

# 2010 Congregational Interest Survey Results

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Greetings,

First we must apologize for the delay in reporting these findings to you. “Time and chance befall us all” and we have been no exception. However, we promised to pass on this information and we feel it is better to meet that obligation later rather than never.

What follows are the results of the Peace and Justice Congregational Interest Survey including any comments that were collected from the surveys along with our response, and the actions we are taking based on your input.

Thank you to all who participated in this exercise.

Remember, anyone is welcome to attend the Peace and Justice Ministry meetings and we value your feedback. Let us know what you think.

We thank God for each of you and pray you may know his peace,

Desert Heritage Peace and Justice Ministry

## **Background**

On May 2, 2010 the Desert Heritage Church Peace and Justice Ministry disseminated an interest survey to the congregation. The survey was created by combining peace and justice issues from the web-sites of the Disciples of Christ (Christian Church) and the United Church of Christ. The survey was made available to the congregation for three weeks (May 2 – May 25), then collected and the results were tabulated. Inclusion of any issue on the survey did not necessarily indicate the support of Desert Heritage Church or the Peace and Justice Ministry. The survey was announced and explained during the Peace and Justice Ministry moment on Sunday, May 2. Twenty-seven (27) surveys were completed. This represents roughly 27% of the regularly attending congregation.

# Survey Results

## Number of Responses by Category

The following chart (Fig. 1) details how many people felt a certain way about each issue. For example, 15 people thought our church should act on Anti-Racism issues, 4 people wanted more information, and 6 people had no interest.

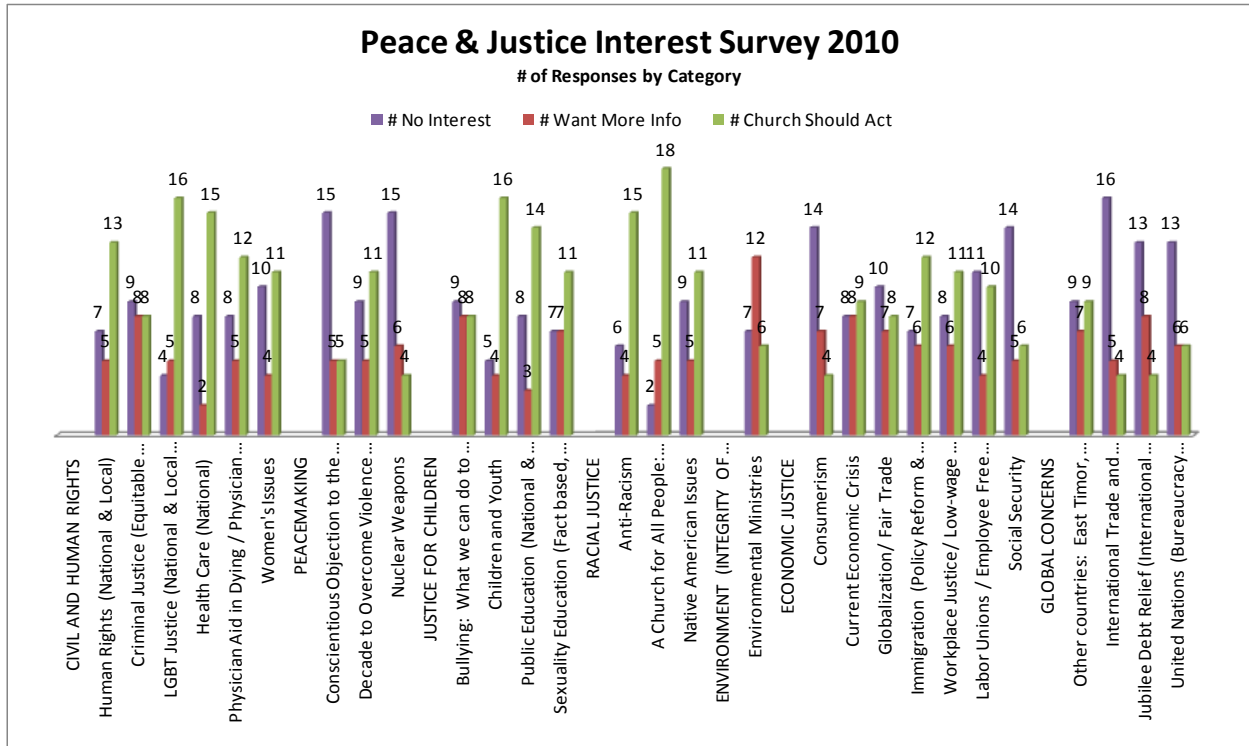


Figure 1: #of Responses by Category

## Total Points or "Passion"

The following chart (Fig. 2) details the "passion" engendered by each issue

In addition to asking what issues you were interested in, we ranked each for "passion" by assigning the following numbers to your responses.

"No Interest" received a score of 0.

"Want More Info" received a score of 3.

"Our Church Should Act" received a score of 5.

Using both charts gives us a better picture of what really matters to you.

