

## Themes from open-ended questions

### **Question 1: I am a part of Seeds because/What I value most about Seeds is...**

- It has an informal and non-traditional approach to church-doing. There is a culture of mixing things up to keep life meaningful and purposeful.
  - Prioritizing relevance over tradition
  - Counter-cultural
  - Appreciation for the culture of Seeds (relaxed, transparent)
- It is a safe and inclusive space for asking hard questions, being vulnerable, and exploring what it looks like to live out a Jesus-following life.
  - Spiritual growth and challenge are important here.
  - Translating belief into action in the local community
  - "Inclusive" (18x)
- It provides a community connection that feels supportive and life-giving.
- In 1-2 sentences:
  - People are a part of Seeds because they feel safe and included which allows them the space to explore hard questions, grow spiritually, and act accordingly in the community. They value that Seeds does things differently, with the invitation/challenge to move faith to action.

### **Question 2: I believe Seeds exists because...**

- It is a safe space to be different and inclusive. Seeds offers an alternative and progressive voice that is valuable and attractive to a wide range of people.
  - Non-traditional in belief and culture
  - Willing to try new things
  - Safe (x14)
- It focuses on "making Jesus real" by responding to the community.
  - Being engaged with and positively impacting the community
  - Showing what it means to be Jesus-followers
  - A focus outwards
  - "Make Jesus real" (x14)
- It is a place for people to gather, commune and connect with others. It is a place to learn about our faith and move on our individual and collective spiritual walks.
- Leadership has been consistent, strong, and focused on visioning an improved future.
  - An openness to move differently and respond to what people need.
- In 1-2 sentences:
  - Seeds exists because it offers an inclusive, progressive, and innovative place that strives to answer the question "what does it look like to make Jesus real?" People believe that strong leadership and openness to change have been essential in creating this environment.

**Question 3: What I hope for Seeds in January 2025 is...**

- A continuation of the values that Seeds holds while being open to changes.
  - Pastoral leadership feels important (15x) along with regular meetings as a community.
  - Focus on growth, inclusivity and the core values that were identified earlier.
  - People are not “dug in” and express a willingness to see what happens.
- Seeds will continue to focus on living the right way rather than knowing the right thing.
  - Right living > right believing.
- That leadership is addressing the current challenges Seeds is facing including:
  - Decreased attendance/reality of resources needed for regular gatherings.
  - People’s ability to commit time and energy to Seeds.
  - Clear ideas of leadership
- In 1-2 sentences:
  - People hope that Seeds can navigate forwards through a tricky transition period while maintaining the current identity that sets it apart and draws people in. People hope for a continued focus on right living over right believing and creative approaches to the current challenges facing the congregation.