

# *Congregational Member Survey Summary*

**46947 Total Respondents**

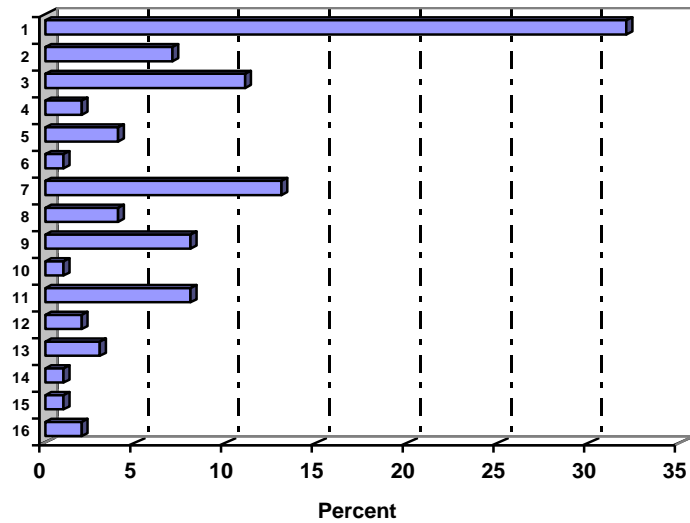
This dataset of findings is from those churches who used our Inventories between March 2004 and March 2014, totaling 46,947 respondents from 323 churches. A third of these churches are United Church of Christ, 29% are Presbyterian (PCUSA) and 12% are Episcopal. Mainline churches make up nine additional percent, including Lutheran (ELCA), American Baptist and United Methodist. The remaining roughly 15% are from conservative and Evangelical churches including Southern Baptist, Nondenominational and Church of God. Their average size is in the range of 100-200 active attenders. These churches are from thirty-five states with no single state accounting for more than 10% of the sample. The average response rate for these churches was roughly 30%-35% of the total membership.

## **TASKS OF THE CHURCH**

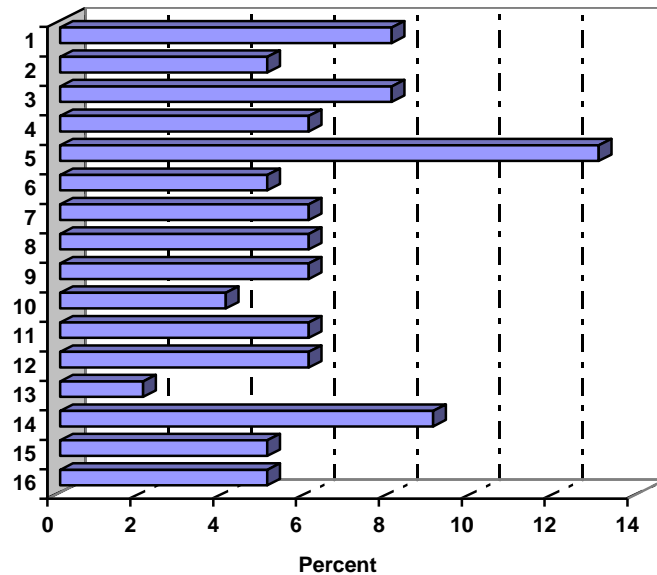
The survey listed a number of tasks that a local church is likely to perform. The congregational members were asked to evaluate these tasks as to whether they were generally satisfied with the congregation's current performance on the task, or whether they felt the tasks should receive more emphasis, or whether the task currently receives too much emphasis. The following percentages show how your congregation responded to these task questions. These percentages (read across) may not equal 100% due to rounding.

	<i>Needs More</i>	<i>Very Satisfied</i>	<i>Generally Satisfied</i>	<i>Too Much</i>
1. Offering worship that provides a meaningful experience of God and the Christian tradition.	13%	51%	36%	1%
2. Providing worship that expresses the Gospel in contemporary language and forms.	12	44	40	5
3. Providing Christian education for children and youth.	19	47	33	1
4. Providing Christian education programs for adults.	19	39	41	1
5. Helping members deepen their personal and spiritual relationship with God.	25	33	42	1
6. Sharing the good news of the Gospel with the unchurched.	31	22	45	3
7. Engaging in acts of charity and service for persons in need.	15	51	33	1
8. Encouraging members to act on the relationship of the Christian faith to social, political, and economic issues.	20	32	44	5
9. Providing a caring ministry for the sick, shut-ins and the bereaved.	18	43	38	1
10. Providing pastoral counseling to help members deal with personal problems.	20	34	45	1
11. Providing fellowship opportunities for members.	15	45	39	1
12. Helping members understand their use of time, talents, and money as expressions of Christian stewardship.	22	31	45	3
13. Supporting the global mission of the church.	11	39	45	6
14. Helping members discover their own gifts for ministry and service.	28	25	45	1
15. Participating in activities and programs with other local religious groups.	28	23	47	2
16. Expressing our denominational heritage/tradition.	18	32	46	4

**Overall, which one task does your congregation do best?**



**For the sake of your own personal involvement in your congregation, which one task would you most like to see strengthened?**



Congregational respondents rates of agreement or disagreement with the following identity statements from the perspective of individual members looking at the congregation's overall identity and vision.

	<i>Strongly Agree</i>	<i>Agree</i>	<i>Disagree</i>	<i>Strongly Disagree</i>
1. Our church's identity, as it is, is one with which I feel comfortable.	35%	51%	12%	2%
2. It is easy for me to tell my friends what is unique about our church.	28	51	19	2
3. I have a clear understanding of what our church stands for.	26	57	16	2
4. An effective effort was made to instruct me in our church's mission.	18	52	27	3
5. I have a strong sense of belonging to this congregation.	41	43	13	3
6. Being at this church has made a difference in my spiritual life.	44	46	9	2

## ORGANIZATIONAL CHARACTERISTICS:

Members were asked to rate their agreement or disagreement with a series of statements related to certain organizational issues, such as making decisions, sharing information, and developing resources. The percentage (read across) may not equal 100% due to rounding.

	<i>Strongly</i> <i>Agree</i>	<i>Moderately</i> <i>Agree</i>	<i>Slightly</i> <i>Agree</i>	<i>Disagree</i>	<i>DK</i>
1. Members are well informed about what the various committees and groups in the congregation are doing.	18%	47%	21%	12%	2%
2. The activities taking place in the congregation are well publicized to the surrounding community.	10	36	31	16	7
3. Study of the needs of the congregation and the community is regularly undertaken as the basis for church planning.	10	33	27	17	13
4. Members and groups get a lot of support and encouragement for trying something new in the congregation.	13	38	25	15	9
5. Members are encouraged to discover their particular gifts for ministry and service.	17	45	25	8	6
6. Lay leaders are provided the training they need for their committee and task assignments.	12	35	22	11	20
7. Every member who is capable and interested has an equal opportunity to hold key leadership positions.	31	40	13	9	8
8. The theological and biblical implications of important decisions are regularly discussed.	12	36	27	13	12
9. Important decisions about the life of the church are rarely made without open discussion by church leaders <i>and</i> members.	25	37	19	13	7
10. Disagreements and conflicts are dealt with openly rather than hushed up or hidden behind closed doors.	10	29	25	23	15
11. It is easy to summarize for visitors and non-members how our congregation differs from other congregations in the area.	15	39	27	12	8
12. Members help each other out in times of trouble.	49	32	8	2	4
13. Cooperative programs with other churches of other denominations are highly valued in our church.	14	35	28	14	9
14. The <b>current</b> morale of our church members is high.	17	38	21	19	6
15. There is a sense of excitement among members about our congregation's <b>future</b> .	17	37	25	16	7

## CONGREGATIONAL IDENTITY:

Listed below are several alternatives that touch upon important dimensions of a church's identity. Using the seven point scale between each set of alternatives, members were asked to circle the number that best describes where the congregation falls, "1" meaning most like the characteristic on the left, "7" meaning most like the characteristic on the right, "4" meaning an equal mix of both. The number below indicates the average of all these responses.

