

## **Monthly Evaluation Summary – January 2018 – Zion (31 forms returned)**

### **What did you like about the worship service(s) and/or location this month?**

- Comfortable atmosphere in the church on every occasion; feel welcomed every time; everyone seems happy to be there; everyone is FRIENDLY!
- Church seems warm, inviting and vital with both congregations combined as one; heartwarming to see larger crowd; enjoy the feeling of energy and enthusiasm created by a fuller church
- Attendance increased each week during January
- Happy that both locations are now worshipping together; great to see the numbers from both former congregations; liked that people sat close together
- Liked that people carpoled
- Parking is good
- Beautiful building and stained-glass windows; messages on the stained glass in the chapel; make me think about what it is to be a Christian; small sanctuary is cozy; nice feel; beautiful small country church
- Like Rev Max greeting us before the service
- Getting to know people; getting to know each others' names
- Passing the Peace; greeting people with "peace be with you"
- Like more singing voices – both in the choir and congregation
- Enjoy and appreciate the variety of the music and how the different aspects have been combined; Eric and singing group, Meg and hand bells, and Joyful Noisemakers add to what the choir brings each week to worship services
- Choir is very special. Choir spends many hours practicing and has faithfully attended Sunday services for many, many years. Many hours of preparation go in to helping celebrate Christmas and Easter and the choir offers comfort at many funerals through their love of sharing music. None of this would be possible without the direction and dedication of Melissa.
- Melissa to be commended for helpful input into the broader music program (i.e. other musicians)
- Like that the service is less formal, i.e. choir not wearing gowns and congregation not standing when Minister and choir enter the sanctuary
- Like standing when Minister and choir enters
- Appreciate the candle-lighting liturgy
- Like Max's efforts to mix things up, e.g. different versions of Lord's Prayer (both spoken and sung) and Dedication
- Like the announcements at the end
- Like the length of the service; like the service time

- Meeting space downstairs is bright and accommodates many; kitchen is up to date and works well
- Like coffee and fellowship after service
- Services flowed well even though this was the first month together
- Impressed with the way Max and Melissa are leading us through these changing and trying times
- Like location; closer to home

What didn't you like about the worship service(s) and/or location this month?

- Farther from home; 9:30 service time is a challenge
- Could clear more of the parking area to accommodate a second row of parking
- Don't like that choir not wearing gowns, and that people don't stand when Minister and choir enters
- Not comfortable with the passing of the peace; takes away the quiet time in the sanctuary; too many people milling around; concern about passing germs during cold and flu season; more fellowship developed during coffee hour after church
- Missed singing hymns that reach out to those less fortunate than most of us
- Miss having the hymns on the screen
- A little short on hymn books and had to bring More Voices from Minden
- What happened to the "Time for the Youthful"?
- Don't like the Abba prayer replacing the Lord's Prayer; don't like the paraphrasing of the psalms
- Lack of theme in the overall service
- Printed prayers from outside sources
- Don't like that people laughed and talked during Postlude
- Miss the sung closing, e.g. "Go now in peace..."
- Announcements at the end
- Feel claustrophobic in the long pews with only one exit
- Space is limited at the front for choir and/or musicians; Space cramped for Joyful Noisemakers
- Hard to get coats at the back of the church, going against traffic flow
- Beautiful small country church – but concern about space/capacity accommodating everyone once snowbirds and cottagers return

Recommendations or comments?

- Combining our traditions is great
- Wonder how comfortable a new comer would feel among us

- Would like to see more meaning drawn from scripture that applies to today and more relevance
- Careful look at order of service
- Pastoral prayer should be more than just reading
- People should wear their name tags at the beginning of the service rather than waiting for coffee time
- Thanks to committee for hard work and dedication on behalf of all of us
- Thanks to Max for helpful messages each week. His words are helping to get us through this difficult process
- Number of Minden people didn't attend in January – suggest that they be contacted to offer pick-up or carpool
- Concerned for the loss of Barb Braker's CE program
- When choosing our church, the location should be foremost. Need to consider the ability to fund raise, location is key to this.
- We need room to grow
- Would be hard to run some of the Interest groups from Carnarvon
- Hope UCWs can meet together soon.

**Monthly Evaluation Summary – February 2018 – Minden (15 forms returned)**

What did you like about the worship service(s) and/or location this month?

- Sanctuary is larger, brighter and more open; doesn't feel as confining; better visual from choir to congregation and music leaders
- Excellent acoustics in the sanctuary
- Plenty of space for any size of choir
- Wonderful choir and anthems; like the variety of musical styles
- Like banners at front of sanctuary
- Like welcome at front door
- Hymn selection good; like More Voices hymns
- Great to have more people worshipping in one place
- Max's sermons are inspiring
- Loved using the screen for reading and singing
- Like singing "Let there be peace on earth" at the end

- Like Melissa's postludes and hearing her flute on Feb 25 with the Joyful Noisemakers
- Glad we stopped Passing the Peace
- Like the card tables and chair used for coffee in the basement
- Closer to home
- Like to see so many folks making the effort to attend even when the weather is bad

What didn't you like about the worship service(s) and/or location this month?

- Farther from home
- It's taking time to get used to the earlier service start time
- Parking spaces are limited; quite icy some days in lower parking lot
- Feels chaotic at the beginning when the choir and minister just wander in
- Don't like it when Max reads from screen or monitor-it is a distraction for him; prefer him to pray or preach from the heart and to the people
- Feel rushed during hymns, too fast to sing
- With the larger sanctuary the music doesn't quite fill the space as at Zion but the larger space should easily accommodate a larger summer congregation
- Microphone issues – need to do a system check
- Don't like announcements at the end
- Don't like the front stairs down to the basement
- Basement is not a great space – dark, etc
- Don't like that people are grumbling because things aren't done exactly as they used to be
- Don't like that people engage in spreading misinformed and often incorrect information

Recommendations or comments?

- More participation from the congregation, e.g. reading scripture
- Zion choir is key to our future success
- Our survival and growth is only coming from seniors which means that "if I was looking for a church, I'd be living in Minden where I can walk to any church, dentist, bank, post office, funeral parlour, curling club and arena, and close to groceries (and they will now deliver)", so Minden should be our future location
- Choose a hymn that fits HHUC's vision and make ours, i.e. a signature hymn
- Would like to hear more guitar, hand bells, etc.

-I would like to be LED in prayer rather than in unison. The minister is expected to lead us in worship which means an intentional attempt to draw us into an experience.

-Could hear better in the centre section so suggest encouraging folks with hearing problems to sit in the centre

-To see people talk to someone different, e.g. those with birthdays in a month sit together at a table at coffee

-Once a month (or more) have a "senior moment" in which a senior recollects long ago challenges, interesting happenings, different ways

-Drop the Psalm or even Youthful Time if extra time is needed in the service

-Weather was poor in February and kept people away from services so there wasn't quite the same energy as in January

-Accessibility needs to be carefully considered at either location; need to explore portable ramp and handrails ASAP