

2017 CPUC Congregation Survey Analysis

Overview

Part I. Who are we?

Identity, vision, church body, why we came and stayed

Part II. Who do we want to be?

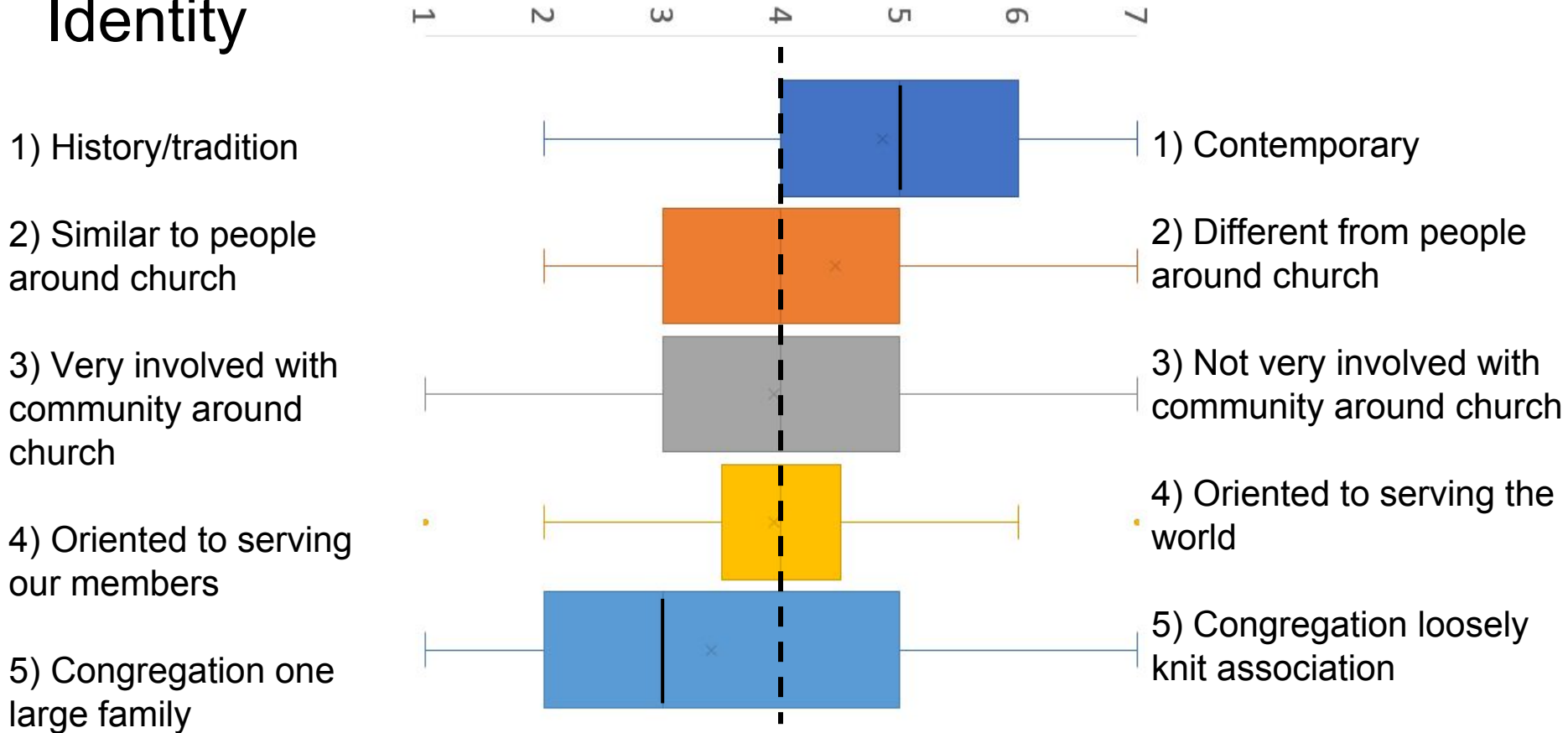
What we do well, what needs more/less emphasis, what we do best, what we could strengthen, what we want out of church, what should be our priorities

Part III. How can we get there?