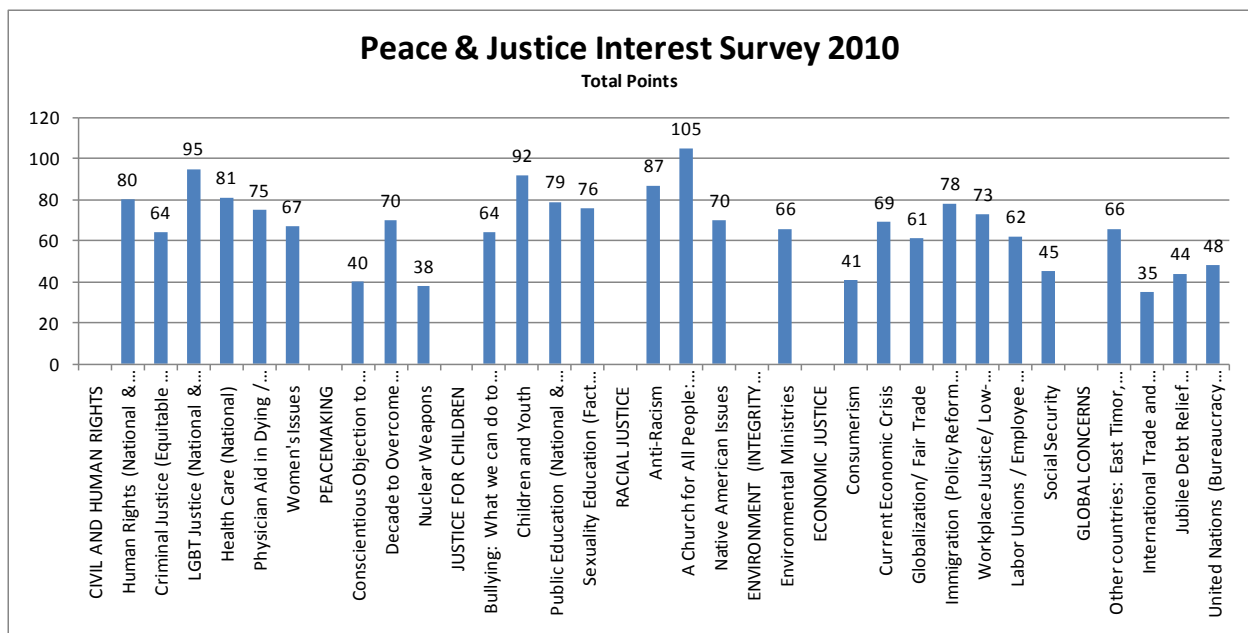


Figure 2: Total Points or "Passion"

By using both charts we found that the top three responses were:

1. A Church for All People Bible Study: Becoming a Multi-Racial, Multi Cultural Church.
2. LGBT Justice (National & Local).
3. Children and Youth.

## Comments

The following comments were collected from the surveys. They are reproduced here verbatim except where names were used. Our response follows each comment.

### Comment 1

*"I started to circle some & not others, but I realized they're all important in different ways -- How does the church intend on approaching these issues -- some are so large? How do we bring it down to something we can manage and help? You need to speak before the congregation so we aren't so overwhelmed looking at this page."*

### Response 1

It can be overwhelming to look at our hurting world and all its problems. However it's important to remember that we are not called to do everything – only as much as we can. Tools like this survey along with your suggestions and feedback will help us discern which issues we *can* do something about. And keep in mind, when issues are truly beyond our abilities we can always pray about them. Ultimately, God will be the one to cure the ills of the world.

### Comment 2

*"How about helping out members of our own congregation? (Like the XXXXXX) Hospitality, Justice & concern for others in our congregation is especially of concern to me. I feel if we are really concerned & care for others, we should show it to those right here at DHC -- those who have helped to form & support this church."*

### Response 2

We agree so we did some research and found that we do help those in our own congregation. In order to protect the dignity of our brothers and sisters this help is always done quietly so it's understandable that other members may not realize that help is being given. If you or someone you know need support help is available. You may contact Pastor Paul (or Pastor Skip during the sabbatical) or one of the elders.

In addition to helping our own, we are called to help all our neighbors. We believe we can do both without weakening either ministry.

### Comment 3

*"I support other groups with these issues. Provide options for non-church agencies/sources for members to connect with if interested."*

### Response 3

Thank you for being active in the cause of peace and justice. While non-church agencies and sources can be very effective and partnering with them will certainly allow us to multiply the results of our efforts, they do not replace our obligation to pursue peace and justice as a congregation.

#### **Comment 4**

*“What about issues at home? Abused children. Child Crisis Center. What about abused mothers? And the homeless. We may go to Paz De Cristo once a month and collect food, but we could do more to try to help them get out of their situations.”*

#### **Response 4**

Yes we can do more. One of the objectives of the DHC Peace and Justice Ministry is to help the congregation do more, to find ways for us to help more people.

#### **What's Next?**

We are working on your number one response from the survey. We have downloaded copies of the “A Church for All People Bible Study: Becoming a Multi-Racial, Multi Cultural Church” bible study. On Saturday, August 21 the Peace and Justice Ministry will meet for an intensive, 8 hour study and planning session so that we may be prepared to facilitate the study throughout the rest of the congregation.