



SV Pres Congregational Survey Results

Session Presentation

10/20/2009

Pam Letterman, APNC Chair



Objectives

- **Survey Objectives**

- Collect information that will help APNC complete the Church Information Form (CIF) / job description.
- Help APNC learn more about the congregation so they can better inform prospective candidates about our church.

- **Presentation Objectives**

- Inform Session about survey outcomes.
- Encourage Session to use in their departments and overall planning.



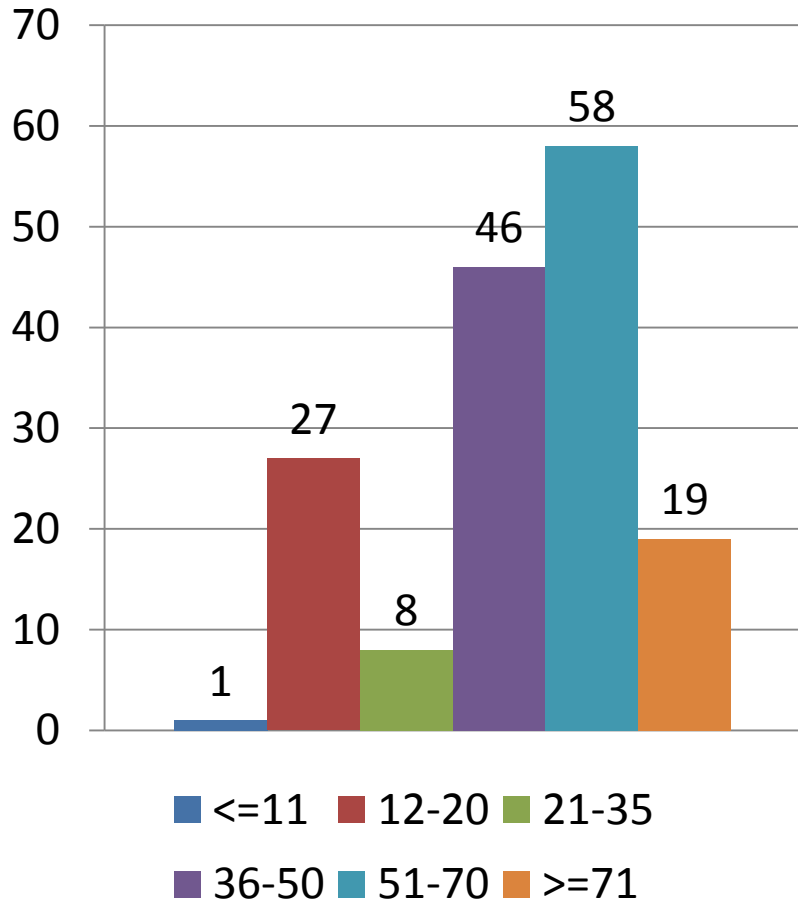
Overall survey participation

- 270 folks participated in the survey.
 - No questions were required so number of respondents (n) per question varies.
- 214 respondents identified themselves as members
 - That's over 20% of our church membership which is a very good response.
- Also, 270 is over 40% of our average worship attendance – which is really excellent!

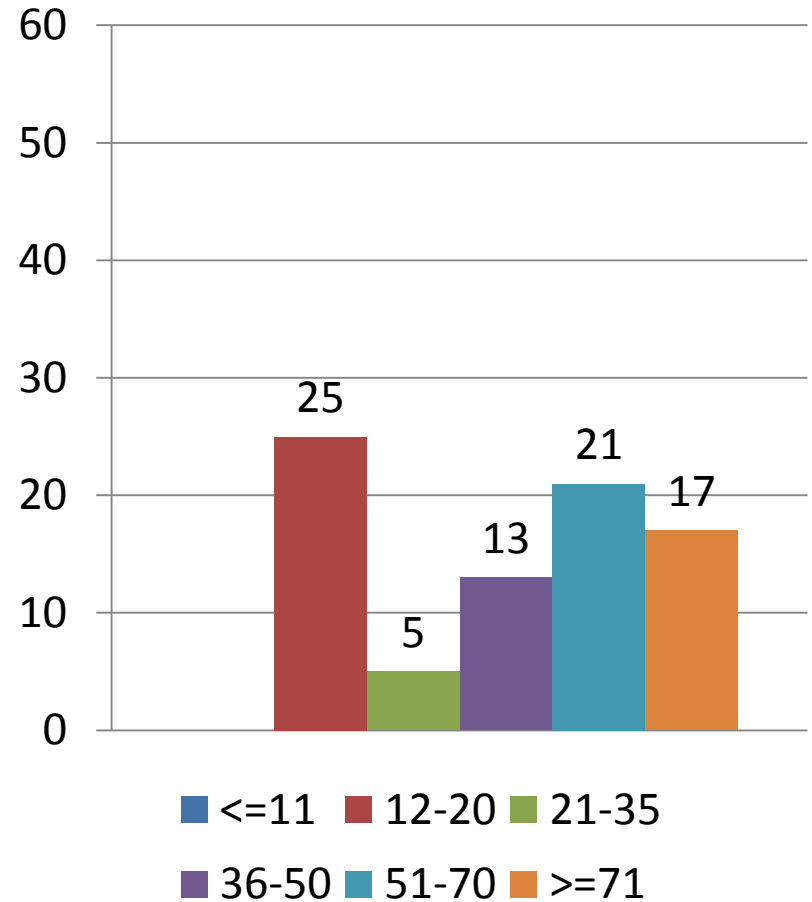


Gender (Q14) & Age of Respondents (Q16)

Female, n = 159



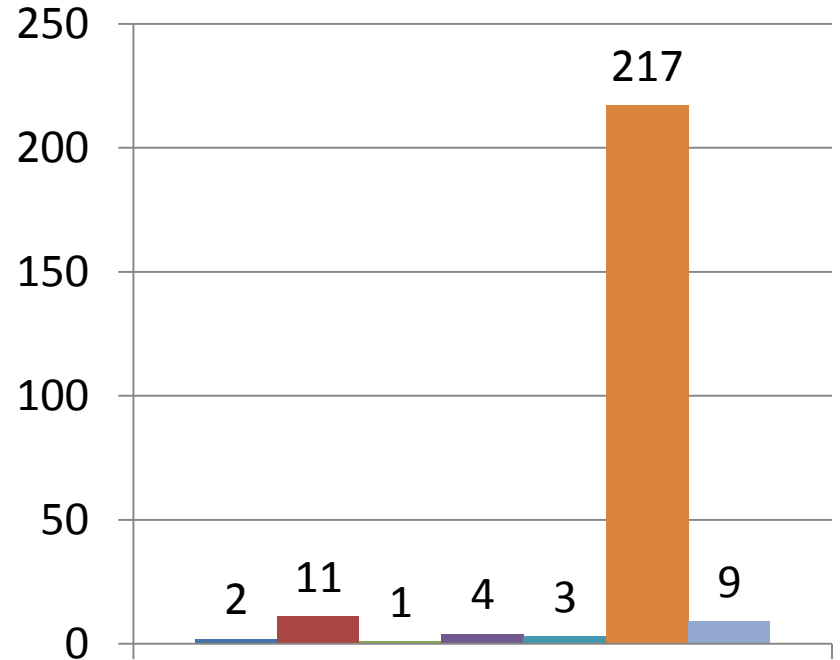
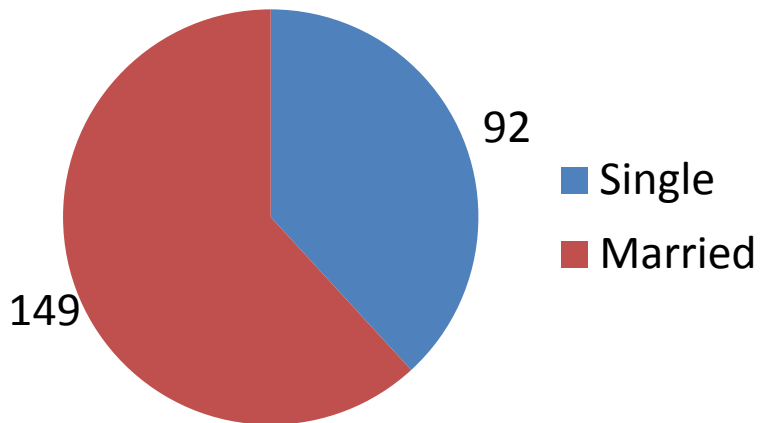
Male, n = 81





Marital Status (Q16) & Ethnicity (Q17)

Marital Status, n=241



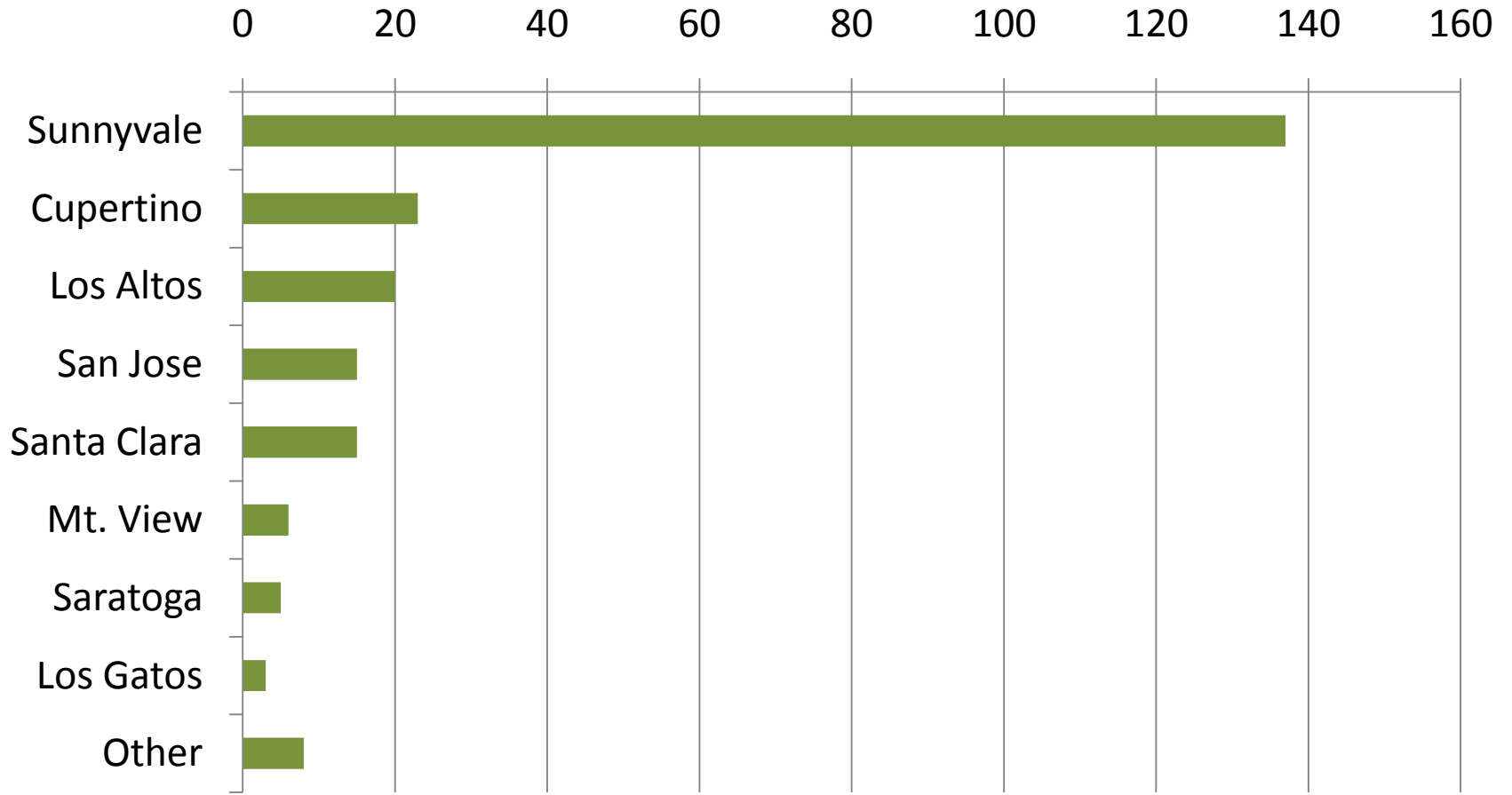
Ethnicity (Check all that apply), n=225

- Am Indian/Alaska
- Asian
- Black
- Hispanic
- Native Hawaiian
- White
- Other



Q18: Respondents by City

n=232

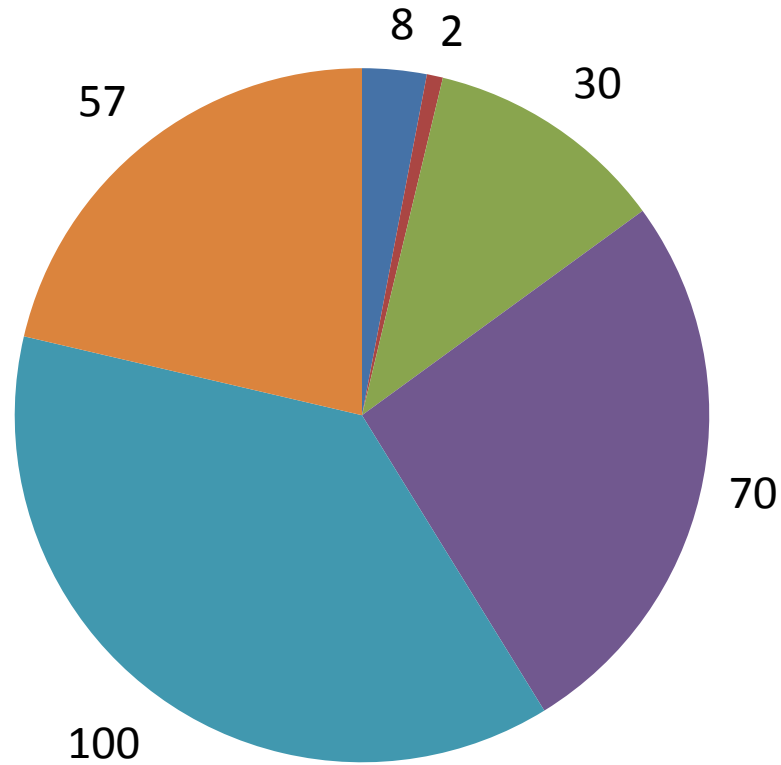


Based on valid zip codes provided.



