

3/57 Hunter Street,
GREENSLOPES. 4120

1st April, 1978.

The Chairman,
Board of Officers,
Ann Street Church of Christ,
430 Ann Street,
BRISBANE.

Dear Sir,

The following is the report of the Committee appointed following a resolution at the 1977 Annual Business Meeting of the Ann Street Church of Christ, to carry out a survey in accordance with the following motion:

"With a view to gaining information on how best to serve the needs of the Ann Street Church of Christ members, as a legitimate end in its own right, but also as a base for more effective service and witness in the community, it is moved that a study be conducted to cover the following areas:

- (a) investigation of the role of the Ann Street church as a city church;
- (b) the obtaining of information from individual members about their needs in relation to the church;
- (c) the carrying out of a survey which will yield information about the church membership insofar as finding in what areas they live, age groupings and employment status, and any other areas that may assist in gaining a picture, in a sociological sense, of the membership the church is aiming to serve."

The aim of the above motion was as follows (included in motion):

"This kind of information would enable the church to set goals in terms of where it is going, whether it wants to concentrate its resources on helping one section of the congregation or another (e.g., the young or older sections of the membership), a list of priorities with regard to areas of need, and should hopefully give a uniting sense of purpose to the church as they work together on a common task which they can identify."

The people forming the committee were Mrs. G. Rigby, Miss B. McCulloch, Mr. K. Ludgater, Mr. D. Stocks and Miss P. Joyner (Convenor). Mr. H. Risson was originally appointed as well, but withdrew because of illhealth at the outset. Several joint meetings were held as well as individual consultations between committee members. In addition several other people assisted in a consultative role or with practical tasks in the preparation of the questionnaire. To these people the committee would particularly like to express their thanks, as well as, of course, to all those who devoted time, effort and thought to completing the questionnaire. It was a time-consuming task, and we appreciate the efforts of so many in this regard.

The response rate, however, was somewhat disappointing. The questionnaires were distributed during the latter portion of 1977. Fifty-nine were returned, fully or partially completed. This represented approximately 35 per cent of the number distributed. Fifty-three indicated they were regular attenders (at least once a month) at Ann Street services, and it was clear that people who did not attend church regularly were disproportionately represented amongst those who did not respond. This is a matter for sadness, as it was hoped that the survey would reveal areas where our church was perhaps not meeting their needs, so that, if considered appropriate, attempts could have been made to rectify the situation. With only two respondents indicating they attended other than regularly, it was considered not useful to compile results for them as a separate subgroup, and where appropriate their responses have been included in the total group's.

It is estimated that the response rate was approximately 50 per cent of regular church attenders, and that the representation of church families in

returns would probably be higher - it is not possible, however, to give even an approximate answer on this. All people associated with Ann Street Church of Christ (members and non-members), from 11 years of age, were given the opportunity to express their views through the survey. Age and sex composition of the group responding was as follows (ages grouped according to divisions used in subgroup results):

Over 60:	20	Males:	25
26 - 60:	30	Females:	30
11 - 25:	5	Not advised:	4
Not advised:	4		

The somewhat low response rate raises the question of the representativeness of results. While non-response may indicate no problems, it could also indicate physical inability, apathy, cynicism, etc., and it is not possible to really interpret how the other half feel. All had the opportunity to respond, however, and the wide range of suggestions made, and the picture presented by ratings, should not be disregarded because many did not take up the opportunities given them.

Three people indicated they were so concerned about particular issues that they would like to be involved in any general discussions about the matters. Details will be provided verbally.

Not as much sociological data as desired was collected - in order to preserve anonymity. The response rate meant here too only a partial picture of the membership emerged.

Many respondents commented on apathy and/or lack of involvement of members in activities and functioning of the church. It was this, of course, at a personal level, which prompted the moves towards the proposition to carry out the survey not in the sense of how to prod the inactive into activity, but how the church can meet the individual's needs so they will be inspired to work towards the goals of the church. As has been well said by one respondent: "Activities may be good, but if that is all they are, they are worth nothing at all". The aim of the survey was to find out how best we can make Christ and the various aspects of His Church, meaningful to those associated with our church. While this is valid in its own right, it is a well-known precept that people are only motivated to work and to stay working, towards goals which are consistent with their own goals, and indeed we do need the workers! In the area of church functioning, the following comment would seem just as relevant as in other spheres of community life:

"For the achievement of high levels of organizational effectiveness, people must join and remain in the organization, they must perform dependably the roles assigned to them, and they must engage in occasional innovative and cooperative behaviour beyond the requirements of the role, but in the service of organizational objectives." (D. Katz & R.L. Kahn The Social Psychology of Organizations. New York: Wiley, 1966, p. 388)

The following comments from respondents well place our task in perspective

"The city church is in many respects the 'shop front' for the conference. Hence it should seek to provide a reliable lead and balanced presentation of the Gospel to an even greater extent than is the need in suburban churches. Ideally it should present a balanced programme including all aspects of church life."

"(We have) an ageing membership with fewer future members to continue what is becoming an increasingly difficult work due to social pressures, community stands, sociological changes, etc.."

It is encouraging for the committee to note the comment also made that "this survey should make us think and urge us to aspire for better things".

Thank you for the privilege of serving the Church and our Lord in this way. We commend the findings to you, the Officers of the Board, for your prayerful and serious consideration.

Yours faithfully,

Pam Jayner

(Convenor)

i.

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS OF SURVEY CONDUCTED INTO THE
ROLE OF THE ANN STREET CHURCH OF CHRIST

The questionnaire was distributed to 168 people, and was completed by 59 (35 per cent). This number, consisting almost exclusively of people attending our Church at least once a month, represented possibly 50 per cent of regular attenders, and an even higher proportion of church families.

CHURCH GOALS

Most important goals for a local church (Question A(i)) were seen to be Preaching the Gospel, Teaching about Christ and Christian living, Prayer for those in need, Advocacy of Christian standards, Activities for young people, and Spiritual guidance, all of which received average ratings greater than 4.50 on a 5-point scale. Least important were Opportunity for discussion re community and current affairs, Stimulus for cultural activities in the community, Teaching about other Christian denominations and organizations, Healing, and Teaching about religions other than Christianity, all with average ratings less than 2.6).

When direct nominations for most important goals are counted (Question A(ii)), Activities for families as a whole, with 13 nominations, must be added to the above list, with the first two activities mentioned, Preaching the Gospel, and Teaching about Christ and Christian living, clearly being deemed the most important (32 and 30 nominations respectively).

Ann Street was seen as facing a variety of problems (Question D). Those mentioned most often were:

- Apathy/lack of involvement
- Losing/lack of young people
- Location, particularly as it affects transport.

Various solutions were suggested to these problems, including greater use of latent talents, more youth activities, concurrent or consecutive meetings on the one night, provision of a bus, and a survey of transport needs and problems.

SATISFACTION OF INDIVIDUAL NEEDS

Respondents were asked to rate how satisfied they were that the Church was meeting their needs (Question E(I)). Ratings recorded ranged from extremely dissatisfied (-5) to extremely satisfied (+5) on an 11-point scale, with six people giving neutral or negative ratings. Overall, however, an average rating of +2.74 was recorded, suggesting that people were moderately satisfied with the way our Church was meeting their needs.

Specific Need Areas

Respondents had been asked to rate the extent to which they felt various need areas should ideally be met through our Church (Ideal) (Question E(II) (i)). The results indicated that on average they felt our Church should be responsible for the satisfaction of a great deal of all the needs listed. People were also asked to rate the extent they felt the need was actually being met (Actual)(Question E(ii)), and from these two sets of ratings were derived "discrepancy" scores. Where the individual's rating for Ideal was higher than his rating for Actual for an item, it was considered there was less of that need being met than he desired; where his rating for Ideal was lower than that for Actual, it was considered there was more of the particular activity than he wanted. In both instances, a degree of dissatisfaction would be likely to be present, with the greater the discrepancy or difference between Ideal and Actual, the greater the degree of dissatisfaction. Where there was no discrepancy (where ratings for Ideal were the same as for Actual), it was considered the individual was satisfied with regard to that area of need.

