

Results from the recent Summer Worship Survey are as follows:

- Of the 36 responses, 18 (50%) expressed that they currently attend Contemporary service; 14 (39%) primarily attend Traditional. 4 respondents (11%) said they attend both, depending on various factors.
- Two of the questions asked if, despite a preference for one particular style of service, the respondent would attend a different style service if they thought it was “best for the congregation as a whole.” Among all respondents, 15 (41%) said they would attend a different style service “all the time;” 10 such responses (27%) were from mainly-Contemporary attendees, 5 (14%) from mainly-Traditional attendees. Analyzed by service preference, 10 of 18 Contemporary responses (66%) said they would attend a different-style service all the time, while 5 of 14 (36%) Traditional responses said they would. Conversely, 4 of 14 mainly-Traditional responses (28%) indicated they would attend a different-style service less than half of the time.
- Question #7 asked if the respondent’s worship experience would be affected if a service was offered that was different from my preferred style. 22 of 36 respondents (61%) said that their worship experience would “remain the same.” 12 of 36 (33%) said their worship experience would be affected negatively.
- Questions #8 and #9 discussed the times of worship services. The vast majority of respondents said that a change in service time would not likely result in any change in their attendance. There was no clear consensus on a time when respondents would be open to attending, although generally speaking mainly-Traditional respondents were more likely to be open to earlier times, while mainly-Contemporary respondents were more likely to be open to later times.
- Question #6 asked what elements of a preferred service type were “essential” to feeling worshipful. A large percentage of responses focused on music generally. Representative comments: “music I’m comfortable singing;” “worshipful music;” “contemporary music” (x2); “hymns and some contemporary songs;” “energy in the music;” “music with a mix of styles;” “music that ‘moves along’;” “I like contemporary songs but like hymns so I can sing a part instead of melody;” “music;” (x2); “organ-led hymns.” Other responses focused on a theme for the service: “style is less important than the message of the service;” “a unified theme;” “the message of the sermon.”
- Under General Comments, many people expressed an opinion that HOPE should offer only one service, based on declining attendance. Representative comments: “time to go to one service;” low attendance may require compromise to avoid overworking the leadership and support people;” “declining attendance may require combining services.” There were differing opinions about what that service would look like. Several suggested alternating service styles on a weekly basis; a few discussed “blended” worship. Several also suggested offering evening services.