1. Our church is more influenced by history and tradition	1-----3.5-----7	Our church is more influenced by contemporary ideas and trends
2. Members are similar to the people who live immediately around the church	1-----3.5-----7	Members are very different from people who live immediately around the church.
3. Our church is very involved with the community around the church	1-----3.5-----7	Our church is not at all involved with the community around the church
4. Our church is primarily oriented to serving our members	1-----3.6-----7	Our church is primarily oriented to serving the world beyond our membership
5. Our congregation feels like one large family	1-----3.7-----7	Our congregation feels like a loosely knit association of individuals and groups
6. Our church is known as a prestigious one in the area.	1-----3.4-----7	Our church is not considered one of the status churches in the area.
7. Our church's approach to social issues is basically educational	1-----3.3-----7	Our church's approach to social is decidedly "activist."
8. The congregation's approach to individual salvation emphasizes education, nurture and gradual growth in the faith	1-----2.4-----7	The congregation's approach to individual salvation stresses conversion and a born-again experience
9. Our church gives strong expression to its denominational identity and heritage	1-----3.1-----7	It would be difficult for a visitor to know to which denomination the congregation belongs.
10. Our congregation strives to create partnerships with other local churches.	1-----3.8-----7	Our congregation prefers to work by ourselves or through our Denominational channels

## **FUNCTIONS OF THE SENIOR MINISTER:**

Members were asked to rate how high or low a priority should each of the following tasks be for the Senior Minister of the church. The following percentages show how your congregation responded to these task questions. The percentages (read across) may not equal 100% due to rounding.

	<i>Very High</i>	<i>High</i>	<i>Moderate</i>	<i>Low</i>
1. Providing administrative leadership for the congregation's ministry.	27%	39%	28%	6%
2. Actively and visibly supporting the church's stewardship program.	14	43	38	6
3. Directly involving laity in planning and leadership of church programs and events.	22	46	29	4
4. Planning and leading a program of new member recruitment.	16	36	39	9
5. Participating in local community activities, issues and problems.	11	31	46	13
6. Holding social justice issues before members.	10	23	42	25
7. Planning and leading worship sensitive to the needs of the congregation.	51	36	11	2
8. Emphasizing the spiritual development of members.	39	42	17	2
9. Visiting the sick, shut-ins, and bereaved.	27	44	25	4
10. Visiting members at their homes.	9	20	43	30
11. Pastoral counseling of members having personal, family, and/or work related problems.	25	42	28	5
12. Developing and supporting religious education program for children and youth.	25	39	28	8
13. Developing and leading adult education programs.	13	40	40	8
14. Supporting the world mission of the church.	10	31	45	14
15. Participating in denominational activities beyond the local church, that is, at the regional or national level.	6	21	46	27
16. Preparing and preaching inspiring sermons.	73	21	4	1

**SIZE AND CONDITION OF FACILITIES:**

A. Congregational members were asked to assess the following spaces in terms of **size**.

	<i>Excellent</i>	<i>Adequate</i>	<i>Needs Attention but not Immediate</i>	<i>Needs Immediate Attention</i>
<b>Worship Space</b>	61%	32%	5%	1%
<b>Educational Space</b>	37	45	13	5
<b>Fellowship Space</b>	44	43	10	3
<b>Office Space</b>	27	55	15	3
<b>Parking Space</b>	28	47	19	6

B. Congregational members were asked to assess the following spaces in terms of **general condition and aesthetic appeal**.

	<i>Excellent</i>	<i>Adequate</i>	<i>Needs Attention but not Immediate</i>	<i>Needs Immediate Attention</i>
<b>Worship Space</b>	65%	27%	6%	2%
<b>Educational Space</b>	30	49	17	5
<b>Fellowship Space</b>	37	46	14	4
<b>Office Space</b>	26	55	16	3
<b>Parking</b>	28	48	18	6
<b>Exterior &amp; Grounds</b>	40	43	13	4

## WORSHIP

A. Members were asked how satisfied they were with each of the following aspects of the congregation's Sunday worship?

**\*\*NOTE:** The wording of this question has recently changed.

	<i>Need More Emphasis</i>	<i>Very Satisfied</i>	<i>Generally Satisfied</i>	<i>Receives too Much Attention</i>
1. Providing time for members to greet one another	9%	57%	29%	5%
2. Providing worship that is emotionally moving	20	42	37	1
3. Providing worship that is intellectually challenging	21	44	33	1
4. Attention given to sacraments	9	57	31	2
5. Lay participation in leading worship	9	52	37	3
6. Use of inclusive, non-sexist language	5	51	33	11
7. Use of creeds or statements of faith	9	52	36	4
8. Silent prayer/meditation	16	49	35	1
9. Having parts of the worship especially for children	15	52	30	3
10. Use of new or unfamiliar hymns	9	29	44	19
11. Corporate prayer in which the entire church participates	9	48	40	4
12. Providing worship at times other than Sunday morning	19	32	46	3
13. Use of contemporary worship styles, music and language	18	35	36	12

## QUALITIES OF A GOOD SERMON

Members were asked, personally, how important for them is each of the following in the mix of qualities that make a good sermon?

	<i>Essential</i>	<i>Important</i>	<i>Not Very Important</i>	<i>Downright Distracting</i>
1. Sets forth a clear faith position as a guide for making decisions and living a faithful life.	44%	48%	8%	1%
2. Based on a clear, unambiguous religious authority.	20	48	27	5
3. Touches directly on my everyday life.	43	51	6	0
4. Contains scholarly or literary illustrations.	14	48	36	2
5. Is Biblically based and illustrated.	39	46	14	1
6. Makes me reflect on issues and events that go beyond my personal life and local community.	39	53	8	1
7. Is challenging and thought-provoking.	52	44	4	1
8. Obviously flows from the depth of the preacher's own personal faith and spiritual convictions.	33	51	14	2
9. Is comforting and reassuring.	21	49	29	1
10. Is carefully composed and skillfully delivered.	37	54	8	1
11. Is spiritually moving and inspirational.	45	49	6	1
12. Sets forth various sides of an issue without advocating one position as the only Christian position.	21	49	23	7

- C. Overall, how satisfied or dissatisfied is the membership with the music (choir, anthems and instrumentals) during Sunday worship?
- |                             |                               |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| [ 54% ] Very Satisfied      | [ 10% ] Somewhat Dissatisfied |
| [ 32% ] Generally Satisfied | [ 4% ] Very Dissatisfied      |
- D. Overall, how satisfied or dissatisfied is the membership with the congregation's Sunday worship, other than the music?
- |                             |                               |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| [ 35% ] Very Satisfied      | [ 11% ] Somewhat Dissatisfied |
| [ 52% ] Generally Satisfied | [ 2% ] Very Dissatisfied      |
- E. Overall, how satisfied or dissatisfied is the membership with the way your spiritual needs are being met in the worship service?
- |                             |                               |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| [ 30% ] Very Satisfied      | [ 14% ] Somewhat Dissatisfied |
| [ 53% ] Generally Satisfied | [ 3% ] Very Dissatisfied      |
- F. If they could choose any time on Sunday morning, what time would members prefer for worship to start?
- |                         |                    |                       |
|-------------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|
| [ 1% ] before 8:00 a.m. | [ 15% ] 9:00 a.m.  | [ 17% ] 10:30 a.m.    |
| [ 4% ] 8:00 a.m.        | [ 11% ] 9:30 a.m.  | [ 16% ] 11:00 a.m.    |
| [ 5% ] 8:30 a.m.        | [ 31% ] 10:00 a.m. | [ 1% ] 11:30 or later |

What originally attracted you to attend this congregation? Results will not equal 100% since it was possible to pick more than one.

44% The minister	23% The music program
22% My friends are here	12% The social outreach
24% The church's reputation	40% The worship style
8% Adult Education program	2% The self-help groups
22% Child & Youth program	29% The denominational ties

What is the foremost reason you remain a part of this congregation? Results will not equal 100% since it was possible to pick more than one.

