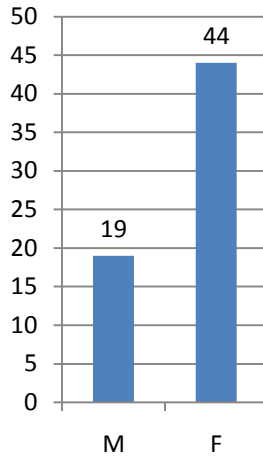


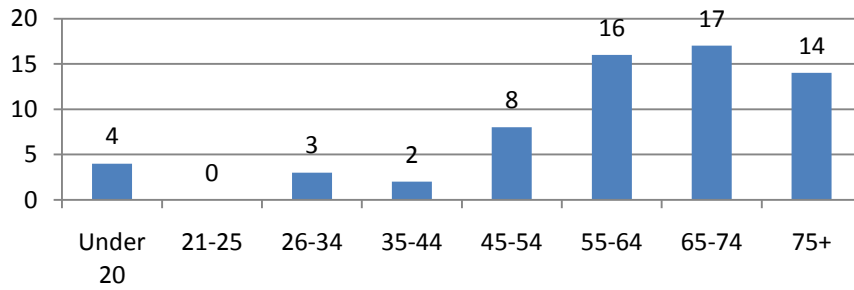
# Congregational Questionnaire

## Background

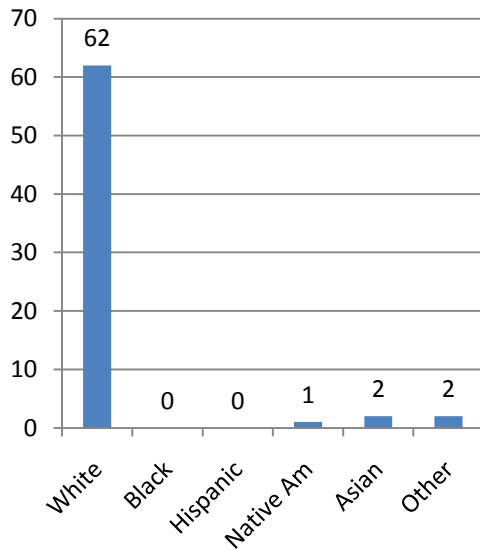
1. Gender: 19 Male  
44 Female  
2 No Answer



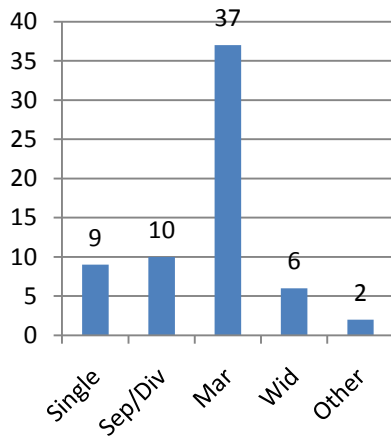
2. Age:



3. Ethnicity:

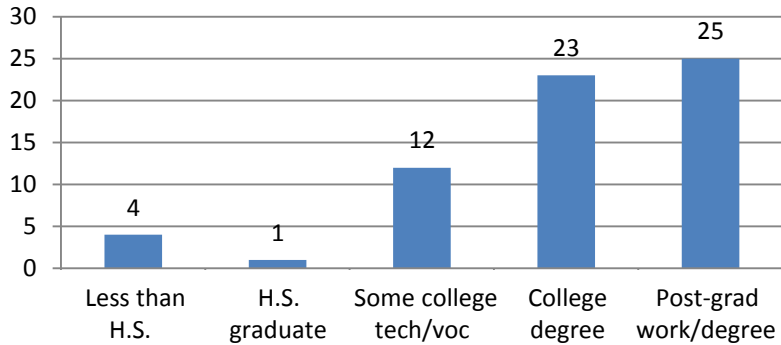


4. Life Status:

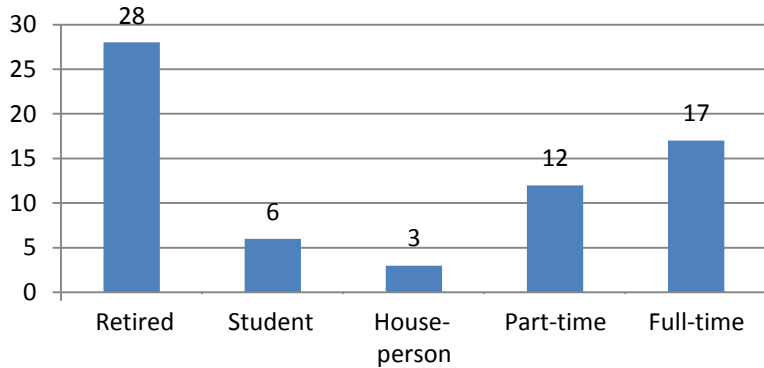


5. Children/Grandchildren at Home? 13 Yes      Average no.: 1.8  
 Average age: 17.7  
 Age Range: 3-46

6. What is your highest level of formal education?



7. Employment:

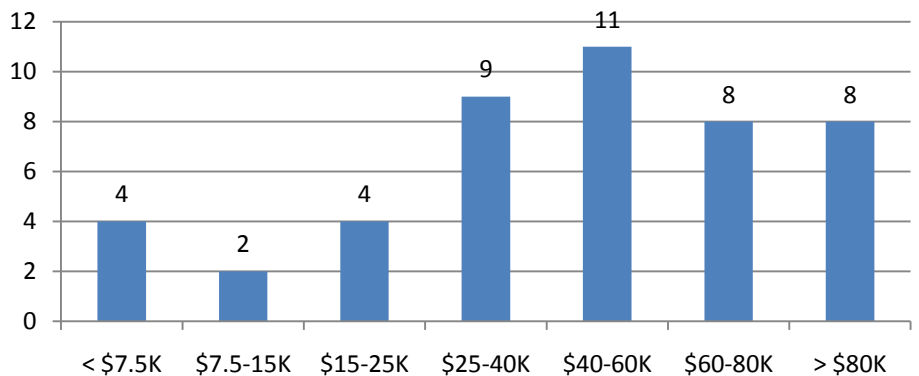


8. How many years have you lived in the West Sound area?      Average 29.0 years

9. How many minutes do you travel one-way to church?      Average 17.5 minutes

10. How many minutes do you travel one-way to work?      Average 27.0 minutes

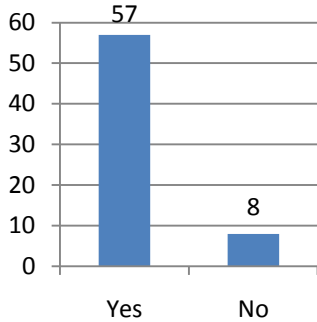
11. Household income?



