

Community Church of Vero Search
Summary of Survey Conducted February -March 2025

Some Numbers

Surveys Returned: 399

Shared Written Comments: 241

Members: 79% Frequent Visitors: 14% Other 7%

How long have you been attending Community Church?

< 1 yr - 7% 2-4 yrs – 20% 5-9 yrs 18% 10-19 yrs 30% >20 yrs 25%

Full-time Residents of Vero Beach: 72% Seasonal: 27% Virtual: 1%

Primary Service attended:

Sanctuary - 65% C2 – 22% Chapel – 9% Online – 4%

Age of Respondents:

<20 1% 20-34 1% 35-44 3% 45-54 3% 55-64 12% 65-74 28% 75 + 52%

9. What are the most important tasks of our church in the community (top 5 responses)

1. Helping members deepen their personal, spiritual relationship with God
2. Engaging in acts of charity and service to persons in need
3. Providing Christian education for children and youth
4. Providing worship in a more traditional and historical format
5. Providing a caring ministry for the sick, shut-ins and the bereaved

10. Overall, which ONE task does your congregation do best?

1. Providing worship in a more traditional and historical format
2. Helping members deepen their personal, spiritual relationship with God
3. Providing worship in a contemporary format
4. Engaging in acts of charity and service to persons in need
5. Providing fellowship opportunities for members

03/20/2025

11. Overall, which ONE task would you like to see strengthened?

1. Providing Christian education for children and youth
2. Helping members deepen their personal, spiritual relationship with God
3. Encouraging members to act on the relationship of the Christian faith to social, political, and economic issues
4. Engaging in acts of charity and service to persons in need
5. Providing fellowship opportunities for members

17. For you, personally, please select up to 5 of the following in the mix of qualities that make a GOOD WORSHIP SERVICE

1. Providing worship that is emotionally moving
2. Providing worship that is intellectually challenging
3. Incorporation of scripture and biblical explanation
4. Use of traditional worship styles, music and liturgy
5. Providing time for members to greet one another

20. For you personally, what are up to 5 of the most important qualities that make a GOOD SERMON?

1. Touches directly and relatable to everyday life
2. Spiritually moving and inspirational
3. Is challenging and thought provoking
4. Has some humor
5. Makes me reflect on contemporary issues and events beyond my personal life and local community

23. What qualities and strengths do you believe are the most important for the new senior minister?

1. Is an engaging speaker
2. Is a compassionate and caring person who is sensitive to others
3. Deals constructively with conflict
4. Builds a sense of fellowship among the people with whom he/she works
5. Is effective in planning and leading worship
6. Encourages people to relate their faith to their daily lives
7. Helps people develop their spiritual lives
8. Develops/articulates the vision and mission of the church

28. In thinking about what ORIGINALLY attracted you to this congregation, select from the list below those reasons that best match your reasons for coming.

1. The Ministers
2. The music program
3. The worship style
4. Practices inclusivity - no exceptions
5. The church's reputation

29. In thinking about what KEEPS you as part of this congregation, select from the list below those reasons that best match your reasons for staying.

1. The music program
2. The worship style
3. The Minister
4. Practices inclusivity - no exceptions
5. My friends are here.

30. Since its beginning 100 years ago, Community Church has celebrated that "there is more that binds us together than separates us in the worship of God." We gather from diverse religious traditions. Please respond to the following statements regarding how they fit with your faith understanding.

Statement	Strongly Agree or Agree
"Strive for peace and justice among all people, knowing that behaving with compassion and selfless love towards one another is the fullest expression of what we believe."	95.4%
Following the way and teachings of Jesus can lead to experiencing sacredness, wholeness, and unity of all life, even as we recognize that the Spirit moves in beneficial ways in many faith traditions.	94.1%
Seek community that is inclusive of all people, honoring differences in theological perspective, age, race, sexual orientation, gender identity/expression, class or ability.	90.0%
Commit to a path of life-long learning, believing there is more value in questioning than in absolutes.	87.9%

30. (Continued)

While there was a more diverse response to questions which reflected a more traditional evangelical perspective, we note the following:

Statement	Strongly Agree or Agree
The Bible is the highest authority for what I believe.	57.3%
Jesus Christ's death on the cross is the only sacrifice that could remove the penalty of my sin.	49.5%

Written Comments – Key Themes

241 respondents added comments for the two open-ended questions. Nearly all comments offered positive, constructive feedback and have been reviewed carefully by the Search Committee. Here are a few of the dominant themes:

- CCOVB needs to urgently move forward with enhancing its ministry to **children, families and youth.**
- Many have urged us to continue developing opportunities for participation in **small groups,**
- Throughout the survey there is a strong affirmation of our excellent **music programs.**
- Profound appreciation that CCOVB is a community where **everyone is welcome.** Many said that this is why CCOVB is their church.
- Encourage CCOVB to **continue to look outward to the community**
- That CCOVB may become an **antidote to divisiveness.**
- CCOVB is the **church we need to help us navigate through a tough world.**

A copy of the tabulated survey can be viewed by going to <https://www.ccovb.org/senior-minister-search> and click on “Download a Summary of or 2025 Survey Results.”