32% The minister	33% The music program
46% My friends are here	20% The social outreach
21% The church's reputation	47% The worship style
14% Adult Education program	4% The self-help groups
18% Child & Youth program	27% The denominational ties

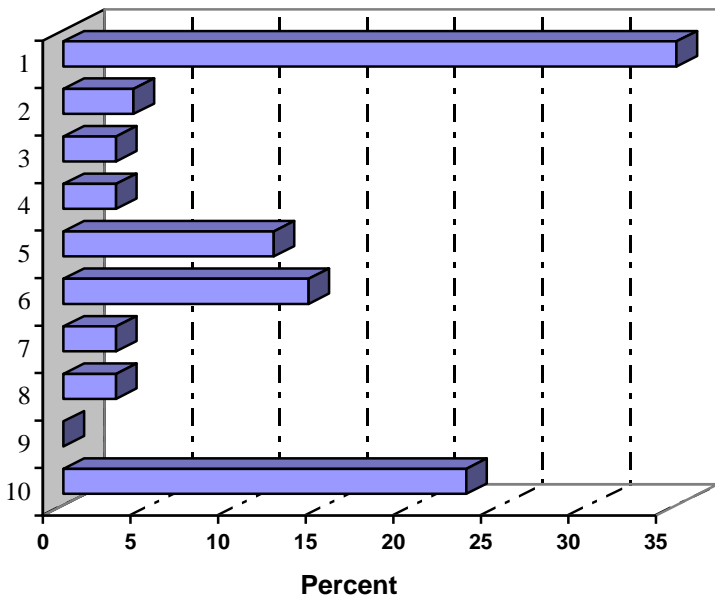


# THE CHOICE IS YOURS

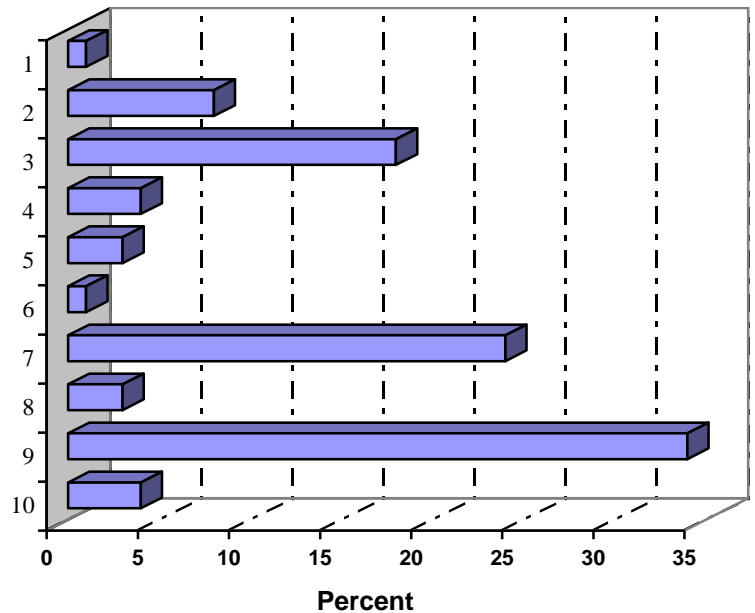
Members were asked to what extent they would like to see the following roles embodied in the pastor of the congregation?

	<i>Essential</i>	<i>Very</i>	<i>Moderate</i>	<i>Not Very</i>	<i>Not at all</i>
1. Minister of the Word/Teacher of the Congregation	44%	35%	18%	3%	1%
2. Church Administrator	13	34	39	12	2
3. Social Activist	10	25	38	21	5
4. Group Facilitator	10	34	43	12	1
5. Celebrant/Worship Leader	27	35	27	10	2
6. Spiritual Guide	31	40	24	5	1
7. Witness/Evangelist	12	23	33	23	9
8. Counselor/Healer	13	34	39	12	2
9. Community Chaplain	4	16	41	33	7
10. Friend/Fellow Traveler	45	35	16	4	1

**Most Important Role:**



**Least Important Role:**



## WHAT STYLE OF MINISTRY

Members were asked, of the following, which trait of good pastors they preferred for each of these pairs.

	<i>Strongly Prefer</i>	<i>Slightly Prefer</i>	<i>Slightly Prefer</i>	<i>Strongly Prefer</i>	
1. Expertise in Biblical and theological matters	21%	21%	29%	29%	Emphasis on spiritual development and growth
2. Thought-provoking and Challenging	31	36	19	14	Comforting and reassuring
3. Biblical preaching and teaching	33	27	27	13	Preaching and teaching on Contemporary Issues
4. New approaches and Ideas	44	45	9	2	Does things as they have always been done
5. Strong and decisive decision-maker	11	26	40	23	Encourages lay decision-making
6. Relaxed interpersonal style	58	34	7	2	Formal interpersonal style
7. Works hard to accomplish tasks	5	25	47	23	Places feelings of others ahead of achieving goals
8. Helps people figure out for themselves	38	43	15	4	Advises people what to do
9. Reflective and reserved	4	15	44	38	Outgoing and socially engaging
10. Maintains a private life	25	43	23	9	Gives whole self to church

## RELIGIOUS BELIEFS & PERSONAL PRACTICES:

1. Members were asked which one of the following best expresses their view of the Bible?

*Percent*

- 1 (1) The Bible is an ancient book of history, legends and cultural stories recorded by man. It has little value today except as classic literature.
- 5 (2) The Bible is a valuable book because it was written by wise and good people, but I do not believe it is really God's Word, but it can teach us many moral precepts.
- 31 (3) The Bible is the record of many different people's response to God and because of this, people and churches today must interpret for themselves the Bible's basic moral and religious teachings.
- 47 (4) The Bible is the inspired Word of God and its basic moral and religious teachings are clear and true, even if it reflects some human error.
- 16 (5) The Bible is the actual Word of God and is to be taken literally.

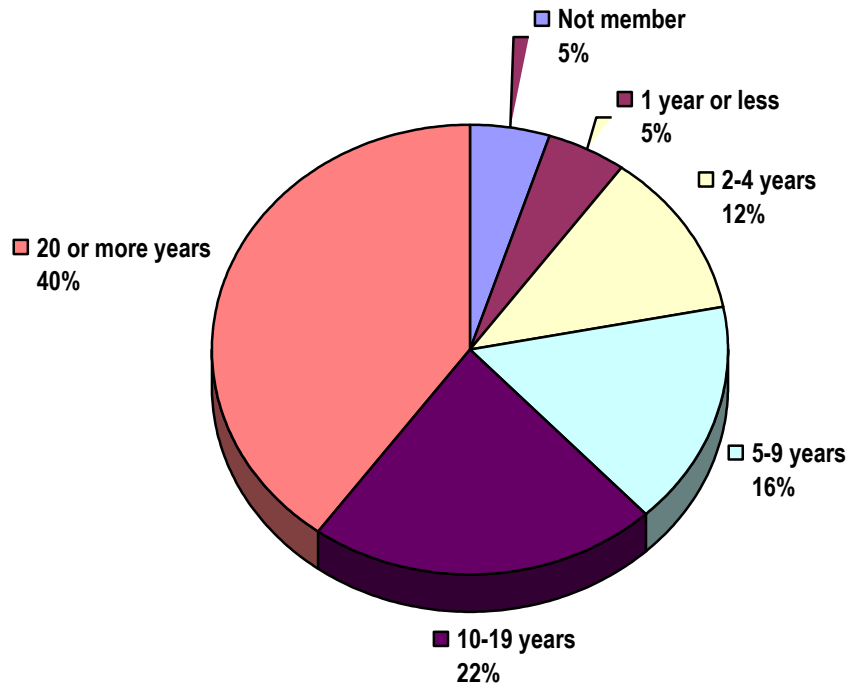
2. Rate your agreement or disagreement with the following belief statements.