# Church Participation

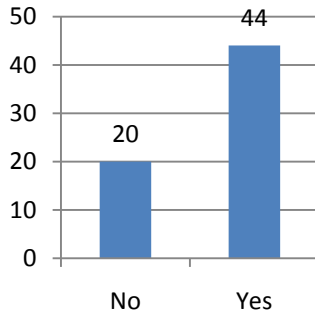
1. How many years have you attended Suquamish UCC? Average 19.7 years

2. Member?



Average time of membership 19.5 years

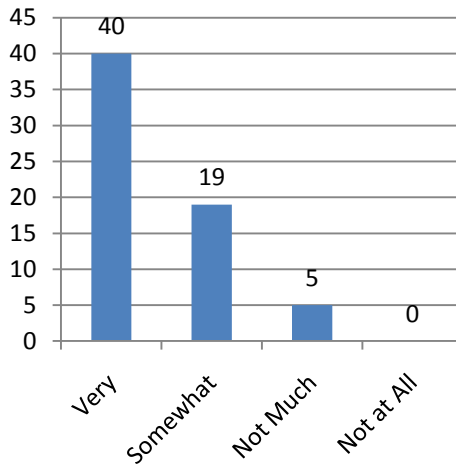
3. Have you ever belonged to a faith community other than the UCC?



Catholic	14
Methodist	8
Presbyterian	7
Lutheran	7
Unitarian	4
Episcopal	4
Baptist	2
Disciples of Christ	2
Unity	2
Nazarene	1
Missionary	1
Alliance	1
Chr. Ref. Church	1
“Unnamed Church”	1

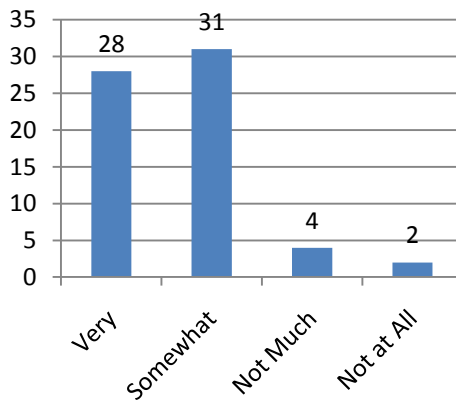
4. How important is religion/spirituality in your own life?

**Comments:** I enjoy going to church, but do not feel a need for it.



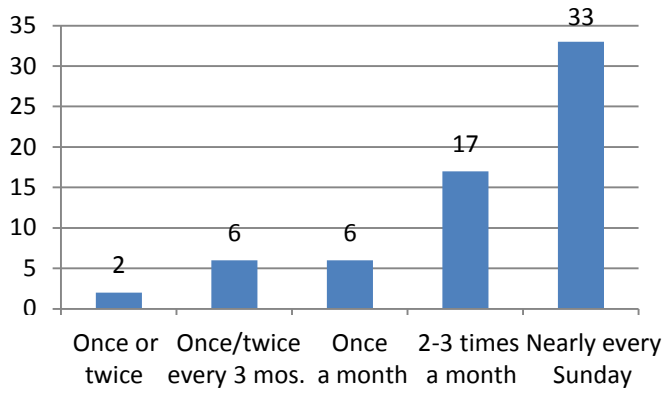
5. How important is weekly worship attendance for you?

**Comments:** I should go more often – I like sleeping.

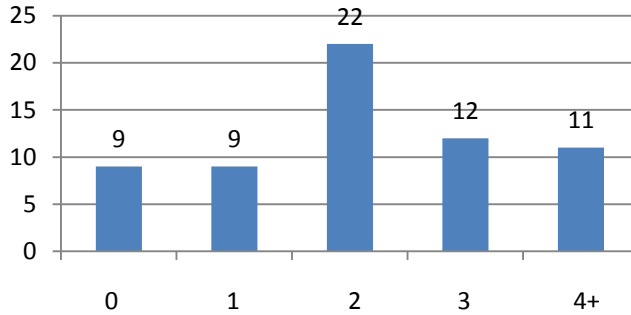


6. On average, how often have you attended church services in the past year?

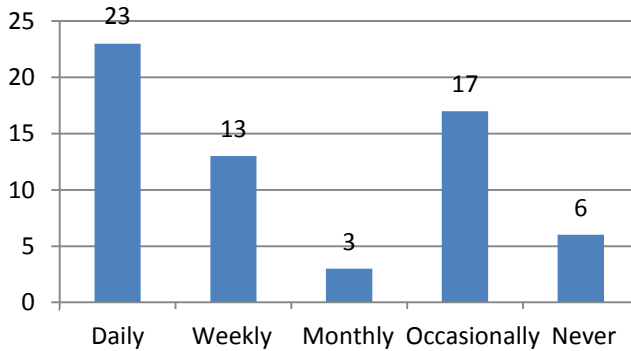
**Comment:** Since November 2015 – 2 times – before that every Sunday.



7. In how many activities of the church do you participate?

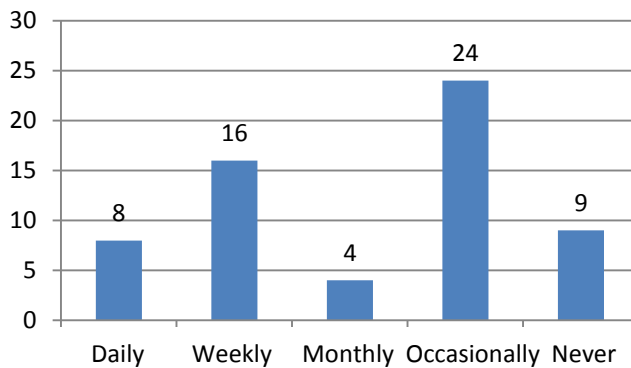


8. How often do you participate in:  
Prayer & Meditation



Spiritual Reading

**Comment:** Depends.

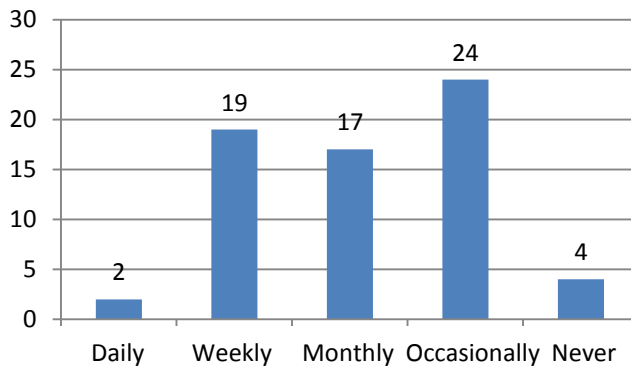


Volunteering for church

**Comments:**

Occasionally: I think my actions & my ideas in terms of my faith

Never asked.

