

December 2022 Path Forward Process Survey: Summary of Themes

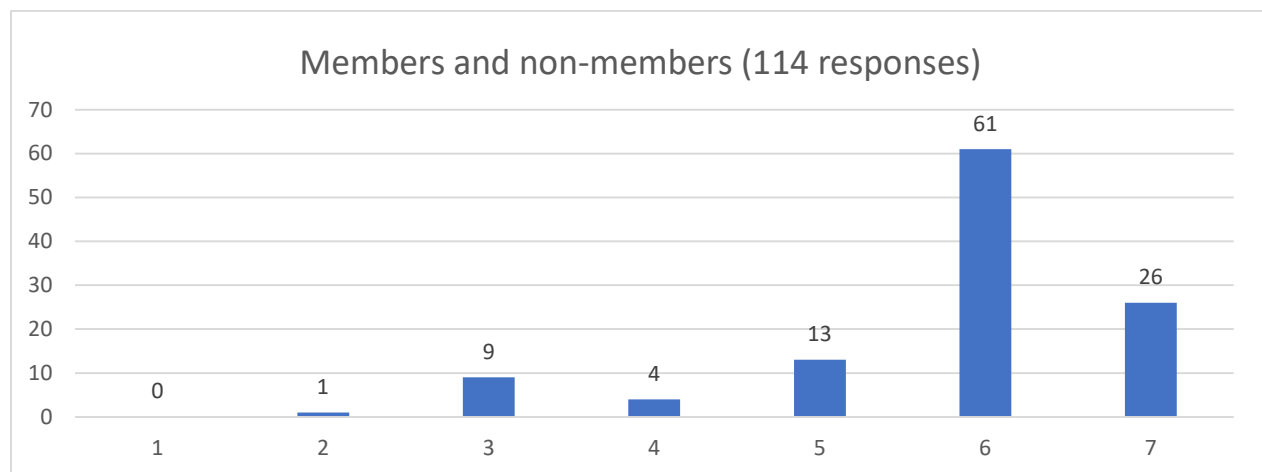
114 individuals completed this congregational survey: 107 members and 7 non-members. For comparison, fall series second hour sessions attendance ranged from 90 to 140. All but two responses had names attached. The survey received many thoughtful comments which demonstrated clear investment on the part of the congregation. Below are charts of responses and themes distilled from the comments by the Path Forward Design Team.

1. Something I have learned through this process so far:

85 responses. Themes:

- Learnings about discernment: the challenging nature of this work and the sincere desire of much of the Salford community to engage it together
- Learnings about scripture interpretation: scripture requires interpretation, it is to be interpreted as a community, the context of scripture is important
- Appreciation for the level of respect and engagement in the process

2. My response to this statement: “AT THIS POINT IN THE PROCESS I believe it is best for Salford to include LGBTQ+ people in marriage, ministry in the congregation, and ordination.”



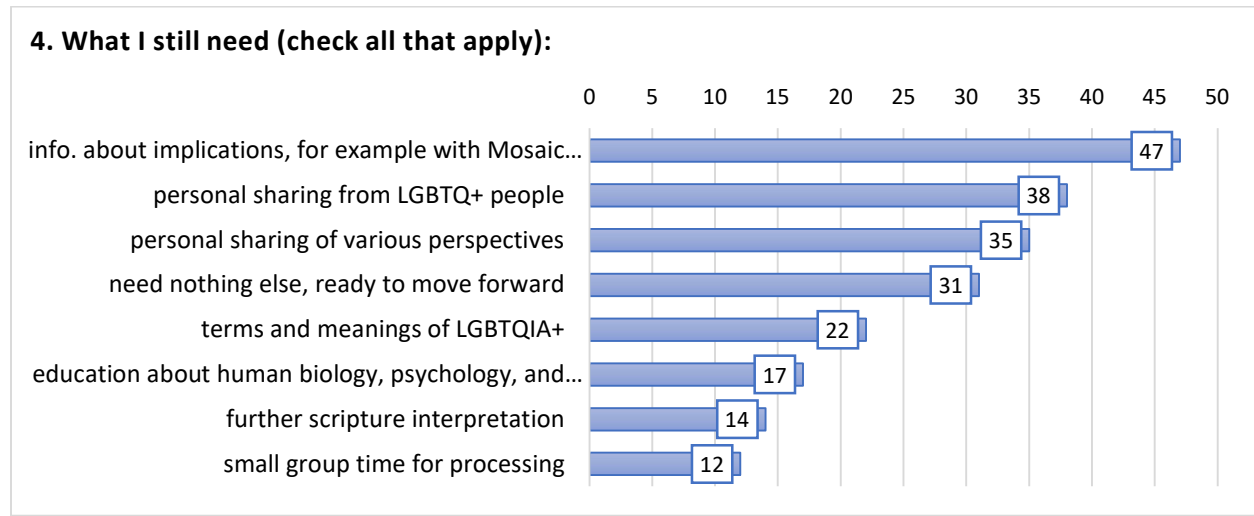
Members (107 responses):

1: 0 2: 0 3: 8 4: 4 5: 13 6: 60 7: 22

3. Comments in relation to the above question:

66 responses. Themes:

- Difficult decision between 6 and 7 for many - some of whom chose 6, some who chose 7
- Longing to move to inclusion, as well as desire to stay in community across disagreement
- Marriage yes but leadership no: 5 responses
- Importance of our relationship with Mosaic Conference: 5
- Importance of the covenant of marriage regardless of gender/orientation: 3
- Desire to raise kids in a church which fully welcomes LGBTQ+: 3



Full text of the options in the above chart: Information about implications, for example with Mosaic Conference (47 responses); personal sharing from LGBTQ+ people (38); personal sharing of various perspectives (35); 31 individuals wrote that they need nothing else and are ready to move forward; terms and meanings of the diversity within LGBTQIA+ (22); Education about human biology, psychology, and sociology as it relates to sexual orientation and gender identity (17); Further scripture interpretation (14); small group time for processing in second hour or other small group (12)

5. I've been part of the discernment in these ways:

102 of the 114 respondents reported participating in the fall second hour discernment series in some way, including watching sessions online. 101 respondents reported being present in worship and/or second hour. A few noted missing sessions due to teaching children's Sunday school.

6. Other feedback:

46 responses. Themes:

- Readiness to finish this process and move forward with inclusion
- Appreciation for this difficult work and the Path Forward Design Team's leadership
- Sense of the pain this process has meant for LGBTQ+ people