Grace and peace, all!

We have completed the first of our two surveys, beginning our preparation for the call process. The first survey looked at our ministries, how we thought they were doing and how we wanted them to do. The second survey, going on this month, looks at what we are looking for in a new pastor. The goal of an interim pastor is to guide this process, allowing time for healing, which will happen when we no longer look backward, but now are becoming excited about our future. From the first survey, here are the top and bottom three ministries. The ministry we liked most is our Worship! We rated that at 8.4 out of 10. You have worked hard to combine the praise worship with the traditional worship. And our musicians have done an outstanding job here. We are so wonderfully gifted with musicians! Still we have even higher expectations about our worship, which we saw in the 9.4 score of where we should be. Incidentally, the difference between 8.4 and 9.4 was the smallest of all of the questions, meaning we are closest to meeting our expectations here in our worship life. Our second joy at FELC is our Senior Citizen ministry which we scored at 7.2 and hoped it would be 9.1. Third in order is our Global Mission emphasis which we scored at 7.1. Hopefully we can bring that up to 8.8. What concerned us most is our ministry to our Young Adults which we scored at 4.6, while hoping we could be at 8.9. Our next concern is our Evangelism, scored at 5.3. Again, our hope was that we could reach out with the good news of Jesus Christ at the 8.9 level. Our third concern is our Local Outreach at 6.2. We do so much already. Could we do more? Of course! We hope that we could operate at the 9.2 level. Looking at these joys and concerns, I quickly saw that these results could describe a large number of our congregations. We are, after all, perfectly normal! The bigger question is how are we going to go from where we are to where we want to be? Is the new pastor going to do that for us? Will the staff do the heavy lifting for us? Will all of the members go out in joy? Or will we all work together, under the prayerful guidance of the Holy Spirit? That’s what I’m hoping and praying for. This is an exciting time to be a member of First English!