



FACT 2025— United Church of Christ

Study Findings and 2023 Comparisons

Research and Data
United Church of Christ
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Overview

Aims and Methods

Topics

- Facilities
- Church Activities
- Leadership
- Congregants
- Mission and Identity
- Programs
- Pandemic Experiences
- Technology
- Finances
- Conflict and Outlook

Overview—About FACT 2025

- The 2025 FACT survey is the latest in a series of national, interfaith surveys conducted since 2000
 - Previous FACT surveys were released in 2000, 2005, 2008, 2010, 2015, 2020 and 2023
- The 2025 FACT survey was especially collected to assess trends among congregations that have emerged since the last survey in 2023
 - The 2025 FACT survey is also part of the Exploring the Pandemic Impact on Congregations (EPIC) project
 - <https://www.covidreligionresearch.org/>
- For more information on the overall FACT survey effort and details on the 2025 data collection, visit [Faith Communities Today](#)



Facilities

Forms, Uses, and Satisfaction

Facilities: Uses and Compensation

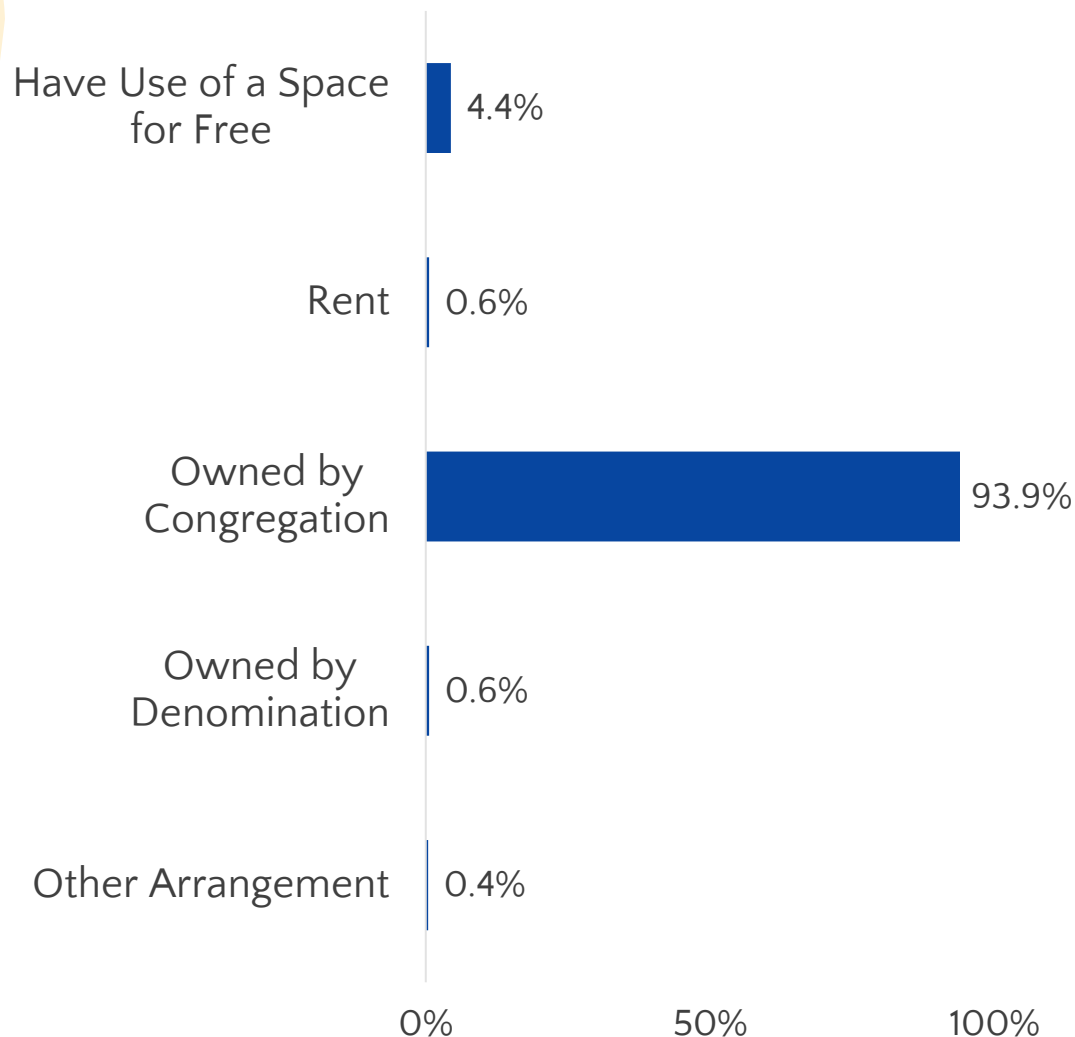
Congregational Characteristics:

- Percent identifying with multiple denominations: 1.7%
- Founding year:
 - Average – 134.9
 - Median – 134.6
- Seating Capacity:
 - Average – 234
 - Median – 226

Use of Space by Other Organizations:

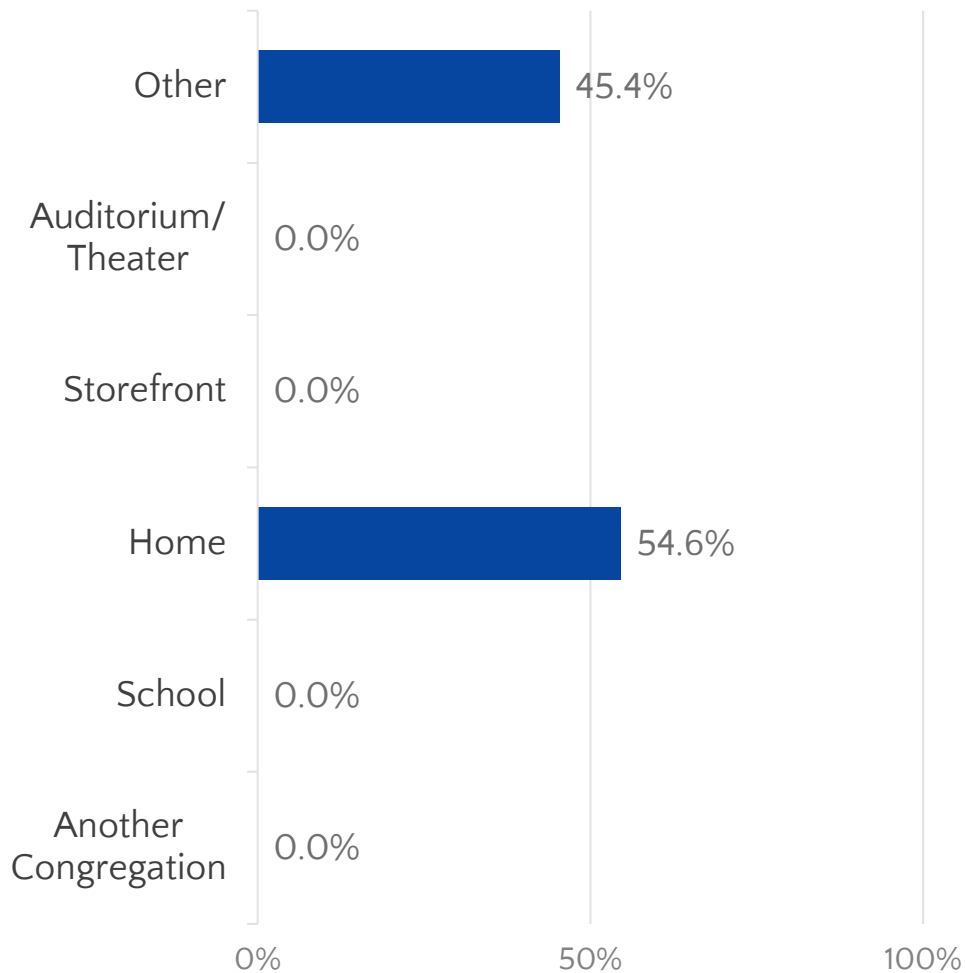
- Congregations hosting other organizations: 78.2%
- Churches obtaining rental income or donations from hosted organizations: 70.1%

Congregational Relationship to Primary Place of Worship

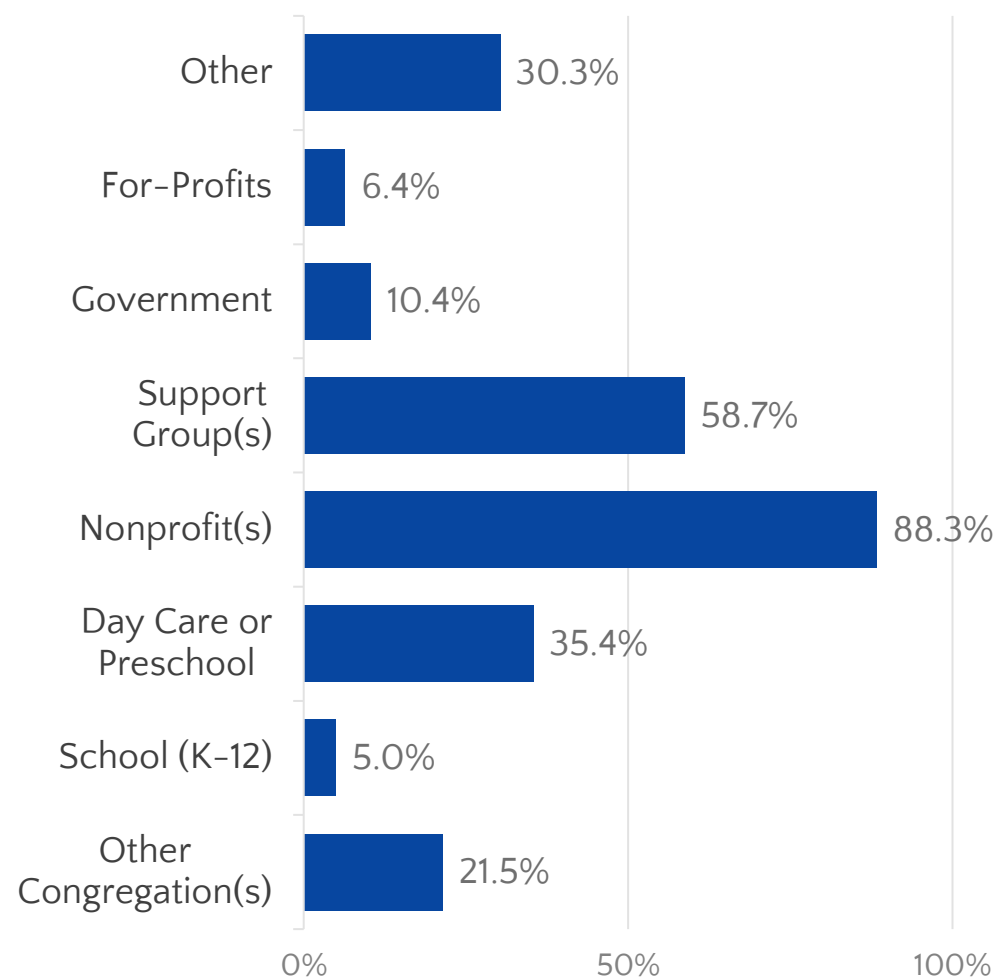


Space Sharing

Congregations Using Other Organizations' Facilities

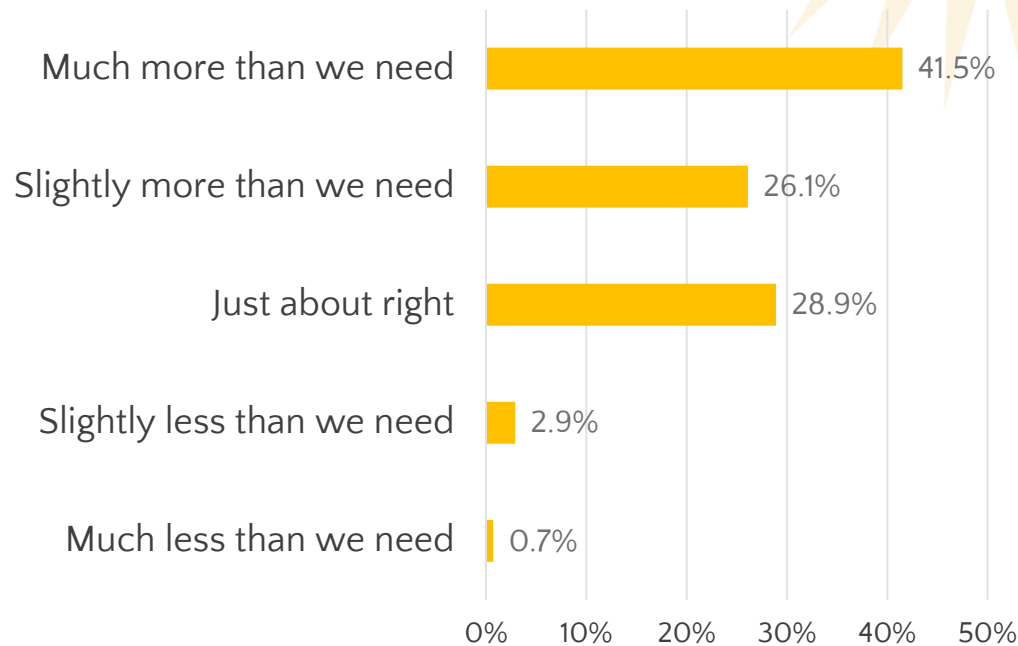


Other Organizations Using Congregational Facilities

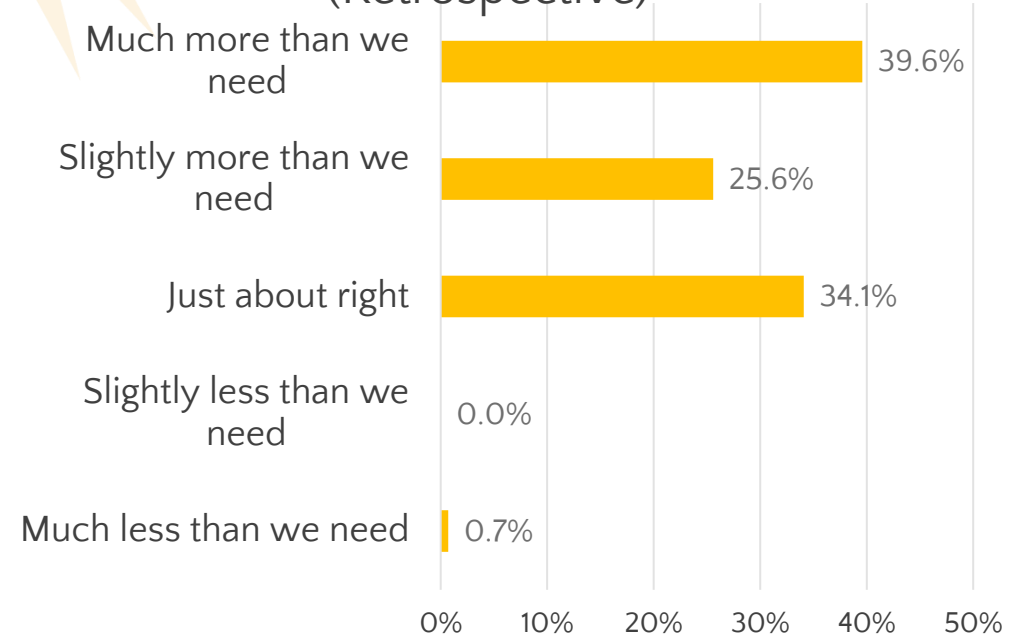


Facility Satisfaction

Space for Religious
Services/Worship at present



Space for Religious
Services/Worship 5 years ago
(Retrospective)



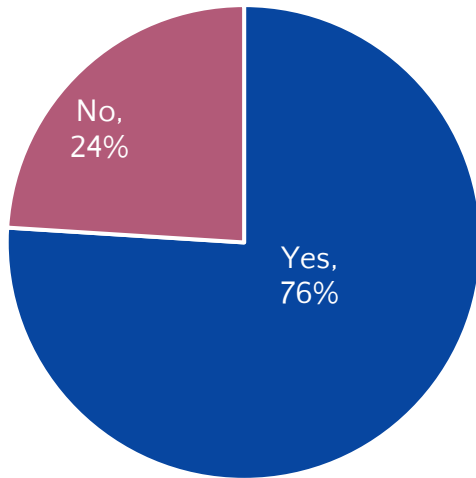


Church Activities

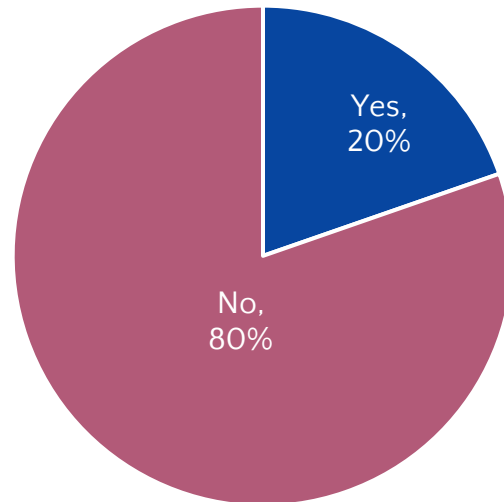
Attendance, Demographics, and
Programming

Activities: Worship

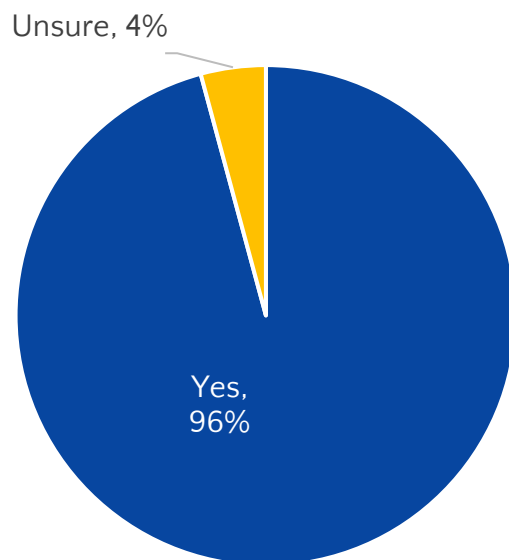
Offer Virtual
Worship 2025



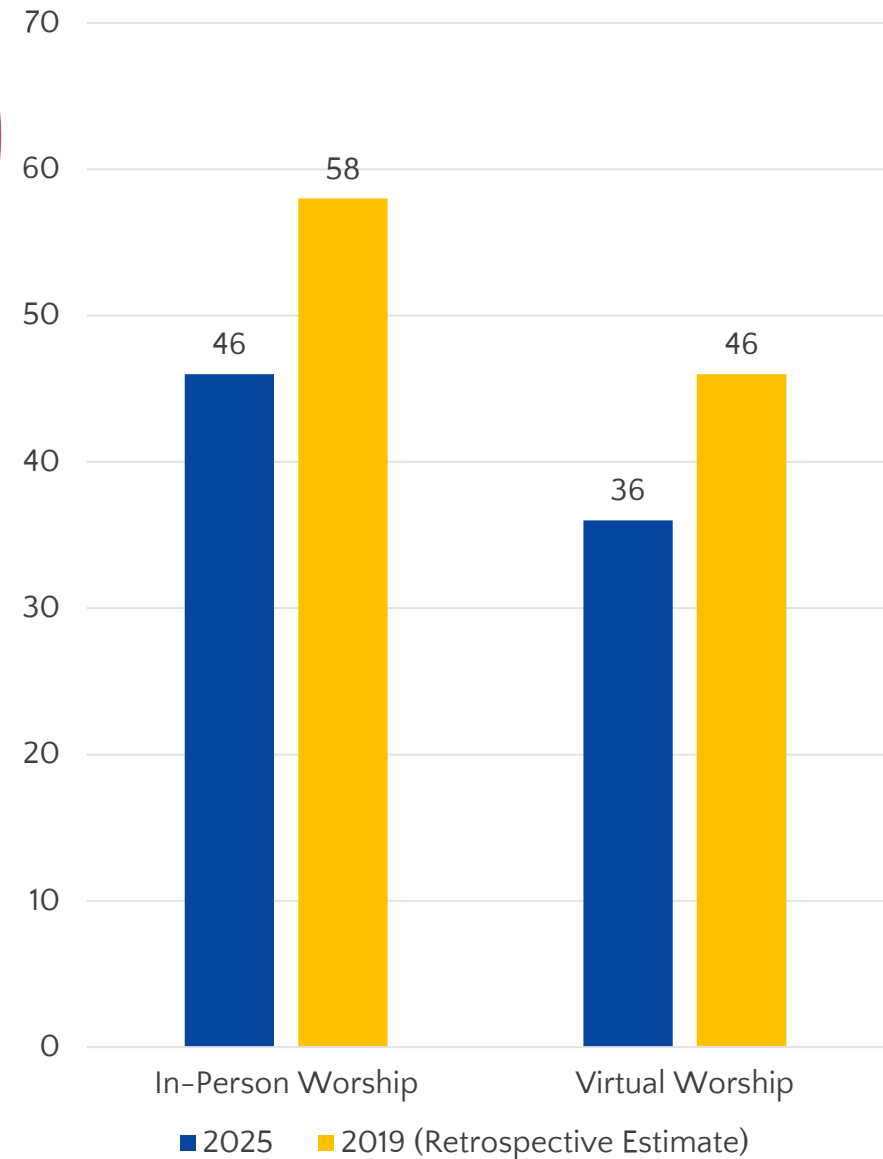
Offer Virtual Worship 2019
(Retrospective Estimate)



