they are also eager to return to in-person services when COVID restrictions are lifted.

## Summary of Appendix B — U.S. Congregational Vitality Survey

Our MRPC OVERALL VITALITY SCORE was 75% compared to an average of 77% for all PC (USA) churches. For a small church, being compared with larger churches across the country with much greater resources, this is truly a rating we are proud of!

In the survey, categories 3% or greater from the PC (USA) national average were given further discussion. In the following four categories our church was *matched (or was close to) the national average*.

	MRPC	PC (USA)
<b>Caring Relationships</b> . . . . .	83%	83%

*Instead of a closed, judgmental community, people find freedom to share stories, encounter the Savior, and ask for help.*

<b>Ecclesial Health</b> . . . . .	78%	78%
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*Clarity in mission, core values to ministry, passion and joy in being the church.*



	MRPC	PC (USA)
<b>Intentional Authentic Evangelism</b> . . . . .	70%	71%

*Intentionally sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ, not just acts of kindness.*

<b>Lifelong Discipleship Formation</b> . . . . .	73%	75%
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*From the cradle to the grave seeking to be formed for right living with God and with all people.*

In the following three categories, MRPC had a 3% or greater differential from the national average.

<b>Outward Incarnational Focus</b> . . . . .	69%	76%
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*Outward exploration and awareness, as well as a focus on neighbors, neighborhoods, and those who may never step foot in church.*

The Mission Study Team was not surprised to receive a lower-than-average rating in “Outward Incarnational Focus.” We had sensed a desire from our congregational conversations and internal survey questions that our members wish to be more involved in the community. Also, the survey, coming on the heels of an extensive Stewardship campaign in late 2020 (as opposed to Mission work), may explain to some extent the 7% difference. We will enthusiastically address this opportunity in our Vision.

<b>Empowering Servant Leadership</b> . . . . .	73%	77%
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*Identify, nurture, support the use of spiritual gifts of all people to serve.*

The 4% lower than average score in “Empowering Servant Leadership” is another opportunity for our church to improve. We will give it our prayerful consideration in our Vision.

<b>Spirit-Inspired Worship</b> . . . . .	76%	79%
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*Worship is about God. We get to come on holy ground, encounter the presence of the living God, and are sent to live lives of wonder, love, and praise.*

It is not clear to the Mission Study Team why members rated our church several percentages below average in this category. We offer a large number of special services, have an excellent choir, talented musicians, bell ringers, and motivational sermons. We think that the ratings might be somewhat related to the Zoom services that have taken



**Strongly Desired . . . . . 2 Votes Each**

**Compassionate** – having the ability to suffer with others; being motivated by others pain and is called into action as advocate; is motivated by caring for others while concurrently keeping the organizational goals clearly in focus.

**Public Communicator** – Demonstrates a comfortable ease when speaking in a variety of settings (both small and large groups); is effective at addressing a variety of topics; can get messages across with the desired effect.

**Advisor** – an individual other’s turn to for counsel and guidance; provides coaching; expertise for congregations or other organizations.

**Strategy and Vision** – Sees ahead clearly, keeping focused on the larger picture; can anticipate future consequences and trends accurately; is future oriented; casts a compelling and inspired vision for a preferred future; sees possibility; crafts breakthrough strategies.

**Collaboration** – Has a natural orientation toward getting people to work together; shares wins and successes; fosters open dialogue; lets people finish and be responsible for their work; creates strong feelings of belonging among group members; is a good judge of talent and can accurately assess the strengths and limitations of others.

**Interpersonal Engagement** – Displays a consistent ability to build solid relationships of trust and respect inside and outside of the organization; engage people, organizations, and partners in developing goals, executing plans, and delivering results; use negotiation skills and adaptability to encourage recognition of joint concerns, collaboration, and to influence the success of outcomes.

**Initiative** – Demonstrates ambition is highly motivated; is action oriented and full of energy for things seen as challenging; seizes opportunity; pushes self and others to achieve desired results.

## **8. Vision**

Mills River Presbyterian Church is looking to branch out in new directions. Many of these directions have been suggested by congregation members via our surveys. Several of these were discussed by the Mission Study Team. With God’s divine guidance, we seek to achieve the following hopes and dreams:



### **A. Reach Out to the Community to Expand our Community and Mission Work**

*“For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve...”* Matthew 20:28

Close to 90% of our congregation surveyed express a willingness to be involved in hands-on community work. Nine different community organizations are listed by multiple

congregation members as worthy partners. With new businesses moving into the Mills River area, we look forward to having a pastor who can help us reach out and connect with companies and organizations. Our hope is to build valuable partnerships in our region.

Whether to undertake a number of smaller projects or a larger "signature project" is one essential aspect we need to decide. Another important decision we're facing is whether we partner with larger organizations or smaller ones, where we might have a greater impact. How these projects will be led and organized, as well as member involvement, will be key factors in how we proceed.