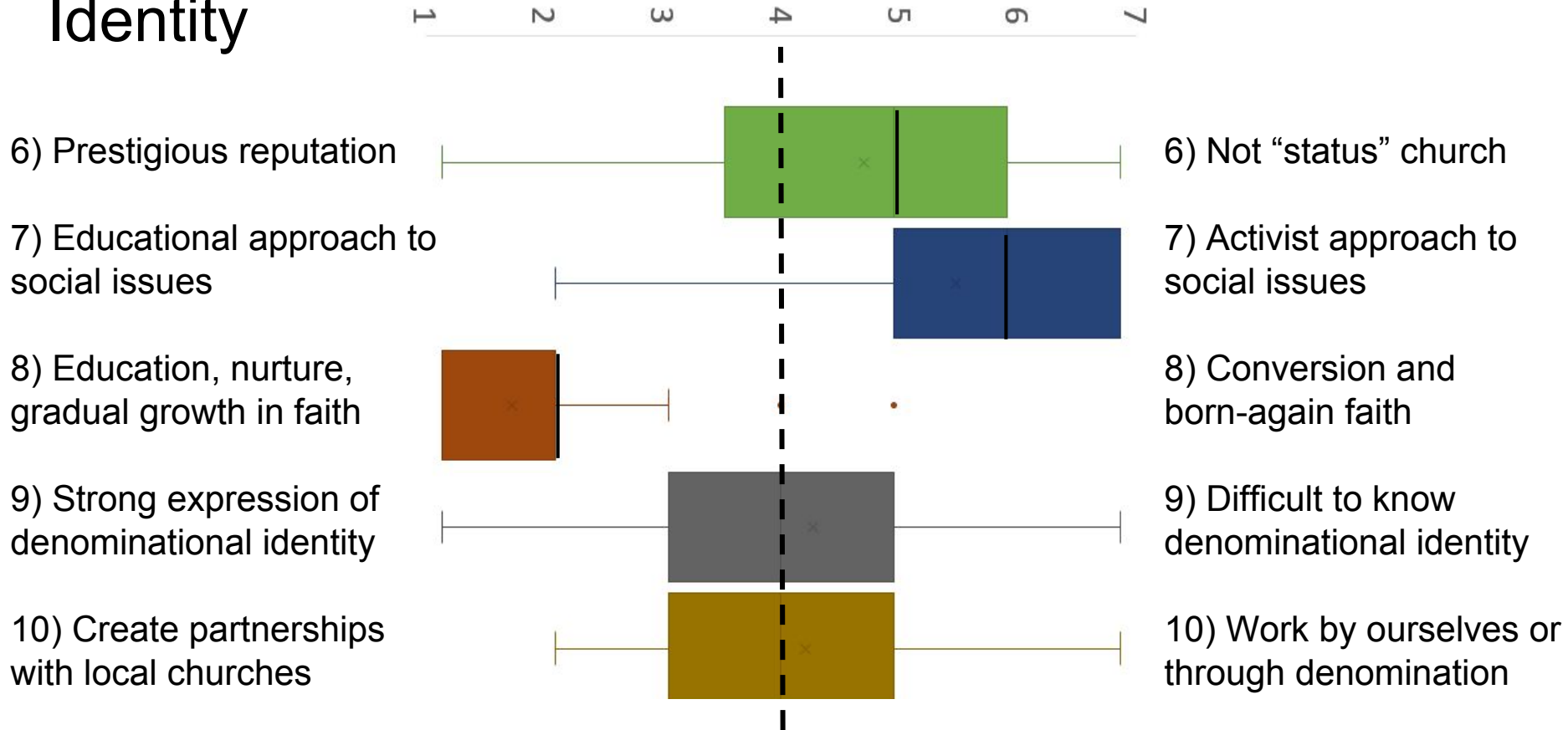
Discussion

Part I. Who are we?