In Table A attached are given for each need area the number of respondents who recorded the various discrepancy scores possible. It will be

TABLE A

Number of respondents recording the Various Ideal/Actual Discrepancy Scores¹ Possible, and Giving Also Average Discrepancy Scores for the Various Need Areas Considered

Need area ²	Discrepancy scores											Average rating
	Negative (Actual less than Ideal)					Nil (Actual = Ideal)	Positive (Actual more than Ideal)					
	-5	-4	-3	-2	-1	0	+1	+2	+3	+4	+5	
k. Worship		1	4	4	9	12						-1.10
f. Spiritual growth		6	6	7	8	2						-2.21
c. Evangelism		2	8	8	11	1						-1.97
l. Your balanced growth as a person		1	3	15	6	3						-1.75
d. Fellowship		1	2	3	14	4						-1.38
a. Christian education/learning	1		4	8	15	2						-1.60
h. Training	1	7	7	7	3	5						-2.37
j. Use of talents		2	6	5	9	7						-1.55
e. Personal help		2	6	9	4	5	1					-1.74
g. The brotherhood			2	6	6	14	2					-0.73
b. Community service		2	7	6	6	7	1					-1.59

1. Ideal/Actual Discrepancy Scores obtained by subtracting the rating the individual made for Actual (Question E(I)(ii)) from that which he made for Ideal (Question E(I)(i)). The larger the discrepancy, the greater the dissatisfaction felt with regard to how that area of need was perceived as being met. No discrepancy indicates satisfaction.

2. Listed in order of average ratings for the extent it was perceived Ideal that the particular need be met by our Church (ratings for Question E(I)(i)). That is, Worship received the highest rating for Ideal, Community Service the lowest. However, respondents gave ratings which indicated that (on average) they felt, at the least, a great deal of their needs in all the areas listed should ideally be met through our Church. This means that although Community service received lowest average rating (in fact, 3.59 on a 0 to 5 scale) it was still conceived of as being an area in which the Church should be involved to a great extent.

NOTE: It must be pointed out that as only half the respondents completed ratings for Question E(II), generalizability of results is, regrettably, low.

noted that for the areas of The Brotherhood and Worship, a sizeable proportion of the respondents were satisfied. This was not so for most need areas, however. In 7 of the 11 areas listed, fewer than six people recorded satisfaction (no Ideal/Actual discrepancy).

In Table A, the items are listed in order of the ratings they received for Ideal, with, for example, Worship receiving the highest rating, Community service the lowest. This order was used as a guide, as in principle, great discrepancies in one area of need may not be so off-putting as small discrepancies in another. This would occur, for instance, if it were considered by respondents that they look to the Church more for the satisfaction of the latter need than the former. On this principle, the need in the area of Spiritual Growth could be more potent a source of dissatisfaction than the need in the area of Training, as Spiritual Growth received higher average ratings for the extent that need should ideally be met through our Church. Nevertheless, it must be remembered that in this instance, as stated above, respondents looked to our Church on the whole to meet their needs to at least a great extent in all the areas listed, so all perceived unmet needs should be taken seriously.

Average discrepancy was greatest in the area of Training, least in the area of The Brotherhood. The actual order of the need areas, according to this criterion, is as follows:

Training	Your balanced growth as	Use of talents
Spiritual growth	a person	Fellowship
Evangelism	Community service	Worship
Personal help	Christian education/ learning	The Brotherhood

These need areas, together with written and rating responses throughout the questionnaire, were classified under six headings. Suggestions made, and comments, in relation to these various areas include the following:

I. Training.

Suggestions included provision of training, particularly in areas of presiding, teaching, interpersonal helping and leadership, of young people, and by means of life skills programmes. Identification of and use of the talents of Church members was urged.

II. Spiritual Growth.

Associated with very high ratings for Ideal for both Worship and Spiritual Growth. Worship needs appeared to be much more satisfactorily met than Spiritual Growth needs. There was also less discrepancy with regard to Christian Education needs than with Spiritual Growth needs. Suggestions made could be largely classified under "aids" and "programmes". The former included the provision of relevant reading material, greater involvement of the choir in morning services, and more congregational participation in services. Programmes advocated included more Bible Study, with particular mention of an adult Bible School, and courses in related background topics. Ways of increasing the efficacy of the Bible School were also suggested - for example, teacher training, reintroduction of assessment, and greater Church interest in the learning activities of the Bible School.

III. Evangelism/Outreach.

Third highest priority with regard to Ideal, third greatest perceived discrepancy. Visitation and outreach to local area received attention. There were some conflicting views expressed as to how the evangelism should be carried out. There was little mention of "mission fields" beyond our immediate vicinity.

IV. Personal help.

Some felt this was an area for more shared responsibility amongst the membership. The development of a system to provide practical help where needed was also advocated. The greater use of our Church buildings in community service was a popular theme - for example, for provision of counselling services, to be open for passers-by to seek solace. Several groups of people were

iv.

mentioned as possible recipients of our concern in this area.

V. Fellowship.

In lowest group with regard to discrepancy. Nevertheless there was a lot of emphasis on provision of activities for young people. A men's group, cultural activities and special interest groups were also advocated, as were focus on visitors, and the distribution amongst members of the addresses of church members.

VI. The Brotherhood.

Lowest discrepancy, second lowest in rankings for Ideal. It was clear there were no great unmet needs in this area, although there was some focus on the need for less isolation from and greater bonding of the Brotherhood. There was also some mention of church unity and greater communication and sharing with other local denominations. The role of the Ann Street church as spokesman for the brotherhood also gained attention.

SOCIOLOGICAL DATA

Residence: Of the 31 people who indicated the suburb in which they lived, 17 lived within a 5 km. radius of the city centre, and 14 between 6 and 15 kms..

Sex: While the composition of the group given the questionnaire was 60% female and 40% male, response rate according to sex was approximately 30% and 37% respectively.

Marital status: Of those who declared marital status, a ratio of 2:1 prevailed of married to single respondents. Seven of the latter were widowed.

Attendance at Ann Street: Half of those answering this question had attended Ann Street church for 18 years or longer, with an average overall of 24 years. All but two of the respondents who answered the question indicated they attended Church at least once a month.

Churches of Christ membership: Of the 56 who answered this question, 53 were members of the Churches of Christ, and 50 of these were in membership at Ann Street. Average length of membership of the Churches of Christ was 32 years, with half having been members for more than 30 years. Five of the respondents anticipated removal within the next four years.

Roles: Overall average number of roles carried out by respondents was 3.33. Almost half carried out fewer than 3 roles, while 6 indicated they carried out more than 6 roles. Number of roles did not appear to bear relationship to satisfaction ratings.

Time potential: The majority of the 42 respondents to this question declared their available time to be in excess of that demanded by present structure - this applying more to during the week than on Sunday. Fifteen respondents declared that their available time exceeded 6 hours per week. As a realistic estimate was called for, the observation is made that this may represent considerable potential for exploitation.

Transport:

Public transport: Used by only 3 on Sunday and 4 during the week. Observation is made that public transport is not a significant factor. However, attention is drawn to the problems of the minority dependent upon public transport.

Private transport: As the majority of cars carry two or more passengers, and 8 people report travelling in cars carrying 5 or more passengers, observation is made that a fairly economic use is already being made of private transport. Lack of transport was mentioned by only one respondent as reason for non-attendance. However, as noted above, transport presented as one of the areas perceived as a problem by those associated with our Church.

Reasons preventing people from greater attendance: Reasons given in response to this question included work commitments, age, distance, parking, commitments to other congregations, lack of time and lack of motivation.

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The foregoing is a summary only of findings from the survey. Much greater detail is contained in the full report.

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REPORT OF FINDINGS OF SURVEY CONDUCTED INTO THE ROLE
OF THE ANN STREET CHURCH OF CHRIST

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TERMS COMMONLY USED

Age/sex subgroups: Respondents were divided into subgroups according to age, as follows:

11 - 25: Youth
26 - 60: Adults
Over 60: Elderley

Ratings recorded by people within these subgroups were analyzed, as were those for total female respondents and total male respondents, regardless of age. Some people were excluded from such subgroups as they had indicated neither their sex nor age.

Average: Sum of ratings given by respondents divided by number completing question.

Direct nominations: Responses to Question A(ii), where people were asked to list the numbers of the items they considered to be the most important goals of a local church.

Discrepancy: (Individual ratings for Ideal) minus (Individual ratings for Actual)
(Ideal: responses to question E(II) (i))
(Actual: responses to question E(II)(ii))

Discrepancy scores recorded by individuals were then summed and averaged as with other ratings, to give an average discrepancy score for the group. The greater the discrepancy score, the greater the degree of dissatisfaction felt. Complete satisfaction would be indicated where there was no discrepancy between Ideal and Actual. Discrepancy could be negative or positive, implying respectively an absence or an excess in the way the particular need was met.

