

# *Congregational Member Survey Summary*

**25053 Total Respondents**

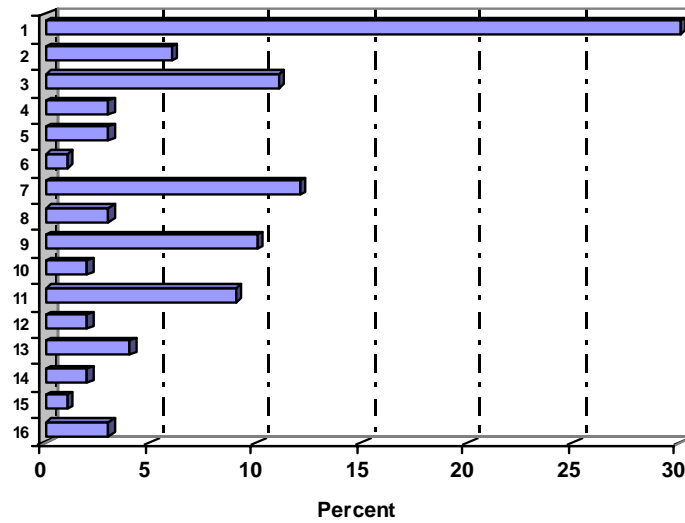
This dataset of findings is from those churches who used our Inventories between March 2004 and June 2010, totaling 25,053 respondents from 193 churches. A third of these churches are United Church of Christ, 29% are Presbyterian (PCUSA) and 12% are Episcopal. Mainline churches make up nine additional percent, including Lutheran (ELCA), American Baptist and United Methodist. The remaining roughly 14% are from conservative and Evangelical churches including Southern Baptist, Nondenominational and Church of God. Their average size is in the range of 150-200 active attenders. These churches are from thirty-four states with no single state accounting for more than 10% of the sample. The average response rate for these churches was roughly 30%-35%.

## **TASKS OF THE CHURCH**

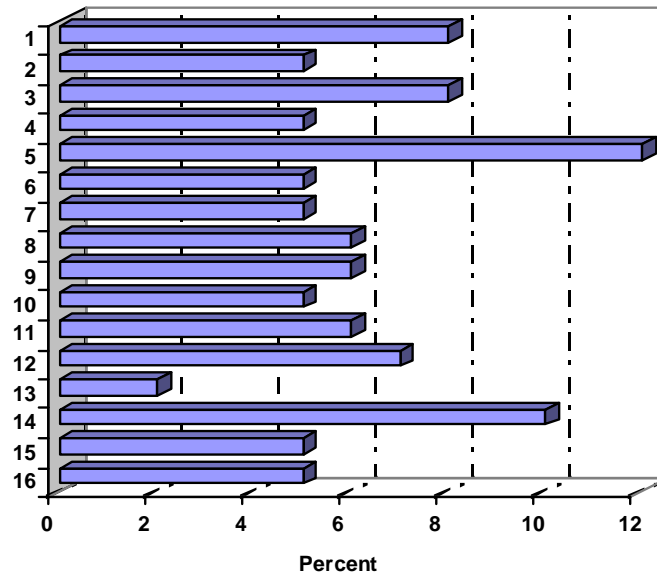
The survey listed a number of tasks that a local church is likely to perform. The congregational members were asked to evaluate these tasks as to whether they were generally satisfied with the congregation's current performance on the task, or whether they felt the tasks should receive more emphasis, 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.	14%	48%	38%	1%
2. Providing worship that expresses the Gospel in contemporary language and forms.	13	41	41	5
3. Providing Christian education for children and youth.	20	46	34	1
4. Providing Christian education programs for adults.	19	37	43	1
5. Helping members deepen their personal and spiritual relationship with God.	26	30	43	1
6. Sharing the good news of the Gospel with the unchurched.	33	19	46	2
7. Engaging in acts of charity and service for persons in need.	16	49	34	1
8. Encouraging members to act on the relationship of the Christian faith to social, political, and economic issues.	20	30	46	5
9. Providing a caring ministry for the sick, shut-ins and the bereaved.	19	42	39	0
10. Providing pastoral counseling to help members deal with personal problems.	20	32	47	1
11. Providing fellowship opportunities for members.	15	44	40	1
12. Helping members understand their use of time, talents, and money as expressions of Christian stewardship.	22	29	46	2
13. Supporting the global mission of the church.	11	37	46	6
14. Helping members discover their own gifts for ministry and service.	28	23	47	1
15. Participating in activities and programs with other local religious groups.	28	22	49	2
16. Expressing our denominational heritage/tradition.	18	30	48	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.	34%	52%	12%	2%
2. It is easy for me to tell my friends what is unique about our church.	26	52	20	2
3. I have a clear understanding of what our church stands for.	25	58	16	2
4. An effective effort was made to instruct me in our church’s mission.	16	52	28	3
5. I have a strong sense of belonging to this congregation.	41	44	13	3
6. Being at this church has made a difference in my spiritual life.	41	47	10	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 Agree</i>	<i>Moderately Agree</i>	<i>Slightly Agree</i>	<i>Disagree</i>	<i>Don't Know</i>
1. Members are well informed about what the various committees and groups in the congregation are doing.	22%	46%	18%	13%	2%
2. The activities taking place in the congregation are well publicized to the surrounding community.	12	35	29	19	5
3. Study of the needs of the congregation and the community is regularly undertaken as the basis for church planning.	11	31	26	20	11
4. Members and groups get a lot of support and encouragement for trying something new in the congregation.	15	35	26	17	7
5. Members are encouraged to discover their particular gifts for ministry and service.	20	40	27	9	5
6. Lay leaders are provided the training they need for their committee and task assignments.	14	33	22	14	18
7. Every member who is capable and interested has an equal opportunity to hold key leadership positions.	39	35	11	9	5
8. The theological and biblical implications of important decisions are regularly discussed.	13	34	28	15	10
9. Important decisions about the life of the church are rarely made without open discussion by church leaders <i>and</i> members.	30	34	18	14	5
10. Disagreements and conflicts are dealt with openly rather than hushed up or hidden behind closed doors.	11	29	23	26	11
11. It is easy to summarize for visitors and non-members how our congregation differs from other congregations in the area.	16	35	27	15	7
12. Members help each other out in times of trouble.	55	32	8	2	3
13. Cooperative programs with other churches of other denominations are highly valued in our church.	17	33	28	15	7
14. The <i>current</i> morale of our church members is high.	19	36	21	21	4
15. There is a sense of excitement among members about our congregation's <i>future</i> .	19	35	25	17	4

