

Survey of Church Members

conducted for the
**Allegheny East Conference of the
Seventh-day Adventist Church**

Bradford-Cleveland-Brooks Leadership Center
Oakwood University

August 2008

Introduction

A random sample survey of the membership was commissioned by the Allegheny East Conference administration in preparation for the constituency meeting in the fall of 2008. Data collection was completed in July at the annual Camp Meeting in Pine Forge, Pennsylvania, which the majority of active members attend on Sabbath. Volunteers were instructed in how to administer a sampling process at three venues—the main pavilion, the young adult assembly and the youth assembly.

A total of 883 usable questionnaires were returned and this report is based on the resulting data set. At the 95th percentile of reliability, the standard allowance for sampling error for a sample of this size is four percentage points, plus or minus. Additional information about random sample surveys is given in the Technical Appendix at the end of this report.

For purposes of comparison, data from two previous surveys conducted among the members of the Allegheny East Conference were used, as well as data from national surveys of Seventh-day Adventist members in the North American Division and the Columbia Union Conference or Mid-Atlantic region. The sources of these data are listed in the bibliography at the end of this report.

American Generations

In order to understand the references to generational data throughout the report, it is helpful to know that currently there are the following cohorts in American demographics, using the standards established by the American Demographic Institute:

World War II generation, born 1909-1932 and 76 through 99 years of age in 2008

Swing generation, born 1933-1945 and 63 through 75 years of age in 2008

Baby Boom generation, born 1946-1964 and 44 through 62 years of age in 2008

Baby Bust generation (Gen X), born 1976-1965 and 32 through 43 years of age in 2008

Millennial generation, born 1977-1994 and 14 through 31 years of age in 2008

Project Team

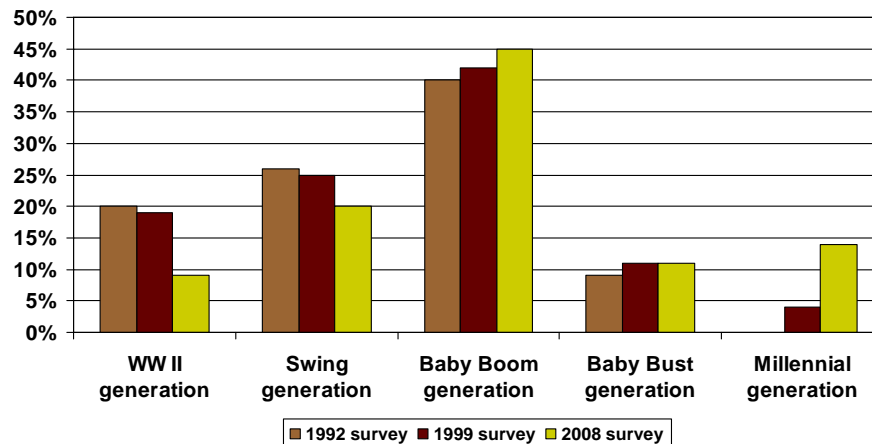
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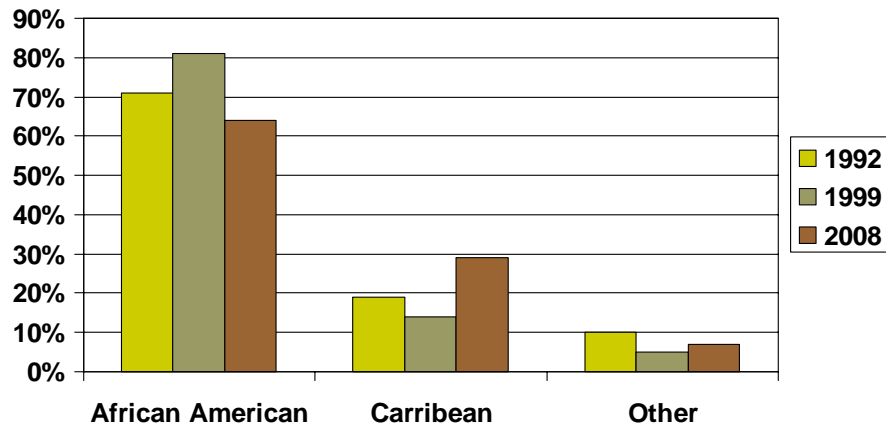
Age by Generation



Over the past decade the older generations have reduced their piece of the pie in order to make room for new generations coming onto the scene. The World War II generation—now over 75 years of age—is half the proportion that it was a decade earlier and the Millennial generation—currently teens and young adults—has tripled its percentage. There is also a growing share of Baby Boomers, now the middle-aged segment of the church. But, the Baby Bust generation (sometimes called “Gen X”) has not significantly changed its relatively small share of the membership over all three surveys. This has important demographic consequences because these people are now in their 30s and early 40s, the “family formation” stage of life. Young families are an important ingredient in a healthy congregation and there are very few of them at this juncture in time.

Overall, the Allegheny East Conference has a somewhat younger profile than it did a decade ago. Yet, that does not change the fact that it needs to push hard to recruit young families.

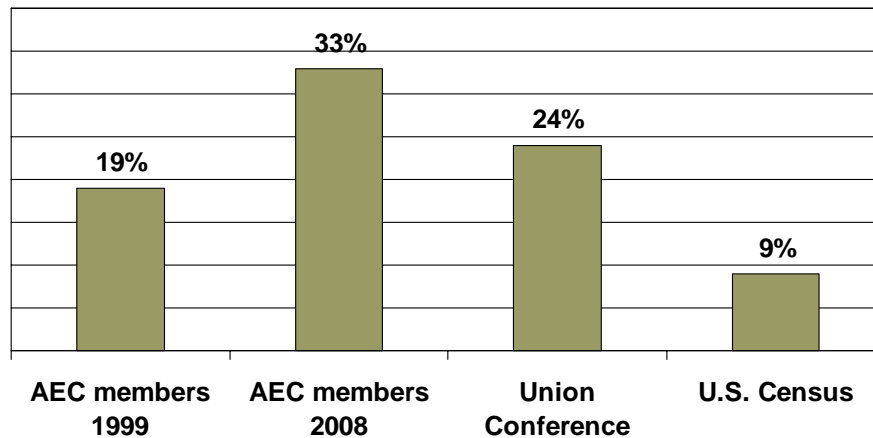
Ethnicity



Allegheny East Conference has a growing segment of Caribbeans among its membership. This segment has doubled in size over the last decade. The percentage of native-born African Americans has declined to about two thirds of the total membership, while the percentage of Hispanics, Asians, Whites and others has not change significantly.

Overall, Allegheny East Conference is becoming a more diverse fellowship. Most of the new ethnic groups are located in northern New Jersey in the Newark metropolitan area and the suburbs of New York City. (A more detailed analysis can be found in "Mission in Metropolis" by Monte Sahlin.)