	<i>Strongly Agree</i>	<i>Agree</i>	<i>Neutral or Unsure</i>	<i>Disagree</i>	<i>Strongly Disagree</i>
1. There is no other way to salvation but through belief in Jesus Christ.	44%	19%	15%	12%	9%
2. Human beings have developed over millions of years from less advanced forms of life.	26	25	17	12	20
3. Jesus' resurrection from the dead was an actual event.	53	24	17	4	2
4. All religions are equally good ways of helping a person find ultimate truth.	10	26	21	23	19
5. The Bible has answers for all of the basic questions of life.	30	36	19	13	3
6. Social justice is at the heart of the Gospel.	20	38	27	11	4
7. It is often difficult to live out my faith in daily work, leisure and community life.	9	40	11	34	7

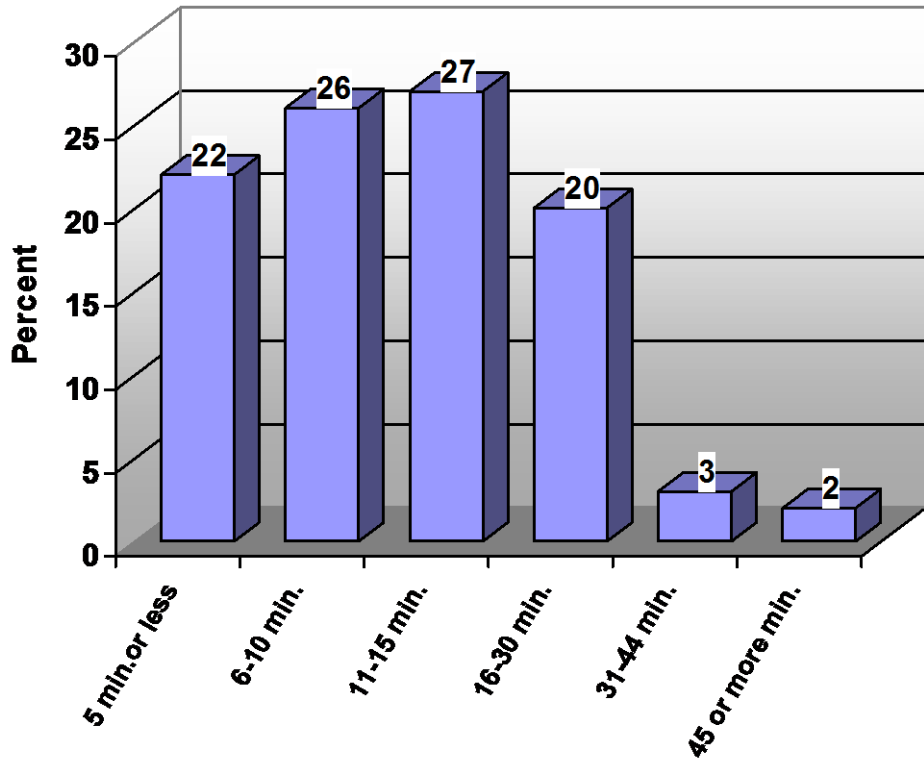
3. Indicate how often you engage in the following practices.

	<i>Daily</i>	<i>Few times a week</i>	<i>Once a week</i>	<i>Few times a month</i>	<i>Seldom or Never</i>
1. Spend time in private devotional activity such as prayer, meditation, reading the Bible or other spiritual books?	39%	28%	9%	13%	12%
2. Use the web at home or at the office?	60	14	3	4	19
3. Use email?	64	13	3	4	17
4. Look at religious Internet sites?	3	7	5	15	70
5. Volunteer time in social service?	4	15	13	37	31

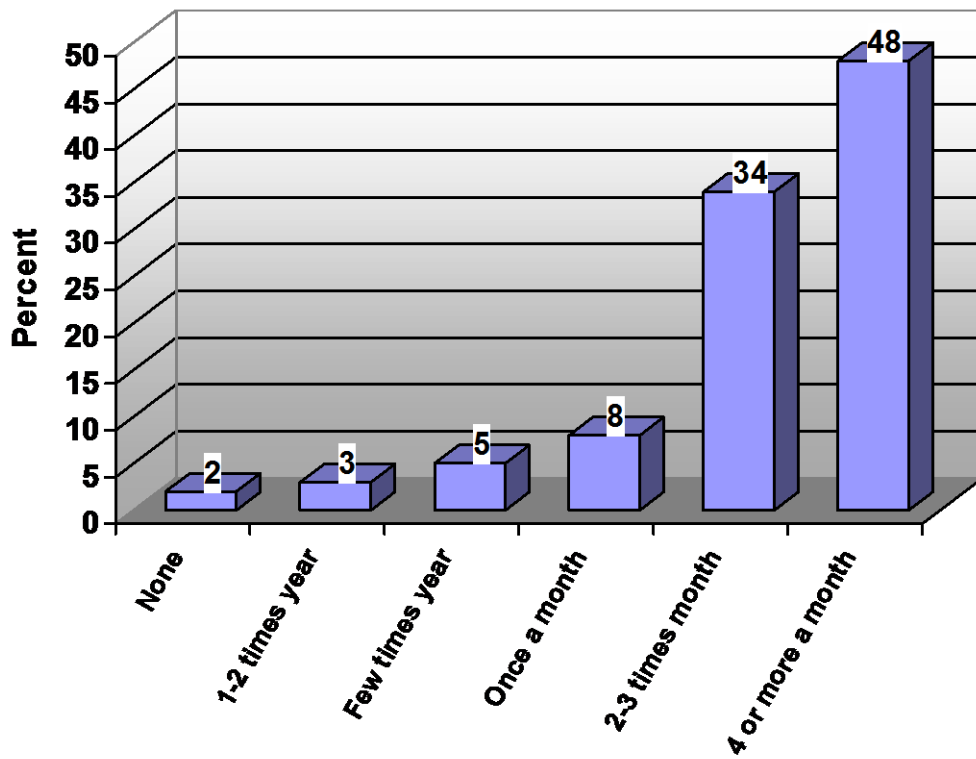
## OUR CHURCH PARTICIPATION:



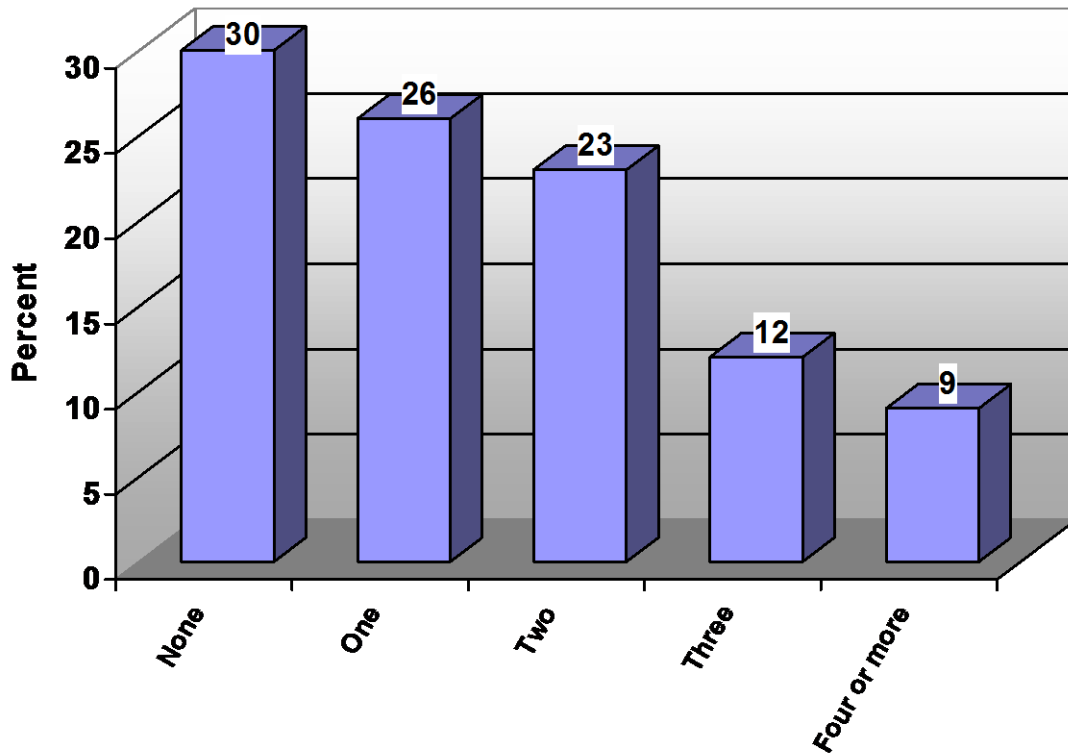
How long does it usually take you to travel from home to church?