Identity



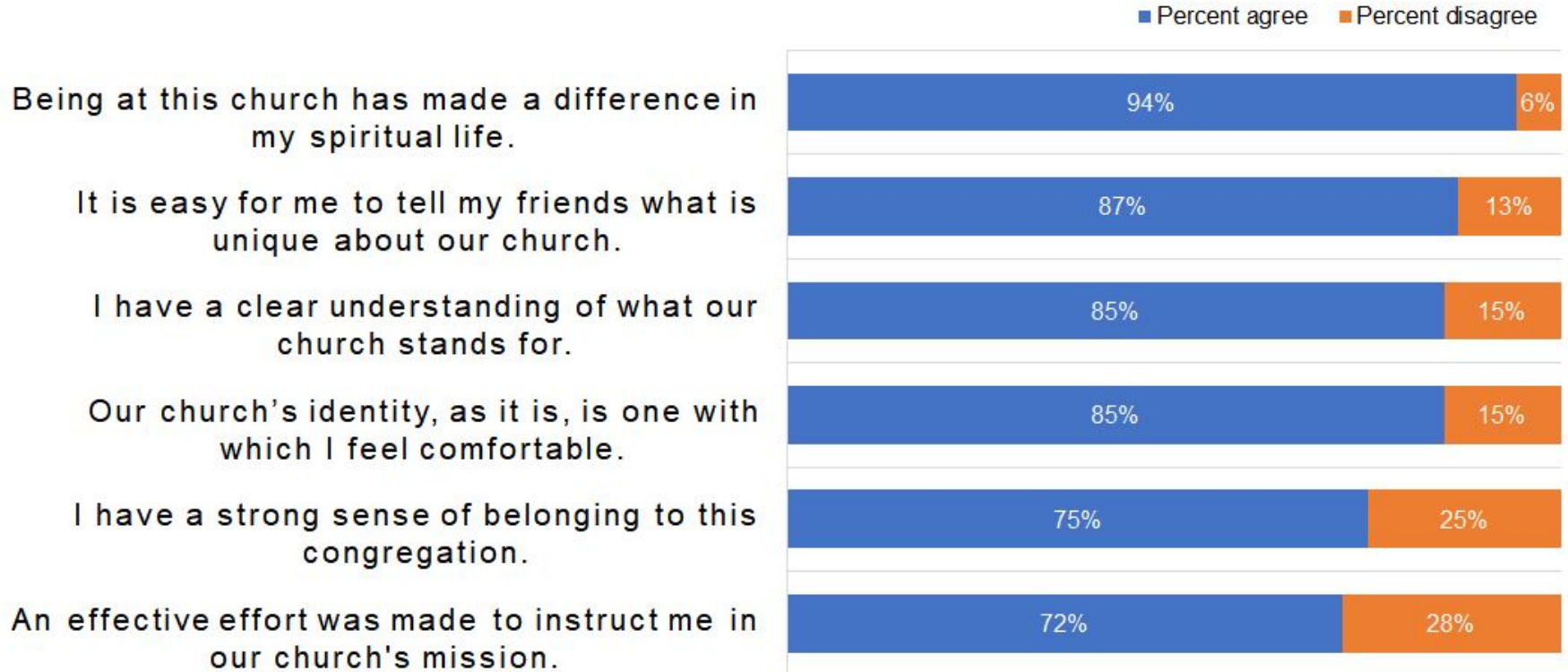
Identity



Identity takeaways

1. Church more influenced by contemporary ideas and trends
2. Equally oriented to serve our members and serving the world beyond our membership
3. Congregation feels like one large family
4. Not considered one of the “status” churches in the area
5. Decidedly activist approach to social issues as a congregation
6. Approach to individual salvation emphasizes education, nurture, gradual growth in faith

Views on congregation's overall identity & vision

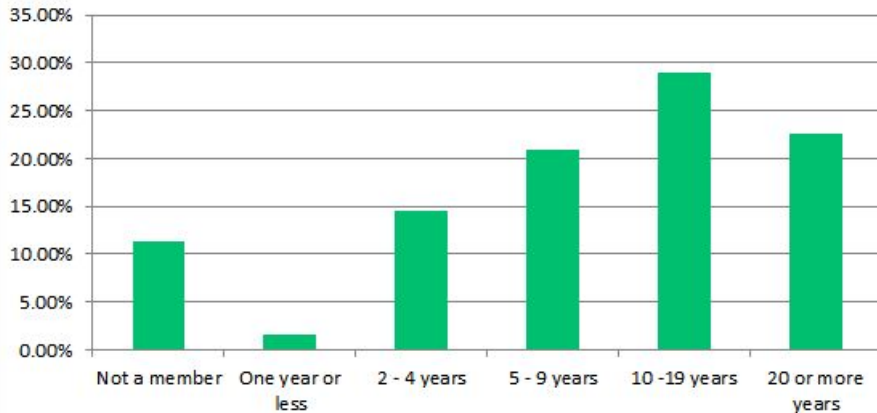


Church body: Congregation membership

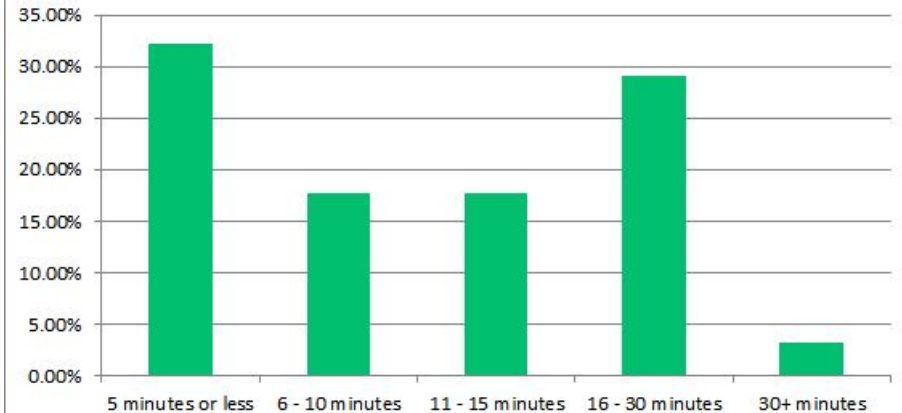
- Half of congregation has been members for at least 10 years