Immigrants

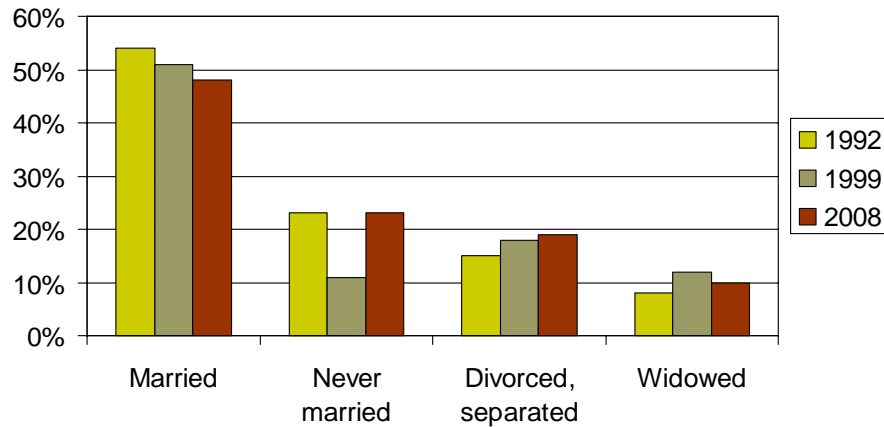


A third of the members in the Allegheny East Conference are immigrants not born as American citizens. This is a significant increase over the past decade. This means that immigration is increasingly an important element in the conference's growth.

Immigrants make up a larger share of the Allegheny East Conference than is true for most of the conferences in the Columbia Union Conference. It has three times the proportion of immigrants as the general population in America. This development opens two major issues:

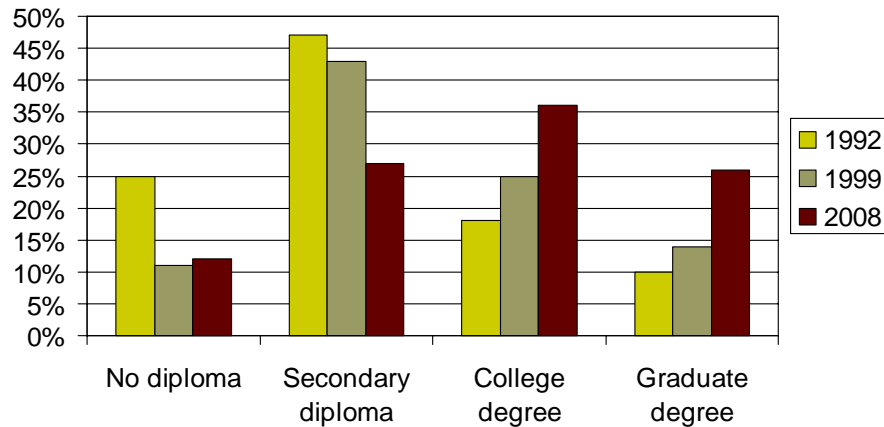
1. Immigrants have particular needs which must be given attention in both the internal ministries and community service activities of the churches in this conference. Some denominations have made major investments in provide immigration assistance and this is very helpful in attracting and winning this segment.
2. Unless it takes strategic steps to steer away from it, Allegheny East could slip into the situation which plagues some conference with which it share territory: They are entirely dependent on immigration to have any growth.

Marital Status



Although married people still make up the largest segment of the membership in the conference, they are no longer the majority. Single adults now make up 52 percent of the members. Research has demonstrated that local churches tend to be dominated by married people and are relatively less hospitable to singles. If this continues to be true in most of the congregations in this conference, it could become a significant drag on church growth. Attention needs to be given to expanding singles ministries and addressing the needs of singles in most of the local churches of the conference.

Education

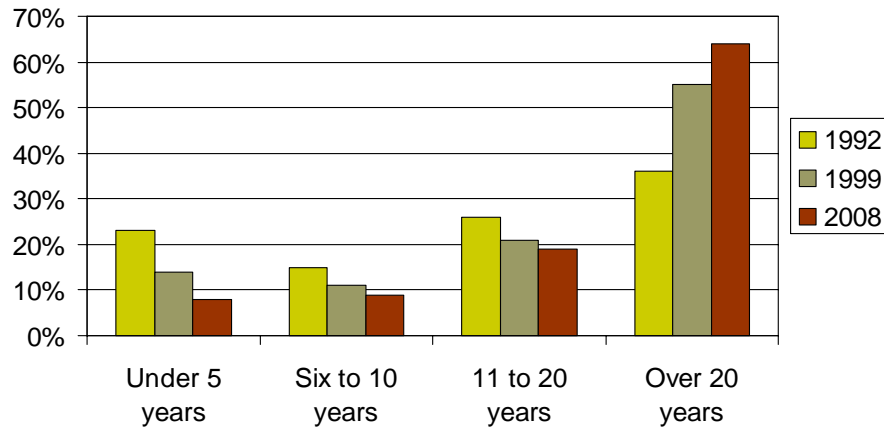


Over the last fifteen years, the Allegheny East Conference has moved from a time when most church members had only a high school or academy diploma or less education into a time when the number of college graduates is approaching two thirds of the members. This means that there is a much more highly educated laity than is true for any of the other conferences in the Columbia Union Conference. It places this conference among the most well-educated in the North American Division.

A membership in which the majority have higher education has different needs than one in which the majority has only a secondary education. White Collar congregations require a different style of leadership than Blue Collar congregations. Even in historically African American congregations, the more highly educated congregation prefers a different style of worship, music and preaching. The length of the worship service becomes an issue for more members.

Laity with higher education are also more likely to want full, detailed information from conference administration. They typically want to participate more fully in planning and decision-making, as well as insist on professional standards for the clergy.

Tenure as an Adventist

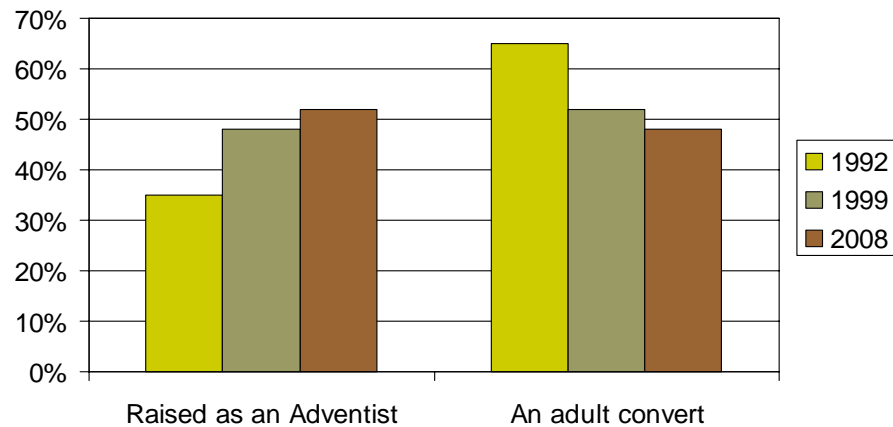


The graying of Adventism is clearly a trend in the Allegheny East Conference. It is one of the major demographic trends in the Seventh-day Adventist Church across North America. A growing percentage of members are long-time adherents, while a declining percentage are recently baptized.

Those who have been baptized Adventists for over 20 years are more likely to be 45 years of age or older, have graduate degrees and be employed in the professions and management positions or retired. They are also more likely to be married.

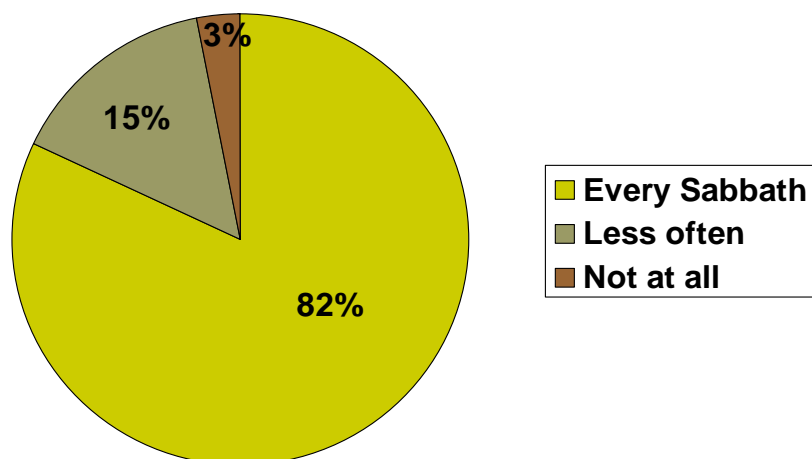
Those who have been members for less than 20 years are more likely to be under 45 years of age, to have less than a college education and employed as a Blue Collar worker or a full-time student. They are also likely to attend church less often than the older members.