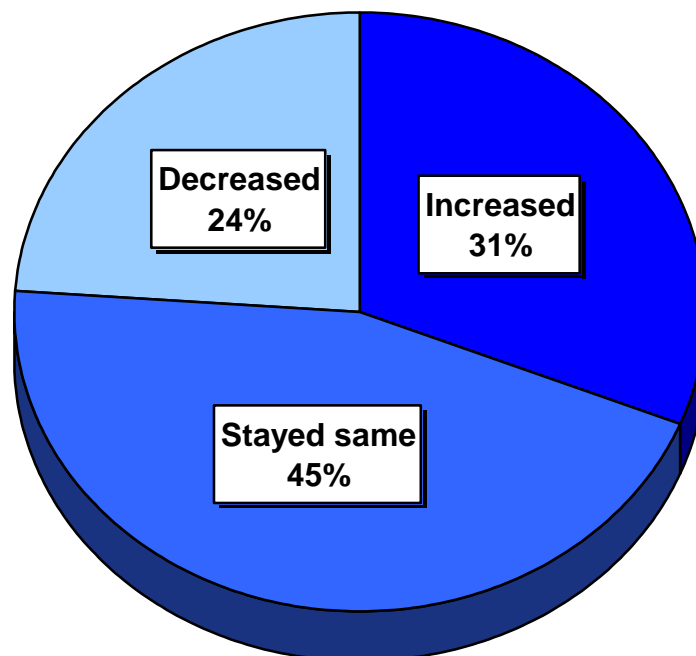
On the average, about how many times have you attended church services during the past year?



Not counting congregational membership itself, in how many church committees and groups do you hold membership?



Has your involvement in the congregation increased, decreased, or remained about the same in the last few years?



**If a member's participation has increased or decreased, which of the following are the reasons for that change. Results will not equal 100% because it was possible to select more than one answer or none at all.**

**Percent of those whose involvement has increased (n=13,658 29%), why:**

Accepted office/responsibility	57%
Stronger faith	35%
More time available	33%
Better health	33%
Because of children	18%
More positive attitude	6%

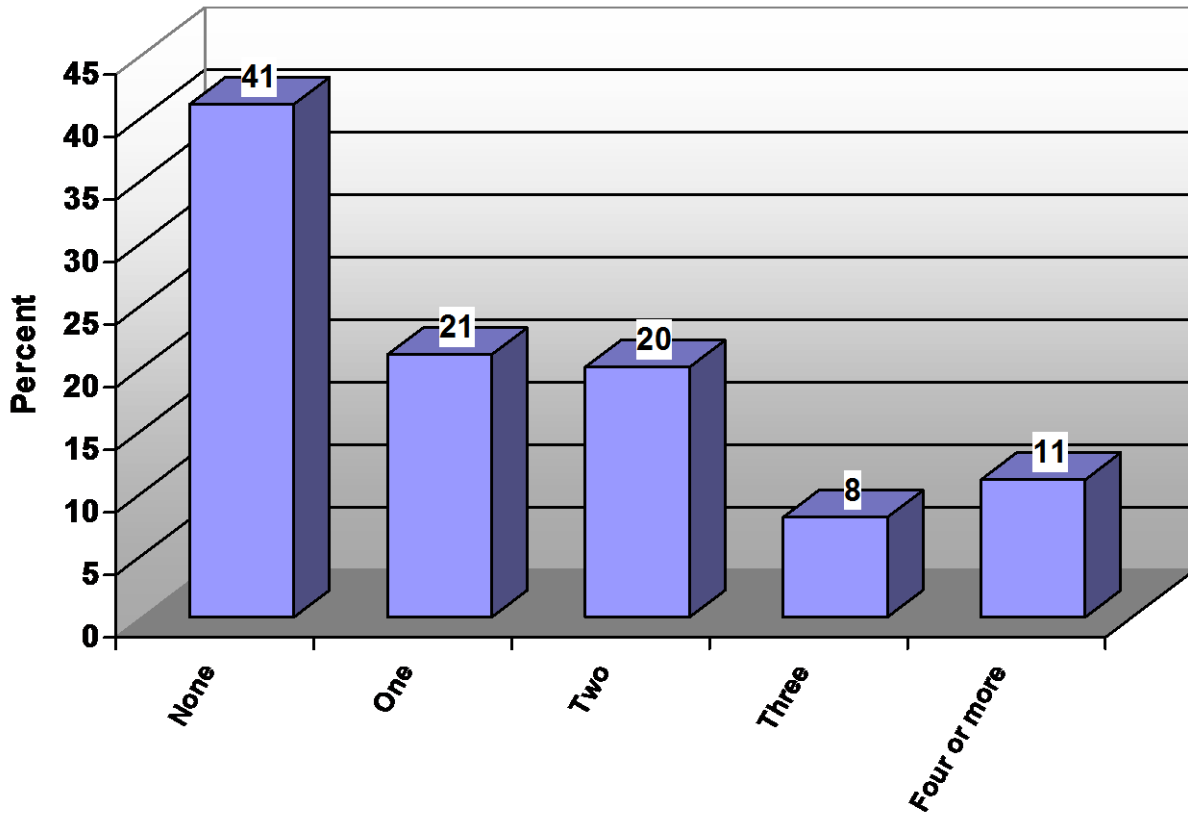
**Percent of those whose involvement has decreased (n=10,833 23%), why:**

Less time available	44%
Decreased faith	37%
More negative attitude	33%
Given up office/responsibility	27%
Because of children	14%
Health problems	6%

**Approximately how much did your family household contribute to the church per year?**

<b>Contribution Category</b>	<b>Percent of Respondents</b>
Under \$200	7%
\$200 - 599	12%
\$600 – 999	10%
\$1,000 – 1,499	15%
\$1,500 – 2,499	16%
\$2,500 – 3,499	12%
\$3,500 – 4,999	10%
\$5,000 – 7,499	10%
\$7,500 or more	10%