- Half of congregation's commute is 5-10 minutes and half is 11-30 minutes

1. How long have you been a member of this local church?



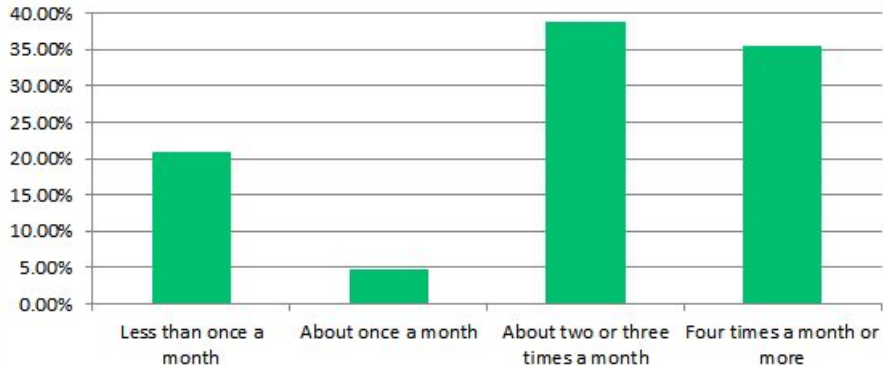
2. How long does it usually take you to travel from home to church?



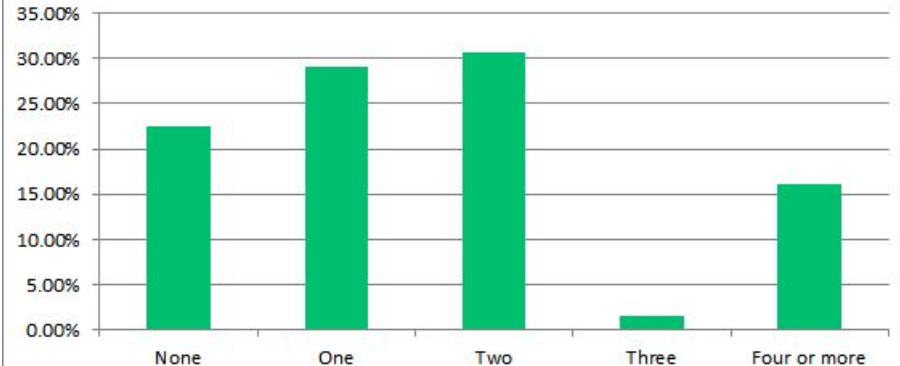
Church body: Attendance and participation

- A quarter of the congregation attends church once a month or less frequently
- Over three-quarters of the congregation is involved with committees

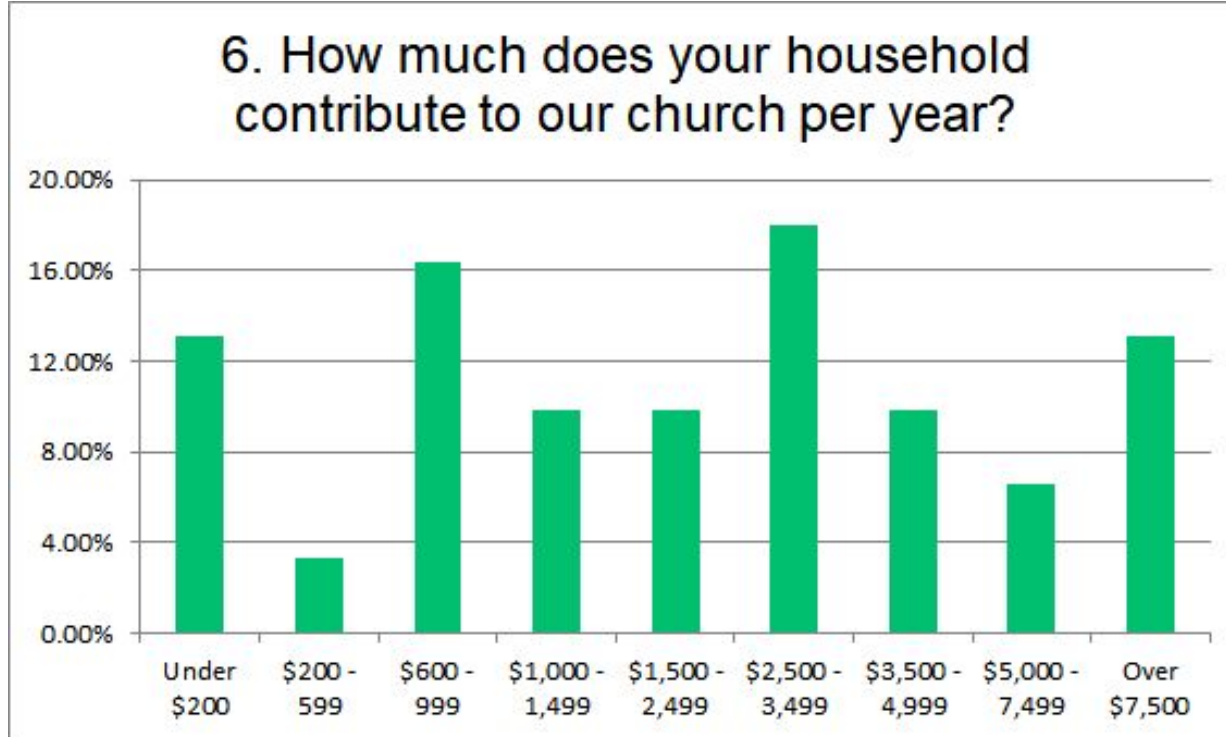
3. On the average, about how many times have you attended church worship during the past year?