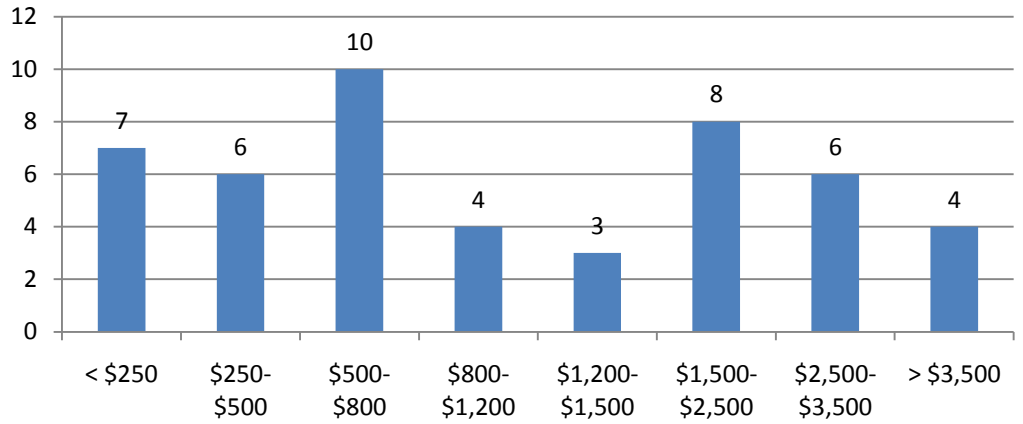


9. Contributions to Suquamish UCC

**Comments:**

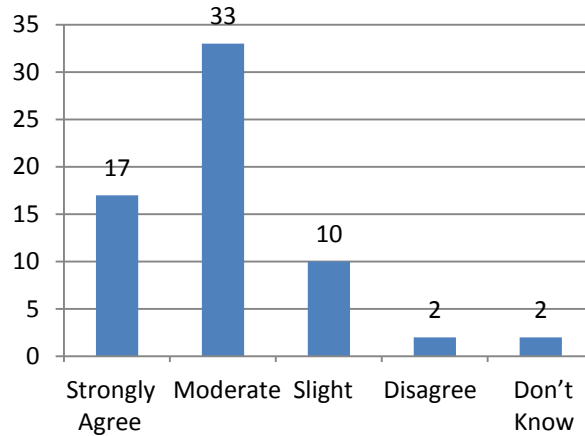
I am poverty-level income; I try to contribute with "deeds."

At this point I have suspended my contributions. It was \$1000 a year.



**Congregational Life I**

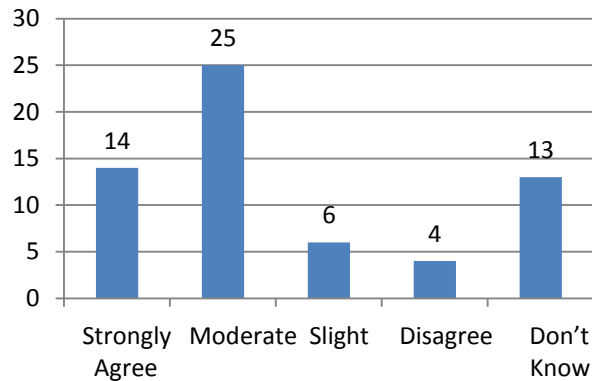
1. I am well informed about what the various committees and groups in the congregation are doing.



2. I and the groups I'm involved with get a lot of support and encouragement for trying something new in the congregation.

**Comments:**

Does not apply as I do not participate.

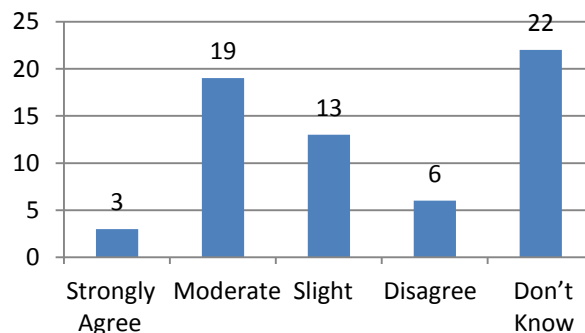


3. Leaders of committees and other groups are provided with the training they need for their assignments.

**Comments:**

Does not apply as I do not participate.

I'm not aware of any.

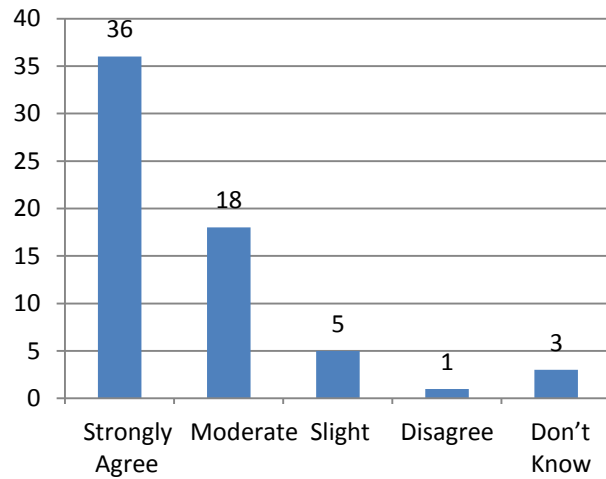


## Congregational Life I (cont.)

4. I have an equal opportunity to hold key leadership positions for which I have the interest and capability.

**Comments:**

Does not apply as I do not participate.

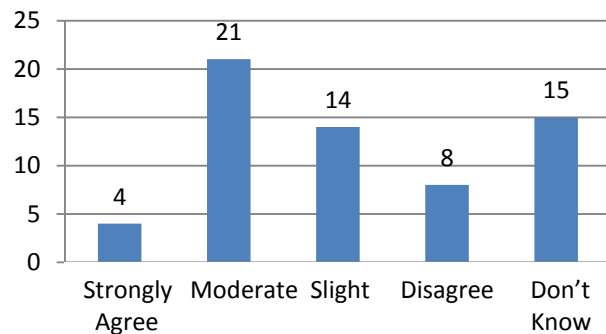


5. The spiritual and scriptural implications of important decisions are regularly discussed.

**Comments:**

Does not apply as I do not participate.

I don't pay much attention to this.



6. Important decisions about the life of the church are made with open discussions by church leaders *and* members.

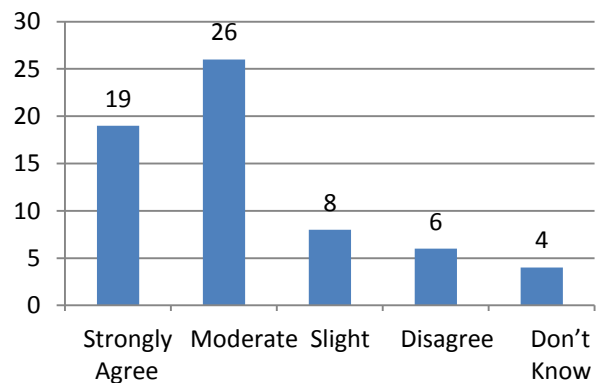
**Comments:**

Needs improvement!

For some, I think there is a disconnect between leadership and congregants. I don't see a strong desire by those who feel disconnected to take on a more active role.

This did not happen when Tom Thresher was alive and pastor at our church. Members of the church were not informed of the turmoil that was going on with that Social Committee of 3 ladies and the board... who eventually pushed Pastor Tom Thresher out. The only time we the church members realized that there was turmoil was when Tom Thresher wrote a couple of emails defending his position and his actions in his job. Even that was sketchy.