Q1: How long involved w/ SVPC?

n=268

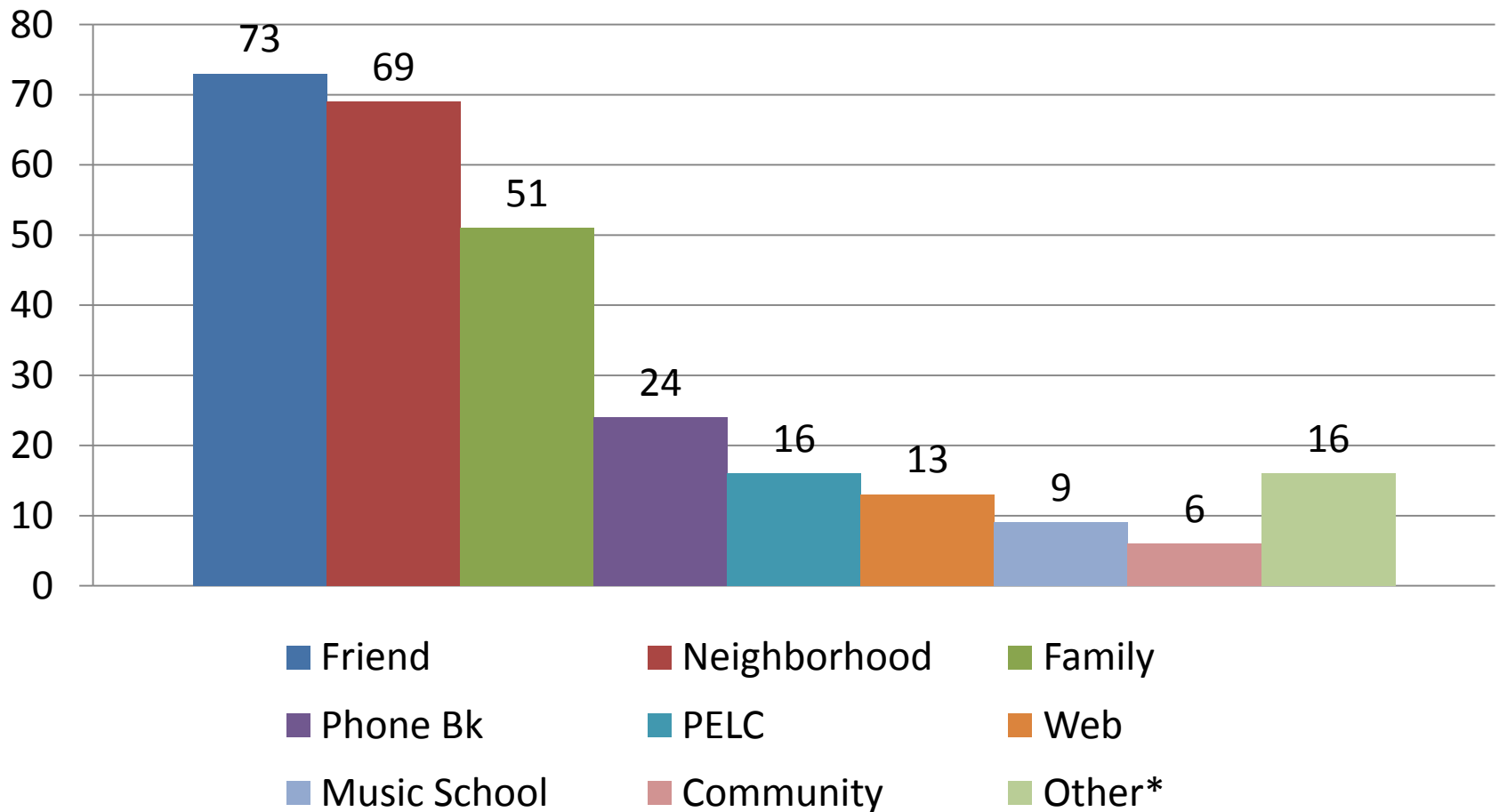


■ <6 mo ■ 6-12 mo ■ 1-3 yrs ■ 3-10 yrs ■ 10-25 yrs ■ >25 yrs



Q2: How did you first learn about SVPC?

n=267 (check all that apply)

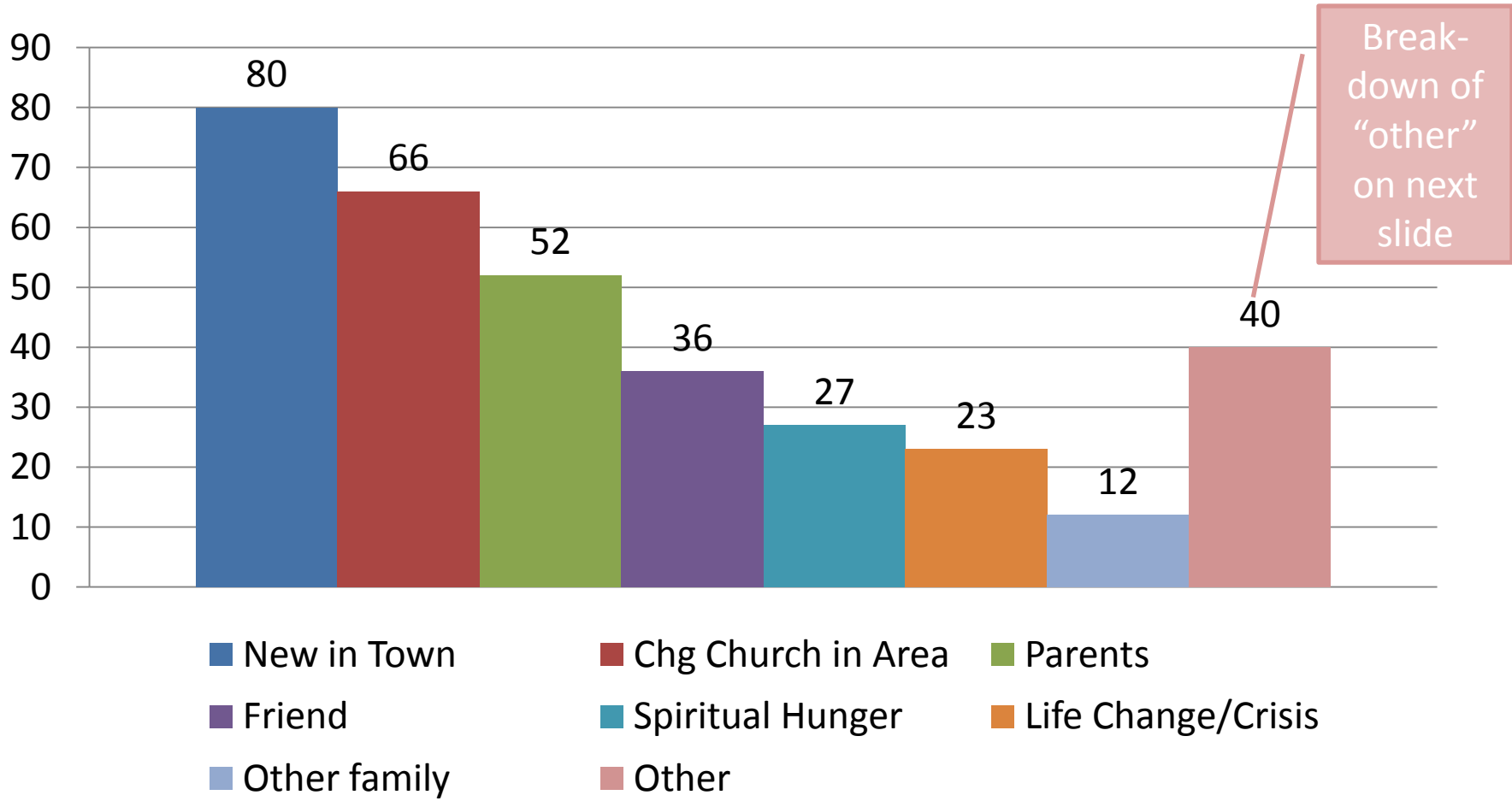


*Other mentions included baptisms, weddings, funerals, Presbytery, direct mail postcard, Al-Anon mtg, concerts, another pastor, and someone on an airplane.



Q3: What prompted attendance? (1 of 2)

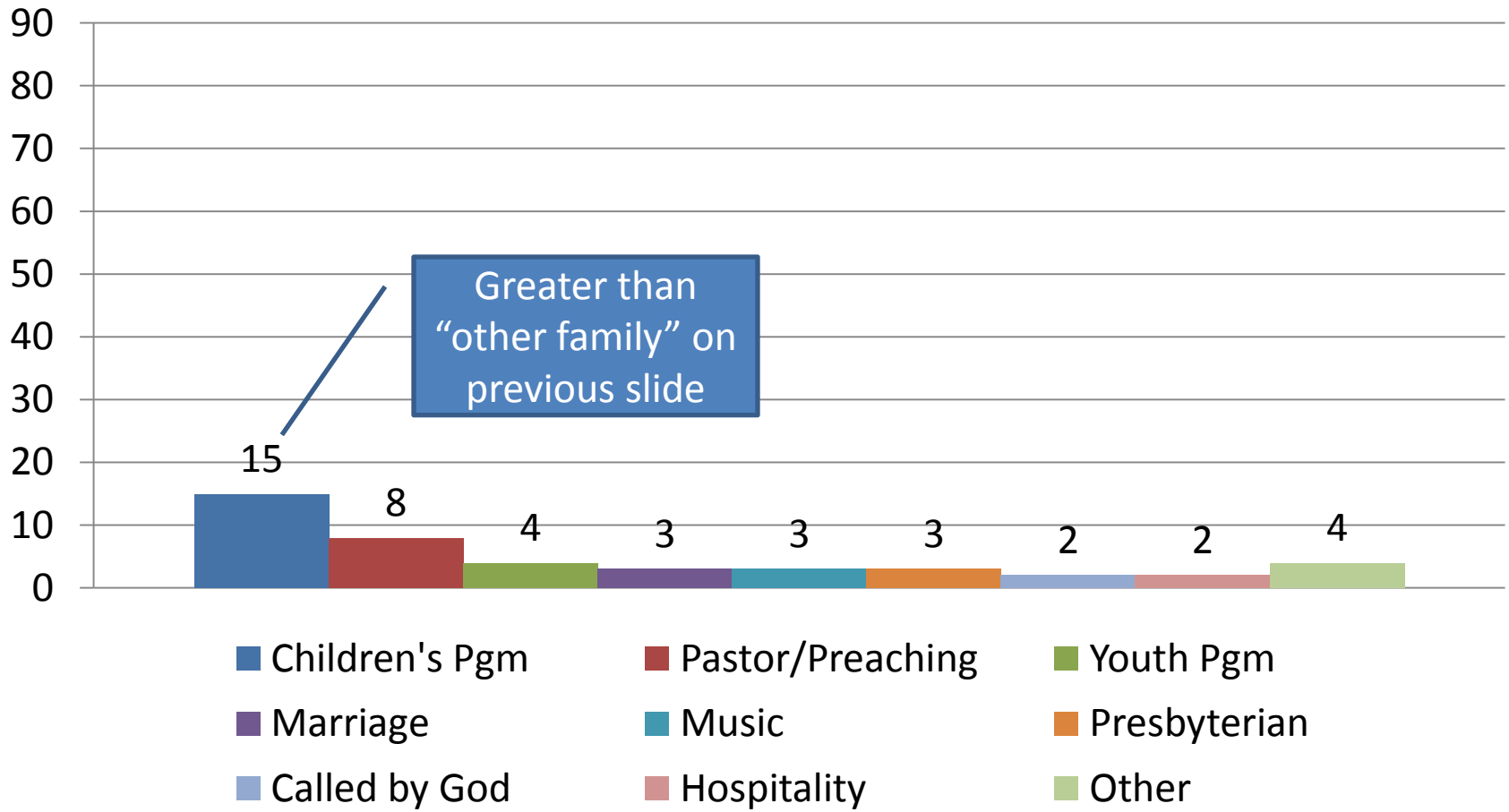
n=267 (check all that apply)





Q3: What prompted attendance? (2 of 2)

n=40 (breakdown of "other" from prev slide)

