

# Attitudes toward Church Planting

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Columbia Union  
Departmental  
Council

April 27, 2005

# Source of Data – Part A

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- Random sample of 1,312 Columbia Union church members completed questionnaires on Sabbath mornings in 2003. At the 95<sup>th</sup> percentile of reliability, the allowance for sampling error is three percentage points (plus or minus).

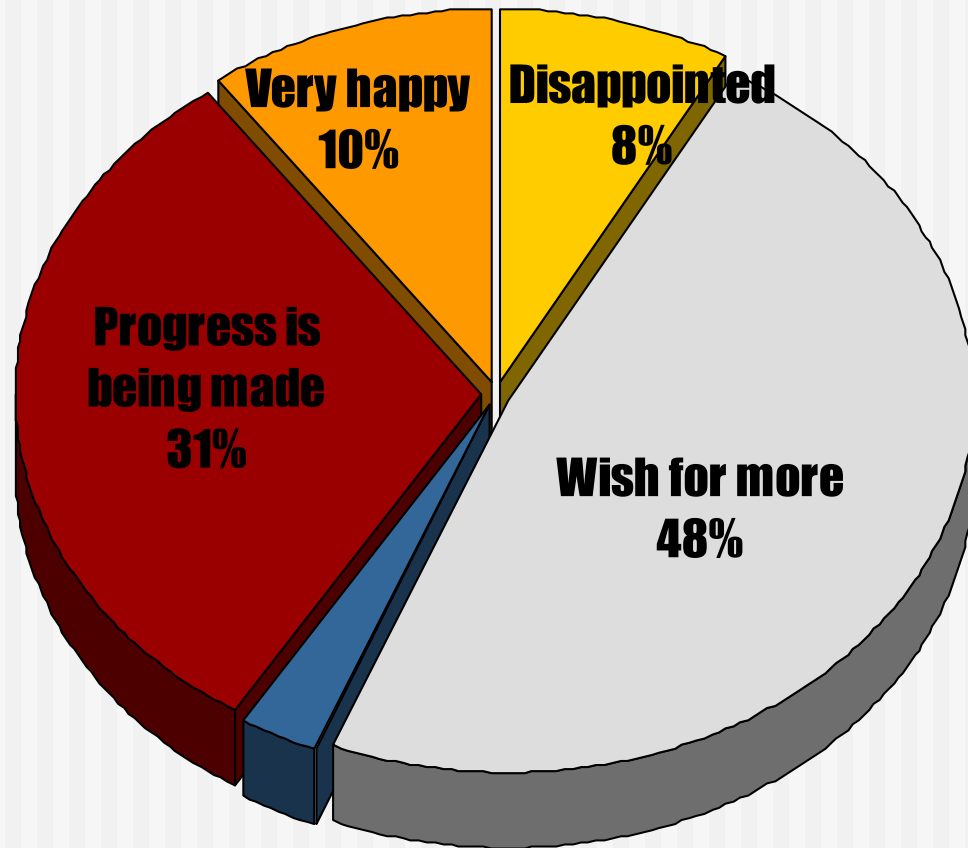
# Source of Data – Part B

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- The Center for Creative Ministry conducted telephone interviews with a random sample of 200 pastors across the NAD in October and November, 2004. The interviewers were not Church employees or the spouses of conference officers or staff. At the 95<sup>th</sup> percentile of reliability, the allowance for sampling error is seven percentage points (plus or minus).

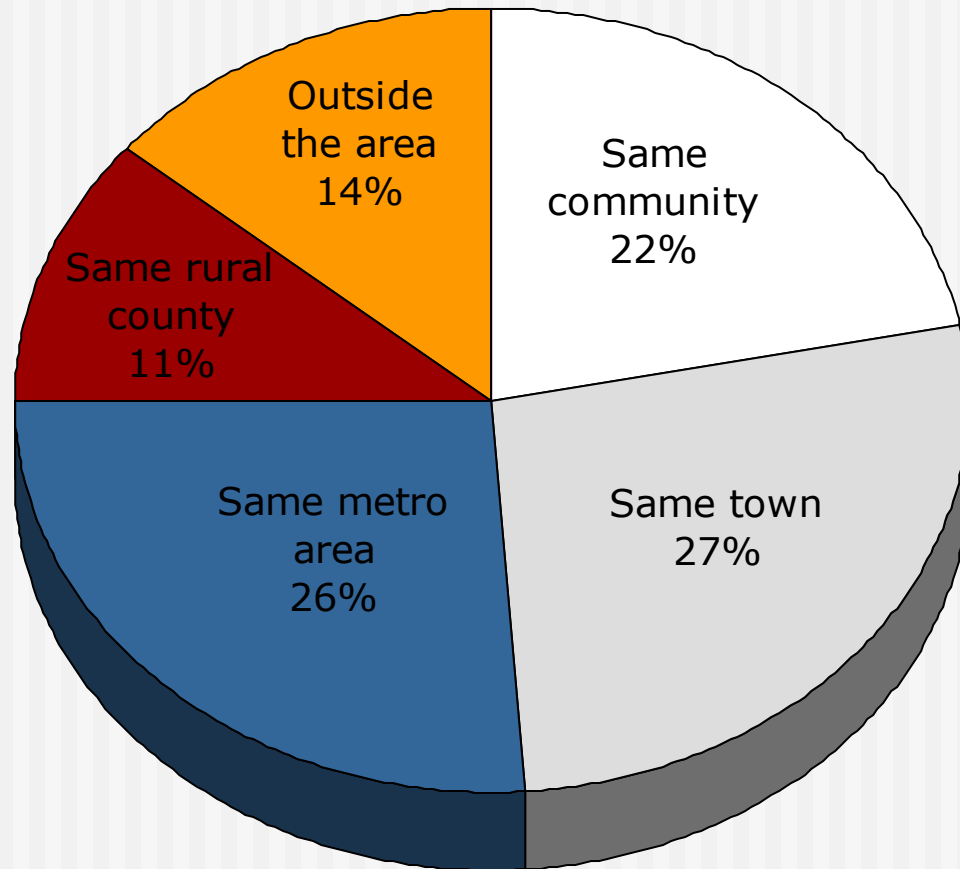
# Member opinion about growth in my local church

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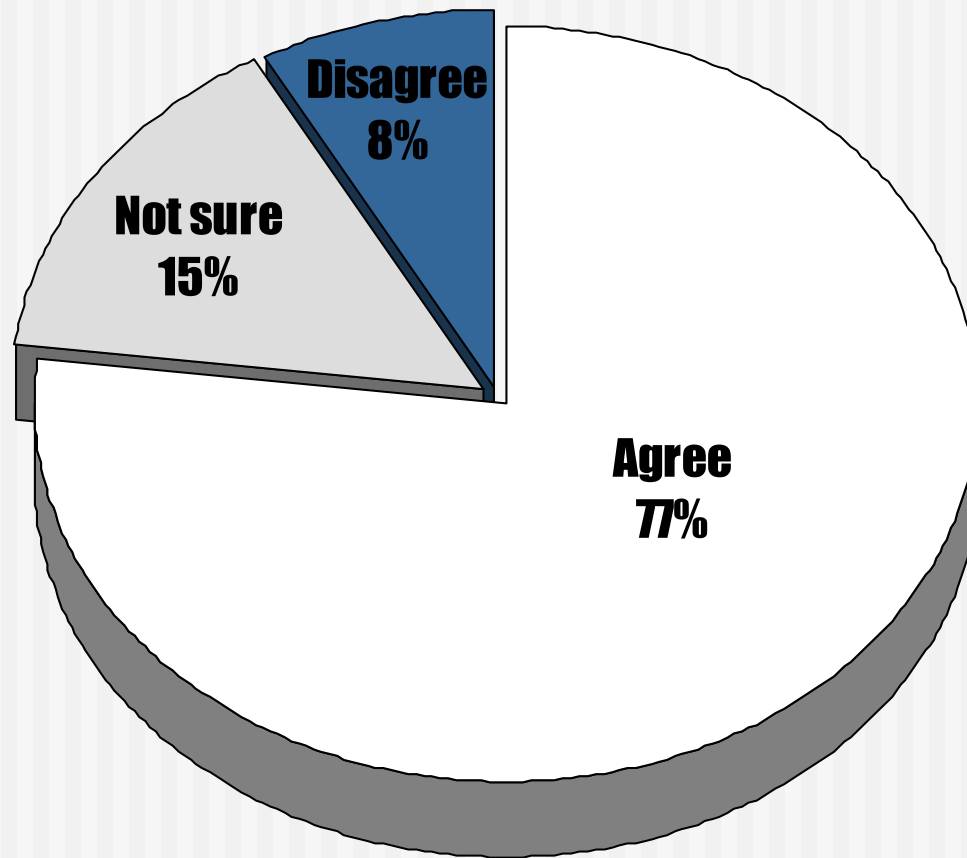
# Where members live relative to their church ...

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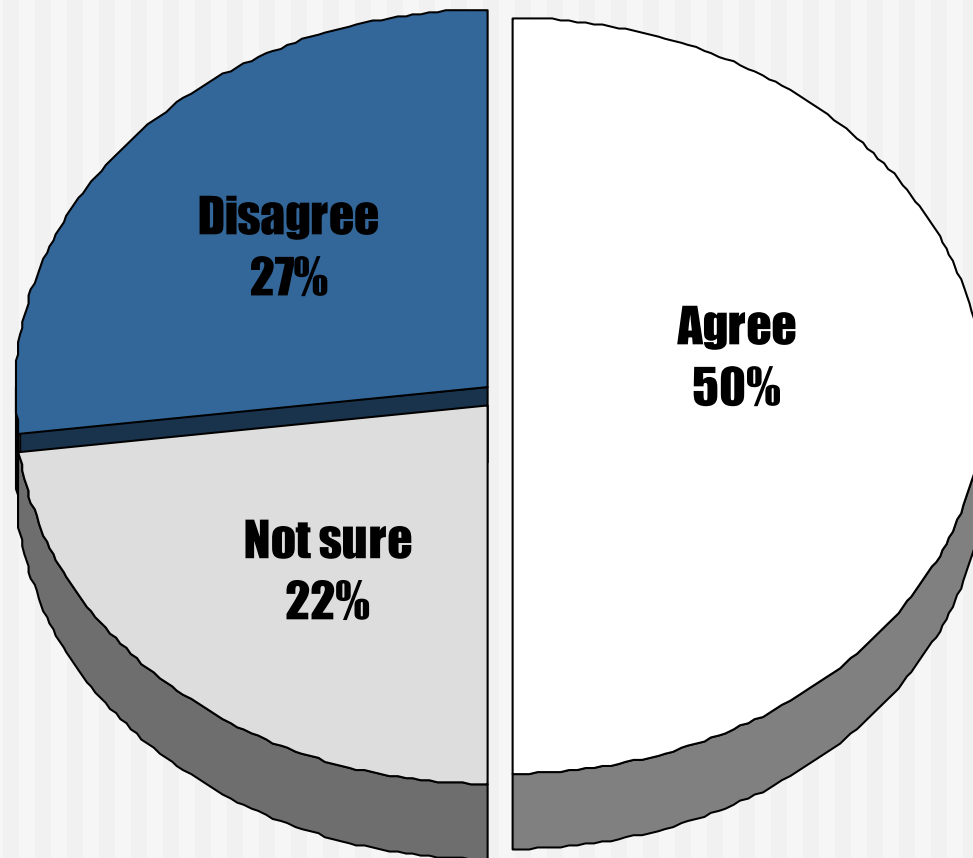
# It is important to start new congregations

