



Tomales Presbyterian Church

Mission Study May 2022

Tomales Presbyterian Church | 11 Church Street | Tomales, California 94971

Table of Contents

Letter from the Chair.....	3
Mission Statement.....	4
Executive Summary.....	5
History of the Church.....	6
Church and Community.....	13
A History of Church Activities.....	16
Demographics.....	18
Financials.....	24
How We Identify with Our Church.....	29
Congregational Survey.....	30
Analysis of the Congregation Survey.....	30
Addendum.....	34
Online Congregational Survey Results.....	35

Letter from the Chair

April 25, 2022

Dear Members and Friends of the Tomales Presbyterian Church,

In fall of 2021, our long-time Pastor Cornelia Cyss-Carter announced her intent to retire after serving the Tomales Presbyterian Church (TPC) and Two Rock Valley Presbyterian Church (TRVPC) for more than fifteen years. A temporary pastor nominating committee was established with the task of hiring an interim pastor. In October 2021, Pastor Brook Scott was called as our temporary pastor for both churches.

As part of the Presbytery process to hire a permanent pastor, a mission study team was assembled for each church. The mission study team was tasked with developing a survey to gather insight from members and friends of the church, and in addition, to doing an extensive fact gathering process that included reflecting on church history, demographic information, financial review, church programs, and community outreach. The last mission study report done for TPC was in 2005. The mission study team chose to cover a period of 15 years in its fact-finding research.

The mission study team began in January 2022 and met almost weekly for three months utilizing the Presbytery of San Francisco Committee on Ministry's "Mission Study Guide for Congregations" to help guide the process. It is with the utmost gratitude that I want to thank the following committee members for their expertise, patience, and commitment to the mission study process:

Dennis Hansen
Tim Graves
Kathryn LeMieux

Liz Mitchell
Brook Scott, Temporary Pastor
Kip Spragens

Each committee member was tapped for their commitment and history with the church and personal field of expertise such as accounting, data analysis, historical and community knowledge, church programming, and spiritual leadership in Presbytery and the mission study process.

I would also like to give a special thank you to Kathy Murphy, Church Secretary, for her extensive help in finding historical church documents and to Sharon Knudsen, longtime Clerk of Session, for her assistance in gathering data.

As a mission study team, we present this report to our church and greater community in the hopes that it captures the value and commitment TPC has, and continues to provide, to our beloved community in sharing the loving messages of God and His son, our Savior, Jesus Christ.

Sincerely,



Amanda Graves, Chair
TPC Mission Study Committee

Tomales Presbyterian Church

Mission Statement

“Tomales Presbyterian Church is a congregation of people who continue a cherished tradition of witnessing to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. With deep roots in history and in the community, we seek to share the good news of God’s all-embracing love with each other, with our children, with the community and with the world.”

Mission Statement 1996
Re-affirmed 2004

“Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?” Jesus replied, “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment.”

Matthew 22 verses 36-38

Executive Summary

Our beloved church is at a turning point as we look towards our future in maintaining our core services, keeping our historical building and grounds in good repair, and continuing our dedication to community service and involvement in our community. Based on our research in capturing fifteen years of history and hard work, there is no doubt how dedicated and blessed we are to have such a tight-knit group of community members who have a strong faith not only in God and our Savior, Jesus Christ, but in our historical church and community.

One of the key insights this process has brought to light is an aging population in our community and our congregation, highlighting the need to support and increase services around in-home visits, pastoral care, and the reality of a smaller congregation as members retire and leave the area or are unable to attend in general due to health and mobility constraints.

The sharing of a Pastor with our sister church, Two Rock Valley Presbyterian Church, offers our church a way to maintain high-quality preaching and pastoral services at an affordable price. It also provides additional opportunities for collaboration and combining of resources with our sister church. Sharing a Pastor does come with its challenges, too. One congregation does not get to experience fellowship with the Pastor after worship for a whole year until the schedule changes each September. This could hinder the ability to develop personal connections with the Pastor.

Another key insight that this report has brought to light is an impact on the resources, both financial and human, that our church relies so heavily on. The costs of goods and services continue to rise as we need to make major repairs and perform routine maintenance on our historical building. Donations from our congregation that help support the operations of the church, including our Pastor's salary, become more difficult to meet with a smaller congregation. Our church relies heavily on our dedicated volunteers who spend both their time and expertise in meeting the needs of both our church and our community, but these volunteers may be experiencing burnout, or unable to participate at the same level. Others have moved out of the area leaving a huge gap in meeting those needs.

Based on the congregational survey, there is a high priority to expand our community outreach as well as our membership. Though this is ideal, we face many challenges to accomplish these goals. Increasing and diversifying our membership is difficult in rural West Marin between the high cost and limited housing options, an aging population, a large Latino population that is mostly Catholic, and limited younger families moving into the area that may not attend a faith-based organization. Dillon Beach to the west of us is primarily a resort community with limited full-time residents and housing that serves mostly as vacation rentals.

Despite these ongoing challenges we celebrate what is before us: that is a small, dedicated, faithful groups of worshipers who spread the love of Jesus Christ both in their homes and their communities. We continue to look for ways to improve upon our services and how we can best support the needs of our community and continue to do the good work of our Lord and Savior.

History of the Church

Established in 1865, the Tomales Presbyterian Church has a long and rooted history in the communities of West Marin. Numerous publications from Pastors and members over the years have captured this rich history and paint a detailed picture of what life in the community and the church was like:

- *Tomales Presbyterian Church Postwar Times, 1865-1870 and 1945-1950*
- *Marin's Historic Tomales and Presbyterian Church* by Rev. Elton Shell
- *A Century of Service: 1865-1965* by Eugene C. Brown, Vivian S. Farley, Emma M. Lawson, Viola B. Mitchell, and Winifred G. Lawson
- *Celebrate The Years 1865-1990: A History of Service* by Kathie Nuckols Lawson
- *In Celebration of the Sesquicentennial of Tomales Presbyterian Church: A Brief History of our Service 1865-2015* by Pastor Cornelia Cyss-Carter and Ruling Elder Kip Spragens
- *Families of the Tomales Presbyterian Church Cemetery* edited by Lee Erickson and Franklin Burns

These publications are available in hardcopy by request from the church office. In May 2015, the church celebrated its Sesquicentennial and below are some of those excerpts that provide historical accounts of the community and Tomales Presbyterian Church compiled by church member Kip Spragens and then Pastor Cornelia Cyss-Carter.

THOMAS FRASER: MISSIONARY EXTRAORDINAIRE

By all accounts, the Reverend Thomas Fraser was a remarkable person. We know him as the founder of the Two Rock Valley and Tomales Presbyterian Churches and as Two Rock's first pastor, but that's just a footnote to his long and distinguished career.

He was born in 1820 in a small town near Edinburgh, Scotland, where his father (also named Thomas) was pastor of the parish church. The family moved to America when he was about five years old, and his father served as pastor of several Dutch Reformed churches in the Mohawk Valley region of New York.

Young Thomas earned degrees from Union College in 1841 and from Princeton Seminary in 1845. That summer, he accepted an appointment from the (Old School) Presbyterian Board of Domestic Missions to serve as a Home Missionary in the Wisconsin Territory. For the next eight years he did pioneer missionary work, organizing and leading new church congregations. While there, he helped organize Wisconsin's first Presbytery, and served as its first Moderator.



Wisconsin's long, cold winters compromised his health, so he moved south in 1852. He served as Stated Supply for a congregation in Newbern, North Carolina in 1852 and 1853, and then accepted a call to serve a church in Little Rock, Arkansas. He was pastor of the Little Rock congregation from 1853 to 1859; and while there, he met and married a young widow from Kentucky (Julia) who had a son (Charley). Julia didn't want her son to grow up anywhere that condoned slavery, so Thomas Fraser accepted a second assignment from the Board of Domestic Missions. This time, he was asked "to repeat on the [Pacific] Coast the same kind of work he had done so successfully in Wisconsin." With that the newlyweds and little Charley set sail for California, arriving in San Francisco in October of 1859.

Rev. Fraser was received into the Presbytery of Benicia (predecessor to today's Presbytery of the Redwoods) at a meeting at Suisun, but his official enrollment was delayed until an October 1, 1860 meeting in Stockton, after his dismissal letter for Arkansas arrived. Just three weeks later, on September 21st, Rev. Fraser organized his first Presbyterian congregation in California at the Beck School (near Fallon). An offshoot of that congregation built the Two Rock Valley Church, which was dedicated on May 3, 1863. Rev. Fraser served as Two Rock's pastor from the time of its dedication until 1867, when he was called as Stated Supply to the First Presbyterian Church of Portland, Oregon. While serving as Pastor at Two Rock Valley, Rev. Fraser organized other congregations in the area, including the Big Valley Presbyterian Church (Bloomfield), and of course the Tomales Church (approved at a Presbytery meeting held at the Two Rock Valley Church on May 19, 1865).

In October of 1868, Rev. Fraser accepted an appointment as Synodical Missionary by the Synod of the Pacific, whose field extended from Mexico to British Columbia and from the Pacific Ocean to the crest of the Rocky Mountains. During his tenure as Synodical Missionary, he is credited with personally organizing something like 125 Presbyterian churches on the Pacific Coast, a record which remains unrivaled. In his fifteenth (and final) annual report to the Synod of the Pacific, he noted that, under his care, the number of churches within the Synod had grown from 62 (with a combined membership of 3000) to 280 (with a total membership of 16,000).

Rev. Fraser also served on the Board of Directors of the San Francisco Theological Seminary from its founding in 1871 until the campus was moved to San Anselmo in 1890. After leaving the Home Mission field, he taught Systematic Theology at the seminary's San Francisco campus.