## **B. Collaborate to Expand our Christian Education and Youth Programs**

*"Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it."* Proverbs 22:6

In the survey, a number of our congregation members express a desire to partner with other churches. Religious-oriented speakers and services might provide that opportunity.

Several members also articulate a desire to work more closely with the nearby Mills River Elementary School. We currently work with Trinity Presbyterian Church on a Trunk-or-Treat project which could be more extensively publicized at the elementary school. Or, we could formulate religious-oriented events (at Easter for example) with the school in mind.

Efforts such as these will require a Pastor who is willing to network and be "out and about" in the Mills River and Hendersonville communities, without sacrificing what might be the increasing pastoral needs of our elderly members.

## **C. Use Everyone's Talents in the Spirit of Christ**

*"Called as Partners in Christ's service, called to ministries of grace, we respond with deep commitment, fresh new lines of faith to trace."*

Hymn: "Called as Partners in Christ's Service"

To move forward with our Vision may require some cultural changes at MRPC. With a church as small as ours, over time a new Pastor could speak with each congregation member, solicit their ideas, ask them what they see as their personal strengths, and gently inquire about their future involvement. Insights learned could be invaluable. The Pastor and Session can then better use the talents of each individual and involve them in the decision-making process of our church. As a result, we hope the pieces of our project



puzzle come together successfully. It's our goal to provide positive reinforcement and a peaceful environment to work in that will nurture the growth of our members.

#### **D. Develop and Enhance our Efforts to Increase Membership**

*“And the word of God continued to increase, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests became obedient to the faith.”*

Acts 6:7

In addition to the multiple efforts we have made to increase our membership in past years, we are prayerfully contemplating an even more extensive approach in the future.

A prime area to be investigated more thoroughly is the increased use of social media. Our church has been active on Facebook, and recently two Mission Study Team members became marginally active on the Nextdoor app. We need to explore which social media networks best match up with our target audiences and then become actively engaged on those networks.

In addition to social networks we can also explore posting music, event, and activity videos online. We recognize that there are other types of social media that may also be considered, including discussion forums, blogging, and reviews. There are social media seminars designed specifically for churches, which MRPC members can attend in the future. Our sincere hope is that our new Pastor will be much more media savvy than many of our congregation members and be involved in our communications and social media strategy.

Especially once COVID quarantines are lifted, MRPC will need our congregation members to continue and accelerate their efforts to increase our membership. To assist in their efforts, our church leadership could provide them with basic information about our church, such as excerpts from key sections of this report, along with guidance in reaching out to others.

#### **Summary**

*“I will lift mine eyes unto the hills, from where will my help come.”* Psalm 121:1

MRPC, like many Presbyterian churches, at times struggles with difficult conversations. We look for a Pastor who can guide us through these types of challenges.

We recognize that although there may be challenges in the future, our welcoming and family-oriented nature will always shine through. The areas we seek to improve are built on a solid foundation, put in place by dedicated and faithful individuals over many years.

Looking to the future, with God’s guidance and support, we embrace the challenge of “Building Christ’s Church, Piece by Peace!”

## **Appendices**

**Appendix A: Congregational Conversations Summary**

**Appendix B: U.S. Congregational Vitality Survey**

**Appendix C: Possible Mission Project Partners**

## Appendix A: Congregational Conversations Summary

	Number of Responses
<i>1. Best thing that the church did in my first 10 years here</i>	
· Fellowship Activities . . . . .	8
· Church Services . . . . .	7
· Religious Study/Philosophy . . . . .	4
· Community Service . . . . .	3
· Mission . . . . .	2
· Youth . . . . .	2
<i>2. What drew you to MRPC</i>	
· Warmth/Friendliness . . . . .	13
· Church Services . . . . .	3
· Programs . . . . .	1
· Other . . . . .	2
<i>3. Most meaningful church programs during your membership</i>	
· Fellowship . . . . .	6
· Community Projects . . . . .	4
· Youth Sunday School . . . . .	4
· Music . . . . .	3
· Church Services . . . . .	3
· Youth Projects . . . . .	3
· Mission Projects . . . . .	3
· Committee Work . . . . .	3
· Adult Bible Study . . . . .	2
· Congregational Care . . . . .	2
· Presbyterian Women . . . . .	1
<i>4. Ideas going forward/new ministries</i>	
· Interfaith Initiatives - . . . . .	3
· Covid Assistance - . . . . .	3
· Mills River School - . . . . .	2
· Youth - . . . . .	1
· Fellowship - . . . . .	1