Don't know – I'm thirteen.

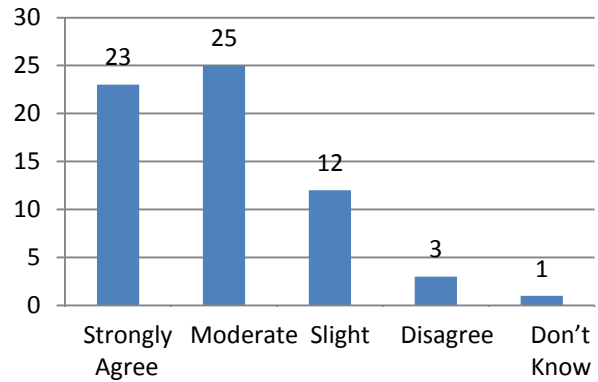


## Congregational Life I (cont.)

7. My current morale as a church member is high.

**Comments:**

I'm not a member, but attend and participate regularly.



8. I have a sense of excitement about our church's future.



## Congregational Life I (Conflict)

**Comments:**

As you say, "most churches experience conflict at various times." It is surprising to see our church is still focusing on conflict. Conflict holds us apart from each other. A focus on peace, even while some of our people hold different opinions, can bring us together. a focus on kindness opens new possibilities in our diverse community. there is always something bigger and better than each of our conflicts.

Clearly, the UCC has had conflict. I do not know much about it, by choice. Perhaps having been more open concerning the earlier problems with Tom, which I assume to have existed, would have been better. But after he left and his passing, it was pretty clear something was amiss. i enjoy the choir, the congregational singing, and speakers who give me something to ponder. I enjoy helping Jean with plants and supporting the bazaars and dinner for Suquamish Community. The organization and committees etc at this point are lower priority.

## Congregational Life I (Conflict)

9. Disagreements and conflicts are dealt with openly, and not hushed up or hidden behind closed doors.

**Comments:**

Almost to a fault .

I believe we are trying to change that.

Needs improvement.

Better now.

I think the effort is stronger than the result.

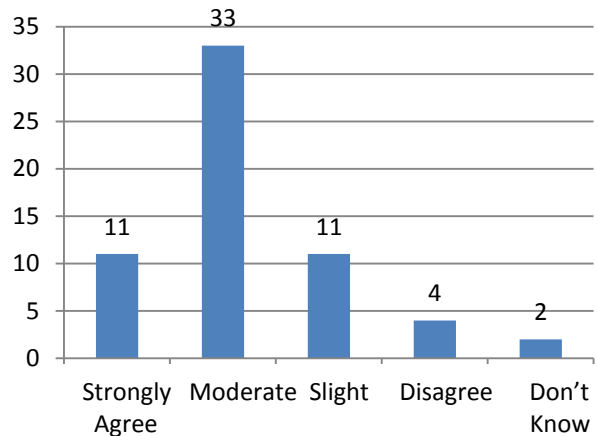
I am very upset at what happened with Pastor Tom Thresher. Our congregation had no idea that there were conflicts between that social committee, board, and expectations of Tom Thresher's position.



10. We respect and listen to each other and work things through without generating divisiveness.

**Comments:**

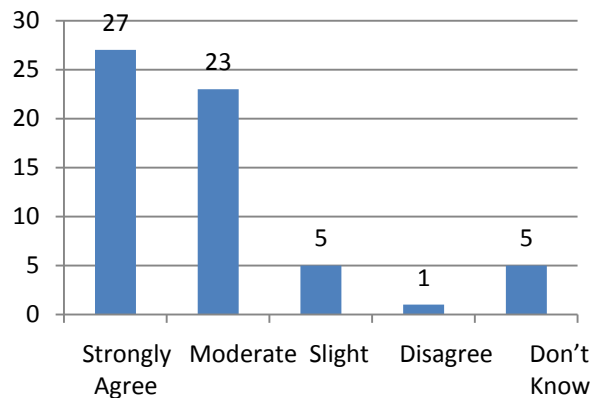
We could use more practice.



11. We *try* to respect and listen to each other, but it is not uncommon for differences of opinion to be a problem and for some people to choose sides.

**Comments:**

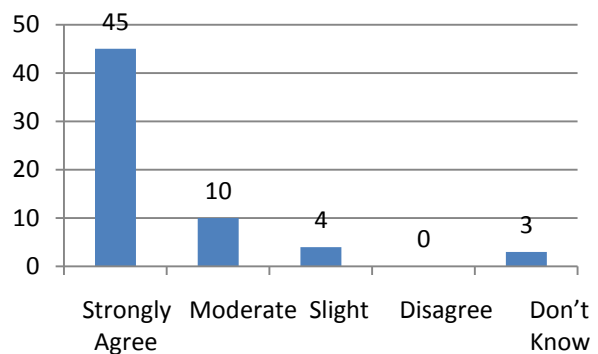
In this situation, there was No Respect and No Listening. That committee had one agenda and it was to go after Tom Thresher and his job.



12. Some people have left our church because of conflict.

**Comments:**

In the past.





## Congregational Life I (Conflict)

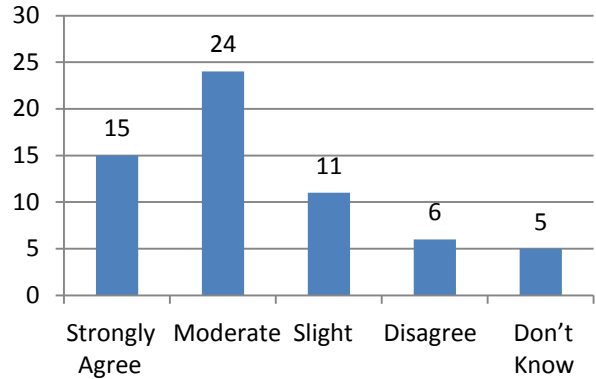
13. Conflict hurts our sense of unity, but we tend not to talk about it.

**Comments:**

Again I believe we talk at it too much and are not moving forward.

Resolved conflict can be positive. Unresolved or festering conflict is very negative.

No one told me about the conflict while it was happening. I found out about it after Tom Thresher left the church. It is horrible that this happened.

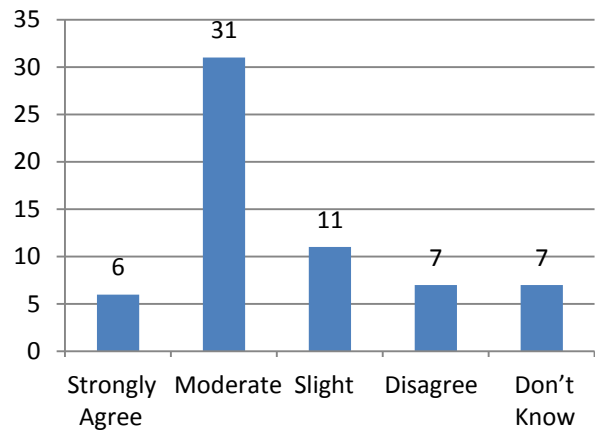


14. Painful experience with conflict has been present, but it has been worked through and we have learned from the experience.

