

## Some Key Factors

Please assess your parish using these factors:

	Low				High
<b>A. Overall satisfaction</b> with parish life & ministry	1	2	3	4	5
<b>B. Effectively engaging the three purposes of a parish</b> church in a manner fitting parish size and charism					
Overall rating	1	2	3	4	5
<b>1. The worship of God</b> – fullest Prayer Book Pattern is a Sunday Eucharist, a public Daily Office (daily), and equipping members for personal devotions (especially reflection)	1	2	3	4	5
1 a. Primary - Great Sunday Liturgy and social time	1	2	3	4	5
<b>2. The formation of the People of God</b> – Fullest expression is a strong adult process in the tradition of the Episcopal Church - the total impact of Liturgy, spiritual guidance, overall parish climate, programs. At least 1/4 of those present on Sunday are very competent in the spiritual practices of the Episcopal Church.	1	2	3	4	5
<b>3. Having a sanctifying relationship</b> with the broader community.	1	2	3	4	5
<b>C. Vibrant</b> - The extent to which parish life is vibrant, creates a "buzz" that excites the congregation and spills over to the wider community, an attractive energy	1	2	3	4	5
<b>D. Alignment</b> - The elements of parish life are mostly in alignment: income-expenses, the energy, and funds to carry out the vision we have; liturgical space or number of services to match the number of attendees, and so on	1	2	3	4	5

Your comments:

*See other side for background notes*

## Background notes

### *Three purposes of a parish church*

There are three intrinsic purposes of any parish church.

1. The worship of God
2. The formation of the People of God
3. Having a sanctifying relationship with the broader community.

These purposes aren't something we create ourselves. They are the innate, natural functions of the local microcosm of the Body of Christ, the parish church. In and through them we live the mission of God and the Church. We may engage them effectively or not. We may adequately understand the issues and dynamics within them or not. The parish may have a high level of commitment and competence in regard to them or not. They are our underlying reasons to exist regardless of whether we are effective, comprehending, and committed. Accepting them as our life and work changes a parish.

### *Threefold Rule of Prayer*

The Threefold Rule of Prayer is an integrated system of spiritual life. It assumes three interdependent elements: The Sunday Eucharist, the Daily Office, and Personal Devotions. Together the elements create a balanced life of prayer. A weekly and daily rhythm. Immersion in Scripture. Engagement in the church's common life of prayer in a matter that affirms and stretches and individuals unique relationship with God.

The Threefold Rule is also known as The Prayer Book Pattern and the Benedictine Triangle.