

Questions or Comments Received during Town Hall – 10/6/16

Topic	Question/Comment
At Mass	Why did they change the way that the collection is taken up? The reasons why I ask: 1) We have a hard time getting 8 ushers. 2) Sometimes we have to wake up people to pass the baskets down.
At Mass	Why aren't there flowers, plants at the main altar?
At Mass	Why is the music(choir) so slow – at English Mass? Those of us attending the service do not know the songs nor are encouraged to join in the singing.
At Mass	Could the hand shaking before Mass & the moment of peace be cut? Especially during flu season?
At Mass	3 of the 4 masses have the same traditional music. Have we thought about having another mass be contemporary music to ATTRACT younger generations?
At Mass	With the large and growing population of young adults in Uptown, have we thought about hiring a full or part time young adult minister to make this demographic a priority in our ministry?
At Mass	Why is the Altar so bare? Is it a budget thing?
Budget	How much \$ does the parish contribute to support the school?
Budget	What is Holy Trinity using to make up Weekly/Monthly/Annual deficit?
Budget	What are all of the ways Stewardship pot is funded?
Communication	Would it be possible to send out notices when a HTCC parishioner dies?
Communication	Trinity Talks: Encourage people to ask questions using “Trinity Talks.” Publish their questions and the answers in the weekly bulletin and the weekly emails. Each question/answer may spawn other questions, answers, ideas.
Fundraising	Why not Bingo or other ways to raise \$?
Other	All are not welcome at Holy Trinity – if you have a disability. Lack of parking for handicapped persons discourages them attending Mass. These persons tend to be elderly and financially secure. If they don't come to Mass, Holy Trinity loses their weekly collection money.
Other	Fill the Library, donations, shareable books. New Committee
Other	What does Stewardship mean to me? Trust & Relationships – Years ago in my work with Stewardship Ministry and during a challenging time at HT, our pastor asked me why certain people were not “giving” – My response was HT needs to build trust & promote positive relationships between pastor & parishioners. Thanks for doing this Town Hall event.
Outreach	Do we have a program to welcome and bring in the Parish life newcomers?
Outreach	What is the secular outreach? Offering the gym, the basement to other orgs?
Outreach	With all of the new construction of housing (Apts, Condos, etc) is there an outreach to leave info about HT in the lobbies, welcome packets, etc. This could be a function of the interfaith committee as other faith houses of worship could be included.
Outreach	Holy Trinity...”Where all are welcome” – What is the outreach to groups that may be disenfranchised. Sex workers, homeless, substance abusers. What about LGBT outreach?
Parish Construction	What's with the new roofing over the covered walkway?
Parish Construction	The pavers, were going to be placed in the driveway between HTCS and the

	CLC. With the idea of now using them in front of the school, will the drive stay as it is?
Programming	Why do you not have any programs for senior citizens
Programming	Please describe these ministries: Beyond Sunday & Holy Trinity Center
Programming	Can we have (host) any seminars or retreats for divorced/widowed/or separated Catholics
Programming	Could there be any classes (Scripture, etc) in the evenings for those of us who work during the day? Ascension Press has a wealth of resources
Programming	Holy Trinity Ministries missing: Respect life & Inclusion
Programming	How does one get involved in grant writing? Please contact me @ <a href="mailto:joeaustin99@gmail.com">joeaustin99@gmail.com</a> . I am interested in learning and helping.
Programming	At HTC's last ministry fair, many ministry's tables were not manned. Did any ministries see an increase in volunteers? Can future ministry fairs be manned a little better? It would make the event much more inviting to those who may be wanting to volunteer.
School Enrollment	Do we have a plan to increase enrollment for the school to offset the Parish contribution
School Enrollment	Multiple parishes are merging their Catholic Schools to help improve efficiency and continue to give parents a choice in Catholic education. Would we solve our significant financial issues by merging our school w/Christ the King?
At Mass	Can there be a children's choir? Even if it is only seasonal i.e. Christmas. Veronica Alonzo (214) 226-4446
At Mass	Maybe once a month designate a Mass as a children's mass. Use children's lectionary, praise, & worship music. Veronica Alonzo (214) 226-4446
Programming	Book club for Catholic moms. Meetings should be at evening or weekend because many of us work. Like Morning Glory Divine Mercy for Moms Veronica Alonzo (214) 226-4446
At Mass	Have breakfasts after Sunday masses at least once a month. Veronica Alonzo (214) 226-4446
Programming	Host/Organize retreats CHRP/ACTS (Men & Women), Cursillo
Outreach	Fish Frys monthly to build community. Veronica Alonzo (214) 226-4446
At Mass	Work on improving distribution of Body of Christ. Very confusing & people bump into each other a lot. Veronica Alonzo (214) 226-4446
Programming	In general, I'd like to see programs that fill my spiritual growth. It's not enough to show up for mass & leave. Veronica Alonzo (214) 226-4446

#### SURVEY RESPONSES

Do you have any other comments, questions, or concerns that might help us improve your Town Hall experience?