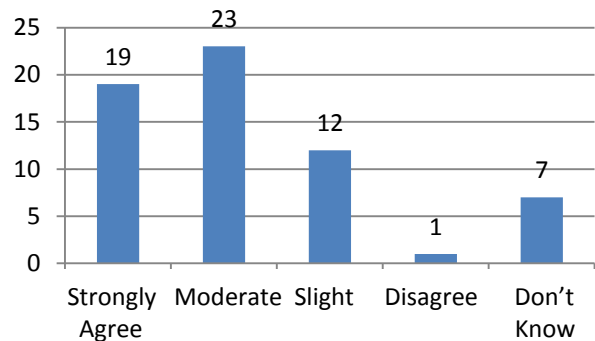
**Comments:**

Depends on the person.

It should have never happened toward the end of Tom Thresher's life. While he was dying, what was he thinking??? What was his family thinking? Not good thoughts about our church and who ever ran it. Does his family still attend this church? You tell me. I don't see his surviving wife coming. She was a long-time member of this church. If the same thing happened to my husband, I would break all ties from the people that caused this unfortunate incident to happen.



15. We have had some painful experiences with conflict, and they linger in the background.



## Congregational Life I (Conflict)

16. Open conflict is present, and we need a minister who can heal us deal with it.

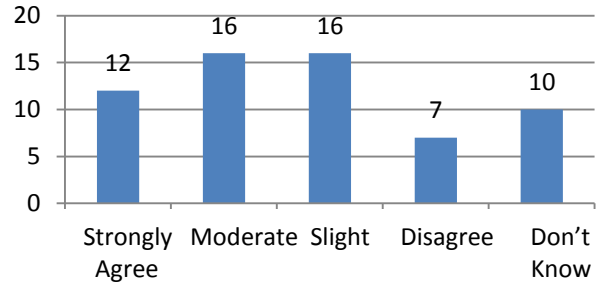
**Comments:**

I feel that as a congregation we are extremely respectful and accepting of differences. As a result we have had trouble in dealing with what turn out to be difficult and divisive truths in a timely, clear manner.

I think the new pastor needs to know how committed we are to the constitution. I prefer a small – under 150 members – to a large one.

I think there is only slight conflict at present. I would welcome a minister trained in conflict resolution to help us now and in the future. There are "old" or "historic" conflicts that may need attention.

I wish we were in the position to be comfortable discussing openly.



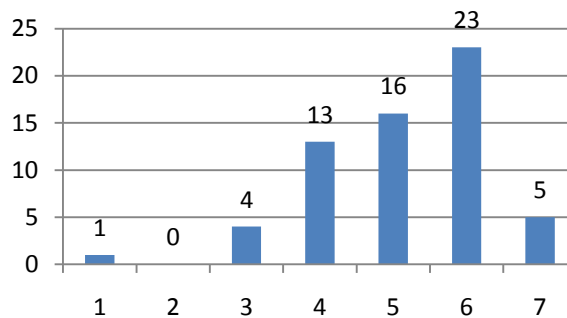
## Congregational Life II

1. Our church is more influenced by history and tradition.

**Comments:**

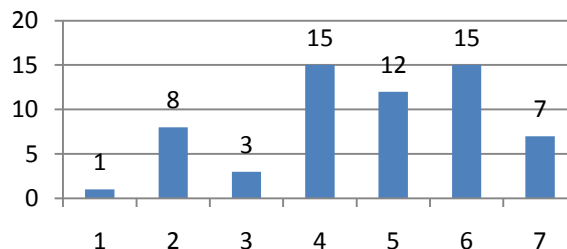
Church identity is extremely important to pastor selection.

Simply put, who are we? Do we have a direction? Do we have an identity? After reading the options in Congregational Life II, my observation is that our church is neither strongly traditional nor contemporary.



Our church is more influenced by contemporary ideas and trends.

2. Members are similar in values and lifestyles to the Suquamish community.

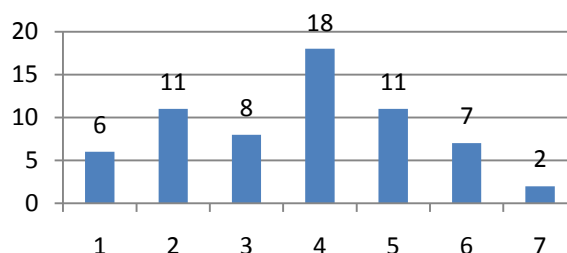


Members are very different in values and lifestyles from the Suquamish community.

3. Our church is very involved with the Suquamish community.

**Comments:**

Would like us to be more involved with the Native Community.



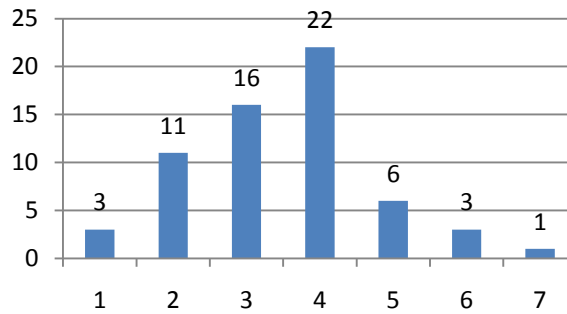
Our church is not at all involved with the Suquamish community.

## Congregational Life II (cont.)

4. Our church is primarily oriented to serving our members.

**Comments:**

Have had to focus internally on conflict - needs to change.

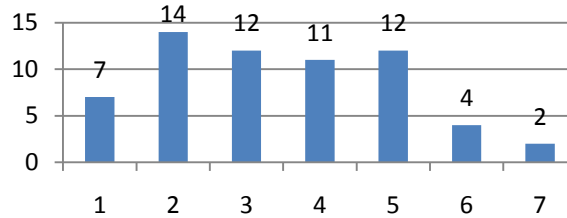


Our church is primarily oriented to serving the world beyond our membership.

5. Our congregation feels like one large family.

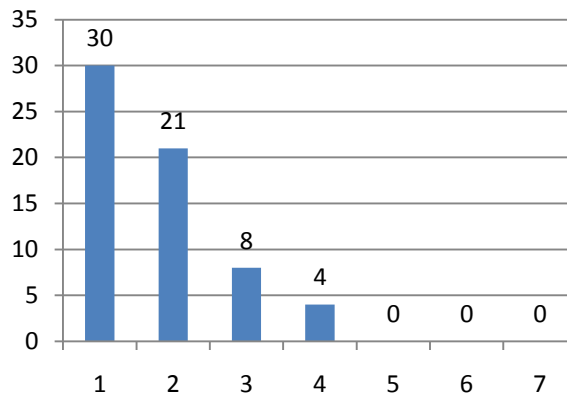
**Comments:**

With all the conflict that families endure!