## 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-----3.6-----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-----3.6-----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-----3.5-----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-----3.5-----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-----3.9-----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.	29%	39%	27%	5%
2. Actively and visibly supporting the church's stewardship program.	13	43	39	6
3. Directly involving laity in planning and leadership of church programs and events.	22	46	28	3
4. Planning and leading a program of new member recruitment.	17	37	38	9
5. Participating in local community activities, issues and problems.	10	30	48	12
6. Holding social justice issues before members.	8	22	43	27
7. Planning and leading worship sensitive to the needs of the congregation.	52	36	10	2
8. Emphasizing the spiritual development of members.	39	42	18	2
9. Visiting the sick, shut-ins, and bereaved.	28	45	24	3
10. Visiting members at their homes.	9	20	43	29
11. Pastoral counseling of members having personal, family, and/or work related problems.	26	43	27	4
12. Developing and supporting religious education program for children and youth.	25	39	28	8
13. Developing and leading adult education programs.	12	39	41	8
14. Supporting the world mission of the church.	9	31	46	15
15. Participating in denominational activities beyond the local church, that is, at the regional or national level.	5	19	48	28
16. Preparing and preaching inspiring sermons.	73	22	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>	60%	33%	5%	1%
<b>Educational Space</b>	38	43	13	5
<b>Fellowship Space</b>	44	43	11	3
<b>Office Space</b>	28	54	15	4
<b>Parking Space</b>	29	47	19	5

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>	31	48	16	5
<b>Fellowship Space</b>	37	46	14	3
<b>Office Space</b>	27	55	16	3
<b>Parking</b>	29	48	18	5
<b>Exterior &amp; Grounds</b>	40	43	14	4

## WORSHIP

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

	<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	7%	61%	28%	4%
2. Providing worship that is emotionally moving	19	39	41	1
3. Providing worship that is intellectually challenging	20	42	37	1
4. Attention given to sacraments	7	57	34	2
5. Lay participation in leading worship	8	52	37	3
6. Use of inclusive, non-sexist language	3	52	34	11
7. Use of creeds or statements of faith	8	50	38	4
8. Silent prayer/meditation	14	48	37	1
9. Having parts of the worship especially for children	13	53	31	3
10. Use of new or unfamiliar hymns	9	26	44	21
11. Corporate prayer in which the entire church participates	7	46	43	4
12. Providing worship at times other than Sunday morning	21	30	46	3
13. Use of contemporary worship styles, music and language	28	33	37	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.	43%	48%	8%	1%
2. Based on a clear, unambiguous religious authority.	18	48	28	6
3. Touches directly on my everyday life.	42	51	6	0
4. Contains scholarly or literary illustrations.	12	47	39	2
5. Is Biblically based and illustrated.	38	47	14	1
6. Makes me reflect on issues and events that go beyond my personal life and local community.	37	54	8	1
7. Is challenging and thought-provoking.	50	46	4	1
8. Obviously flows from the depth of the preacher's own personal faith and spiritual convictions.	32	53	14	1
9. Is comforting and reassuring.	21	50	28	1
10. Is carefully composed and skillfully delivered.	36	55	9	1
11. Is spiritually moving and inspirational.	44	49	6	1
12. Sets forth various sides of an issue without advocating one position as the only Christian position.	20	50	23	7

- C. Overall, how satisfied or dissatisfied is the membership with the music (choir, anthems and instrumentals) during Sunday worship?  
     [ 53% ] Very Satisfied                      [ 11% ] 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?  
     [ 27% ] Very Satisfied                      [ 16% ] Somewhat Dissatisfied  
     [ 53% ] Generally Satisfied                [ 4% ] Very Dissatisfied
- E. Overall, how satisfied or dissatisfied is the membership with the way your spiritual needs are being met in the worship service?  
     [ 33% ] Very Satisfied                      [ 12% ] Somewhat Dissatisfied  
     [ 52% ] 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.                      [ 16% ] 9:00 a.m.            [ 16% ] 10:30 a.m.  
     [ 4% ] 8:00 a.m.                              [ 10% ] 9:30 a.m.            [ 16% ] 11:00 a.m.  
     [ 5% ] 8:30 a.m.                              [ 31% ] 10:00 a.m.           [ 1% ] 11:30 or later

In thinking about what originally brought you to this congregation, What originally attracted you to attend this congregation? Will not equal 100% since it was possible to pick more than one.

- |                             |                             |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 48% The minister            | 25% The music program       |
| 24% My friends are here     | 12% The social outreach     |
| 25% The church's reputation | 43% The worship style       |
| 8% Adult Education program  | 2% The self-help groups     |
| 25% Child & Youth program   | 35% The denominational ties |

In thinking about what originally brought you to this congregation, What is the foremost reason you remain a part of this congregation? Will not equal 100% since it was possible to pick more than one.

- |                             |                             |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 31% The minister            | 35% The music program       |
| 52% My friends are here     | 21% The social outreach     |
| 22% The church's reputation | 52% The worship style       |
| 16% Adult Education program | 5% The self-help groups     |
| 20% Child & Youth program   | 32% The denominational ties |

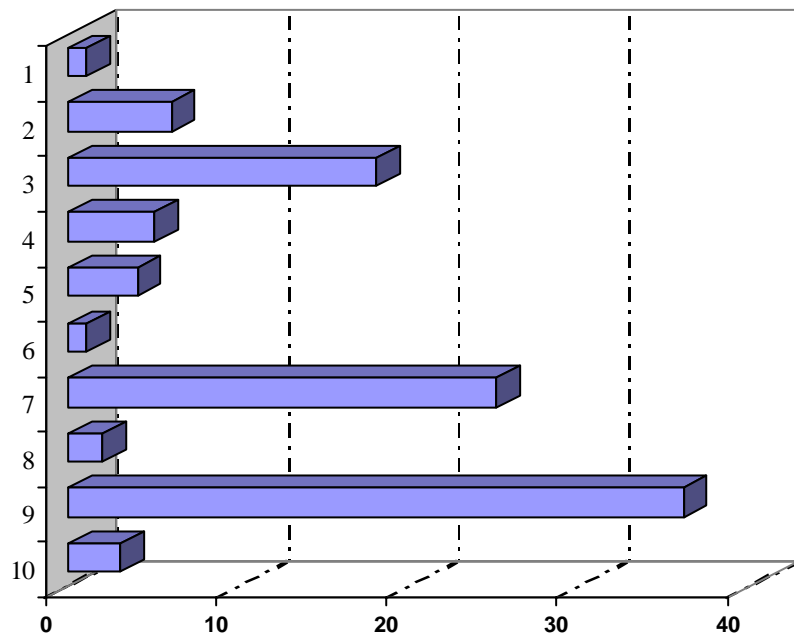
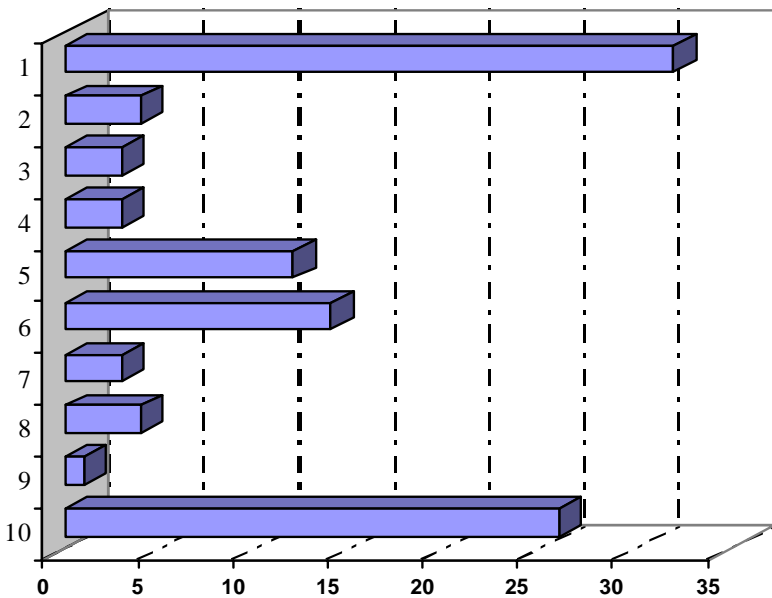
# THE CHOICE IS YOURS