How did you become a member?



Over the past ten years, the Allegheny East Conference has become a fellowship in which the majority of the members were born into the Church. It used to be a fellowship in which adult converts made up the majority. This transition tends to change the focus and needs of a congregation or conference. It is a trend that is occurring throughout the Adventist Church in North America.

Sabbath Attendance

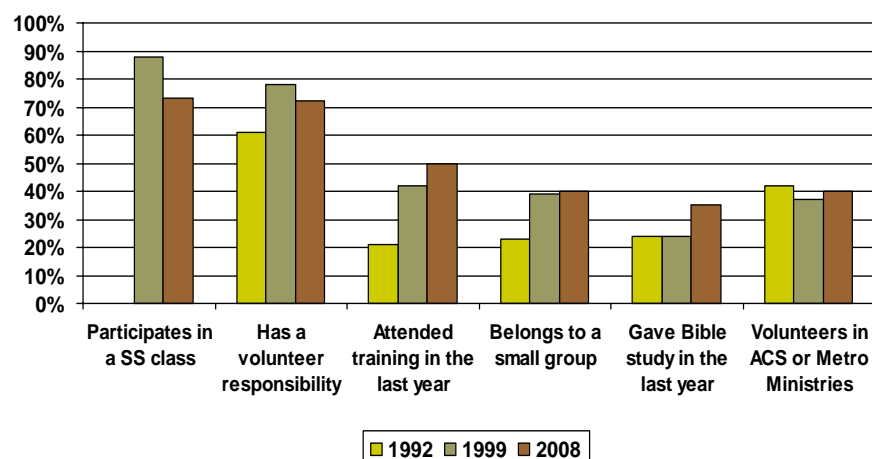


To measure the Sabbath attendance pattern of the respondents, they were asked, “In the last four Sabbaths, how many times have you attended an Adventist church?” More than four out of five (82 percent) indicated four out of four or every Sabbath. This response was even higher among the oldest respondents (over 75 years of age), among those who have been baptized members for more than 20 years and among Hispanics.

Less than one in seven members (15 percent) reported attending less than every Sabbath. Those who have been baptized in the last five years are more likely to be in this category.

Only three percent of the respondents reported that they had not attended church at all during the last four Sabbaths and these respondents were spread equally across all demographic segments. The major skew in this survey is due to the method of data collection: It is highly representative of active, attending members of the churches in the Allegheny East Conference, but it provides no input from the 30 to 35 percent of the members on the books who never attend church.

Church Involvement

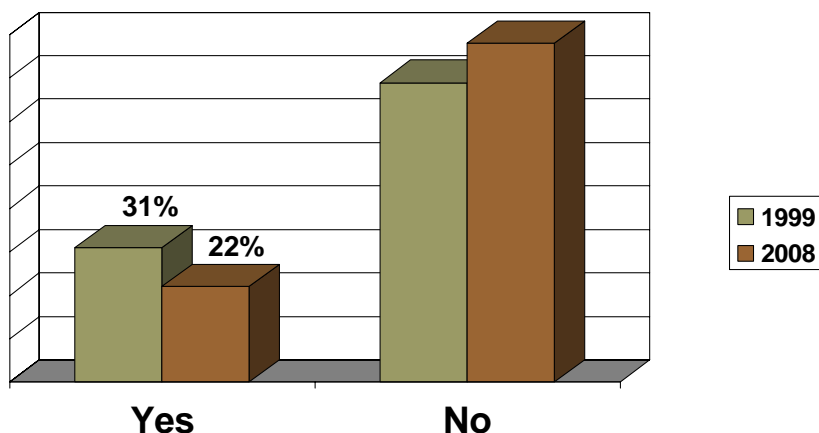


A number of questions were asked to measure the involvement of church members. The largest number (73 percent) report that they regularly participate in a Sabbath School class. This is down significantly from 88 percent a decade ago. Members over 62 years of age are more likely to attend Sabbath School, as are Blue Collar workers, those with only a secondary education, those who are immigrants, those who are retired and those who have been baptized members for more than 20 years.

Nearly as many (72 percent) hold a church office or volunteer responsibility in their local church. This too is down significantly from 78 percent in 1999, but still higher than the 61% who responded affirmatively in 1992. Middle-aged members from the Baby Boom generation are more likely to volunteer in the church, as are married persons.

Half of the respondents indicate that they have attended a training event related to their church activities in the last year. This is a significant increase over the percentage in 1999 which doubled the percentage in 1992. Members 44 to 75 years of age are more likely to give this response, as are men, and those who have been Adventists for more than 20 years.

Helped Someone Join the Church

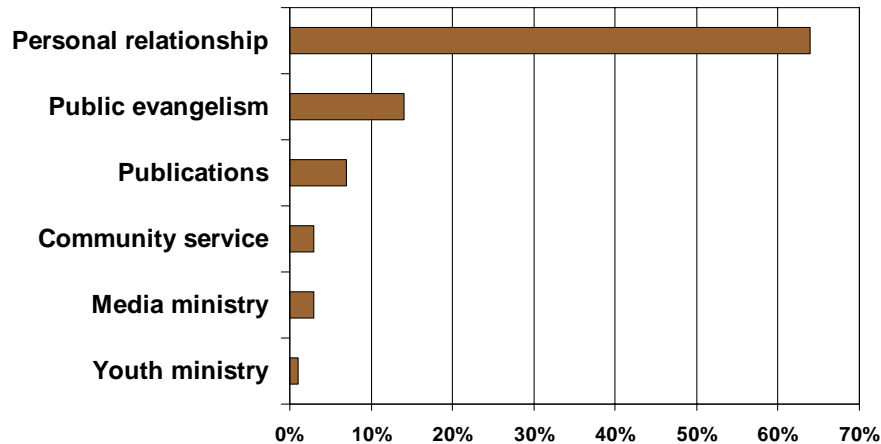


A total of 44 percent of the members said that they were not aware of anyone they knew personally who joined the Adventist Church in the last year. This was especially true for those under 45 years of age, those raised in Adventist homes and those who attend church less often.

Less than one in four (22 percent) reported that they were involved in the conversion of this person. These were more likely to be new Adventists baptized in the last five years, men and those who identify their ethnicity as Hispanic.

The percentage of Allegheny East church members who are involved in soul winning has declined significantly over the past decade. It should be noted that this is not necessarily a decline in activity intended to win souls, but a decline in the numbers who are effective in the recruitment of converts.

How did the convert first become aware of the Adventist Church?



Personal relationships (“friendship evangelism”) is by far and away the most important avenue through which new members come into the local churches in the Allegheny East Conference, accounting for nearly two-thirds of the converts. Organized programs and ministries are less important, including public evangelism, in making initial contacts. They may play an important role as the process unfolds. Most new members do not join the church immediately because of one contact or one relationship. Research has shown that the process of conversion is multi-modal. Public evangelism and appeals during the weekly worship services continue to be important in getting decisions.