There must be a very good reason why daily mass is offered in the evening once a week. Is anyone else voicing this need for many of us who work during the day and are unable to attend daily mass during working hours?

Enjoyed hearing about finances and the trusts. Would encourage semi annual meetings

Maybe start dinner earlier, like 600 pm, that way Town Hall can start at 700 and be done by 830.

Be sure everyone that speaks is holding a microphone.

I feel I need to explain a couple of my answers above. Firstly, I think the concept of a town hall meeting is great, and would hope we would have future town hall meetings. That's why I would recommend

others to attend. I think the time frame was appropriate length, but there wasn't enough time devoted to the town hall concept (as I understand it). I thought the evening was more top-heavy presentation rather than the Q/A town hall format. It looked like provision was made for Qs to be written and dropped in boxes. However, I missed any directives to do this, and with an ongoing presentation, it felt awkward to take a question up to the box, or to come forward with a question. The evening seemed a little too open-ended, with a wide-range of topics discussed. Perhaps a more narrow focus would help, with the moderator directing different Task Force members to answer questions pertaining to their area of focus (similar to Fr. Don asking Buzz Crutcher to explain the Saner Trust). The work of the Task Force to put this evening together is gratefully appreciated! Incorporating a meal as part of the evening was a wonderful idea ... food and social time build community. The time allotted for dinner vs. meeting was well apportioned. Delicious meal! Sound quality -- problematic for aging ears :) The brochure was nicely done. Perhaps a point-form agenda could be handed out for future meetings (a copy per table, plus a slide on the screen)

Thank you for doing a Town Hall. That being said, it was a missed opportunity to build community vs. Q&A and a disappointment. Logistics - CLC is a poor location; poor sound system; it echoes; hard to hear; no extra microphones for participants. Use Trinity Hall. Tables were located so that some were not able to see the screen. Chairperson - needs to be skilled in public speaking; know how to use a sound system; involve questioners; repeat questions, etc. Kelly is very nice but she speaks too fast; has no ability to engage using tone, pauses, emphases; and a high pitched voice has challenges to begin with. Suggestion: Initial small groups; let people introduce themselves; meet and build relationships; ask each table to gather three questions or points of interest. Parish Council - make a one page flyer available with each member's resume, time served, and why appointed. They should introduce themselves and say why they are at the Town Hall. (why is this not part of the parish website?) Second - start with the parish mission statement; then, have key staff/ministries give updates 2016 YTD. Key - tell the ministry story and gather the stories together to tell the parish story Third; realize that \*money\* was the only topic but you can catch more with honey than just repeating ad nauseam. Note - stewardship was defined as money only; sorry, it is time, effort, financial giving in many ways, etc. Fourth, each ministry, school, parish need to highlight achievements YTD, thank people, and provide \*successes\* (tell the story) Fifth - \*transparency\* was used multiple times but there was no transparency. Why wasn't a simplified budget sheet available that started with the mission statement and then walked through ministries, school. (note - focus on Saner and bricks/mortar is only a small part of what the parish is? School was almost completely ignored - why? Ministries ignored?) Sixth - too much time was wasted on flowers (really?); real estate?; library (so much for a virtual parish). Ended on a \*limp\* note - why? End with inviting people; thanking them; and on a high note despite current challenges Are there plans to continue Town Hall meetings?

If possible, more greeters. Find a way to make sure people meet and converse with at least 6 people they donot know.

The dinner was delicious. However the next time snacks could be provided which would shorten the time.

Due to the very open space of the Hall, hearing was difficult and when using a hand microphone speech needs to slow down to better understand.

Please continue having the Communications Committee provide in the parish bulletin the weekly and YTD/quarterly church \$ collections. I see that the collections are way below what \$ amount the parish needs to survive.

It was financing/funding centric, it need it a bit more balance. Where are we going spiritually, socially, financially, etc...? Besides facilities what other investment are we making?