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 Much</i>	<i>Moderate</i>	<i>Not Very</i>	<i>Not at all</i>
1. Minister of the Word/Teacher of the Congregation	43%	35%	19%	3%	1%
2. Church Administrator	15	35	38	11	1
3. Social Activist	10	24	40	21	5
4. Group Facilitator	11	34	44	11	1
5. Celebrant/Worship Leader	25	35	28	10	2
6. Spiritual Guide	31	40	24	5	1
7. Witness/Evangelist	12	24	34	22	8
8. Counselor/Healer	15	37	39	9	1
9. Community Chaplain	4	16	43	33	5
10. Friend/Fellow Traveler	46	35	15	3	1

## Most Important Role:

## Least Important Role:



## WHAT STYLE OF MINISTRY

Members were asked 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	22%	21%		28%	30%	Emphasis on spiritual development and growth
2. Thought-provoking and Challenging	27	35		21	17	Comforting and reassuring
3. Biblical preaching and teaching	35	28		25	12	Preaching and teaching on Contemporary Issues
4. New approaches and Ideas	51	40		7	2	Does things as they have always been done
5. Strong and decisive decision-maker	12	27		40	22	Encourages lay decision-making
6. Relaxed interpersonal style	62	31		5	2	Formal interpersonal style
7. Works hard to accomplish tasks	5	24		47	25	Places feelings of others ahead of achieving goals
8. Helps people figure out for themselves	42	44		11	3	Advises people what to do
9. Reflective and reserved	4	16		41	39	Outgoing and socially engaging
10. Maintains a private life	28	44		20	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.
- 6 (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.
- 33 (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.
- 14 (5) The Bible is the actual Word of God and is to be taken literally.

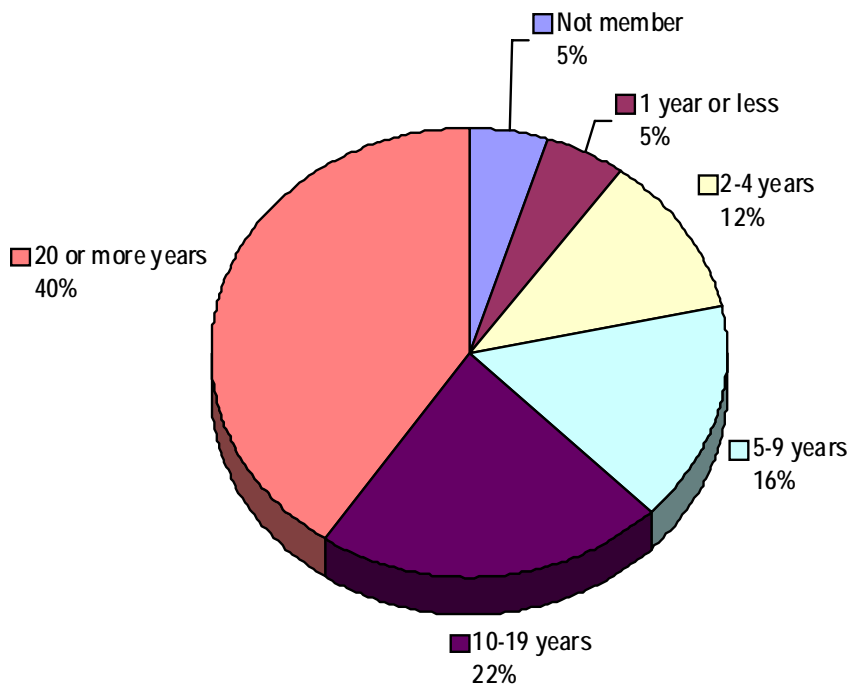
### 2. Rate your agreement or disagreement with the following belief statements.

	<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%	20%	15%	12%	10%
2. Human beings have developed over millions of years from less advanced forms of life.	24	26	18	12	21
3. Jesus' resurrection from the dead was an actual event.	50	25	18	5	2
4. All religions are equally good ways of helping a person find ultimate truth.	11	27	21	23	19
5. The Bible has answers for all of the basic questions of life.	29	36	19	13	3
6. Social justice is at the heart of the Gospel.	18	39	28	11	4
7. It is often difficult to live out my faith in daily work, leisure and community life.	9	41	10	34	7

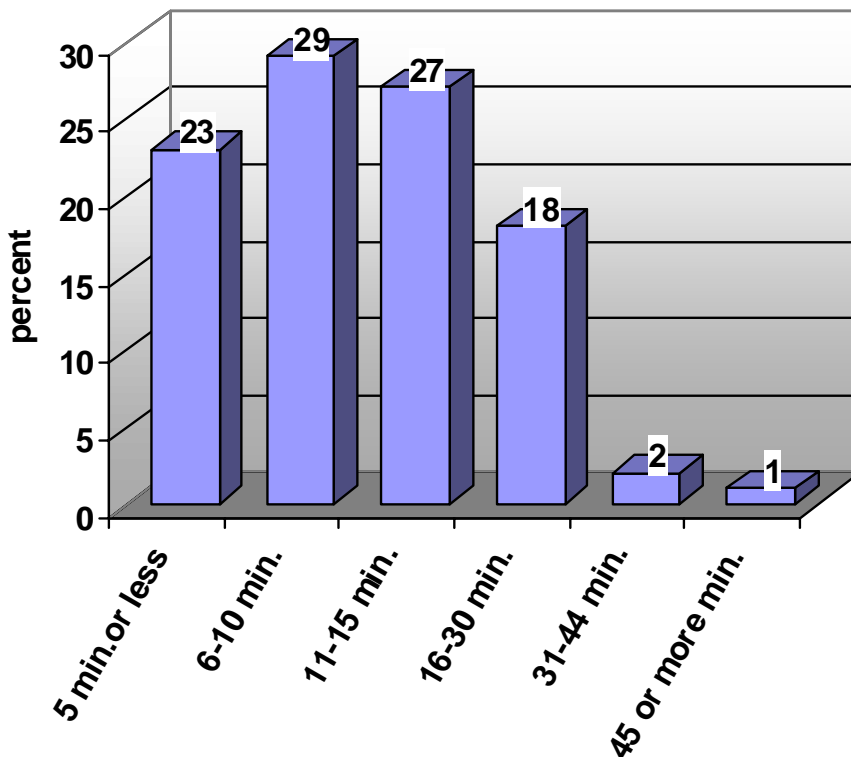
### 3. Indicate how often you engage in the following practices.