**Number of  
Responses**

*5. Most pressing social concerns*

- Church Membership . . . . . 8
- Community Issue . . . . . 6
  - Mental Health. . . . . 1
  - Hispanics . . . . . 1
  - Covid . . . . . 1
  - Hunger. . . . . 1
  - Drugs. . . . . 1
  - Violence. . . . . 1

*6. Our church should be known for/what kind of ministry (combined)*

- Community Activity . . . . . 8
- Growth/Membership . . . . . 7
- Youth Activity . . . . . 5
- Church Service Related . . . . . 3
- Education . . . . . 2
- Fellowship Activity . . . . . 1

*7. Specific programs to try or try again*

- Fellowship/Speakers . . . . . 7
- Music - . . . . . 6
- Community Program . . . . . 4
- Youth Program. . . . . 2



## Appendix B: PC(USA) Congregational Vitality Survey and MRPC Specific Survey Questions

### Mills River Presbyterian Church Additional Questions for U.S. Congregational Survey

**Survey:** 95 sent out in January 2021.

**Results:** February 15, 2021. Total of 54 responded surveys.

	Number of Responses	Percentage
<i>1. What would you describe as your primary reason for attending MRPC? (pick one)</i>		
a. Worship service . . . . .	43	(77%)
b. Christian education and study . . . . .	4	(7%)
c. Socializing with others/social events . . . . .	5	(9%)
d. Service to others . . . . .	4	(7%)
<i>2. In my opinion, we need our new Pastor to focus the most on: (pick one)</i>		
a. Religious study . . . . .	5	(9%)
b. Pastoral duties . . . . .	21	(37%)
c. Membership growth . . . . .	24	(43%)
d. Community service . . . . .	6	(11%)
<i>3. When we return to the Sanctuary, I would like to see the church service itself be:</i>		
a. Somewhat more contemporary . . . . .	2	(21%)
b. Somewhat more traditional . . . . .	4	(7%)
c. About like it was before the pandemic . . . . .	40	(72%)
d. More of a pep rally . . . . .	0	
<i>4. Once it is safe to return to the Sanctuary for worship, I would prefer the church service to start at:</i>		
a. 9:30am . . . . .	2	(4%)
b. 10:00am . . . . .	18	(32%)
c. 10:30am . . . . .	3	(5%)
d. 11:00am . . . . .	33	(59%)

	Number of Responses	Percentage
5. <i>When COVID restrictions are lifted, how likely are you to return in person to church services on a regular basis?</i>		
a. Very likely . . . . .	46	(82%)
b. Somewhat likely . . . . .	8	(14%)
c. Not sure . . . . .	2	(4%)
d. Prefer to continue worshiping via Zoom . . . . .	0	
6. <i>Considering my age and health, work and family situation, and other personal factors, in the near future I see myself to be:</i>		
a. Very active in the church . . . . .	17	(30%)
b. Somewhat active in the church . . . . .	35	(63%)
c. Not very active in the church . . . . .	4	(7%)
7. <i>How interested are you in doing “hands on” community service through activities organized by the church? Examples: preparing food boxes for the need, offering emergency response programs, working with local schools?</i>		
a. Very interested – . . . . .	26	(50%)
b. Somewhat interested. . . . .	22	(42%)
c. Not interested . . . . .	4	(8%)
8. <i>Which local organization would you most like to see MRPC and its membership create a partnership with (and get actively involved with) in the future:</i>		
See <a href="#">Appendix C</a> for a listing of these organizations.		
9. <i>What changes would you support to help improve our church’s financial positioning for the future? (check as many as you like)</i>		
a. Sell the manse and property . . . . .	20	(37%)
b. Cut church staffing, such as administrative assistant and/or organist. . . . .	2	(4%)
c. Cut church services, such as lawn care and cleaning . . . . .	2	(4%)
d. Divest the cemetery from church ownership . . . . .	1	(1%)
e. None of the above. . . . .	27	(50%)
f. Rent out the manse – write-in response: . . . . .	2	(4%)



# USCIVS

U.S. Congregational Vitality Survey  
DISCOVER YOUR STRENGTHS

## Congregation Report

Tuesday, February 16, 2021

### Mills River Presbyterian Church

Total Respondents:

CONGREGATIONAL VITALITY

**52**

#### VITALITY SCORE

Your congregation

**75%**

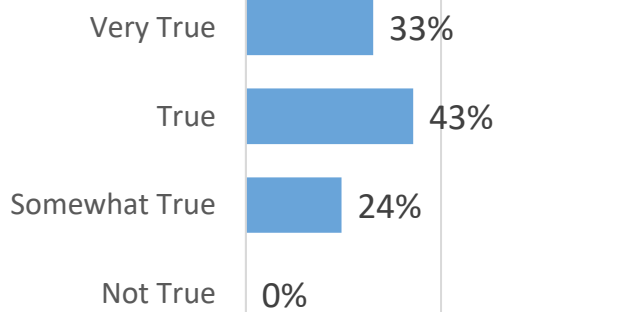
PC(USA)