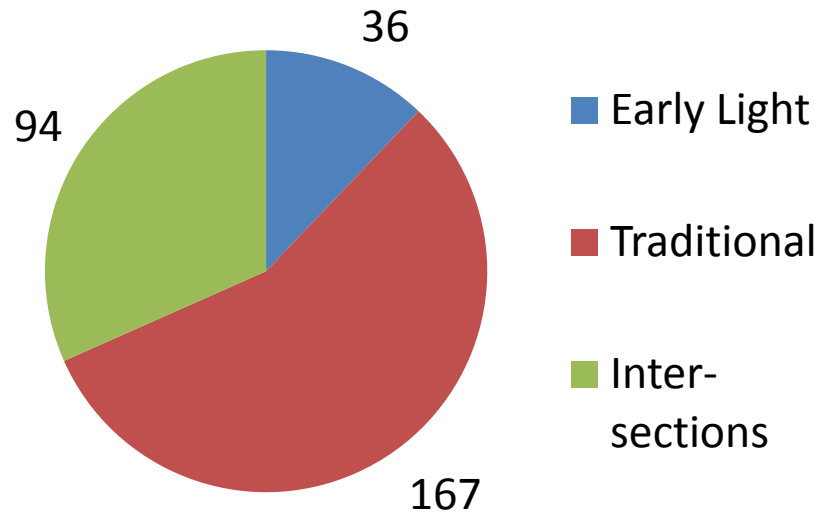




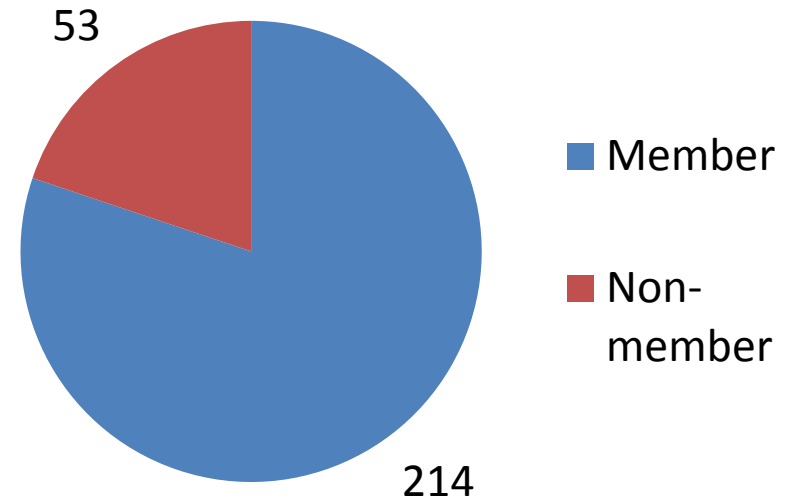
Worship Service (Q4) & Affiliation (Q5)

Worship, n=265

(Multiple choices were permitted)



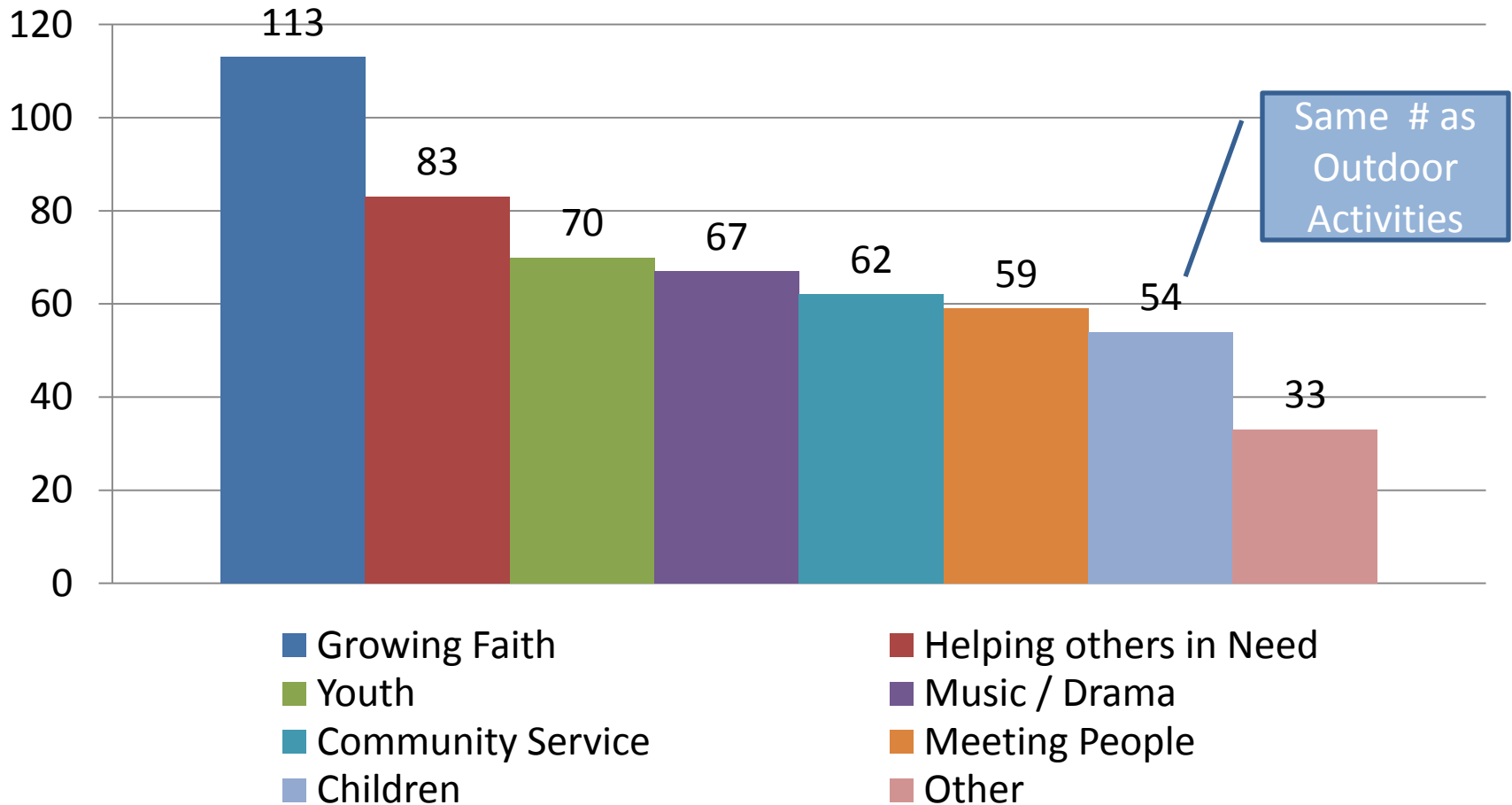
Affiliation, n=267





Q8: What are you passionate about? (1 of 5)

n=255 (check up to 5)

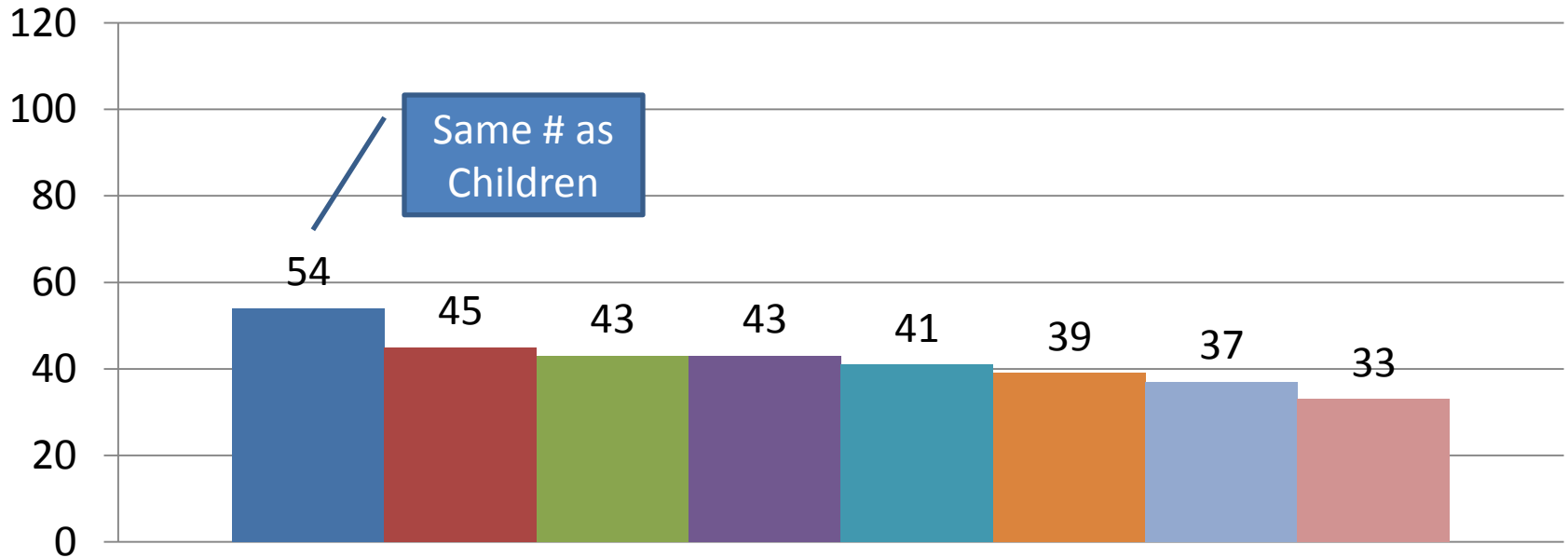


Note: Categories for Question 8 were largely taken from our Lay/Gifts Ministry "Getting To Know You" Form.



Q8: What are you passionate about? (2 of 5)

n=255 (check up to 5)

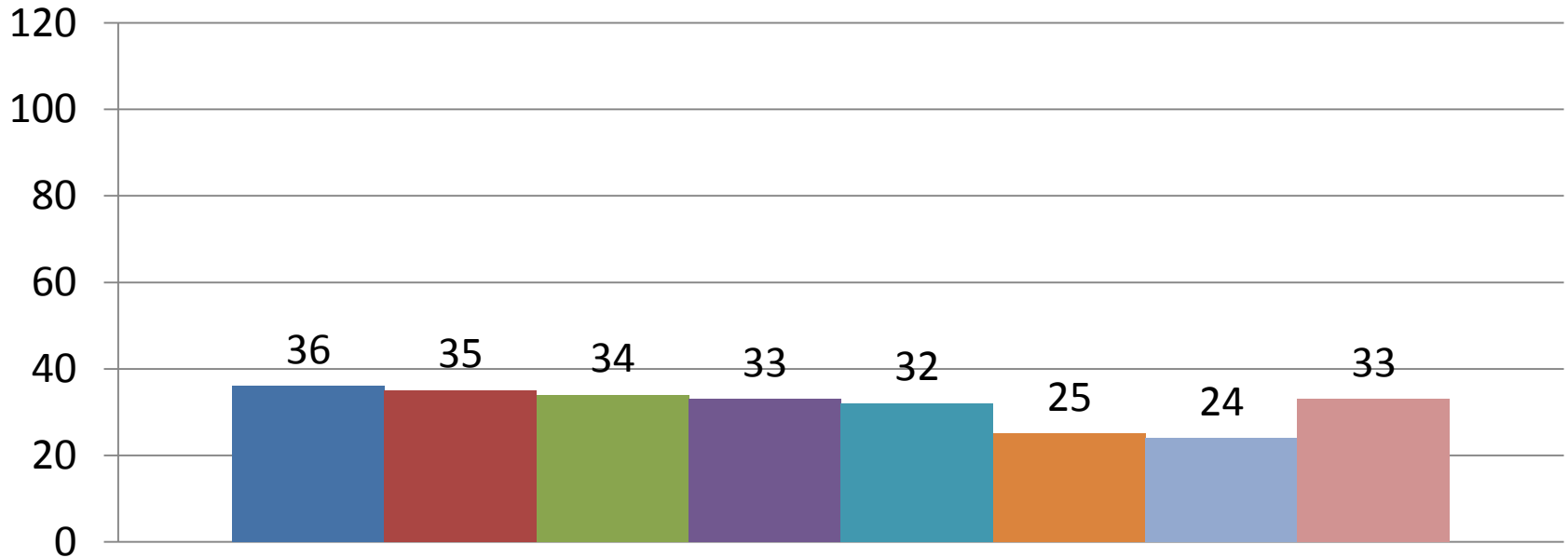


- Outdoor Activities
- Families
- Travel
- Ending poverty/homelessness
- Environment
- Fitness
- Learning about other cultures
- Other



Q8: What are you passionate about? (3 of 5)

n=255 (check up to 5)



■ Peacemaking/Justice

■ Seniors

■ Welcoming People

■ Cooking

■ Mission

■ Sports

■ Creating/Making/Building

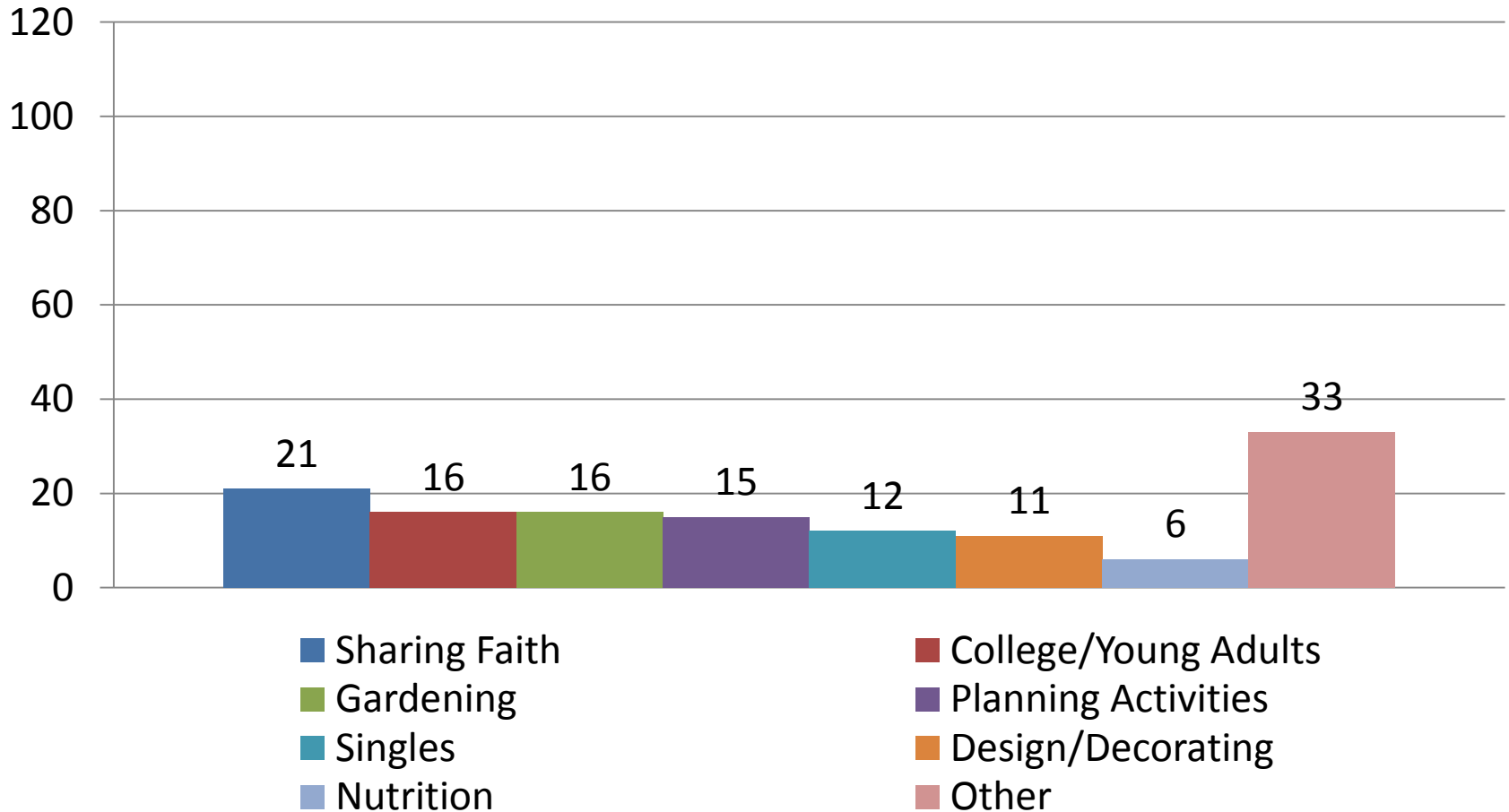
■ Other

Note: Categories for Question 8 were largely taken from our Lay/Gifts Ministry "Getting To Know You" Form.