4. In how many church organizations, committees, and groups do you hold membership?



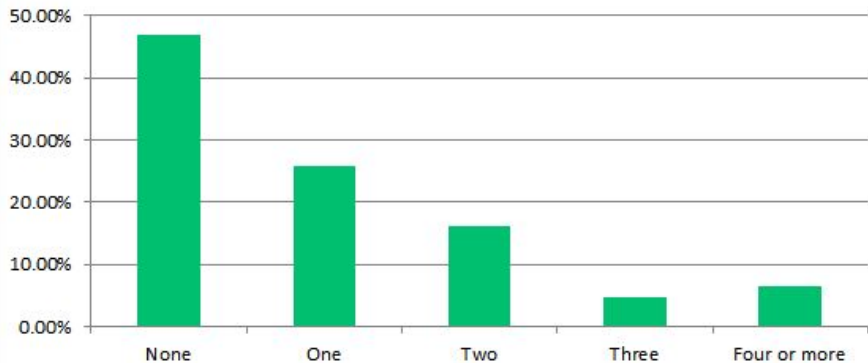
Church body: Contribution



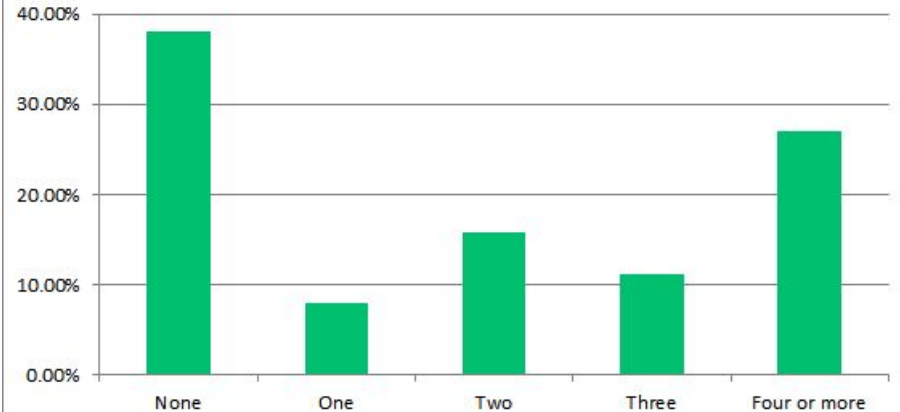
Church body: Visitors and friends

- Half of congregation has invited people/families to visit/join
- Half of congregation has at least 2-4+ of their closest friends at church

7. How many persons or families have you invited to visit or join the church in the past year?



8. How many of your closest friends attend this church?



Church body: Participation changes

Why has participation decreased?	#	Increased?	#	Remained the same: 20.6%
More negative attitude toward our church	15	Accepted office or other new responsibility in the church	15	
Less time available	12	More time available	7	
Health problems	5	Because of children	3	
Given up office or other new responsibility in the church	4	More positive attitude toward the church	3	
Because of children	3	Stronger faith	2	
Decreased faith	1			
Decreased: 46.0%		Increased: 33.3%		

Church body: More negative attitude toward church

Membership Length	Less than once a month	2-3 times a month	4+ times a month
Not a member	1	2	
2 - 4 years		1	
5 - 9 years	4	2	
10 -19 years	1	2	1

- A majority ($\frac{2}{3}$) serves on 1-2 committees
- Half have invited 1-4+ people to visit/join
- 70% have 1-4+ of their closest friends attending church
- Most (65%) contribute between \$1-3.5K/yr

Why we came & stayed

What originally attracted you to CPUC?	#
The Minister	30
The worship style	28
The church's reputation	26
The social outreach	25
The music program	19
The denominational ties	18
My friends are here	8
Child and youth program	6
Adult education program	4

What keeps you coming?	#
My friends are here	32
The worship style	28
The social outreach	25
The church's reputation	22
The music program	19
The denominational ties	14
The Minister	10
Adult education program	10
Child and youth program	7
The self-help groups	2

Part II. Who do we want to be?