The Tomales and Two Rock Valley congregations were fortunate indeed to have garnered so much of this great leader's time and attention during his first years on the West Coast, just when they needed it most!

THE MEN OF THE CHURCH — DEDICATED TRUSTEES, ELDERS, AND PASTORS

It will come as no surprise that all the founders of the church mentioned in our records were men. In the 1860's that was how things happened: men would take formal leadership positions in families, churches, and communities, while women's roles would be seen as supportive and as aiding the tasks of the men. Three men in particular were crucial for the establishment of a Protestant Church in Tomales. The first was the (Old School) Presbyterian minister and church "planter" Rev. Thomas Fraser, who organized churches in Two Rock, then in Valley Ford/Bloomfield, and finally in Tomales. The second was Rev. Alexander Fairbairn, who took on

the pastorate in Tomales as of May 1, 1865, thus providing regular church service for the fledgling congregation. The third was Warren Dutton, who gave the land for the church building and who was one of its first five trustees, together with Thomas McCune, George W. Burbank, Robert Bailey, and Joseph Irvin.



The primary task of the trustees was to oversee the property of the church and to erect a building that would allow the congregation to gather regularly for worship. The first sanctuary was completed in April 1866, but sadly caught fire when trash was burnt in preparation for the dedication service. Immediately, a second church building was begun and completed in May 1868. Just four years later, in 1872, a manse was built to house pastors who served the church. Raising funds, organizing the Work Day 1954 – building the patio building projects, seeing them through to completion, maintaining the building and grounds: those were the tasks of the trustees.

The ruling elders of the church saw to the spiritual needs of the congregation. They were responsible for regular and orderly worship, they engaged pastors or arranged for short-term pulpit supplies, and they made sure that spiritual guidance and religious education would be available. The first three ruling elders were John McCausland, James Kaye, and Arthur Paterson, all chosen in 1871.

Pastors, or teaching elders, would move to Tomales for a few years, or sometimes only a few months, and serve the congregation through preaching, administering the sacraments of Baptism and the Lord's Supper, and conducting weddings and funerals. From 1865 until 1923, Tomales Presbyterian Church had twenty different pastors, which means that during those 58 years most pastors stayed only for a couple of years. There were even periods when the church was without a minister. That pattern changed with the Rev. George Hearle, who served the congregation from 1923 until 1942. When Tomales Presbyterian Church was formally yoked with Two Rock Valley Presbyterian Church in 1953 and began to share ministers, pastorates became more stable and longer term, lasting six or nine or, in the case of the Rev. Henry Rankin, even twenty-two years.

THE WOMEN OF THE CHURCH — LADIES AID SOCIETY AND BEYOND

Since at least the early 1900's and quite possibly since the 1870's, the women of Tomales Presbyterian Church were organized as a Ladies Aid Society, to assist in the work of the church. Already in 1872, women of the church raised \$1,100 through fairs and festivals, money that was most likely used to help with the building of the manse. During those early years, a primary goal of the Ladies Aid Society was to support the church financially, and to have funds available in addition to the donations that would be given by



the women's families. Of course, the Ladies' Aid Society was also an opportunity for the women to spend some social time together. They might take tea in one another's homes, or gather for potluck lunches, or go on picnics. But raising funds for the church was always an important goal.

The women who presided at meetings of the Ladies Aid Society were Mrs. Bock in 1913; Mrs. William Bassett in 1915; Mrs. Bostick in 1916; Mrs. B. Pratt in 1917; Mrs. James Burns in 1918, Mrs. Goudy in 1928, and Mrs. Arnold Gerritsen until 1940. At various times, the Ladies Aid Society paid for the janitor's salary, or for coals for the stove in the sanctuary, and in 1934, during the Great Depression, for the minister's salary. In the mid-20th century, the Ladies Aid Society supported the Sunny Hills Orphanage in San Anselmo for over twenty years and was regularly responsible for the Pie Booth at the orphanage's Grape Festival.

At a time when women were not able to hold official leadership roles in church or society, the women of our Tomales congregation still found opportunities to support the church in its mission and ministry. One important way was through their leadership in worship by playing the organ, directing the choir, or singing in the choir. The earliest organist and choir directors were Mrs. William Buchanan and Caroline Jensen Doss, who were active in the late 1800's; while Lois Parks was organist from 1960 until 2003. Women also were active in education, offering Sunday school instruction for children and youth. And it was mostly the women of the church who undertook the tasks of deacons and would visit homebound members of the congregation and people in need in the community. In addition, the women would provide refreshments at church gatherings and prepare delicious lunches during workdays; though some of them would also use plenty of elbow grease to tackle heavy construction and maintenance jobs alongside the men.

In the 1960's, the name of the women's group was changed From Ladies Aid Society to United Presbyterian Women, then in the 1990's simply to Presbyterian Women.

MEN AND WOMEN TOGETHER IN CHURCH LEADERSHIP AND CHURCH OFFICE

In the early 20th century, things began to change in church and culture with respect to gender roles and expectations. In 1921, the ordination of women as deacons was approved by a predecessor of the Presbyterian Church (USA). Just nine years later, in 1930, the ordination of women as elders was approved, and the first woman elder in a Presbyterian church in this country was in fact ordained in 1930. Tomales Presbyterian Church joined in opening opportunities for women in church leadership and church office right after the end of WWII. In 1946, our congregation voted to establish a Board of Deacons, and Mrs. George Hearle, Mrs. Philip Justis, and Mrs. Harold Rowan were ordained as deacons, while Mrs. Walter Lawson was ordained as an elder. Since then, elders and deacons in Tomales Presbyterian Church have included men and women in equal numbers.

OFFICERS OF THE CHURCH – OLD AND NEW 1964

In 1956, the ordination of women as ministers was approved by our denomination, and the first Presbyterian woman pastor was ordained that year. In 1996, our church in Tomales began to welcome female pastors: the Rev. Karen Stokes served as interim minister for 18 months, the Rev. Carol Shellenberger was the interim from 2004 until 2006, and the Rev. Dr. Cornelia Cyss-Carter was the church's installed pastor from 2006-2021.



PEOPLE: PASTORS, ELDERS, TRUSTEES, DEACONS

Since 1990, our congregation has had three installed pastors, two interim pastors, plus retired pastors and seminary interns who were associated with our church.

The Rev. Gene Burris was our pastor from June 1, 1987, until July 31, 1996 and led our 125th anniversary celebration. After he retired, he did some interim pastorates while his wife, the Rev. Lynda Hyland Burris, served congregations in Petaluma and Cloverdale.

The Rev. Karen Stokes was interim pastor from September 1, 1996 until February 8, 1998. She then pastored a church in Oakland for twelve years. After that, she and her husband, Rev. Chandler Stokes, moved to Michigan, where they each serve a congregation in the Grand Rapids area.

The Rev. Gregg Townsend was our pastor from May 31, 1998 until January 15, 2004 and lived in Tomales with his wife Tracey and their two small sons. He left to accept a call as Associate Pastor in Erie, PA. Since December 2007, he has been serving First Presbyterian Church in North East, PA.

The Rev. Carol Shellenberger was interim pastor from March 1, 2004 until June 25, 2006. A year after completing her ministry with us, she moved to Bozeman, MT, with her husband and is now retired.

After the Rev. Greg Townsend accepted a pastorate in Pennsylvania and sold his home in Tomales, the church was able to use its share from the proceeds of the sale to undertake some significant renovations. In 2004, trustee Kathryn LeMieux oversaw the tenting and fumigating of the church, the painting of the outside of the building, and the re-roofing of the sanctuary, bell tower, and fellowship hall.

The Rev. Dr. Cornelia Cyss-Carter served as our pastor from June 13, 2006 until she retired in October, 2021. Her late husband, the Rev. Angus Crocker, served as our Parish Associate from 2006 until his death in 2009. When Pastor Cornelia remarried, her husband Carl Carter served as a Deacon until Pastor Cornelia's retirement and remains a member of the church.

A SHIFT IN CHURCH STRUCTURE

In February of 2005, the congregation voted unanimously to adopt a unicameral system of governance. This meant eliminating the Board of Trustees and transferring the trustee duties to the Session. Session, comprised of ruling elders who are members of the church, and together with the pastor, provide leadership, governance, and spiritual guidance for the congregation. The Session members also serve as directors of the corporation.

Since 2005, Session has been comprised of four ruling elders serving the church. Some of the elders have also been active beyond our local church, serving as commissioners and committee members to the Presbytery of the Redwoods and the Synod of the Pacific; and, in 2008 and 2014, as commissioners to the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church USA.

The Board of Deacons established in 1946, has had at least two and as many as five deacons serving the church at any one time. The deacons provide for the care and fellowship of the congregations by preparing the communion elements for the Lord's Supper on the first Sunday of each month; hosting our fellowship hour after worship and at special receptions during the church year; and by sending cards and making visits to those who can no longer attend services.

Since 2005, the church was joined by the following new members: Virginia and Rob Campbell, Daphne Pareas, Mike Simons, Eva and John Van der Have, Shannon Hobbs, Mary Spragens, Kathy and Gary Foster, Lea Christensen-Morris, Brenda and Russell Sloan, Lea Hickman, Jeanette From, Kathy Murphy, Debbie and Fred Lawson, Carl Carter, and Amanda and Tim Graves.

SESQUICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

In May of 2015, Tomales Presbyterian Church celebrated an amazing milestone: 150 years in service to the community. As the oldest Presbyterian Church in California (although there is some debate that Mendocino may share this honor), the Church hosted its own birthday party. We held a celebration and invited the public to an buffet lunch. A video titled, "*Tomales Presbyterian Church 150 Years of Service*" was made to commemorate the years at the church and can be viewed online on YouTube at https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=tomales+presbyterian+church.

In addition to the video, then Pastor Cornelia and ruling elder Kip Spragens researched and published a series of articles showcasing the long history of the local community and the church. Titled, "*In Celebration of the Sesquicentennial of Tomales Presbyterian Church: A Brief History of Our Service*". This publication, dated May 31, 2015, covers a span of time from 1864 to 2014. This publication is available in hardcopy by request.

THE 2019 PANDEMIC

In late 2019, word started to spread of a coronavirus that started in Wuhan, China. By the beginning of 2020 the virus had spread to much of the world. The virus became known as COVID. Our Sunday School children knew it simply as the 'yucky virus'. In March 2020, the State of California shut down except for essential services, as did other states across the nation. Schools were shuttered and teachers and staff had to transition to remote learning while the workforce began to work remotely. Faith-based intuitions were no longer allowed to worship in person and

the world watched in horror as deaths began to skyrocket. We saw many members get sick with the virus. Family and friends that were lost. Constant prayers were said for both our own community members and that of the world. This was an incredibly difficult time as pastoral care and outreach was shut down due to the inability of our Pastor to make home and hospital visits. The healthcare industry only allowed patients but no other support people into the hospitals as they tried to minimize exposure to the virus.

Tomales Presbyterian Church in conjunction with our sister church Two Rock Valley Presbyterian transitioned worship to an online platform called Zoom that became the new norm for numerous organizations and businesses. During this time of shutdown, members and friends of both congregations met online each Sunday to hear the word of God, and to listen to music that was provided by members of the congregation including a virtual choir. After each worship, members were put into chat rooms via Zoom to continue some sense of fellowship and community.

During the summer of 2020, things slowly began to open back up as Public Health in California and other states mandated masks for all indoor settings. Tomales Presbyterian Church being a smaller congregation was able to meet in-person again with masks while our sister church continued to meet online. Some of the members of Two Rock Valley Presbyterian Church attended Tomales in-person services during the pandemic. All community events and services were cancelled or continued to be postponed. Another round of state shutdowns happened in the winter as cases skyrocketed again. The church quickly transitioned back to zoom during this period.

In January 2021, Tomales Elementary School opened its doors back up and families had a choice to send their kids back to school in-person with masks or to continue remote learning. Tomales Presbyterian Church was able to open its doors back open to worship in-person. During 2021 we saw cases fluctuate up and down as state public health continued its mask mandates. In summer a vaccine became available for our most vulnerable populations and first responders. It later became available to all adults. In late fall, the vaccine became available to children 5 and up and boosters were made available for our vulnerable populations.

As the New Year approached, cases declined as more and more residents became vaccinated. Some semblances of normalcy happened as all businesses, schools, and organizations opened again and community events started to be held again. The church was able to resume its normal services. Once the mask mandate ended our congregation could sing again during service.

At the time of writing this report the world is still feeling the impact from the pandemic. We are transitioning out of pandemic mode into a new norm with COVID. Cases are still fluctuating as the virus adapts and becomes even more contagious but, thankfully, less lethal for most of the population. The church has been able to fully operate and once again support and participate in local community events and services.

Church and Community

SUNDAY WORSHIP AND FELLOWSHIP

Our worship on Sundays continues to be our core focus as we bring community members together to hear the word of God. Service includes a variety of inspirational music, prayer, the reading of Scripture, the Pastor's sermon, and time for our children. The sanctuary is always beautifully decorated by our deacons with candles and flowers. On the first Sunday of each month, the Lord's Supper is shared and on the third Sunday of each month birthdays are celebrated. After each service members and friends come together for fellowship time with coffee, tea, and treats provided by our dedicated Deacons. Fellowship hour provides an opportunity for the community to come together and build lasting friendships.

MUSIC OF THE CHURCH

Music plays a central role in our worship services. Lois Parks and Victor Henigan were our organists and choir directors for many years. Gary Foster has served as our pianist and choir director since 2003. In the 1990's Kathleen Gilfilan donated funds to purchase robes and stoles for Tomales' Choir, and to purchase the third octave of bells for the newly organized joint Handbell Choir which Suzanne Lang directed for several years. Early in his tenure, Gary Foster donated a new organ, and in 2010, Victor Henigan gave a grand piano for our sanctuary in memory of Dorothy Henigan. New hymnals were purchased in 2007 and again in 2014, and a new sound system was installed in 2011.

For many years Tomales Presbyterian Church has hosted the Concord Choir and provided food after the performance. In addition, church members participate in the Joint Handbell choir with Two Rock Valley Presbyterian Church, as well as other joint musical performances.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Our sanctuary over the years has been used for baptisms, weddings, and memorial services. We hold a special service at Westminster Woods in August that brings the congregation to worship under the giant Redwood trees and followed by a community potluck. Tomales Presbyterian hosts the Two Rock Valley Presbyterian Church, our sister congregation on Labor Day weekend in honor of Tomales Founders Day. In the beginning of November, we observe All Saints' Day and end our service in the cemetery where we place flowers on the graves and sing Amazing Grace. In December, in celebration of Jesus's birth, the Sunday School children star in a Christmas pageant that tells the story of the birth of Jesus Christ.

BUILDING AND GROUNDS

Many improvements have been made to our building and grounds in the last 25 years. In the 1990's, Franklin Burns, Eric Anderson, Gordon Thornton, John Mitchell, Jack Wallace, Kip Spragens and others were instrumental in securing the waterline to the church and later having our own well drilled on church grounds.

Thanks to the generosity of Alyne and Eric Anderson, our sanctuary and narthex were beautifully repainted in 2000. In 2006 a stained-glass window was given to the church that depicts the

procession of Jesus into Jerusalem, an event that is celebrated each year on Palm Sunday. The piece was created by local artist Robert D. Pollock and was donated by his widow Ursula Pollock, a niece of the late Hannah Haerle.

In 2008, thanks to a generous donation in memory of Harry McCulla, a new carpet was installed in the sanctuary, while some creaky planks underneath repaired and, in a few spots, replaced altogether. Also, during this period the entire interior of the church building was repainted; the bathrooms updated and made fully accessible; lights replaced; windows made more watertight; new carpet installed in the fellowship hall; and many other improvements made under the leadership of ruling elders and building-and-grounds chairs Sharon and Eric Knudsen.

Thanks to a generous donation from the Presbyterian Women of Tomales, the parking area right beyond the patio was paved in 2013 for easier access for people with walkers or wheelchairs.

Just in time for the church's 125th anniversary, an important document was finished entitled "*Families of the Tomales Presbyterian Church Cemetery.*" Not only does this book provide a listing of gravesites, names and dates, it is also a great reference filled with family stories and anecdotes, all carefully edited by Lee Erickson with help from Franklin Burns. Since its publication in October 1990, the author has continued to talk with families when they visit the area, to gather additional information, and to collect more local stories.

Under the leadership of Lee Erickson, important work was done in our cemetery in 2008: 52 new spaces were created for full burials and 16 spaces for urns that contain cremated remains, all surrounded by curbing and walkways; 17 gravestones and monuments of various sizes were repaired and straightened as needed; the paved driveway in the center aisle was extended; and Rob Campbell brought some existing water lines further back into the cemetery.

In 2020, elders Rob Campbell, Sharon Knudsen, and Kathy Murphy with Pastor Cornelia oversaw the repainting of the church, roof improvements and fixes to the leaks in the bell tower and narthex, and window replacements in the sanctuary. During that period, Sharon and Eric Knudsen and Liz Mitchell repainted the floors in the sanctuary and gave the pews a makeover.

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Giving back to our community has always been a strong focus of the Tomales Presbyterian Church. Each of our members have provided their time, talents, and financial support in a variety of capacities. Over the last two decades members of the congregation have donated their time to support local food pantries both in Petaluma and Tomales. When the Tomales Town Hall is not available to host the food pantry, our church patio becomes the back-up location.

In partnership with the Two Rock Valley Presbyterian Church, each year members helped to organize the local Ableskiver breakfast held on Mother's Day. The donations from this breakfast event supported the joint community emergency fund for community members in need. Ableskiver was not held due to Covid-19 during 2020-2021.

Church members also support the Tomales Regional History Museum, events at the local Tomales Town Hall, the Tomales Elementary School, and Pedal for Protein. Members have stepped up to host a local exercise group, items for the elementary school Holiday Bazaar, school supply donations, and so much more!

In 2017, Santa Rosa experienced some of the worst wildfires in history. Evacuees came to the coast to get away from the flames with no where else to go. Our church opened its doors to help support evacuees until County shelters could be opened. Local members donated food and supplies to support evacuees.

In 2018, the Church became the charter organization for a new cub scout pack, Tomales Scouts Pack 123 and offered the fellowship hall as meeting space for the scouts. The congregation has supported the scouts through annual food donations for their Scouting for Food program, financial support, and donations for homeless kits. The congregation also supported scout fundraisers such as their annual popcorn drive and craft sales.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Tomales Presbyterian Church has participated in numerous community events over the years including Tomales Founders Day held over Labor Day weekend; the Tomales Party in the Park held in July and; the Tomales Flea Market. We also handed out candy to the local school’s Halloween Parade in downtown; and hosted a community Christmas sing-along. Each year on Easter weekend, the church hosts an Easter egg hunt in Tomales Park for local children and visiting families.

