



SESSION 5

EXAMPLES OF CONSENSUS ASSESSMENT APPROACHES

No matter how a religious institute operationalizes the term “consensus” for recommendations that come from its strategic property planning process, multiple approaches can be used to assess and test for consensus by obtaining structured input from membership. Some of these approaches are:

CONSENSUS ASSESSMENT – INDIVIDUAL MEMBER LEVEL

1. Simple choice with explanation and/or comments

Example 1

1. I support this recommendation
2. I cannot support this recommendation

Please briefly explain why you selected the choice you did:

Example 2

1. I support this recommendation as it currently exists
2. I cannot support this recommendation as it currently exists
3. I can support this recommendation with the following changes or additions:

Explain why you cannot support the recommendation and identify changes or additions that, if made, would change your mind:

2. Simple choice with follow up contact

Example

1. I support this recommendation
2. I cannot support this recommendation because I have specific concerns about it

Please contact me to talk about these concerns:

3. “Likert” scale

Example 1:

Rate on the scale below your level of agreement with the following statement:

1. I wholeheartedly embrace this recommendation.





Example 2

1. What is your level of support for this recommendation?

- +2 I am strongly in support of this recommendation
- +1 I am in favor of this recommendation
- 0 I am neutral about this recommendation
- 1 I am not in favor of this recommendation
- 2 I am strongly opposed to this recommendation

Note: This approach simplifies the scale, keeps the input at an individual level and can also be used with or without explanatory comments or a request for contact.

5. Open-ended questions

Example 1

1. What are your questions or concerns or suggestions about this recommendation?

6. Consensus assessment - small group discussion

Example

1. What was the leaning of the group after discussing the recommendation?
- ___ Small group supports the recommendation
 - ___ Small group does not support the recommendation

Comments:

Note: It is important to capture the number of members meeting in the small group and the number of members who support/do not support the recommendation. A variation is to have members meet in small groups for discussion then respond individually.