Anticipate Offering Virtual
Worship in 5 Years

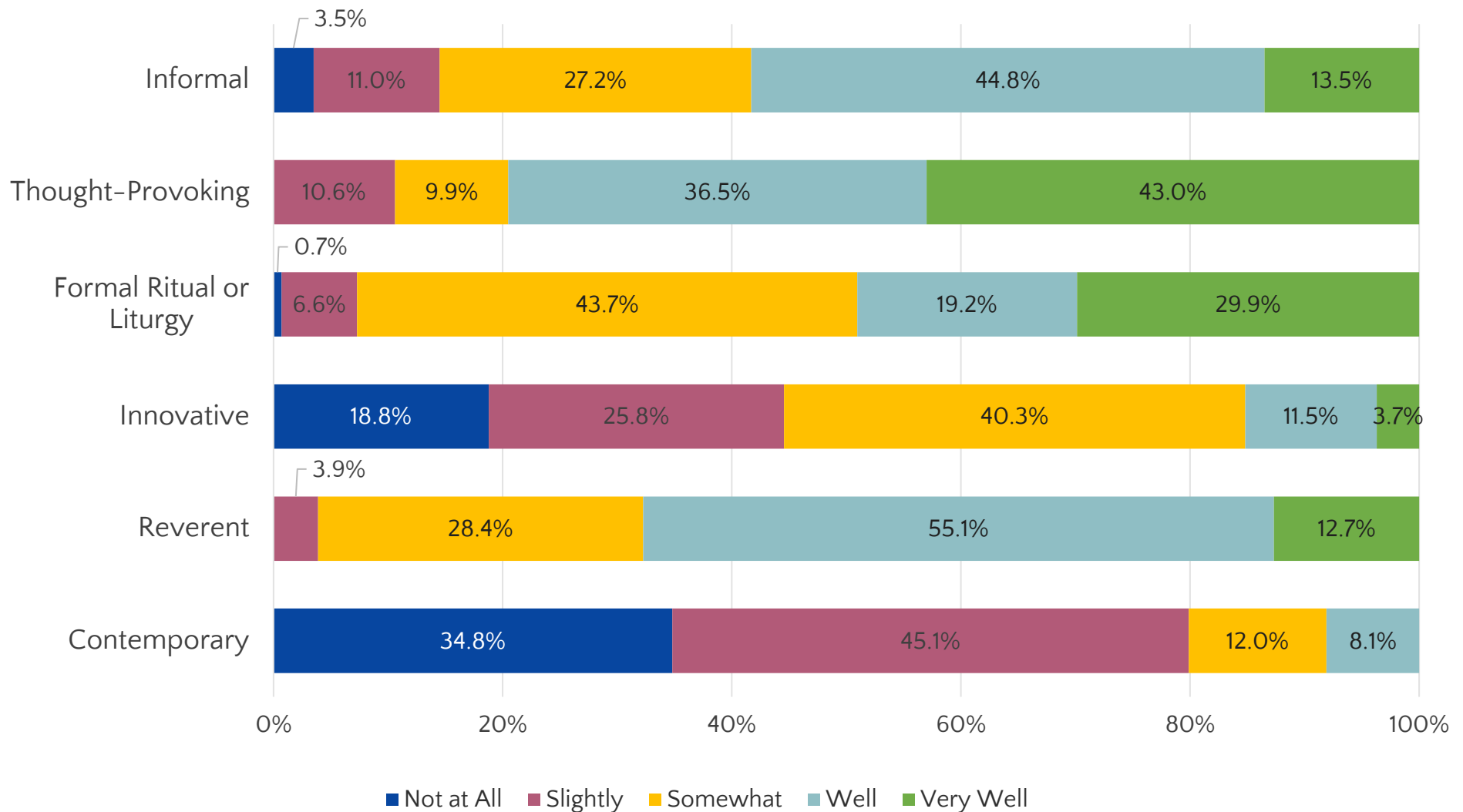


Worship Attendance by
Category and Year



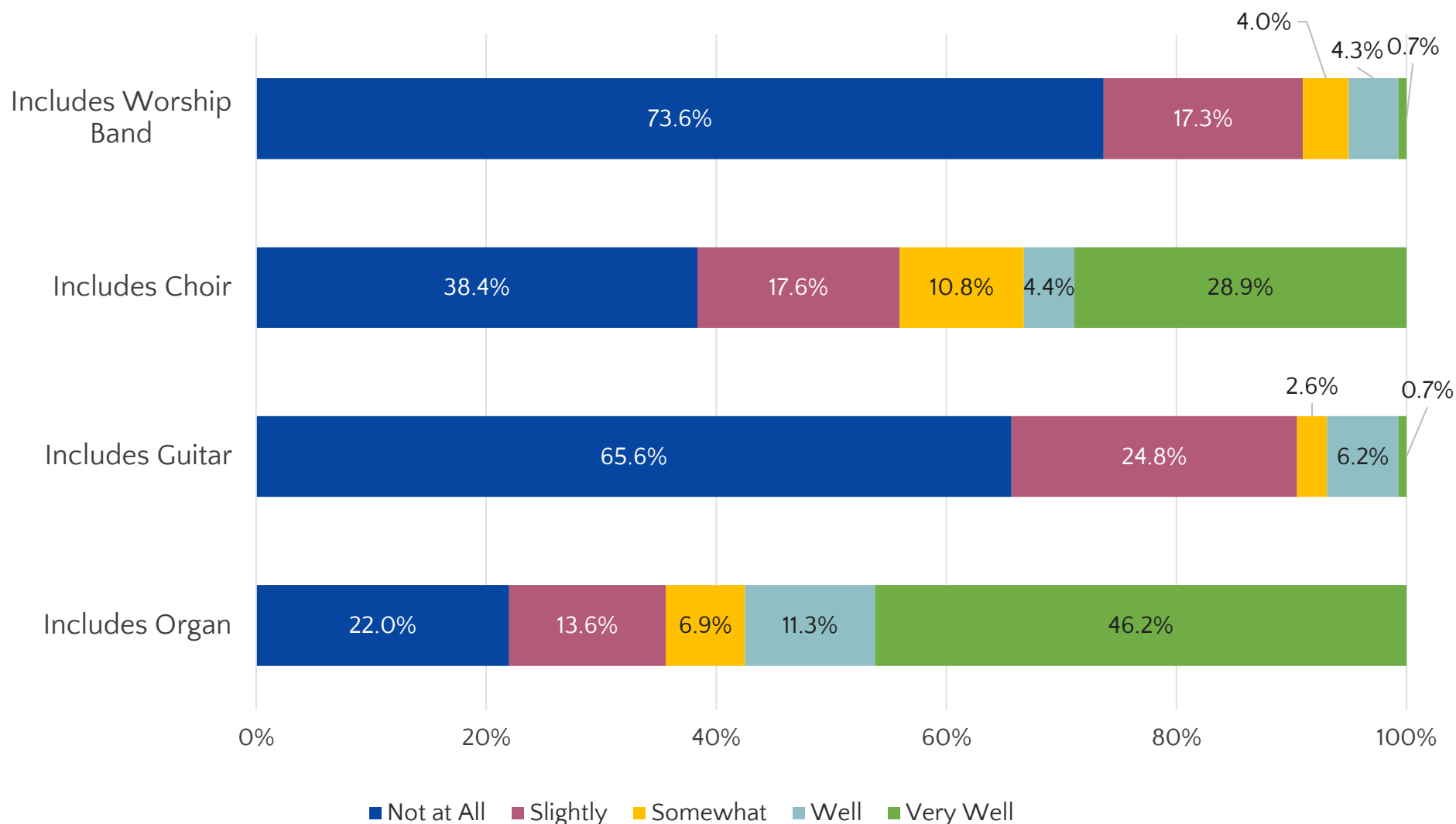
Worship Style

How well do the following describe your congregation's primary regular worship service(s)?



Instruments in Worship

How well do the following describe your congregation's primary regular worship service(s)?

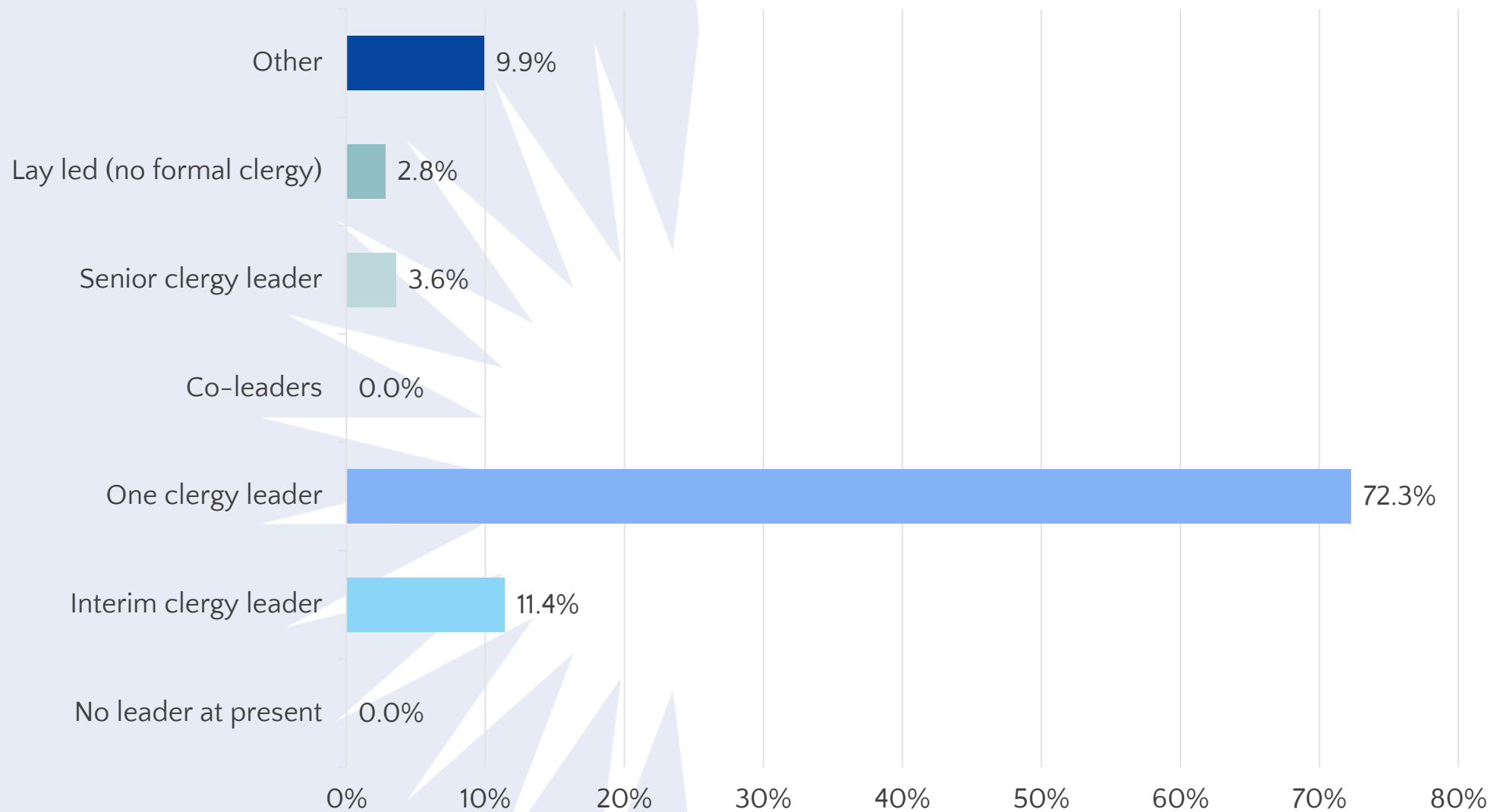




Leadership

Clergy Characteristics, Fit, and
Well-Being

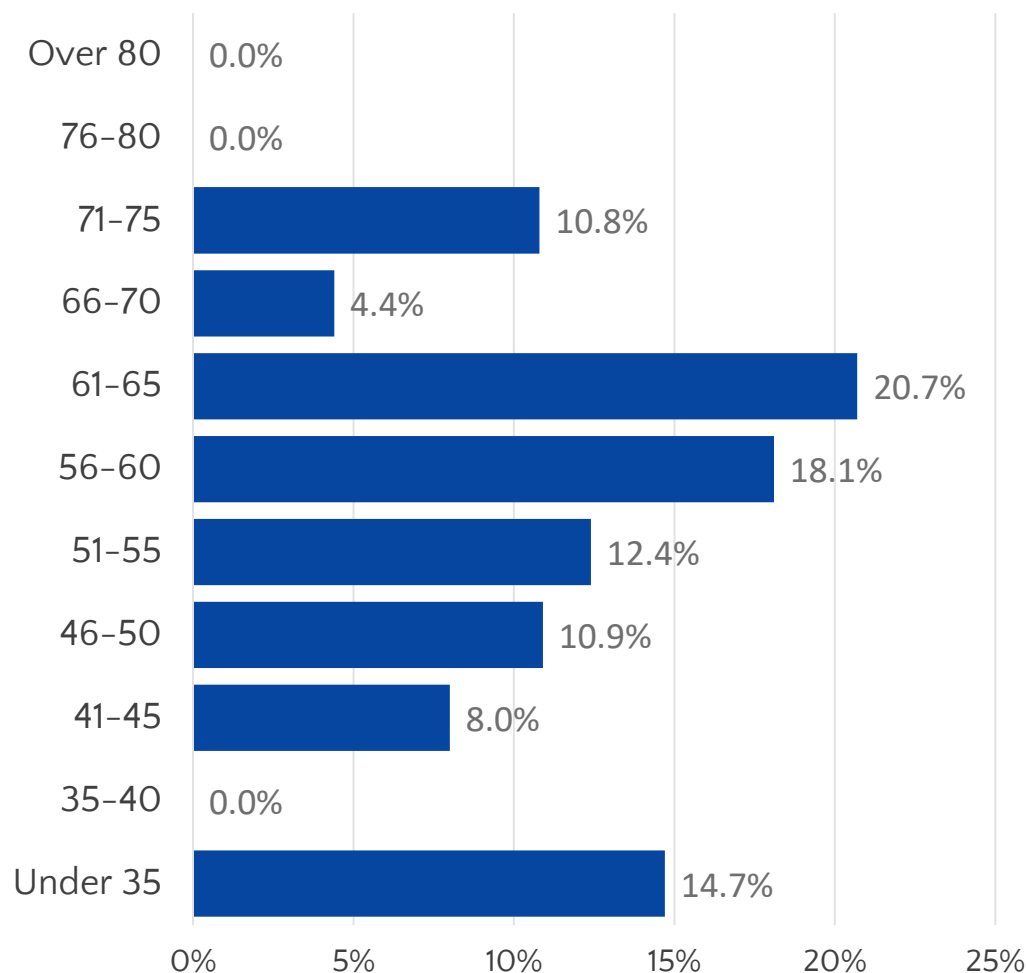
Leadership: Leadership Categories



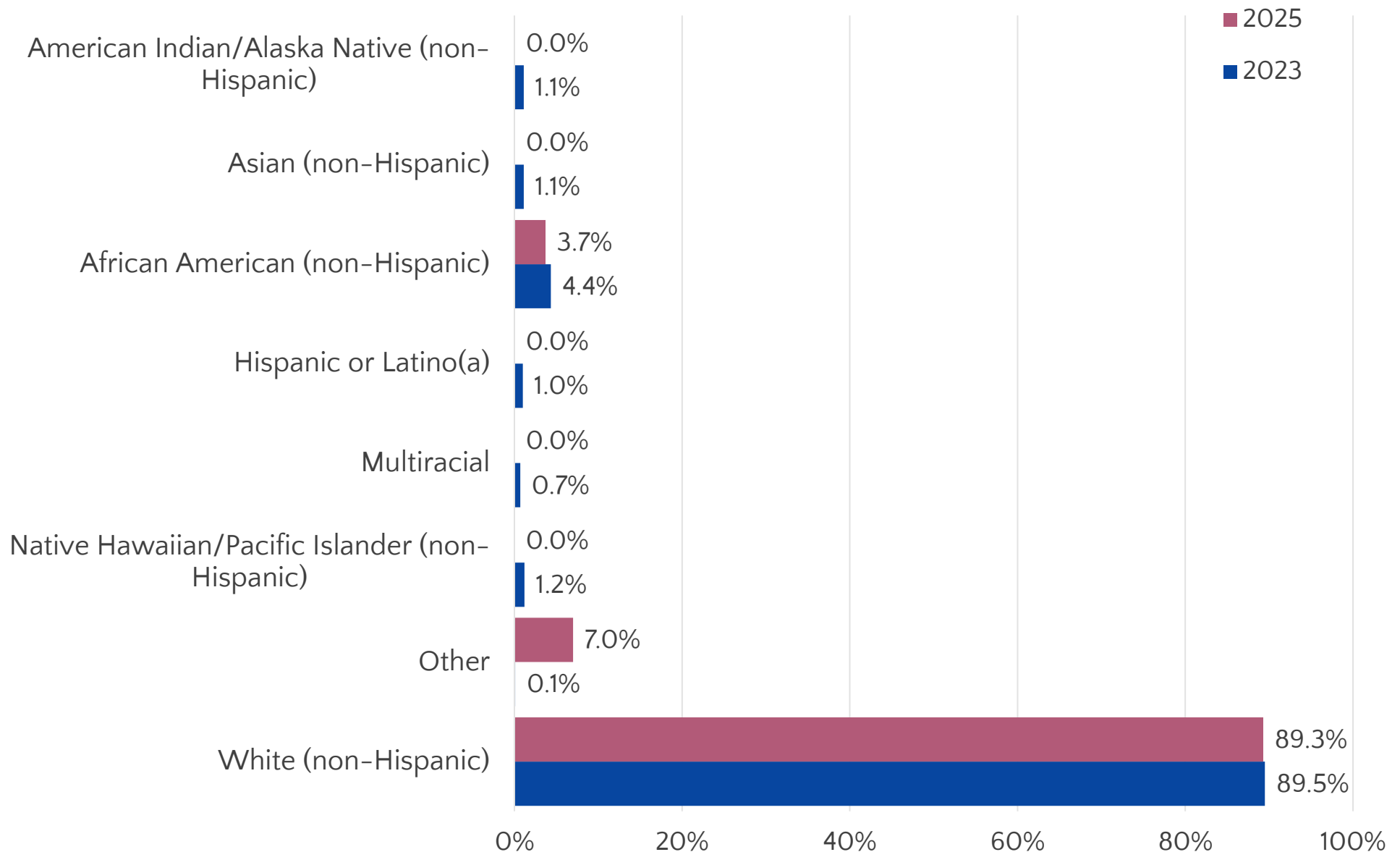
Leadership: Senior/Solo Clergy Characteristics

- Age:
 - Average: 54 years
 - Median: 57 years
- Gender:
 - Male: 38.2%
 - Female: 60.3%
 - Non-Binary: 1.5%
- Employment status:
 - Full-Time: 43.6%
 - Part-Time: 56.4%
- Compensation:
 - Paid: 96.7%
 - Unpaid: 3.3%
- Average hours worked each week :
 - 23 hours
- Average hours worked outside the congregation:
 - 17 hours