What do we do well?

Generally Satisfied

1. Supporting the global mission of the church/denomination
2. Sharing the good news of the Gospel with the unchurched
3. Providing pastoral counseling to help members deal with personal problems
4. Helping members discover their own gifts for ministry and service
5. Providing Christian education programs for adults

Very satisfied

1. Encouraging members to act on the relationship of the Christian faith to social, political, and economic issues
2. Providing fellowship opportunities for members
3. Engaging in acts of charity and service to persons in need
4. Providing worship that expresses the Gospel in contemporary language and forms
5. Offering worship that provides a meaningful experience of God and the Christian tradition

What needs more or less emphasis?

Receives Too Much Emphasis

1. Expressing our denominational heritage/tradition
2. Sharing the good news of the Gospel with the unchurched
3. Participating in activities and programs with other local religious groups
4. Encouraging members to act on the relationship of the Christian faith to social, political, and economic issues
5. Helping members understand their use of money, time and talents as expressions of Christian stewardship

Needs More Emphasis

1. Providing Christian education for children and youth
2. Participating in activities and programs with other local religious groups
3. Helping members deepen their personal, spiritual relationship with God
4. Providing pastoral counseling to help members deal with personal problems
5. Sharing the good news of the Gospel with the unchurched

What do we do best?

Which one task do we do best?	%
Encouraging members to act on the relationship of the Christian faith to social, political, and economic issues	45.45%
Providing fellowship opportunities for members	14.55%
Offering worship that provides a meaningful experience of God and the Christian tradition	9.09%
Engaging in acts of charity and service to persons in need	9.09%

What could we strengthen?

Which one task should be strengthened?	%
Offering worship that provides a meaningful experience of God and the Christian tradition	15.69%
Helping members discover their own gifts for ministry and service	15.69%
Participating in activities and programs with other local religious groups	11.76%
Helping members deepen their personal, spiritual relationship with God	9.80%

Does this organizational issue describe us?

Agree or strongly agree:

1. Members help each other out in times of trouble
2. Important decisions about the life of the church are rarely made without open discussion by church leaders and members
3. Members are encouraged to discover their particular gifts for ministry and service
4. It is easy to summarize for visitors and non-members how our congregation differs from other congregations in the area
5. Every member who is capable and interested has an equal opportunity to hold key leadership positions
6. Members and groups get a lot of support and encouragement for trying something new in the congregation

Does this organizational issue describe us?

Disagree or strongly disagree:

1. The current morale of our church membership is high
2. There is a sense of excitement among members about our church's future
3. Study of the needs of the congregation and the community is regularly undertaken as the basis for church planning
4. Disagreements and conflicts are dealt with openly rather than hushed up or hidden behind closed doors
5. Lay leaders are provided the training they need for their committee and task assignments

What works for us in worship services?

Generally Satisfied

1. Providing worship at times other than Sunday morning
2. Corporate prayer in which the entire congregation participates
3. Use of creeds or statements of faith
4. Use of new or unfamiliar hymns
5. Attention given to sacraments

Very satisfied

1. Providing time for members to greet one another
2. Lay participation in leading worship
3. Use of inclusive, non-sexist language
4. Use of creeds or statements of faith
5. Use of contemporary worship styles, music and language

What needs more or less emphasis in worship?

Receives Too Much Emphasis

1. Use of new or unfamiliar hymns
2. Having parts of the worship especially for children
3. Use of contemporary worship styles, music and language
4. Attention given to sacraments
5. Providing worship at times other than Sunday morning

Needs More Emphasis

1. Silent prayer/meditation
2. Providing worship that is intellectually challenging
3. Providing worship that is emotionally moving
4. Providing worship at times other than Sunday morning
5. Use of contemporary worship styles, music and language

What is important for us in sermons?