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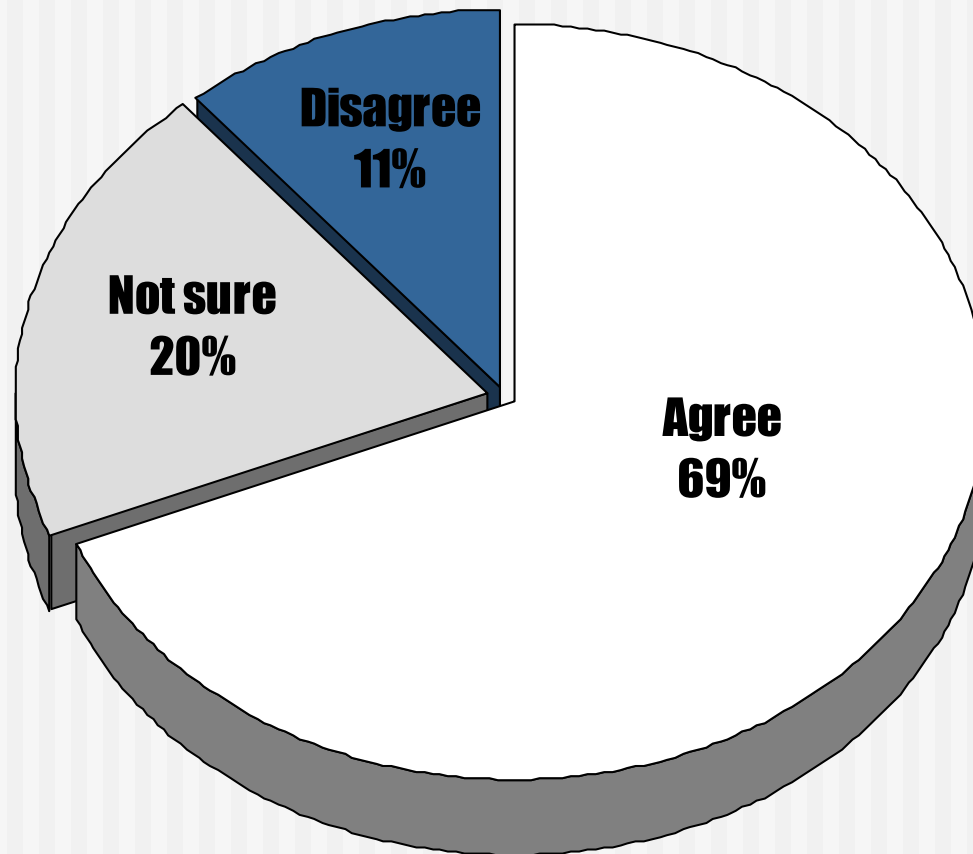
# Reaching unreached communities is more important than church growth

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# Willing for my local church to sponsor a church plant

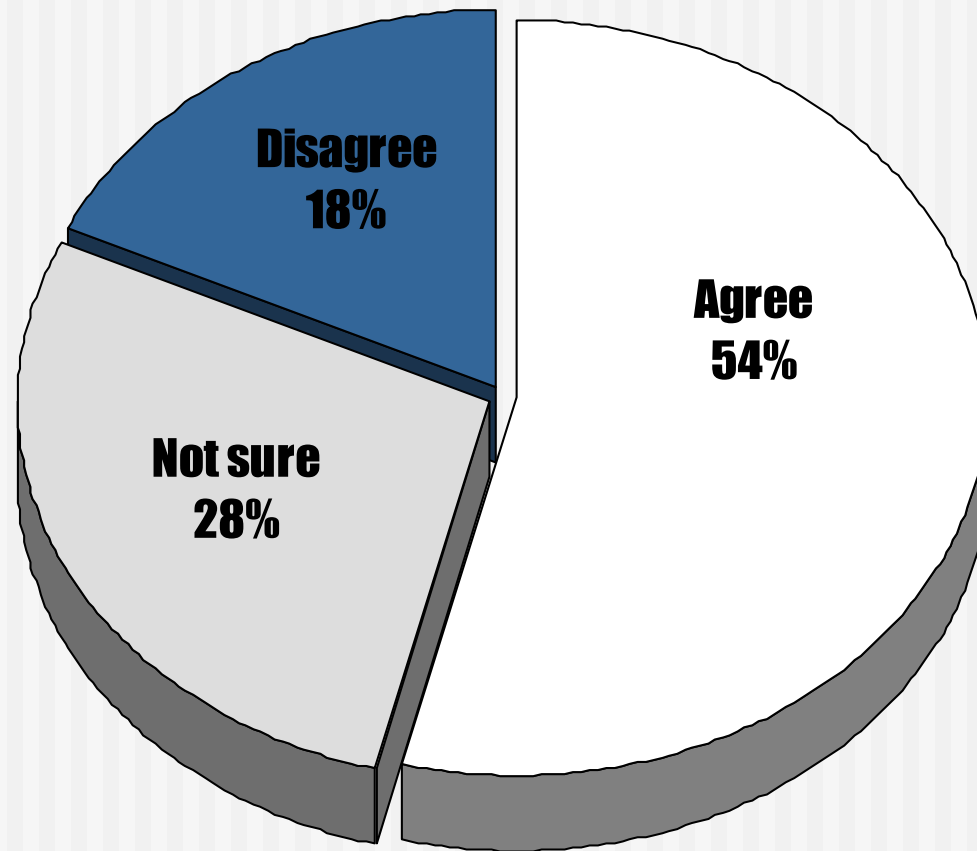
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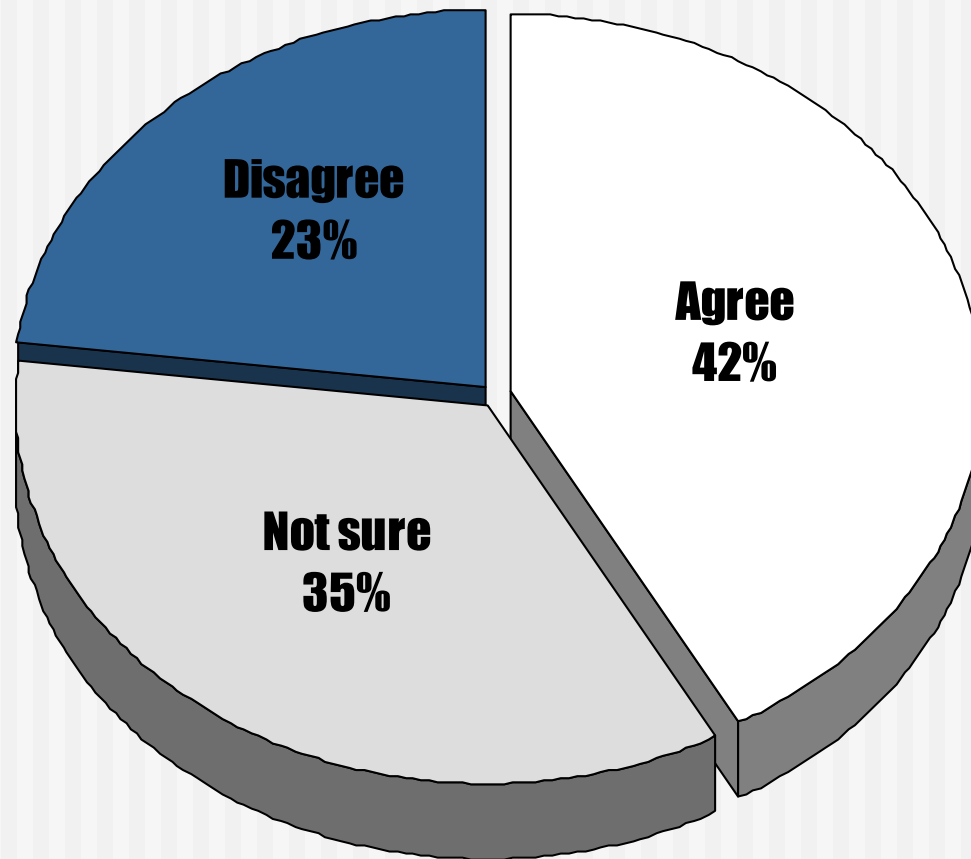
# Willing for 2 or 3 key people to leave my church for a new plant

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# I am personally willing to join core group for a church plant

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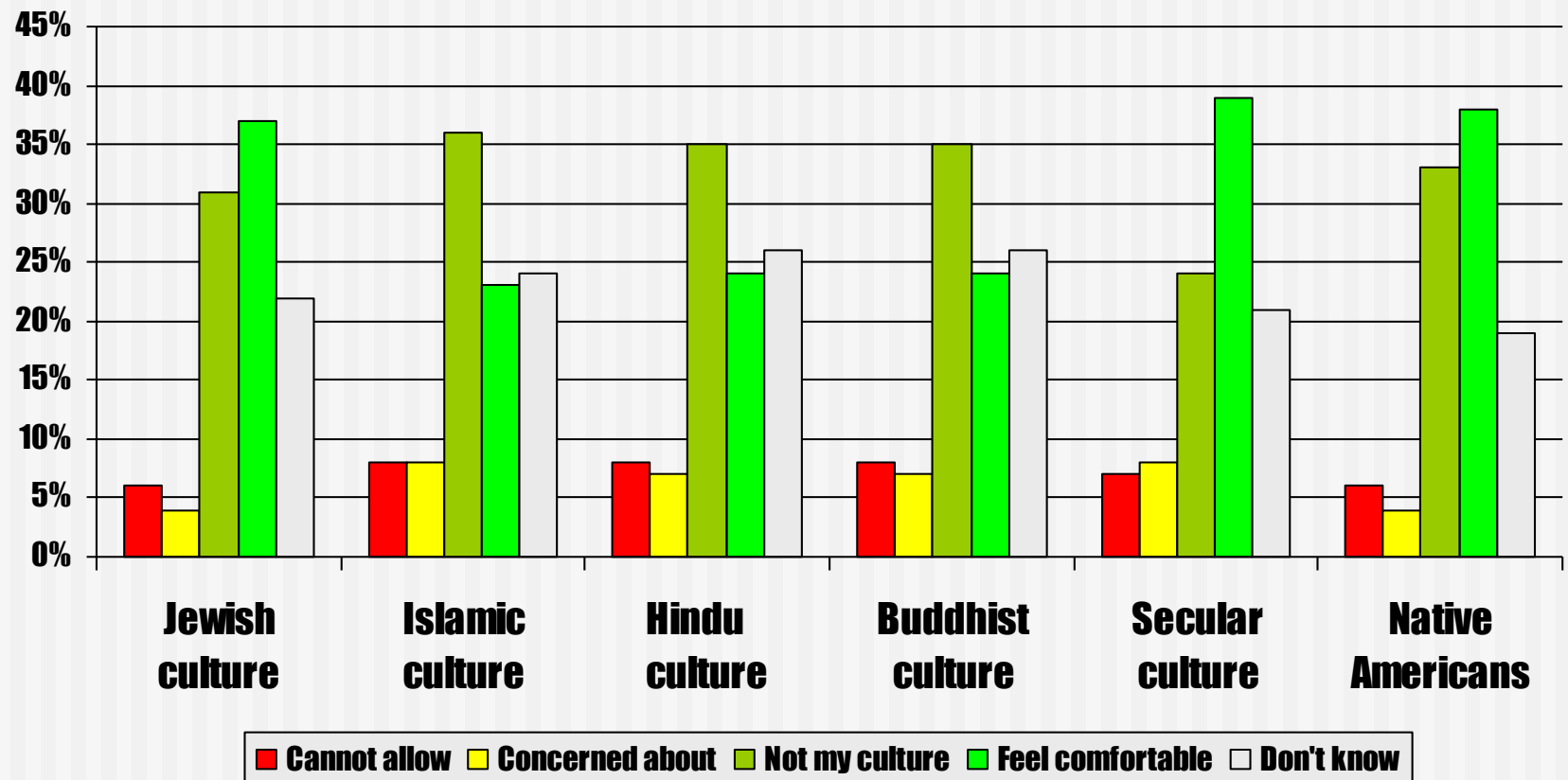