There is considerable opportunity to increase the outreach effectiveness of ministries of evangelism, community service, youth ministry and various kind of media. At present it appears that these ministries are largely undeveloped and church growth is almost entirely dependent on the circle of relatives, friends, work associates, neighbors and acquaintances of church members.

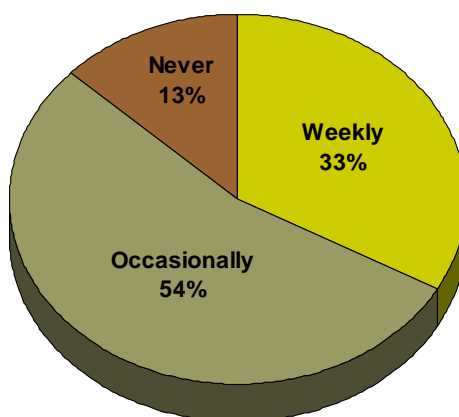
Church Involvement, continued

Two in five members say that they meet regularly with a small group for fellowship, prayer and/or Bible study. This is essentially the same percentage who were participating in small group ministries in 1999—nearly double the rate in 1992. Hispanics and other members who are not African American or Caribbean are more likely to be in a small group, as are those who were baptized in the last five years and older, retired members.

More than a third of the respondents (35 percent) that they have held Bible studies with a non-member during the past twelve months. This is significantly higher than the one in four who gave a similar response in 1992 and 1999. There is evidently an increase in involvement with personal evangelism among the members of Allegheny East Conference. Men and those with only a secondary education are more likely to be giving Bible studies.

Two in five members report that they have volunteered during the last month for Adventist Community Services, the Inner City Program or some humanitarian ministry associated with Metro Ministries. Those with Blue Collar jobs are more likely to do so, as are older members. This is about the same percentage as was reported in both the 1992 and 1999 surveys of Allegheny East Conference members.

Prayer Meeting Attendance

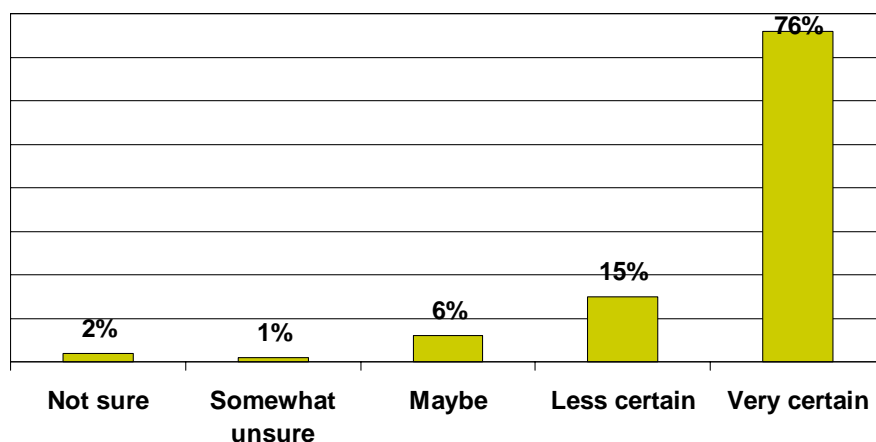


The majority of active members in the Allegheny East Conference (54 percent) are only occasional participants in the mid-week prayer meeting at their local church. Young adults, immigrants, and men are all more likely to be occasional attenders, as are those with graduate degrees and professional or managerial occupations.

A third of the respondents say they attend prayer meeting each week. These are more likely to be senior citizens, retired people, those with Blue Collar occupations and less than a secondary diploma. The same is true for those baptized in the last five years and those who identify their ethnicity as Hispanic.

Just 13 percent of active members indicate that they never attend prayer meeting. These are more likely to be young adults and people who attend church less often.

Assurance of Eternal Life

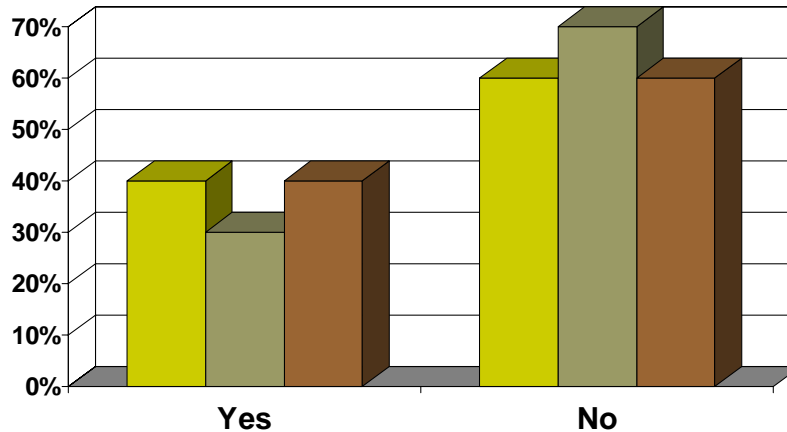


It is difficult to measure the spiritual life of church members through survey questions. One particular question has been developed over the past three decades with the Adventist denomination as a good indicator: "Circle the number that shows the assurance that you have of eternal life," with a five-point scale from 1 = Not sure to 5 = Very certain. This was originally validated by the Institute of Church Ministry at Andrews University.

Three out of four Allegheny East members selected a five, indicating they are "very certain" of eternal life through their relationship with Jesus Christ. Only young adults and teens are less likely to give this response, at half the rate of those over 32 years of age.

There is also a strong correlation between the degree of assurance expressed and how long a person has been a baptized member of the Adventist Church. Those who have been members for more than 20 years are more likely to be "very certain," while those who became members in the last 20 years are more likely to select a three or four on the five-point scale. Those who attend church less often are also more likely to express uncertainty on this question.

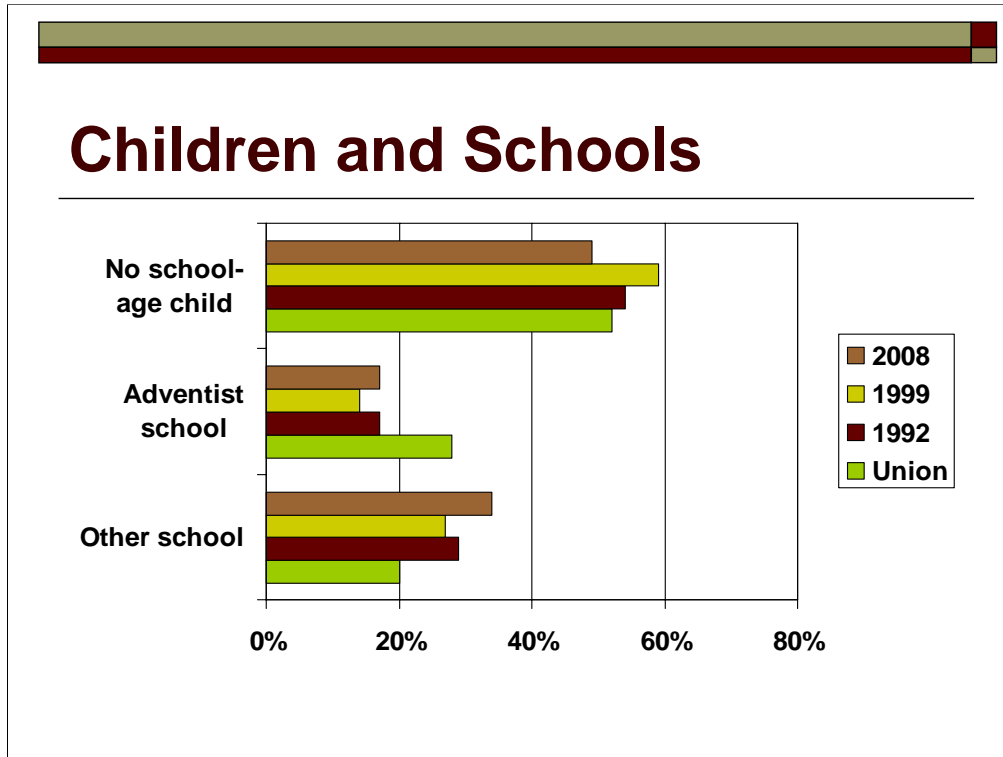
Did you ever attend an Adventist school?