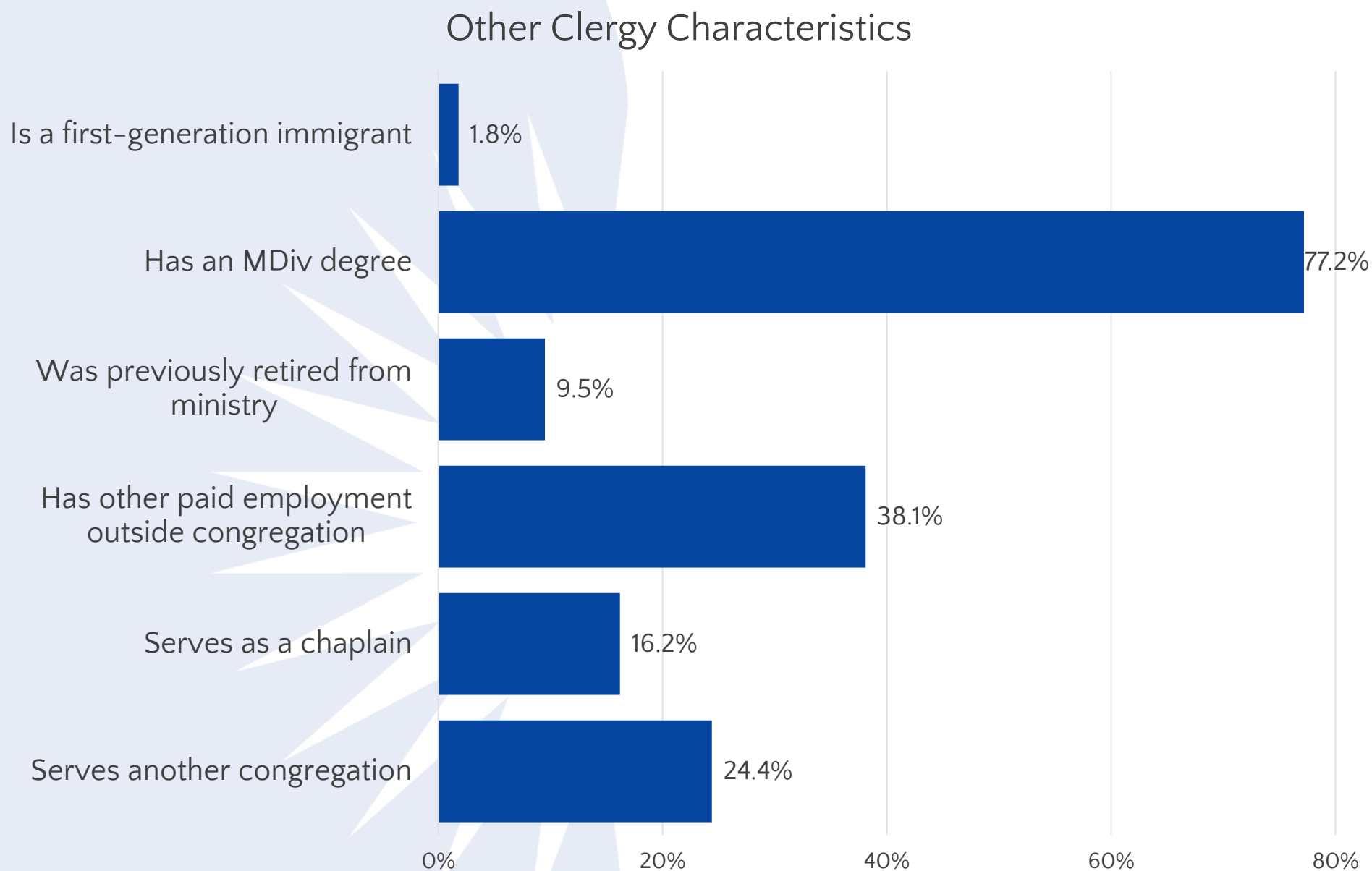
Age of Senior/Solo Pastor



Leadership: Senior/Solo Clergy Race and Ethnicity



Leadership: Senior/Solo Clergy Characteristics



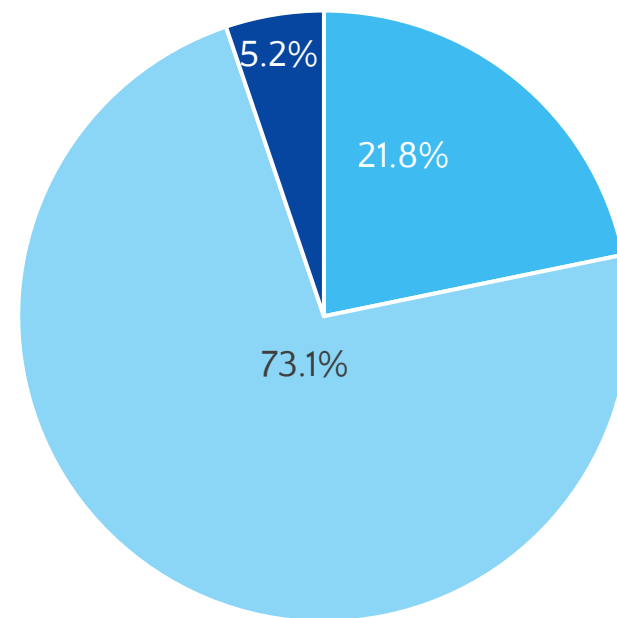
Leadership: Senior/Solo Clergy Characteristics

Clergy with paid employment outside the congregation: 38.1%

Other sectors:

- Education- 19.8%
- Chaplain- 15.8%
- Healthcare & Counseling- 5.9%
- Other Ministry positions- 46.6%
- Business & Professional- 0%
- Skilled Trades & Labor- 0%
- Other- 11.9%

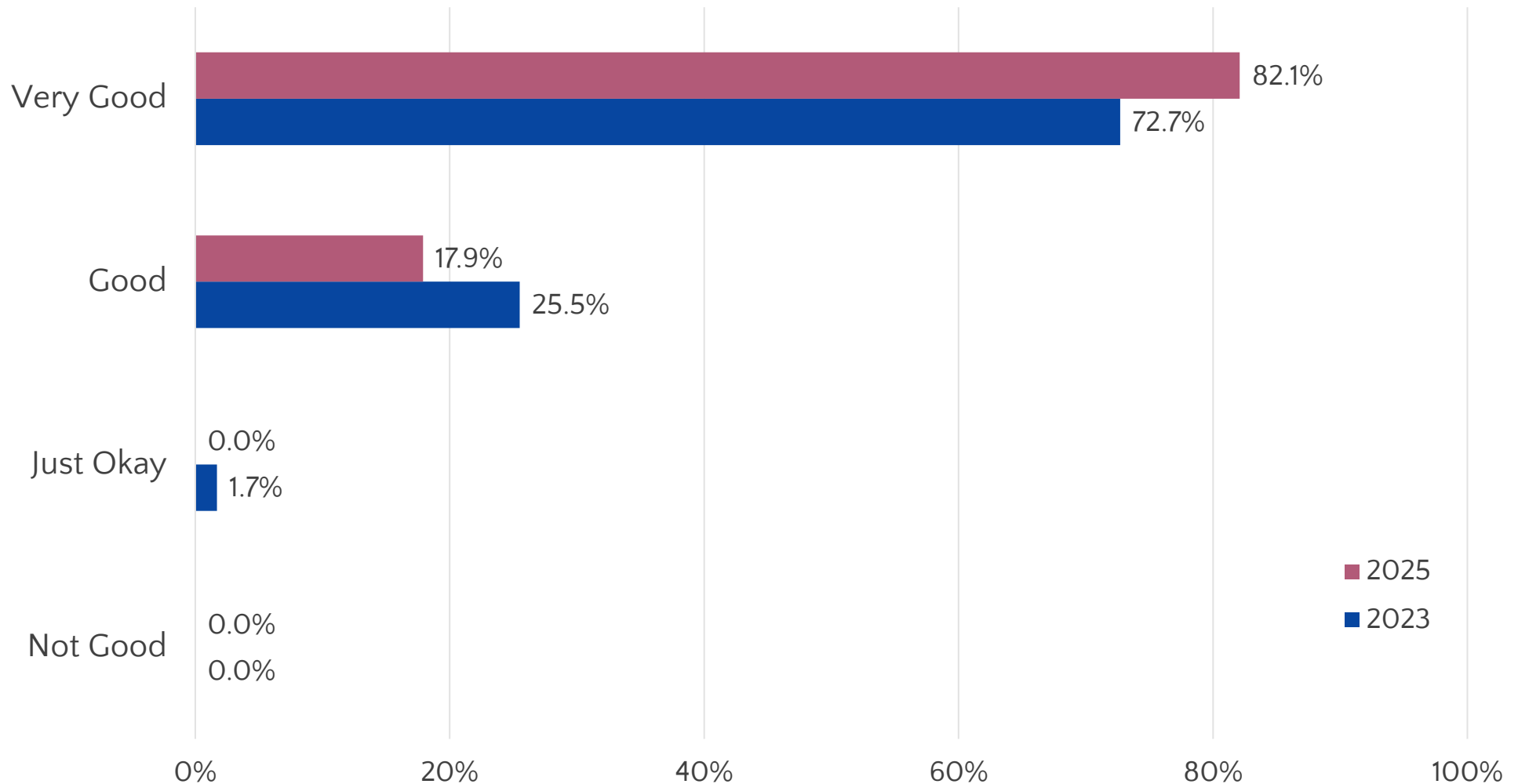
Reasons for Employment Outside Congregation



- Desire for Another Job
- Need to Work Another Job
- Assigned by Denomination

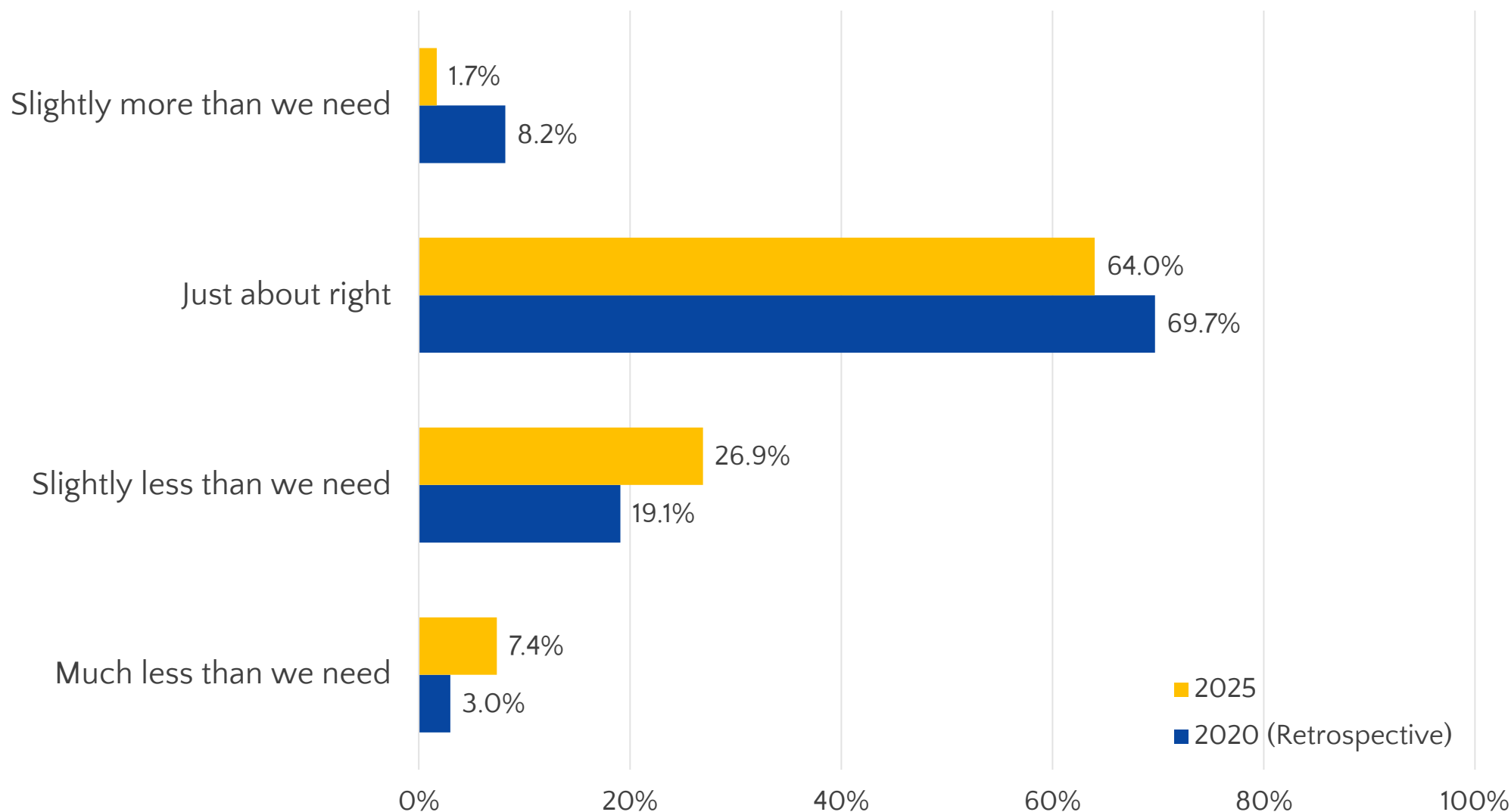
Leadership: “Fit” Between Leader and Congregation

To what extent is there a good “fit” between the senior leader of this congregation and the members?



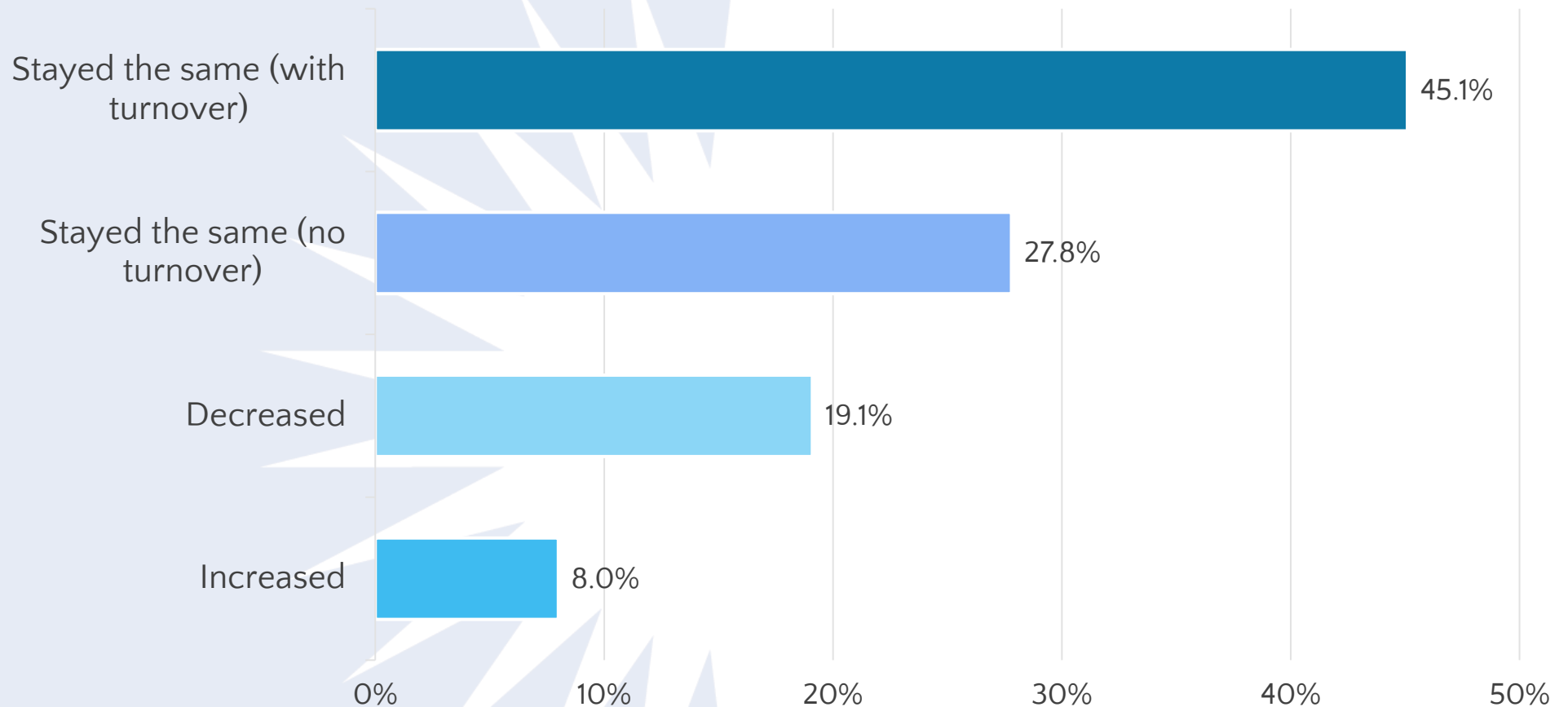
Leadership: Staffing

How adequate is the staffing (clergy and support staff) for the needs of your congregation now and five years ago?



Leadership: Staffing

Has the total number of staff changed since 2020?

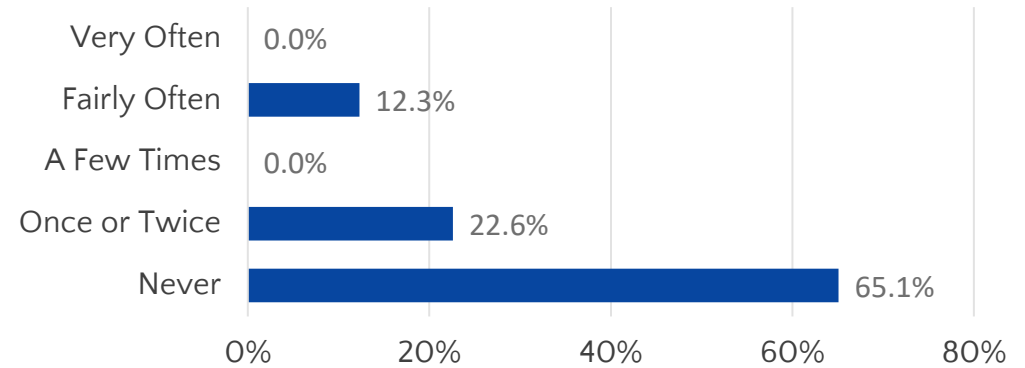


Leadership: Health and Challenges

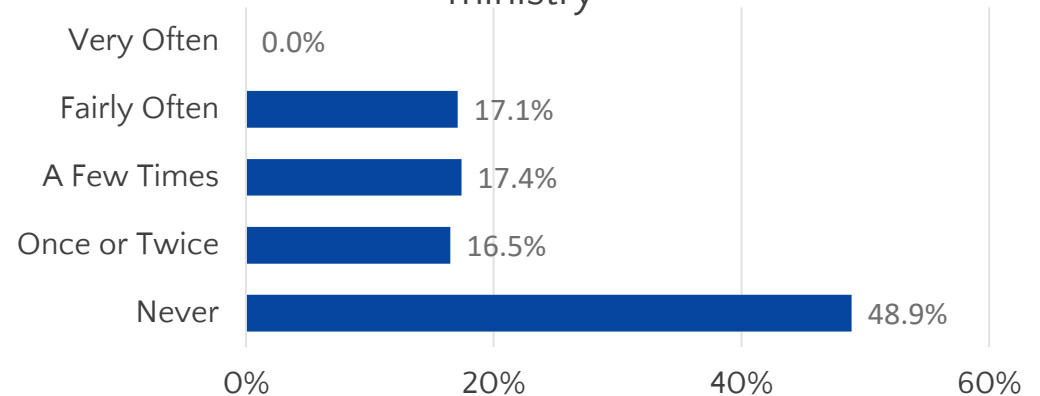
In general, How Would You Rate Your...

- Physical Health:
 - 7.22/10
- Mental Health:
 - 7.42/10
- Spiritual Health:
 - 7.73/10
- Relational Health (i.e., Your Relationships with Other People):
 - 7.73/10
- Financial Health:
 - 6.89/10

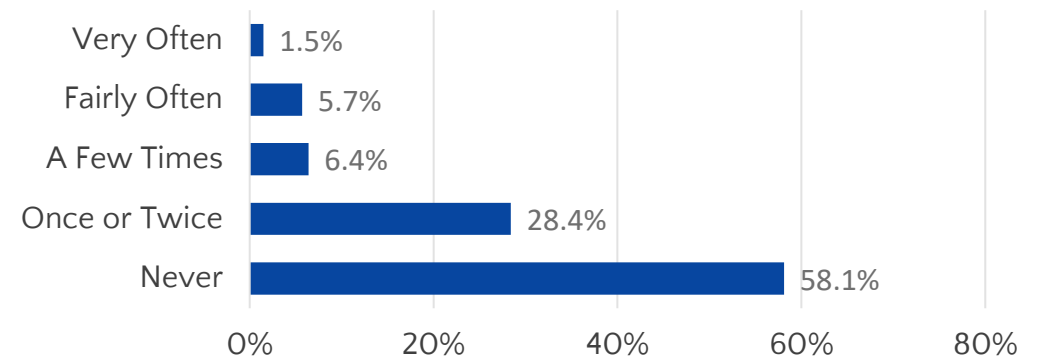
In the past year, how often have you:
Doubted that you are called by God for ministry



Seriously considered leaving pastoral ministry



Seriously considered leaving this congregation for another one





Congregants

Participation, Activities and Demographics

Activities: Participant Characteristics

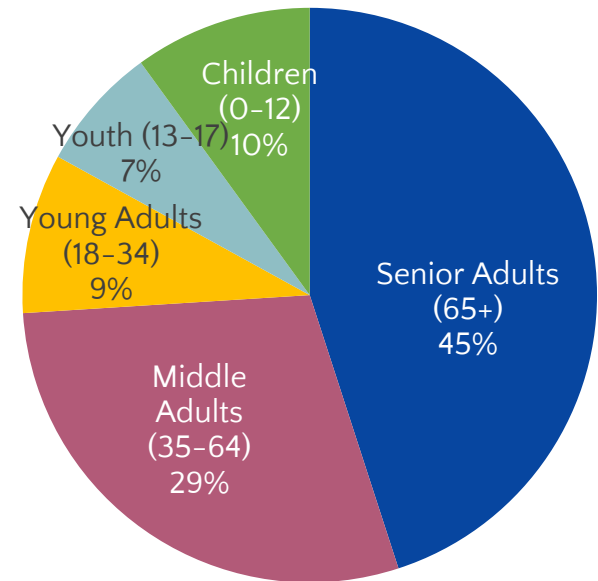
2023

- Number of regular participants: 68.0 individuals
- Percent female: 62.7%
- Percent volunteering regularly at the congregation: 45.0%
- Are new to the congregation since 2020: 11.5%

