

# WHAT WE HEARD:

## *The August, 2020 Virginia Conference TAM Survey*

**347 laity and 417 clergy completed the survey.**

About **50%** of churches are in rural areas, about **36%** are in the suburbs and about **14%** are in the cities.

**Most churches who responded that they are worshipping indicated that they are worshipping online, with in-person indoors being second and drive-in worship being third.**

About **40%** of churches who responded indicated they are having in-person gatherings other than worship.

About **40%** of respondents say the TAM is easy to understand, while about **48%** said this is sometimes true. About ten percent disagreed. Over **90%** of respondents indicated they have been able to have questions answered by their District Superintendent.

**"Amazing Grace" received the most votes for favorite hymn.**

Before COVID, about **36%** of churches represented in the survey worshipped with 50 or less people. Around **40%** worshipped with 51-150, about **14%** worshipped 150-300, and about **10%** worshipped with 300 or more people.

Most churches are currently **not celebrating** Holy Communion, although the majority who are are doing so are celebrating the sacrament during indoor worship.

When it comes to the amount of communications you receive from the Conference regarding returning to worship, **82%** of laity and **92%** of clergy say you receive enough.

About **70%** of respondents indicated their church(es) had an online presence before COVID.  
Over **72%** of churches have added a new online/virtual presence since COVID began.

You also told us that these are a lot of rules to follow, and that this has definitely not been easy for you. The documents are seen as strict, long, and complicated, especially when requirements are changed, which seems to happen often. You miss in-person fellowship, sacraments, service, and study, and you definitely do not like wearing masks. Implementing the TAM requires several volunteers each Sunday. Some churches have a difficult time with online gatherings because of limited availability of technology, and you very, very, much wish to SING.