Q8: What are you passionate about? (4 of 5)

n=255 (check up to 5)

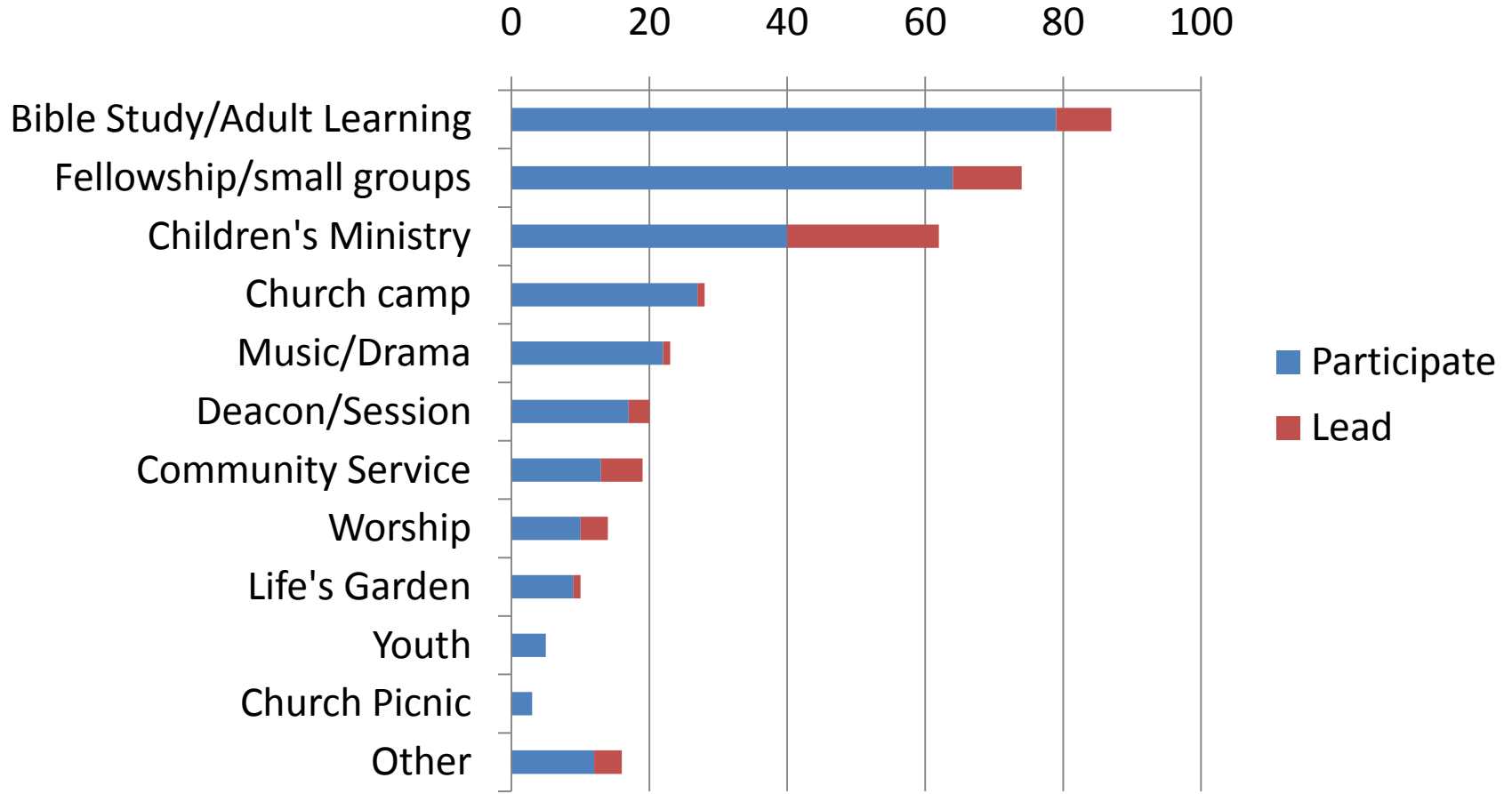


Note: Categories for Question 8 were largely taken from our Lay/Gifts Ministry "Getting To Know You" Form.



Q7: Church Activities Participate or Lead

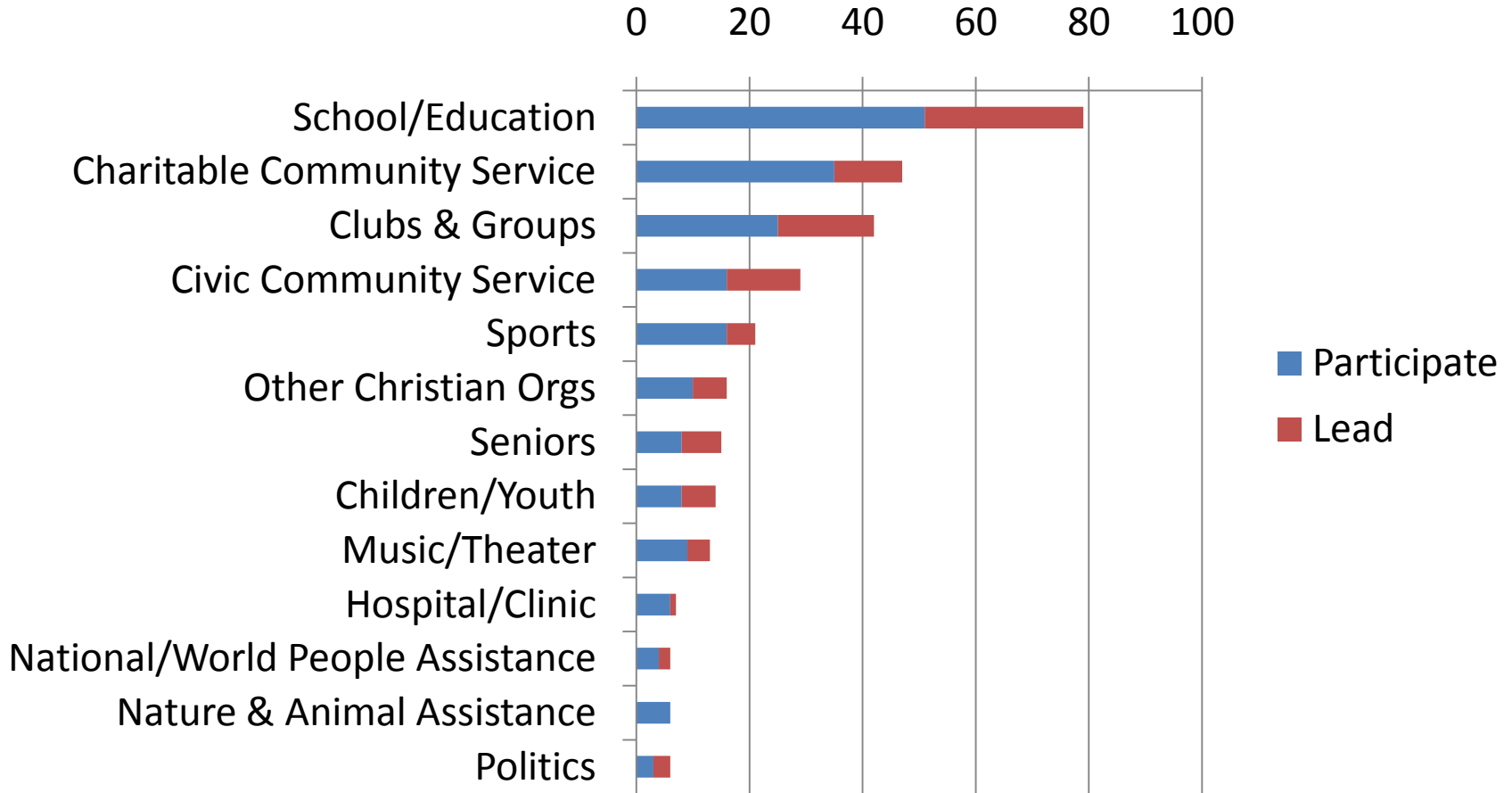
n=206, categorized from self-identified, write-in responses





Q9: Non-Church Activities Participate or Lead

n=171, categorized from self-identified, write-in responses

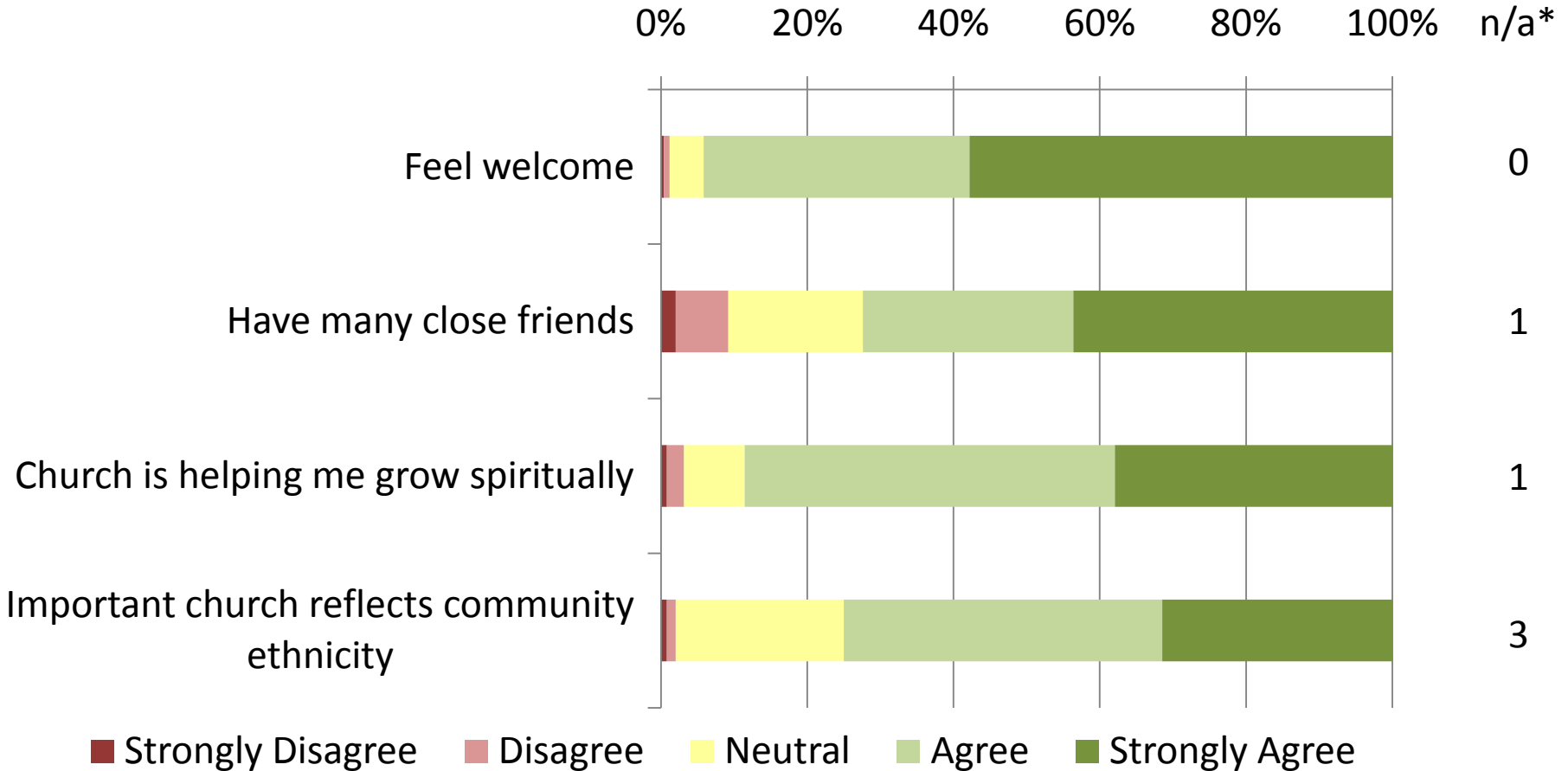


28 responses referred to "past" volunteer activities and are not included in this graph.