	<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?	37%	28%	9%	13%	13%
2. Use the web at home or at the office?	52	15	3	5	25
3. Use email?	57	14	3	5	21
4. Look at religious Internet sites?	2	5	4	13	76
5. Volunteer time in social service?	4	14	12	37	33

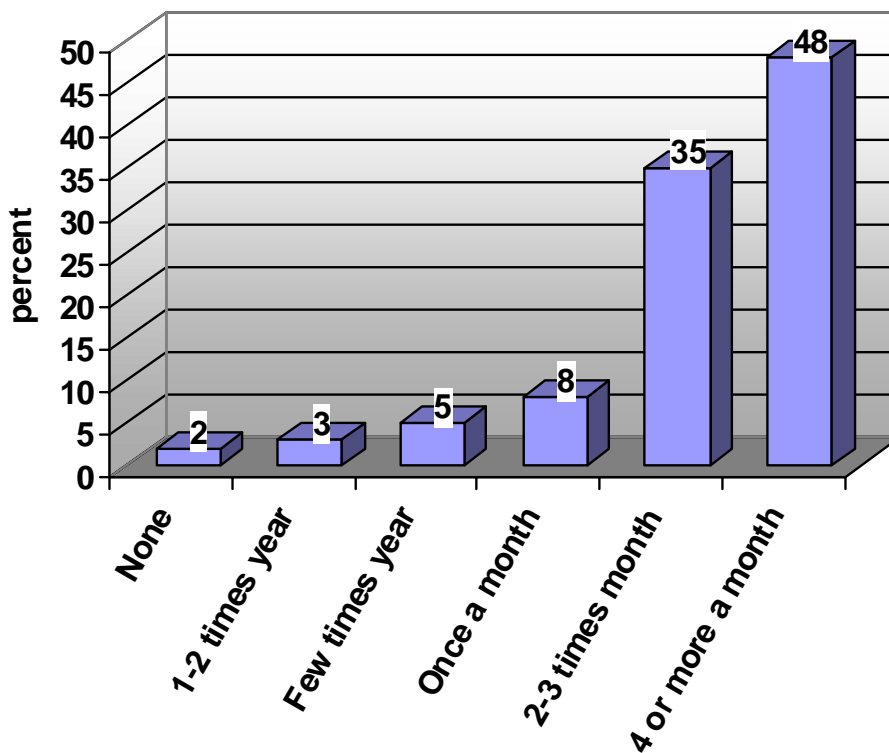
# OUR CHURCH PARTICIPATION:



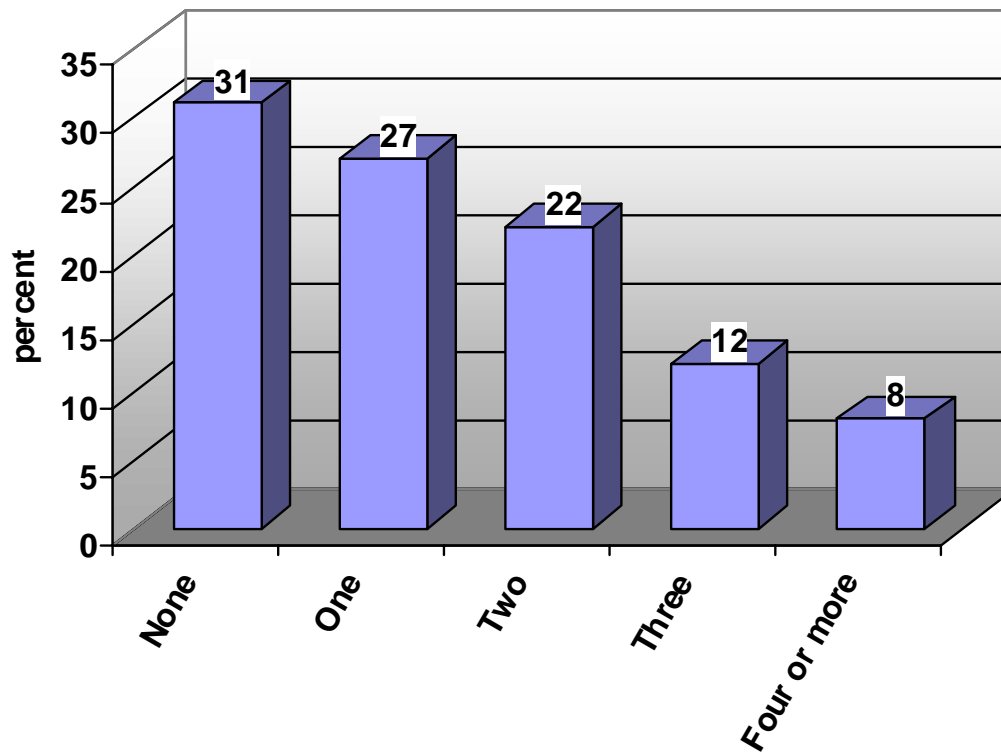
**How long does it usually take you to travel from home to church?**



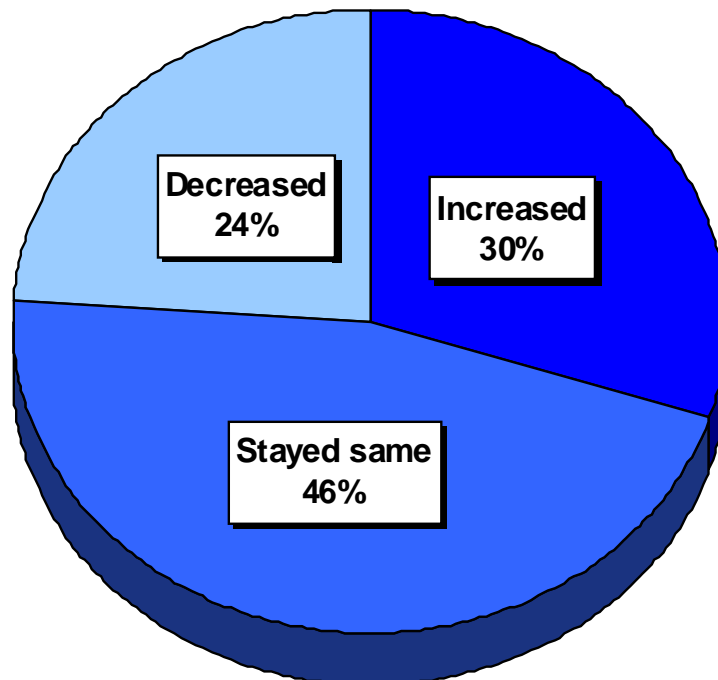
**On the average, about how many times have you attended church services during the past year?**