# How much might you personally be willing to give for church planting?

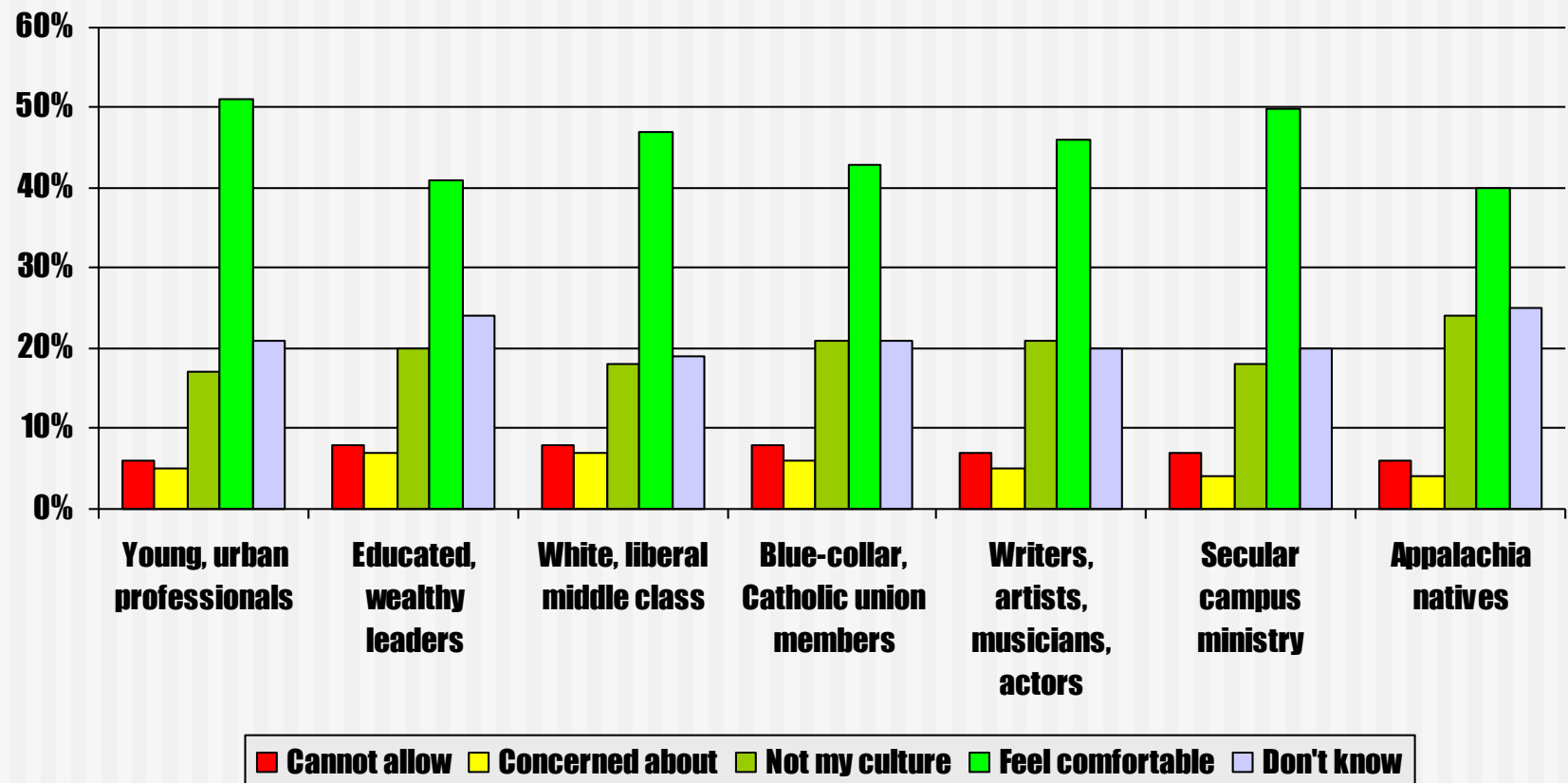
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# Feelings toward congregations focused on ...

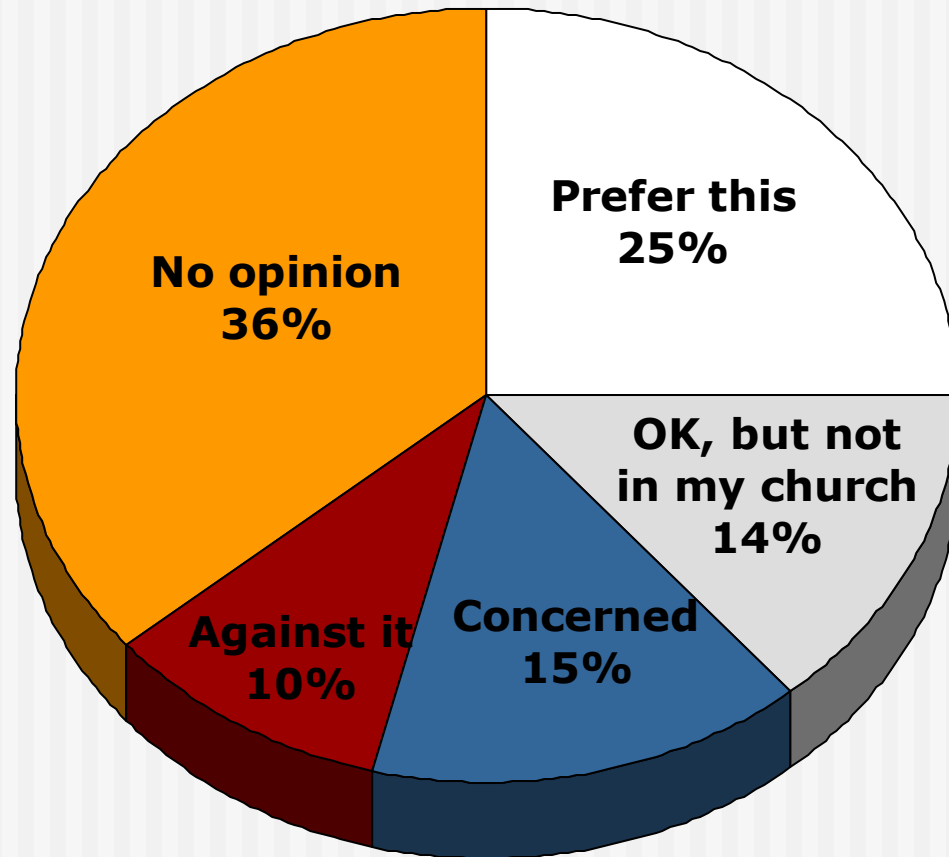


# Feelings toward congregations focused on ...



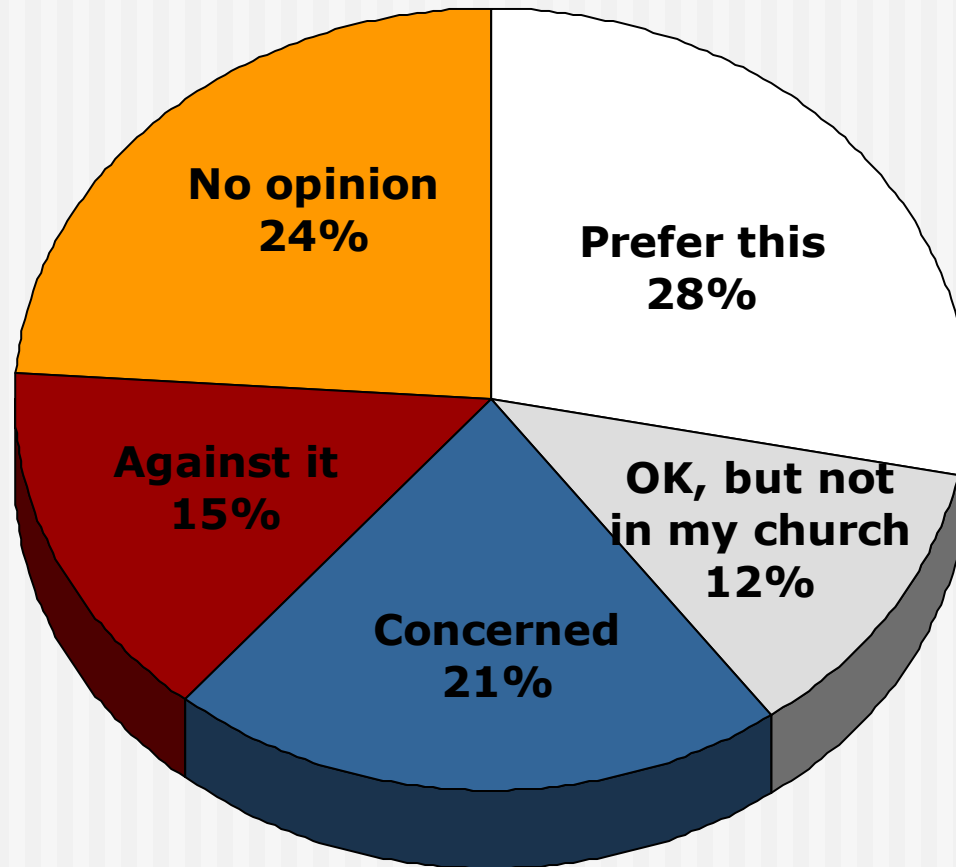
# What if offerings are received by some method other than passing the plate?