Q10: Agreement Responses (1 of 3)

Listed in order of highest “strongly agree”, n=248-256

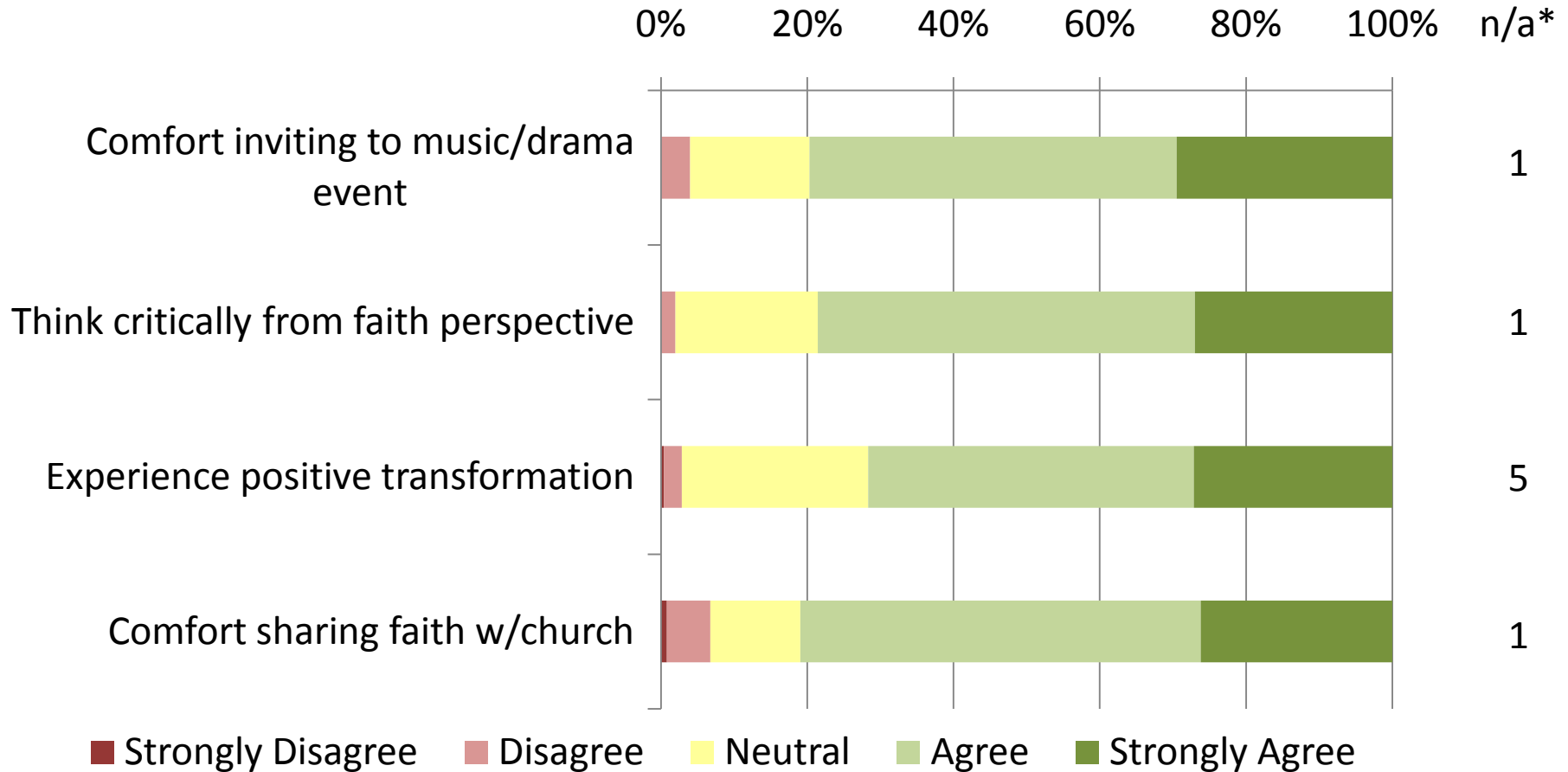


*Number of folks who checked “not applicable; not the same as those who did not answer that question.



Q10: Agreement Responses (2 of 3)

Listed in order of highest “strongly agree”, n=248-256

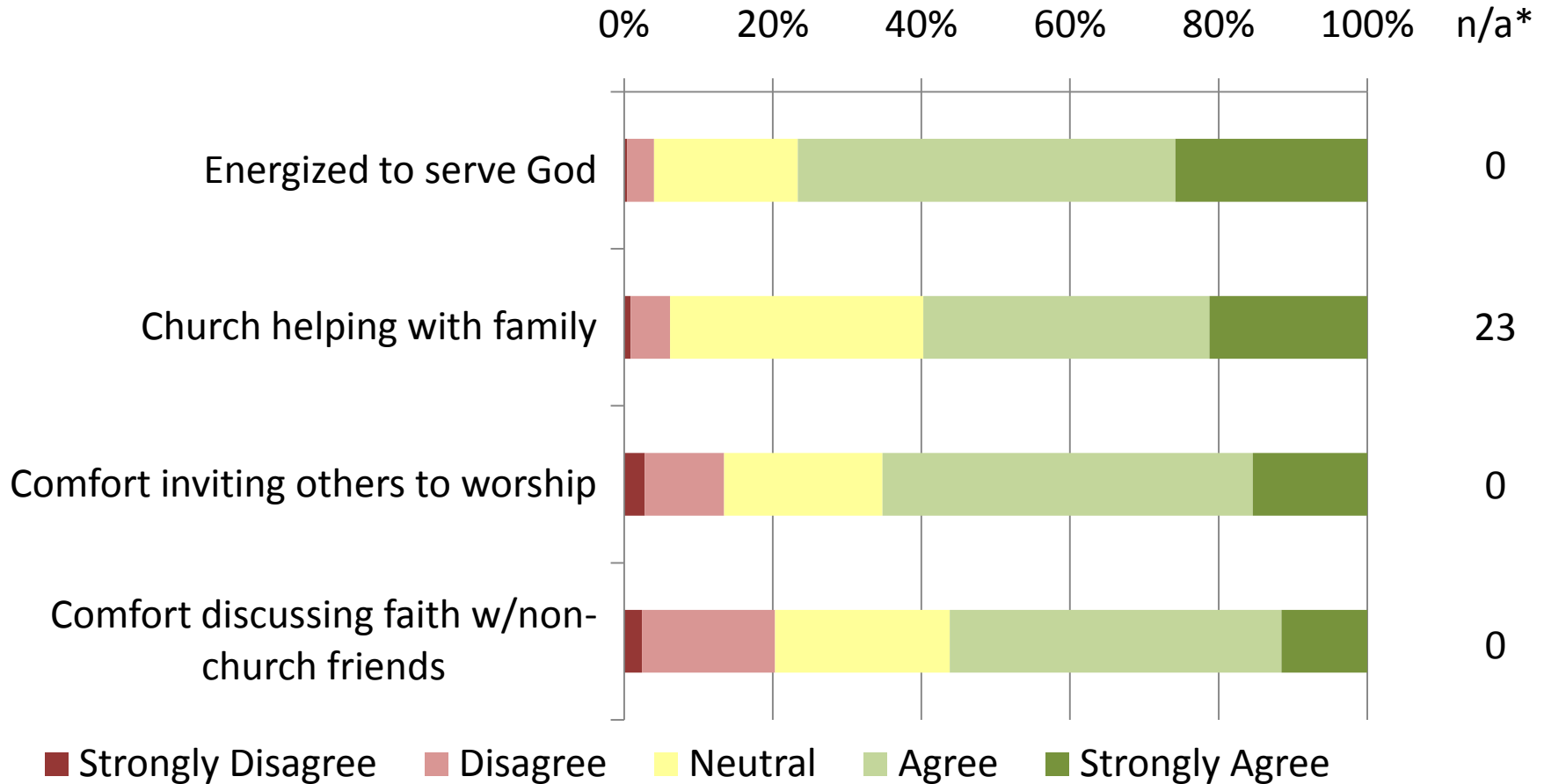


*Number of folks who checked “not applicable; not the same as those who did not answer that question.



Q10: Agreement Responses (3 of 3)

Listed in order of highest “strongly agree”, n=248-256



*Number of folks who checked “not applicable; not the same as those who did not answer that question.



Sample Comments from Q10 (p. 1 of 2)

n=26

- “Many” close friends – not really (7)
 - *“I'm sad that only 1 person I've met in the 22 years of membership has ever said "yes" to my many invitations to socialize and few others even respond when I send invitations to them. Except for established group programs open to all, nobody in the church has ever invited me to be with them socially. I believe I intimidate them with my strong faith and trust in God, but this isn't a topic I've been able to discuss with anyone.”*
 - *“We are very good about being hospitable and welcoming new people, but it is much harder to actually build close relationships.”*
- Love this church (6)
 - *“I like this church, and I like ME in this church.”*
 - *“The church is awesome!”*
- Need more “growing in faith” (3)
 - *“SVPC is stronger in fellowship and marvelous programs than in growing us in faith.”*
 - *“From question ‘The church IS "helping me think critically about community & world issues.’ To me, ‘from a perspective of faith’ is often missing or weak.”*



Sample Comments from Q10 (p. 2 of 2)

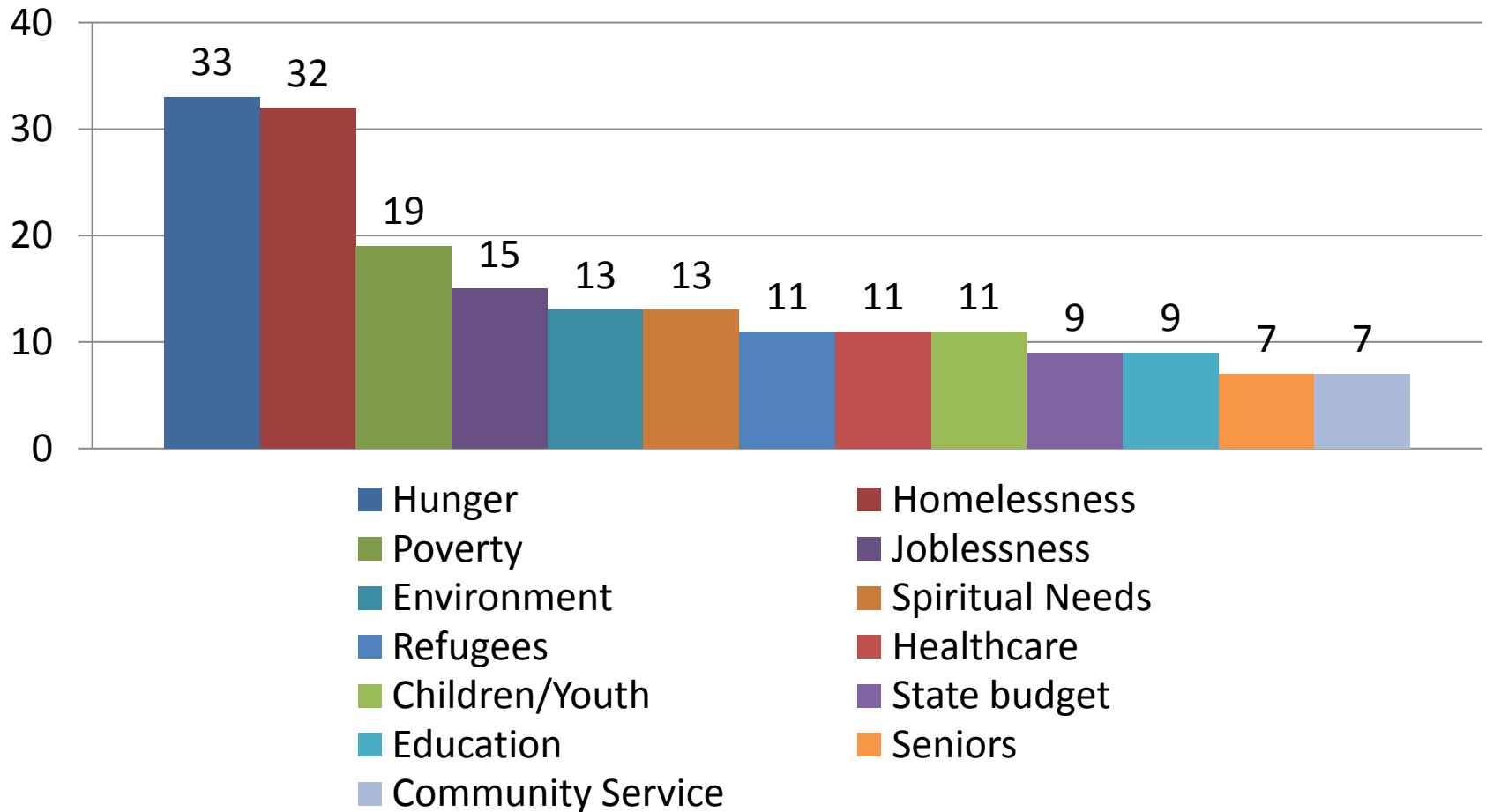
n=26

- On sharing faith or inviting others to church or other events at church (3)
 - *“I know there is room for work on, and have attended some sharing faith classes and learned a lot. Many of my friends don't attend church and I am constantly having to defend why I do.”*
 - *“While I am comfortable inviting others [to music/drama event], I am not sure the type of events available are the sort of thing my non church going friends would be interested in.”*
 - *“One of the reasons I changed to this church was that I felt comfortable inviting friends to attend with me. (Previous church was extremely judgmental -- pastor would essentially tell all visitors they were going to Hell.)”*
- Other (7)
 - *“The church appears to be moving in a direction I'm not comfortable with.”*
 - *“The only area in which I think the church lacks is making the various groups known to everyone. There are so many groups, and I think not everyone knows what's available.”*
 - *“The church would no doubt be helping me more in these areas if I took part in more church activities -- but I'm just too busy!”*