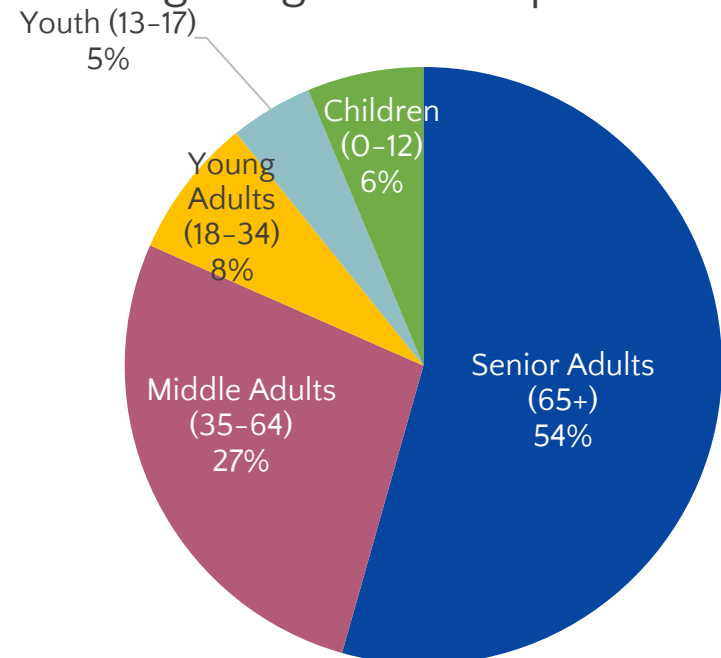
2025

- Number of regular participants: 61.1 individuals
- Percent female: 63.9%
- Percent volunteering regularly at the congregation: 52%
- Are new to the congregation in the last five years: 16.7%

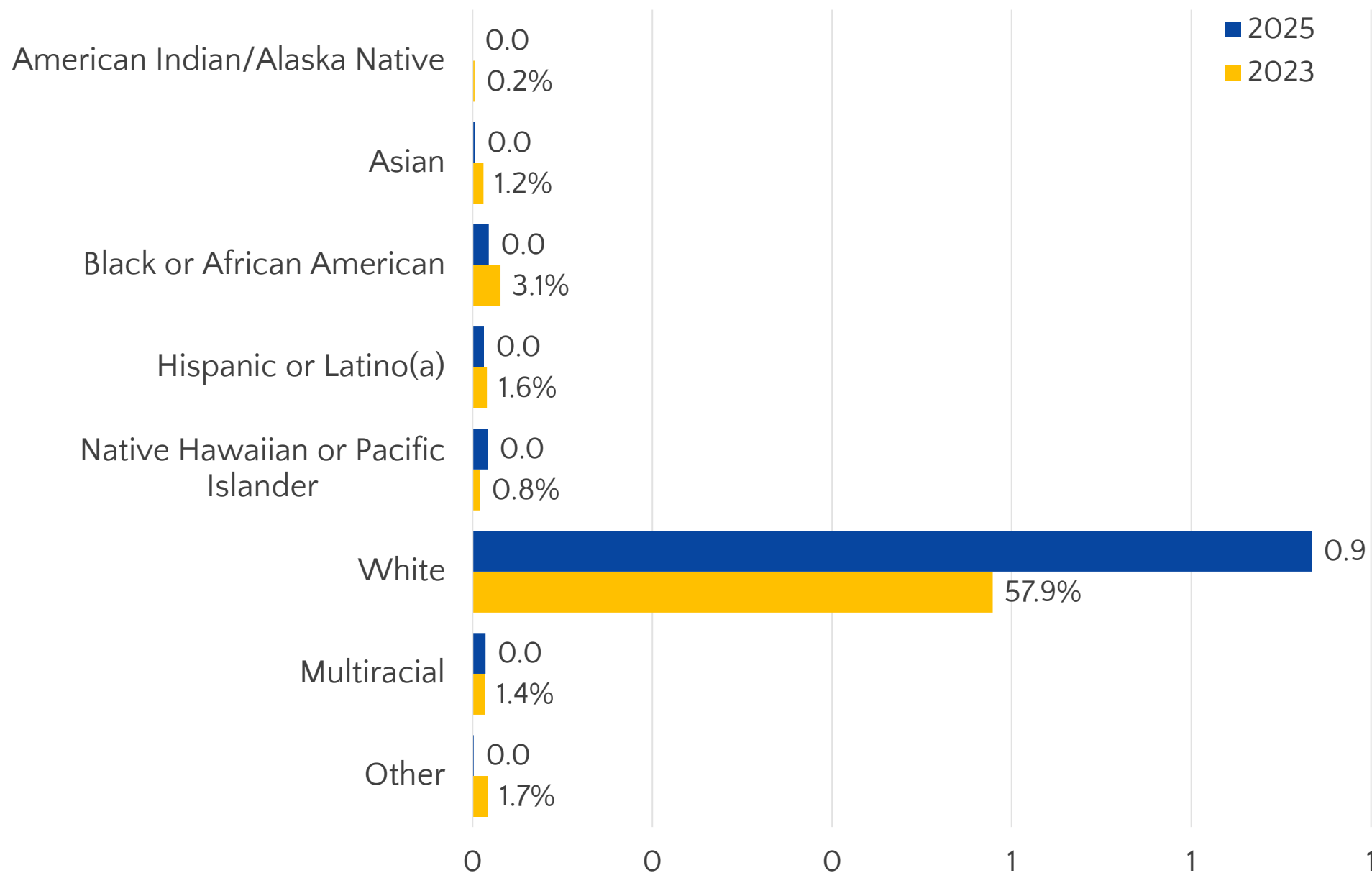
Average Regular Participants, 2023



Average Regular Participants, 2025

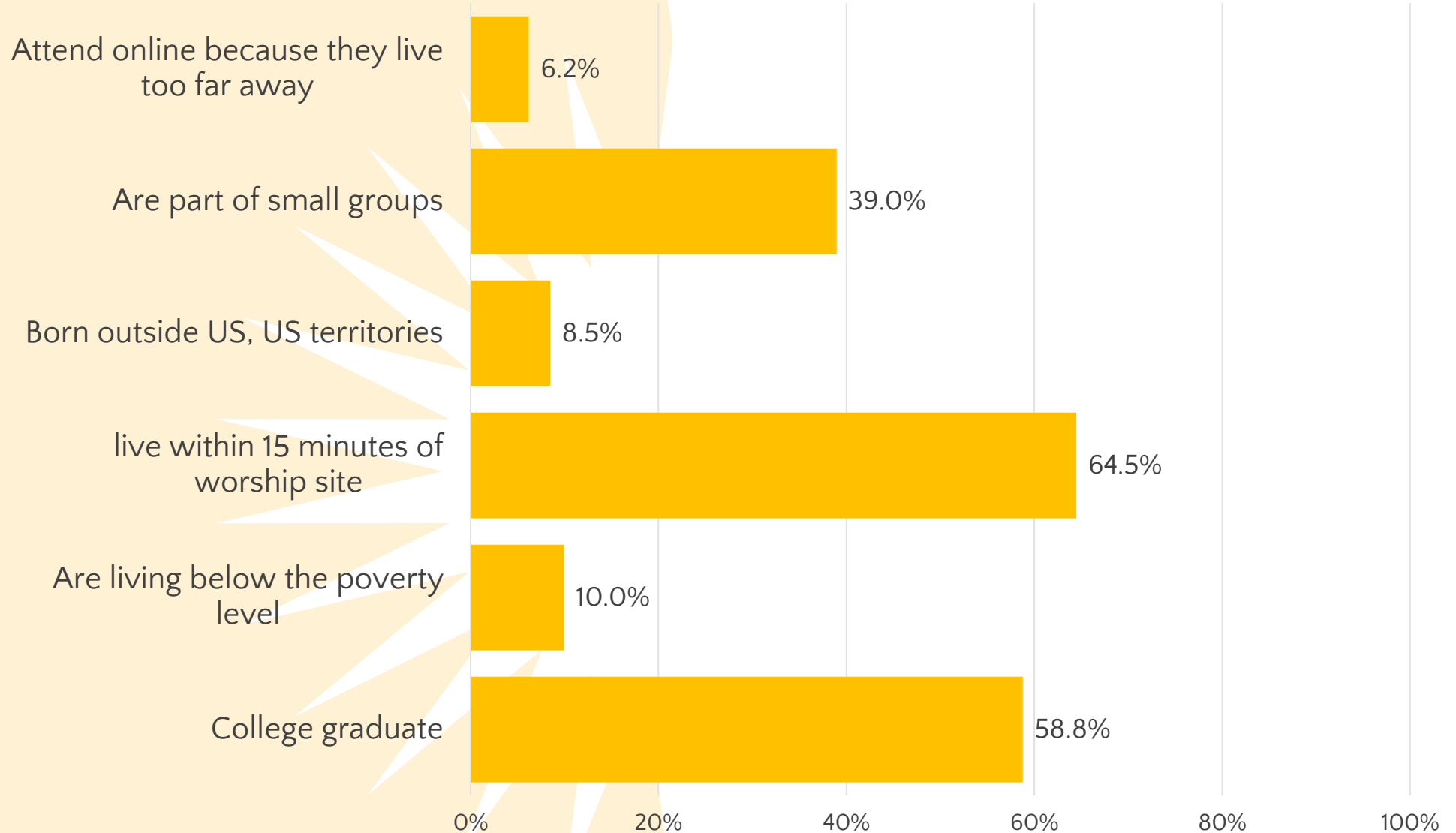


Regular Participants: Race and Ethnicity



Activities: Participant Characteristics

Other Participant Characteristics



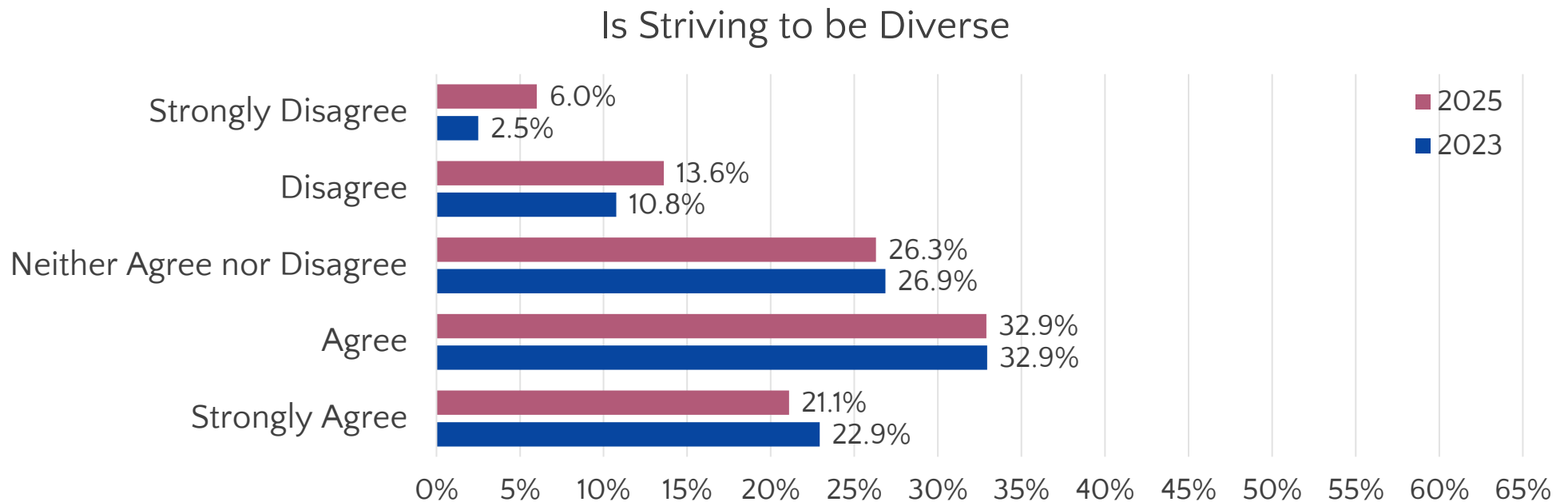
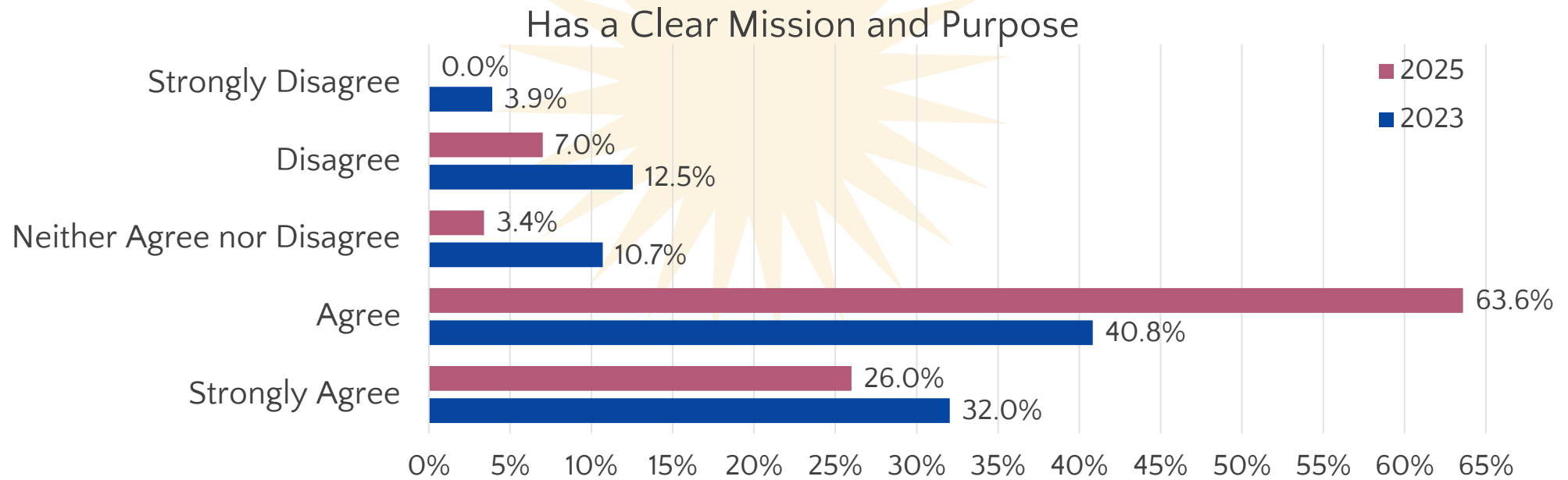


Mission and Identity

Purpose, Vitality, and Community Involvement

Mission and Identity

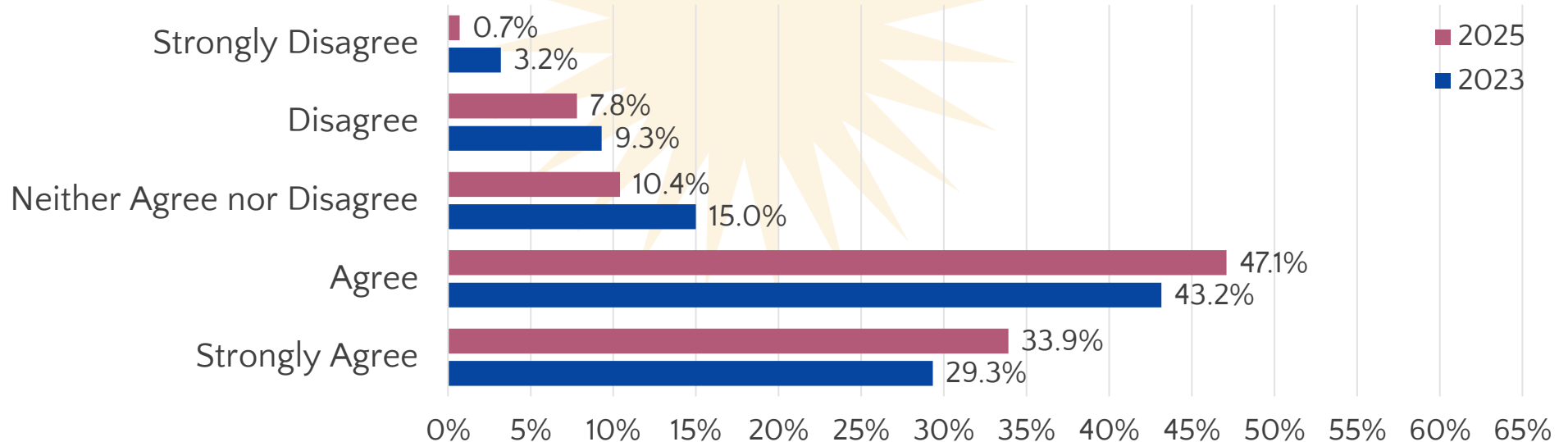
Our Congregation...



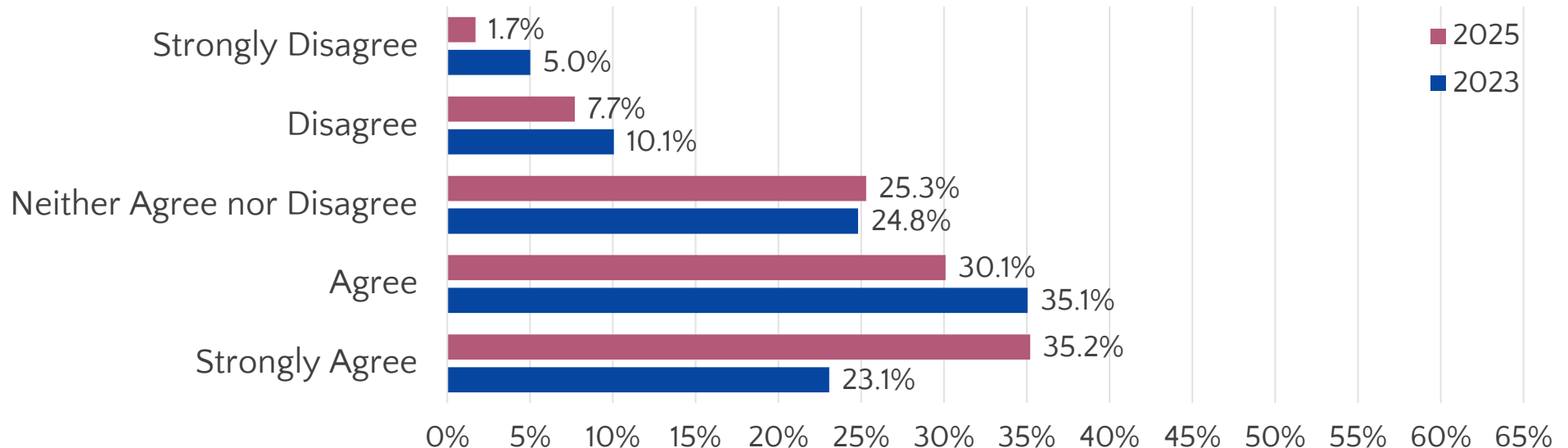
Mission and Identity

Our Congregation...

Is Good at Incorporating New People into the Congregation



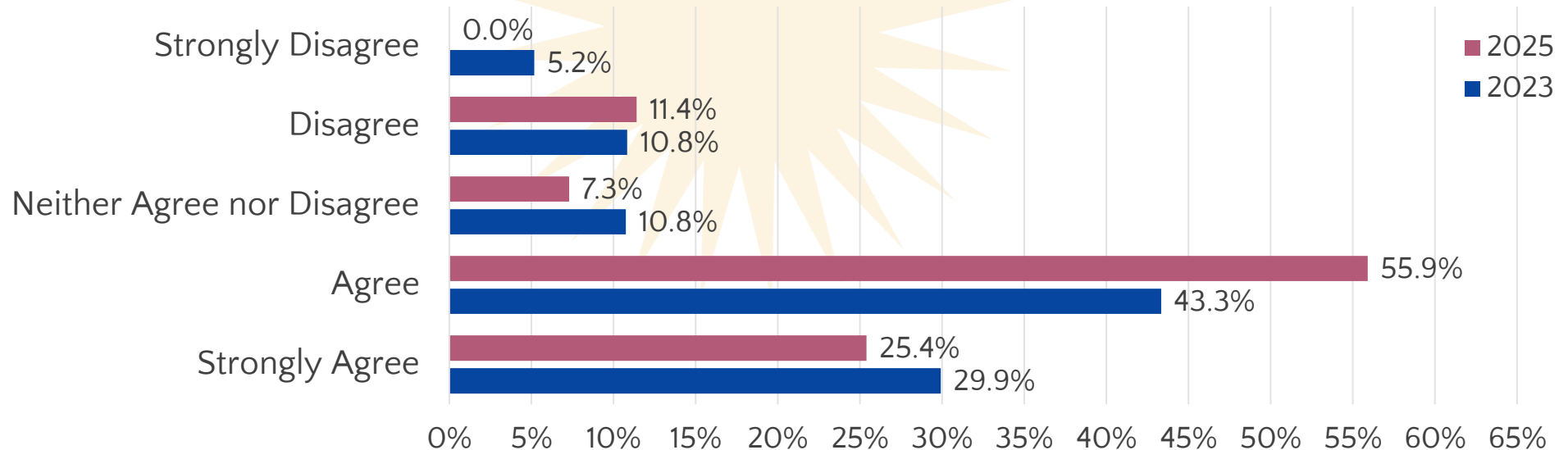
Is Actively Looking for New Members



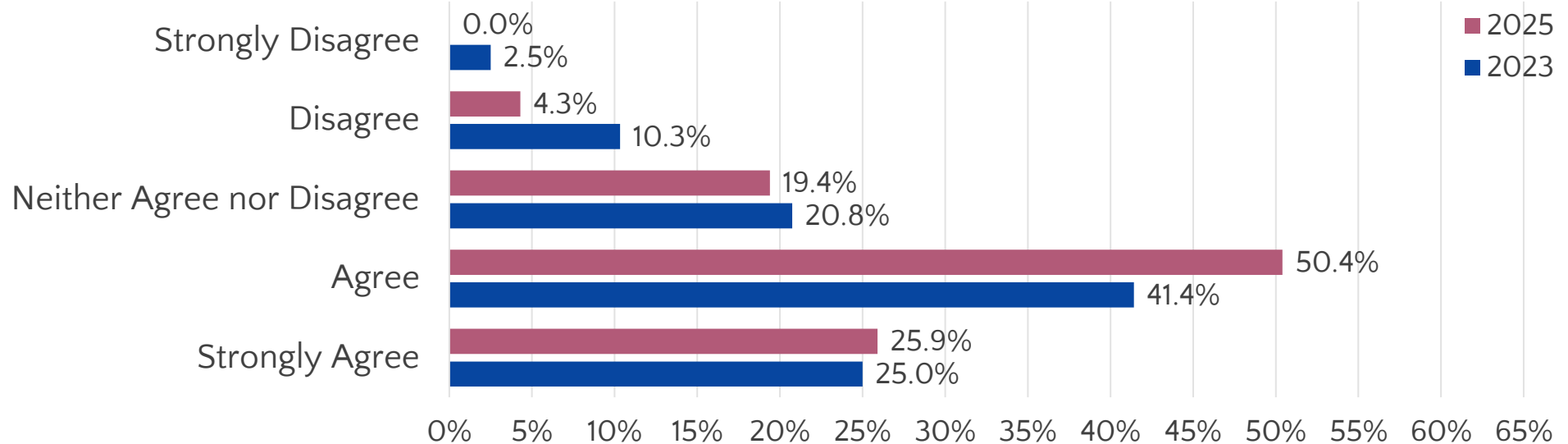
Mission and Identity

Our Congregation...