N: Number of people (usually completing ratings)

Range: Lowest and highest individual ratings recorded for an item. A narrow range (e.g. 2 - 4) suggests consistency of views on the matter, a wide range (e.g., 0 - 5) indicates considerable variation.

Rank: Position in the list when items are ordered according to average ratings.

REPORT OF FINDINGS OF SURVEY CONDUCTED INTO THE
ROLE OF THE ANN STREET CHURCH OF CHRIST

SECTION I

Importance of Various Activities in a Local Church

Table 1, below, gives details of results for question A(i), where respondents were asked to provide a rating of the importance they attributed to each of a list of possible goals for a local Christian church, on a 0 to 5 scale, where 0 indicated "no importance", and 5, "extreme importance". Activities are listed in order of average rating obtained. Included also in this table are the range of scores recorded for the different activities, and the number of direct nominations received for "most important goals", in response to Question A(ii). Table 2 gives average ratings within sub-groups.

It will be seen from Table 1 that Preaching of the Gospel, and Teaching about Christ and Christian living were deemed to be the most important activities according to both mean ratings and direct nominations of most important goals. There was little difference between average ratings for many of the items, but it should be noted that for no fewer than 12 of the 33 activities (particularly amongst those in the lower half of average ratings), the entire range of ratings was represented (0 to 5). That is, some people felt that activity was of extreme importance, and others that it was of no importance at all!

This, of course, highlights the difficulties of catering for the interests and outlooks of a highly diverse group of people; it also draws attention to the fact that people do have quite different views, and this has to be coped with in programming. As one person so descriptively put it: "You just can't get good fellowship at a deep level with the conglomerate membership of Ann Street all lumped into one activity".

Results for individual items, and additional goals of a local church suggested by respondents, will be discussed more fully under relevant headings in Section II. Responses from Questions B and C have also been classified according to those headings, to promote ease of interpretation of results. In only one instance was this classification not possible, in relation to the request of one respondent that the Board of Officers keep church members more informed of its decisions.

Problems Faced in Achievement of Church Goals

Participants were asked (Question D) to indicate any particular problems they saw our Church as having in relation to achieving its goals, and if possible, to suggest solutions to these problems. The problem areas suggested in response to this question, and in other parts of the questionnaire, were as follows:

(a) Lack of Losing Young People

The lack of young people in our membership was by far the problem mentioned most often by respondents. Ten people mentioned this area specifically, while many others, by their concern for the development of youth activities, indirectly referred to the problem. The main cause of this problem was seen as the sloughing off of young and active members to new causes, or upon marriage, when they move to outer suburbs. Specific effects of this pattern which were mentioned, were:

- (i) lack of peers for the young people who remain;
- (ii) few in the intermediate generation for the young people to look up to;
- (iii) the threat to the survival of the church through:

- (A) an increasingly ageing membership, becoming less able to attend church activities;
- (B) lack of present and future leadership; and
- (C) few to take up even the everyday roles of the church.

Average ratings, rank based on average ratings, and range of ratings given in relation to importance of various activities in a local church; giving also details of number of direct nominations made for activities as being amongst most important goals.

Activity (listed according to rank)	Average rating	Rank	N	Range	Direct Nominations	
					No.	Rank
22. Preaching of the Gospel	4.78	1	55	2 - 5	32	1
28. Teaching about Christ & Christian living	4.77	2	57	3 - 5	30	2
21. Prayer for those in need	4.58	3	55	2 - 5	13	5.5
5. Advocacy of Christian standards	4.56	4	55	0 - 5	14	4
4. Activities for young people	4.54	5	57	2 - 5	15	3
25. Spiritual guidance	4.51	6	55	3 - 5	12	7
7. Avenues for worship	4.48	7	56	2 - 5	9	
9. Development of present & future leadership	4.38	8	57	1 - 5	8	
12. Fellowship	4.33	9	57	3 - 5	11	8.5
19. Practical help & assistance to members/adherents at times of illness/distress	4.26	10	57	2 - 5	4	
1. Activities for families as a whole	4.21	11	56	1 - 5	13	5.5
11. Evangelical outreach to the community	4.13	12	56	1 - 5	11	8.5
27. Support for brotherhood depts. concerned with wider mission of the church	4.12	13	57	1 - 5	2	
6. Avenues for Christian service by members	4.11	14	56	2 - 5	2	
8. Counselling for personal & family problems	4.05	15	57	2 - 5	2	
33. Training for undertaking roles in church	4.08	16	57	0 - 5	3	
32. Teaching techniques of worship, prayer, witnessing	3.89	17	56	0 - 5	4	
29. Teaching about the history & doctrine of the Churches of Christ	3.81	18	57	1 - 5	10	10
20. Practical help & assistance to people outside church at times of illness etc.	3.70	19	57	0 - 5	4	
10. Educational programmes	3.63	20	57	0 - 5	5	
14. Help to members in identifying and developing their talents & skills	3.42	21	57	0 - 5	3	
23. Social activities	3.33	22.5	57	1 - 5	2	
16. Opportunity for discussion of matters of brotherhood concern	3.33	22.5	57	1 - 5	0	
15. Help for specific groups in the community not usually within the specific focus of church life (examples given)	3.28	24	56	1 - 5	2	
17. Opportunity for discussion of church union	2.88	25	57	1 - 5	3	
3. Activities for older people as a group	2.83	26	57	0 - 5	1	
2. Activities for men/women separately	2.77	27	56	0 - 4	2	
24. Special interest groups/sporting groups	2.75	28	57	0 - 5	0	
18. Opportunity for discussion re community and current affairs	2.64	29	56	0 - 5	3	
26. Stimulus for cultural activities	2.63	30	57	0 - 5	0	
30. Teaching about other Christian denoms.	2.60	31	57	0 - 5	2	
13. Healing	2.52	32	52	0 - 5	1	
31. Teaching abt. non-Christian religions	1.74	33	57	0 - 4	0	

Table 2. Total and Subgroup Average Ratings Given in Relation to Importance of Various Activities in a Local Church.

Activity (listed in order of presentation)	Total	Elder- ley	Adults	Youth	Total Males	Total Females
1. Activities for families as a whole	4.21	4.05	4.13	5.00	4.29	4.07
2. Activities for men/women separately	2.77	3.00	2.50	3.00	2.67	3.11
3. Activities for older people as a group	2.83	2.66	2.93	3.00	2.60	3.03
4. Activities for young people	4.54	4.68	4.43	4.50	4.58	4.48
5. Advocacy of Christian standards	4.56	4.83	4.40	4.00	4.42	4.63
6. Avenues for Christian service by members.	4.11	4.33	4.03	4.25	4.08	4.21
7. Avenues for worship	4.48	4.63	4.41	4.25	4.54	4.43
8. Counselling for personal and family problems.	4.05	4.05	4.20	3.00	4.00	4.10
9. Development of present and future leadership.	4.38	4.58	4.23	4.50	4.50	4.27
10. Educational programmes	3.63	3.84	3.40	3.75	3.58	3.59
11. Evangelical outreach to community	4.13	4.55	3.87	3.75	4.09	4.10
12. Fellowship	4.33	4.42	4.23	4.50	4.21	4.41
13. Healing	2.52	3.12	2.34	1.00	2.45	2.52
14. Help to members in identifying and/developing their talents and skills	3.42	3.31	3.63	2.25	3.21	3.62
15. Help for specific groups in the community not usually within the specific focus of church life (examples)	3.28	3.44	3.10	2.75	3.00	3.36
16. Opportunity for discussion of matters of brotherhood concern.	3.33	3.58	3.07	3.25	3.12	3.38
17. Opportunity for discussion about church union.	2.88	3.26	2.60	2.25	2.83	2.79
18. Opportunity for discussion re community and current affairs	2.64	2.89	2.37	2.50	2.33	2.75
19. Practical help & assistance to members/adherents at times of illness or distress.	4.26	4.42	4.23	4.25	4.25	4.34
20. Practical help & assistance to people outside the church at times of illness or distress.	3.70	4.10	3.50	3.50	3.37	4.00
21. Prayer for those in need	4.58	4.89	4.55	4.00	4.69	4.57
22. Preaching of the Gospel	4.78	4.88	4.80	4.75	4.87	4.78
23. Social activities	3.33	2.89	3.47	3.50	3.12	3.38
24. Special interest groups/sport	2.75	2.53	2.77	2.75	2.37	2.93
25. Spiritual guidance	4.51	4.55	4.55	4.25	4.48	4.57
26. Stimulus for cultural activities	2.63	2.63	2.53	2.25	2.33	2.72
27. Support for brotherhood depts. concerned with wider mission of church	4.12	4.37	3.97	4.00	4.29	3.96
28. Teaching abt. Christ & Christian living	4.77	4.79	4.87	4.50	4.83	4.79
29. Teaching about history & doctrine of the Churches of Christ	3.81	4.10	3.70	3.50	3.92	3.76
30. Teaching abt. other Christian denomns.	2.60	2.63	2.43	2.75	2.25	2.76
31. Teaching abt. non-Christian religions	1.74	1.58	1.80	1.25	1.50	1.83
32. Teaching techniques of worship, prayer witnessing	3.89	3.95	4.03	3.50	4.17	3.78
33. Training for undertaking Church roles	4.00	4.37	3.93	3.00	4.08	3.96

Main solutions offered were:

- (I) Organization of activities for young people (discussed further in Section II(V));
- (II) Extensive publicity through metropolitan churches on appointment of new minister;
- (III) Outreach, particularly to specific groups of young people - e.g., tertiary students.