Q11: Local / State Needs (1 of 3)

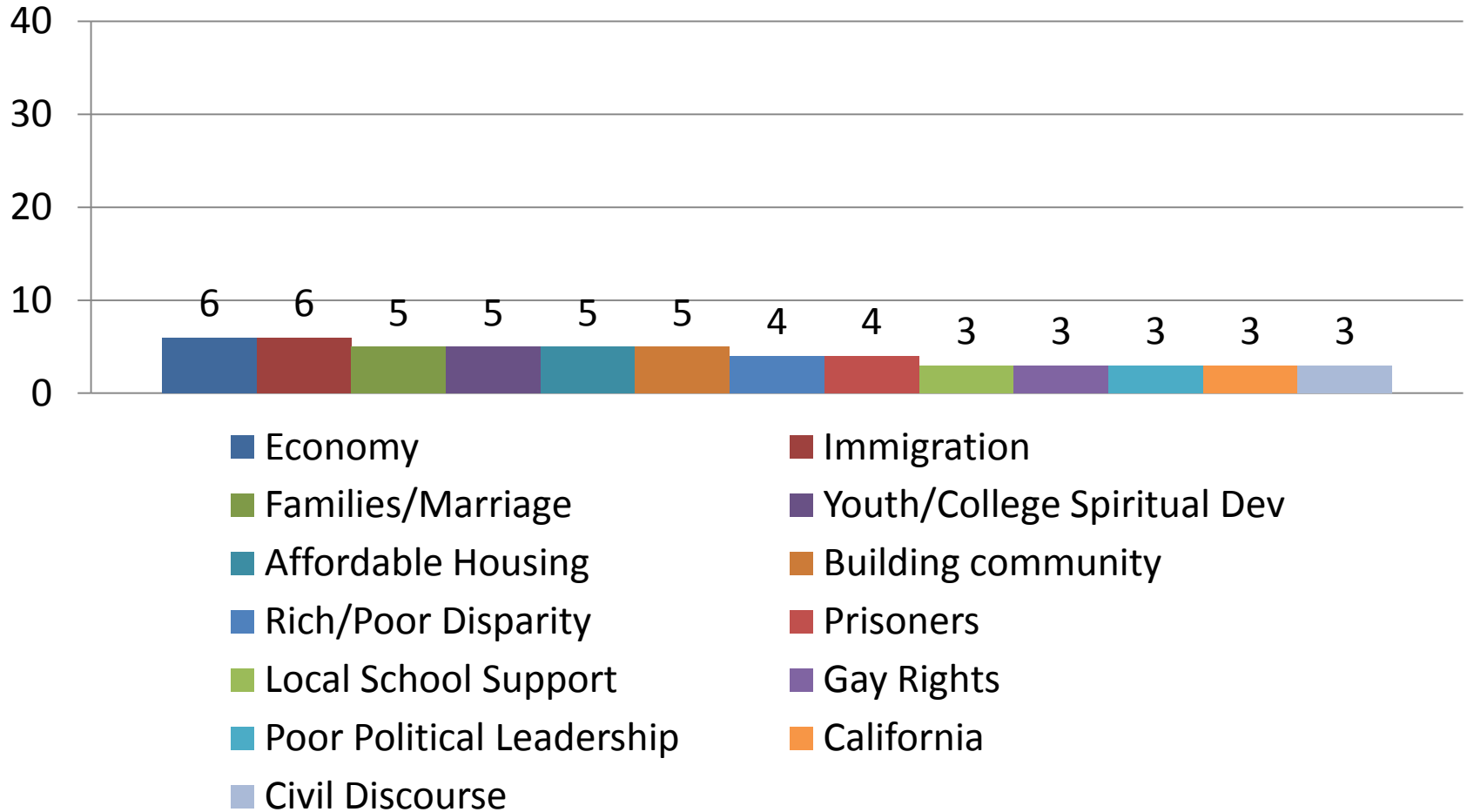
n=147 (categorized from write-in responses)





Q11: Local / State Needs (2 of 3)

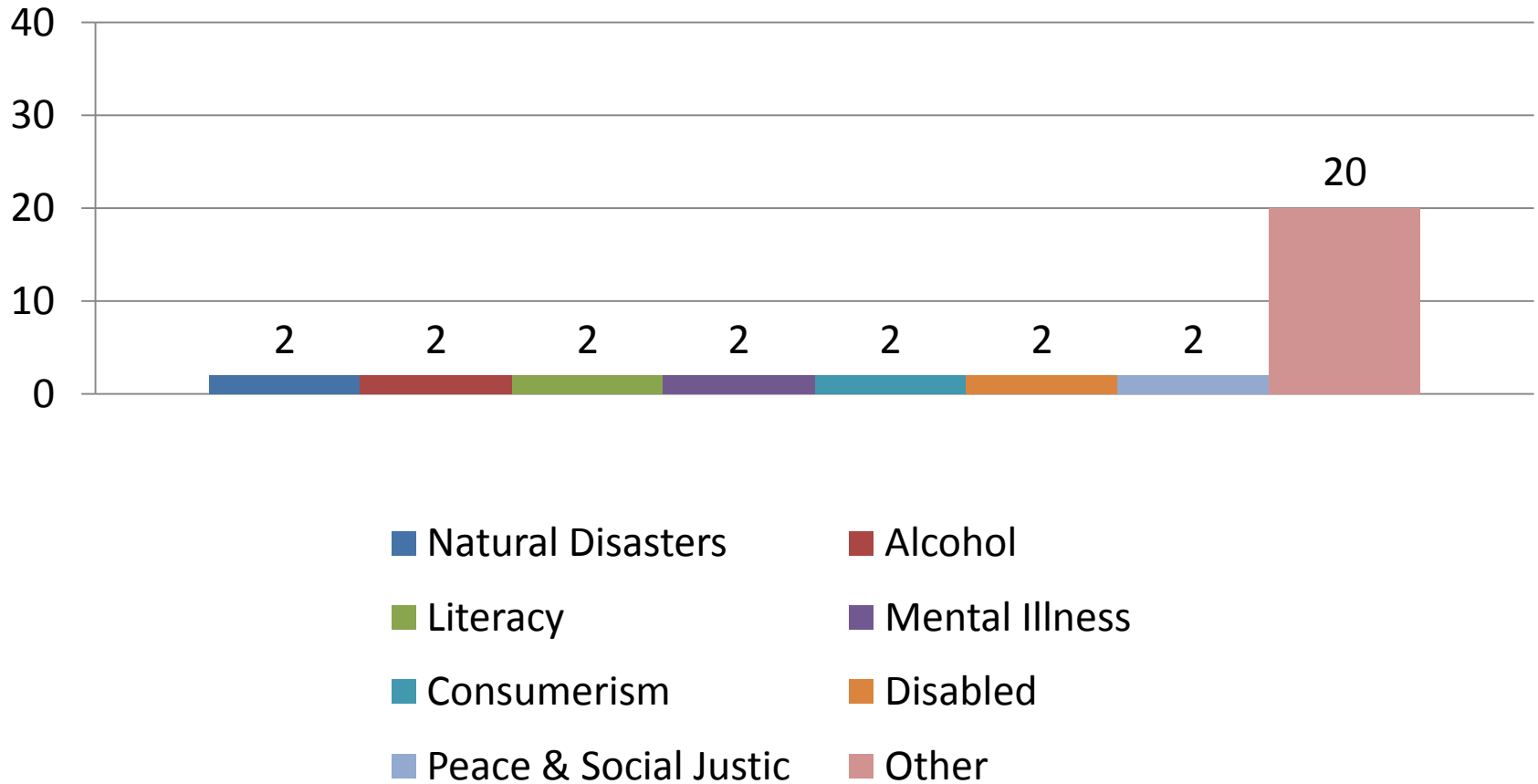
n=147 (categorized from write-in responses)





Q11: Local / State Needs (3 of 3)

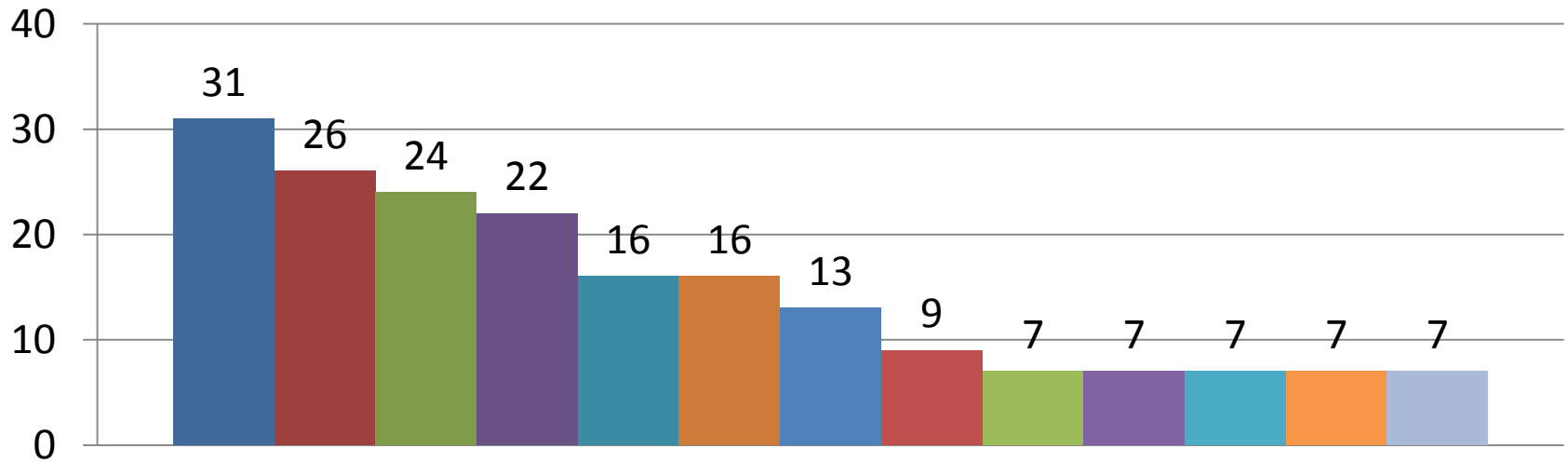
n=147 (categorized from write-in responses)





Q12: National / World Needs (1 of 3)

n=140 (categorized from write-in responses)

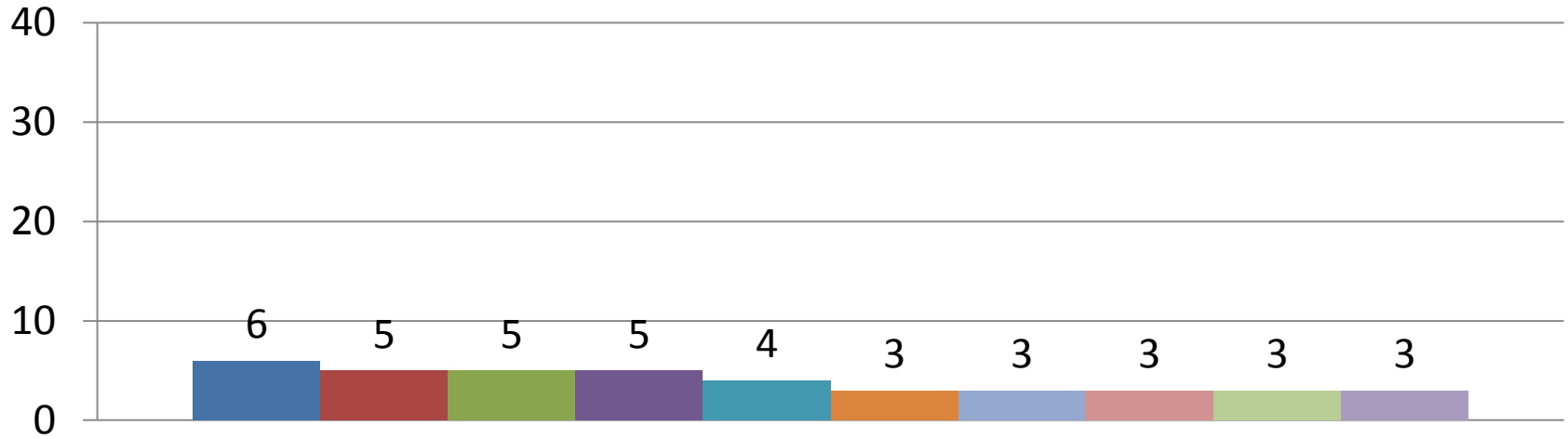


- Health Care
- Hunger
- Peace
- Africa
- Mid-East/Asia
- Gov't Oppression
- Community Service
- Environment
- Poverty
- Wars
- Women's & Children's Issues
- Social/Econ Justic
- Seniors



Q12: National / World Needs (2 of 3)

n=140 (categorized from write-in responses)