**77%**

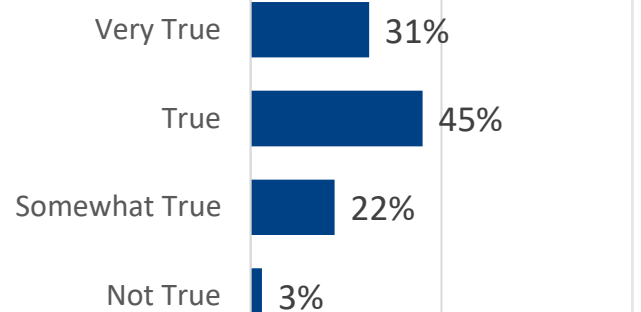
This score is based on an average of your congregation's ratings on each of the seven marks of vitality. The benchmark represents the average score of all PC(USA) congregations that have taken the survey so far.

### "This church is spiritually vital and alive"

#### YOUR CONGREGATION



#### PC(USA)



Based on survey results

Your congregation's greatest strength is:

**CARING RELATIONSHIPS**

Your congregation is least strong in:

**OUTWARD FOCUS**

*I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. (Philippeans 1:3–6)*

We recommend sharing the results first with your leadership, during a leadership meeting. We pray that when you read these reports that you do not do so with either discouragement or pride, but instead find your center in a spirit of faithfulness that assures us all that Christ is not finished with any of us yet.

Consider this the beginning of discernment, not the end of it. This report provides you with information, which we hope will reveal where your congregation's energy and resources can be most effectively focused. Whether you decide to cultivate your strengths, or to build up your areas in which you are least strong, or to stay as you are, is up to you. Remember, this report is not a judgment of your congregation or its ministries. Rather, it is an assessment of its current state based on the perceptions of your worshipers.

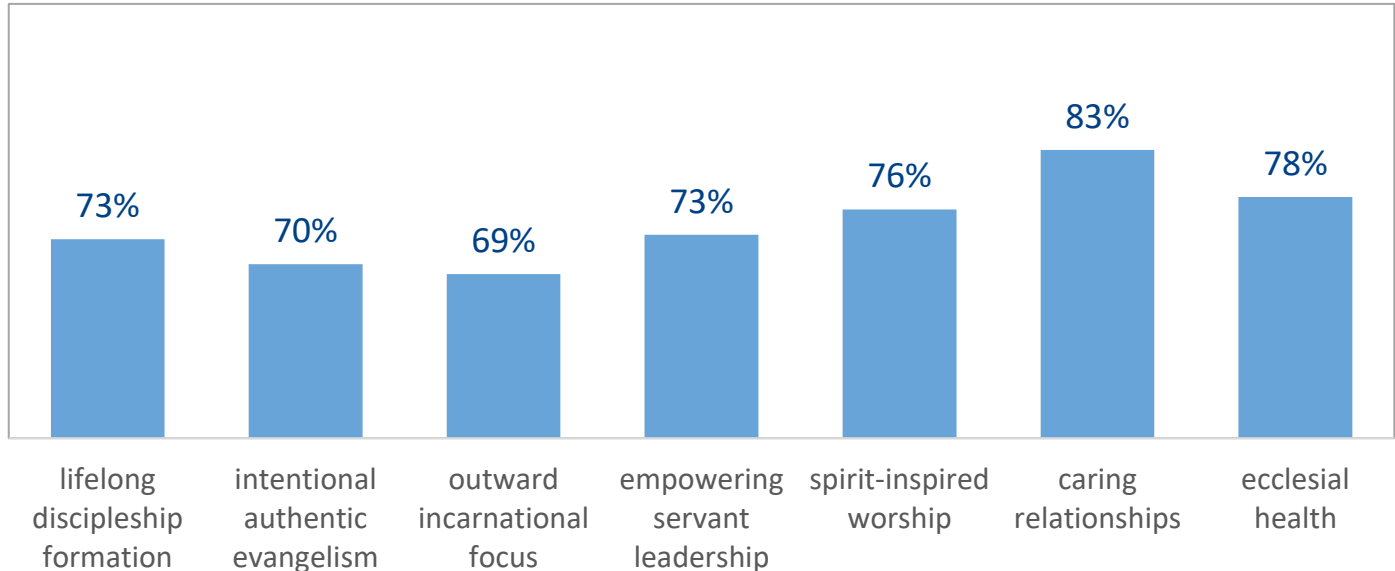
The cover page of this report provides you with some key overall data. First, take note of how many respondents you had. What percentage of your worshipers took the survey? Next, identify your congregation's overall vitality score. How does it compare to the score of other congregations that have taken the survey so far? Are you pleased with this score? Surprised? Now turn your attention to how your worshipers responded to the question "This church is spiritually vital and alive." Do most of them consider this statement to be true? Finally, identify your primary strength and weakness as reported on the bottom of the first page. Do they surprise you? Why or why not?