Need to provide more interaction between presenters and attendees.

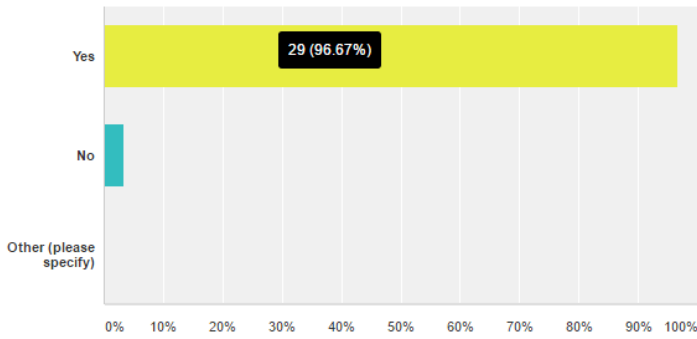
<p>Since we don't know each other well enough, I suggest we have the cafeteria open every sunday, and have a place where we can sit down and chat with one another , briefly before or after masses... either a ministry have a cookout sale at the kitchen , Maybe spark a little fraternity and fellowship , like other parishes have( St. Monica, Catedral, Mary Immaculate)</p>
<p>Attendees at this TH mtg did not represent the ethnic diversity of our parish. Hope future meetings do.</p>
<p>The acoustics were not real good. It could have been because of where I was sitting but the words almost sounded like an echo. Speaker may have been too close to the mike</p>
<p>The meeting leader(s) should talk less and ask questions</p>
<p>Cordless mic, and another person to wander the room .</p>
<p>Way too talky. Talked to attendees who said they couldn't hear or didn't understand the speaker. Better visuals would help. One point per slide. Still, a good and worthwhile effort and an interesting insight into some financial issues.</p>
<p>1. Have a cordless mic 2. Have persons asking &amp; answering questions to introduce Themselves 3. Have the school board president answer the school-related questions 4. There was a bit of an 'us vs them' attitude with semantics (us as the task force / you as everyone not on the task force. Perhaps use "we" and "us parishioners" more instead of "us" and "you guys" Over-all, VERY peofessional, great dinner, wine at tables a great touch. Looking forward to the next one</p>
<p>I came with the intention of sharing my thoughts but the townhall ran over on time. I had to leave to put my son to bed so I missed a lot of stuff. It felt family friendly and the program agenda was promising when an end time of 8 but at 8 they were still discussing the construction. That was information that should be shared in the bulletin because there really is nothing to discuss.</p>
<p>I suggest doing this quarterly</p>
<p>Are there any questions that you felt were not asked and/or answered?</p>
<p>A big THANK YOU for the opportunity to learn more about Holy Trinity. I was so glad to be there.</p>
<p>I was surprised that the number of students enrolled in Faith Formation was not included in the brochure. I do have questions. Will forward to the HTinfo email address soon.</p>
<p>Three questions were *poorly* answered. a) construction equipment - sorry, but it does give an appearance that the parish is financially fine. If it has been in the bulletin, it should be a permanent corner in the bulletin with brief description, funding, and progress. b) Current Fiscal Sheet - simply showing income; expenditures; savings. It was explained that there is one saving amount left that is being spent down and it keeps HT in the black given the stewardship deficit. It appears that this saving amount will help HT break even in 2016 but by this time in 2017, the parish will be in debt if spending is not addressed? Why skirt around this issue? There was no explanation of current steps taken to reduce spending e.g. staff positions eliminated; what has the school done?; salaries frozen, etc. What is going on with the diocese to address this issue? c) School - info shows 102 students which means the school can not even break even - what is that exact point? Info shows that school improvements (more than \$250,000 over two years) has shifted the school from minority majority to predominantly white - is the parish mission to provide a subsidized private school experience? (note - do not think so). What is the financial requirement between school and family and parish stewardship? Are there plans to work with the diocese on options going forward – make HT a school for the very young? Partner with another parish? Bring in groups such as Teach for America? Comment - suggest that leading with money is not the best way to build the parish. Need to start with building a community; stewardship needs to recognize and thank time, sweat, efforts and not just monetary giving. Realize that the Town Hall Q&amp;A was aimed for bricks/mortar but that gets it backwards. Building community is counterintuitive - catholic parishes are about MISSION (not internal navel gazing).</p>
<p>Development of relationships is key to any organizations success. When people signup for an activit, it is imperative that they be contacted by more than one person welcoming them. Perhaps even meeting</p>