(b) Location of Church

While the problem was raised that our church had no real local community from which to draw members, and this imposed limitations on potential growth, the most common issues mentioned with regard to church location were transport problems related to meeting attendance, and the "uncomfortable precincts" of the church, which were discouraging for other than attendance at morning meetings.

Problems of transport and/or parking were noted for all times - both Sunday services and mid week day and evening meetings. Ten people mentioned the problem specifically. Solutions suggested were the following:

- (i) the holding of several meetings concurrently or consecutively on the one day/night so one lot of transport only would be involved;
- (ii) investigation of whether there are those who need transport and those who would be willing to provide it;
- (iii) provision of a bus, which could be used for transporting people to church activities (e.g., services, Bible school, women's meetings), as well as being a useful "vehicle" in possible outreach to areas such as South Brisbane/Valley/Leew Farm and areas where we don't have contact;
- (iv) the establishment of a committee to look at such matters as the acquisition of parking space, and at transport problems in general.

(c) Apathy/Lack of Involvement

Apathy and lack of involvement were mentioned by no fewer than 11 people as problems faced by Ann Street Church.

Seven commented that not enough participated in activities of the Church - three mentioning attendance at prayer meetings, two, attendance at the Gospel services, and one, attendance at the Communion service. With regard to prayer meetings, one comment was: "A church cannot go ahead if their most important 'helper' is ignored". Within these figures, three people specifically commented on the non-involvement of Board members in activities. Three people mentioned lack of enthusiasm and/or apathy amongst members, while three drew attention to the fact that some were not fulfilling commitments they had undertaken.

Few could offer solutions to this problem. Three felt that greater spirituality/deeper commitment to the Lord would overcome the matter, one comment being to the effect that a very strong sense of responsibility would (amongst other things) characterize a spiritually strong congregation. Readers are referred to Section II (II), which covers responses relating specifically to spiritual growth.

Looking at the situation from perhaps a different viewpoint, quite a number of people suggested the Church was not using the talents people had to offer, and should do more to identify and encourage appropriate involvement in church activities. Four (including two of the five young people responding) urged that more opportunity be given for becoming involved in activities, while another four specifically commented that they did not feel people's talents were being effectively or appropriately utilized. A pertinent comment here was "Some would welcome the chance to help in certain ways, but feel they would be intruding as things stand at present". Suggestions as to how this matter can be remedied are included in Section II(I).

6.

(d) Need for Greater Spirituality

While this category could be considered to be directly related to (c) above, it is treated separately, as it is considered that apathy and lack of involvement in church activities can also reflect other than a lack of spirituality or commitment.

The need for a greater depth of spirituality and a deeper commitment to Christ, as a problem faced by our Church, was mentioned specifically by two respondents. One person stressed the need for the following as very important in this regard, and for church growth as a whole: Knowing the Will of God in individual lives, letting the Holy Spirit direct and dictate rather than doing one's own thing, separate activities for men/women, teaching about other Christian denominations, and healing. The other pointed out the widespread effects in church life of a needed spiritual revival. Comments on spiritual growth are covered further in Section II(II).

(e) Non-Accepting Attitude

Three people have commented that problems arise because of a non-accepting attitude. Two particularly urged the creation of a more accepting environment into which non-Christian friends and friends from other denominations can be introduced without discomfort. The third decried the attitude perceived as being, "If one does not agree, he is wrong".

(f) Acceptance of Low Standards

Two people felt that a problem at Ann Street was the acceptance of low standards, particularly of performance. Areas specifically mentioned were the worship services, teaching, organization, fellowship, understanding, and in being genuinely interested in people. A relevant comment was: "A select few is preferable to a conglomerate of incompetents in a city location".

(g) Lack of Leadership

Three respondents commented on the lack of present and future leadership. One pointed out the concern she felt in this regard as the parent of school-age children. Another, commenting specifically on youth leadership, urged the encouragement of the young people we already have - "Don't let them slide away as if they are not important - less sarcasm, more encouragement".

(h) Other

One respondent felt that a problem arose because the Church was tradition-bound and unwilling to change. The artificial quality of fellowship at Ann Street was raised by one respondent. The comment was: "...People who live, work and think, poles apart for the rest of the week ~~met~~ (largely for one hour on Sunday) dressed up to play a role rather than be themselves. Even in midweek activities there is little room for the individual to emerge in his true character".

SECTION II

SATISFACTION OF INDIVIDUAL NEEDS

Section II covers results for Question E, and written comments from sections A, B and C which are referable to the need areas covered. This section deals basically with how our Church is meeting the needs of the people it serves.

Satisfaction Ratings

Respondents were asked firstly to indicate the level of their overall satisfaction with the way our Church was meeting their needs, by circling a number on an 11-point scale which best represented their feelings.

Distribution of results was as follows (-5 indicates rating of extreme dissatisfaction, +5, a rating of extreme satisfaction).

Rating:	-5	-4	-3	-2	-1	0	+1	+2	+3	+4	+5	No answer
Number giving rating:	2	0	1	1	0	2	2	1	25	9	7	9

This means that although the great majority expressed at least moderate satisfaction, nine were less happy than that, and six of these expressed neutral or negative feelings about the matter. The average satisfaction ratings for the total group and the various subgroups were as follows:

	<u>Total group</u>	<u>Elderley</u>	<u>Adults</u>	<u>Youth</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Details unknown</u>
Average rating	+2.74	+3.16	+2.81	+1.33	+2.64	+3.04	0.00
N	50	19	26	3	22	26	2

From the above, average ratings made by the young people and those whose details are unknown, seem, comparatively, to be particularly low. This is in some ways an artefact of the small numbers in these subgroups. In each instance one respondent gave negative ratings.

For known regular attenders, the average satisfaction score was +3.00 (N = 46); that is, they are on average moderately satisfied with the way the church is meeting their needs. This group includes four of those making neutral or negative ratings.

Satisfaction in Specific Need Areas

Respondents were then referred to specific areas of needs they may conceivably have (Question E(II)). Tables 3 and 4 (below) and A (Summary material) give results for this question, where respondents were asked to rate on a 6-point scale:

- (i) the extent to which they would ideally like to find satisfaction of the particular need through our Church and its ministry (Ideal), and
- (ii) the extent to which the need is actually being satisfied (Actual).

Besides giving average ratings, ranks according to these ratings, and the range of scores recorded for each area for both Ideal and Actual, Table 3 includes similar information concerning discrepancy between Ideal and Actual recorded by respondents. Table 4 gives average ratings within subgroups, while Table A (summary material) gave details of the numbers recording the various discrepancy scores possible for each item.

Although people were also asked to record whether it was important or not important to them that the need be met through our Church and its ministry, there were so few people giving responses of "not important" that it was felt it was quite in order to disregard this measure in analysis, and view all areas as being of importance.

Many people experienced difficulty with the rating scales in this section, and only half the respondents completed the ratings for both Ideal and Actual for sufficient items to warrant inclusion in results. This further limits the generalizability of results, but many people who did not complete the ratings still made comments about the issues. A wider sample in the pilot study may have pointed up this problem, but as it was not identified, it must be pointed out that ratings only represent the views of approximately one quarter of the regular attenders, and the views of the majority remain unknown.

With regard to range of ratings, it is interesting to note the group is quite homogeneous with regard to ratings for Ideal, but there is considerable

variation with regard to perceptions of Actual and the discrepancy scores derived (Ideal minus Actual). Again this highlights individual differences which must be catered for if at all possible, in order to meet people's needs. (Further information about calculation of discrepancy scores is given in summary material and the list of common terms used in this report, page 1.

