

Kairos and the Church Assessment Tool- CAT

What is the Church Assessment Tool?

The CAT is an expertly developed survey that is primarily administered online and taken by members of your congregation. It is a tool that has been developed over several years and implemented in hundreds of congregations. The data that is generated from this tool offers a unique look into your congregation and provides critical information for important planning and decision-making.

Why does Kairos use the CAT?

Kairos puts a high value on listening to the people of a congregation when discerning how to best move forward with important plans and decisions. Gauging the level of energy, health, satisfaction, and readiness of the membership provides leadership with a significant amount of organizational intelligence. This picture of the congregation helps to determine priorities, willingness, capacity and desire for moving forward with capital appeal programs or other major plans.

Is the CAT adaptable to each church setting?

The CAT has been designed with numerous standardized questions. This allows for benchmarking your congregation against hundreds of other churches around the country. Although the CAT uses mostly standardized questions, it has the ability to create uniquely framed questions that address the specific needs of your church. In addition, there are a number of modules that can be added to the basic tool that address areas of leadership, financial capacity, and congregations in transition.

Is this the only tool Kairos uses to listen to the membership base?

The CAT provides us with the ability to reach every member of a congregation, inviting them to share their feelings and attitudes in confidential ways. As important as this is, we also feel it is of great value to conduct interviews and listening groups to gather more qualitative input for decision-making. These personal connections allow for deeper understanding and clarity of the information that was provided through the CAT.

Why is this important for congregational planning and decision-making?

Whenever an organization desires to move from one place to another, it is important to first understand where you are in order to begin meaningful movement forward. The CAT, and the whole Kairos Listening Process, provides leaders with critical data and input that not only brings greater clarity of where you are, but also the confidence in knowing how to take those next steps. For churches, it is essential that you are connected to your membership base – understanding their drivers of satisfaction, knowing what the critical success factors might be, listening to their hopes for ministry priorities, embracing their theological perspective, and being aware of the financial capacity and willingness that is available to you. Healthy congregations take seriously the need to assess and evaluate where they are in order to better determine where they want to be. This tool is a significant step in getting you there.