them for coffee to get to know one another.
What will happen to the empty room by the sacristy?
I believe something submitted a question on Dallas Area Interfaith that was not answered.
Why isn't there a dress color/uniform for thye ushers? I mean several parishes have volunteers dress up same pant color/ long sleeve shirts same color , too.
How diverse is the task force?
Yes, when questions were asked about the support for the parish school and questions about our deficit financing some felt there was a lack of directness and transparency
If the point was to answer questions, then this didn't meet the goal. Questions on index cards were asked for, but not addressed. Main question re constant shortfalls, as shown in weekly bulletin, not addressed to my understanding.
-how much the church funds the school: should have deferred to school board president to address question.
For future Town Hall meetings and communication,are there other topics/area of interest you would like more information on?
Will there be a Town Hall for the Hispanic Ministry?
Understanding the school - what is future projection- is it viable- does it weigh on the viability of the parish How many of the students are Catholic and how many families are parishioners.
Updates on the work of the different committees -- welcoming, and communications. Other committees/groups? I will continue to keep your mission/monthly meetings in my daily prayers! Your commitment and hard work is appreciated very much. Thank you for hosting the Town Hall.
Allow me to start with the tabernacle story. It will highlight the current perception by some of the parish: - thank you for the pastor's explanation but what It revealed was that the same small group (appointed; not elected - and why aren't they elected?) two years in a row pushed their own liturgical piety (in opposition to Vatican II and the universal church and Diocese of Dallas). What would you expect from the same small group - *access* was the justification. This is not a *reason* but an *excuse* and a poor one. (BTW - pastors used to refuse communion in the cup because it might cause traffic jams in the parking lot because it took too long - bogus) Closing the daily chapel in the staff office (access) led to this issue. There was no explanation around the COST of church access, heating, air conditioning, or the Saner Fund covering cost of cameras. Access - the 40 year old Eucharistic chapel could have had *access* addressed - was this investigated? Plans to address this have been around since the late 1980s. - Was the diocese involved in this local decision? Was there any education? Reality - this was explained as a few folks with Pittman money (and Bill/Judy's piety on display) pushing *NOSTALGIA* - that is not what the church is about. Of course, HT had a tabernacle in the sanctuary 40 years ago - in fact, it was to the side and almost every church in the US had tabernacles in the sanctuary. Sorry, this is just another reform of the reform knee jerk reaction based upon personal but poor Eucharistic education. - the give away was this.....the parish people were not asked or involved in this decision? Even when the decision was made, there was no prior education or announcement with an adequate explanation. Why? (this is an example of a perception that a small group runs the parish; there is poor communication; that it is top down; and thus a key part of community building - TRUST - is not engendered or supported Welcoming Committee - there were no handouts explaining the plan of action, approach, etc. Communications Committee - same as above There was little Hispanic presence - why? Again, key folks have to INVITE (bulletin insert will not do). We did not hear from the school; from the St. Vincent DePaul Society and Trinity Center ....why not? RCIA - no news? Flyer listed sacraments received (guessing YTD?) Yet, no explanation (how about sacrament of the sick? no mention of that ministry to the sick/homebound/ etc. Faith Formation - nothing Adult Education - nothing Liturgy/Music - nothing You get the message - so little updates,