**In how many church committees and groups do you hold membership (not counting congregational membership itself?)**



**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 the change.** [Percentages 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=7299 30%), why:**

More time available	32%
Better health	33%
Stronger faith	36%
More positive attitude	6%
Because of children	17%
Accepted office/responsibility	61%

**Percent of those whose involvement has decreased (n=5989 24%), why:**

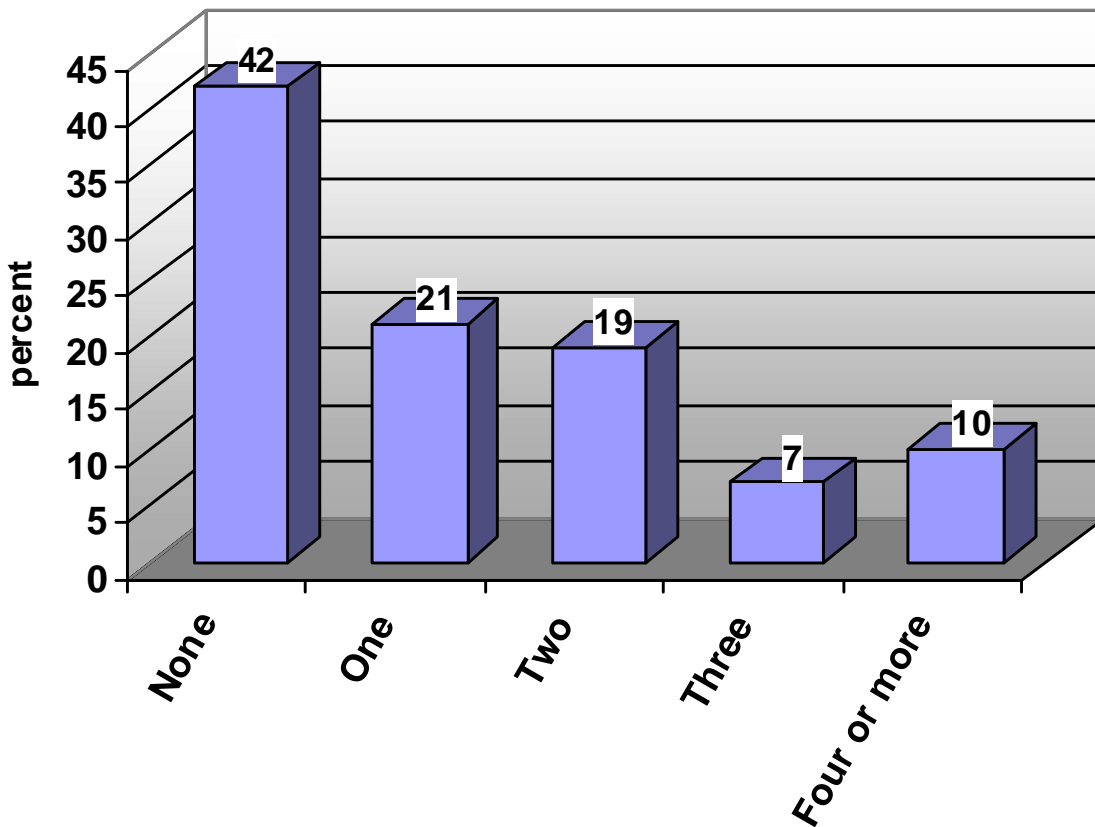
Decreased faith	38 percent
Less time available	41%
Health problems	6%
Given up office/responsibility	31%
More negative attitude	36%
Because of children	12%

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

<b>Contribution Category</b>	<b>Percent of Respondents</b>
Under \$200	6%
\$200 - 599	12%
\$600 – 999	11%
\$1,000 – 1,499	16%
\$1,500 – 2,499	17%
\$2,500 – 3,499	12%
\$3,500 – 4,999	9%
\$5,000 – 7,499	9%
\$7,500 or more	8%