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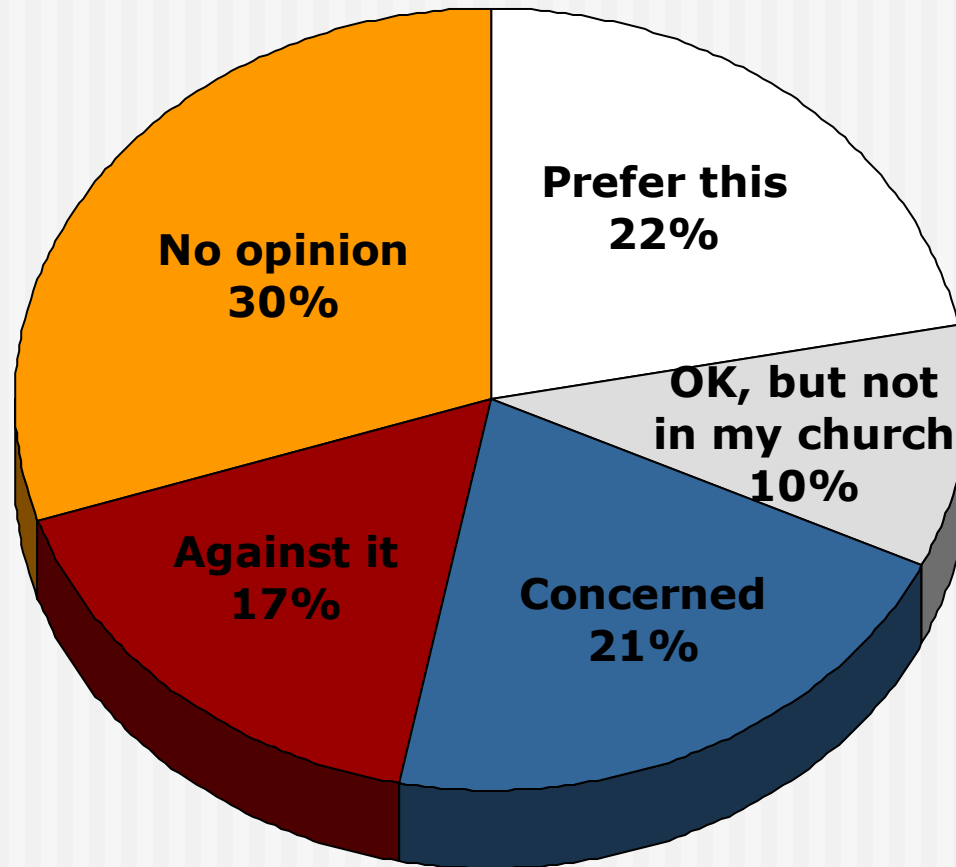
# What if people are encouraged to come to church in casual dress?

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# What if traditional Adventist terminology is not used?

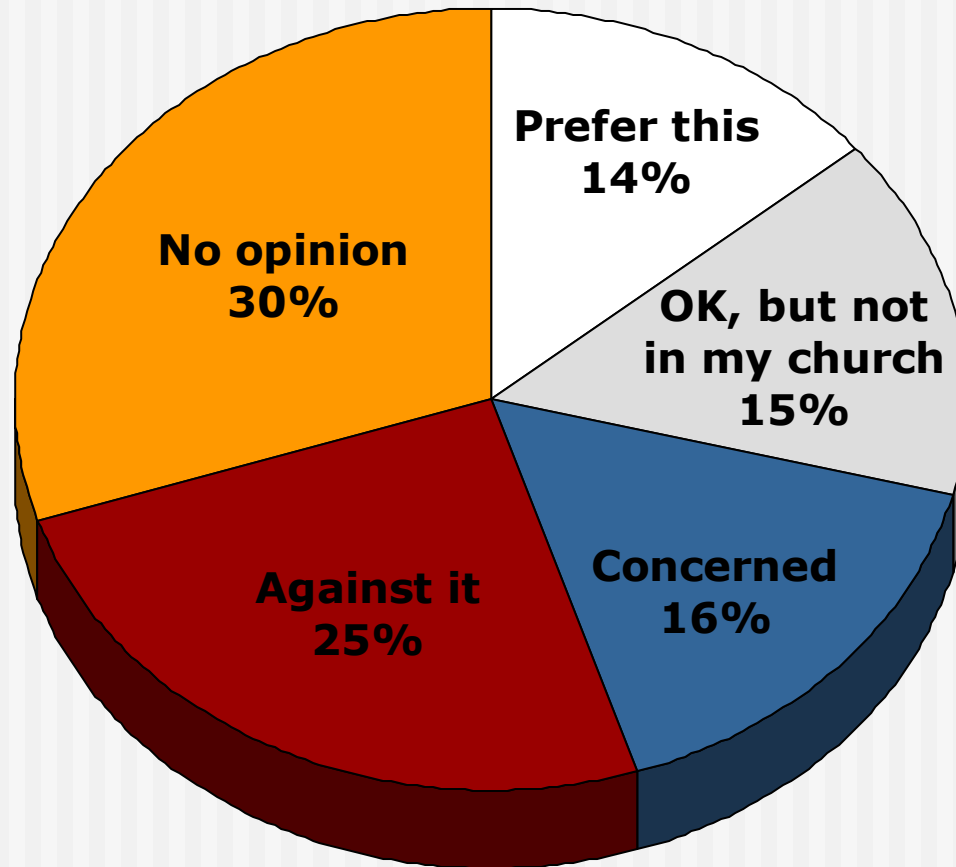
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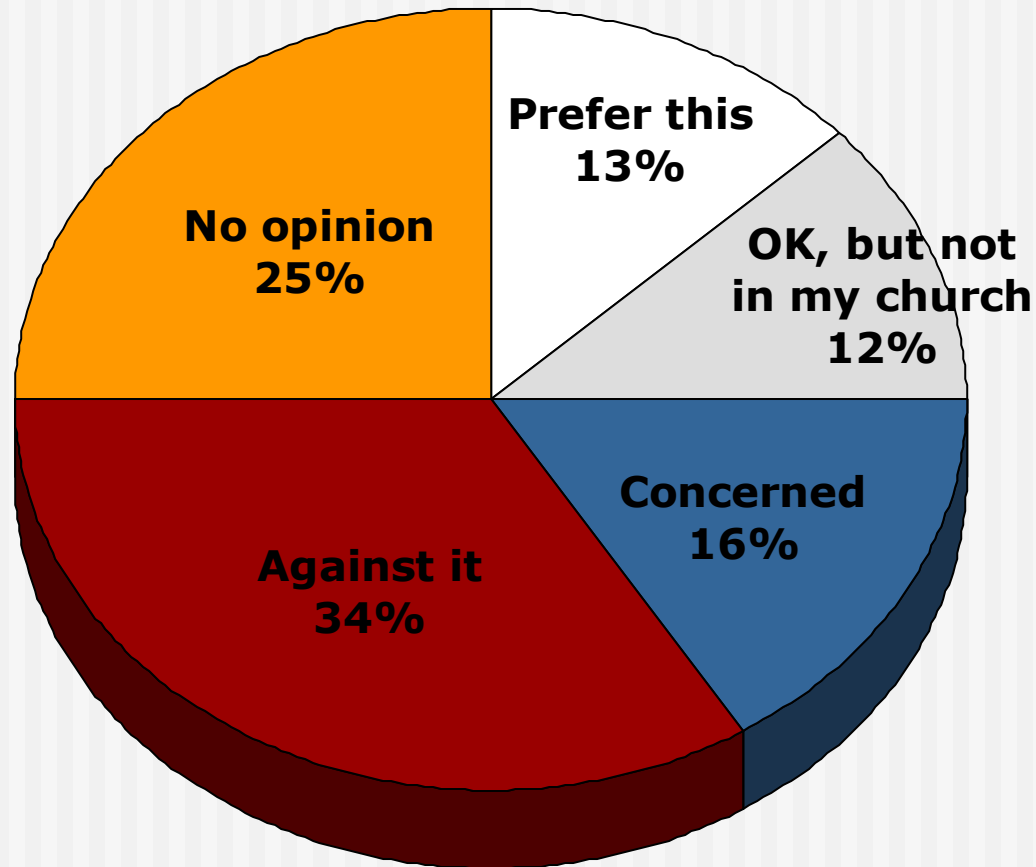
# What if neither an organ nor a piano is used for music?

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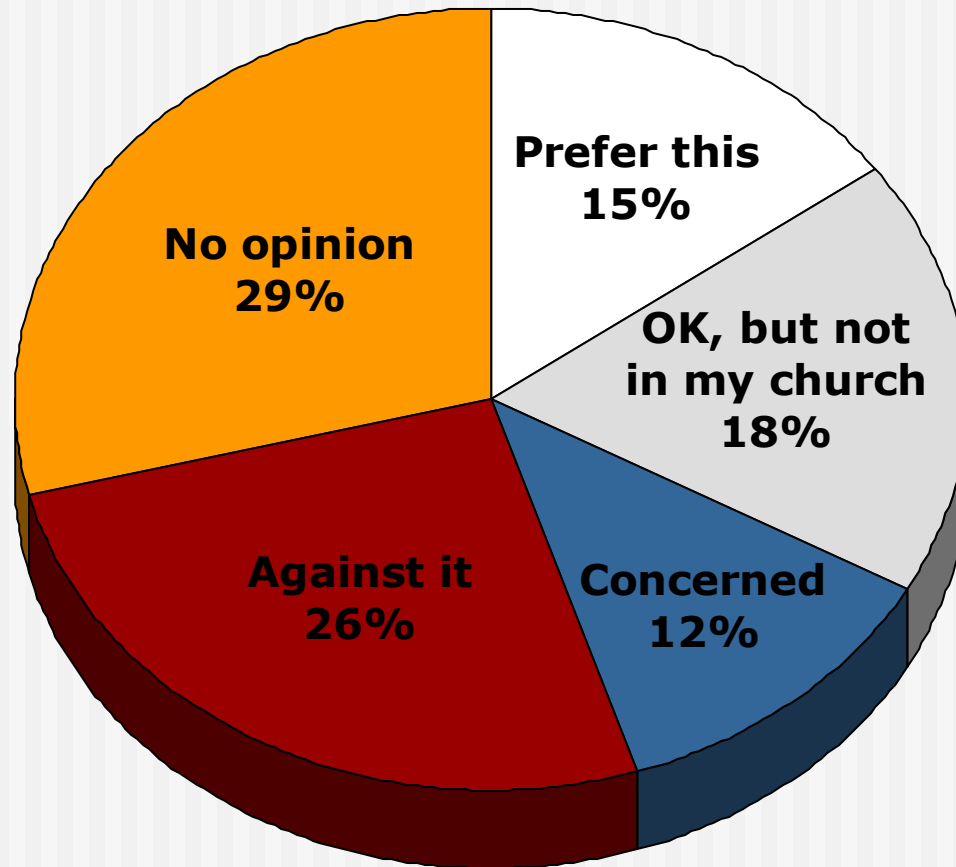
# What if worship is on Friday night instead of Sabbath morning?