The following pages give you a deeper look into how your congregation scored on each of the vital marks. The first page contains your congregation's score on each mark. Spend some time with this general overview before getting bogged down in any particular mark of vitality. Then the seven subsequent pages dive deeper into each mark using the results from the survey. On this page, you can see how your worshipers responded to each question individually. This will give you an idea as to why your score is what it is.

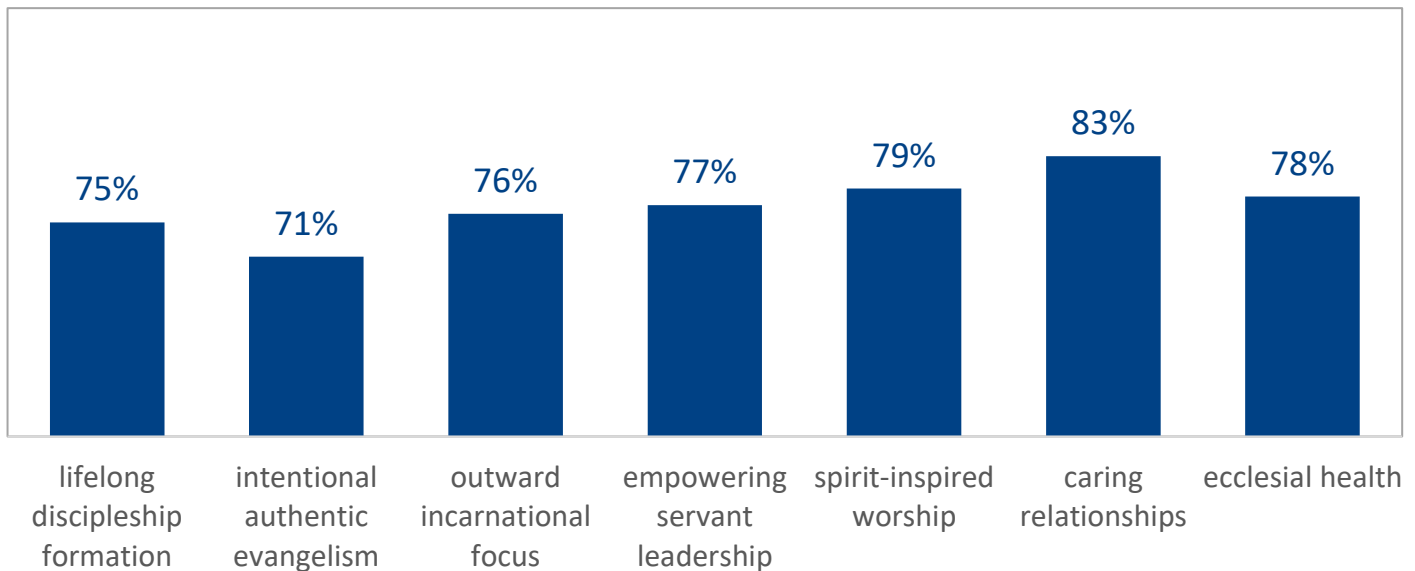
Finally, there are two background pages: one regards your congregation and one provides some demographics of your worshipers. Do you have many people attending your church who have not joined? Is the reported political and theological diversity about what you expected? Why or why not? Are there any other responses in these sections that surprise



Below are your congregation's scores on the seven marks of vitality.



Below are your denomination's scores on the seven marks of vitality.



Pay attention not only to which scores are highest (your greatest strengths) and lowest (your possible areas for improvement), but also take note of any area where there is a 3% or higher difference in ratings between your congregation and your denomination. This could indicate an area where your churches stands out in relation to others in your denomination.

*The percentage scores were calculated based on average responses to multiple items in the surveys, which have been combined into scales representing each of the seven marks of vitality.*

# Mills River Presbyterian Church

## LIFELONG DISCIPLESHIP FORMATION



*"The righteousness that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness of God based on faith." Philippeans 3:9b*

**From the cradle to the grave seeking to be formed for right living with God and with all people.**

Are your worshipers growing spiritually? Below you will find your congregation's responses to each of the individual questions that were used to calculate the discipleship score, as well as what that score is.

### YOUR DISCIPLESHIP SCORES



## The role of the church

The following items measure how well the church is helping worshipers grow as disciples.

	Not at all well	Slightly well	Somewhat well	Very well
This church prioritizes faith formation and disciple making	4%	31%	40%	24%
<b><i>This church....</i></b>	<b>Not at all</b>	<b>To a small extent</b>	<b>To some extent</b>	<b>To a great extent</b>
Challenges me to become more Christ-like	0%	15%	41%	43%
Helps me apply my faith to everyday life	0%	15%	50%	35%
Nurtures my spiritual development	0%	19%	48%	33%

## The role of the individual

The following items measure how well the worshipers are growing as disciples.