Two in five active church members (40 percent) report that they attended an Adventist school at some point in their education. This question was inclusive of elementary, secondary and higher education. Those under 45 years of age are more likely to give this response, as are those with the most education and employed in professional and managerial occupations. There is also a very strong correlation with having grown up in an Adventist family.

The majority of church members have not attended an Adventist school, which may explain some of the difficulty in getting the support of church members for Christian education. These tend to be senior citizens, retired people, Blue Collar workers and those with only a secondary education or less.

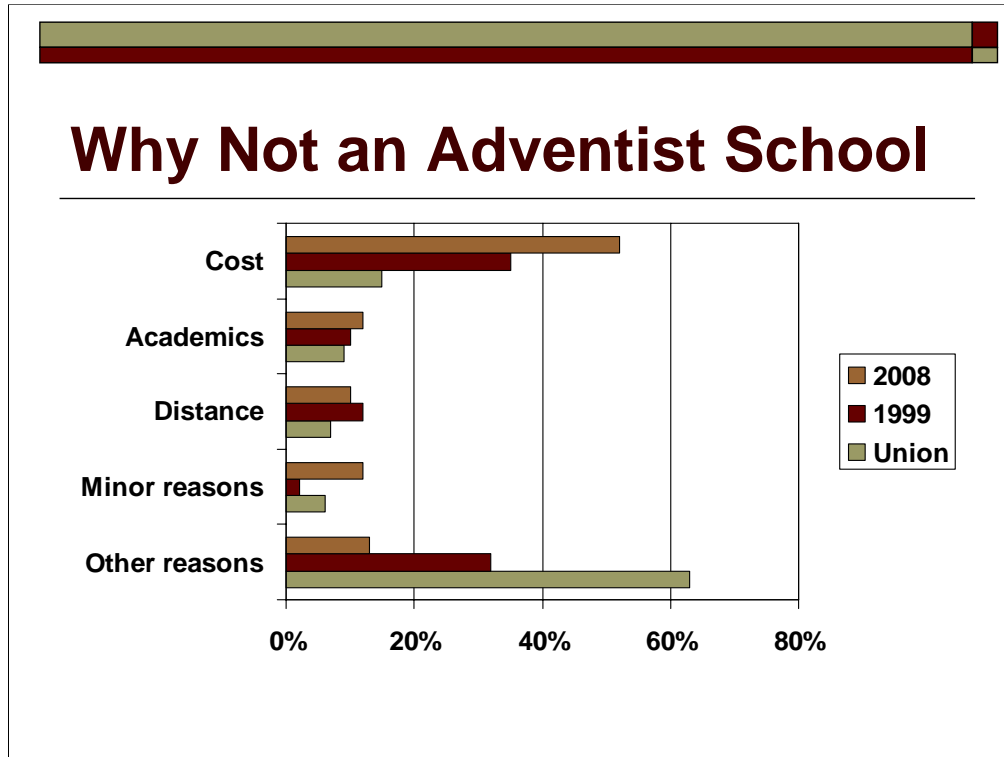
After a decline from 1992 to 1999, the percentage of Allegheny East members who have attended an Adventist school has returned to its original level. This is a significant change and one can only speculate as to the reasons for this change.



Half of the members in the Allegheny East Conference (49 percent) have no school-age children in their family. This portion of the membership increased from 1992 to 1999, but has declined in 2008, although the differences are not very significant. Senior citizens and young adults are more likely to be in this category, as are retired people, single adults and those baptized in the last five years.

A third of the members (34 percent) have their children enrolled in public schools or other private schools, but not in Adventist schools. This constitutes two thirds of the members with school age children—a proportion that has increased over the years. These are more likely to be young adults, Hispanics and members baptized more recently.

Just 17 percent of the members of Allegheny East Conference have a child enrolled in an Adventist school. That is a slight increase from 1999, but the same percentage as in 1992 and significantly less than the average across the Columbia Union Conference. These are more likely to be people with graduate degrees and employed in professional and managerial positions.



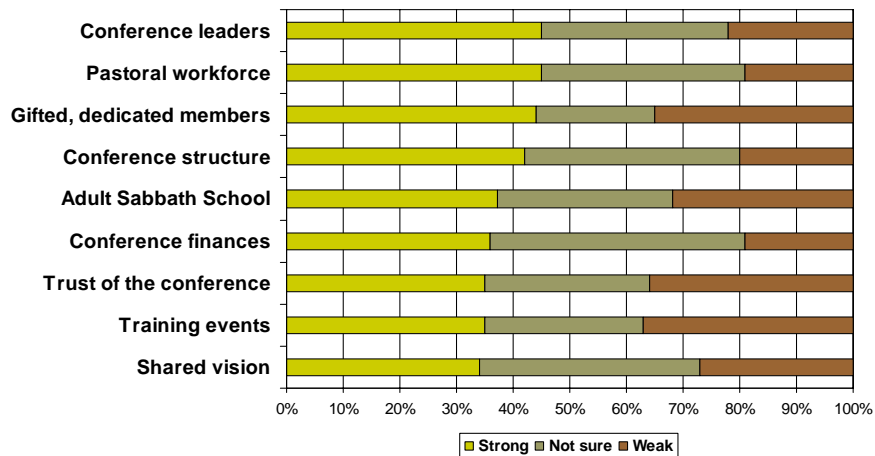
Those parents with school-age children that indicated that none of their children were enrolled in Adventist schools were asked to share the reasons. These hand-written comments were subjected to cluster analysis to prepare the data displayed above.

The cost of Adventist schools is the major reason, mentioned by the majority of these respondents (52 percent). This is a significantly larger number than a decade earlier.

Just one in eight of these parents (12 percent) said that the Adventist school available to their children had weak academic standards and this was the reason why they decided not to enroll their child. This is about the same as in the past.

One in ten of these parents wrote that the nearest Adventist school was simply too far from their home to be a feasible arrangement for their children. Again, this is about the same as in the past.

Evaluation: Strengths



There is general agreement that the greatest strengths of Allegheny East Conference are in its people. Respondents were asked to evaluate 20 aspects of the conference on a five-point scale, from “very strong” to “needs improvement.” The two items that received the highest percentage of “very strong” and “somewhat strong” responses (combined) are the leadership of conference administration and the team of pastors in the conference. In each case, 45 percent of the members rated these clergy leaders as strong and only about one in five rated them as weak. Senior citizens are more likely to rate the conference leadership as strong, as are members who have been Adventists for more than 20 years, retired individuals, native-born African Americans, men, married people and those in White Collar occupations. Younger adults under 44 years of age are more likely to rate the pastoral workforce as strong, as are those who have been members for less than 20 years, those who attend church less often, and those who are full-time students or homemakers.