With the above caution about interpretation of ratings for this question, results will now be discussed for the various need areas.

(I) TRAINING

The greatest Ideal/Actual discrepancy was felt in the area of training (average: -2.37). Eight people recorded discrepancy in the maximum range (-4/-5). Apart from this, all other ranks for this area were in the medium range - except for the Actual situation, where it was lowest (average: 1.97). For Ideal, the average rating was 4.33, rank 7th, with the related, Use of talents, 8th, with an average rating of 4.21. Less discrepancy was felt with this latter area - average of -1.55. "Your balanced growth as a person" will also be discussed in this section, because of the inference of training to that end: Ratings for Ideal were in the maximal range, while the discrepancy felt was in the mid range of rankings.

The individual activities which could be covered under these three headings ranged in ratings from "Development of present and future leadership" (average 4.38 - 8th place - 8 direct nominations for most important goal) to "Help to members in identifying and developing their talents and skills" (average 3.42 - 21st rank - 3 direct nominations).

While activities to this end do not^{all} feature high in rankings for Ideal, average ratings indicate people are still looking to have this need met to at least a great extent through our Church, and as Training is the area where greatest discrepancy is felt, great note should be taken of this fact.

(a) Church Roles

Within church life, training in the following specific areas was mentioned (number of people mentioning area is given in brackets):

Training for

Presiding (4)	Brotherhood service (1)
Teaching (4)	Community service (1)
Interpersonal helping (3)	Lay preaching (1)
Leadership (3)	Personal devotions (1)
Reading (2)	Praying (1)
Witnessing/personal evangelism (2)	Spiritual growth (1)
	Worship (1)

Three people stressed the importance of training young people and incorporating them into church life. All in all, 11 different people advocated training for church roles in either specific or general terms.

Mention has already been made of the concern felt by some respondents that talents were not being effectively developed and utilized. Others, without expressing that particular concern, advocated encouragement of the use of talents, while three people suggested that members be surveyed to find what specific skills and abilities they had to offer. One respondent suggested the talents identified should be developed by training.

(b) Life Skills

Of the few who commented on the area of "Your balanced growth as a person", two expressed the view that this was the person's own concern, while yet another commented on the role of the wider community as well as the church. Three people associated this with more Bible study and greater spirituality.

Four people, however, advocated the development of programmes designed to help people in practical Christian living, and more broadly, training for handling life experiences. One respondent commented that she could refer

Table 3. Average, Rank and Range of (A) Ratings for Extent Satisfaction of Various Needs was Ideally Sought through the Church (Ideal); (B) Ratings for Extent to which the Need was Perceived as Actually being Satisfied (Actual); and (C) Discrepancy Perceived by Individuals between their Ideal and the Actual Situation.

(A) RATINGS FOR "IDEAL"	Average rating	Rank	Range	N
k. Worship	4.77	1	4 - 5	30
f. Spiritual growth	4.73	2	3 - 5	30
c. Evangelism	4.63	3	4 - 5	30
l. Your balanced growth as a person	4.50	4	3 - 5	28
d. Fellowship	4.43	5	4 - 5	30
a. Christian education/learning	4.37	6	4 - 5	30
h. Training	4.33	7	2 - 5	30
j. Use of talents	4.21	8	2 - 5	29
e. Personal help	4.00	9	3 - 5	28
g. The brotherhood	3.80	10	2 - 5	30
b. Community service	3.59	11	1 - 5	29
<hr/>				
(B) RATINGS FOR "ACTUAL"				
k. Worship	3.67	1	1 - 5	30
d. Fellowship	3.068	2	1 - 5	29
g. The brotherhood	3.066	3	0 - 5	30
a. Christian education/learning	2.77	4	0 - 4	30
l. Your balanced growth as a person	2.75	5	1 - 5	28
c. Evangelism	2.67	6	1 - 4	30
j. Use of talents	2.65	7	0 - 5	29
f. Spiritual growth	2.59	8	1 - 5	29
e. Personal help	2.26	9	0 - 5	27
b. Community service	2.00	10	0 - 4	29
h. Training	1.97	11	0 - 5	30
<hr/>				
(C) IDEAL/ACTUAL DISCREPANCY*	Average Discrepancy	Rank	Range	N
h. Training	-2.37	1	0 / -5	30
f. Spiritual growth	-2.21	2	0 / -4	29
c. Evangelism	-1.97	3	-1 / -4	30
l. Your balanced growth as a person	-1.75	4	0 / -4	28
e. Personal help	-1.74	5	+1 / -4	27
a. Christian education/learning	-1.60	6	0 / -5	30
b. Community service	-1.59	7	+1 / -4	29
j. Use of talents	-1.55	8	0 / -4	29
d. Fellowship	-1.38	9	0 / -4	29
k. Worship	-1.10	10	0 / -4	30
g. The brotherhood	-0.73	11	+1 / -3	30

* For further explanation re calculation of Ideal/Actual discrepancy, see note to Table A (summary material) and List of Commonly Used Terms (page 1).

Table 4. Age/Sex Subgroup Averages for (A) Ratings for Extent Satisfaction of Various Needs as Ideally Sought through the Church (Ideal); (B) Ratings for Extent to which the Need was Perceived as Actually being Satisfied (Actual); and (C) Discrepancy Perceived by Individuals between their Ideal and the Actual Situation

	Total	Elder- ley	Adults	Youth	Total Males	Total Females
(A) AVERAGE RATINGS FOR "IDEAL"						
a. Christian education/ learning	4.37	4.50	4.30	4.50	4.31	4.43
b. Community service	3.59	3.60	3.60	3.50	3.47	3.71
c. Evangelism	4.63	4.67	4.60	4.75	4.50	4.78
d. Fellowship	4.43	4.50	4.35	4.75	4.37	4.50
e. Personal help	4.00	4.20	3.89	4.25	4.00	4.00
f. Spiritual growth	4.73	4.67	4.70	5.00	4.69	4.78
g. The brotherhood	3.80	4.50	3.50	4.25	3.62	4.00
h. Training	4.33	4.67	4.25	4.25	4.19	4.50
j. Use of talents	4.21	4.33	4.16	4.25	4.07	4.36
k. Worship	4.77	4.83	4.70	5.00	4.75	4.78
l. Your balanced growth as a person	4.50	4.83	4.42	4.33	4.43	4.57
(B) AVERAGE RATINGS FOR "ACTUAL"						
a. Christian education/ learning	2.77	3.17	2.70	2.50	2.87	2.64
b. Community service	2.00	3.00	1.65	2.50	2.07	1.93
c. Evangelism	2.67	3.00	2.55	2.75	2.56	2.78
d. Fellowship	3.068	3.50	3.05	2.50	2.93	3.21
e. Personal help	2.26	2.60	2.17	2.25	2.31	2.21
f. Spiritual growth	2.59	3.20	2.55	2.00	2.53	2.64
g. The brotherhood	3.066	3.67	2.80	3.50	3.19	2.93
h. Training	1.97	2.50	1.75	2.25	1.81	2.14
j. Use of talents	2.65	3.50	2.31	3.00	2.80	2.50
k. Worship	3.67	4.17	3.45	4.00	3.56	3.78
l. Your balanced growth as a person	2.75	3.50	2.47	3.00	2.78	2.71
(C) AVERAGE IDEAL/ACTUAL DISCREPANCY						
a. Christian education/ learning	-1.60	-1.33	-1.60	-2.00	-1.44	-1.78
b. Community service	-1.59	-0.60	-1.95	-1.00	-1.40	-1.78
c. Evangelism	-1.97	-1.67	-2.05	-2.00	-1.94	-2.00
d. Fellowship	-1.38	-1.00	-1.31	-2.25	-1.47	-1.28
e. Personal help	-1.74	-1.60	-1.72	-2.00	-1.69	-1.78
f. Spiritual growth	-2.21	-1.80	-2.15	-3.00	-2.27	-2.44
g. The brotherhood	-0.73	-0.83	-0.70	-0.75	-0.44	-1.07
h. Training	-2.37	-2.17	-2.50	-2.00	-2.37	-2.36
j. Use of talents	-1.55	-0.83	-1.84	-1.25	-1.27	-1.86
k. Worship	-1.10	-0.67	-1.25	-1.00	-1.19	-1.00
l. Your balanced growth as a person	-1.75	-1.33	-1.947	-1.00	-1.64	-1.86

contacts to such a programme run by professionally trained people. Another included newspaper cuttings of such a programme being run by another church, which included sessions such as applying for a job, family financial planning and public speaking.