Below is a table that lists a history of church activities of the last two decades. This list provides a snapshot of the involvement in both church and our local community. Please note that despite the comprehensive list some activities may not be listed. During the pandemic from 2019 – 2021 many church and community events were cancelled due to Public Health restrictions. It was only in the later months of 2021 that normal church and community activities resumed.

History of Church Activities

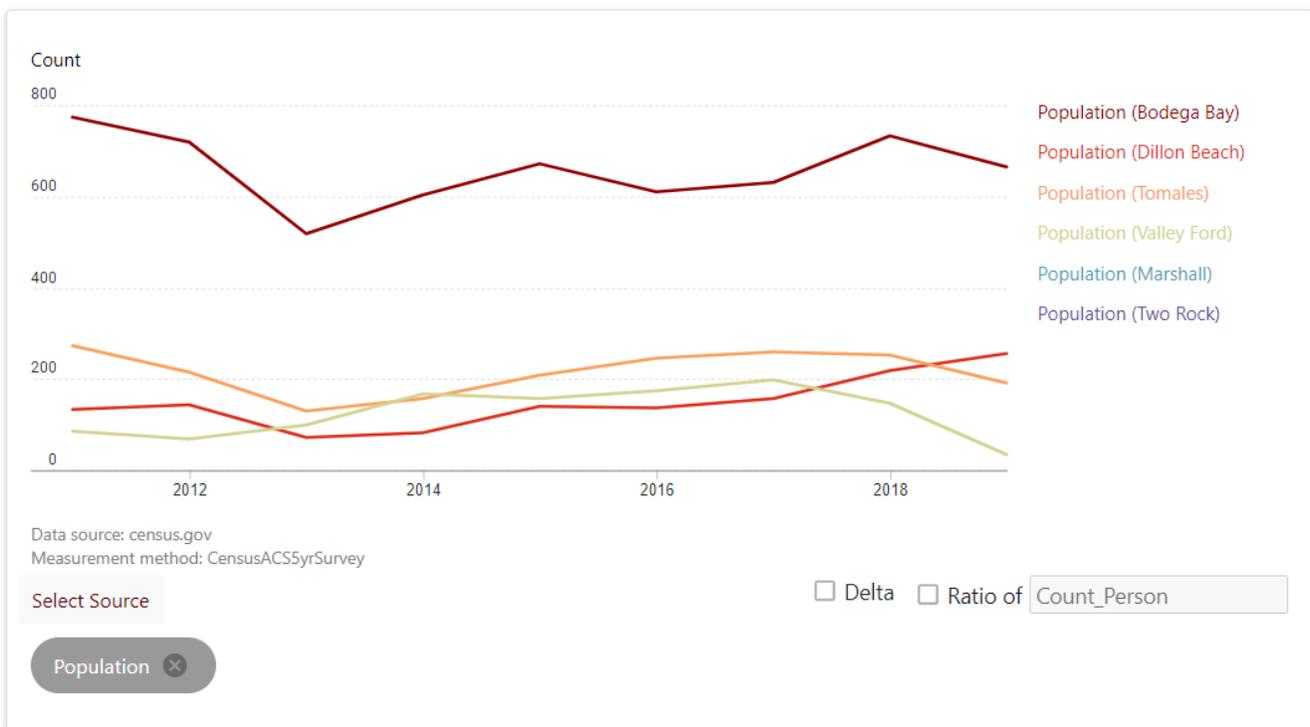
CHURCH SERVICES & PROGRAMS	DATE HELD
▪ Sunday Worship	Weekly every Sunday
▪ Communion served	Monthly on the first Sunday
▪ Celebrate Birthdays during service	Third Sunday of each month
▪ Fellowship hour after service	Weekly every Sunday
▪ Time with the children during service	Weekly every Sunday
▪ Sunday School	Weekly every Sunday
▪ Pastor office hours at TPC	Weekly every Tuesday
▪ TPC Session Meeting	Monthly on Tuesdays
▪ Joint Session Meeting with TPC & TRVPC	Quarterly on Tuesdays
▪ Meeting of the Presbyterian Women	2006-2013
▪ Joint Choir with Two Rock Valley Presbyterian	2011-2014
▪ Joint Services with Two Rock Valley Presbyterian	2006 – Present
▪ Joint Officers Retreat with Two Rock Valley Pres	2006 – Present
▪ Adult Christian Education – Book & Bible Studies	2006 – Present
▪ Sesquicentennial Celebration of TPC & Article Series on the History of Our Service	2015
▪ Hosted Concord Church Choir for lunch	2006, 2008, 2010, 2014, 2016
▪ Hosted Christmas Sing-along	2006-2007, 2010-2011, 2013-2016
▪ Held workdays to maintain building and grounds	2007-2014
▪ Held a Joint service with Tomales Catholic Church	2007, 2011
▪ Pastor and/or church members serves on Presbytery committees	2008-2019
▪ Hosted meeting of Redwoods Presbytery	2009
▪ Joint Handbell Choir with Two Rock Valley Presbyterian	2010, 2014, 2016, 2018-2019, 2022
▪ Pastor and church members joint work group for better public	Unknown
▪ Hosted an all-church picnic in August	2011, 2019
▪ Sixty-year yoked celebration with Two Rock Presbyterian	2013
▪ Hosted free music concert in sanctuary	2019, 2022
COMMUNITY PROGRAMS, EVENTS & OUTREACH	DATE HELD
▪ Senior Exercise Class	2008-2014
▪ Sit and Be Fit Exercise Class	January 2022 - Present
▪ Mommy and Me Group	2009 & 2012-2014
▪ Members volunteer at local Tomales Food Pantry	Weekly every Thursday
▪ Brown Bag Lunch with West Marin Senior Services	Unknown
▪ Q&A with a County Nurse	2008

▪ Members volunteer at Petaluma UCC food pantry	2009-2014
▪ Tomales Park Committee utilize Fellowship Hall for meetings	2015-2016
▪ Charter Organization for Tomales Cub Scout Pack 123	2018-Present
▪ Participated in Tomales Founders Day both in the parade and having a booth	2006, 2008-2011, 2013-2014, 2016, 2021
▪ Hosted an Easter egg hunt in Tomales Park	2007-2019, 2022
▪ Hosted an Easter egg hop drive-thru	2021
▪ Held a booth at the Tomales Swap Meet	2007-2011, 2013-2017
▪ Passed out candy to the Tomales Elementary Schools kids in the Tomales Town Halloween Parade	2007-2018
▪ Hosted Petal for Protein Bicycle event overnight	2008-2011, 2014-2015
▪ Co-Sponsored a fall Flu shot clinic at the Tomales Town Hall	2008-2010, 2012-2019
▪ Helped organize April Health fair at Town Hall	2009-2010, 2012-2013
▪ Collected funds for the THS Senior Scholarship Fund	2009-2016
▪ Collected and donated school supplies to Tomales Elementary School	2009-present
▪ Collected and donated items for the Tomales Elementary School Holiday Bazaar	2009-2010, 2013-2019, 2021
▪ Held a Chronic Health conditions class	2010
▪ Collected and donated items for the Tomales Elementary School Clothing Swap	2010, 2015-2016
▪ Helped organize transportation for the local area	2011-2013
▪ Participated in the Tomales Party in the Park in July	2011-2013
▪ Provided meeting space for the Tomales Community Services District	2012-2014
▪ Built 6 chicken coops and provided to residents in the community	Unknown
▪ Served as the Charter Organization and provided meeting space for Tomales Scouts Pack 123	2018-Present
▪ Provided meeting space for the local TERN group	2018
▪ Provided meeting space for the Tomales Park committee	2018
▪ Fellowship hall used for ESL classes	2019
▪ Hosted community event on the Persian Gulf Crisis	2019

Demographics

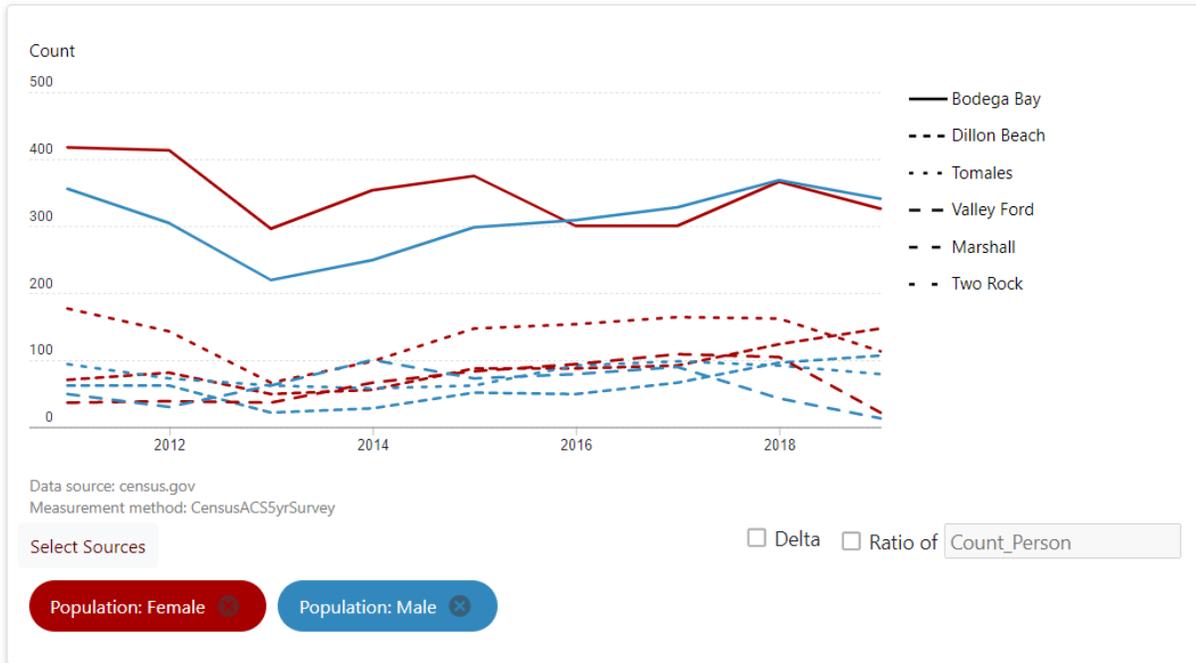
The following charts give a picture of the population, median age, income, housing status, church membership, and congregation demographics and attendance. Demographic data includes the towns of Tomales, Two Rock, Valley Ford, Dillon Beach, Marshall, Bodega Bay and Petaluma (when applicable). Tomales Presbyterian Church is in Marin County but sits on the border of Southwest Sonoma County. Please note that the census data query included the communities of Marshall and Two Rock, however there was no data available for these two communities.