	Not true	Somewhat true	True	Very true
I know the Bible well	17%	58%	25%	0%
I see myself as a disciple	10%	43%	35%	12%
When I face a problem, I look to the teachings of Jesus for guidance	6%	29%	43%	22%
<b><i>How important is it that you make time to...</i></b>	<b>Not important</b>	<b>Somewhat important</b>	<b>Important</b>	<b>Very important</b>
Read the Bible	13%	25%	31%	31%
Pray or meditate	4%	10%	38%	48%
Deepen my relationship with God	2%	13%	33%	52%

# Mills River Presbyterian Church

## INTENTIONAL AUTHENTIC EVANGELISM



*"We have this treasure in clay jars, so that it may be made clear that this extraordinary power belongs to God." 2 Corinthians 4:7*

**Intentionally sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ, not just acts of kindness.**

Are your worshipers sharing the Good News? Below you will find your congregation's responses to each of the individual questions that were used to calculate the discipleship score, as well as what that score is.

### YOUR EVANGELISM SCORES



## The role of the church

The following items measure how well the church is helping worshipers engage in evangelism.

	Not at all well	Slightly well	Somewhat well	Very well
This church engages in evangelism	17%	40%	29%	15%
<b><i>This church....</i></b>	<b>Not at all</b>	<b>To a small extent</b>	<b>To some extent</b>	<b>To a great extent</b>
Encourages and equips me to share my faith	6%	23%	50%	21%
Encourages and equips me to share God's love when engaging in mission work or community service	0%	13%	48%	39%

## The role of the individual

The following items measure how well the worshipers are engaging in evangelism.

	Not true	Somewhat true	True	Very true
I try to ensure that visitors to my church feel welcome	0%	6%	45%	49%
I invite people who do not attend church to come visit mine	10%	18%	49%	22%
I try to spread the word of God through my actions, like serving the community or engaging in mission work	2%	23%	38%	37%
<b><i>How important is it that you make time to...</i></b>	<b>Not important</b>	<b>Somewhat important</b>	<b>Important</b>	<b>Very important</b>
Seek opportunities to share my faith in everyday life	6%	42%	37%	15%
Discuss religion and spirituality with people who are not Christian	24%	45%	25%	6%
Build relationships with people who are not Christian	2%	34%	44%	20%

*Note: Percentages may not add to 100 due to either rounding or the ability to select more than one option*

# Mills River Presbyterian Church

## OUTWARD INCARNATIONAL FOCUS



*“The gate is narrow and the road is hard that leads to life, and there are few who find it.” Matthew 7:14*

**Outward exploration and awareness, as well as a focus on neighbors, neighborhoods, and those who may never step foot in church.**

Are your worshipers being Jesus out in the world? Below you will find your congregation's responses to each of the individual questions that were used to calculate the discipleship score, as well as what that score is.

### YOUR OUTWARD FOCUS SCORES



## The role of the church

The following items measure how well the church is helping worshipers be Jesus in the world.

	Not at all well	Slightly well	Somewhat well	Quite well
This church responds to the needs of people outside the church	8%	20%	35%	37%
<b><i>This church....</i></b>	<b>Not true</b>	<b>Somewhat true</b>	<b>True</b>	<b>Very true</b>
Is working to alleviate suffering and eliminate its causes	6%	29%	44%	21%
Provides a moral voice for our community	10%	23%	50%	17%
Has a noted presence in the community	0%	22%	45%	33%
Fosters environments of diversity	2%	29%	50%	19%
Emphasizes mission over self-preservation	27%	38%	27%	9%

## The role of the individual

The following items measure how well the worshipers are being Jesus in the world.

	Not important	Somewhat important	Important	Very important
<b><i>How important is it that you make time to...</i></b>				
Engage in work with the lost, suffering, marginalized, and oppressed	4%	33%	45%	18%
Make specific efforts to form relationships of diversity	10%	20%	48%	22%
Learn about other cultures and faith traditions	2%	39%	39%	20%



# Mills River Presbyterian Church

## EMPOWERING SERVANT LEADERSHIP



*"The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers." Matt. 9:37-38.*

### Identify, nurture, support the use of spiritual gifts of all people to serve

Are your worshipers being servant leaders? Below you will find your congregation's responses to each of the individual questions that were used to calculate the discipleship score, as well as what that score is.

### YOUR SERVANT LEADERSHIP SCORES



## Cultivating Spiritual Gifts

The following items measure how well the church is cultivating servant leadership within the church.