(II) SPIRITUAL GROWTH

Under this heading have been classified responses relating to Spiritual growth, Worship and Christian education and learning. These three areas could all be said to contribute to the individual's spiritual growth.

Ratings

The area of Spiritual growth was obviously deemed of extreme importance by respondents. "Worship" and "Spiritual growth" ranked 1st and 2nd respectively for Ideal, both with average ratings of greater than 4.70 out of a possible 5. Further, average ratings for the activities of "Teaching about Christ and Christian living" and "Spiritual guidance" in the local church were both in the extremely important range (greater than 4.50), with "Providing avenues for worship" only a little below this. In contrast, however, it appears needs with regard to Worship are basically being met, whereas those for Spiritual growth per se are far less so. Twelve recorded no Ideal/Actual discrepancy for Worship (i.e., they were satisfied), while only two perceived this for Spiritual growth. Six people were very unhappy about this latter area (discrepancy scores in the maximum range - -4/-5). Discrepancy scores overall indicate that for Worship, the second lowest level of discrepancy was recorded, while for Spiritual growth, the second highest level was perceived.

Also noteworthy is the extent of negative discrepancy felt by the young people with regard to Spiritual growth (see Table 4). Their average rating of -3.00 was the greatest for any age/sex subgroup, for any area of need. Although it contrasts somewhat with that perceived by the Elderley group (average rating -1.80), this latter group recorded less discrepancy in all areas, and Spiritual growth was for them still the second greatest area of Ideal/Actual discrepancy.

The Christian education/learning process did not come up so highly - appearing about the middle of the list for all rankings. There was quite a distinct difference, however, between ratings for education concerning techniques of worship, prayer, witnessing etc., and history and doctrine of the Churches of Christ, and that concerning religions other than the Churches of Christ; the former two items were ranked 17th and 18th respectively, the two relating to the latter area were both in the lowest three with regard to rankings according to ratings of importance as goals of a local church. The need area of Christian education/learning was one of the few areas which attracted a "Not important to me personally" response in relation to Question E(II)(iii) - one person made such a response.

Written responses

There were two or three comments regarding the difficulty of achieving the goal of spiritual growth because of environmental influences, but many took the opportunity to express what they would like to see happen. Many of these comments could be classified into "Aids" and "Programmes".

Aids: Specific aids mentioned included the following:

- (i) Provision of reading material: Availability of tracts, devotional readings, studies, books (with perhaps a "Book of the Month") and other literature was advocated, while one respondent suggested that perhaps Ann Street could provide a library/information resource centre for the Brotherhood and contacts.
- (ii) Choir/music: The use of the choir was advocated by four people as an aid to worship in the morning services. The possibility that the choir may no longer exist was lamented by one respondent.
- (iii) Congregational participation: Use of responsive readings as a form of greater congregational participation was advocated by two as a useful part of the worship service. Another suggested that services should occasionally be in question/answer form. One person advocated that

members be encouraged to carry their own Bibles to Church, and relatedly that the rule should be made that all readings are to be from one translation only.

- (iv) Visiting speakers: Two people recommended that we have visiting speakers from time to time even after arrival of new minister; this included the possibility of pulpit exchange.

With regard to the pulpit ministry, while two people mentioned the need for a minister soon, and at all times, five drew attention to the importance of the pulpit ministry in the teaching sense. One person advocated the promotion of a brotherhood plan for Sabbatical leave for ministers, so their ministry may be enriched by expanded horizons.

The morning worship service evoked positive comments from five people. The need expressed for training of lay participants has already been mentioned. Four people commented on the need for careful selection of such participants, while one urged that communion presidents should give more thought to their talks. Two advocated that the minister should preside - at least monthly - whilst another that women should be involved in the services, including as presidents.

Three people felt that services could be upgraded by variety and new ideas. One felt that worship should be simplified; another, in the more practical sense, found the service too early because of work commitments.

This section has covered aids to spiritual growth, whether through worship or learning. The next covers, more specifically, programmes. One person has commented relevantly that deeper satisfaction in worship, both corporate and personal, should eventuate with spiritual growth.

Programmes:

- (i) Bible study: There was quite a deal of comment in favour of increased opportunity for Bible study. Six people advocated the establishment of an all-age Bible school. Two suggested that Bible studies (with suitable aids) be encouraged in the home, perhaps with monthly meetings for discussions, questions and answers on the month's studies. One person mentioned specifically that such Bible studies should be held on Sundays rather than mid-week; another suggested lunch hour prayer/Bible studies. Another commented that they felt the mid-week service could be made more interesting and informative. In relation to Bible study sessions, one person felt there was a need for an atmosphere more receptive to querying.
- (ii) Bible School: Several comments were made in relation to the Bible school. As recorded previously, four people urged more training for teachers. One person desired that the Church take more interest in the learning activities of the Bible school, while another advocated the reintroduction of some form of assessment in the school.
- (iii) Other: Topics other than direct Bible study which people mentioned as being of interest included church history, background to Christianity (e.g., Judaism), modern theology, the beliefs of other denominations and religions. Four people in all mentioned one or more of these topics, and in relation to their conduct, one suggestion was that there be short courses, with lecturers from outside the Churches of Christ, while another made the suggestion, not incompatible with the foregoing, that appropriate special interest groups be formed, as it was acknowledged that not all would be interested in such topics.

Commitment: The need for personal commitment was spelt out by five people as important in relation to spiritual growth. It is hoped the above aids and programmes, as well as suggestions in other parts of this study report, will help those committed along the path to achievement of spiritual growth, as well as raising the sights of those not so committed at the minute.

(III) EVANGELISM/OUTREACHRatings:

"Preaching of the Gospel" was given ratings which indicated it was considered overall to be the most important activity a church should undertake (average 4.78); it also received the greatest number of mentions as being amongst the most important goals of a local church, being nominated by 32 of the 44 people who answered this latter question. "Evangelical outreach to the community", however, was further down the list (12th on ratings, 8th on direct nominations), although its average rating was still in the "very important" range (4.13).

So far as Ideal/Actual discrepancy was concerned, Evangelism showed the third greatest degree of discrepancy, with all but one of the 30 respondents recording some degree of negative discrepancy (average: -1.97).

Written responses:

Comments could reasonably be divided into those referring to the local scene, and those concerned with outreach overseas.

(a) Locally: While four respondents indicated there was a need for more "outreach" in general terms, four others focussed on the local areas as fields for outreach. Visitation of the districts such as South Brisbane/Valley/New Farm, perhaps after survey, and in conjunction with the new ministry, was suggested. As mentioned previously, one respondent suggested the acquisition of a bus to act as a transport medium for children from these areas, and one of the other respondents also appeared to focus on the children from the surrounding lower socio-economic suburbs.

In conjunction with this, two people (as mentioned previously) expressed the need for a more accepting environment into which to introduce contacts. The desirability of being genuinely friendly with new people, not seeing them just as potential church members, was stressed by two respondents also. Another pointed out that evangelism without caring was useless - that Christ filled physical needs as well as preached.

Two people mentioned the importance of personal evangelism, with one stressing the need for training in this area. Two others stressed the need for follow-up counselling and assistance for new converts.

With regard to the public aspects of evangelism, there were some contrasting views. Three people called for stimulating speakers, with two of them indicating they were not in favour of missions. On the other hand, one person specifically advocated tent missions, while another urged the full-scale joining in of Home Missions crusades as often as possible. This person suggested also that planning be done well in advance, with nominated groups from the church to attend nightly or assist with certain aspects. While one person pressed for more frequent appeals for converts at the worship service, two others made negative comments about appeals at all. One felt reluctant to subject people to impassioned pleas to accept Christ, feeling this would be unnecessary if more emphasis were given to teaching members how to live "abundant and victorious lives" - and may in fact be a deterrent. This latter view was supported by another respondent, who said he/she had been frightened off by invitations for two years, and this applied to others he/she knew also. This respondent favoured a city church being open and available to give solace to the passer-by.

In other regards, two people stressed the opportunities provided by periods such as Christmas and Easter for providing avenues for witness, perhaps in cooperation with other denominations. Evangelical outreach in conjunction with other denominations was advocated by one respondent.

Three people felt our own activities could be better advertised, two suggesting that the fact that we have very active youth (and adult) groups next door (YMCA and YWCA) should be remembered in this regard. Another proposed that a wayside pulpit be established with pertinent weekly messages.

Finally, one person pointed out that the local congregation is not the only avenue for evangelism, and two others suggested our Church should be more involved in fostering new suburban work.