Our congregation feels like a loosely knit association of individuals and groups.

6. Our church reflects our Open & Affirming identity in its daily life.



Our church is Open & Affirming in name only.

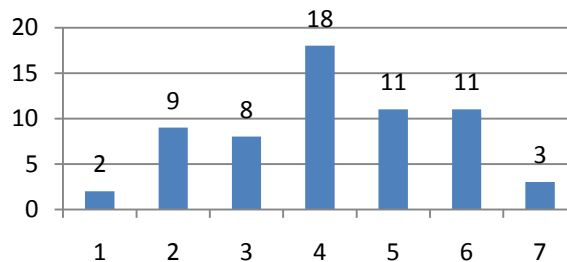
7. The church's approach to social issues is basically educational, leaving any action to individual conscience.

**Comments:**

Need more, new & young members.

I think we were more action-oriented 10+ years ago.

In the past and/or if an individual encourages others (CROP walk etc)



The church's approach to social issues is decidedly activist. We have a proven history of taking a stand on social issues as a congregation.

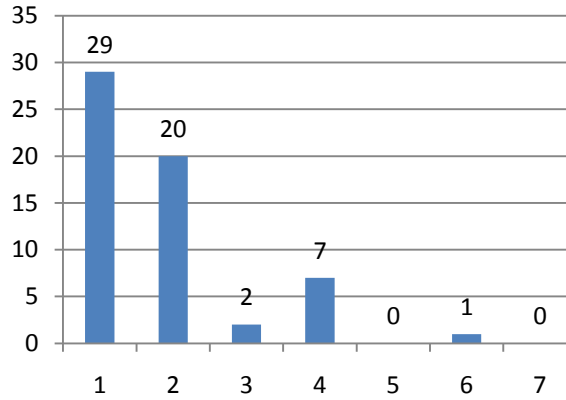
## Congregational Life II (cont.)

8. The congregation's approach to spiritual growth emphasizes education, nurturing, and gradual growth in faith.

**Comments:**

"Education, nurturing, and gradual growth in faith" leads to "conversion and a born-again experience."

Wish we had more opportunity for spiritual education/interfaith.

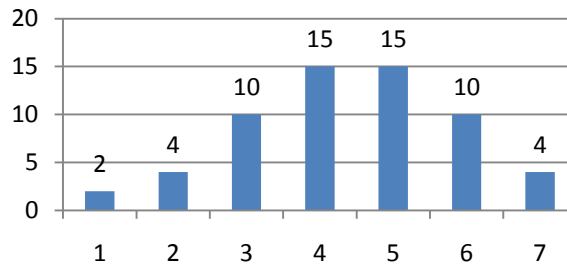


The congregation's approach to individual spiritual growth stresses conversion and a born-again experience.

9. Our congregation gives strong expression to its denominational identity and heritage.

**Comments:**

"It would be difficult for a visitor to know..." which I personally like!



It would be difficult for a visitor to know to which denomination the congregation belongs.

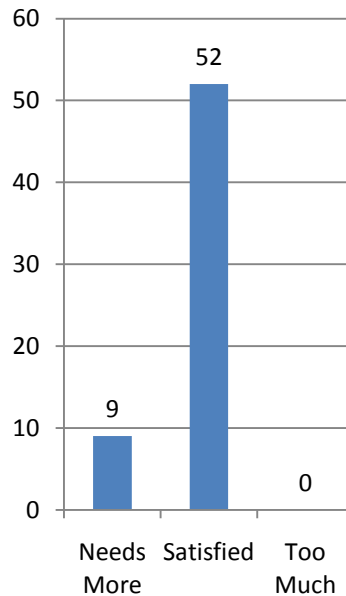
## Congregational Life III

1. Provides worship that deepens members' experience of God.

**Comments:**

Would like worship that includes an expanded vision of who/what "God" is.

Worship is too traditional and bland currently & boring (not engaging)

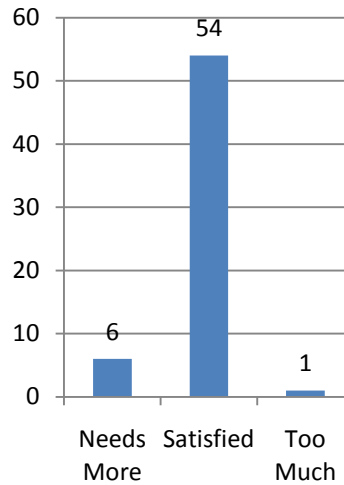


## Congregational Life III

- Provides worship that expresses the Gospel in contemporary language and forms.

**Comments:**

More creativity & engagement



- Provides religious/spiritual education programs for children and youth.

**Comments:**

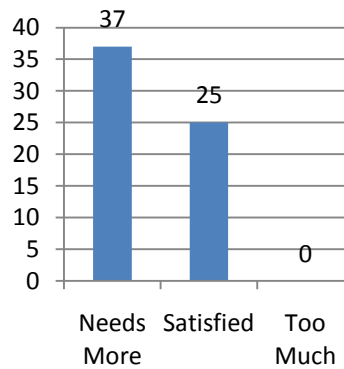
Sue does a good job. Youth program needs more attention and a dedicated youth advisor.

Just need more children.

Need more work attracting youth.

Need more kids too.

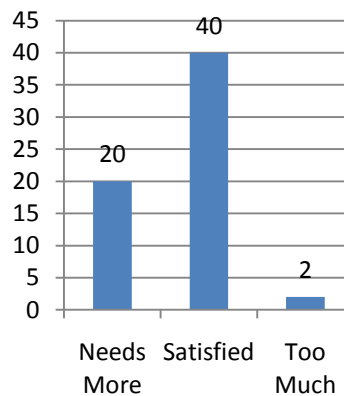
Need the kids first!



- Provides religious/spiritual education programs for adults.

**Comments:**

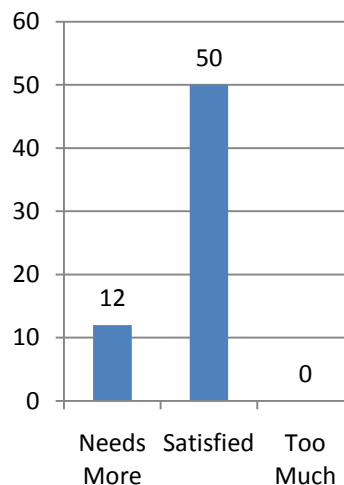
Would like a Bible study group



- Helps people deepen their personal and spiritual relationship with God.

**Comments:**

Would like more opportunities for this, i.e. small groups, conversations, etc.



## Congregational Life III (cont.)

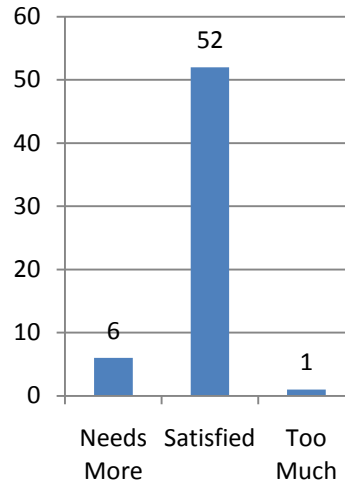
6. Shares the good news of the Gospel with others.