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

**OUR CHURCH FAMILY:**



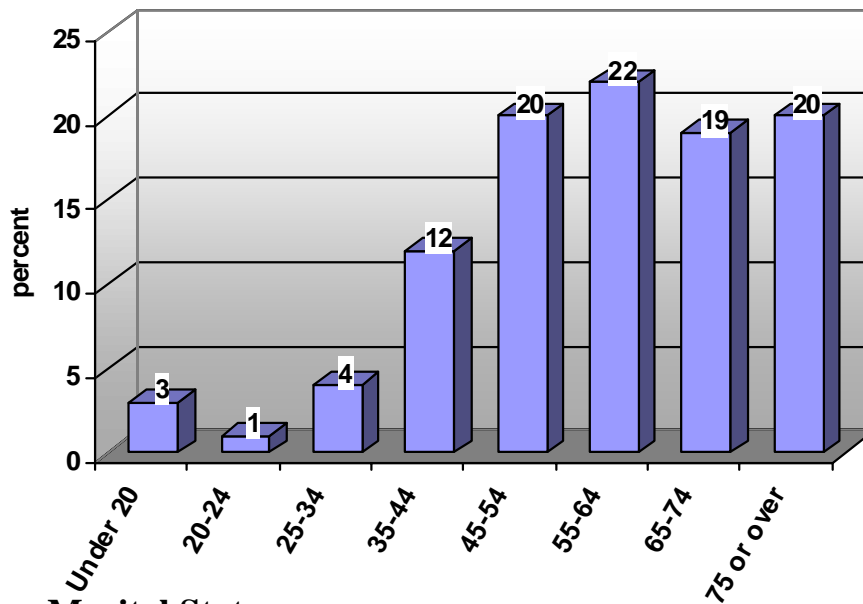
**Age Grouping**

**Gender**

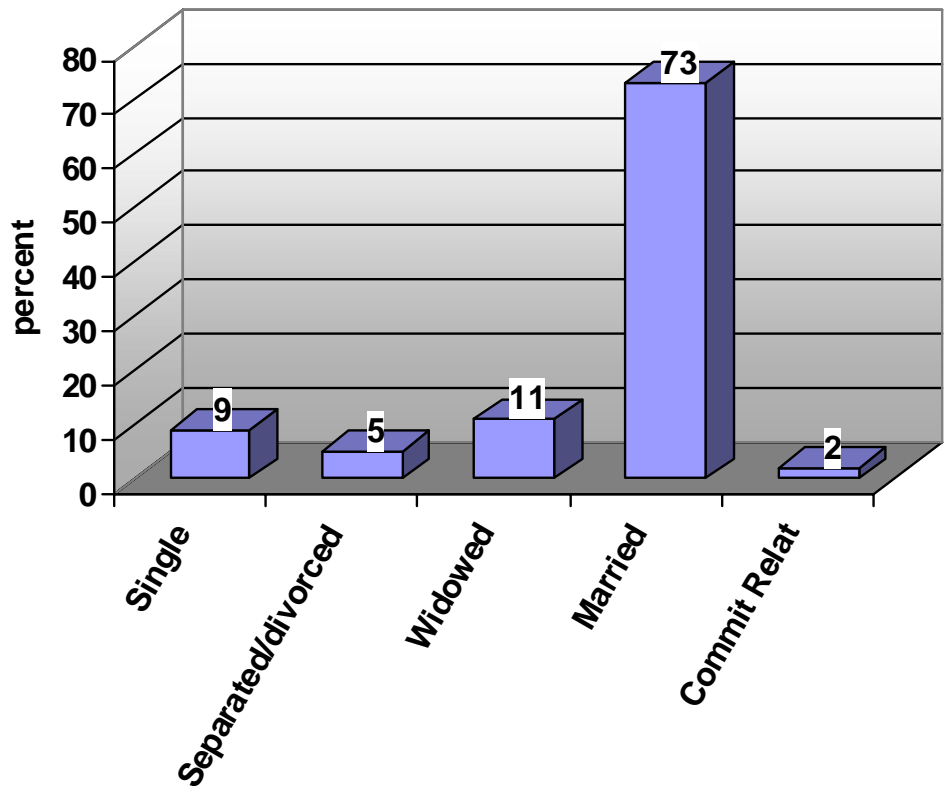
Male -- 38%  
 Female -- 62%

**Ethnic Background**

White – 96.1%  
 Native Amer - .2%  
 Black - 2.1%  
 Pac. Is. - .1%  
 Hispanic - .4%  
 Asian - .6%  
 Mixed - .5%



**Marital Status**



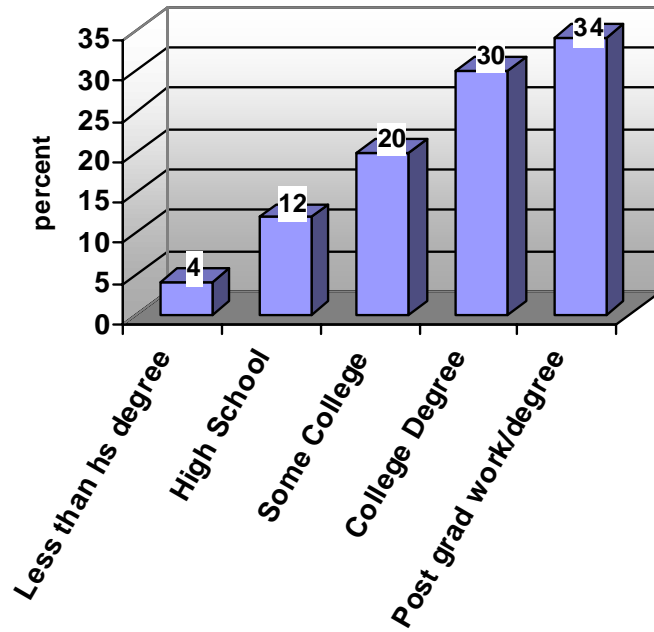
**Of those who have children, Percent having children in this age range:**

	<b>% of Children</b>
<b>Birth - 5 years old</b>	<b>18%</b>
<b>Six - 12 years old</b>	<b>11%</b>
<b>Thirteen - 18 years old</b>	<b>12%</b>
<b>Nineteen and over at home</b>	<b>9%</b>

**Which best describes your current household?**

	<b>Percent</b>
One person living alone	16
A couple without children	44
One adult with child/children	3
Two or more adults with child/children	32
Several adults living in same household	5

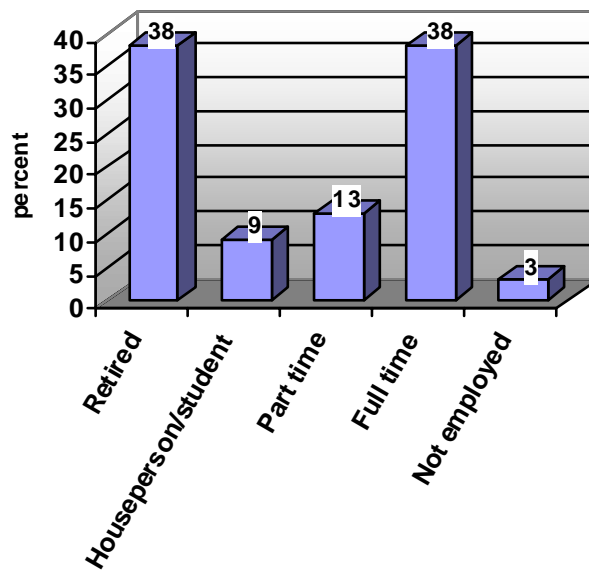
## Level of Education



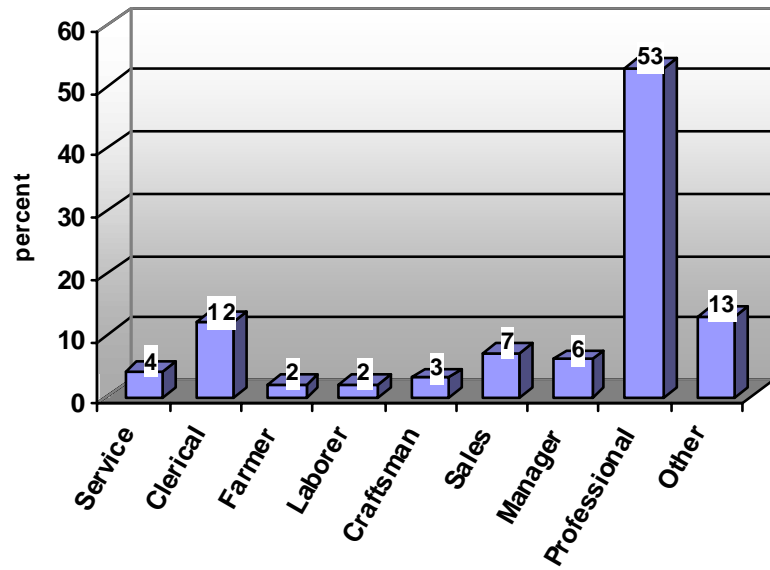
## Household Income Range 85% of respondents answered