(b) Overseas: Two people raised the issue of overseas missions, feeling Ann Street should be more involved in this area. Another suggested we should have deeper concern and commitment to assist deprived people outside our country.

IV. PERSONAL HELP

Ratings:

Five "possible goals of a local church" could be classified under this heading. They are listed below, together with average ratings, associated ranks, and number of direct nominations received as being amongst most important goals:

Prayer for those in need (4.58 - 3rd - 13)

Practical help and assistance to members/adherents at times of illness or distress (4.26 - 10th - 4)

Counselling for personal and family problems (4.05 - 15th - 2)

Practical help and assistance to people outside the church at times of illness or distress (3.70 - 19th - 4)

Help for specific groups in the community not usually within the specific focus of the church (3.28 - 24th - 2).

That is, all such activities received ratings at least in the medium importance range, with "Prayer for those in need" being deemed the most important of this range of activities on a number of measures. With age/sex subgroups, it also gained distinction - the over 60's group recorded the second highest subgroup average for any area, for this activity (4.89).

An average Ideal/Actual discrepancy of -1.74 was noted for "Personal help" while for "Community service", which could also be classified under this heading, the average discrepancy was -1.59 - that is, both were in the "somewhat discrepant" range. With regard to Community service, this discrepancy was least for the Elderly group (average -0.60), greatest for the Adult group (-1.95). It would seem from this that what is provided by the church is more consistent with the needs of the over 60's in this regard than with those in the 26 - 60 age group. For Personal help, there was little variation amongst age/sex subgroup scores. Both areas, although receiving ratings in the "very important" range for the extent they should ideally be present in our church activities, ranked at the lower end of the list of 11 activities considered in this way - Community service receiving equal first, second and third lowest subgroup scores. Additionally, in response to question B(II)(iii), three people recorded it was not important for them personally that this need be met by our Church.

Written responses:

As above, responses which could be grouped under this heading, could be classified into two, not particularly discrete, sections - personal help (a) within the church, and (b) within the wider community.

One person urged that there be a deeper personal concern for fellow-members/Christians, prompting real activity in community service. Two felt that there were avenues outside the church for such involvement, but there were many comments on how we could and should be more involved in this area. One indicated that she would like to see a variety of programmes developed or supported, which would be brought to the awareness of people of different abilities and interests, and perhaps time. Participation in such activities could be actively encouraged, and if necessary, appropriate skills developed through training. However, she urged that the orientation of interest in helping people should not just be to the extent that those helped will become church members. Another advocated that we find out the real needs of the people and act on them.

(a) Personal help within the church: Two people felt that the giving of personal help was the role of the minister and/or elders, while a third recommended that the minister be available at all times. One respondent

suggested that a trained social worker be appointed to a new position in the church. Three, however, felt it was the shared responsibility of the membership. One commented that, respecting privacy, members be encouraged to seek and expect help from sympathetic responsible members from the minister down; another suggested that members "adopt" a group of others in whom to take a special "motherly" or "fatherly" interest, without being formally organized, so confidential practical help can be offered spontaneously. The felt need for training in effective helping has already been mentioned.

The establishment of a system whereby appropriate practical help could be offered to people in need was raised by four people. One person urged that the fact that personal help is available should be brought before the members frequently. It was lamented by one respondent that because we don't see each other from one weekend to the next, there is the tendency to forget about each others' needs.

(b) Personal Help within the Community: Five people suggested that the matter of greater utilization of our church premises should be investigated. Two specifically suggested the church be open more often for the troubled passer-by. One suggested that counselling services for office-workers - in lunch hours, before or after work - could be provided; another also suggested counselling services, perhaps with a coffee-shop format.

Groups other than office workers specifically mentioned as possible recipients of our help, were as follows:

"Down and outs" (2)	The lonely (2)
The elderly (2)	The underprivileged (2)
The handicapped (2)	Single parent families (2)
The housebound (2)	Refugees (1)

One person suggested that we should advertise more through the media that personal help is available through our church. Three suggested that some cooperative effort with neighbouring churches be investigated in relation to community service.

A suggestion of a different nature was that the church should become more involved in the industrial relations field.

V. FELLOWSHIP

With regard to Fellowship, the third lowest level of Ideal/Actual discrepancy was perceived (average: -1.38), while its ranking for Ideal was in the "very important range (4.43). It is interesting to note that young people perceived the greatest discrepancy - average rating of -2.25, compared with that for the elderly, whose average discrepancy score was -1.00.

Possible goals of a local church which could be classified under this heading, were clustered mainly in the lowest third in the list of activities ranked according to average ratings of importance. The exceptions were:

Activities for young people (average 4.54, ranked 5th, 15 direct nominations
(third most important by this last criterion))
Fellowship (average 4.33, ranked 9th, 11 direct nominations)
Activities for families as a whole (average 4.21, ranked 11th, 13 direct nominations)

Written responses:

While three people advocated, in general terms, more opportunities for fellowship, two others expressed the view that "mere socializing" was a less important goal for Ann Street, particularly because of the geographic dispersion of members. The suggestion was made by two people that more visiting in each others homes might be possible, especially to build up fellowship in local areas. Two others suggested more involvement in inter-church fellowship.

One respondent suggested revival of monthly coffee breaks after worship services, lamenting that some members rarely spoke to other than personal friends or relatives. One young person felt that fellowship should involve all members of the church, not just a select few every time. Another young person desired to see more involvement of older members with the younger ones.

Youth work: As stated previously, the area of youth work attracted a lot of attention. Six people specifically urged the holding of activities for young people, with five suggesting formats (Christian Endeavour-style (2), CYF-style (1) Boys and Girls Brigades (1), Band of Hope (1), meetings of young people (single and married) to discuss doctrine, topical issues, morality, etc. (1)). A further respondent suggested sex education should be given to the young.

It will be noted subsequently that one person suggested holding inter-church youth meetings at Ann Street. One respondent suggested outreach to the YMCA/YWCA groups next door, via the message that we are a caring church. She wondered too whether those organizations would wish to make use of our hall at times.

As this topic affects the young people of the church, it is appropriate to know what they feel. The only relevant comments from this group (under 25's) were from one person who desired a CYF-form youth activity and more Christian fellowship, and from another who sought more involvement of the older members with the younger. With regard to the latter, it is interesting to note that all four young people who made ratings for Question A, gave a rating of "5" for Activities for families as a whole (i.e., average 5.00), whereas, for Activities for young people, their average rating was 4.50. In this light, it is useful to consider the recommendations of one person that a thorough investigation should be made of the needs and interests of the young people of the church, the problems associated with the running of clubs in our churches, and leadership potential. The problem of lack of leadership, and the felt need for leadership training, have been discussed previously.

Other specific activities:

Mens work: Four people recommended that a men's work start. One commented that its success would depend upon its aiming to help others rather than be a source of entertainment for a relatively closed group.

Sporting clubs: Two people suggested the formation of sporting clubs; one specifically mentioned having a cricket team in church union.

Culture: One person commented that our church should be more involved in the Arts (Music, art, dance, drama) - "the things that enrich people's lives and help in the understanding of the needs of others". Another suggested the formation of a drama group, to involve, particularly, young people, which could produce religiously oriented plays.

Special interest groups: As mentioned previously, one person suggested the desirability of special groups for Bible and related studies. Three others have also advocated special interest groups, one specifically mentioning hobbies.

Visitors: Two people focussed on the opportunity our church has for providing fellowship for visitors. One suggested that there be a host-hostess system, under which a meal, etc., could be offered to visitors.

Other:

A suggestion which has bearing not only on all avenues of fellowship, but also in the general functioning of the church, was that a roneoed list of all members, their addresses and phone numbers, be distributed to all members of the church. This was raised by one respondent.

Another comment made in regard to fellowship was that a less important goal for Ann Street was the conducting of activities for older members, whose interest wanes as age increases (comment made by a member of the over 60's age group). Associated ratings of importance by the over-60's groups for "Activities for

older people as a group" are interesting in this regard - the older men gave an average rating of only 1.94, but for the women, the average rating was 3.30 - that is, this activity appeals more to the older women of the church than the older men. Respondents as a whole gave ratings which placed such an activity as 26th out of 33 in rankings of importance.