Is Spiritually Vital and Alive



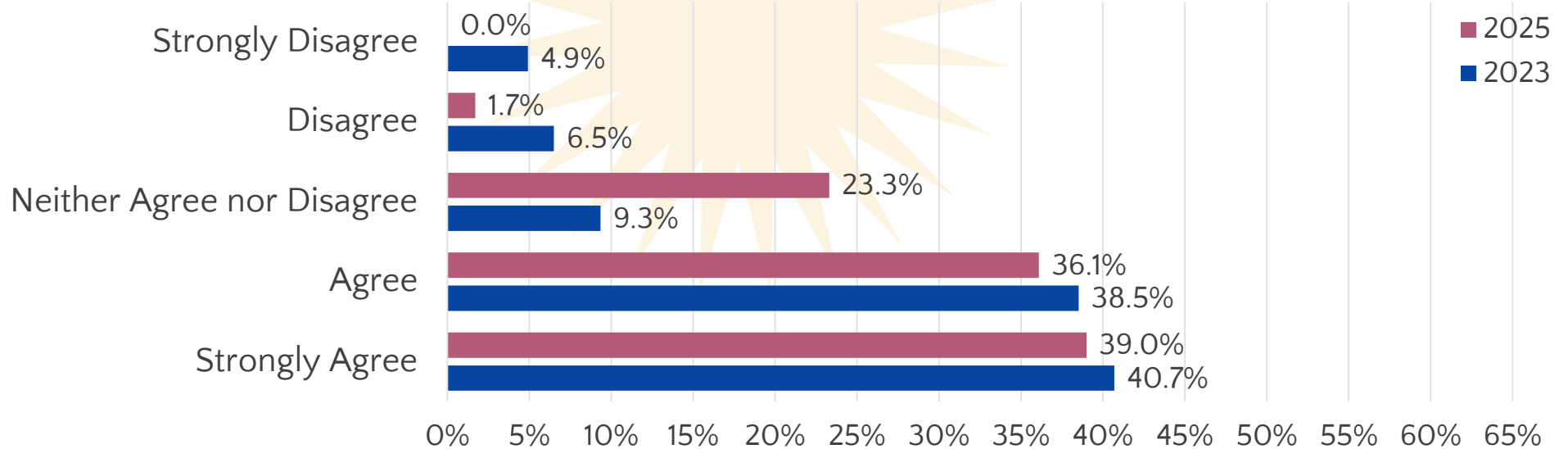
Is Willing to Change to Meet New Challenges



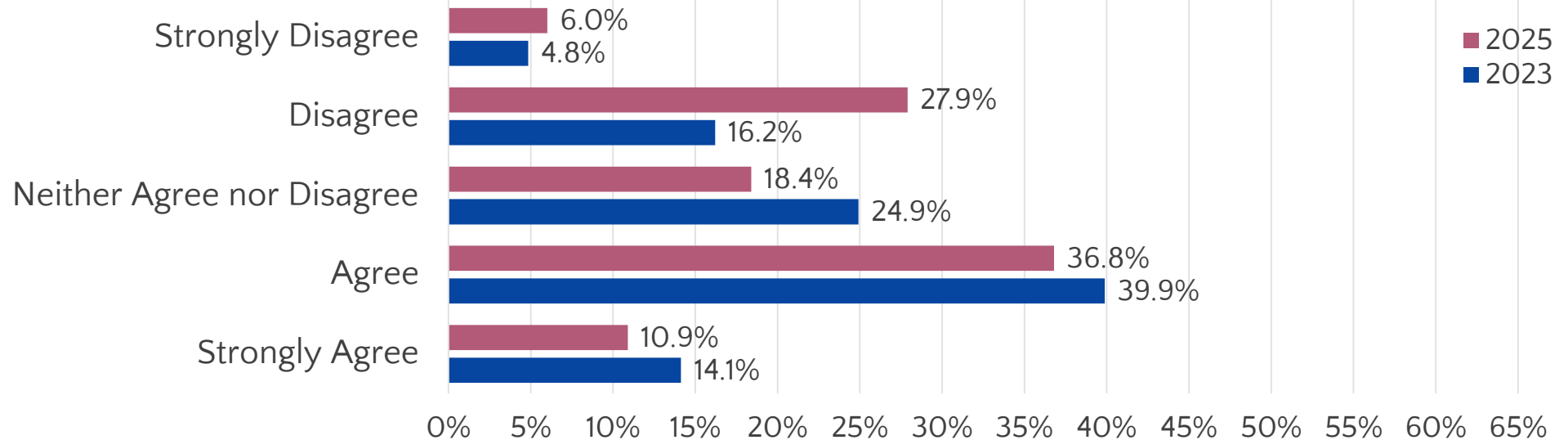
Mission and Identity

Our Congregation...

Is Actively Involved in Our Local Community

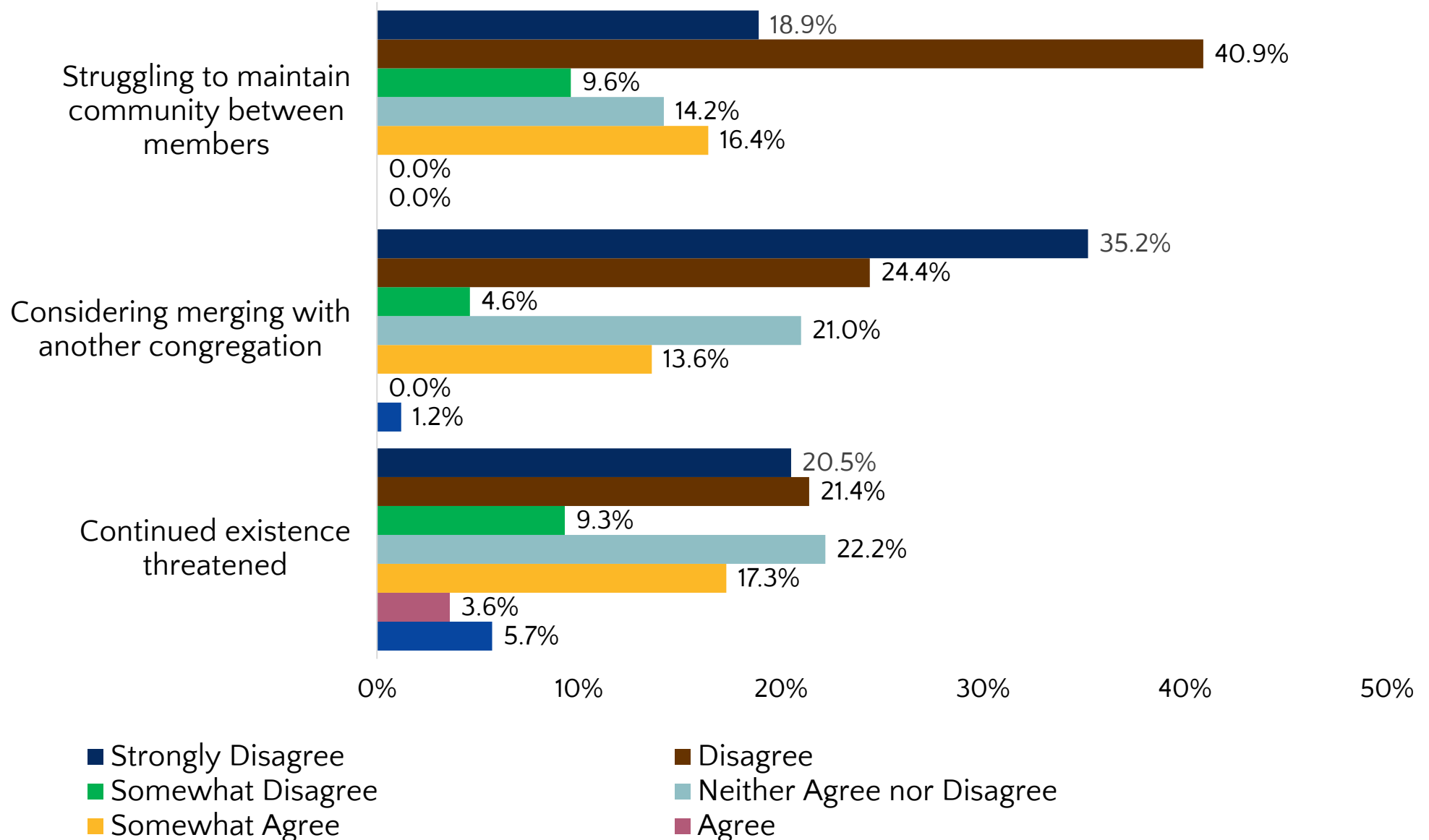


Prioritizes environmental and climate change/creation care issues



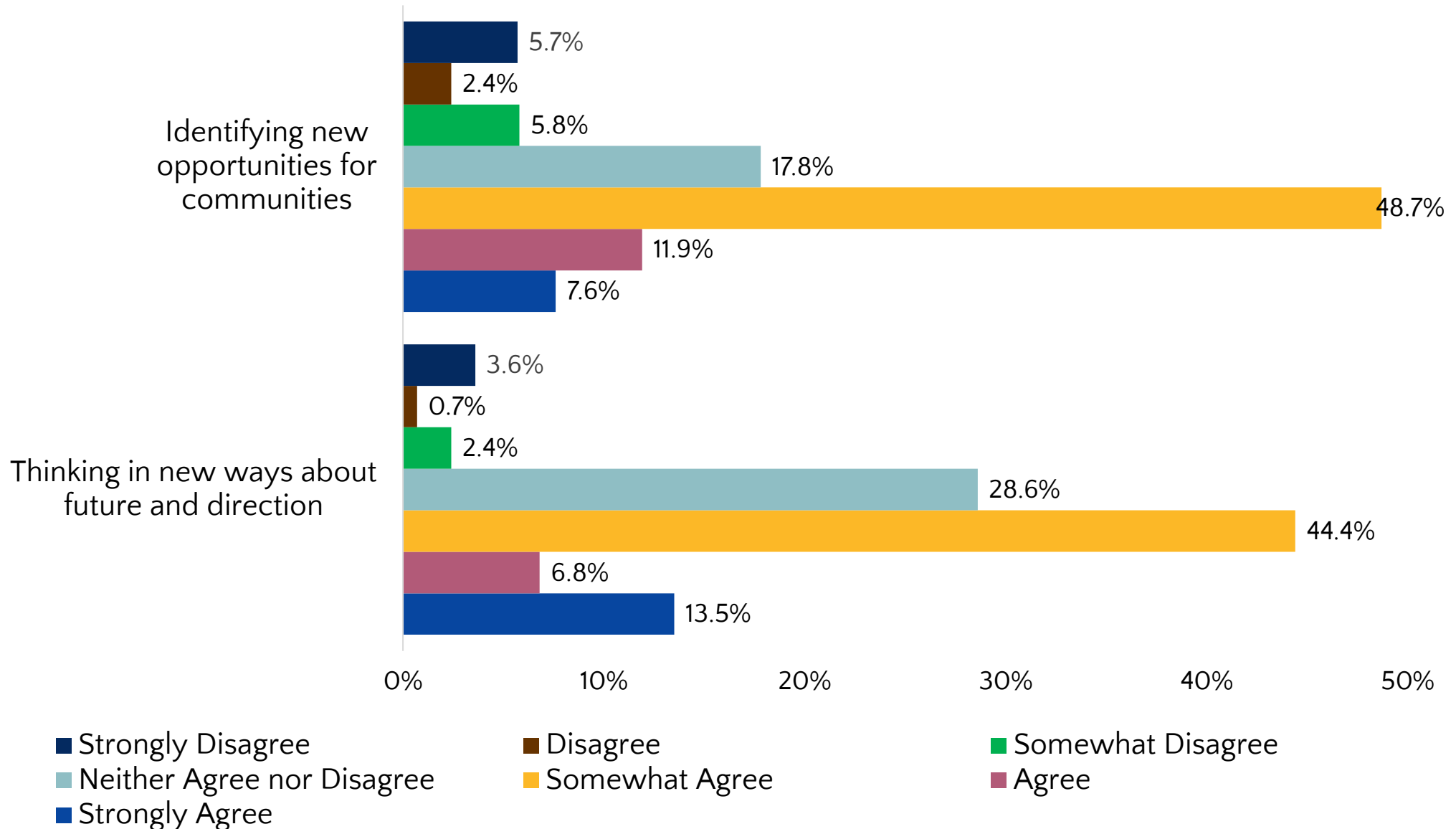
Challenges and Opportunities

To what extent do the following statements describe your congregation?



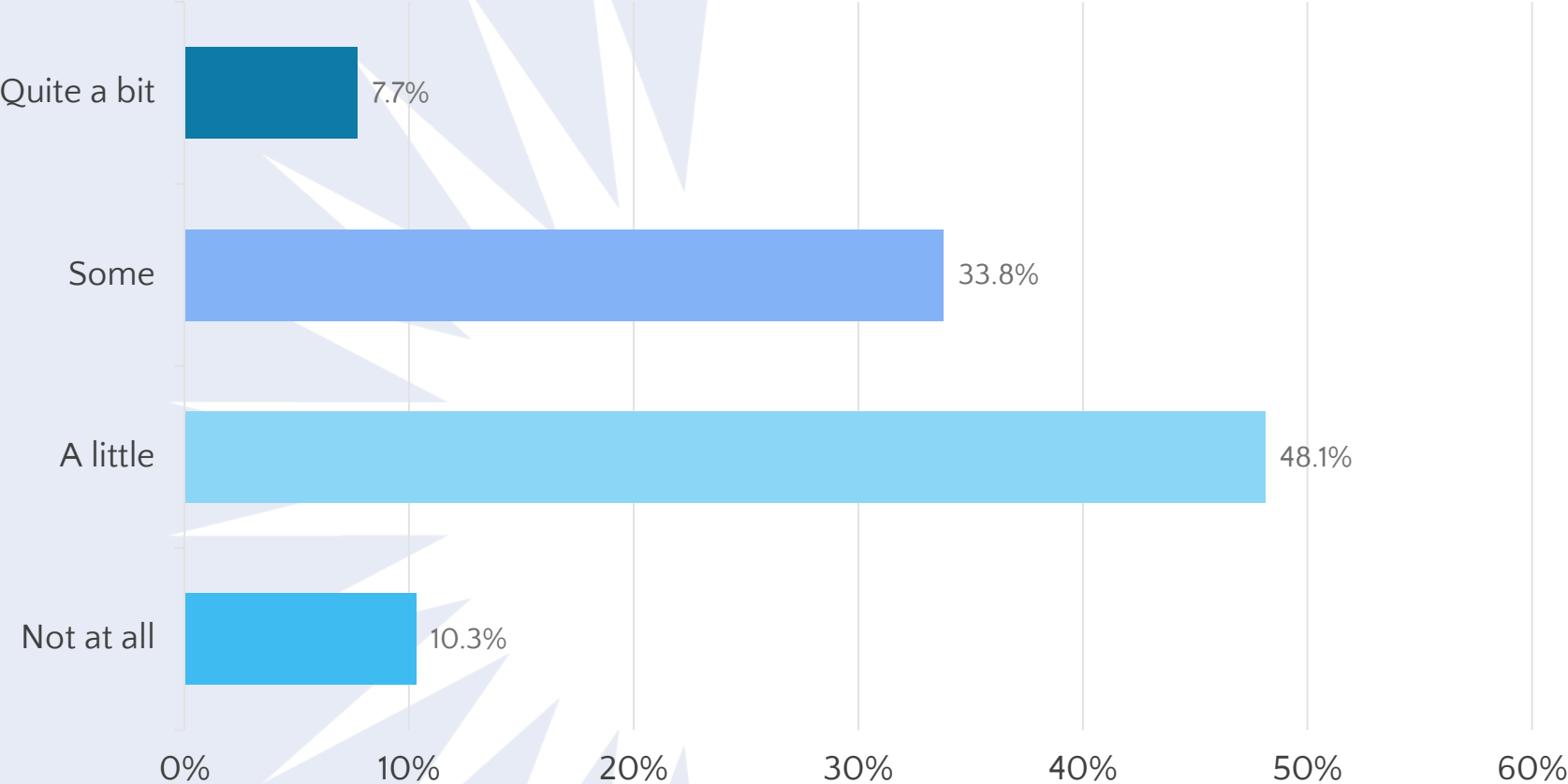
Challenges and Opportunities

To what extent do the following statements describe your congregation?



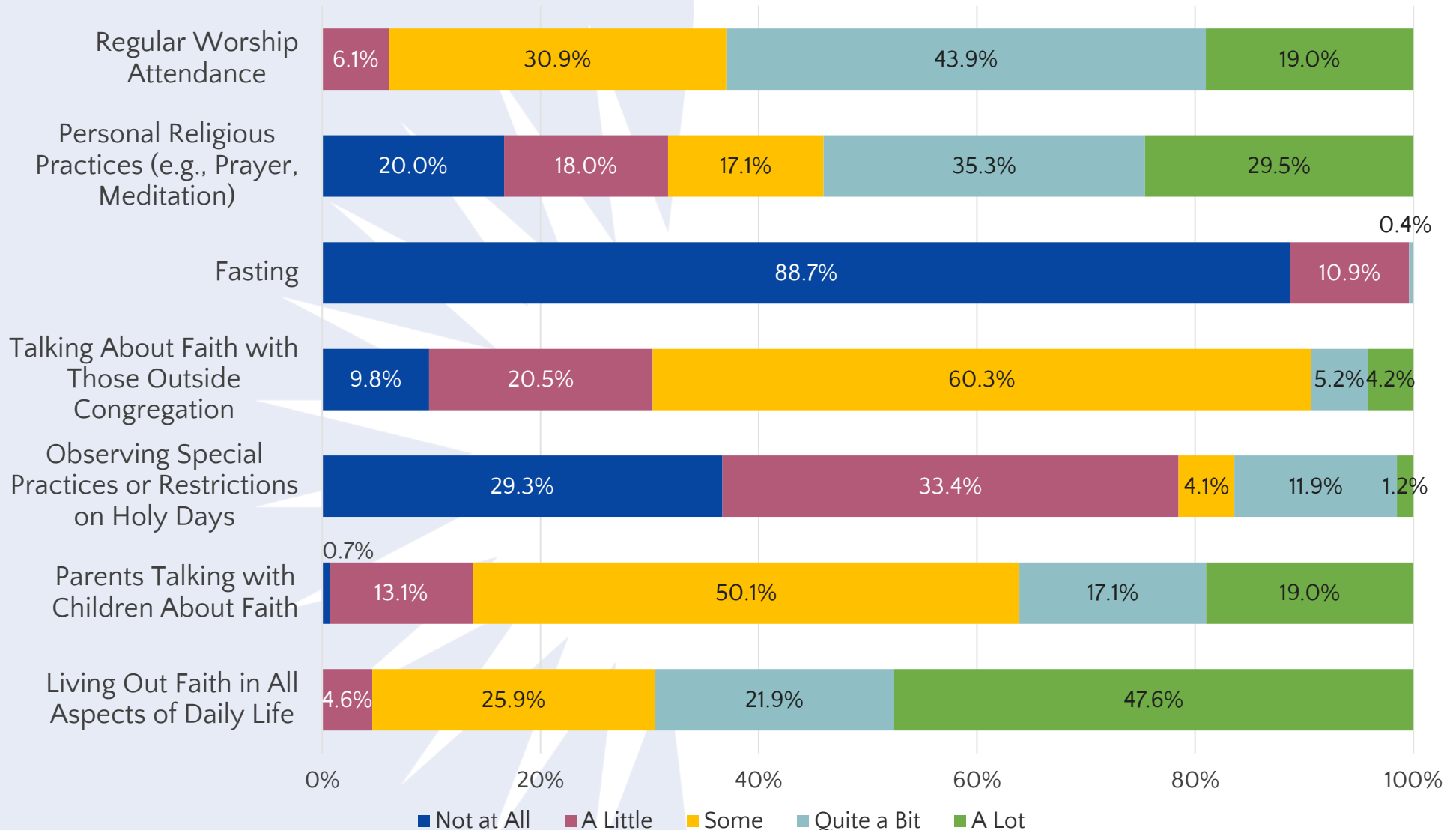
Bringing in New People

Overall, to what extent are your congregation's regularly participating adults involved in recruiting new people?