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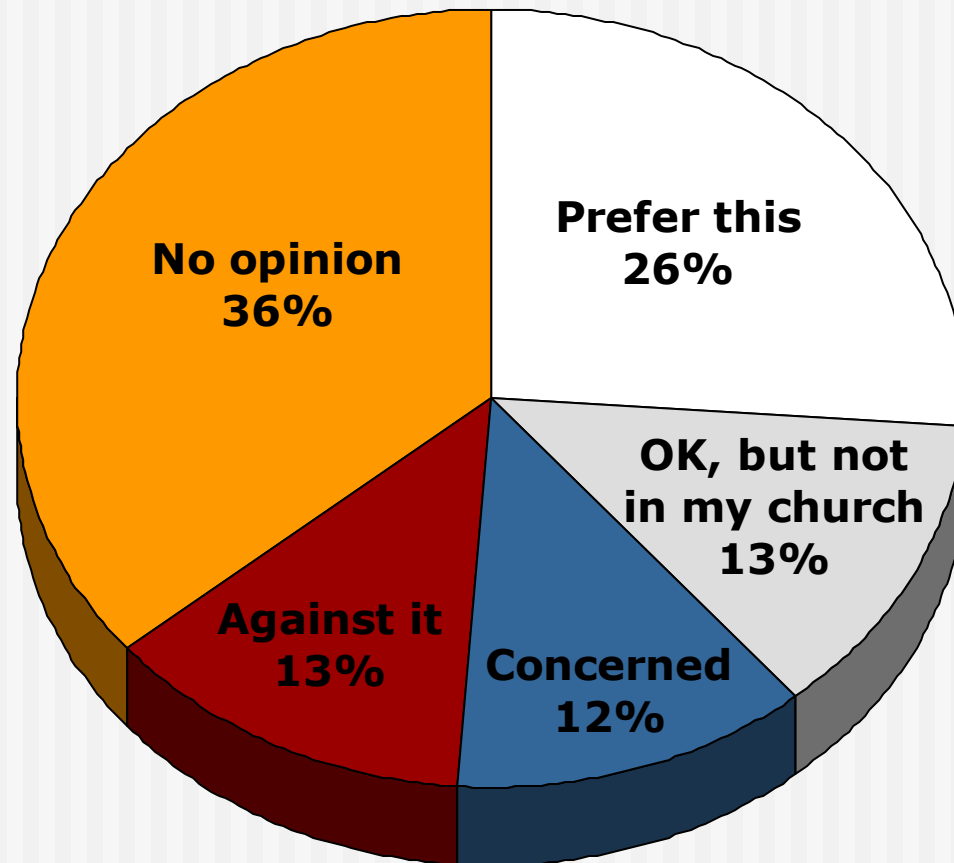
# What if worship is on Sabbath afternoon instead of in the morning?

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# What if the order of service is very different from the typical?

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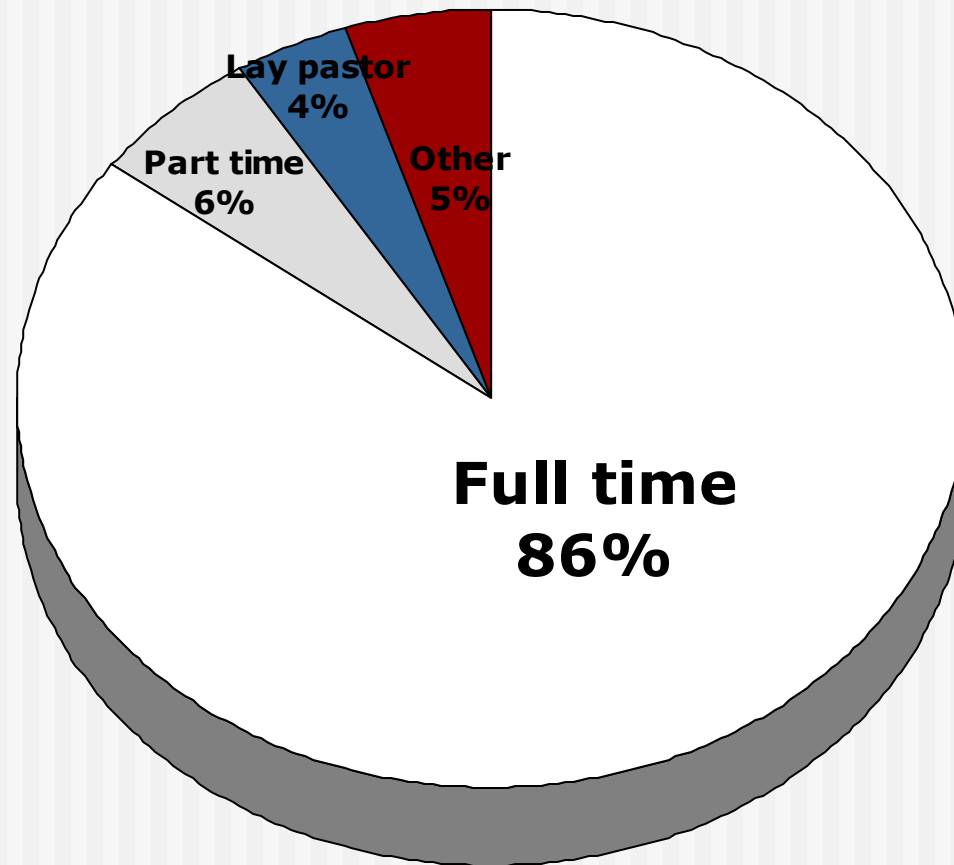


# Pastor Survey

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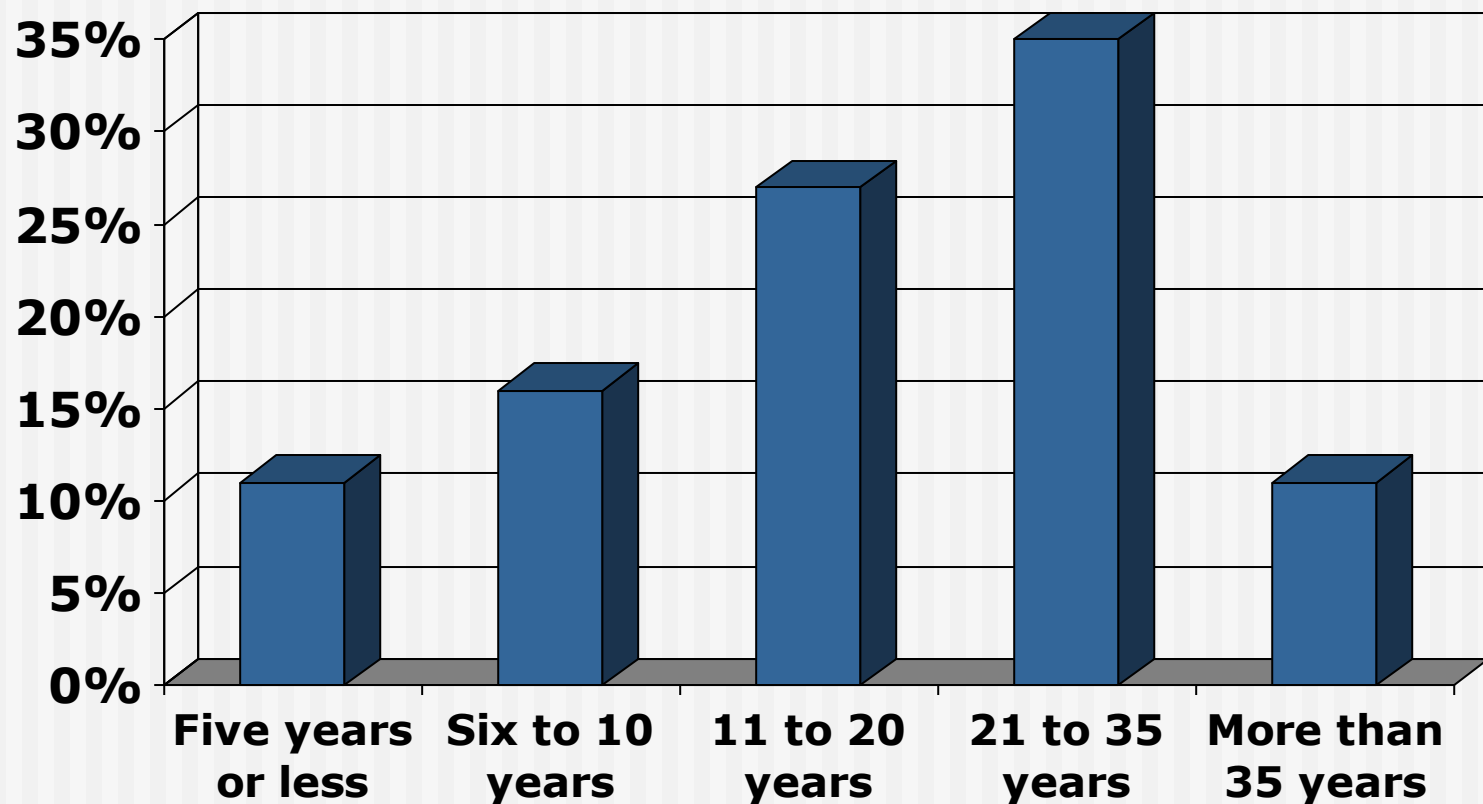
# Type of Pastor

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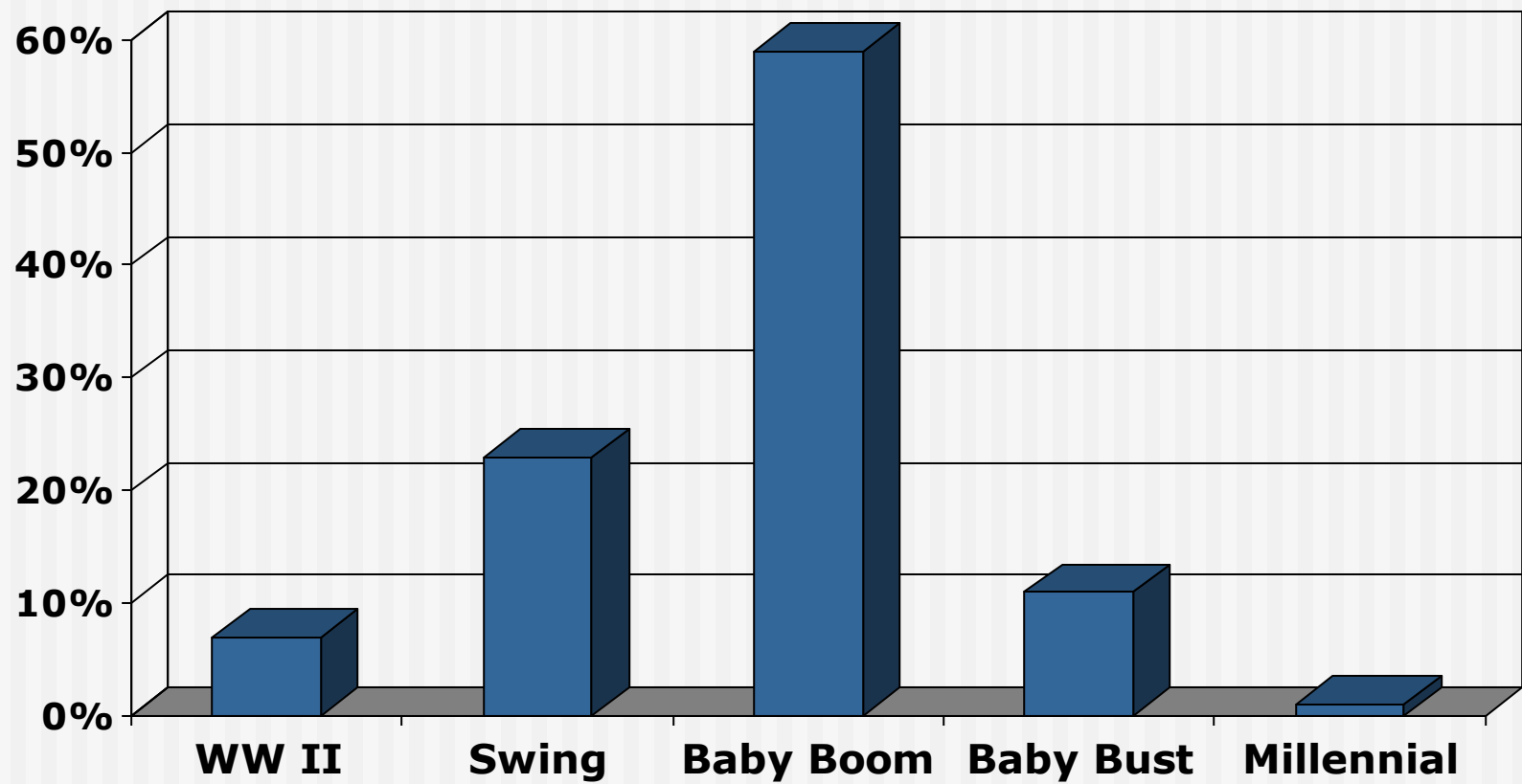
# Years in Pastoral Ministry