VI. THE BROTHERHOOD

This area does not feature prominently as being an area causing concern. It was perceived as exhibiting the least amount of Ideal/Actual discrepancy (average: -0.73), while it ranked second lowest for Ideal ratings also. On the importance of individual activities in the local church, results were as follows:

Support for brotherhood departments concerned with the wider mission of the church (average rating 4.12 - ranked 13th. - direct nominations 2)

Opportunity for discussion of matters of brotherhood concern (average 3.33 - ranked 22nd, no direct nominations)

Opportunity for discussion about church unity (average 2.88, ranked 25th, 3 direct nominations)

(This latter does not relate directly to the brotherhood, but could be considered a brotherhood activity.)

It would seem, therefore, that compared with other activities (except perhaps some social), these have overall attracted less interest, and are not among those activities considered to cause concern on any measure. Additionally, three people who completed ratings, recorded that it was not important for them that this need be met by our Church (Ques. E(II)(iii)), and while two recorded there was more of this than they desired (positive Ideal/Actual discrepancy), fourteen responded that they felt no Ideal/Actual discrepancy - i.e., they were satisfied.

Written responses: (a) The Brotherhood

Of the people who commented on this area, four commented on the need for less isolation from the brotherhood, and/or a greater bonding amongst members of the brotherhood. Another observed that "our brotherhood" should never be so well developed as to hide the "universal brotherhood of Christ". One urged Ann Street members to become more involved in Conference positions (for example, president). Two urged that more information about brotherhood activities should be disseminated. Contrasting viewpoints were apparent, with one respondent urging more, and another less, of the "mother" role of Ann Street in relation to the brotherhood.

With regard to specific issues, two people advocated that Ann Street provide a forum for debate on brotherhood issues. One person suggested regular brotherhood functions to be held at Ann Street (e.g., monthly youth meetings) as a method of bridging the gap between Ann Street and the other churches.

Two people specifically mentioned a role for Ann Street as a spokesman for the brotherhood, as this role was often given by the community to city churches. It was felt, however, that this would only be feasible with a strong ministry, and if the brotherhood too were willing to support it. Another felt we should be involved more through the media in regard to advocacy of Christian standards, protests about lapses in morals, etc..

(b) Church Union/Unity

Two people specifically mentioned the above as being a relevant area of concern for Ann Street. Four others felt we should be involved to varying extents with other city congregations, discussing and witnessing to our beliefs, joining in shared activities, including, for example, processions of witness at Easter.

SECTION III

SOCIOLOGICAL DATA1. Place of Residence

The first question in this section (suburb of residence) was made optional.

Over 20 of the respondents did not answer it - presumably to ensure that anonymity was preserved. Two of those who did respond indicated they lived in the "western suburbs", a further two, in the "southern suburbs", and the balance indicated suburbs at the following approximate distances from the city centre:

less than 5 kms.: 17 6 - 10 kms.: 10 11 - 15 kms.: 4

IF these figures are representative for the entire group, it would seem the congregation is roughly divided evenly between those living less than 5 kms. from the city centre, and those living further than that distance.

2. Age

Age distribution of respondents was as follows:

Over 70:	8	41 - 50:	6	11 - 20:	4
61 - 70:	12	31 - 40:	10		
51 - 60:	12	21 - 30:	2	Not advised:	5

Therefore, with over half the respondents being aged over 50 years, responses unduly represent the opinions of the older membership; this, however, could well be consistent with the age distribution of the total membership.

3. Sex

Sixty-seven questionnaires were distributed to males, and 101 to females - that is, a 40:60 representation of males to females amongst those aged over 10 years, associated with our church. Respondents were as follows:

Males:	25	(37 per cent of males receiving questionnaires)
Females:	30	(30 per cent of females receiving questionnaires)
Not advised:	4	

These figures are estimated to represent 52 per cent and 37 per cent respectively of regular male and female attenders.

4. Marital Status

Marital status of respondents was as follows:

Single:	11	Married:	37	Widowed:	7
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Four people did not respond to this question.

5. Duration of Attendance at Ann Street Church of Christ:

Average length of attendance was approximately 24 years. Range was 3 months to 78 years, with 50 per cent of those answering this question having attended for 18 years or more. Actual periods are as follows:

Less than one year:	3	21 - 30 years:	7	51 - 60 years:	4
1 - 10 years:	9	31 - 40 years:	6	61 - 70 years:	0
11 - 20 years:	17	41 - 50 years:	5	Over 70 years:	1

Seven people did not answer this question. The above figures would suggest a basically static population.

6. Regularity of Attendance

Of 59 respondents, 51 indicated they were regular attenders - that is, attended on a majority of Sundays per month. Three others attended at least once a month, one several times a year, and one was a non-attender.

7. Anticipated removal from Ann Street

Five respondents indicated that their association with the Ann Street Church was time limited - all anticipated removal within the next four years.

8. Churches of Christ Membership

Of the 56 who answered this question, 53 respondents were members, three non-members. Duration of membership averaged 32 years. The range was 8 months to 63 years, with half the respondents (N = 49) having been members of the Churches of Christ for more than 30 years. Actual periods are as follows:

Less than one year:	1	21 - 30 years:	5	51 - 60 years:	4
1 - 10 years:	7	31 - 40 years:	7	61 - 70 years:	4
11 - 20 years:	11	41 - 50 years:	10	Not advised:	4

Fifty of the fifty-three Churches of Christ members held membership at Ann Street.

9. Roles

Respondents were asked to indicate the number of roles they carried out in the Ann Street Church of Christ. Satisfaction ratings were analyzed in conjunction with this, and are given for those respondents who completed both questions - numbers of roles carried out and level of satisfaction that our church is meeting individual needs (N).

<u>Number of roles</u>	<u>Number carrying out roles</u>	<u>Satisfaction ratings:</u>	
		<u>Average</u>	<u>N</u>
0 - 2 roles	23	2.95	20
3 - 5 roles	15	3.15	13
6 or more roles	10	2.80	10
Not advised	11		

Although this suggests that those with most roles are least happy, the difference would not appear statistically significant. It is notable, however, that nearly half the respondents to this question carried out fewer than three roles in the church. Overall average was 3.33 roles per respondent. Four people indicated they carried out ten roles.

10. Time Potential

Respondents were asked to give a realistic estimate of the time they would have available for church activities at Ann Street both over the whole week, and in relation to the maximum time they had available on Sundays. Results were as follows:

	<u>Over whole week</u>	<u>On Sunday</u>
Service times only or less	6	17
3 - 5 hours	14	22
6 - 10 hours	18	6
Over 10 hours	3	-
No answer	18	14

These figures suggest there is considerable time available for utilization.

11. Transport

Number of respondents indicating they get to church by the various forms of transport listed are given below. Where a person indicated two forms of transport (e.g., sometimes by public transport, sometimes by private), the additional numbers are given in brackets.

	<u>Sunday morning</u>	<u>Sunday evening</u>	<u>During week</u>
Don't usually attend	2	10	11
No transport available at right time	0	0	0
Public transport	1 (+2)	0	3 (+1)
Own car	36 (+2)	31 (+1)	24 (+1)
Car belonging to family or friends who also attend	8 (+4)	5 (+1)	4 (+2)
Car belonging to family or friends who do not attend	2	1	0
Other	1	0	0
Not advised	5	11	15

From these figures, it is clear that public transport is used by few - three of the respondents on Sunday, four during the week. Nevertheless, there are transport problems, and their nature and suggested solutions have been dealt with on page 2.

With regard to the number of people per car, the figures below pertain. It should be noted that a number of people travelling in the one car may be recorded more than once. If each of a car load of four filled out the questionnaire, it would be given as four people travel in cars which bring also three other passengers, and would not indicate necessarily four different cars. There was no simple way of solving this problem, but as car space usage was the information sought, this did not seem important.

<u>Number of others in car</u>	<u>Sunday morning</u>		<u>Sunday evening</u>		<u>During week</u>	
	<u>Own car</u>	<u>Car of friend who attends</u>	<u>Own car</u>	<u>Car of friend who attends</u>	<u>Own car</u>	<u>Car of friend who attends</u>
0	2	0	1	0	4	0
1 - 2	10	0	12	0	5	1
3 - 4	15	5	11	0	11	1
Over 4	8	0	3	0	0	0

This suggests that, particularly on Sunday morning, full use is being made of car space, with over half of those answering this question travelling in cars with at least three other people.

12. Problems preventing more frequent attendance

Respondents were asked: "If you would like to attend Church or Church functions more regularly than you do now, would you please indicate any particular problems which prevent you from so doing". The problems listed below were each indicated by one person unless otherwise specified:

Shift work or work commitments (2)	Distance
Age (elderly)	Parking and access to church for evening functions
Too young to be involved in certain activities	Commitments to other congregations
Generation gap	Lack of time
Lack of motivation	