Total Population



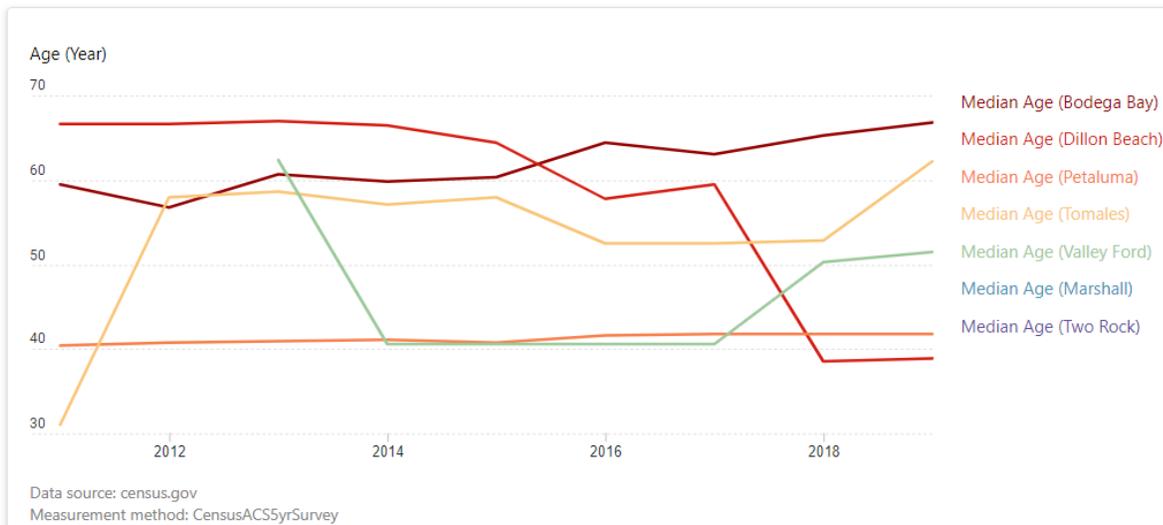
Interpretive Summary: While the populations of Dillon Beach have increased slightly over the past 10 years the aggregate population of the greater Tomales area have remained constant. However, Dillon Beach serves as a resort community and many homes are vacation rentals.

Population by Gender



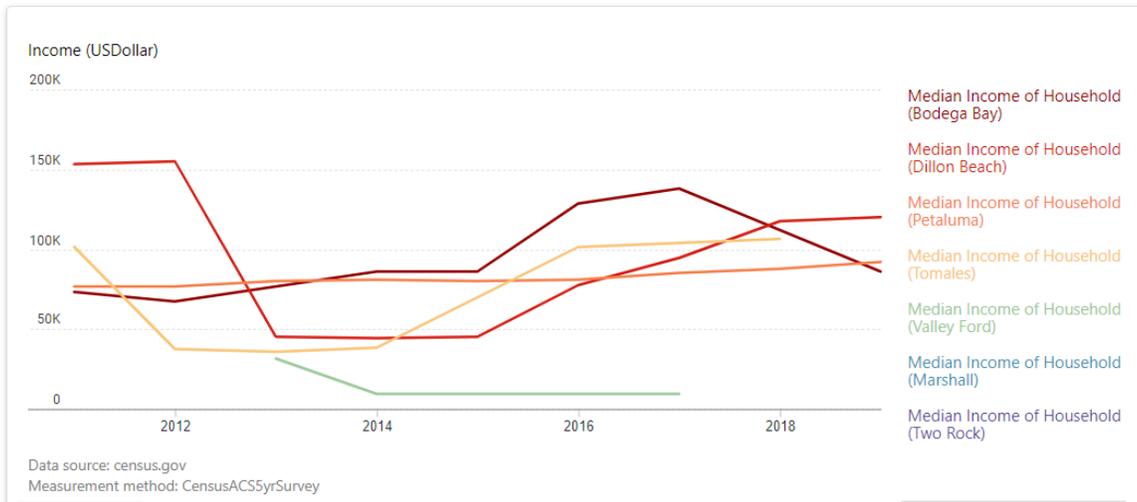
Interpretive Summary: The distribution of gender across the greater Tomales area has remained consistent with a slightly greater prevalence of females. (Possibly attributed to the aging population.)

Median Age



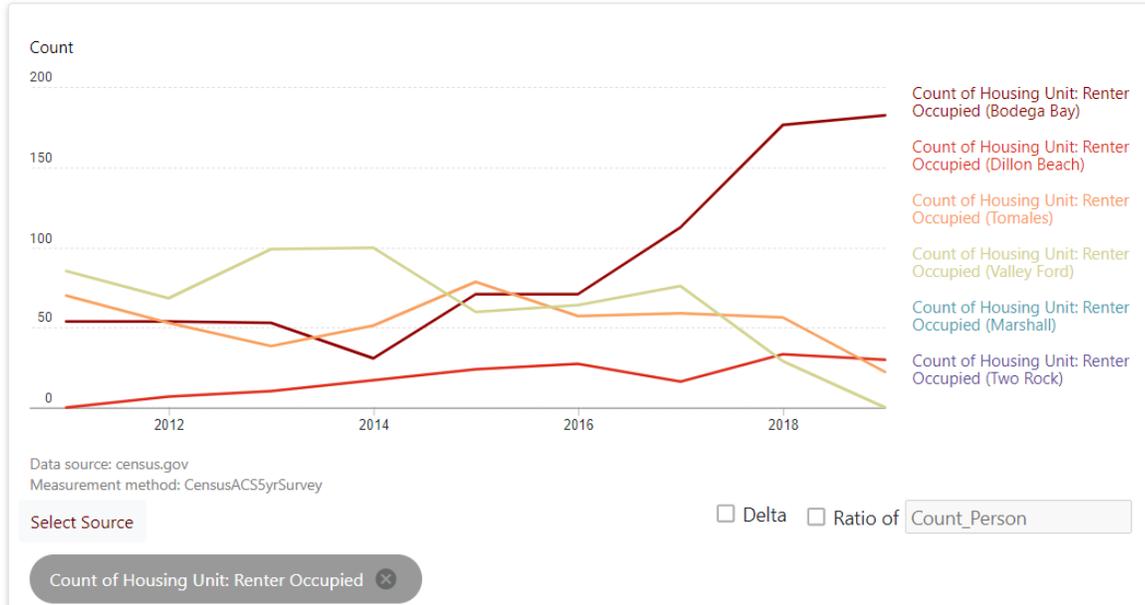
Interpretive Summary: The average age of populations in Valley Ford and Tomales continues to increase over the past 10 years suggesting a greater need for geriatric pastoral services. Conversely, the average age of the population in Dillon Beach has decreased as younger families move into the area. This does indicate a slight shift in aging demographics compared to surrounding cities such as Petaluma that remained constant.

Median Income



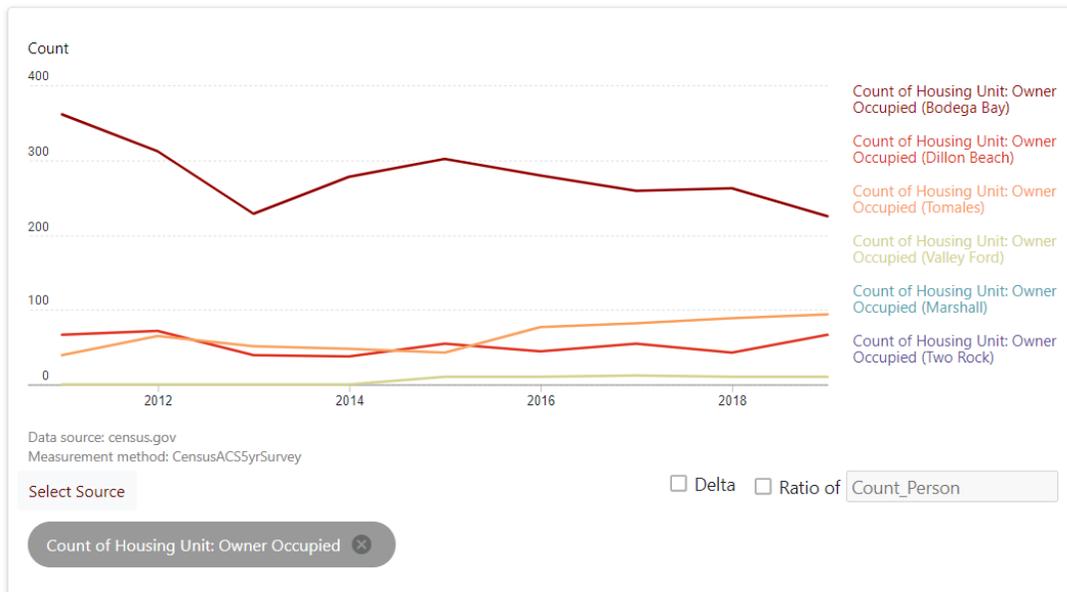
Interpretive Summary: The median household incomes in west Marin took a dip for almost all communities during the early part of the decade. Most incomes have since increased compared to surrounding areas.