Almost as many respondents (44 percent) rate the membership in Allegheny East as strong—“gifted, dedicated and active church members”—although another 35 percent rate the members as generally weak. The oldest and youngest respondents—those over 75 and those under 32—are more likely to rate the members as strong, as are those with a college degree and those baptized in the last 10 years.

Evaluation: Strengths, continued

Two in five members (42 percent) rate the organizational structure of the conference as strong, while less than half that many (20 percent) say it is weak. Members over 62 years of age are more likely to think the structure is strong, as are those with college degrees, those who have been baptized members for more than 20 years and those who identify their ethnicity as African-American or Hispanic.

Almost the same number of members (41 percent) rate the adult Sabbath Schools throughout the conference as strong and more than a third (35 percent) believe Sabbath School is weak. Those with college degrees are more likely to think the adult Sabbath School is strong, as are those in Generation X, those who have been baptized members for less than ten years, and those who have Blue Collar jobs.

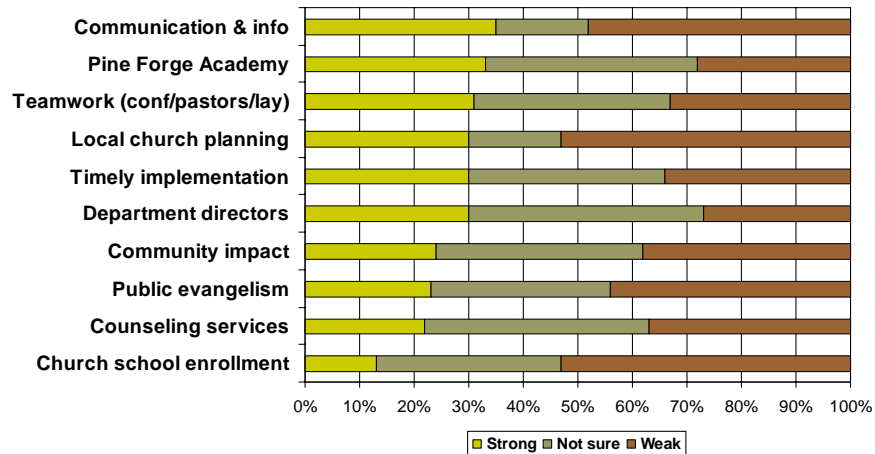
A little more than a third of respondents (36 percent) rate conference finances as strong and one in five (19 percent) see them as weak. Senior citizens are more likely to think that conference finances are strong, as are those who have been baptized members for more than 20 years, those with graduate degrees, those in professional and managerial occupations, and those who identify their ethnicity as native-born African Americans.

Some 35 percent of respondents say that the level of trust toward the conference on the part of members is strong, while 36 percent say it is weak. Those over 62 years of age are more likely to see a strong level of trust. Those under 44 years of age are more likely to say that trust is weak, and the same is true of immigrants and those who identify their ethnicity as Caribbean, Hispanic or other than African American. Clearly this is an area where there is considerable diversity of attitude.

Another 35 percent of members indicate that the training events provided by the conference are strong, while 37 percent rate these events as weak. Hispanics and members with Blue Collar occupations are more likely to see the training events as strong. Those in professional and managerial occupations are more likely to rate the training events as weak.

A third of the members (34 percent) report that “a shared vision for the conference” is strong; a quarter (27 percent) indicate that this is a weak area. Members over 62 years of age and those with a college degree are more likely to say “shared vision” is strong, while those with graduate degrees and employed in professional and managerial positions are more likely to say “shared vision” is weak.

Evaluation: Weaknesses



The areas of greatest weakness in the Allegheny East Conference include strategic planning in the local churches, enrollment in church schools and communication and sharing of information. A number of other areas have very mixed views among the members.

Nearly half of the respondents (48 percent) evaluate communication and sharing of information as weak, while only 35 percent say it is strong. This is clearly an area that needs to be improved in the Allegheny East Conference. Members over 75 years of age and those who were recently baptized are more likely to say this area is strong, while middle-aged members in the Baby Boom generation and those with professional and managerial occupations are more likely to see it as weak.

Feelings about Pine Forge Academy (PFA) are mixed. A third of the respondents rate it as strong, almost a third (28 percent) rate it as weak and another third (39 percent) are not sure whether it is strong or weak. Senior citizens are more likely to think that PFA is strong, while those 32 to 62 years of age (Baby Boomers and Gen X) are more likely to see it as weak.

Evaluation: Weaknesses, continued

Teamwork among the conference, pastors and lay leaders is rated as strong by 31 percent of the respondents, while 33 percent rate it as weak. The oldest and youngest members—those over 75 years of age and those under 32—are more likely to rate this area as strong, as are single adults, those who attend church less often, those who were baptized in the last five years, those in Blue Collar occupations and those who are unemployed. Those with graduate degrees and in professional and managerial occupations are more likely to rate it as weak.

The majority of members (53 percent) rate strategic planning by the local churches as weak, while only 30 percent say it is strong. Members in Generation X, now in their 30s and early 40s, are more likely to rate it as strong. Members over 44 years of age are more likely to say it is weak, as are men, immigrants and those who identify their ethnicity as Caribbean, Hispanic and not African American.

More than a third of respondents (34 percent) say that “good, timely implementation of programs and goals” is one of the weak areas of Allegheny East Conference, while 30 percent feel that it is strong. Those who do not have a secondary education are more likely to rate this area as strong, as are single adults, those in Blue Collar occupations and those baptized in the last five years.

Only 30 percent of members think that the departmental directors based at the conference office are strong and 27 percent think they are weak, which leaves the largest number (43 percent) unsure about this element of the conference. Senior citizens and retired people are more likely to think the departmental directors are strong, while middle-aged Baby Boomers are more likely to see them as weak, as are people with professional and managerial occupations and those with graduate degrees.

More than a third of members (38 percent) say that the impact in the community of Adventist Community Services and Metro Ministries is weak, while only a quarter (24 percent) see it as strong. Adults 32 through 62 years of age—Baby Boomers and Gen X—are more likely to rate community impact as weak, as are those in White Collar occupations, immigrants and those who identify their ethnicity as Hispanic or Caribbean.

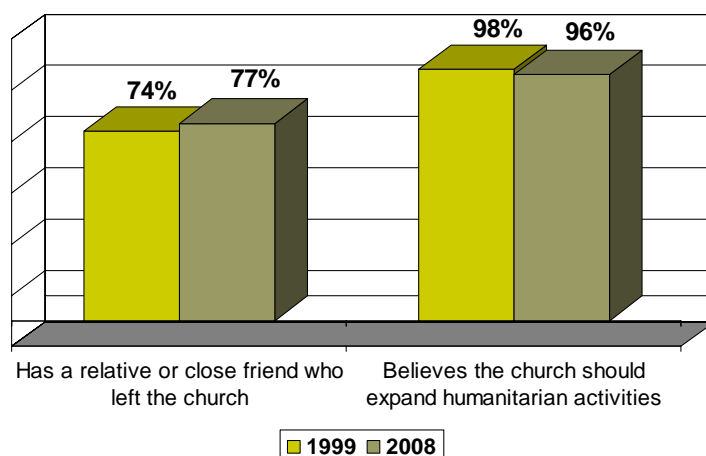
Evaluation: Weaknesses, continued

The evaluation of public evangelism is even more negative than the impact of community ministries: 44 percent of members think that the type and effectiveness of public evangelism conducted in the Allegheny East Conference is weak, while nearly half that number (23 percent) think it is strong. Adults 32 through 62 years of age—Baby Boomers and Gen X—are more likely to say public evangelism is weak, as are those with graduate degrees, those in professional and managerial occupations, and those who have been baptized members for more than 20 years. Those more likely to think public evangelism is strong include senior citizens, retired people, the unemployed and those baptized five to ten years ago.