<p>information. Final Comment - the tabernacle issue with all of the current parish challenges tells its own story about priorities. It is like re-arranging the deck chairs on the Titanic. Sad! Allow to end quoting from Commonweal - Starving in the Pews: "First, do no harm. Don't ask for money. Stick to the basics. God loves us. Strive for justice. Ask for mercy, and grant it. Follow saintly examples. Tell a story or two. Activate our spiritual imaginations. Show forth the paradox of demandingness: churches which challenge their congregations with concrete, difficult demands of virtue, love, justice, and mercy are paradoxically more likely to retain their members and attract new ones. And then show how God comforts the fallen and afflicted -- in other words, those holy souls in front of you.</p>
<p>Plans for increasing school enrollment, or what to do with a school that cannot be sustained as it is. Maybe time for some kind of different Catholic education focus.</p>
<p>Maybe put together written information on topics mentioned at this meeting about perhaps re-forming an altar society and individual participation in donating flowers for the church throughout the year, maybe in memory of loved ones.</p>
<p>Weekly Cash flow.</p>
<p>Ministry to the SINGLE Catholics(18yrs and older) including the divorced, separated, widowed, never married of all ages. We represent about 40% of all catholics.</p>
<p>Everyone did a fantastic job in organizing this meeting. Thanks.</p>
<p>Future of the school</p>
<p>07 OCT 2016 HTCC NEEDS MORE \$ COLLECTIONS - TO REMAIN A VIABLE AND VIBRANT UPTOWN DALLAS PARISH!!! The Very Best, Jimmy Ray Zavislak</p>
<p>Explore a deeper theological framework for our parish. It is maintenance or mission! THESE kind of issues especially in the day of Pope Francis would be helpful! Thanks for all your efforts!</p>
<p>Shirts printed with HolyTrinity logo for all volunteers</p>
<p>Youth Ministry Parish directory Listing of requests for prayer in the bulletin</p>
<p>Instead of parish wide town hall meetings quarterly perhaps two town hall meetings solely for new parishioners might help engage them more and also provide valuable feedback</p>
<p>Outreach and other volunteer opportunities.</p>
<p>I think starting with a meal was great but start sooner and stick to the time so that those of us with little ones have time to go home to put them to bed and not miss out on the discussions. Also I didn't see many people from the Spanish mass. was it announced at Spanish mass? It was in the bulletin BUT last week they ran out of bulletins before the 11 am mass. Also I know there are some ministries in Spanish but I did not see them listed on the Brochure that was passed out. Why were they left off? I will come to another one (and encourage others) if I see results based on tonight's meeting.</p>

### Did you feel welcomed at this Town Hall Meeting?

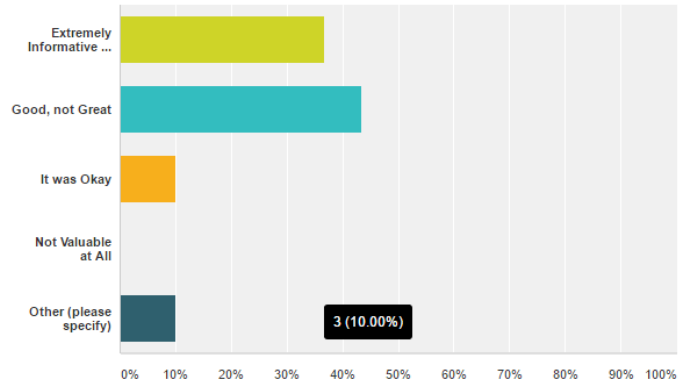
Answered: 30 Skipped: 0



Answer Choices	Responses
Yes	96.67% 29
No	3.33% 1
Other (please specify)	0.00% 0
<b>Total</b>	<b>30</b>

### How did you value your experience at the Holy Trinity Town Hall Meeting?

Answered: 30 Skipped: 0



Answer Choices	Responses
Extremely Informative and Engaging	36.67% 11
Good, not Great	43.33% 13
It was Okay	10.00% 3
Not Valuable at All	0.00% 0
Other (please specify)	10.00% 3

● Responses (3) Text Analysis My Categories

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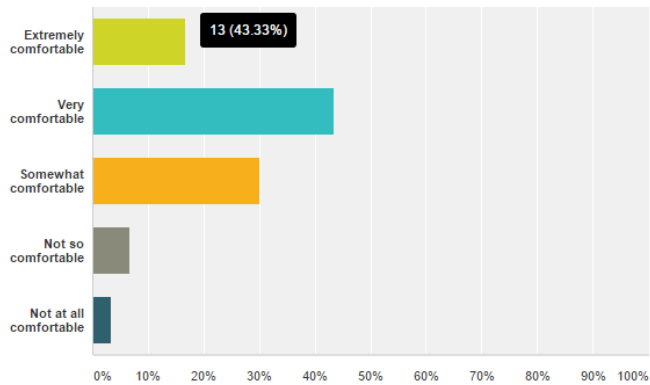
Categorize as... Filter by Category Search responses

Showing 3 responses

- It was informative.  
10/11/2016 9:31 PM [View respondent's answers](#)
- Missed Opportunity and thus disappointed  
10/9/2016 1:25 PM [View respondent's answers](#)
- People were very timid to speak.  
10/7/2016 7:48 AM [View respondent's answers](#)

