

## Listening Session Theme Summary

OSLC 2018 Transition Team

10/2/2018

### Theme Discussion

Below is a list of the 7 questions used in the listening sessions (after the first sessions were complete and it was determined that a 9-question session was too time consuming and somewhat repetitive), followed by the themes gleaned from the answers. The first three (or four) **bolded** themes are the ones that were selected by the transition teams as the ones that best represent OSLC, although all themes are listed.

### Methodology

After all the answers were consolidated, themes were pulled out and listed. Themes were determined (in general) by the frequency with which they appeared in the consolidated answers. After it was determined that all themes were represented, Transition Team members in attendance each chose 3 that they thought best represented OSLC. Choices were tallied and the top 3 (or 4) scorers under each question were chosen.

### Representation

Team members in attendance were Melissa Urban, Dave Shaw, Steve Russell, John Lasswell and Aaron Harrell (author)

### Listening Session Themes, by question:

1. **What brought you to OSLC and what keeps you here?**
  - **Small town church feel**
  - **Family, youth and kids' programs**
  - **Welcoming and friendly environment**
  - Not anonymous (known by name)
  - Pastor
  - Sermons
  - Support from church family
  - Mission and outreach
  
2. **Tell about one of your favorite events here at OSLC in the past 12 months**
  - **Holiday worship programs**
  - **Fall festival**
  - **Lenten soup meals**
  - VBS
  - Special music and events
  - Parade
  - Annual health fair

3. What do you value about OSLC

- **Caring people and environment**
- **Size of church**
- **Opportunities to serve**
- **Mission and outreach**
- Welcoming of new people
- Small groups
- Preaching
- Service diversity (different types)

4. If you could change one thing about OSLC, what would it be?

- **Better communication, leading to positivity**
- **2<sup>nd</sup> pastor or administrator**
- **Financial stability**
- More engagement
- Service schedule
- More interaction to bring groups together
- Pastor living closer to the church and community they serve

5. Do you think that God is calling OSLC to something new? If so, what is it?

- **Welcome and acceptance**
- **Community Outreach**
- **Christ centered/bold witness**
- Being united and staying healthy as a church community

6. What are your hopes for OSLC for the next 1-3 years

- **Congregational acceptance of the new pastor and all that it entails**
- **Greater communication and connection across our demographic divide**
- **Energized, motivated and engaged congregation**
- Growth strategy (attendance/membership)
- Growing together in Christ
- Good pastoral stability/fit

7. What else do you want to say about OSLC?

- **Assess administrative needs**
- **Better communication**
- **Develop self-supporting groups (PEP, parenting, etc)**
- More opportunities for men & empty nesters