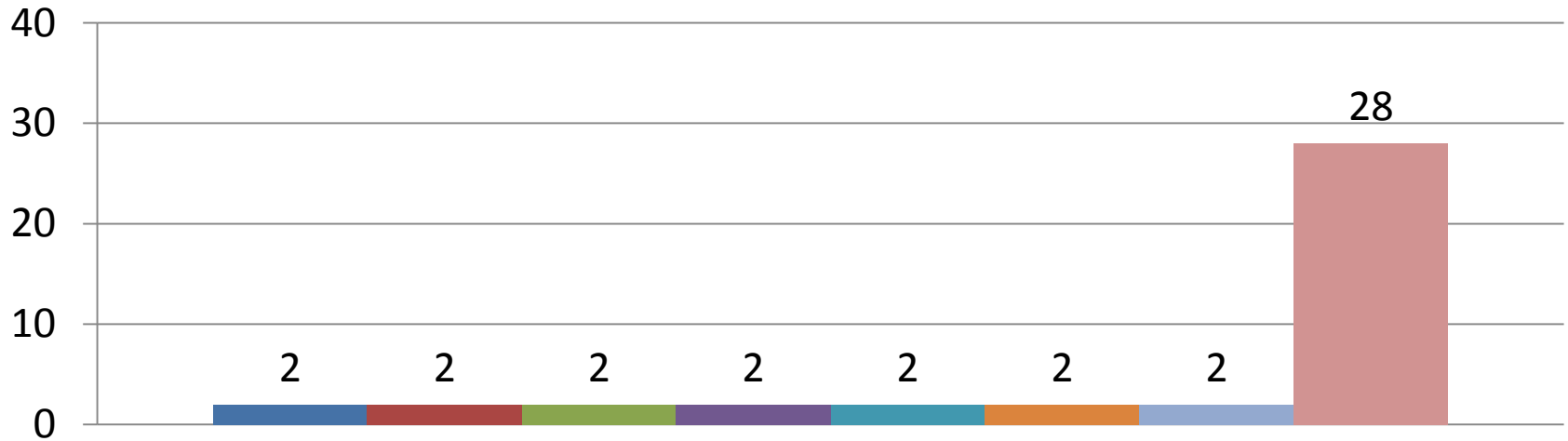


- Spread Gospel
- Greed
- Orphans/Widows
- Homelessness
- Social Justice
- Church Decline
- Refugees
- Slavery
- Honoring God
- Immigration



Q12: National / World Needs (3 of 3)

n=140 (categorized from write-in responses)

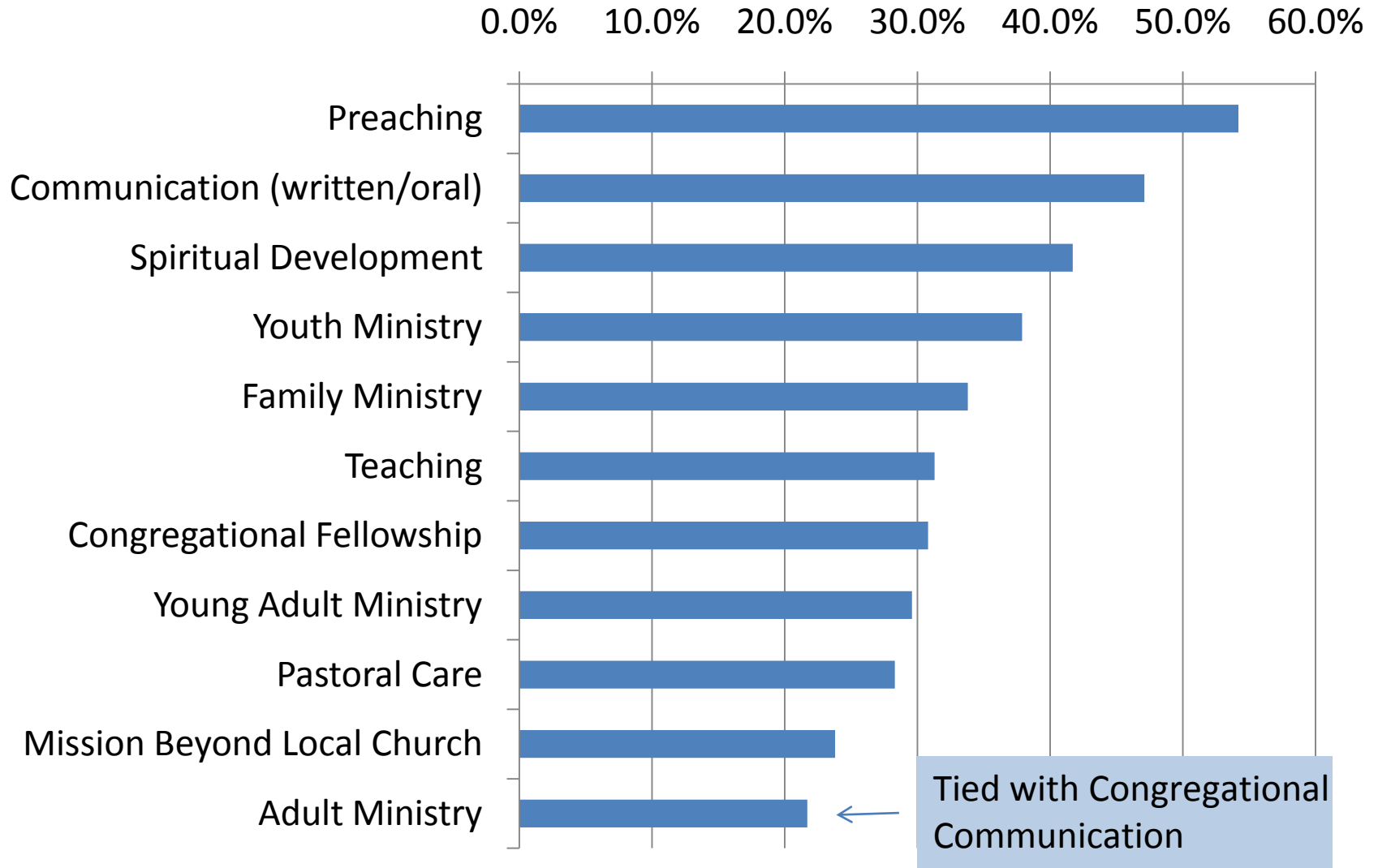


- Drought
- U.S. Response
- Social & Spiritual Concerns
- Human Rights
- Racial Conflict
- Praying
- Terrorism
- Other



Q13: Top Skills for Next Associate Pastor (1 of 3)

n=240 (select up to 7)





Q13: Top Skills for Next Associate Pastor (2 of 3)

n=240 (select up to 7)





Q13: Top Skills for Next Associate Pastor (3 of 3)

n=240 (select up to 7)

0.0% 10.0% 20.0% 30.0% 40.0% 50.0% 60.0%

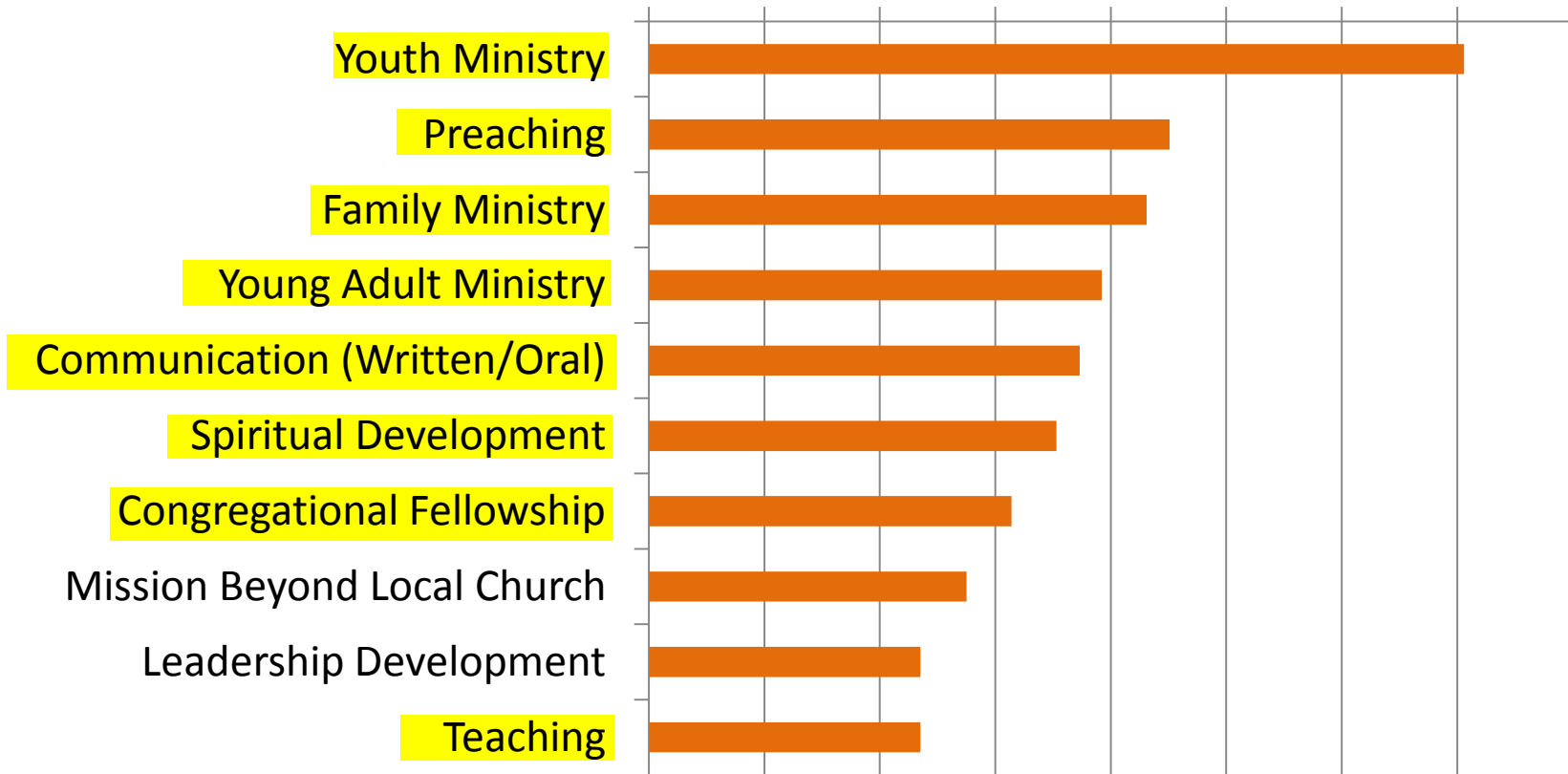




Q13: Top Ten Skill Priorities

Anyone <21, n=52

0.0% 10.0% 20.0% 30.0% 40.0% 50.0% 60.0% 70.0% 80.0%



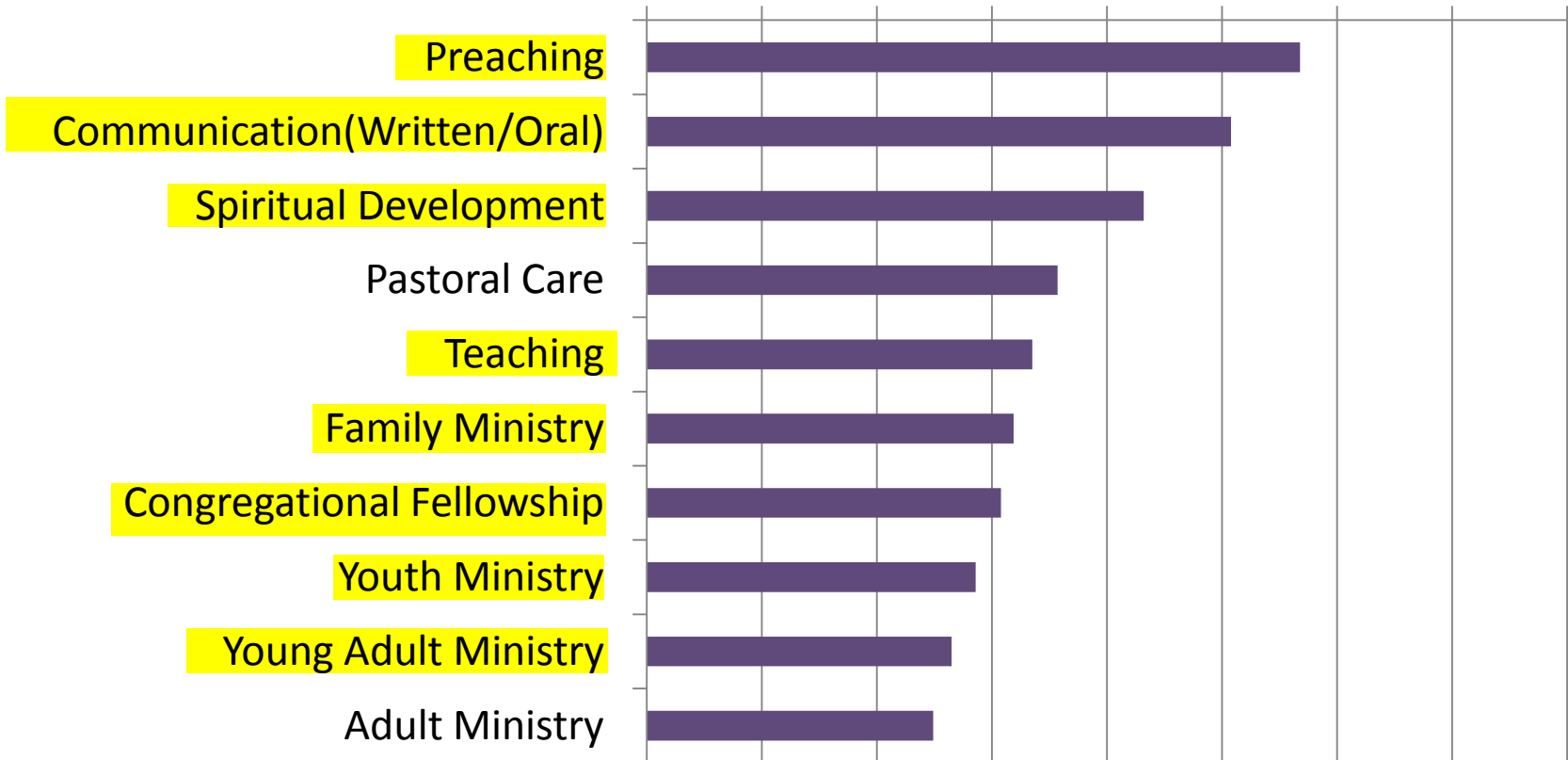
Highlighted items are skills that also appear in the Top 10 Priorities of those 21 and older, though not necessarily in the same order.