### How comfortable did you feel voicing your opinions, questions or concerns?

Answered: 30 Skipped: 0

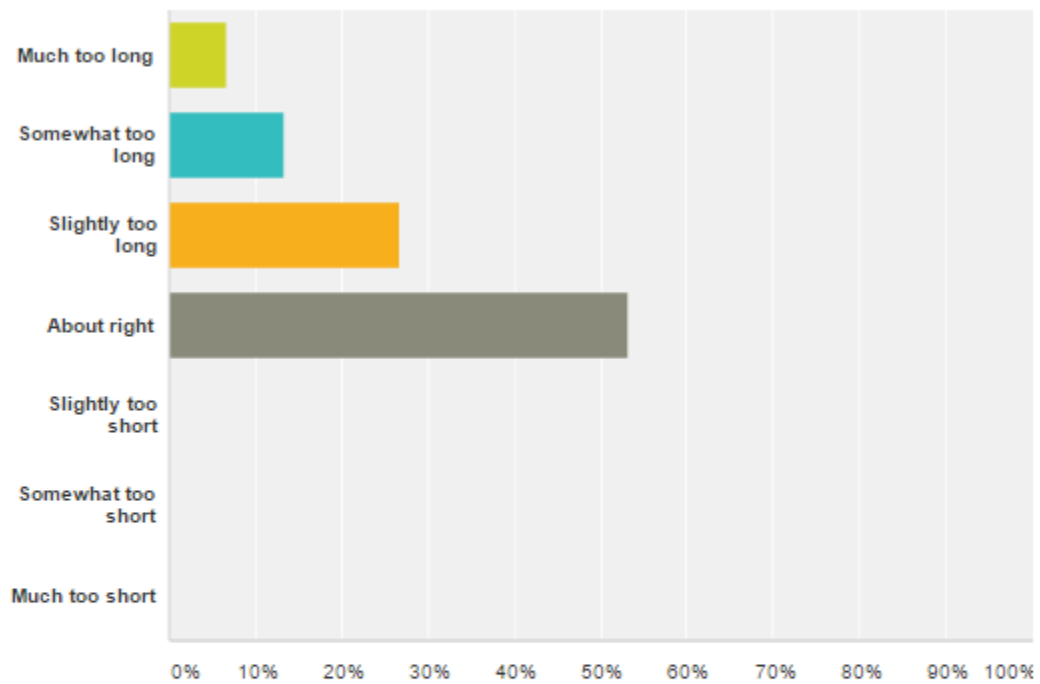


Answer Choices	Responses
Extremely comfortable	16.67% 5
Very comfortable	43.33% 13
Somewhat comfortable	30.00% 9
Not so comfortable	6.67% 2
Not at all comfortable	3.33% 1



## Was the Holy Trinity Town Hall Meeting length too long, too short, or about right?

Answered: 30 Skipped: 0

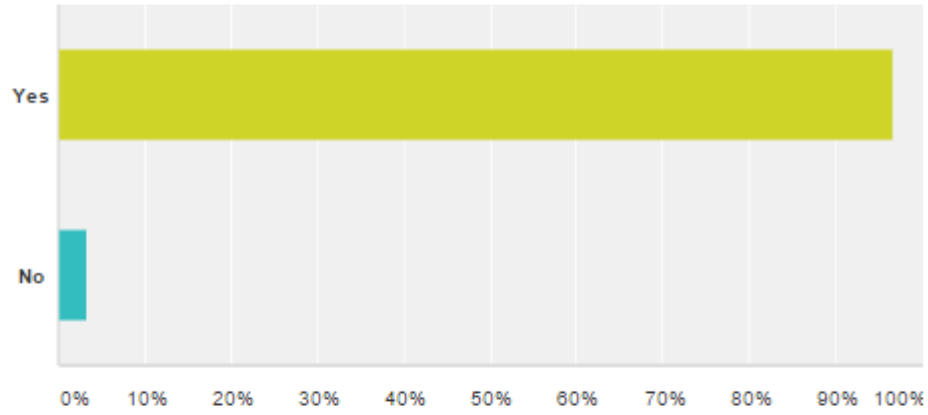


Answer Choices	Responses
▼ Much too long	6.67% 2
▼ Somewhat too long	13.33% 4
▼ Slightly too long	26.67% 8
▼ About right	53.33% 16
▼ Slightly too short	0.00% 0
▼ Somewhat too short	0.00% 0
▼ Much too short	0.00% 0



### Would you recommend attending a Town Hall meeting to other parishioners?

Answered: 30 Skipped: 0



Answer Choices	Responses	
▾ Yes	96.67%	29
▾ No	3.33%	1
Total		30