	Not at all well	Slightly well	Somewhat well	Very well
This church helps members find the best way they can contribute to the life of the church	2%	26%	30%	42%
<b><i>This church...</i></b>	<b>Not at all</b>	<b>To a small extent</b>	<b>To some extent</b>	<b>To a great extent</b>
Helps me to cultivate my God-given gifts	2%	21%	40%	38%
Involves me in the planning or leading of activities	8%	27%	23%	42%
Teaches or talks about stewardship (time, talent, treasure)	6%	24%	43%	27%
Nurtures my leadership development	4%	35%	37%	24%
	<b>Not true</b>	<b>Somewhat true</b>	<b>True</b>	<b>Very true</b>
I am heavily involved in this church beyond attending worship	12%	35%	22%	31%
This church teaches or talks about stewardship (time, talent, treasure)	6%	24%	43%	27%

## Modeling Servant Leadership

	Not true	Somewhat true	True	Very true	Do not know
Staff and other leaders here model humility	2%	18%	48%	26%	6%
Our leaders are open to suggestions	10%	22%	38%	26%	4%
There is a good match between our congregation and our clergy	4%	27%	22%	35%	12%

# Mills River Presbyterian Church

## SPIRIT-INSPIRED WORSHIP



*“These people draw near with their mouths and honor me with their lips, while their hearts are far from me, and their worship of me is a human commandment learned by rote.” Isaiah 29:13*

**Worship is about God. We get to come on holy ground, encounter the presence of the living God, and are sent to live lives of wonder, love, and praise.**

Are your worshipers being filled with the Spirit? Below you will find your congregation's responses to each of the individual questions that were used to calculate the discipleship score, as well as what that score is.

### YOUR WORSHIP SCORES



## Personal growth inspired by worship

The following items measure how well worship services are inspiring personal growth

	Not at all well	Slightly well	Somewhat well	Very well
This church leads inspiring worship	4%	12%	28%	56%
<b>Worship services at this church...</b>				
	Not at all	To a small extent	To some extent	To a great extent
Challenge my assumptions and convictions	8%	26%	50%	16%
Help me understand scripture	2%	8%	50%	40%
Inspire me to action	4%	18%	64%	14%

## Experiences felt during worship

The following items measure what experiences worship services are invoking

	Rarely or never	Sometimes	Usually	Always
<b>During worship services at this church I feel...</b>				
A sense of God's presence	0%	22%	60%	18%
Boredom	58%	34%	6%	2%
Connectedness	2%	16%	52%	30%
Energy	2%	27%	51%	20%
Frustration	69%	27%	4%	0%
Judgment	67%	30%	2%	0%
Renewal	6%	49%	38%	6%
Wonder	8%	55%	31%	6%

Note: Percentages may not add to 100 due to either rounding or the ability to select more than one option

# Mills River Presbyterian Church

## CARING RELATIONSHIPS



*“By this everyone will know that you are disciples, if you have love for one another.” John 13:35*

**Instead of a closed, judgmental community, people find freedom to share stories, encounter the Savior, and ask for help.**

Do worshipers feel a sense of community within the church? Below you will find your congregation's responses to each of the individual questions that were used to calculate the discipleship score, as well as what that score is.

### YOUR RELATIONSHIPS SCORES



## Church Community

The following items measure what the church is doing to foster community

	Not at all well	Slightly well	Somewhat well	Very well
This church loves and cares for all its members	2%	10%	14%	74%
	Not true	Somewhat true	True	Very true
There is serious conflict within this church	63%	22%	4%	2%
There are members who have been and are still hurt by this church	14%	29%	14%	12%
	Do not know			
	8%	31%		

## Individual Sense of Belonging

The following items measure whether the worshipers feel connected within the church

	Not true	Somewhat true	True	Very true
I feel a strong sense of belonging in this congregation	6%	8%	37%	49%
People would notice if I stopped coming to church	4%	20%	41%	35%
Sometimes this church feels cliquish and I feel left out	69%	22%	2%	6%
I have at least one close friend in this congregation	4%	12%	43%	41%
	Not at all	To a small extent	To some extent	To a great extent
This church supports me through prayers	0%	4%	15%	81%
This church makes me feel that my opinions are valued	8%	20%	24%	47%

# Mills River Presbyterian Church

## ECCLESIAL HEALTH



*“The body does not consist of one member but of many. God has so arranged the body that there may be no dissension within the body, but the members may have the same care for one another.” 1 Cor. 12: 14, 24b-25*

**Clarity in mission, core values to ministry, passion and joy in being the church.**

Is your church functioning well? Below you will find your congregation's responses to each of the individual questions that were used to calculate the discipleship score, as well as what that score is.