More than a third (37 percent) of church members rate family counseling services as a weak area of the Allegheny Conference; just 22 percent think it is a strong program. Those who are more likely to see this as a weakness in the conference include members in their 30s, those with graduate degrees and those who are married. Strong ratings are more likely from Hispanics, those in Blue Collar jobs, those baptized in the last five years, and those with less than a secondary education.

The general consensus of church members is that the weakest area of activity in the Allegheny East Conference is the number of Adventist children enrolled in church schools. The majority (53 percent) rate it as weak, especially church members in their 30s and 40s, those with graduate degrees, those in professional, managerial and White Collar occupations and those who indicate their ethnicity is Hispanic. Just 13 percent of church members see church school enrollment as strong. Young adults and teens are more likely to see church school enrollment as strong, as are those baptized in the last ten years and those who have not completed a secondary diploma.

Major Concerns of the Laity

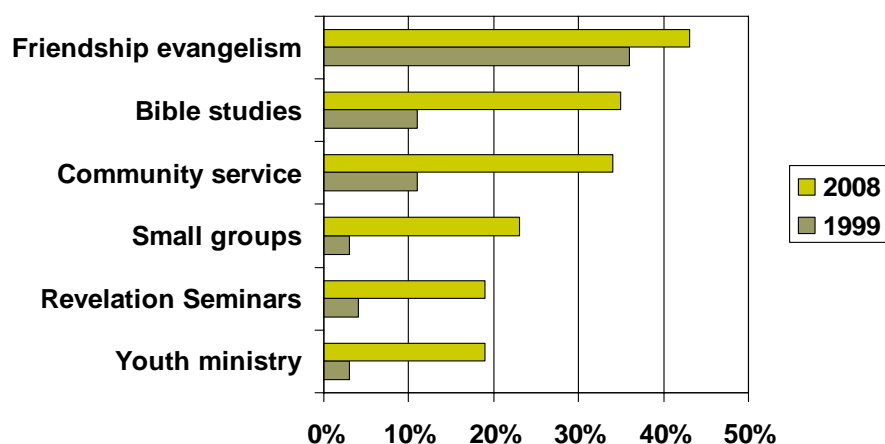


Over the last decade, two major concerns have remained strong among the members of the Allegheny East Conference. The differences between 1999 and 2008 are not statistically significant, which clearly shows the strength of these views.

Nearly all of the active members (96 percent) think that the conference should expand its programs designed to meet the needs of the homeless, the poor in the inner city and the unemployed. Why the clergy do not lead more vigorously in these humanitarian ministries and why the conference does not significantly increase its activity in these areas continues to be concern which the largest number of members agree on. The support is so widespread that there is no statistical variance between demographic segments.

More than three out of four members (77 percent) report that they have a relative or close friend who used to be an active member of the Adventist Church, but has dropped out of the church. There is a virtually unanimous wish that more specific efforts be initiated in each congregation to reconnect with these inactive and former Adventists. Older members and those who have been members for more than 20 years are more likely to be personally involved, as are those who grew up in an Adventist family, those with a college degree and those employed in professional and managerial positions.

Most Effective Methods



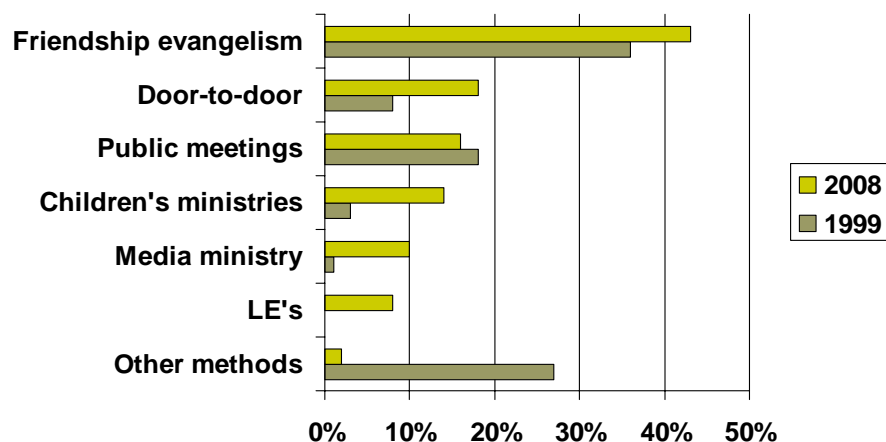
The single most effective way to gain new members is personal relationships. Some 43 percent mentioned this method and those with professional and managerial positions are even more likely to do so, as are those with graduate degrees and Hispanics.

More than a third of members mentioned Bible studies with individuals and families (35 percent) and community service (34 percent) as among the most effective methods. These responses have tripled over the last decade. Blue collar workers and new converts baptized in the last five years are more likely to mention community service.

Nearly a quarter of respondents (23 percent) indicated that small group Bible studies is one of the most effective methods of evangelism. This is nearly six times the number who mentioned it in 1999. New members baptized in the last five years are even more likely to agree.

One in five members listed Revelation Seminars and similar Bible seminars and youth ministries (19 percent each) as most effective methods. In both cases this is a large increase over the past decade. Members under 45 years of age are more likely to list youth ministries.

Most Effective Methods ... 2



About one in six members (18 percent) listed “going door to door” as a most effective method, about twice as many as in 1999. Hispanics are even more likely to select this item, as those who have not completed a secondary diploma and those who are unemployed.

Only 16 percent of the respondents mentioned public evangelism as an effective way to get new members. This is a smaller number than ten years ago, yet members in their 30s are more likely to select this item.

One in seven members (14 percent) report that children’s ministries are among the most effective methods, four times the percentage in 1999. Young adults are more likely to mention this item, as are those with professional and managerial occupations.

One in ten listed radio or television ministry and eight percent mentioned Literature Evangelists. Although these are significant increases from a decade earlier, they are the least effective methods on the list. Senior citizens are more likely to favor these methods as are some young adults.

Bibliography

Harold Lee and Monte Sahlin, *Portrait of a Regional Conference: A Survey of the Allegheny East Conference* (1992, Center for Metropolitan Ministry, Columbia Union College, Takoma Park)

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Monte Sahlin, *Adventist Congregations Today* (2003, Center for Creative Ministry, Lincoln)

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Allegheny East Conference Survey of Church Members

Church leaders need your honest opinions. Please do not sign your name.