Housing Status - Renter Occupied



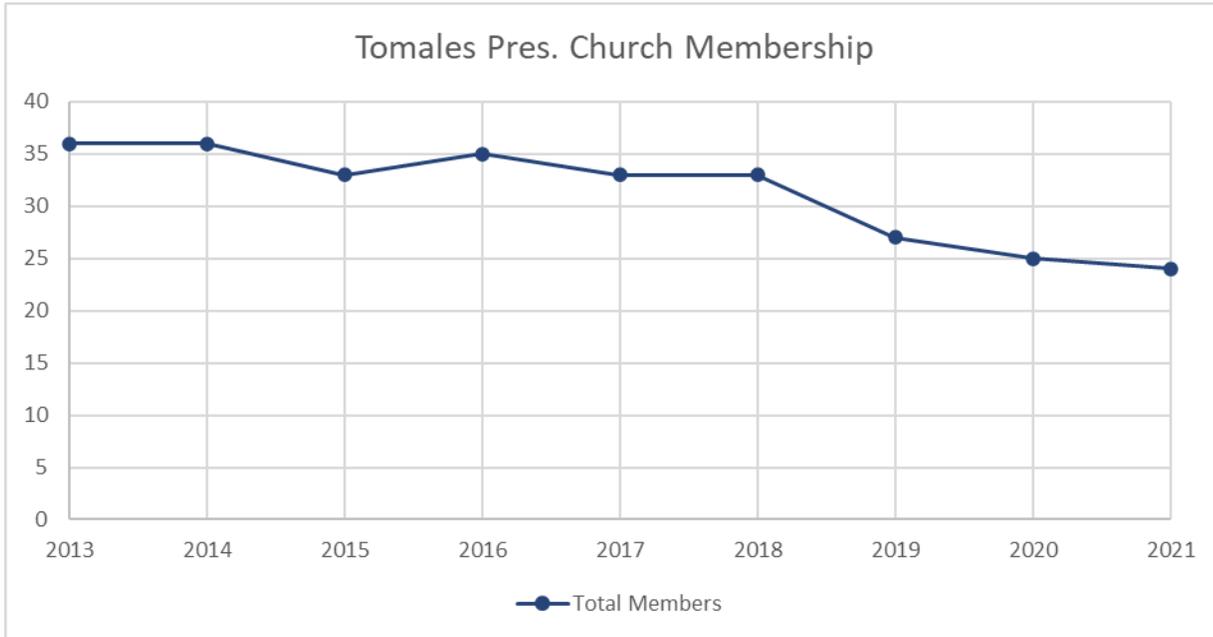
Interpretive Summary: Renter occupied housing has shown an increase in Bodega Bay but a more significant drop in Tomales and Valley Ford.

Housing Status - Owner-Occupied



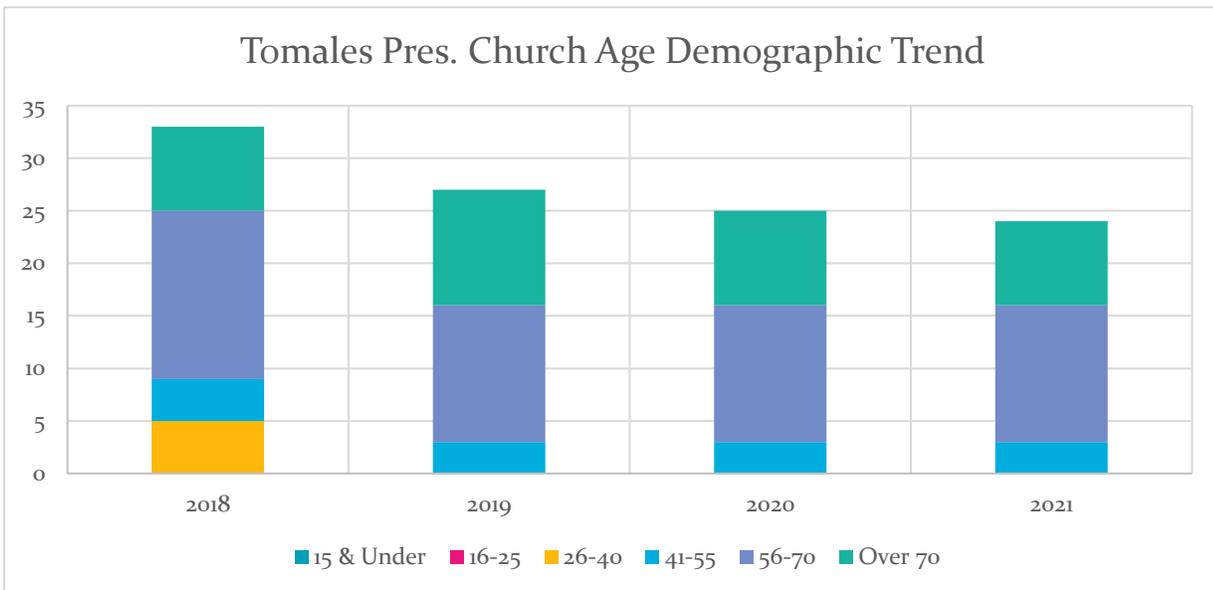
Interpretive Summary: The amount of owner-occupied housing in the greater Tomales area has remained consistent over the past decade.

Tomales Presbyterian Church Demographics Church Membership Trends



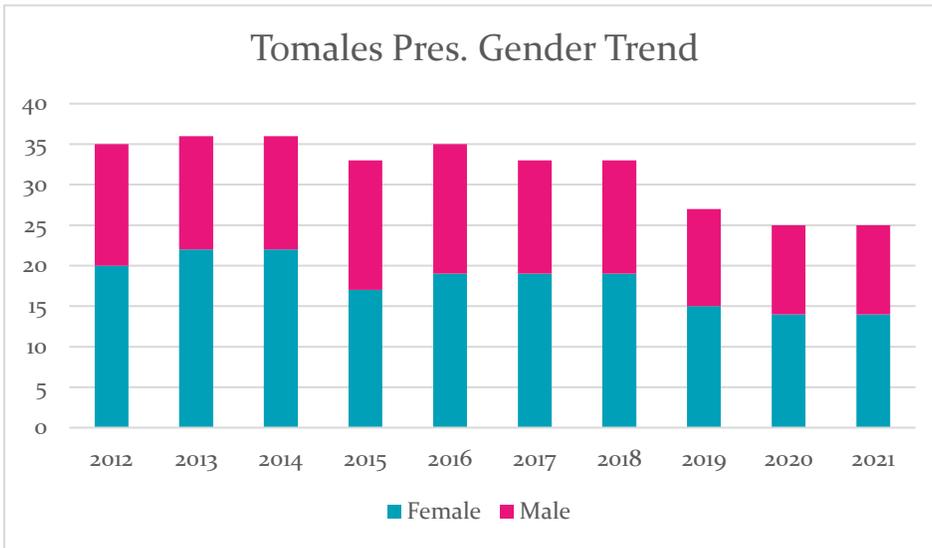
Interpretive Summary: Over the past 10 years Tomales Presbyterian Church has seen an overall decrease in membership of approximately 33%.

Congregation Age Demographics



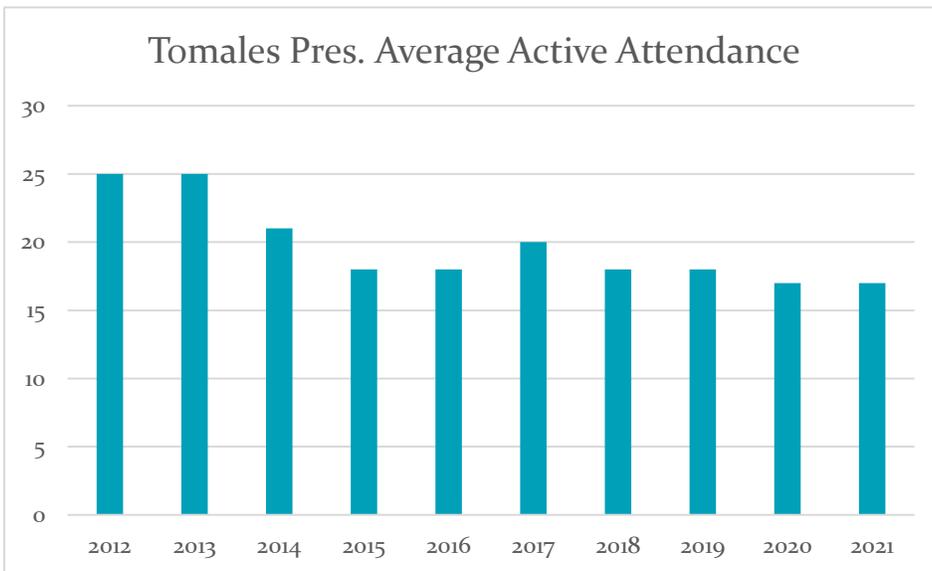
Interpretive Summary: Age demographics are changing with the group 26-40 disappearing and over 70 increasing from 24% to 33% of the total.