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# Generation

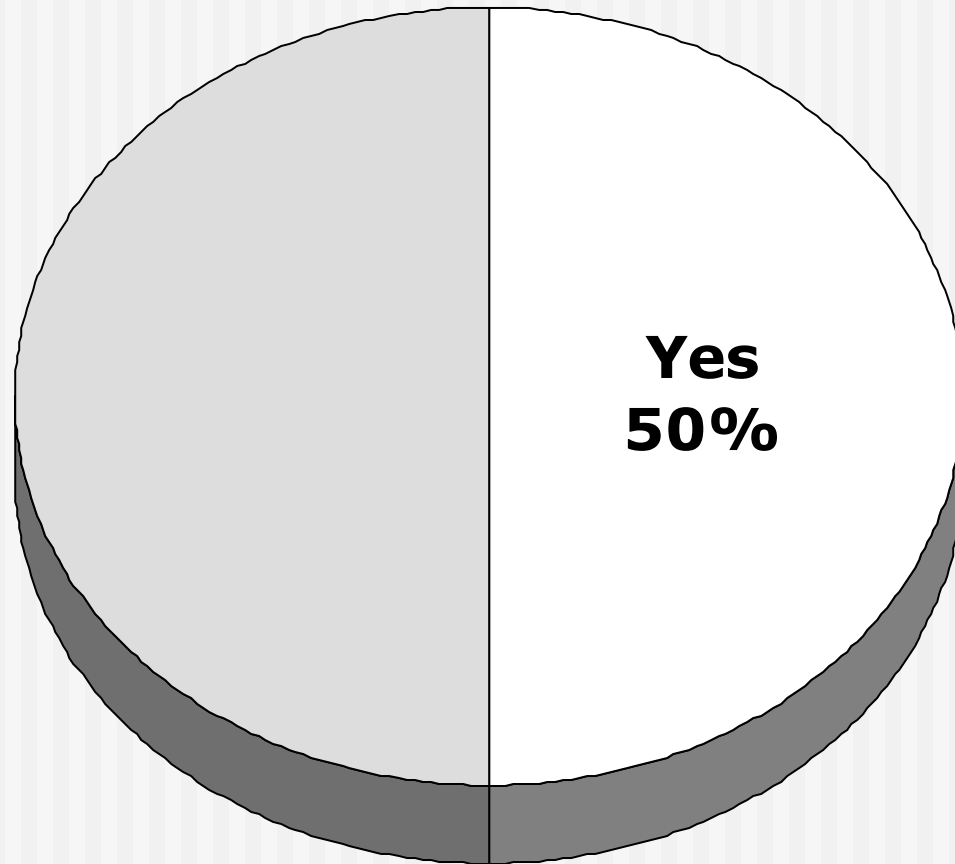
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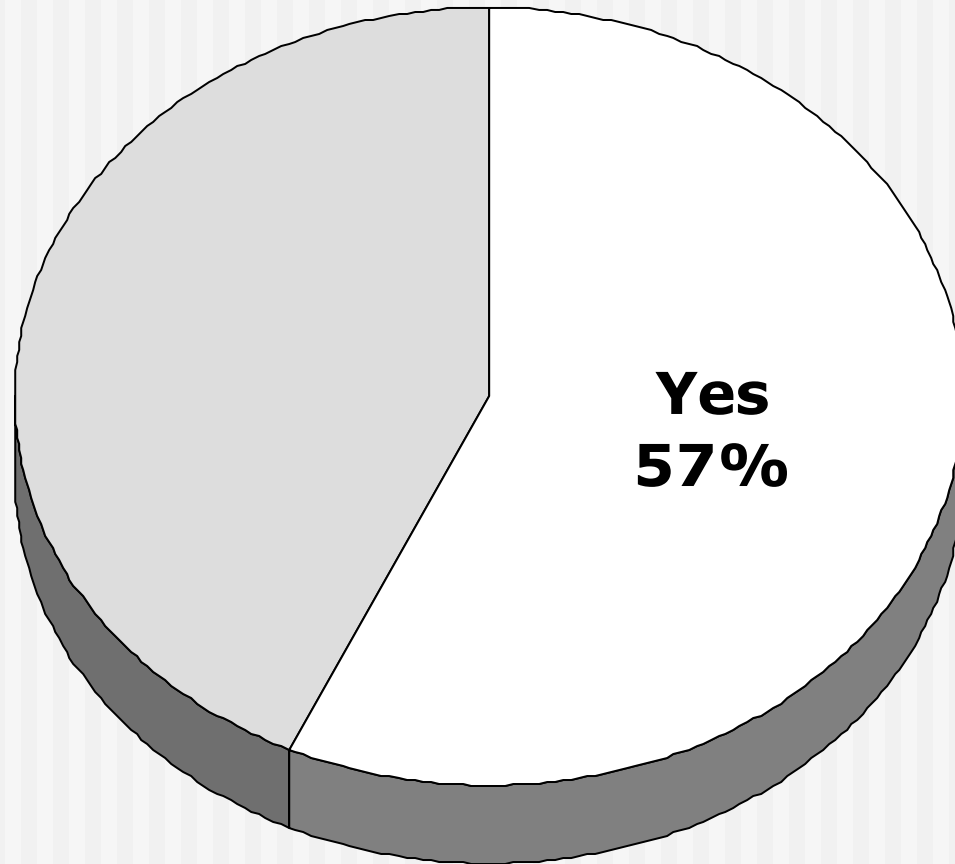
# Have you ever served as a church planter?

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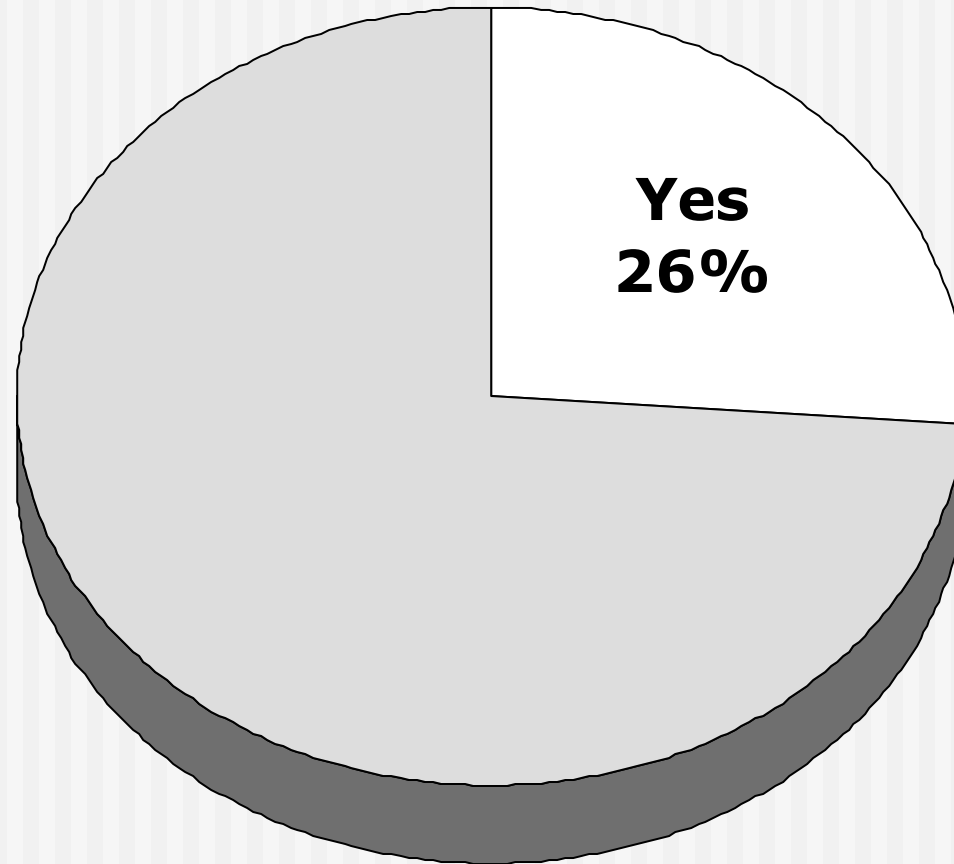
# Have you ever been the pastor of a mother church?

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# Have you ever decided not to plant or been discouraged?

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# Factors that led to decision not to go ahead ...

