

Prepared for:

Multiple churches selected

Report generated on:

Wednesday, April 08, 2026

Regional Engagement Atlas of Churches (REACH)

# Volunteer Impact Report



Wycliffe College

AT THE UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

*Canadian Institute for Empirical Church Research*

[ciecr.wycliffecollege.ca](http://ciecr.wycliffecollege.ca)

## **Welcome to your REACH Report**

This report contains the results of your church's participation in the Regional Engagement Atlas of Churches (REACH) Volunteer Impact survey. The report outlines statistics on your church's demographics, volunteer activities, and a variety of other insights on how you impact the local community and your members.

Volunteers play a vital role in shaping both the heart of their congregation and the well-being of the wider community. We sought to map and understand how your church engages in local, national, and international volunteer activities, as well as the ways that your church can flourish in the future by extending the love, hope, and care of Jesus Christ far beyond its walls. Our prayer is that this report will help encourage and equip your church to further its mission and vision.

## **Estimates and Methodology**

This report is based on responses received via the REACH Volunteer Impact survey. The results, therefore, only provide a sample of what is true for your congregation. Results should be read with this information in mind.

The estimated values provided throughout this report have been strategically weighed based on the total number of congregants in your church in an attempt to estimate full church totals. This information was either: 1) provided by the church prior to participating in the REACH Volunteer Impact survey; or 2) estimated by the CIECR based on previous charitable donation information available via the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA).

Estimates should be read in conjunction with raw data values and percentages to understand the fullest picture of your congregation available. Please read through our Interpretation Guide for further information on how to best understand the data presented in this report.

## **Contact Us**

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## Church and Survey Information

Church Name:

Multiple churches selected

Business Number:

Multiple churches selected

Survey date range:

Nov 2025 - Mar 2026

Report generated on:

Wednesday, April 08, 2026

233

Total survey responses

2236

Estimated total congregants

## Report Snapshot

### Work and Caregiving

Average percentage of time spent working remotely

22%

Estimated\* total hours spent in caregiving roles

193,918

### Volunteering

Estimated\* total church volunteer hours per year

184

Estimated\* total other volunteer hours per year

488,139

### Financial Giving

Estimated\* total giving to the local/home church

\$5,776,605

Estimated\* total giving to all charities

\$8,177,647

### Demographic Information

Percentage who identify as a visible minority

47%

Percentage who hold a Bachelor's degree or higher

71%

Percentage who work in a full-time role

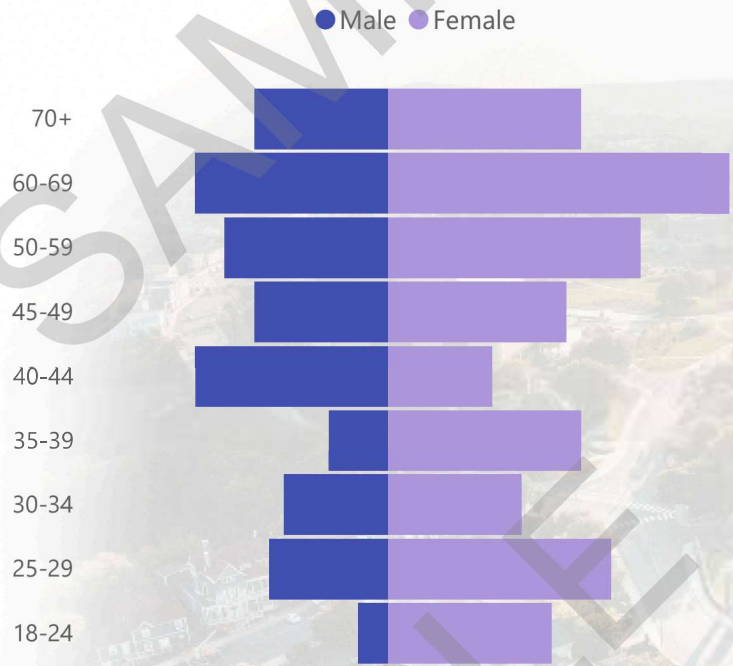
53%

\*Estimates were calculated using the ratio of survey responses received against the estimated size of the congregation. Estimates may not reflect true counts or distributions, but provide an idea of what the overall congregation's experience may be.

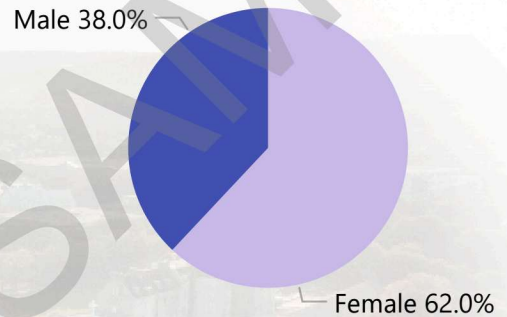
# Demographic Information

The following section contains demographic information on members of your church. Consider this section an introduction to *who* attends your church, which we like to call your congregational, or "Volunteer DNA."