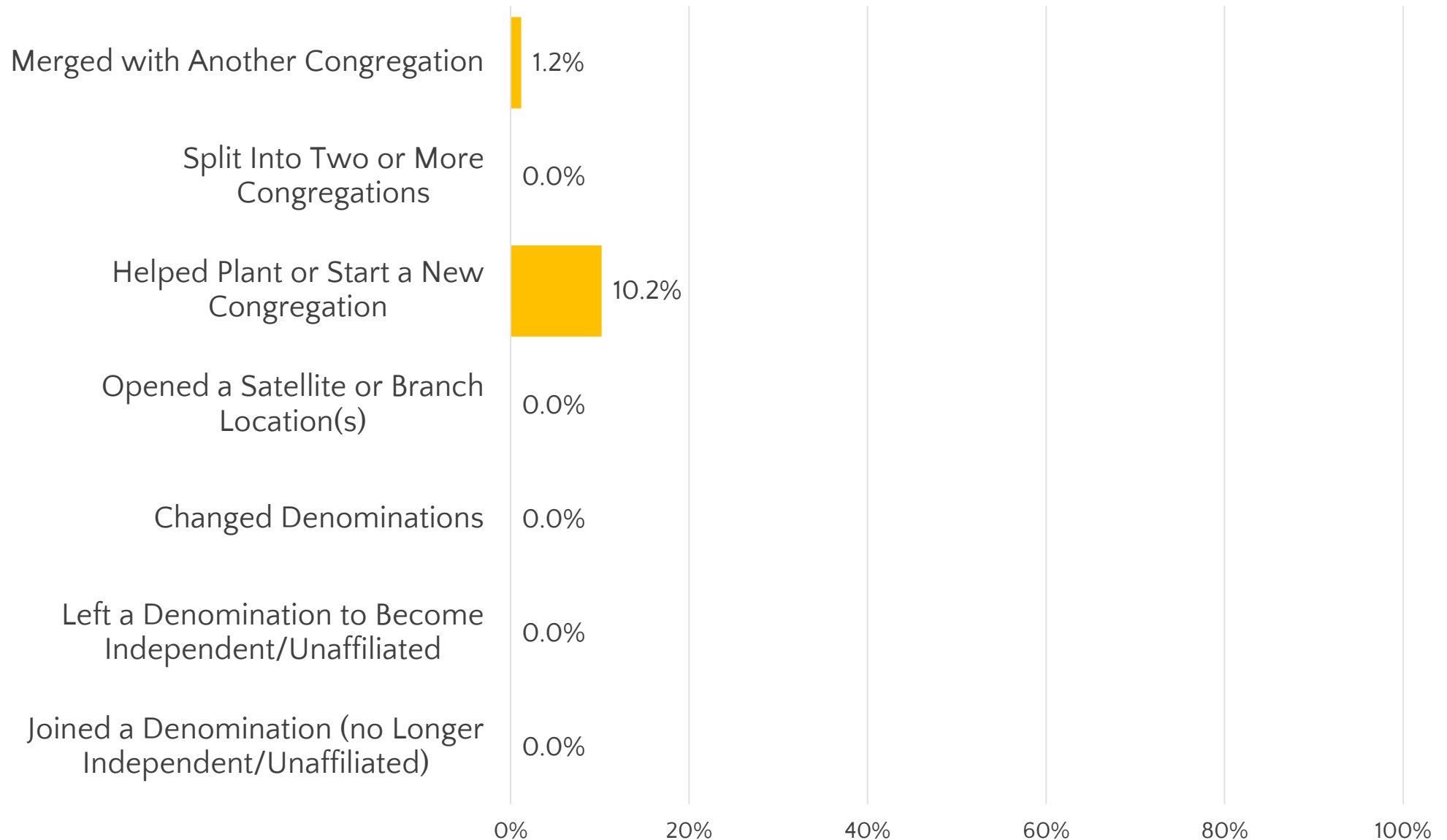
Family Religious Practices

How much does your congregation emphasize the following personal and family religious practices?



Structural and Denominational Change

Congregational Changes Since 2020



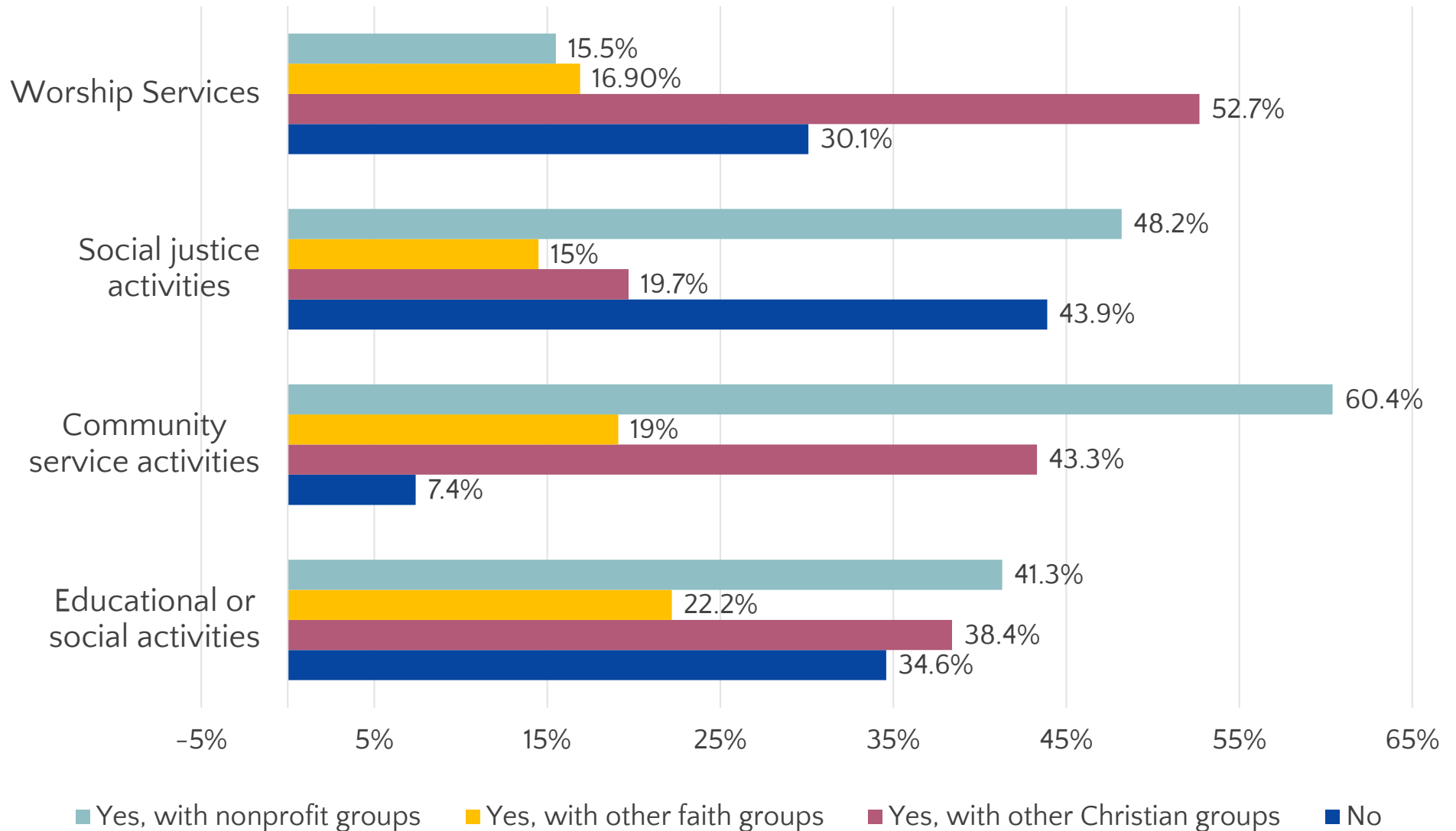


Programs

Activities with other groups

Congregational Involvement with Other Groups

During the past 12 months, has your congregation been involved in any of the following activities with other groups?



Activities: Programs Offered

	2023		2025			
	No	Yes (online or in-Person)	No	Yes, (some emphasis)	Yes, (a lot of emphasis)	Yes, Total
Prayer or meditation groups	47.5%	52.5%	48%	44.4%	7.6%	52%
Small groups	N/A	N/A	20.3%	48.1%	31.6%	79.7%
Religious education for children	32.6%	67.4%	40%	40.9%	19.1%	60%
Religious education for adults	17.7%	82.3%	20.4%	47.6%	32%	79.6%
Special needs ministries	N/A	N/A	68.4%	27.8%	3.8%	31.6%
Youth (13-17) activities/programs	51.9%	48.1%	55.6%	32.1%	12.3%	44.4%
Young adult (18-34) activities/programs	78.2%	21.8%	94.2%	4.0%	1.8%	5.8%
Senior (65+) activities/programs	49.0%	51.0%	43.6%	45.1%	11.3%	56.4%

Activities: Programs Offered

	2023		2025			
	No	Yes (online or in-Person)	No	Yes, (some emphasis)	Yes, (a lot of emphasis)	Yes, Total
Social justice/ advocacy groups	60.9%	39.1%	32.2%	51.7%	16.1%	67.8%
Fellowship/ community-building events	7.7%	92.3%	0.7%	26.4%	72.8%	99.2%
Music Program	N/A	N/A	32.6%	39.3%	28.1%	67.4%
Community service activities	25.5%	74.5%	11.1%	25.3%	63.6%	88.9%
Environmental and climate change activities	N/A	N/A	48.3%	43.0%	8.7%	51.7%
Global ministry activities	N/A	N/A	43.3%	43.5%	13.2%	56.7%



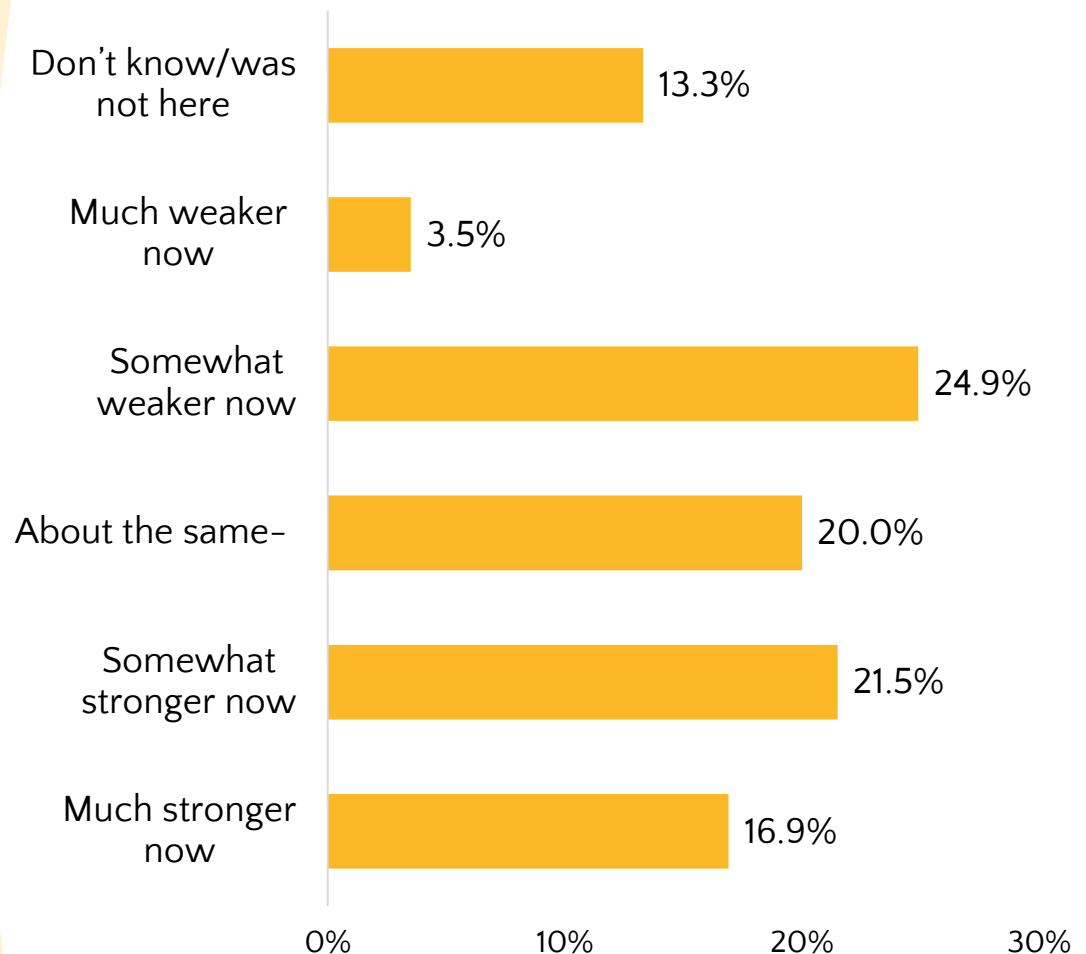
Pandemic Experiences

Challenges and Successes

Pandemic Experiences: Concerns and Successes

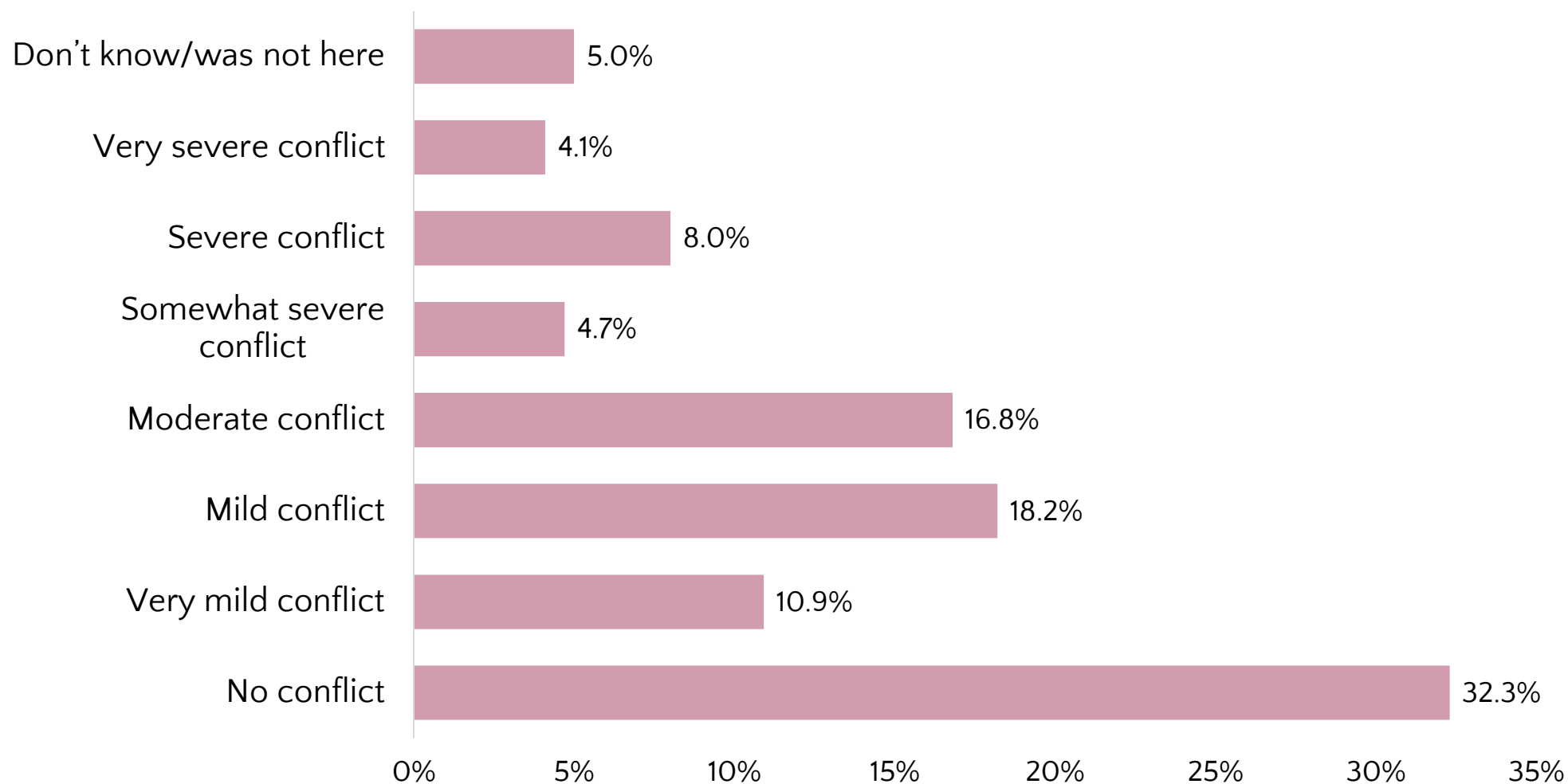
- Meeting During the Pandemic
 - 91.9% of congregations stopped meeting in-person due to the pandemic
 - The average congregation doing so took 10.6 months (12 median) to return to normal or settle into a “new normal”
- Conflict
 - 26.7% of congregations reported no conflict surrounding their COVID response
 - 70.4% reported mild to moderate conflict
 - 2.9% reported no knowledge of conflict

Overall vitality and strength of your congregation before the pandemic and now



Pandemic Experiences: Concerns and Successes

How would you describe the level of dissent and/or conflict within the congregation regarding the congregation's COVID response?





Technology

Uses, Platforms, and Trends

Technology: Tools and Platforms

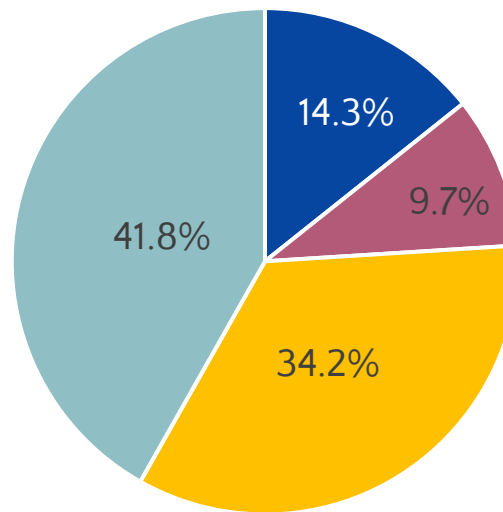
Frequency of Use:

- A few times a year
- Approximately monthly
- Approximately weekly
- Do not use

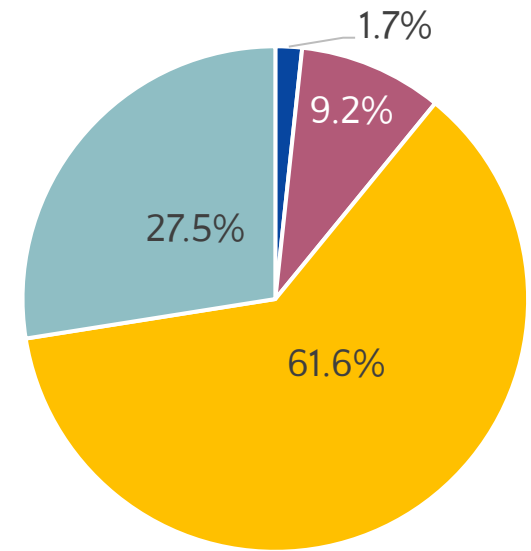
Online Giving

- Percentage of regular monthly giving received online: 27.74%
- Percentage of participants donating online: 25.48%