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- 38% Church members against it
- 27% Lack of funding or a financial model that provides resources
- 23% Barriers such as timing, family situation, etc.
- 12% It was too much work.
- 8% Not allowed to by administration

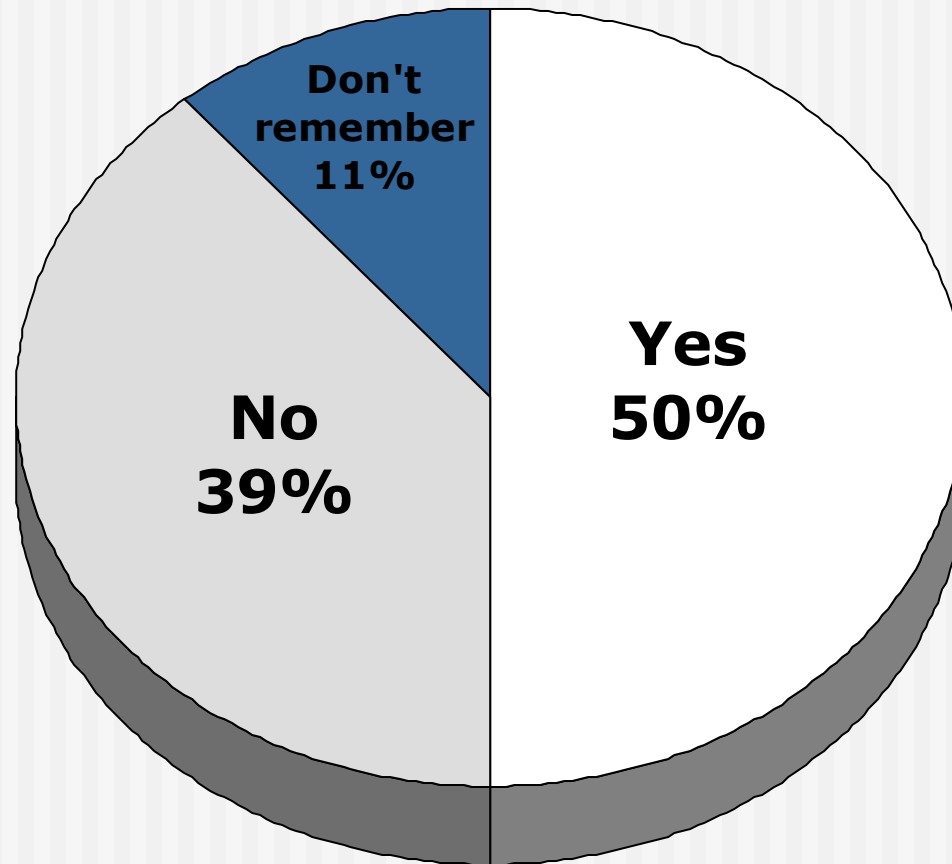
# Factors that led to decision not to go ahead ...

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- 6% Lack of sufficient commitment by church members involved
- 6% Poor community fit/relations
- 2% A prior bad experience
- 2% Process is too complicated

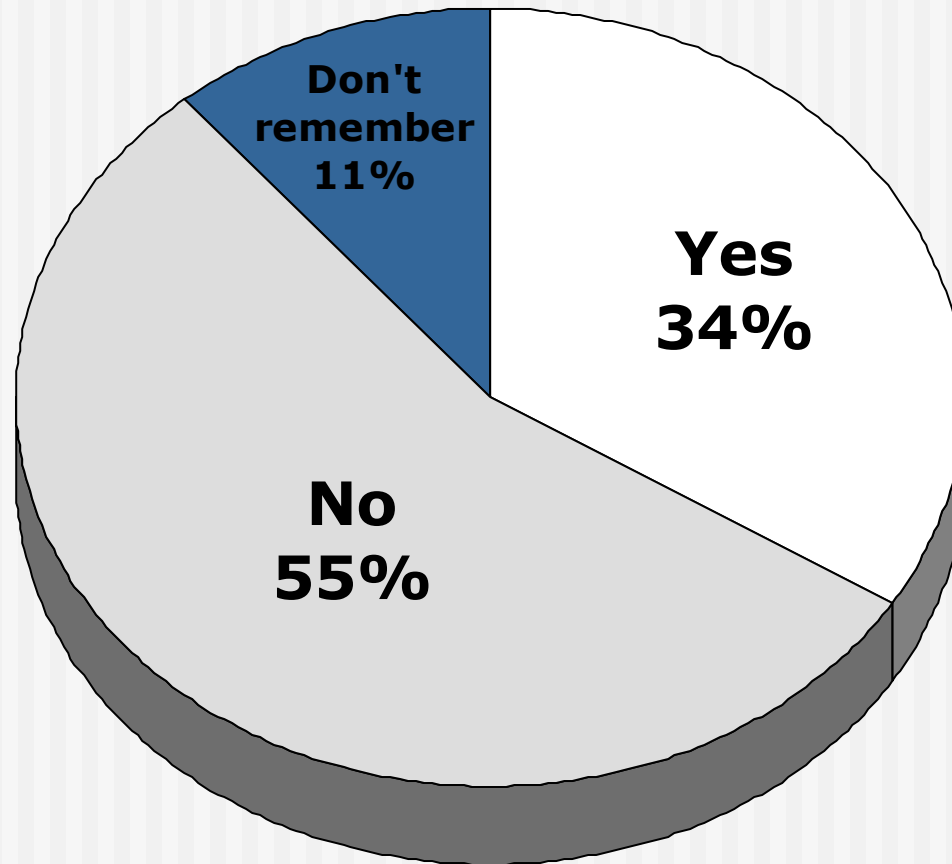
# Have you ever read materials by Ron Gladden?

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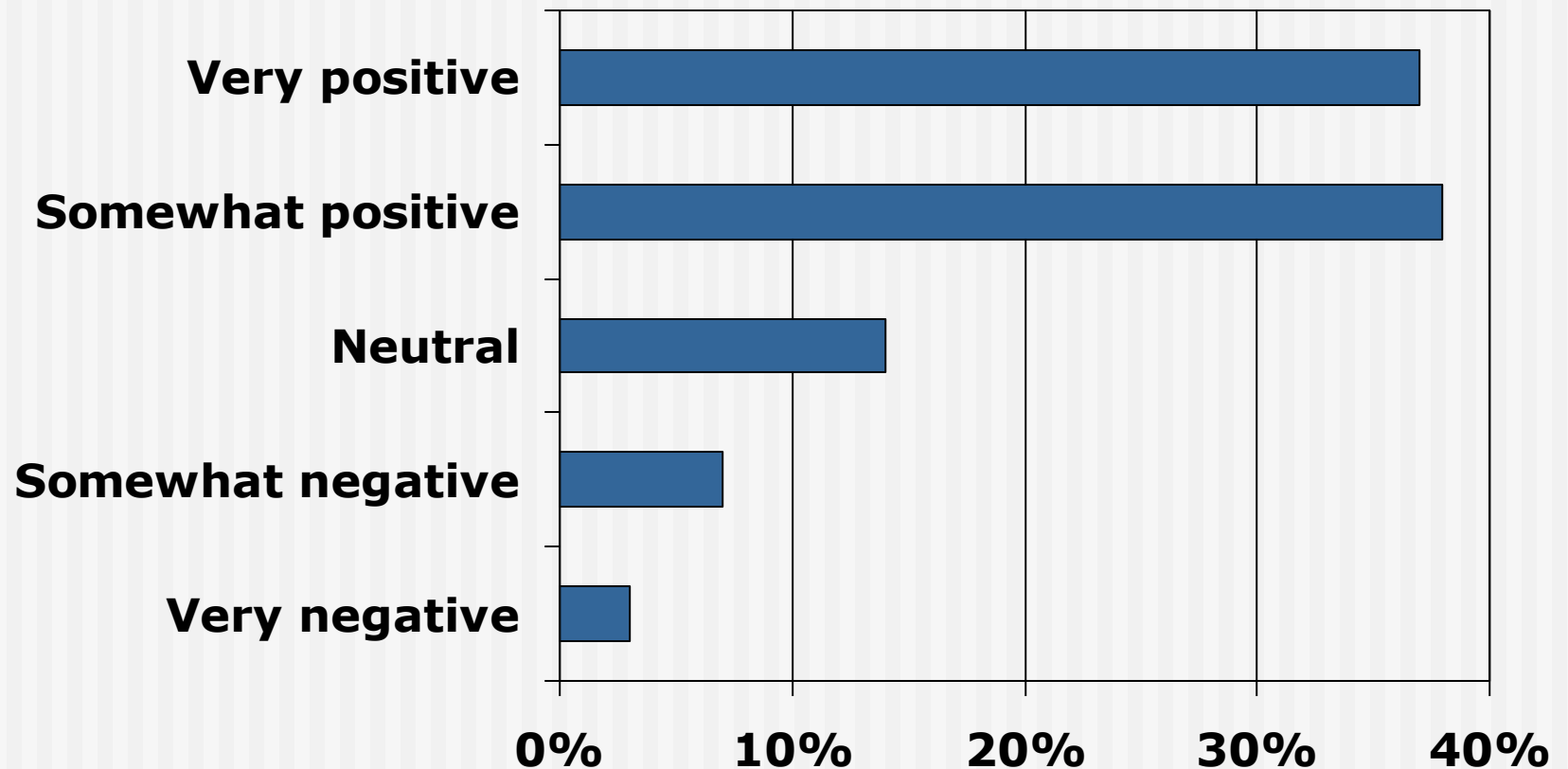
# Have you ever heard Ron Gladden speak?

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# Your general reaction to what you read or heard?

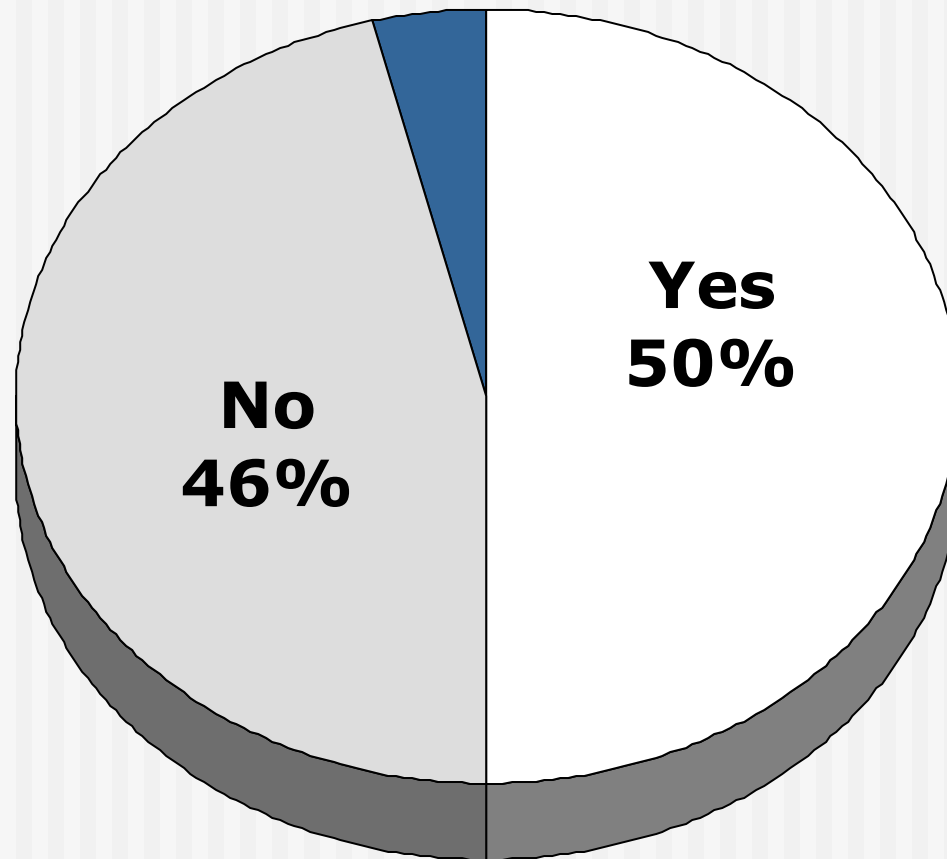
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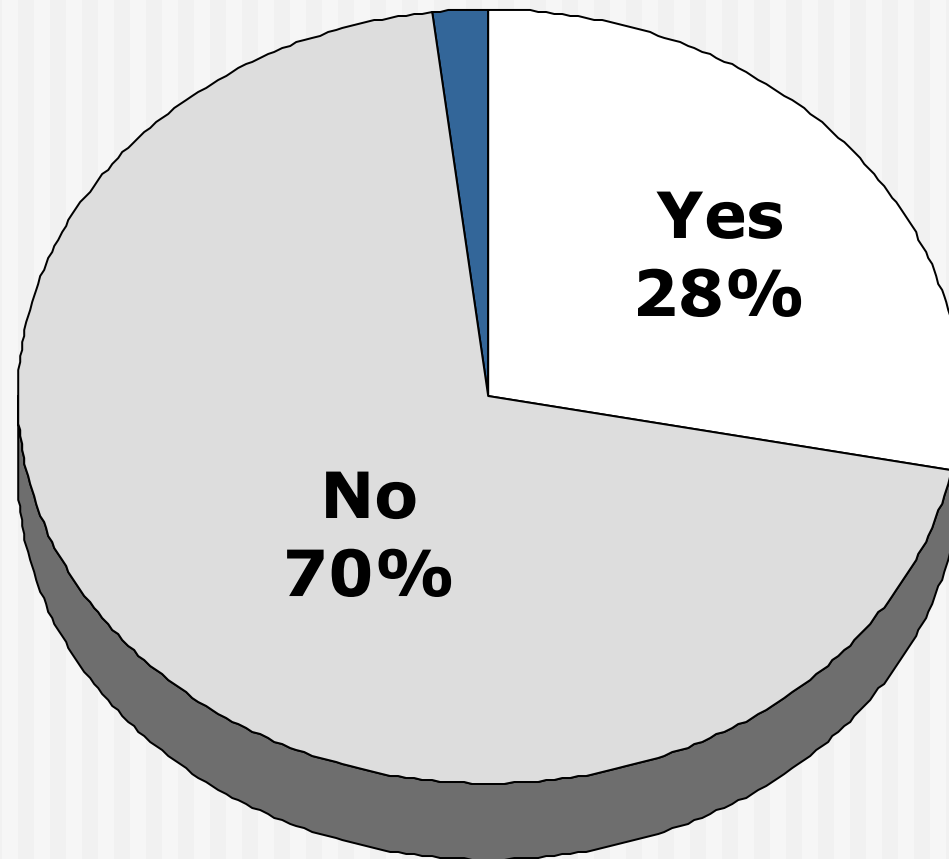
# Have you heard/read about Mission Catalyst Network?