**How many persons or families have members invited to visit or join the church in the past year?**



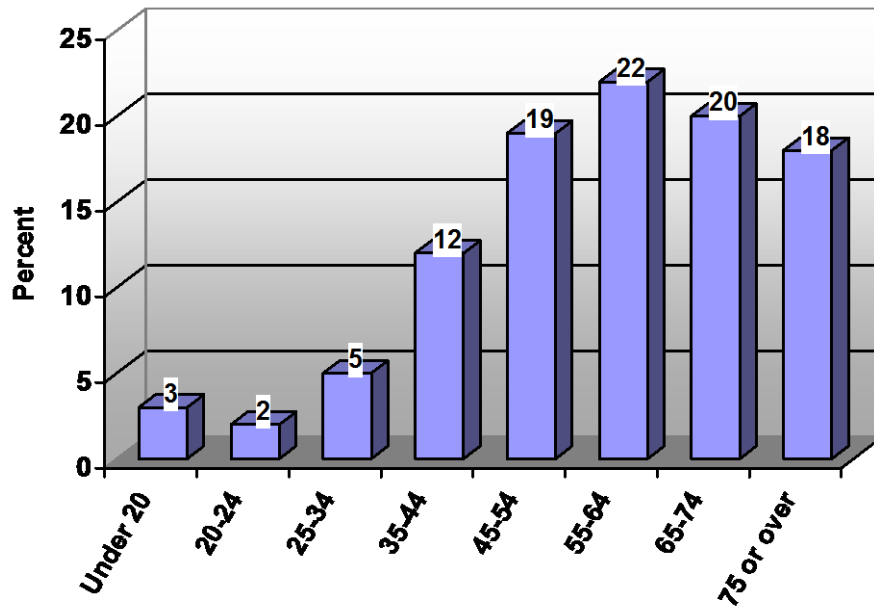
**Age Grouping**

**Gender**

Male -- 38%  
 Female -- 62%

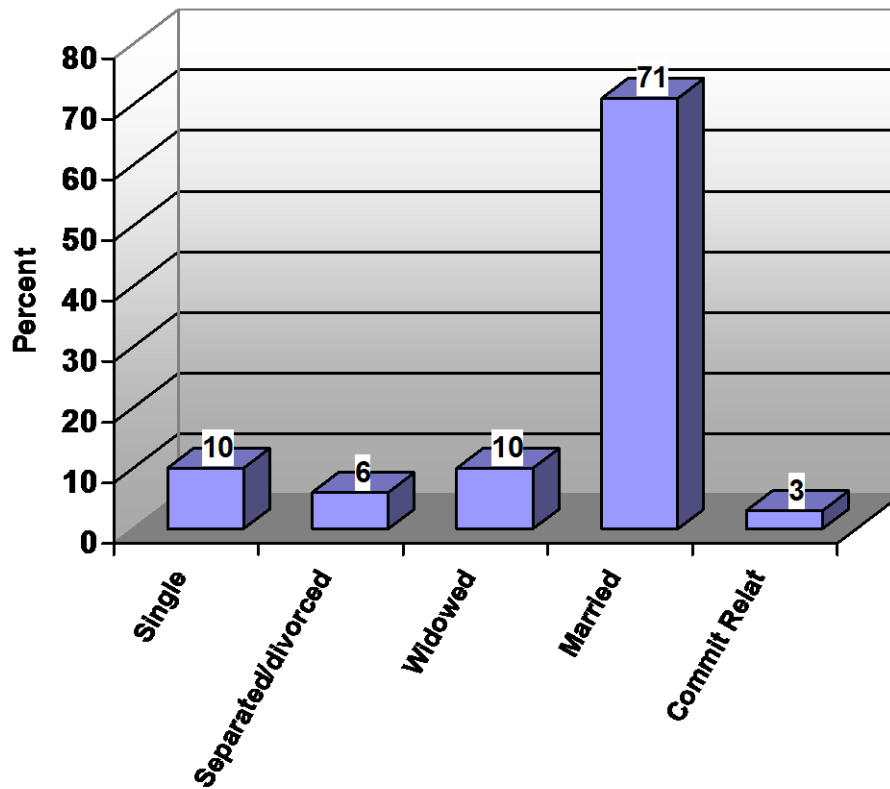
**Ethnic Background**

White - 92.6%  
 Native Amer. - 1.0%  
 Black - 4.4%  
 Pac. Is. - 0.1%  
 Hispanic - 0.5%  
 Asian - 0.7%  
 Mixed - 0.7%





### Marital Status



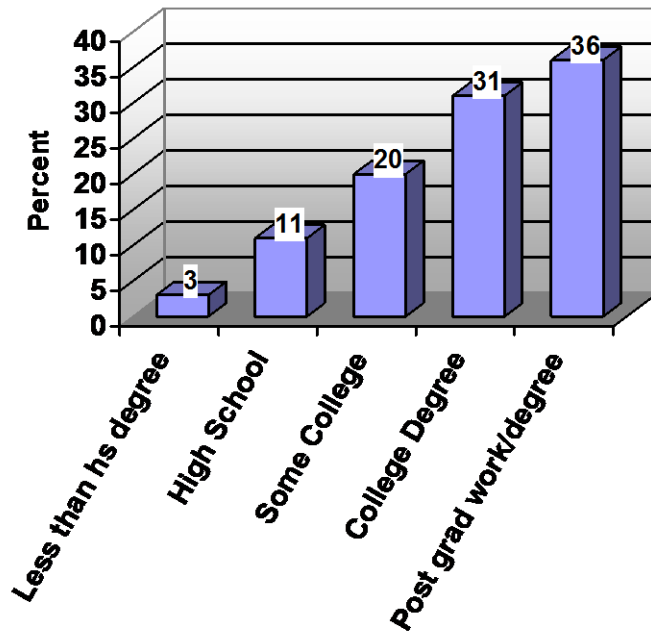
Of those who have children, percent having children in this age range:

Age Range	% of Children
Birth - 5 years old	14%
Six - 12 years old	10%
Thirteen - 18 years old	11%
Nineteen and over at home	8%

Which best describes your current household?

Number living at home	Percent
One person living alone	16
A couple without children	43
One adult with child/children	3
Two or more adults with child/children	32
Several adults living in same household	6

### Level of Education

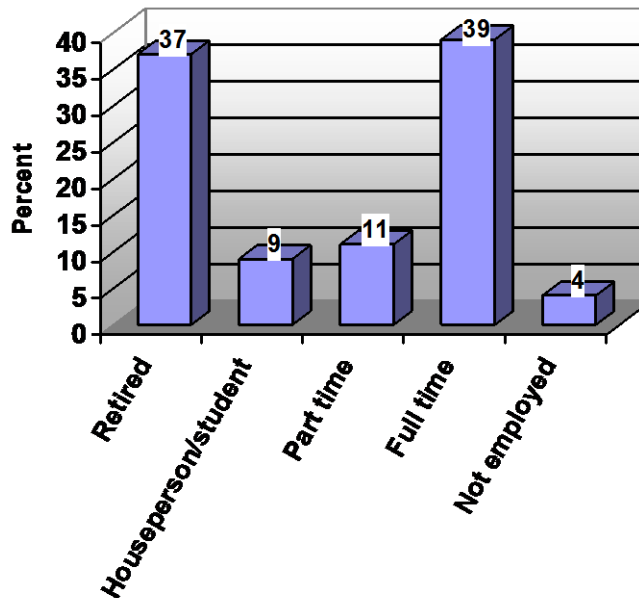


### Household Income Range

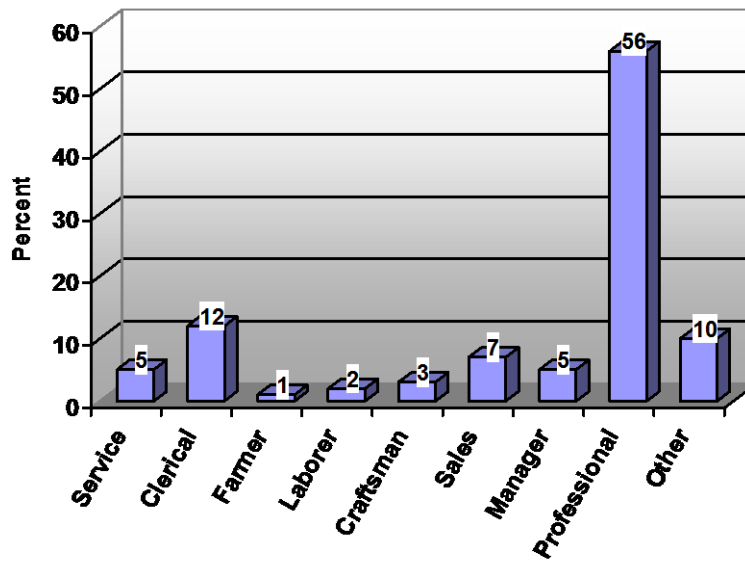
\*\*NOTE: 69.2% of respondents answered

Under \$25,000	9%
\$25,000 - \$49,999	19%
\$50,000 - \$74,999	21%
\$75,000 - \$99,999	17%
\$100,000 - \$149,999	18%
\$150,000 or more	16%

### Employment Status



### Occupation



### Are you self-employed?

12 percent said yes.