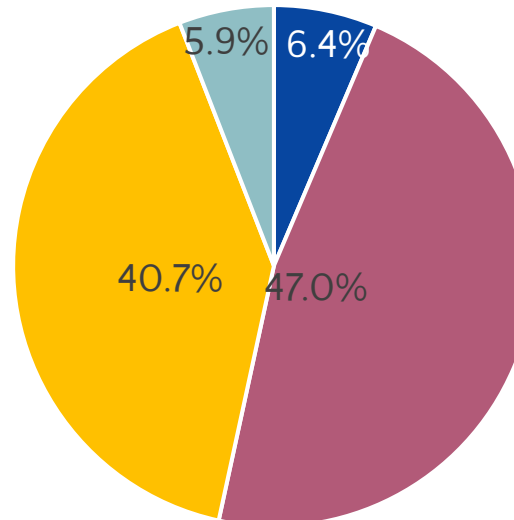
Texting and/or messaging app



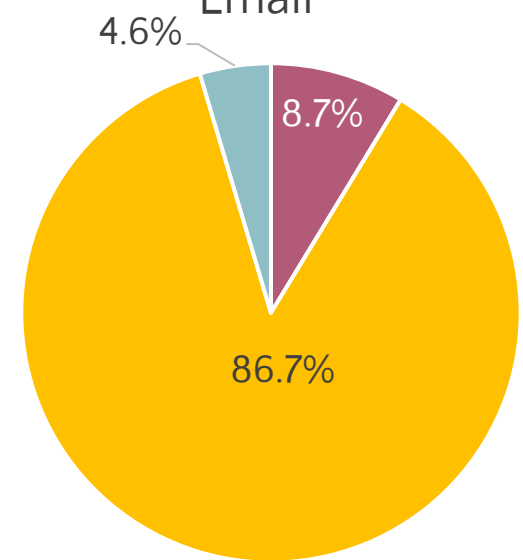
Online Giving



E-Newsletter



Email

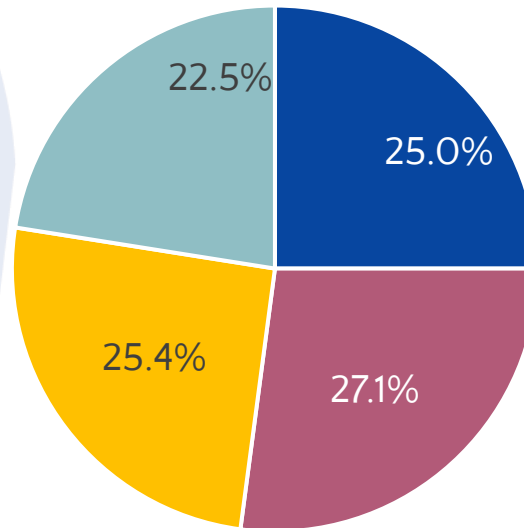


Technology: Tools and Platforms

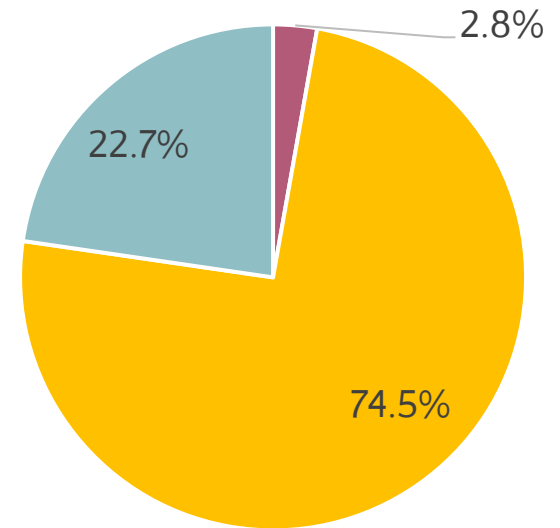
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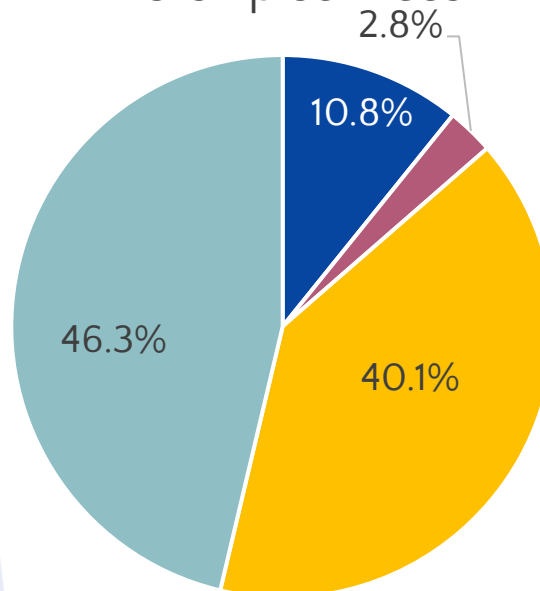
Online Meetings



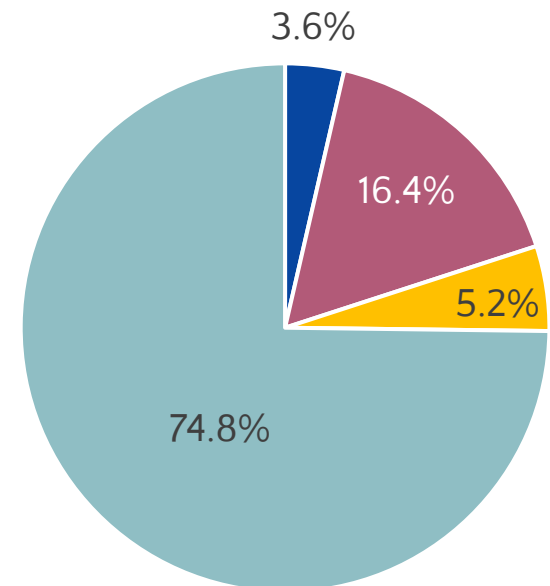
Livestreaming of Worship services



Video projection during worship services



Generative AI

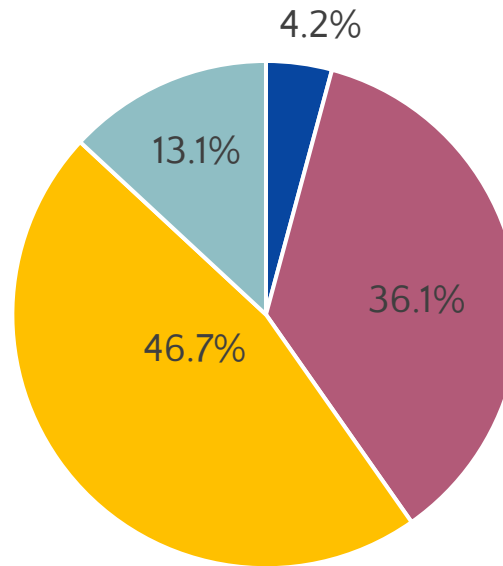


Technology: Tools and Platforms

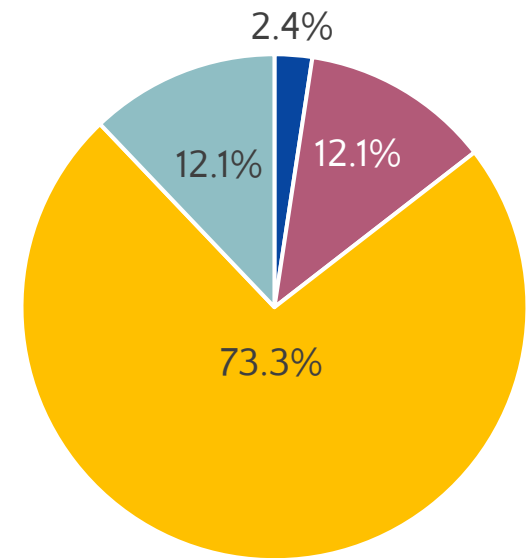
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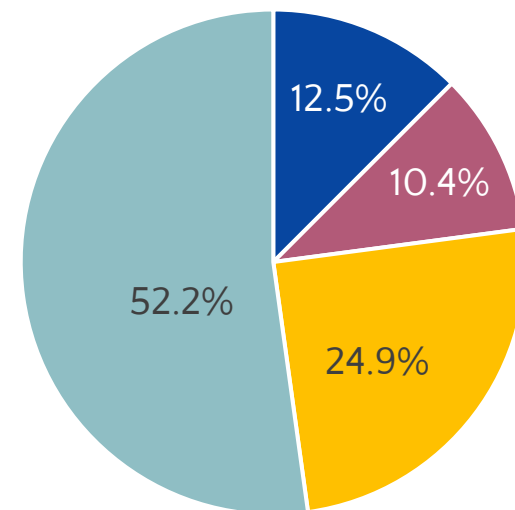
Website



Facebook



Other Social media sites





Finances

Expenditures, Revenues, and Sense of
Financial Health

Finances: Revenues and Expenditures

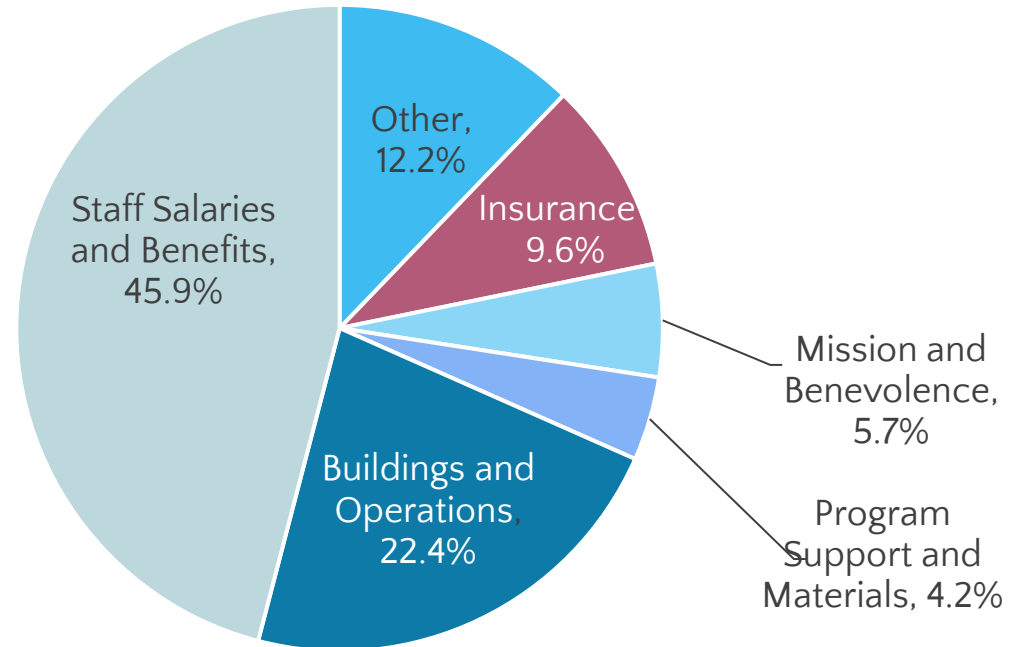
Average Total Revenues:

- 2023: \$210,816
- 2025: \$185,869

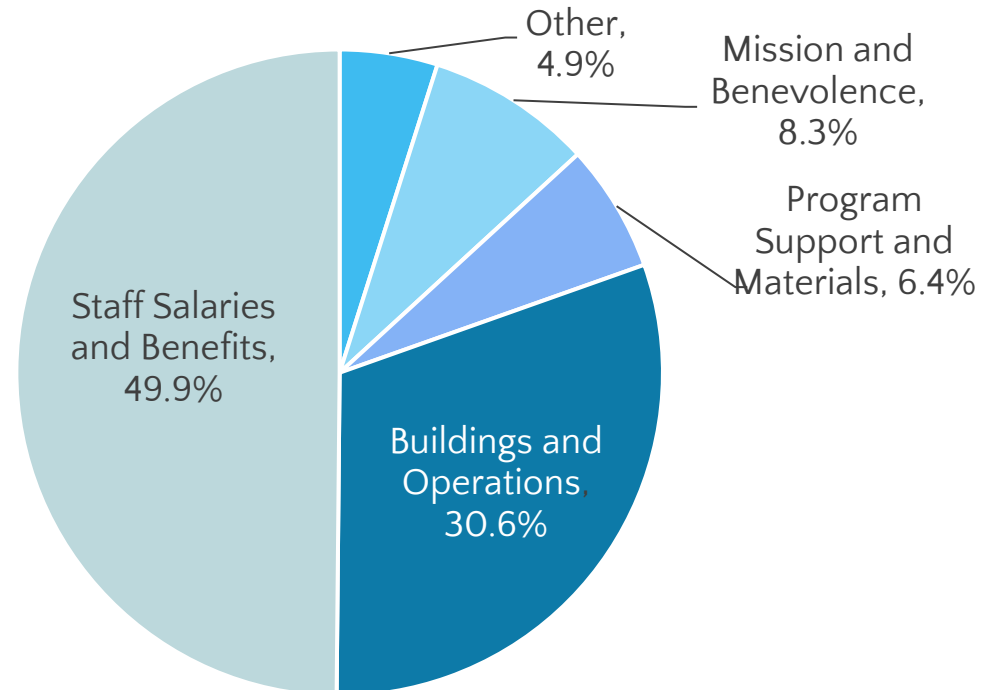
Average Total Expenditures:

- 2023: \$205,884
- 2025: \$200,144

Average Expenditures 2025



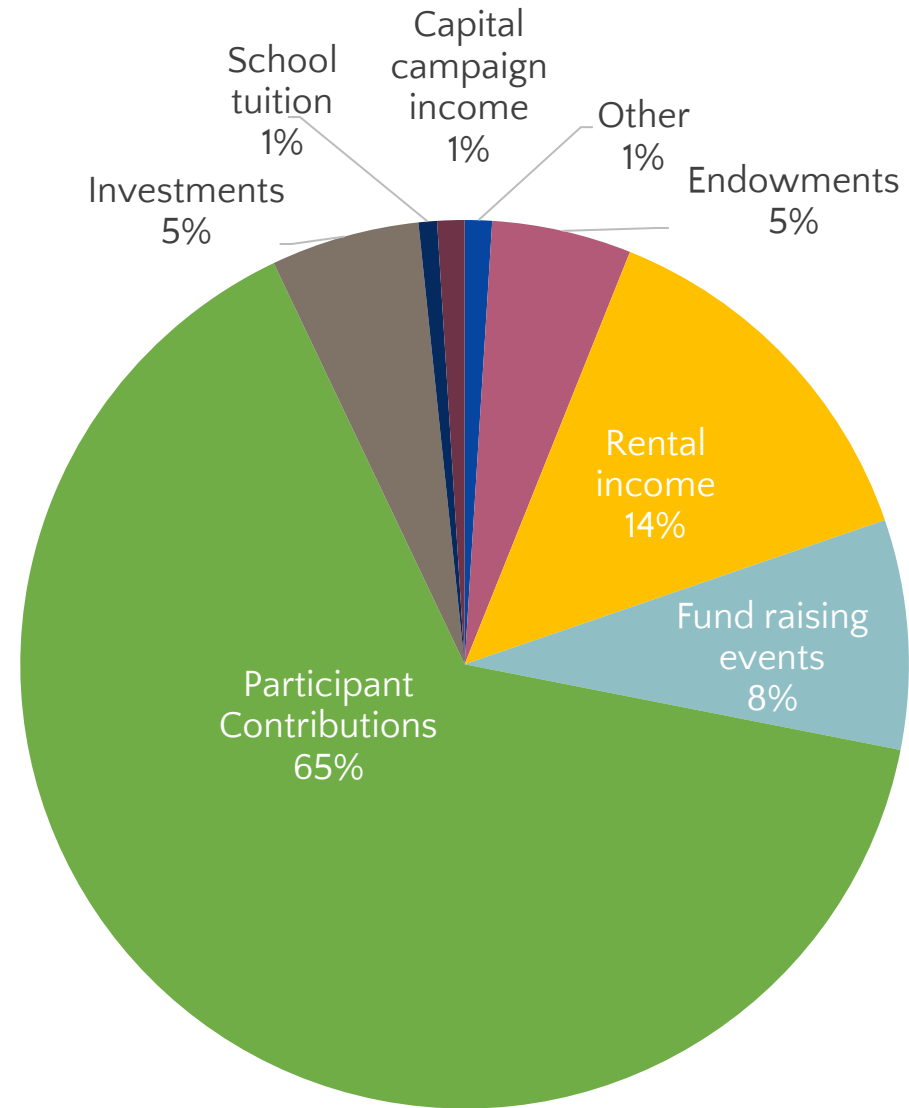
Average Expenditures 2023



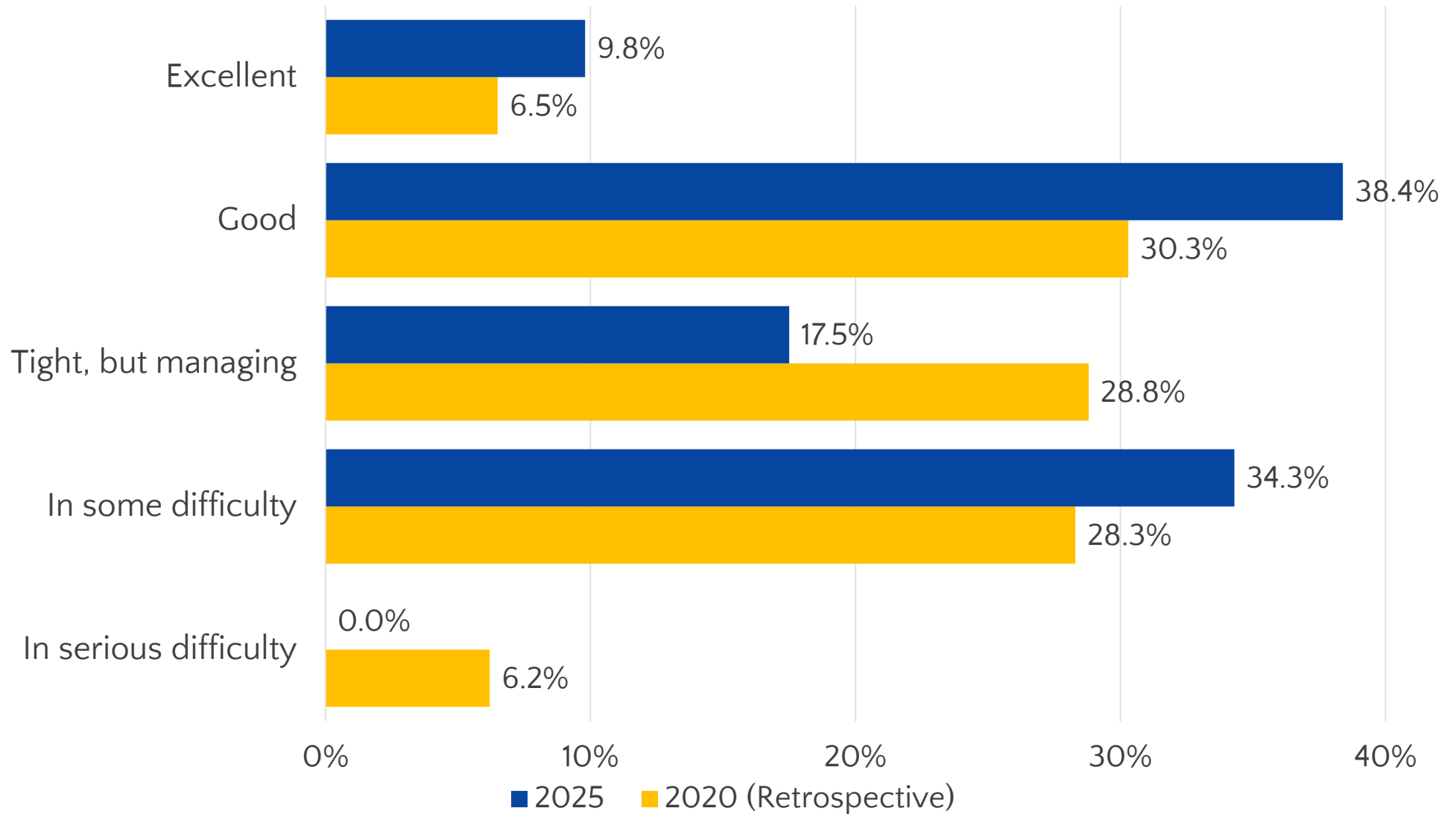
Finances: Income and Endowments

- Of Reporting Churches
 - 63.6% have an endowment
 - Of these:
 - 82.1% have draw rates under 5%
 - 4.1% have 5% draw rates
 - 13.9% have draw rates above 5%
 - In the last 5 years:
 - 5.2% report increasing draw rates
 - 14% report decreasing draw rates
 - 80.8% report steady draw rates

Income Sources



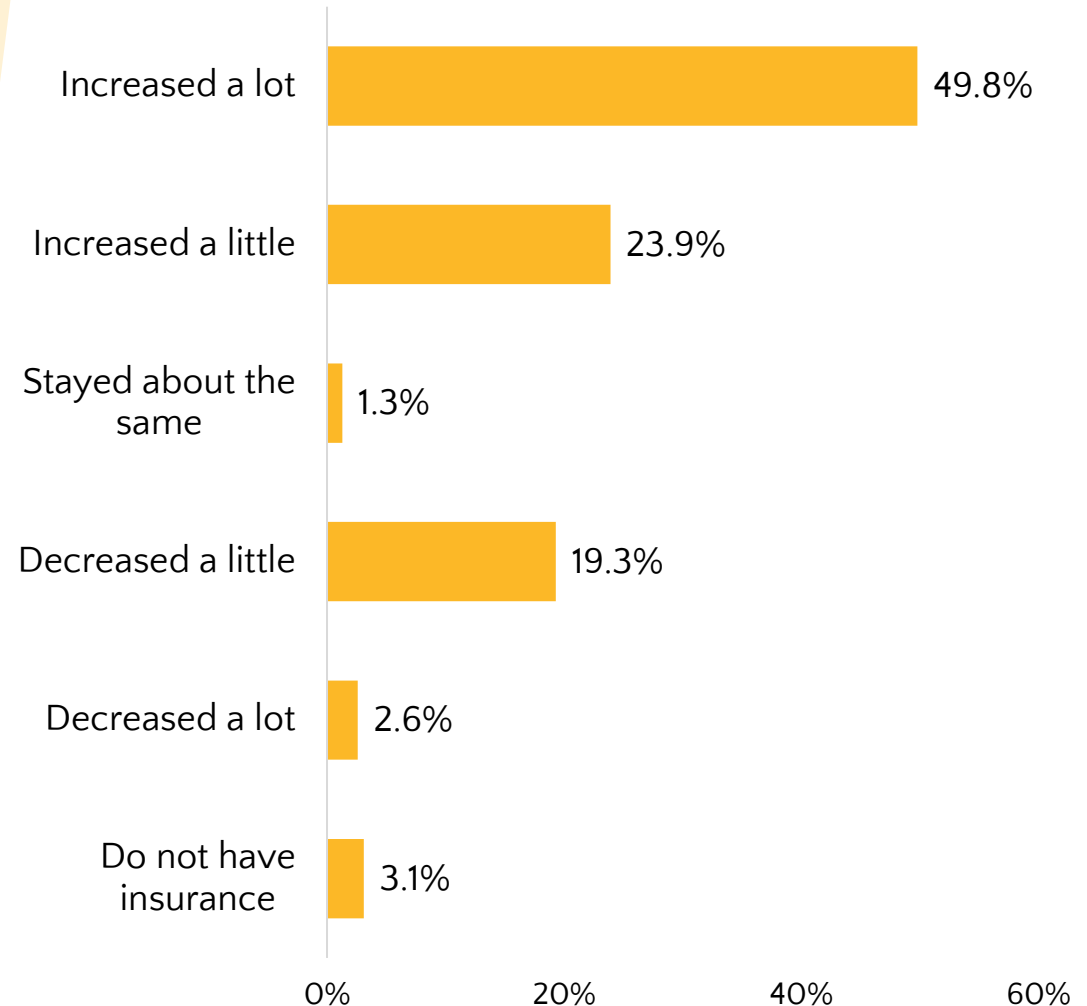
How Would You Describe Your Congregation's Financial Health Today?