Essential

1. Makes me reflect on issues and events that go beyond my personal life and local community
2. Is challenging and thought-provoking
3. Touches directly on my everyday life
4. Is carefully composed and skillfully delivered
5. Is spiritually moving and inspirational

Important

1. Is spiritually moving and inspirational
2. Obviously flows from the depth of the preacher's own personal faith and spiritual convictions
3. Is carefully composed and skillfully delivered
4. Sets forth a clear faith position as a guide for making decisions and living a faithful life
5. Contains scholarly or literary illustrations

What is less important for us in sermons?

Not very important

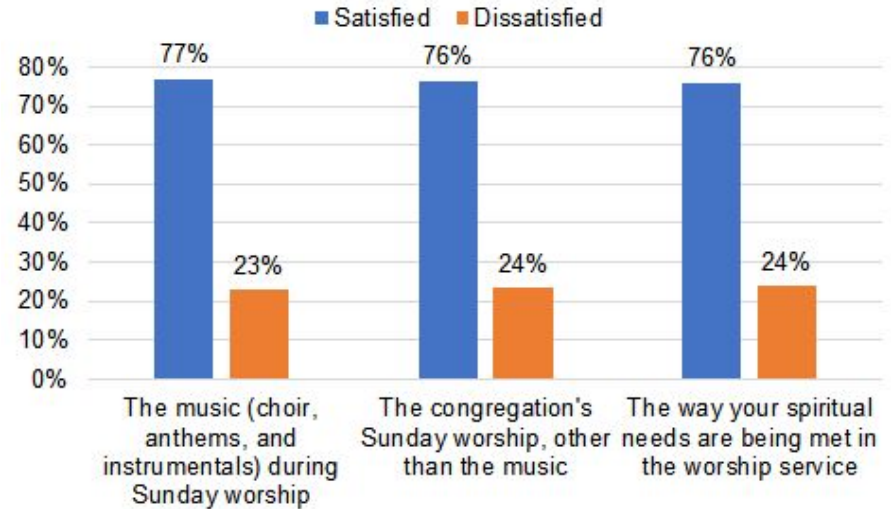
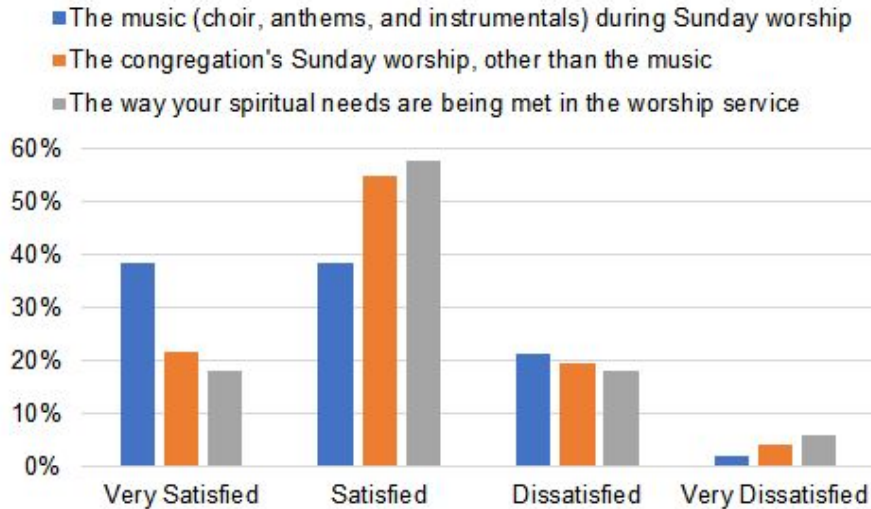
1. Based on a clear, unambiguous religious authority
2. Is biblically based and illustrated
3. Is comforting and reassuring
4. Contains scholarly or literary illustrations
5. Sets forth various sides of an issue without advocating one position as the only Christian position