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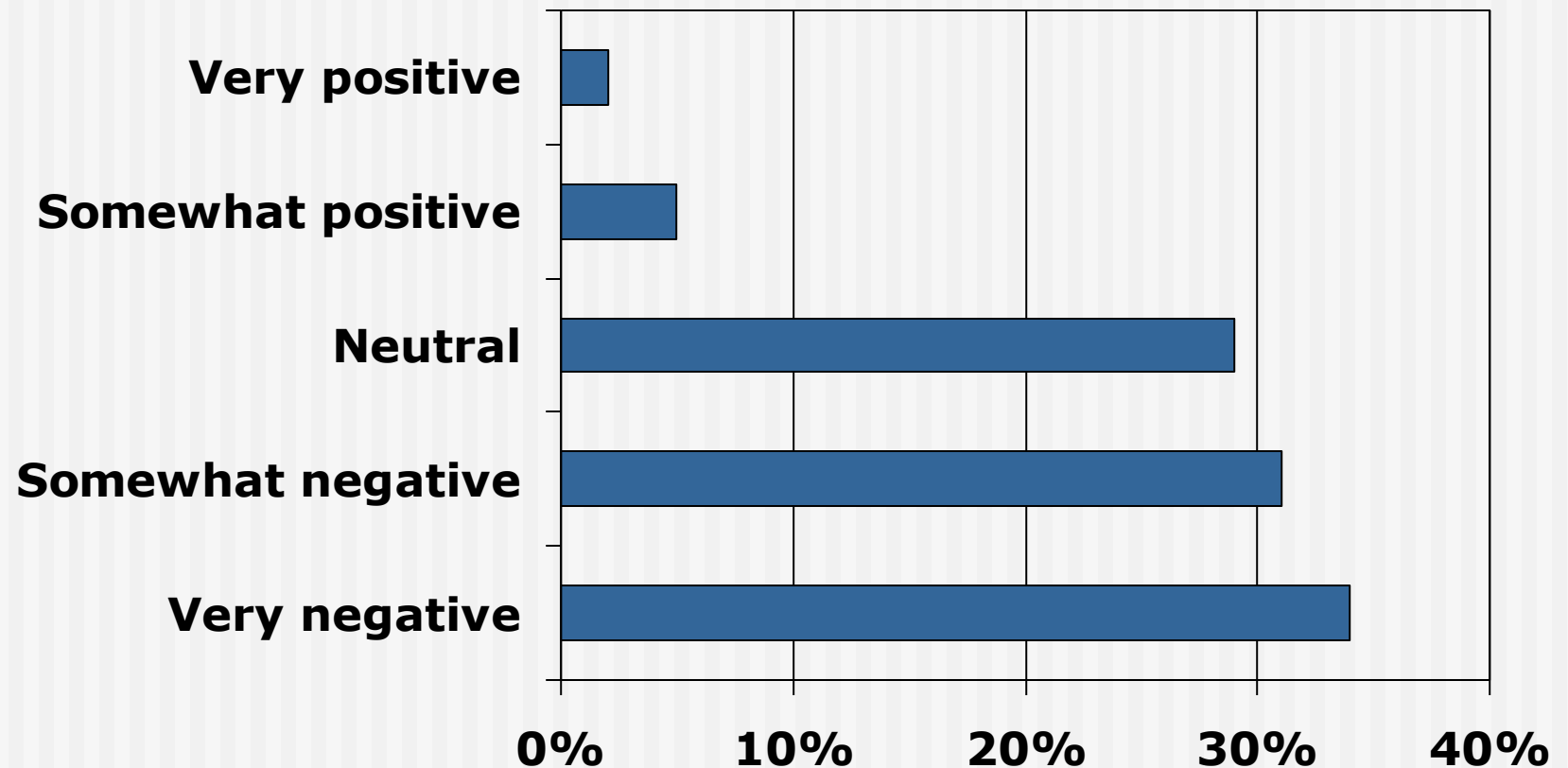
# Have you looked at Mission Catalyst Network web site?

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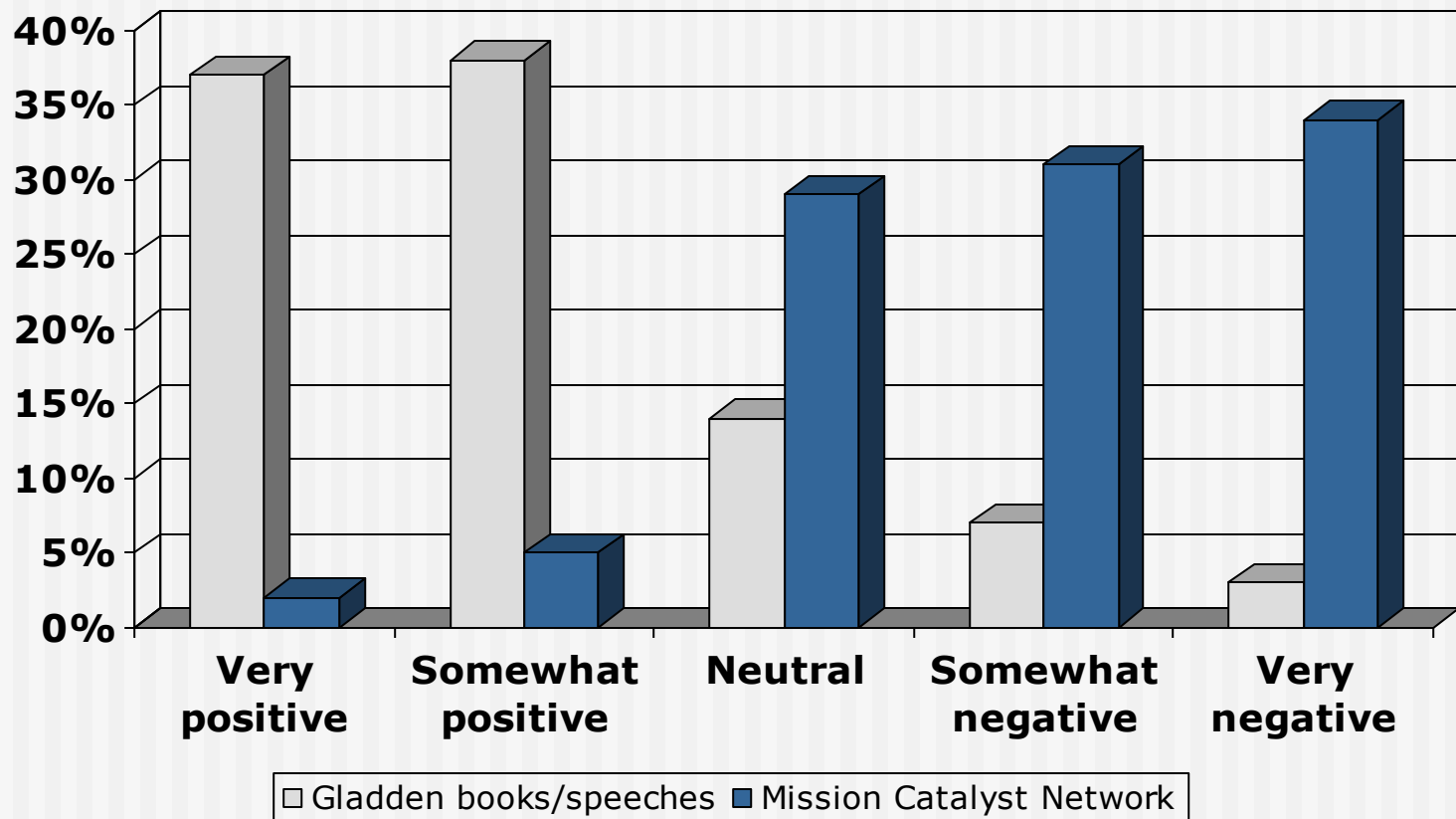


# Your general reaction to what you read or heard?

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# Comparison of “before” and “after” attitudes ...



# What should the denomination do to encourage church planting?

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- 34% Do more to sell the concept
- 16% Increase funding
- 11% Organize a movement
- 9% Re-structure to free-up money
- 5% Get more lay involvement
- 4% Focus on multiplying churches instead of expanding churches

# What should the denomination do to encourage church planting?

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- 3% Start with a spiritual emphasis
- 3% Focus on unreached areas
- 3% Use innovative methods
- 3% Use conventional methods
- 3% We are already doing enough
- 12% Negative about church planting
- 6% Other comments

# Unsolicited comments

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- 38% Mixed positive/negative views
- 17% Most positive views
- 14% Negative views
- 14% Sold on church planting
- 17% Miscellaneous