### If you are married, is your spouse employed?

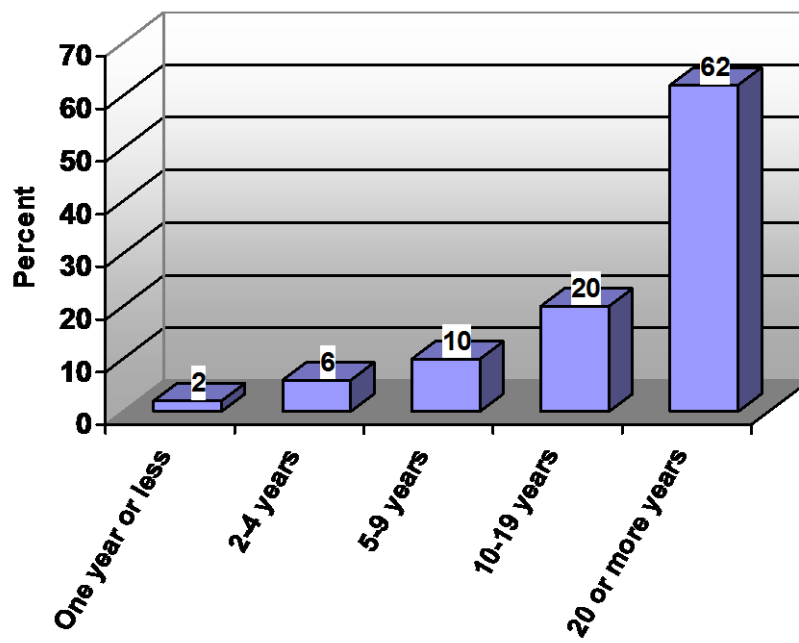
Yes, full time	47%
Yes, part time	13%

## Religious Heritage

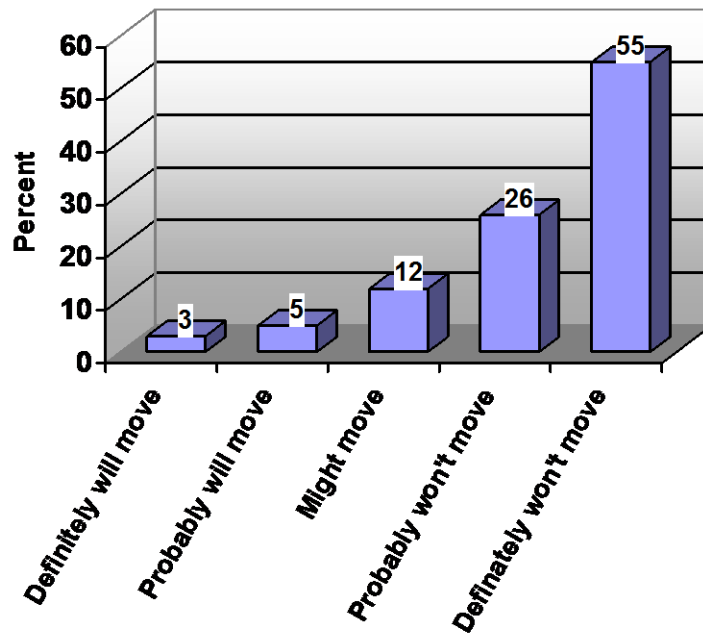
Members were involved in which of the following denominations when they were growing up.

Denomination	Percent
Baptist	17
Disciples of Christ	1
Episcopal	8
Lutheran	10
Methodist	13
Presbyterian	17
United Church of Christ	11
Unitarian Universalist	1
Other Protestant	7
Roman Catholic	9
Other	4
None	2

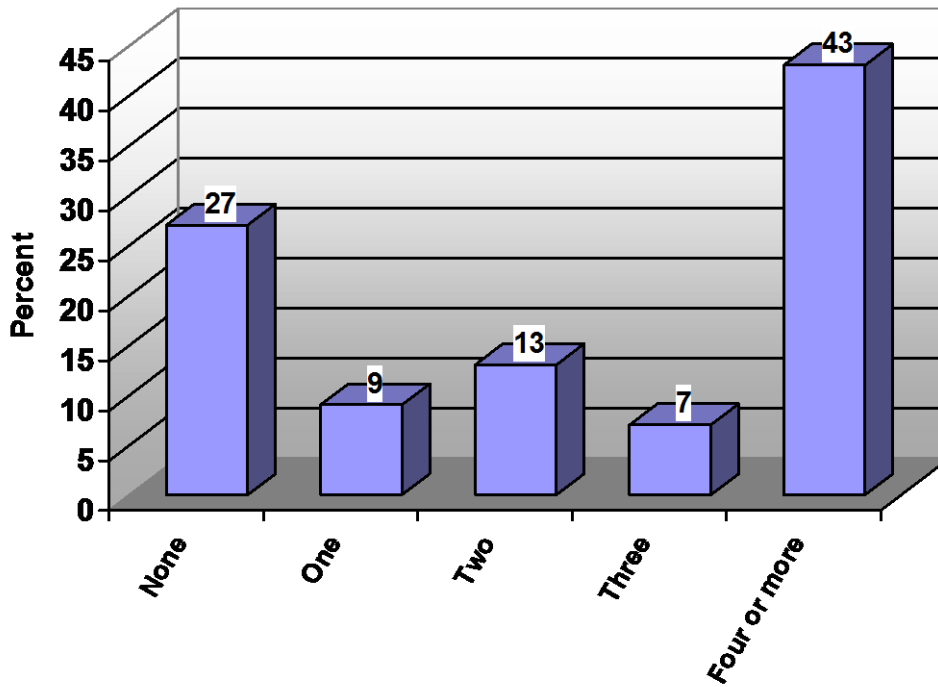
How many years have members lived in this general area?



How likely is it that the member might move out of this general area within the next few years?



How many of your closest friends attend this church?



## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION FOR CHILDREN

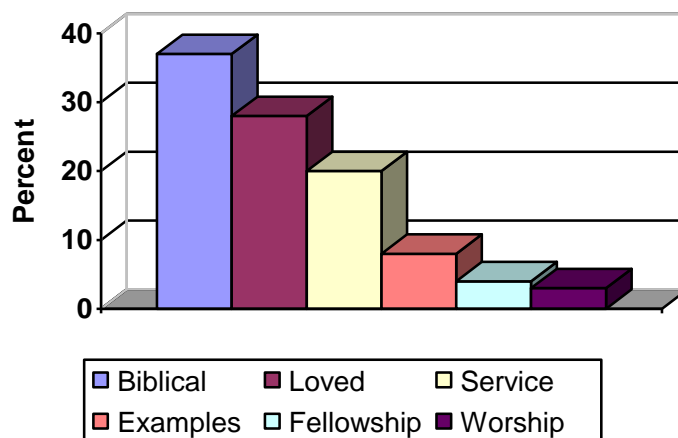
A. How satisfied are you with each of the following aspects of your congregation's Christian Education program for **children**? A "Don't Know" (DK) response is provided, but please use it only if absolutely necessary.

	<i>Very Satisfied</i>	<i>Generally Satisfied</i>	<i>Somewhat Satisfied</i>	<i>Not Very Satisfied</i>	<i>DK</i>
1. The total number of children that attend.	10%	28%	20%	24%	19%
2. The time and day at which classes for children are held	21	46	11	4	18
3. The training provided teachers	8	22	18	28	24

B. Members were asked how satisfied they were with each of the following aspects of the congregation's church school program for children?

	<i>Need More Or Better</i>	<i>Generally Satisfied</i>	<i>Too Much Already</i>	<i>Doesn't Have or No Need</i>
1. Teaching children about the Bible and the church	35%	60%	2%	3%
2. Giving children the feeling that they are loved by God and the church	36	61	1	3
3. Developing in children a sense that Christian love includes respect for and service to others	42	55	1	3
4. Providing examples of what it means to be a Christian in today's world	38	57	2	3
5. Offering enjoyable fellowship activities	31	62	4	3
6. Including the children in the worship service	26	63	8	4

C. Which one of the above 6 types of activities for children did members believe should be the primary focus of the congregation's children's program?