Congregation Gender Trend



Interpretive Summary: The gender distribution of TPC's membership has remained constant since 2012.

Average Active Attendance



Financials

Stewardship Income and Operating Expenses

The following table presents the Pledge, Gift, Loose Offerings and Other Sources of Income received by the Church from 2008 to the 2022 Budget. Pledge Giving, Gifts & Loose Offerings increased steadily during the period, increasing 55%, from \$39 thousand in 2008 to \$60 thousand in 2021. The Budget for 2022 is \$61 thousand. Generally, Pledged Offerings accounted for 60 to 70% of the Total. Other Gifts are largely received from friends of the Church, some of whom eventually become Pledge givers. Of note is that during 2020, when the Church was unable to hold in-person worship services due to Covid19 restrictions, Offerings and Gifts actually increased over pre-Covid 2019. Also significant is that the 2022 Budget reflects an increase in Pledges despite the absence of a permanent replacement called pastor.

Tomales Presbyterian Church						
Offerings, Gifts & Other Sources of Income						
2008 - 2021 Actual and 2022 Budget						
Year	Pledge Offerings	Designated Gifts	Other Gifts	Loose Offerings	Other Sources of Income	Total
2008	\$27,939	\$1,582	\$7,420	\$2,258	\$10,197	\$49,396
2009	29,113	9,447	4,015	8,475	9,288	60,339
2010	29,509	415	10,755	2,128	5,891	48,698
2011	31,405	5,340	10,284	2,133	7,073	56,235
2012	29,643	6,300	17,757	3,224	5,434	62,358
2013	32,646	1,868	9,705	2,041	4,822	51,082
2014	23,815	15,136	12,311	2,529	6,840	60,630
2015	31,183	5,707	9,018	3,032	8,885	57,825
2016	30,685	2,180	15,641	1,753	6,113	56,372
2017	30,814	12,875	9,750	1,493	5,638	60,571
2018	29,257	1,800	14,580	1,641	6,062	53,340
2019	38,126	8,200	6,634	1,677	3,761	58,399
2020	44,736	7,150	8,526	773	8,485	69,670
2021	37,519	5,100	17,181	850	1,224	61,874
2022B	43,620	0	16,400	700	1,900	62,620

The following table includes Income and Operating Expenses of the Church for each year from 2008 to the Budget for 2022. Of note is that Operating Expenses exceed Income in several of the years presented. These shortfalls are typically funded from Memorial gifts received in remembrance of members and friends.

The largest (60% to 70%) Operating Expense category is labeled “Joint Expenses.” Since 1953 Tomales Presbyterian Church has been “yoked” with neighboring Two Rock Valley Presbyterian Church, meaning that the two churches share the services and costs of one Pastor, along with certain administrative functions. At the current time, Tomales absorbs 31% of Joint costs and Two Rock 69%. Those costs are reflected in each church’s financial reports as “Joint Expenses.”

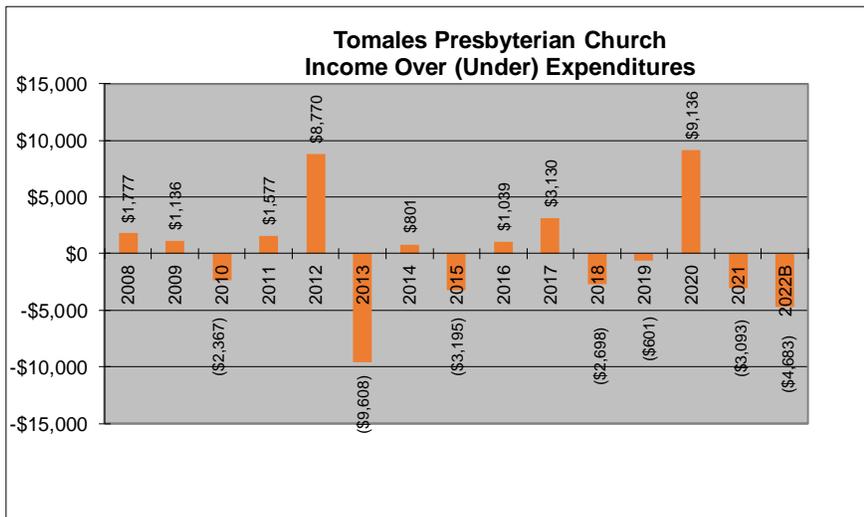
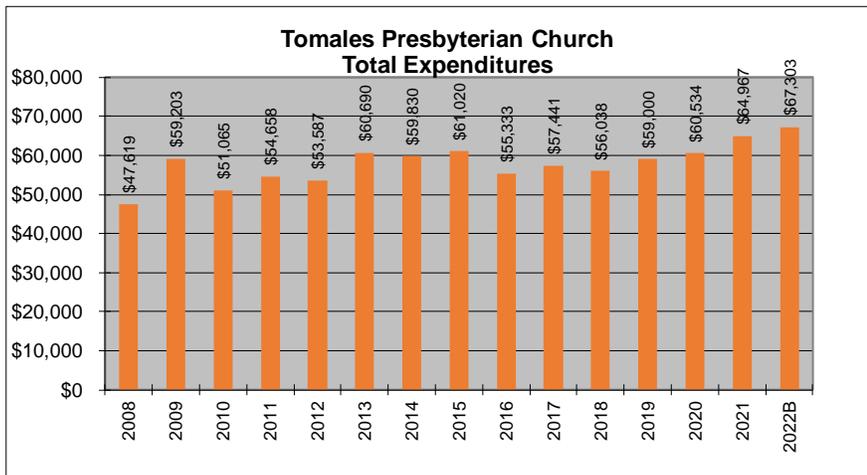
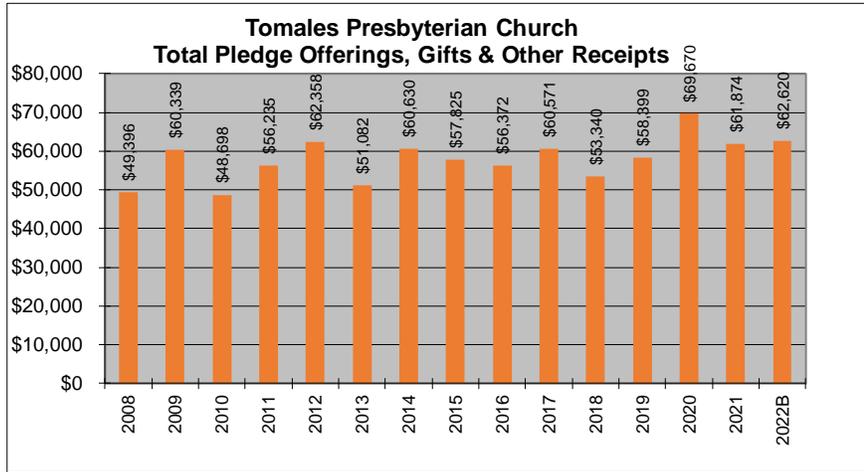
The next largest Expense category is for operating costs of the historic church building, cemetery and grounds. Several large projects were completed in 2020 and 2021 so that maintenance of the building is current; however, normal ongoing costs have continued to escalate.

Tomales Presbyterian Church								
Offerings, Gifts & Other Receipts and Expenditures								
2008 - 2021 Actual and 2022 Budget								
Year	Total Offerings & Income	Joint Expenses	Mission Expense	Building Expense	Worship Expense	Other Expense	Total Expenses	Net Surplus (Deficit)
2008	\$49,396	\$29,173	\$2,200	\$10,248	\$4,913	\$1,085	\$47,619	\$1,777
2009	60,339	30,853	2,474	18,697	5,811	1,368	59,203	1,136
2010	48,698	30,315	3,605	11,123	4,743	1,279	51,065	(2,367)
2011	56,235	29,978	3,760	13,798	4,935	2,186	54,658	1,577
2012	62,358	32,737	3,326	11,566	4,644	1,315	53,587	8,770
2013	51,082	33,569	3,762	16,886	5,459	1,014	60,690	(9,608)
2014	60,630	34,157	2,529	11,825	4,666	6,652	59,830	801
2015	57,825	33,677	2,884	14,940	4,462	5,057	61,020	(3,195)
2016	56,372	35,145	2,683	11,382	4,701	1,422	55,333	1,039
2017	60,571	35,310	1,612	11,927	5,944	2,649	57,441	3,130
2018	53,340	33,115	2,790	12,518	5,026	2,589	56,038	(2,698)
2019	58,399	34,892	1,989	14,293	5,318	2,508	59,000	(601)
2020	69,670	35,007	2,748	16,514	3,761	2,505	60,534	9,136
2021	61,874	37,628	2,522	17,186	5,024	2,607	64,967	(3,093)
2022B	62,620	36,856	4,400	17,204	6,500	2,343	67,303	(4,683)

The following table shows the breakdown of the Joint Budget for 2021 and 2022. The amounts indicated as “Contributions” from Tomales represent the allocated amounts paid by Tomales for Pastoral and other shared costs. The amounts appear in Tomales’ books as Expenses. The “2021 Actual” amounts reflect that the previous Pastor served through the end of September and the current Temporary Pastor for the last three months of the year. The Temporary Pastor is budgeted to serve through 2022.