**Comments:**

?

Hard to do!

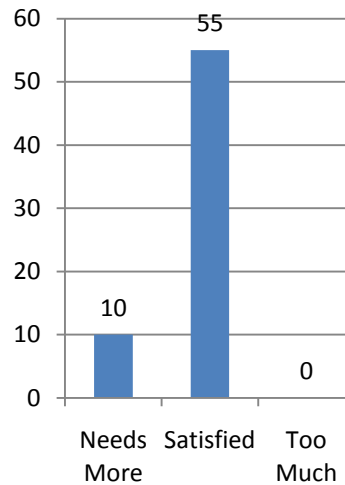
Does this mean outside SUCC? (not clear)



7. Engages in acts of charity and service to persons in need.

**Comments:**

But limited by members' numbers

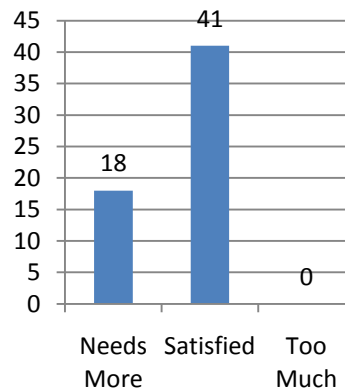


8. Encourages members to act on the relationship of faith to social, political, and economic issues.

**Comments:**

?

Would like congregation to do more actions beyond SCK. SCK is a great action!



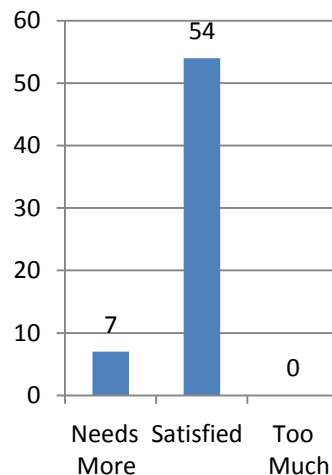
9. Provides a caring ministry for the sick, shut-ins, those in crisis, and the bereaved.

**Comments:**

?

Called to Care, Blue Xmas, Grief support

"Generally satisfied," though our new pastor should be involved in this aspect of our church.



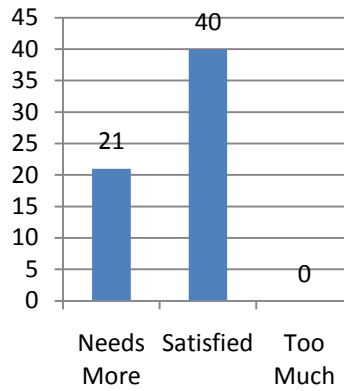
**Congregational Life III (cont.)**

10. Encourages members to engage in multi-denominational and interfaith activities.

**Comments:**

Some with Unity.

I appreciate announcements of events.  
Would like to see more opportunities..

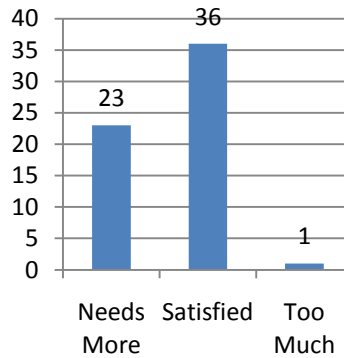


11. Provides community-building opportunities for members.

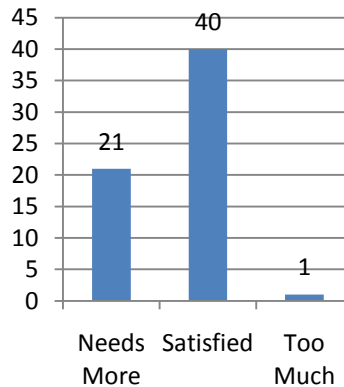
**Comments:**

I think we do some (new garden, etc) – would enjoy all-church social events.

We are trying with small groups!



12. Helps members understand their use of money, time, and talent as expressions of Christian stewardship.

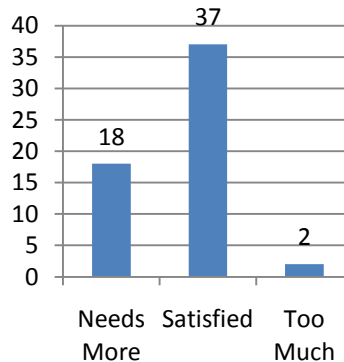


13. Supports a world mission of the church through study and giving.

**Comments:**

?

Feel we need local focus until we have more robust membership.

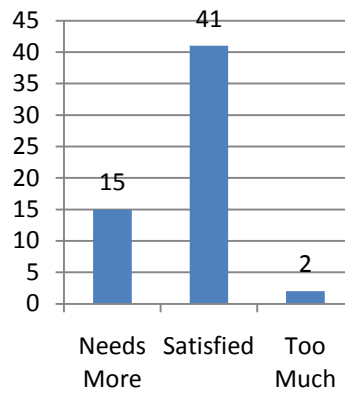


## Congregational Life III (cont.)

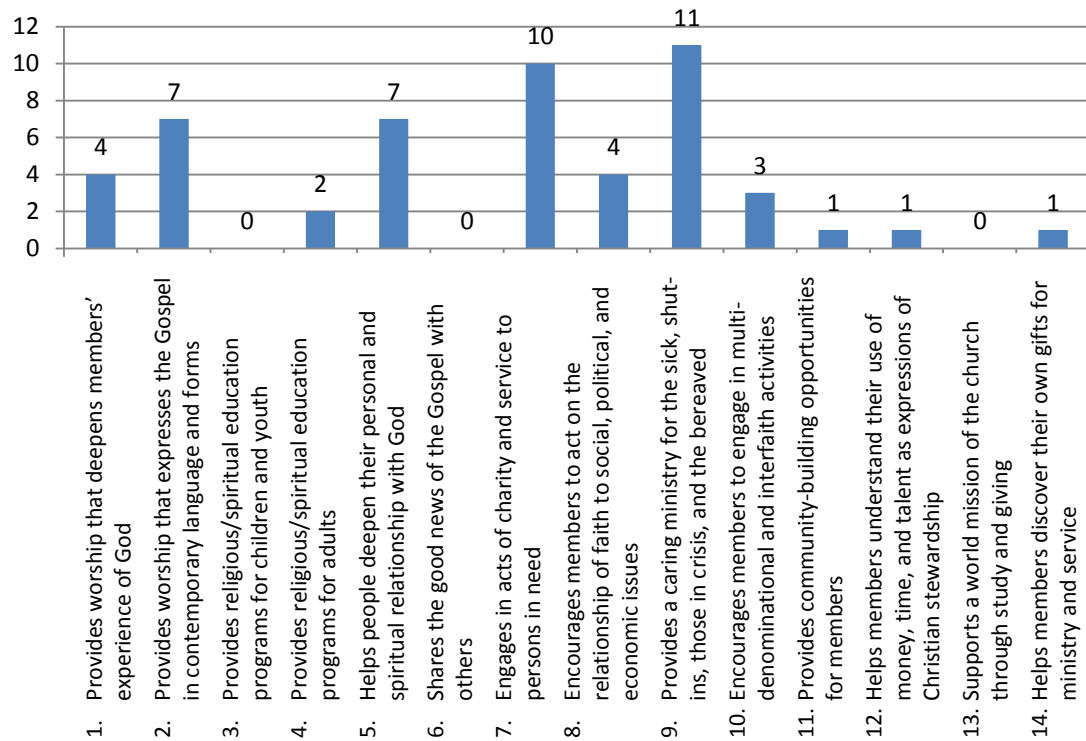
14. Helps members discover their own gifts for ministry and service.