### YOUR HEALTH SCORES



## Mission and Future

	Not at all well	Slightly well	Somewhat well	Very well
This church stays healthy and strong	4%	23%	38%	35%
This church fulfills its mission	2%	18%	41%	39%
	Not true	Somewhat true	True	Very true
This church is resistant to change	38%	49%	9%	4%
This church has a healthy sense of mission or purpose	8%	19%	38%	35%
I am hopeful or excited about our future	2%	22%	29%	47%

## Leadership

	Not true	Somewhat true	True	Very true	Do not know
I trust our leadership to make good decisions	2%	18%	29%	51%	0%
Our congregation manages conflict well	12%	36%	30%	8%	14%
This church avoids difficult conversations	35%	48%	10%	6%	0%
Leadership shares budget and financial information with members	2%	8%	36%	54%	0%



# Mills River Presbyterian Church

## YOUR CONGREGATION AND YOU



Are you currently a member of this congregation?

- 92% Yes
- 0% No, but I am in the process of becoming a member
- 8% No, but I regularly participate here
- 0% No

How long have you been coming here?

- 0% Less than 1 year
- 35% 1-5 years
- 18% 6-10 years
- 47% More than 10 years

Are you any of the following? (Select all that apply.)

- 40% Elder
- 0% Deacon
- 2% Christian educator
- 0% Minister, pastor, or priest
- 2% On staff here
- 58% None of the above

Describe your involvement in this church.

- 24% It is increasing
- 57% It is staying about the same
- 18% It is decreasing

Select any of the following ways that you are involved in this church. (Select all that apply.)

- 17% I serve on the leadership council
- 38% I serve on a committee or task force
- 23% I engage in mission work
- 42% I attend or lead a class, Bible study, or small group
- 75% I attend many of the fellowship or special events
- 29% I am in choir or some other music ministry
- 10% I am a worship leader or help with worship
- 6% Other
- 10% None of the above

About how much of your annual income (before taxes) do you give to your church?

- 14% 10% or more
- 18% 7-9%
- 34% 4-6%
- 30% 1-3%
- 5% Less than 1%
- 0% I don't give

Over the past year, how often have you attended worship services at this congregation?

- 70% Every week
- 15% 2-3 times a month
- 7% About once a month
- 7% Occasionally or only for special occasions
- 2% Never

Do any of the following keep you from participating more in the life of the church? (Select all that apply.)

- 24% Work
- 17% Family
- 15% Health
- 7% Travel
- 0% Transportation
- 2% Distance
- 7% Lack of interest
- 52% None of the above
- 9% Other

# Mills River Presbyterian Church

## BACKGROUND INFORMATION OF WORSHIPERS



### Age

0%	up to 17 years
0%	18-25
2%	26-35
29%	36-65
69%	over 65

### Gender

33%	Male
67%	Female
0%	Non-binary

### Race and Ethnicity

0%	Asian
0%	Black or African American
0%	Hispanic or Latino/a/x
0%	Middle Eastern
0%	Native American
98%	White
0%	Multiracial
2%	Other

### Household

18%	Lives alone
65%	Couple
6%	Couple with children
0%	Single adult with children
6%	Adult with parents
4%	Live with extended family
0%	Roommates

### Employment

19%	Work full-time
4%	Work part-time
0%	Self-employed
4%	Full-time homemaker
0%	Student
2%	Unemployed
75%	Retired

### Education

0%	Some high school or less
16%	High school diploma
8%	Trade certificate
10%	Associate degree
40%	Bachelors degree
20%	Masters degree
6%	Doctorate or professional degree

### Income (pre-tax)

5%	Less than \$25,000
17%	\$25,000 to \$49,999
40%	\$50,000 to \$74,999
26%	\$75,000 to \$99,999
10%	\$100,000 to \$149,999
2%	\$150,000 or more

### Political Orientation

26%	More on the conservative side
41%	More on the moderate side
33%	More on the liberal side

### Theological Orientation

21%	More on the conservative side
49%	More on the moderate side
30%	More on the liberal side



**USC CVS**

*U.S. Congregational Vitality Survey*

DISCOVER YOUR STRENGTHS



Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

**Research Services**

## Appendix C: Possible Mission Project Partners

	<b>Number of Responses</b>
IAM (Interfaith Assistance Ministry) . . . . .	7
Hendersonville Rescue Mission or other homeless shelter . . . .	6
Habitat for Humanity . . . . .	5
MANNA Food Bank or other food banks . . . . .	5
Mills River Elementary School (tutoring, after school program, etc.) . . . . .	4
School Back-Pack Program (food) . . . . .	3
Safelight (battered women's shelter) . . . . .	2
Rise Against Hunger. . . . .	2
Boy Scouts . . . . .	2

**One response each:**

- Meals on Wheels
- Hospice
- Conservation
- Town of Mills River
- Homeless teens
- Women's Infant Children Program
- Presbyterian Women
- Local churches
- Any African American church