Under \$25,000	10%
\$25,000 - \$49,999	20%
\$50,000 - \$74,999	21%
\$75,000 - \$99,999	17%
\$100,000 - \$149,999	17%
\$150,000 or more	15%

## Employment Status



## Occupation



**Are you self-employed? 15 percent said yes**

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

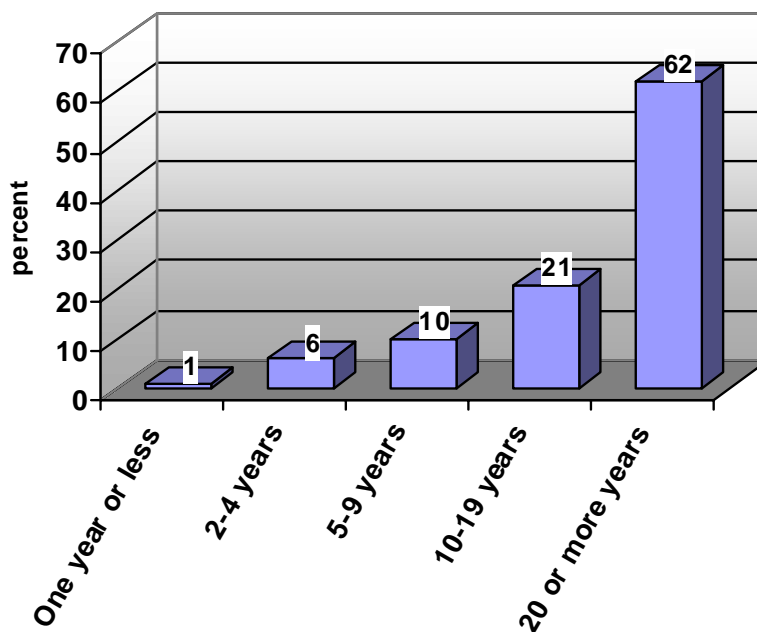
<b>Yes, full time</b>	<b>46%</b>
<b>Yes, part time</b>	<b>13%</b>

## Religious Heritage

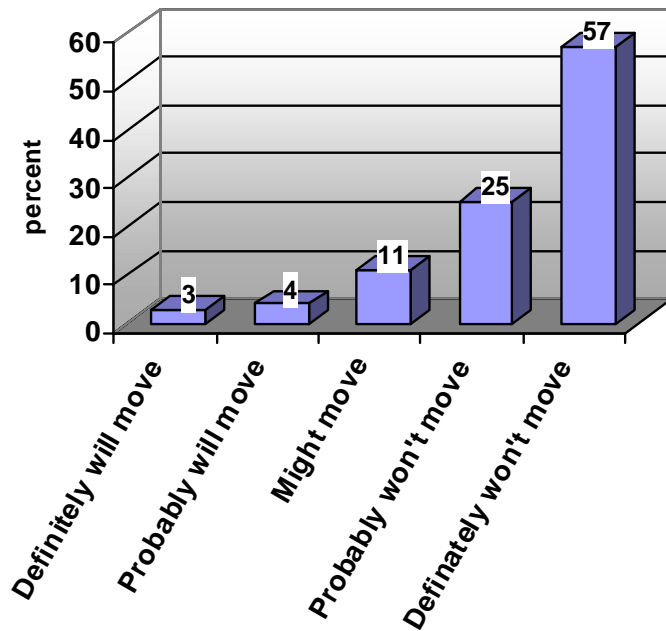
Members were involved in the following denominations when they were growing up:

Denomination	Percent
Baptist	17
Disciples of Christ	1
Episcopal	8
Lutheran	8
Methodist	13
Presbyterian	19
United Church of Christ	13
Unitarian Universalist	1
Other Protestant	7
Roman Catholic	9
Other	4
None	3

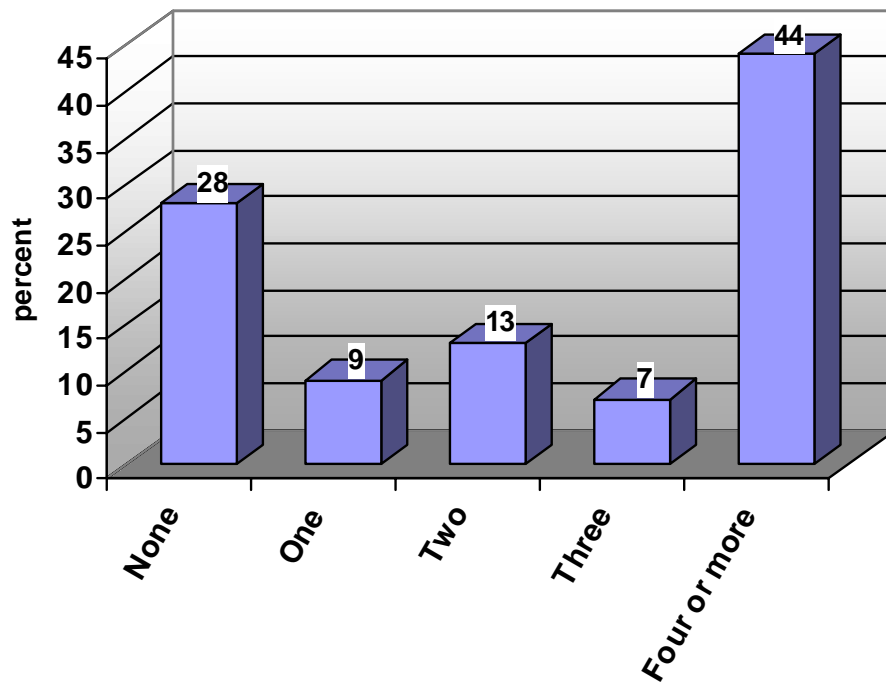
How many years have members lived in this general area?



**How likely is it that the membership 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

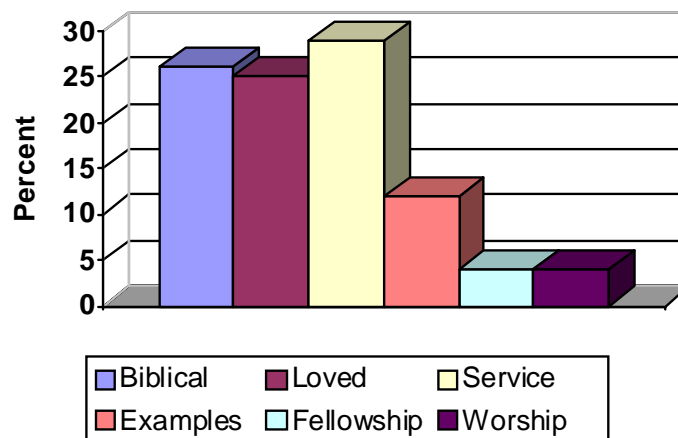
A. How satisfied are you with each of the following aspects of your congregation's Christian Education program for **children**?  
 A "Don't Know" (DK) response is provided, but please use it only if absolutely necessary.