Joint Budget Contributions & Expenditures			
Tomales Presbyterian Church and			
Two Rock Valley Presbyterian Church			
2021 Budget & Actuals and 2022 Budget			
	2021	2021	2022
	Budget	Actual	Budget
Contributions:			
Tomales (31%)	\$37,366	\$37,158	\$36,856
Two Rock Valley (69%)	81,394	81,437	80,448
Total Contributions	\$118,760	\$118,595	\$117,304
Expenditures			
Pastor	\$92,156	\$68,319	\$0
Temporary Pastor	0	20,332	88,844
Secretary	12,255	13,704	13,456
Office	8,225	6,928	8,450
Miscellaneous	6,124	6,081	6,554
Total Expenditures	\$118,760	\$115,364	\$117,304

**Tomales Presbyterian Church
 Selected Financial Data Presented in Graph Format
 2008 - 2021 Actual and 2022 Budget**



The Church maintains segregated Fund Accounts in which special and/or designated donations are reserved for future use. Uses have included improvements to the Cemetery, large building maintenance expenditures, and supplementing ongoing operations of the Church. The following table shows the ending Fund balances for the years 2008 – 2022 (Budget).

Tomales Presbyterian Church				
Fund Balances at December 31st				
Year	Cemetery Fund	Memorial Fund	All Other Funds	Total
2007	\$71,187	\$14,998	\$18,345	\$104,530
2008	31,253	10,124	14,826	56,204
2009	31,713	10,859	14,691	57,264
2010	33,075	11,087	10,736	54,898
2011	37,814	7,293	11,368	56,475
2012	38,896	12,737	13,614	65,246
2013	39,191	12,011	4,436	55,639
2014	34,461	12,711	9,269	56,440
2015	36,191	76,388	2,536	115,116
2016	36,649	75,688	3,817	116,155
2017	39,019	77,242	2,924	119,185
2018	39,463	75,459	1,565	116,487
2019	30,568	62,723	2,996	96,286
2020	30,888	7,320	7,058	45,265
2021	30,796	6,502	4,615	41,914
2022B	30,796	3,502	2,932	37,231

How We Identify with Our Church

In January 2022, as part of the mission study process, the committee asked the congregation to respond to how they identified with the church. During fellowship, each table had a sheet of paper asking the question:

**Write a word or phrase
describing how you and
others might identify
with our church.**

The responses showed the diversity of identity within our small church community and the importance of the role of the church in providing a sanctuary for our congregation.

- ❖ Fellowship
- ❖ Micah 6:8: *“He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.”*
- ❖ Home
- ❖ Comfort
- ❖ Calm
- ❖ Socially and Culturally Conscience
- ❖ Peaceful
- ❖ Music
- ❖ Community Engagement
- ❖ Ecumenical messages
- ❖ Historical Connections and Preservation
- ❖ Members and Friends
- ❖ Community
- ❖ Kindness
- ❖ Friendship
- ❖ Visible
- ❖ Connecting with Others

Congregational Survey

One of the major components of a mission study is to survey the congregation and friends of the church to gather feedback on different aspects of the church and its role in the community. The survey comprised a total of 32 questions. The congregational survey was created on an online platform and a link was sent to 29 on the Tomales Presbyterian Church mailing list. Acknowledging that not all friends of the church have access to email and the internet, approximately 7 surveys were sent hardcopy to those individuals. For the online survey we received a total of 15 responses and did not receive any hardcopy submissions.

Unfortunately, due to some unknown error, the data on the online survey for questions that asked for a response on a scale of 1 to 5 were tallied on a scale of 0 to 100. The mission study team was unable to deduct an accurate analysis of these questions. However, we received incredibly informative information on the open-ended questions that in the end, the mission study team agreed the open-ended questions provided more insight than using the scale method. A copy of the survey in its entirety is available at the end of this report as a PDF attachment.

Analysis of the Congregational Survey

What is the Church doing well?

Overwhelmingly, survey respondents indicated that fellowship was successful at Tomales Presbyterian Church and that it was a welcoming environment to both returning attendees and guests. Respondents appreciated the outreach to members through cards, visitations, and phone calls. Survey responses indicated the appreciation of the upkeep of the church grounds including our sanctuary and cemetery and creating a “pleasant and inspirational facility and atmosphere”.

What opportunities are there for improvement?

Most responses indicated a need for more outreach with the local community, visibility, and to expand our congregation.

How do you see the needs of our congregation changing?

Almost all responses to this question highlighted the changing demographics of the congregation as an older, aging population. There were several responses indicating attention should be focused on bringing in younger or more diverse families while also meeting the needs of our older attendees.

What do you believe the current pastoral needs of our congregation are?

The responses to this question were more diverse ranging from elder care and services, building deeper connections, being present in the local community, outreach to broader communities, meaningful sermons, good communication, and a part-time youth ministry.

If there have been incidents of concern or obstacles that have hindered your experience with the church what were some of those experiences?

This question was designed to highlight any past grievances with the church and to find ways to help heal those experiences moving forward. A few respondents indicated that they did not connect well with our previous pastor and/or that the sermons did not resonate with them. There was also an indication of a lack of volunteerism.

Respondents suggested that the new pastor should be more inclusive and take time to connect on a deeper level with members of the church both who are present and those who have moved out of the area.

How can the church further help to deepen your faith journey?

A few respondents indicated a need for deeper and more meaningful sermons that met the needs of both newer members of faith and long-time members while also relating more to current issues and how one might cope with them. There were also a few responses related to continuing adult education including more study groups and focusing on social justice issues, not just bible study.

How might the church help make attendees feel more welcomed?

Most responses indicated that the church was doing a good job of making attendees feel welcomed. Suggestions included potlucks and other inclusive activities and outreach to guests and sending personal invitations inviting them to return.

What aspects of worship do you feel inspired by the most?

Overwhelmingly respondents indicated that they felt most inspired by our music program and sermons.

Rank in Order of importance the following issues facing the Church over the next 5 years: Growing membership, increasing weekly attendance, maintaining financial stability, expanding community outreach, increasing mission giving, and building and maintenance.

Expanding community outreach was listed as the number one most important issue facing the church while maintaining financial stability and growing membership was second. Increasing weekly attendance was third, building and maintenance fourth, and increasing mission giving as the least important of all six listed.

The following were listed under other areas of importance: Children's education, nurturing the bonds of regular attendees, Christian education for all ages, choosing a permanent minister, building strong community bonds, and renewing the relationship with our Catholic brethren.

Are there ways in which you would like to contribute but don't feel you can?

Out of the eleven responses to this question, seven responded no and two responded yes. One response indicated they already help, and another responded that they would like to do more but are already tapped out or are limited due to driving limitations.

To remedy this, suggestions were made to engage more volunteers, let the church family know how and what help is needed, and creating a suggestion list of ways to help.

How can the church's adult education program make improvements?

Suggestions included a monthly potluck with a topic or speaker for discussion, opening it up to others and finding more opportunities to reach a broader group, doing more in conjunction with Two Rock Valley Presbyterian, and increasing the program in general.

Please list area in which you feel we have done well.

Overwhelmingly, responses indicated that the church's involvement in the community was successful including participation in the local food pantry, providing school supplies to the local elementary school, supporting the local cub scout program, hosting the annual Easter egg hunt in the Tomales Park, and showing a presence at local community events such as Tomales Founder's Day.

Please list area in which we can improve in.

Suggestions included advertising the fellowship hall space to make our church more visible and available to the community. This included being a hub and safe haven during emergencies such as wildfire evacuees, encouraging other local civic minded groups to use the space, hosting more events, and stressing the history of the church and traditions honored.

How might the church engage in, or find ways to connect with the local community through new partnerships or strengthening existing partnerships?

This question provided suggestions such as making a connection with the local Catholic church, targeted fundraising campaigns, and activities for the community such as the current chair exercise class.

If the church were not to exist tomorrow where would the greatest impact be felt?

This question was designed as a hypothetical 'what if' to get a sense of where the impact would be felt most. Responses indicated a huge loss to the local community both as a "spiritual anchor", its historical significance, and involvement in the community such as the food pantry and at local events.

How can the business of the church increase transparency?

This question did not generate a large response, but one suggestion was to post monthly session meeting minutes in the fellowship hall or online.

Please provide any additional feedback you would like to share with the Church.

"I think TPC is a special church with a tight knit community. There is always things we could do but our resources, both human and financial are spread thin. I think we need to figure out how to raise funds to properly care for our historic building. But I don't know the reality of increasing attendance given our tiny community and less people practicing faith."

“I believe members of TPC should be encouraged to occasionally attend services at the Two Rock church and vice-versa.”

“Our church family is one of the most things in my life. I look forward to hearing God’s word shared openly and lovingly each week. I am encouraged by the fact at least some people are taught and living about God and good examples are shared.”

“Mission study and self-evaluation are very important to a dynamic congregation.”

“Thank you for asking the congregation to take this survey. Great way to share our thoughts and maybe help a little with your committee’s work.”

I will praise the Lord all my life, I will sing praise to my God as long as I live. Blessed are those whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the Lord their God. He is the maker of heaven and earth, the sea, and everything in them – he remains faithful forever. He upholds the cause of the oppressed and gives food to the hungry. The Lord sets prisoners free, the Lord gives sight to the blind, the Lord lifts up those who are bowed down, the Lord loves the righteous. The Lord watches over the foreigner and sustains the fatherless and the widow, but he frustrates the ways of the wicked. The Lord reigns forever, your God, O Zion, for all generations. Praise the Lord.

Psalm 146 verse 2 and verses 5-10

Addendum

➤ Online Congregational Survey Results

Please Note:

Unfortunately, due to some unknown error, the data on the online survey for questions that asked for a response on a scale of 1 to 5 were tallied on a scale of 0 to 100. The mission study team was unable to deduct an accurate analysis of these questions. However, we received incredibly informative information on the open-ended questions that in the end, the mission study team agreed the open-ended questions provided more insight than using the scale method. A copy of the survey in its entirety is available as an addendum.