**Comments:**

?



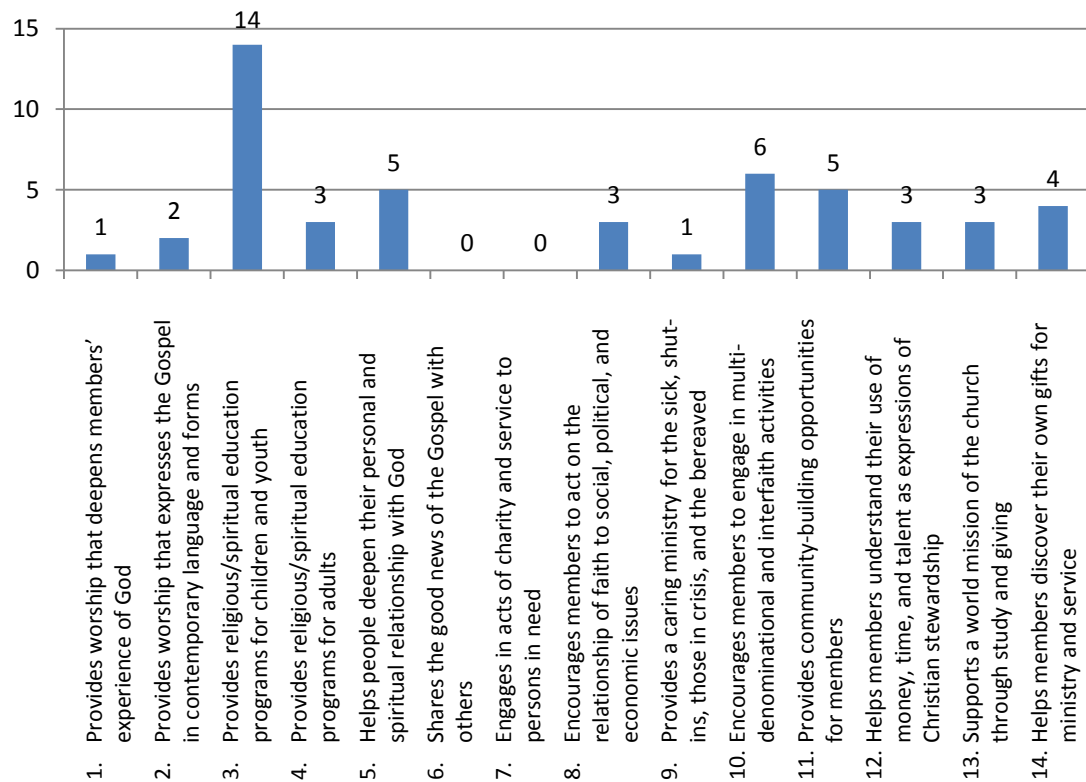
Overall, which one task does our congregation do the best?



**Comments:**

Being a family.  
Adult programs.

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



**Comments:**

This was difficult because it involved several elements - worship and action.

It was hard to choose one. We are a combination of many facets. I like that!

I'm not seeking anything from the church.

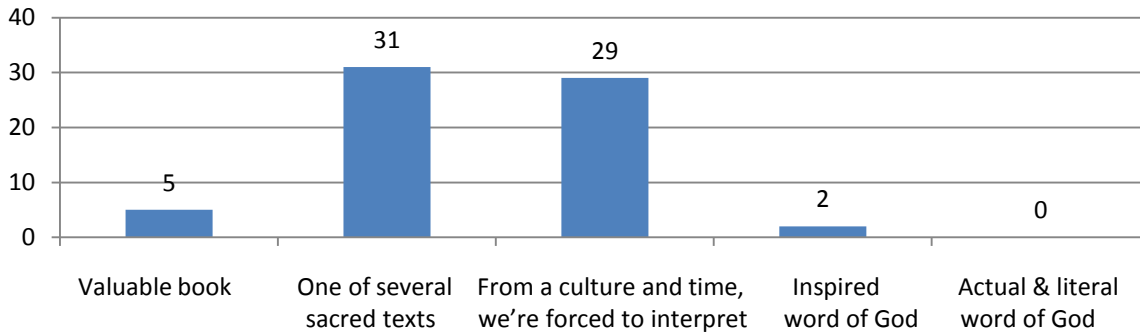
E.g. class offered by Ed Evans.

Love, caring, and outreach.



## Religious/Spiritual Beliefs

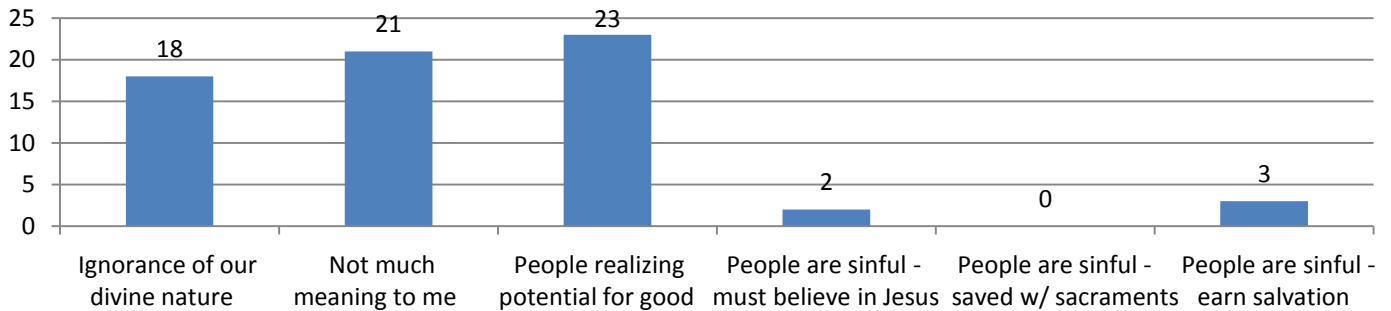
### Bible



#### Comments:

"Forced" is odd phrasing. It's a necessity but this makes it sound like an unfortunate compulsory assignment.

### Sin and Salvation



### Justice



#### Comments:

Collectively.

I do not have any answer.

Don't like "should." Working for justice is a cornerstone expression of faith.