Finances: Capital, Insurance, and Loans

- Of Reporting Churches
 - 40.5% have changed their insurance provider in the last 5 years
 - 36.8% indicated that their coverage was dropped
 - 55.7% indicated changing because of price changes
 - 7.5% reported other reasons
- Physical condition of building
 - Excellent- 33%
 - Good- 40.7%
 - Needs Improvement- 21.1%
 - In serious need of improvement- 5.2%
- Received PPP loan- 58.2%

Insurance Cost Changes in Last 5 Years

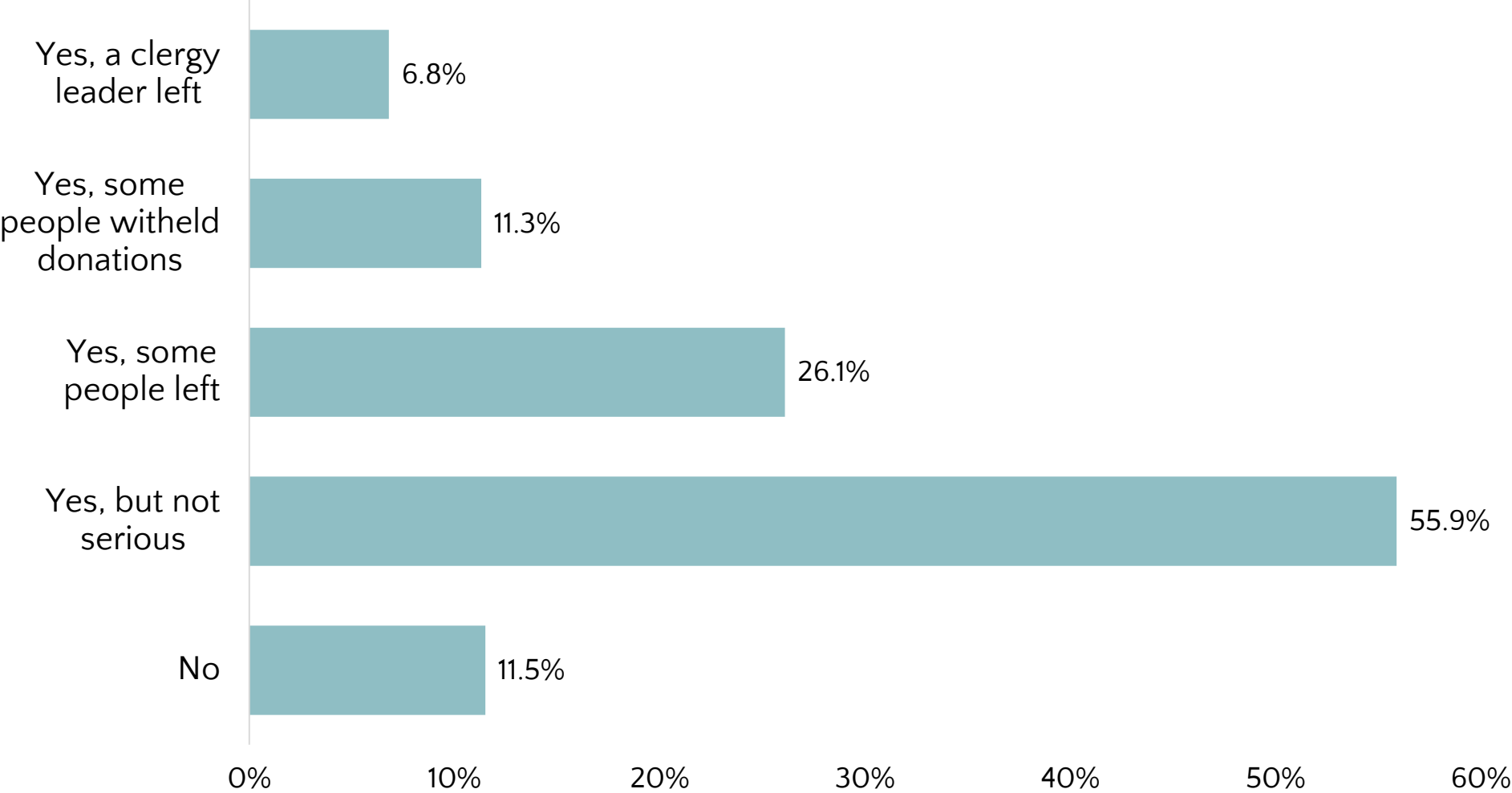




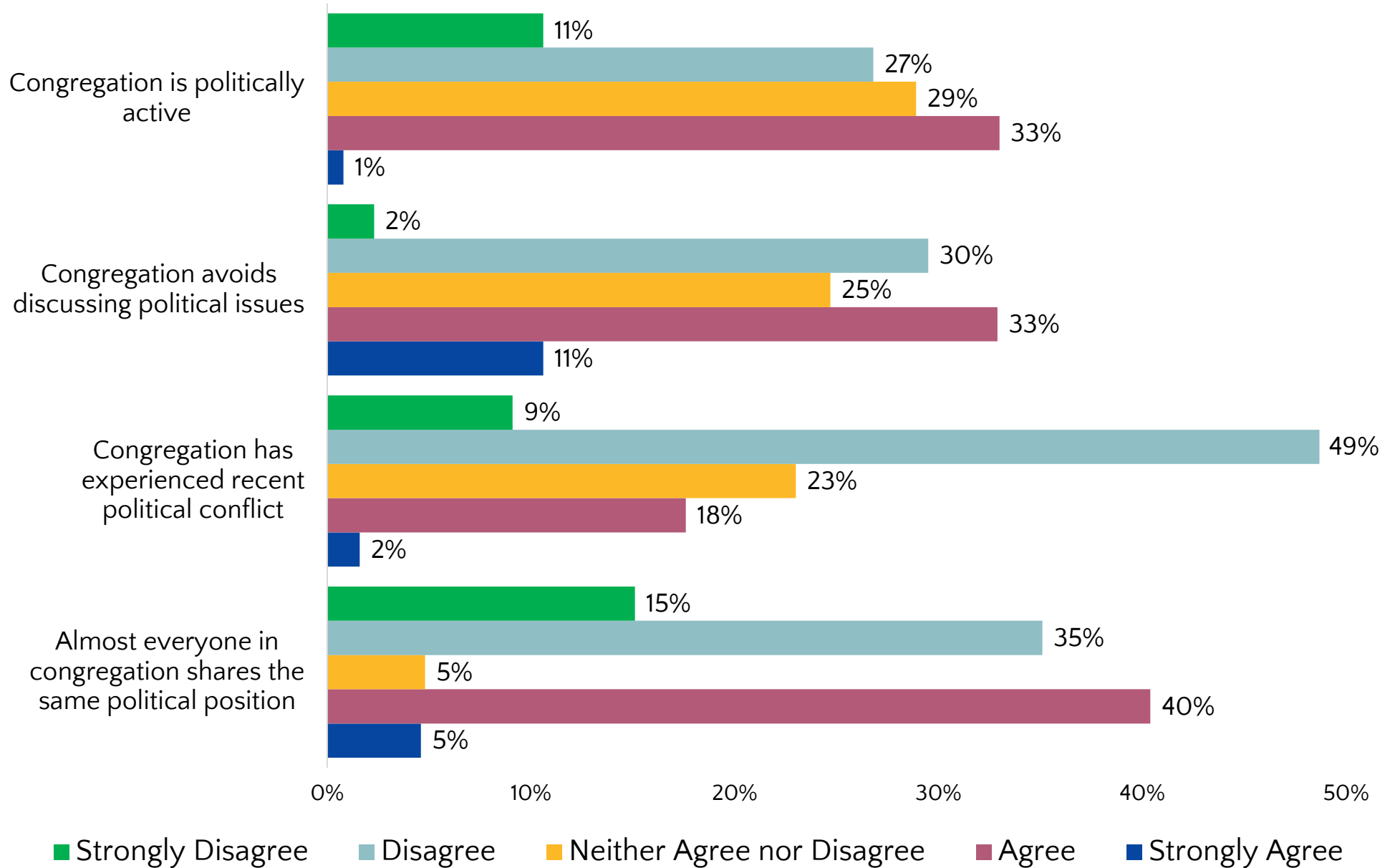
Conflict and Outlook

Political position, Conflicts, Congregational Future

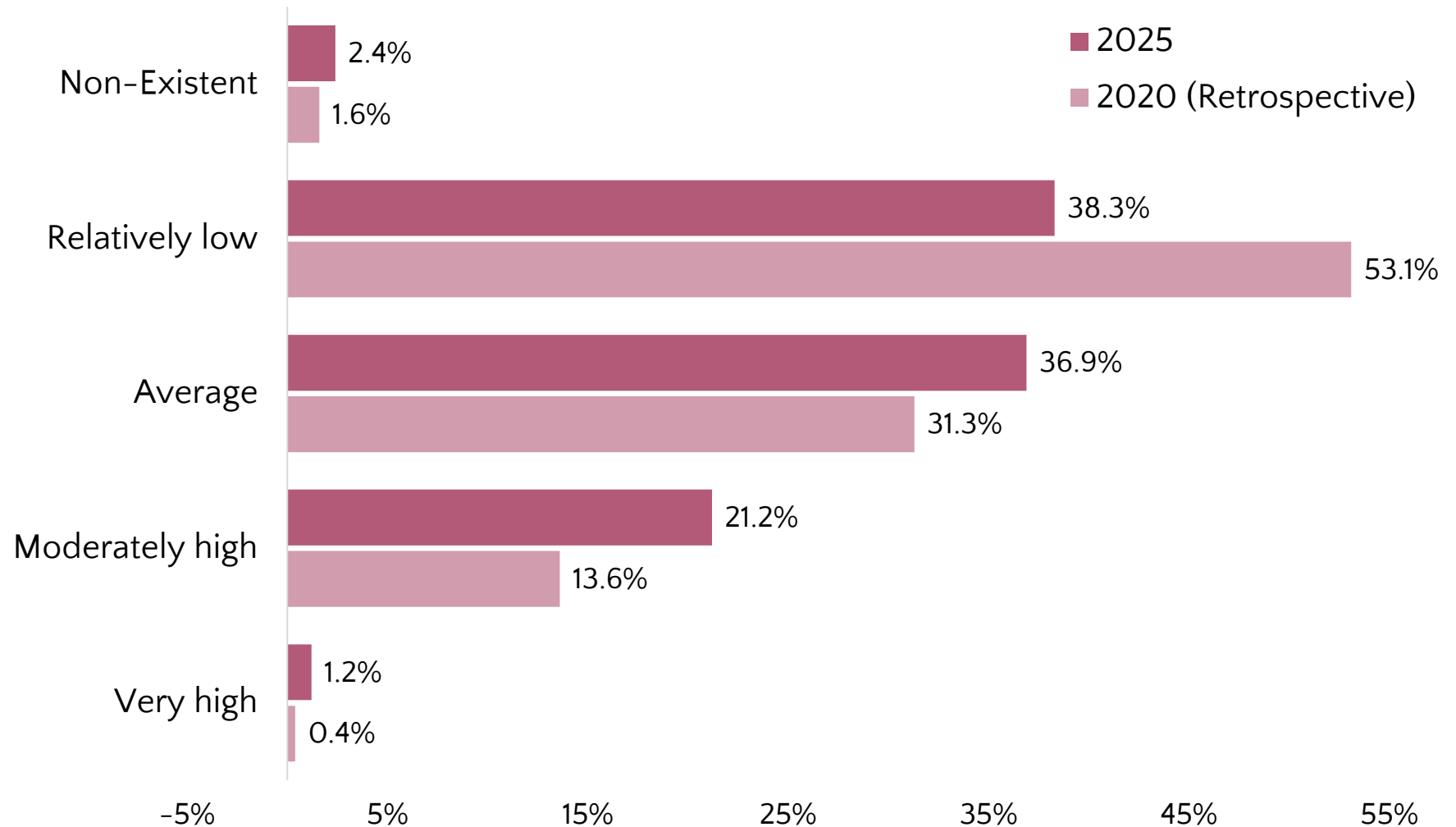
In the past 5 years, has your congregation experienced any disagreements or conflicts?



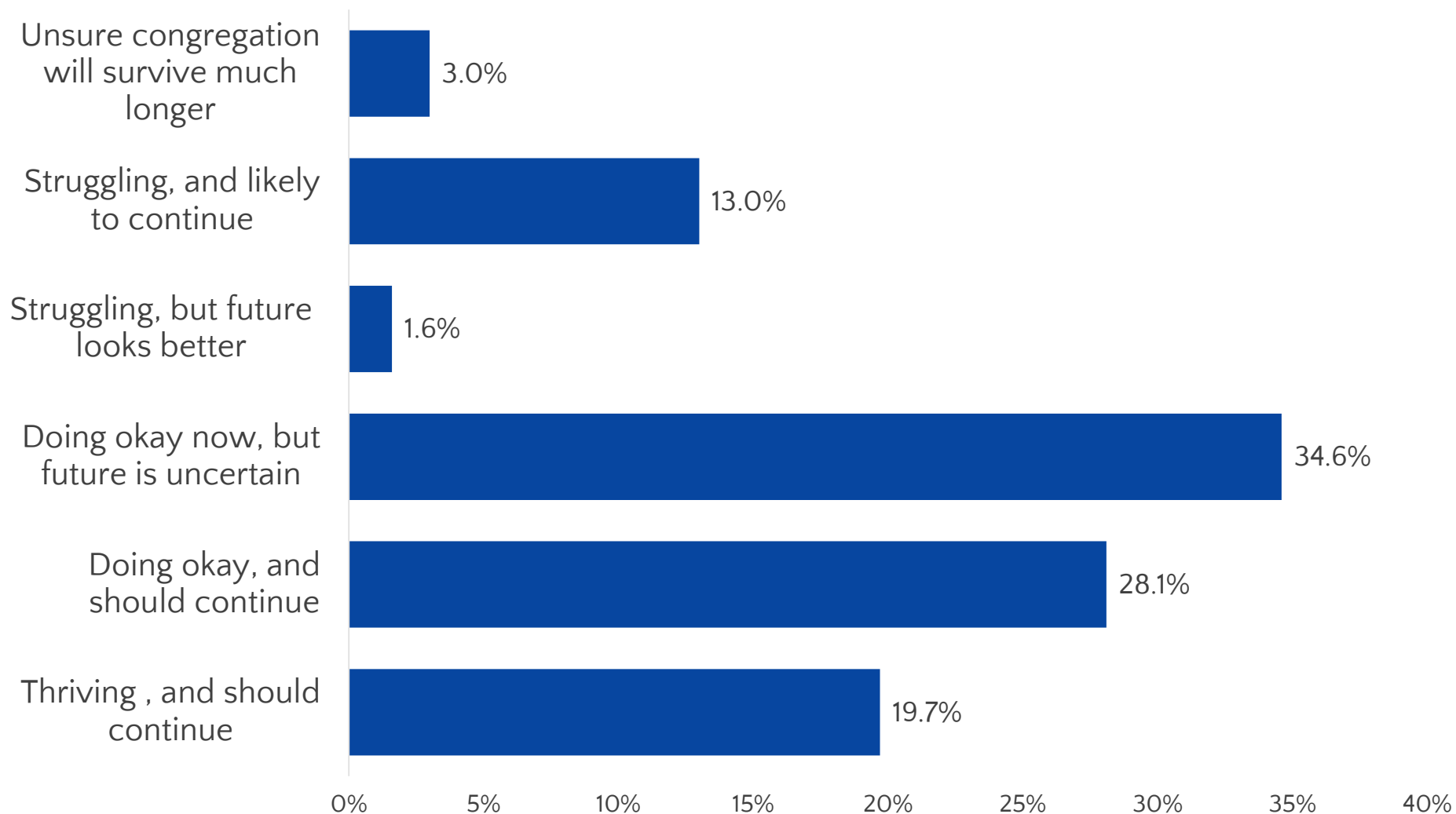
Congregational Political Position

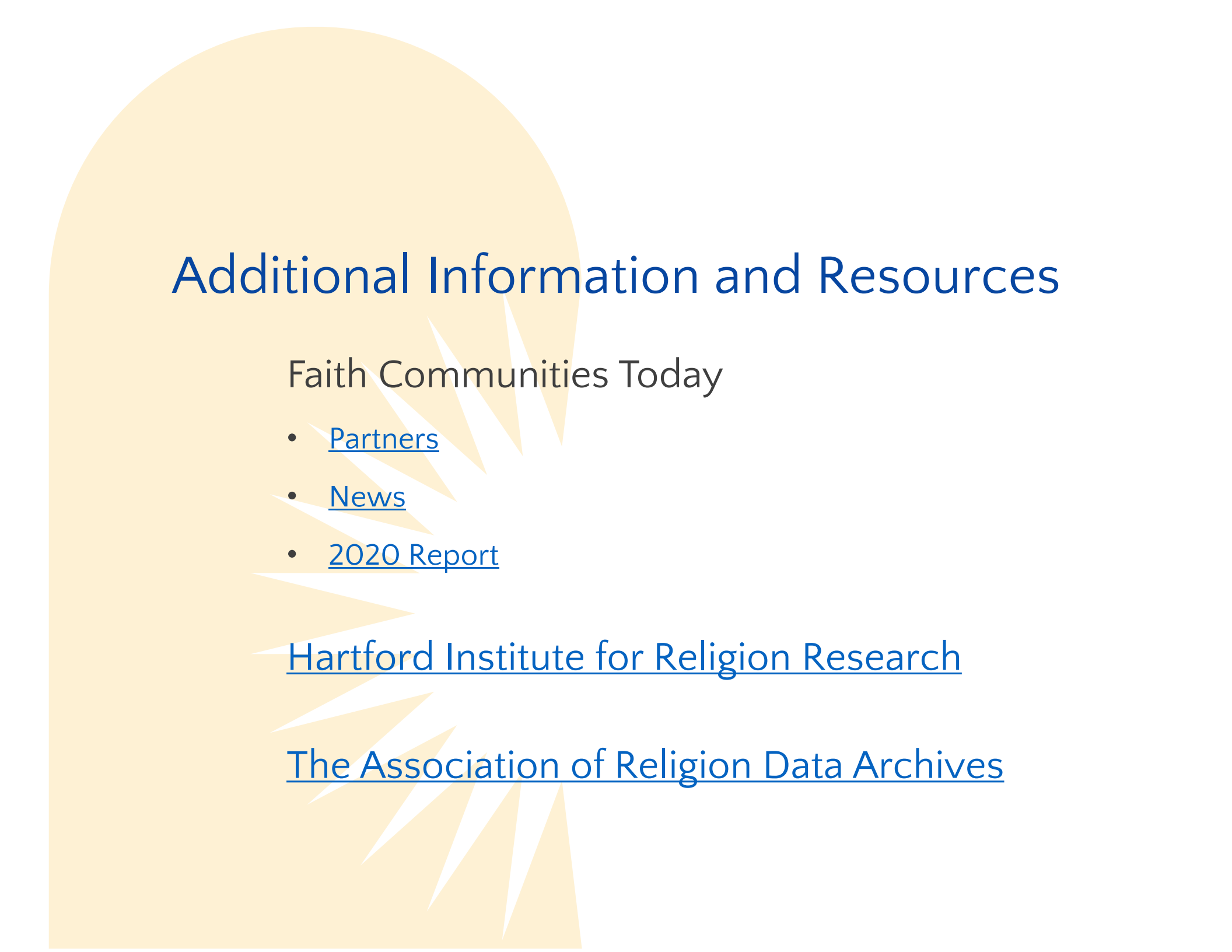


**How would you rate the level of tension in your congregation
surrounding social and political issues (excluding COVID-19)
now compared to 2020?**



Which of the following best describes your sense of this congregation's future?





Additional Information and Resources

Faith Communities Today

- [Partners](#)
- [News](#)
- [2020 Report](#)

[Hartford Institute for Religion Research](#)

[The Association of Religion Data Archives](#)