Top Ten Skill Priorities

Anyone ≥ 21 , n=185

0.0% 10.0% 20.0% 30.0% 40.0% 50.0% 60.0% 70.0% 80.0%

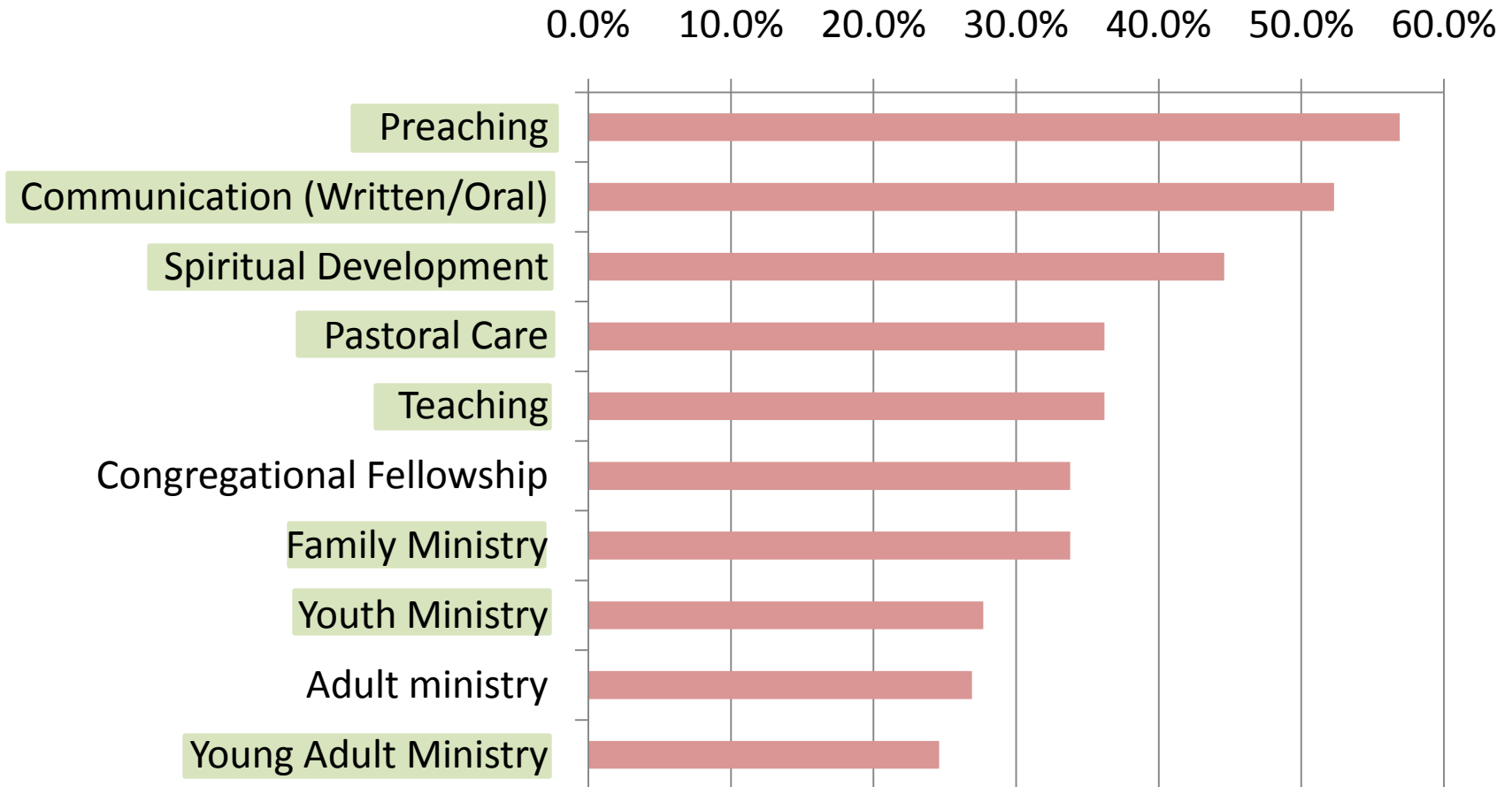


Highlighted items are skills that also appear in the Top 10 Priorities of those under 21, though not necessarily in the same order.



Top Ten Skill Priorities

Females, ≥ 21 ; n=130

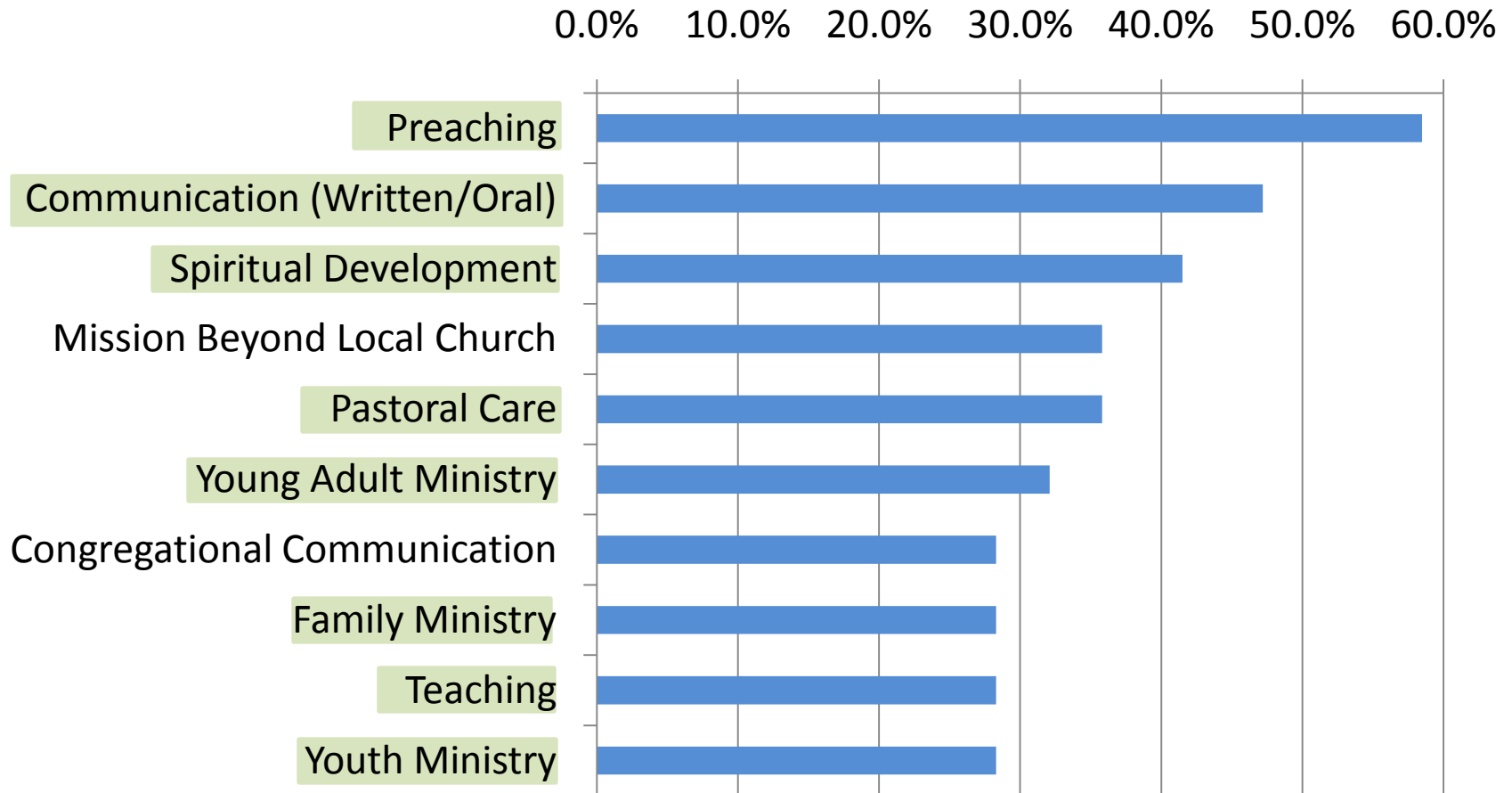


Highlighted items are skills that also appear in the Top 10 Priorities of Males ≥ 21 , though not necessarily in the same order.



Top Ten Skill Priorities

Males, ≥ 21 ; n=53



Highlighted items are skills that also appear in the Top 10 Priorities of Females, ≥ 21 , though not necessarily in the same order.



Q19 – Other Comments

n=93, Categorized

Comments about Church

- Church is great (various parts of it): 15
- Need larger service projects/organization to make it easier to volunteer with (especially for working people): 4
- Not comfortable with church/not connected: 2
- We need to have better use of congregations' varied gifts: 2
- Need to welcome visitors better: 1
- Women's ministry needs support: 1

Comments for Committee

- Thanks!: 16
- We should pray often for guidance: 2
- We should move faster: 1

Suggestions for new Pastor

- Focus on spiritual development of followers: 5
- Complement skills of current pastors: 3
(Note: Extrovert comments not counted here but could be)
- Extrovert: 2
- Communication skills: 1
- Warm and caring: 1
- Humor: 2
- Preaching skills: 1
- Mature: 1
- Ethnic: 1



Q19: Other Comments - Spirituality

- ***“God is so real and I attend church because I feel His presence there. I feel forgiveness and restoration. It is very, very good.”***
- ***“I believe a weakness in the church (with some exceptions) is moving people beyond a cursory knowledge of God to a deep and loving relationship with Him and dependence on Him.”***
- ***“This is a critical time for our church to develop tools for its members to develop spiritually and I strongly recommend that the new staff come with skills to do this. Every member could be in Spiritual Direction and we could have small groups who share their faith deeply with one another under trained leaders. This would not be the same as adult education or Alpha. Those programs should continue. Check out the program at Valley Presbyterian Church to find out what I'm suggesting.”***



Q19: Comments – Integrating spirituality & service

- ***I enjoy this church. I love the leadership of Steve. He really is the reason I attend this church. His spiritual guidance and vision and life of integrity are a wonderful example for me and my family.***

I think there are some things the church can improve, to become a more vibrant community. I believe that this church has a mix of highly involved people that perhaps are slightly insular and appear burned out and a larger portion of people that are disconnected from the life of the church, from my observation.

I think an emphasis on personal spiritual development of the members to help them move forward on their journey of faith, coupled with devoting the staff organizational resources to create service projects that members so moved could then join.

Right now it feels that the church response to any desire to engage in service is "be an entrepreneur and organize the project yourself". While certainly that is a test of one's dedication to the Lord, the ability to commit the amazing amount of resources to create a project from scratch is sufficiently daunting that I think creates a forum where only non working adults and retirees end up fully participating in the church and service projects.

Why not have the church itself organize "house building" or repair projects? Why not adopt a school and provide support and repairs there? There are many hands that I think would help on such projects, but few with the time to organize such projects. A new pastor with a focus on programmatic personal spiritual development and on service and creating service projects would really help grow this church in its service to the Lord, in my opinion, anyway.



Q19: Comments – Volunteers/Communication

- ***“The church has seen a decline in several areas during the last few years. The loss of experienced staff has resulted in a number of unfilled gaps and a lessening of the smooth operations and service that we have had in the past. We also have seen a decline in communications (with little or no explanation). Planning seems to be inconsistent and increasingly events and activities (if they occur at all) reflect the lack of planning. The traditional reliance on groups such as the Mariners to perform service has gradually eroded and congregation members appear to be busy with other things in their lives and unable or unwilling to take on many of the volunteer tasks of the past. I believe pastoral leadership is needed to deal with these problems.”***
- *“We have done gifts ministry for some time, helping people identify their spiritual gifts. When gifts are identified that can be used in a church leadership directed ministry, that seems to work. But if the gifts don't line up with what the leadership supports, then I think those gifts are underutilized, even discouraged. I would love to see more leadership that empowers and delegates to gifted lay leaders and lets them use their gifts in ministry.”*
- ***“Our church needs to provide better communication and follow through for volunteers - More mentoring and training for activities, in advanced for future long term planning. We need more deliberate / organized "small group type" support for members to gain personal / loving help, encouragement and support to get started and involved in all of God's Work.”***
- *“I want to get more involved in the community but my personal and professional commitments seem to provide "safe" barriers for not stretching and doing more.”*



Q19: Comments – Diversity of Needs

- ***“There is a big focus on families with children in the church, which is great. However, there are some people who don't fit into that category. They aren't single, aren't college-aged, and don't have kids. I feel like I'm looking for where I fit in, and haven't found it yet. More of a focus on activities that are intergenerational or not necessarily involving children would be great.”***
- ***“As a self study doing this survey, I realized that I am quite inwardly focused on our church and congregation at a time when we are emphasizing reaching out. I care about the folks attending SVPC and that they can get the rich life I get from our church. I strongly feel we need a pastor over youth & families. Steve W did very good things in this role for years and it is benefiting our church at many levels.”***
- ***“I would like to see a candidate who would develop an active program for Singles in the 20's and 30's range.”***



Q19: Comments – Next Associate Pastor

- *“Feel we need a strong, mature, dynamic leader who can help Steve and Karin continue to guide this church to into the missional space it is headed. Experience / passion for mission / social justice is very important. Also someone who can wrap their arms around the many young families / youth and children's programs that are so strong in the church.”*
- *“Please pick a person who is burning with the spiritual desire to take the church into the hidden places to reach out to those in need, to nurture them physically and spiritually, to help SVPC be known as a temple of kindness, giving, and outward love!”*
- *“If you could find someone with Robin's enthusiasm, Dale's empathy, and who is also a scholar it would be great.”*