Downright distracting

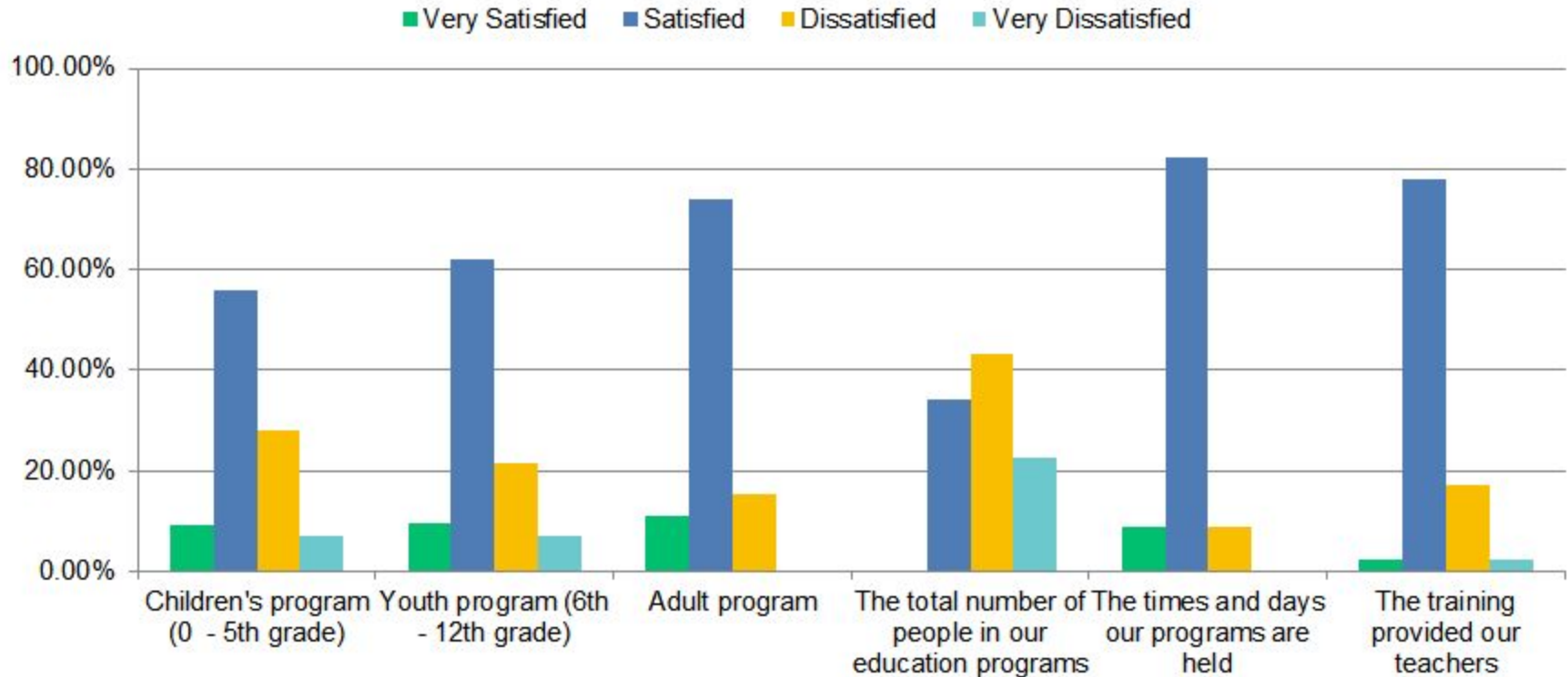
1. Based on a clear, unambiguous religious authority
2. Obviously flows from the depth of the preacher's own personal faith and spiritual convictions

(A few other responses fewer than n=3)

What parts of church are we dis/satisfied with?



What aspects of Christian Education program are we dis/satisfied with?



What should be a priority in Christian education?

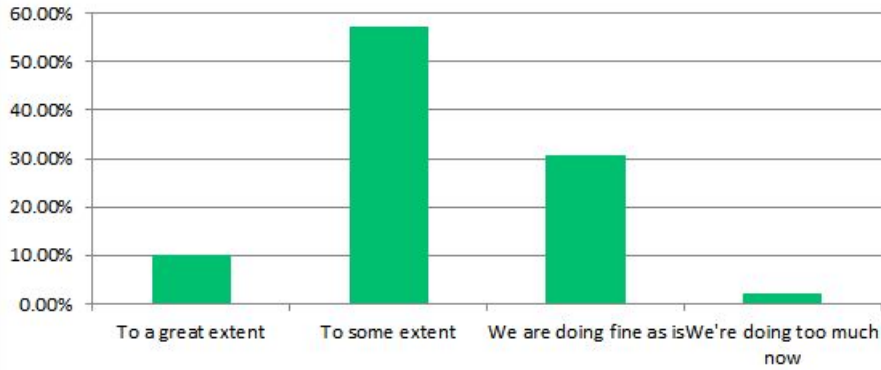
High priorities for youth (grades 6-12)	Responses with at least half
Educational programming that helps youth clarify values and beliefs	41
Programming that involves youth in serving others	39
Providing fellowship opportunities for youth to have fun in Christian setting	33
Including the youth in the worship service	30

High priorities for adults	Responses with at least half
Study and discussion groups dealing with contemporary issues, topics and problems	36
Social concern groups for planning and working on projects directed at community or social issues/problems	24

Should we improve efforts at evangelism?

- Most think we should improve efforts to some extent or we are doing fine
- Most would not want to get more involved in evangelism or would to some extent

Overall, to what extent do you think your congregation needs to increase or improve its efforts at evangelism?



To what extent would you personally be willing to get more involved in the evangelistic efforts of your congregation?