	<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	47	11	4	18
3. The training provided teachers	10	30	17	13	30

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 No Need</i>
1. Teaching children about the Bible and the church	17%	79%	1%	4%
2. Giving children the feeling that they are loved by God and the church	10	87	0	3
3. Developing in children a sense that Christian love includes respect for and service to others	20	76	0	3
4. Providing examples of what it means to be a Christian in today's world	23	73	0	4
5. Offering enjoyable fellowship activities	21	75	1	3
6. Including the children in the worship service	20	75	2	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?

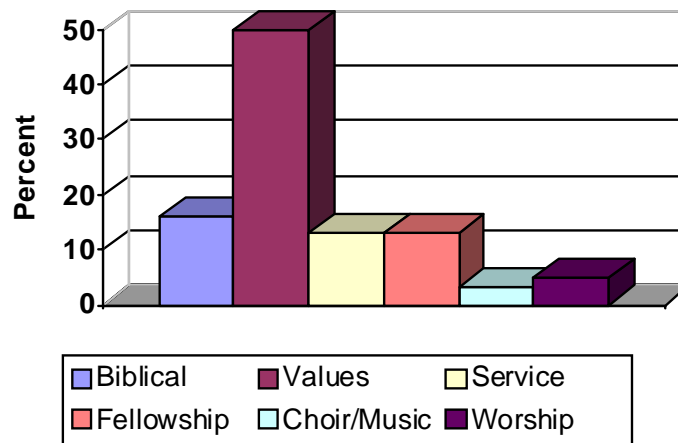


## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION FOR YOUTH

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 No Need</i>
1. Educational programming that is biblically centered	27%	68%	1%	4%
2. Educational programming that helps youth clarify values and beliefs	35	61	0	4
3. Programming that involves youth in serving others	38	58	1	3
4. Providing fellowship opportunities for youth to have fun in Christian setting	25	71	2	3
5. Youth choirs or other kinds of musical groups	37	53	1	9
6. Including the youth in the worship service	34	62	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 No Need</i>	<i>Attend</i>
1. Study groups dealing with the Bible and theology	27%	71%	1%	2%	13%
2. Study and discussion groups dealing with contemporary issues, topics and problems	37	53	3	7	10
3. Prayer, meditation and spirituality groups	28	66	1	5	6
4. Support groups in which members share with each other at the level of feelings and personal experience	33	52	2	13	5
5. Fellowship events or hobby groups	26	67	2	5	9
6. Evangelistic outreach and visitation groups	34	47	2	17	3
7. Social concern groups for planning and working on projects directed at community or social issues/problems	31	55	3	11	5
8. Recreation/Athletic activities	31	45	1	23	4
9. Literary/culture groups	23	47	1	29	4
10. Groups and classes that explore marriage, the family, and parenting issues	47	40	1	13	5

Which three of the following are the <i>best times</i> for you to attend adult programs?	Which three of the following are the <i>worst times</i> for you to attend adult programs?
Sunday morning 27 %	Weekday morning 23%
Weekday evening 24	Weekday afternoon 22
Sunday evening 18	Saturday morning 20
Saturday morning 13	Weekend retreat 17
Weekend retreat 13	Sunday evening 14
Weekday morning 12	Weekday evening 11
Weekday afternoon 9	Sunday morning 7

## 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	15%	51%	30%	4%	1%
2. Providing meeting rooms in the church for community groups working on various issues and problems	5	33	46	14	2
3. Encouraging the minister to use a portion of his/her time working with community and social action groups	3	22	48	24	3
4. Calling attention to social, community and world issues from the pulpit and in study groups	8	30	42	17	4
5. Organizing social issue advocacy or action groups	3	13	38	36	11
6. Linking interested lay members to denominational, ecumenical or non-church social service or advocacy programs	4	22	44	24	5
7. Giving money to denominational programs	3	23	48	22	4
8. Giving money to ecumenical or non-denominational programs	2	13	44	34	7
9. Helping organize or support disadvantaged groups to pursue their own causes	3	18	40	30	10
10. Lobbying and petitioning corporate and government officials on peace and justice issues	3	10	25	37	25

## 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	7%	29%	46%	15%	2%
2. Adult education programs on the meaning of Christian stewardship	10	37	41	11	1
3. Mailings to members clearly setting out the reasons for Christian stewardship	12	37	35	13	2
4. Encourage membership pledging	21	41	26	9	3
5. Every member canvass or visitation	5	15	31	34	15
6. Tithing or proportionate giving	14	31	34	16	6
7. Hiring a professional fund raising consultant or group	1	3	12	36	48
8. Fund-raisers such as fairs, bazaars, tag sales, etc.	2	9	36	38	15
9. Encourage giving to a church endowment through wills and bequests	7	26	42	20	5
10. Special giving appeals for a charitable cause or mission effort	8	35	44	11	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	7%	26%	42%	21%	5%
2. Increased support for community social service programs	11	35	40	12	2
3. Increased support for world missions	11	29	41	16	3
4. Increase current staff salaries	7	25	43	19	5
5. Hire additional staff	8	16	31	32	14
6. Renovate, enlarge or add to current facilities	12	20	27	28	14
7. Increase budget for educational and program materials and resources	12	36	38	11	2
8. Begin an endowment or add to an existing one	9	24	36	24	7
9. Increase evangelistic efforts and advertising	8	22	33	26	10

## 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	13%	38%	35%	12%	2%
2. Appeals to members to make a personal witness about their faith to others	10	25	35	21	9
3. The use of newspaper advertisements	4	16	39	32	10
4. The use of radio or television	3	12	30	36	19
5. Mailing church literature to newcomers in your community	13	38	33	12	4
6. Pastoral or lay visits to newcomers in your community	13	33	33	16	5
7. Using a group of lay volunteers to canvass (knock on doors in) the neighborhood	2	9	22	36	30
8. The use of a church web site	19	38	30	10	3
9. Developing church programs especially targeted at unchurched persons in your community	15	33	33	14	5
10. Changing the style of your worship to make it more appealing to the unchurched	9	15	27	30	19
11. Developing home Bible, prayer and study groups to which friends who are not members are invited	10	25	37	19	8

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

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

[ 27% ] 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?

[ 6% ] To a great extent  
[ 20% ] To a moderate extent

[ 46% ] To some extent  
[ 27% ] Not at all