1. I am a member of the Seventh-day Adventist Church: ☐ Yes ☐ No
2. I was raised as a child by an Adventist parent or parents: ☐ Yes ☐ No
3. ***If you are a member***, how long since you were baptized?
☐ Less than 5 years ☐ 5 to 10 years ☐ 11 to 20 years ☐ More than 20 years
4. In the last four Sabbaths, how many times have you attended an Adventist church? _____
5. Do you hold a church office or responsibility in your local church? ☐ Yes ☐ No
6. In the last year, have you attended a training event related to church activities? ☐ Yes ☐ No
7. Have you volunteered time during the last month for Adventist Community Services or the Inner City program? ☐ Yes ☐ No
8. Circle the number that shows the assurance that you have of eternal life:
 Not Sure 1 2 3 4 5 Very Certain
9. Have you held Bible studies with a non-member during the past twelve months? ☐ Yes ☐ No

For each of the following items in the Allegheny East Conference, check the box that shows your evaluation:

	Needs improvement	Somewhat weak	Not sure	Somewhat strong	Very strong
10. Strategic planning by the local church					
11. Departmental Directors at the Conference Office					
12. A shared vision for the conference					
13. The leadership of conference administration					
14. The level of trust on the part of church members toward the conference					
15. Conference finances					
16. The number of Adventist children enrolled in church schools					
17. A good number of gifted, dedicated and active church members					
18. Communication and sharing of information in the Adventist Church					
19. Training seminars and similar events provided by the conference					

For each of the following items in the Allegheny East Conference, check the box that shows your evaluation:

	Needs improvement	Somewhat weak	Not sure	Somewhat strong	Very strong
20. Pine Forge Academy					
21. The type and effectiveness of public evangelism					
22. The adult Sabbath School					
23. The team of pastors in the conference					
24. Good, timely implementation of programs and goals					
25. Teamwork between the conference, pastors and lay leaders					
26. The length of worship on Sabbath					
27. The organizational structure of the conference					
28. Family counseling services					
29. The impact in the community of Adventist Community Services and Metro Ministries					

30. Do you usually meet regularly with a small Bible study or fellowship group? ☐ Yes ☐ No

31. Do you regularly attend a Sabbath School class? ☐ Yes ☐ No

32. How often do you attend mid-week prayer meeting? ☐ Weekly ☐ Once in a while ☐ Never

33. Do you know someone personally who joined the Adventist Church in the last year? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If your answer to Question 33 is "No," please skip to Question 36.

34. Were you personally involved in the process of their conversion? ☐ Yes ☐ No

35. How did this person first become aware of the Adventist Church?

36. As a child or young person, did you ever attend an Adventist school? ☐ Yes ☐ No

37. Do you have a relative or a friend who used to be an active member of the Adventist Church, but has dropped out of the church?

☐ Yes ☐ No

38. Do you think the Adventist Church should expand its programs to meet the needs of the homeless, the poor in the inner city and the unemployed?

☐ Yes ☐ No

39. Do you currently have children living in your home or away at boarding school? ☐ Yes ☐ No

40. Are any of them enrolled in an Adventist school? ☐ Yes ☐ No

41. ***If not,*** Why?

In your local church, what have you observed to be the most effective method for bringing in new members?
Check no more than 2 items from the list below.

- ☐ Contact with an Adventist relative, neighbor, co-worker or acquaintance [42]
- ☐ Going door to door [43]
- ☐ Bible studies with individuals and families [44]
- ☐ Small group Bible studies [45]
- ☐ Revelation Seminar or similar seminar [46]
- ☐ Public evangelism [47]
- ☐ Radio or TV ministry [48]
- ☐ Bible correspondence school [49]
- ☐ Literature Evangelist (selling books) [50]
- ☐ Community service; meeting the needs of people [51]
- ☐ Youth ministries [52]
- ☐ Children's ministries [53]
- ☐ Other: _____

Please answer these demographic questions so we can classify the data from this survey:

55-56. In what year were you born? _____ 57. What is your gender? ☐ Male ☐ Female

58. What is your marital status?

- ☐ Married
- ☐ Single, never married
- ☐ Single, widowed
- ☐ Single, divorced
- ☐ Separated

59-60. What year was your spouse born? _____

61. Is your spouse an Adventist Church member?
☐ Yes ☐ No

62. What is the highest level of education that you have completed?

- ☐ Less than secondary diploma
- ☐ Secondary diploma
- ☐ College
- ☐ Graduate degree

63. What is your occupation?

64. Were you born a citizen of the United States? ☐ Yes ☐ No

65. Which of the following list best describes your ethnic background?

- | | | |
|--|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Asian or Pacific Islander | <input type="checkbox"/> Hispanic | <input type="checkbox"/> Other |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Black, African American | <input type="checkbox"/> White | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Black, Caribbean | <input type="checkbox"/> Multiethnic | |

Thank you for taking the time to answer these questions!

Technical Appendix

In interpreting survey results, it should be borne in mind that all sample surveys are subject to sampling error. That is the extent to which the results may differ from what would be obtained if the whole population had been interviewed or completed a questionnaire. The size of such sampling errors depends on the actual number of interviews or questionnaires, *not* the number of responses as a percentage of the population.

The following tables may be used in estimating the sampling error of any percentage in this report. The computed allowances have taken into account the effect of the sample design upon sampling error. They may be interpreted as indicating the range (plus or minus the figure shown) within which the results of repeated samplings in the same time period could be expected to vary, 95 percent of the time, assuming the same sampling procedures, the same interviewers and/or the same questionnaire.

Table A shows how much allowance should be made for the sampling error of any percentage reported. This table would be used in the following manner: If a reported percentage is 33 for a group that includes 1,250 respondents ... then, go to the row that says "percentages near 30" in the table and go across to the column headed "1,250." The number at this point is 3, which means that the 33 percent obtained in the sample is subject to a sampling error of plus or minus 3 points. This means that very probably (95 chances out of 100) the actual figure would be somewhere between 30 percent and 36 percent, with the most likely figure the 33 percent obtained in the survey.

In comparing survey results in two sub-samples, for example, men and women, the question arises as to how large a difference between them must be before one can be reasonably sure that it reflects a real difference. Table B and Table C indicate the number of points which must be allowed for in such comparisons to make them "statistically significant." Table C is for percentages near 20 or 80. Table B is for percentages near 50. For percentages in between, the factor to be allowed for is between those shown on the two tables.

Here is how these tables are used: If 50% of men respond a certain way and 40% of women respond that way also, for a difference of 10 percentage points between them, can we say that the 10 point difference reflects a real difference between the two groups on that question? Let's say the sample contains about 750 of each gender.

Since the percentages are near 50, consult Table B. Since the total sample is 1,500, look for the number in the column headed "1,500." Since the two sub-samples are 750 persons each, look for the row designated "750." Where the row and column intersect, you will find the number 6. This means that the difference between the two groups must be greater than 6 percentage points to be "statistically significant." In other words, we can conclude with considerable confidence that a real difference exists in the answers of men and women to this question.

Table A
Recommended Allowance for Sampling Error

Size of Sample	1,500	1,250	1,000	750	500	250	100
Percentages near 10	2	2	2	3	3	5	7
Percentages near 20	3	3	3	4	4	6	10
Percentages near 30	3	3	4	4	5	7	11
Percentages near 40	3	3	4	4	5	8	12
Percentages near 50	3	3	4	4	5	8	12
Percentages near 60	3	3	4	4	5	8	12
Percentages near 70	3	3	4	4	5	7	11
Percentages near 80	3	3	3	4	4	6	10
Percentages near 90	2	2	2	3	3	5	7

Table B
Recommended Allowance for Sampling Error of the Difference
In Percentage Points for Percentages near 50

Size of Sample	1,500	1,250	1,000	750	500	250	100
1,500	4						
1,250	5	5					
1,000	5	5	5				
750	6	6	6	6			
500	6	6	7	7	8		
250	8	8	9	9	9	11	
100	13	13	13	13	13	14	17

Table C
Recommended Allowance for Sampling Error of the Difference
In Percentage Points
For Percentages near 20 or Percentages near 80

Size of Sample	1,500	1,250	1,000	750	500	250	100
1,500	4						
1,250	4	4					
1,000	4	4	4				
750	4	4	5	5			
500	5	5	5	6	6		
250	7	7	7	7	8	9	
100	10	10	10	10	11	12	14