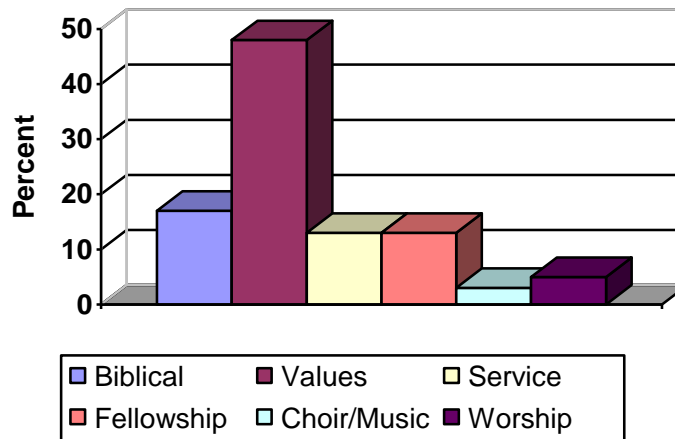


## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION FOR YOUTH

Members were asked how satisfied they were with each of the following aspects of the congregation's church school program for youth and teens?

	<i>Need More or Better</i>	<i>Generally Satisfied</i>	<i>Too Much Already</i>	<i>Doesn't Have or No Need</i>
1. Educational programming that is biblically centered	50%	46%	1%	3%
2. Educational programming that helps youth clarify values and beliefs	49	47	1	3
3. Programming that involves youth in serving others	47	48	2	3
4. Providing fellowship opportunities for youth to have fun in Christian setting	30	60	7	3
5. Youth choirs or other kinds of musical groups	39	48	7	6
6. Including the youth in the worship service	34	61	1	3

Which one of the above 6 types of activities for youth did members believe should be the primary focus of the congregation's youth and teen program?



## ADULT EDUCATION AND SMALL GROUP PROGRAMMING

For each of the kinds of programs or groups listed below, members were asked to indicate:

- A. Whether they think their congregation **needs more or better** programs of this kind; is doing **about right**; is already over-emphasizing or doing **too much** in the area; or, if the congregation currently **doesn't have** such a program and they see **no need** for beginning it?
- B. Whether it is likely that they would **attend** if the congregation offered more or better programs of this kind.

	<i>Need More or Better</i>	<i>About Right</i>	<i>Too much Already</i>	<i>Doesn't Have or No Need</i>	<i>Attend</i>
1. Study groups dealing with the Bible and theology	35%	59%	4%	2%	15%
2. Study and discussion groups dealing with contemporary issues, topics and problems	40	48	7	5	13
3. Prayer, meditation and spirituality groups	30	59	7	4	8
4. Support groups in which members share with each other at the level of feelings and personal experience	31	49	10	10	7
5. Fellowship events or hobby groups	25	62	9	5	12
6. Evangelistic outreach and visitation groups	30	47	10	13	4
7. Social concern groups for planning and working on projects directed at community or social issues/problems	30	52	9	9	8
8. Recreation/Athletic activities	23	42	17	18	6
9. Literary/culture groups	19	44	16	22	6
10. Groups and classes that explore marriage, the family, and parenting issues	41	42	7	10	7

<b>Which three of the following are the <i>best times</i> for you to attend adult programs?</b>		<b>Which three of the following are the <i>worst times</i> for you to attend adult programs?</b>	
Sunday morning	21 %	Weekday morning	18%
Weekday evening	17	Saturday morning	16
Sunday evening	14	Weekday afternoon	15
Saturday morning	11	Weekend retreat	14
Weekend retreat	10	Sunday evening	12
Weekday afternoon	10	Weekday evening	11
Weekday morning	9	Sunday morning	6



## COMMUNITY AND SOCIAL INVOLVEMENT

Members were asked what priority they would give each of the following many possible ways the congregation could be involved with community and social issues?

	<i>Highest Priority</i>	<i>High Priority</i>	<i>Moderate Priority</i>	<i>Low Priority</i>	<i>No Priority</i>
1. Providing or supporting social services for persons in need	25%	48%	24%	3%	1%
2. Providing meeting rooms in the church for community groups working on various issues and problems	10	37	39	12	2
3. Encouraging the minister to use a portion of his/her time working with community and social action groups	7	28	44	19	2
4. Calling attention to social, community and world issues from the pulpit and in study groups	12	34	37	14	3
5. Organizing social issue advocacy or action groups	5	19	39	29	8
6. Linking interested lay members to denominational, ecumenical or non-church social service or advocacy programs	8	28	40	20	4
7. Giving money to denominational programs	6	29	43	18	3
8. Giving money to ecumenical or non-denominational programs	3	19	44	28	6
9. Helping organize or support disadvantaged groups to pursue their own causes	6	24	38	25	7
10. Lobbying and petitioning corporate and government officials on peace and justice issues	5	14	28	34	18

## STEWARDSHIP DEVELOPMENT

A. Members were asked what **priority** they would give to each of the following efforts to encourage the congregation's stewardship program?

	<i>Highest</i>	<i>High</i>	<i>Moderate</i>	<i>Low</i>	<i>None</i>
1. Strong appeals from the pulpit	11%	35%	40%	12%	2%
2. Adult education programs on the meaning of Christian stewardship	16	40	34	9	1
3. Mailings to members clearly setting out the reasons for Christian stewardship	17	39	32	11	2
4. Encourage membership pledging	27	41	22	7	2
5. Every member canvass or visitation	7	19	35	28	11
6. Tithing or proportionate giving	17	35	30	13	4
7. Hiring a professional fund raising consultant or group	2	7	20	36	36
8. Fund-raisers such as fairs, bazaars, tag sales, etc.	5	17	37	31	11
9. Encourage giving to a church endowment through wills and bequests	12	32	37	16	4
10. Special giving appeals for a charitable cause or mission effort	12	40	38	9	2

B. Members were asked to imagine that the congregation were able to raise significantly more money than currently budgeted and rate how high a **priority** they would put on each of the following uses of that money?

	<i>Highest</i>	<i>High</i>	<i>Moderate</i>	<i>Low</i>	<i>None</i>
1. Increased support to our denomination	9%	30%	40%	18%	3%
2. Increased support for community social service programs	16	38	34	10	1
3. Increased support for world missions	12	33	39	14	2
4. Increase current staff salaries	12	31	37	16	4
5. Hire additional staff	11	21	31	26	10
6. Renovate, enlarge or add to current facilities	14	22	29	24	11
7. Increase budget for educational and program materials and resources	16	40	33	9	1
8. Begin an endowment or add to an existing one	11	27	37	20	5
9. Increase evangelistic efforts and advertising	10	27	34	22	7

## EVANGELISM

A. In thinking about the many possible ways that the church could use to share the “good news” of the Gospel and to recruit new members for the church, members were asked to rate the priority of each of the following efforts.

	<i>Highest Priority</i>	<i>High Priority</i>	<i>Moderate Priority</i>	<i>Low Priority</i>	<i>No Priority</i>
1. Stressing from the pulpit the importance of members inviting others to visit our church	19%	40%	30%	9%	2%
2. Appeals to members to make a personal witness about their faith to others	13	30	33	17	6
3. The use of newspaper advertisements	5	20	40	28	8
4. The use of radio or television	5	16	34	31	13
5. Mailing church literature to newcomers in your community	16	40	31	11	3
6. Pastoral or lay visits to newcomers in your community	16	35	31	14	4
7. Using a group of lay volunteers to canvass (knock on doors in) the neighborhood	4	11	28	35	22
8. The use of a church web site	30	37	23	8	3
9. Developing church programs especially targeted at un-churched persons in your community	20	37	29	11	4
10. Changing the style of your worship to make it more appealing to the unchurched	11	19	29	28	14
11. Developing home Bible, prayer and study groups to which friends who are not members are invited	13	30	35	16	6

B. Overall, to what extent did members think that the congregation needs to increase or improve its efforts at evangelism?

[ 20% ] To a great extent  
[ 52% ] To some extent

[ 26% ] We are doing fine as is  
[ 1% ] We're doing too much now

C. To what extent would individual members personally be willing to get more involved in the evangelistic efforts of the congregation?

[ 7% ] To a great extent  
[ 23% ] To a moderate extent

[ 46% ] To some extent  
[ 25% ] Not at all