### Population Pyramid



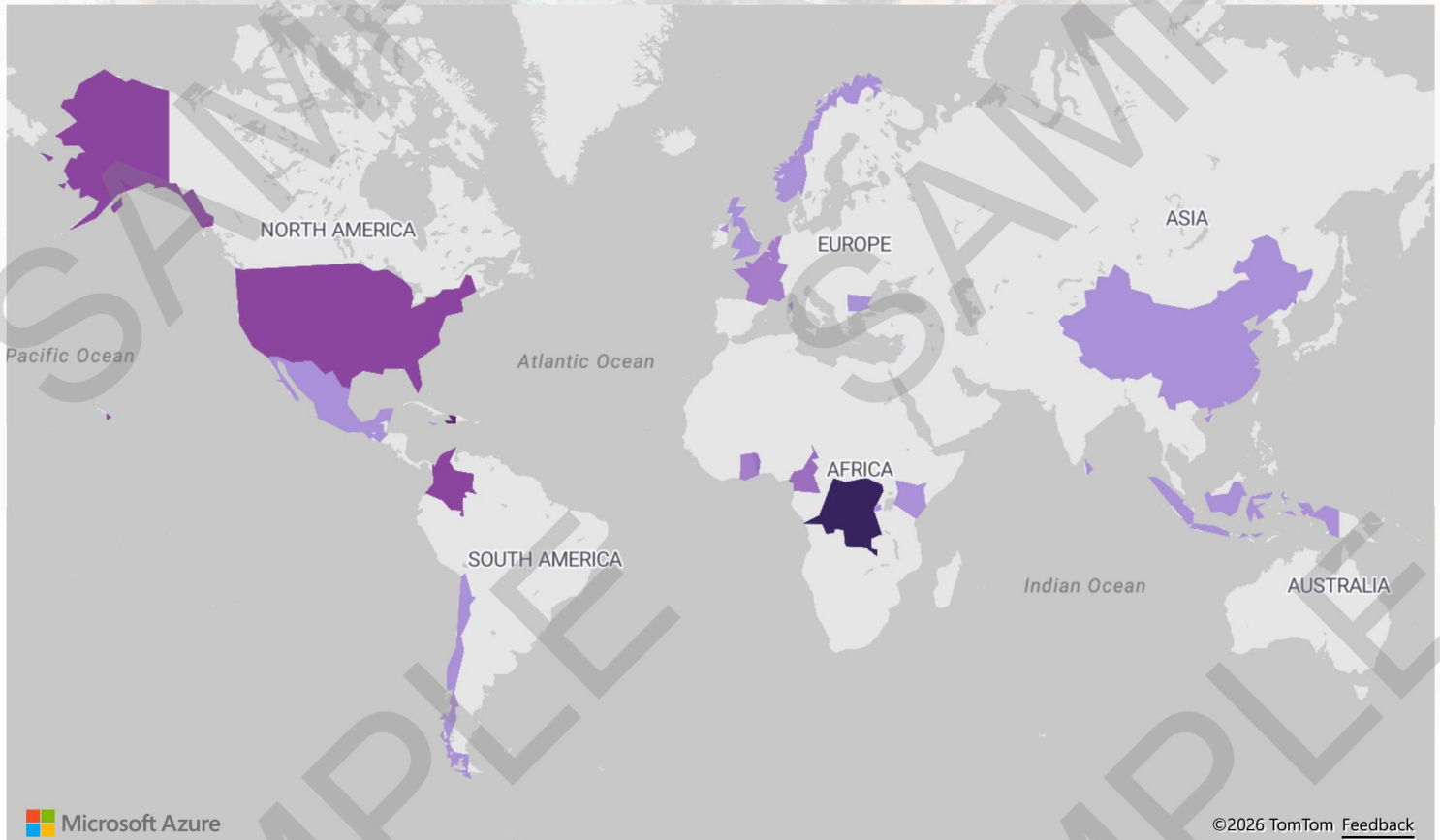
### Gender Distribution



### Gender and Age Breakdown

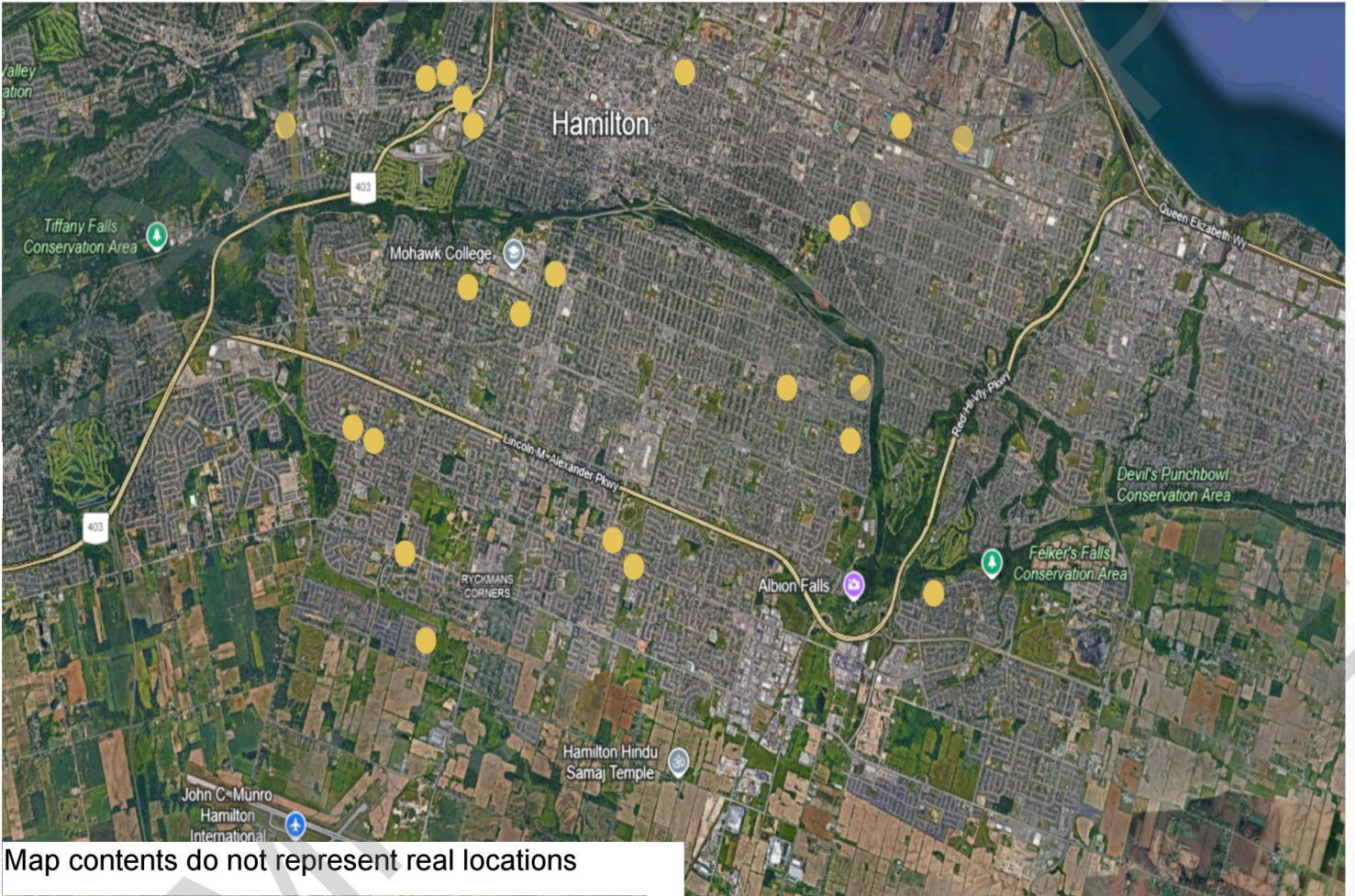
Gender	Median age	Average age
Female	46.0	47.6
Male	46.5	48.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>46.0</b>	<b>47.9</b>

### Countries of Origin



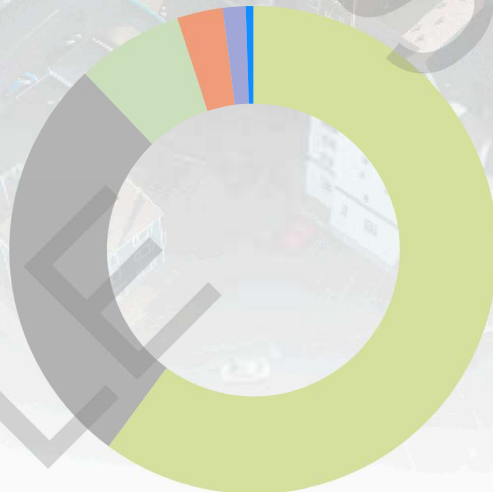
# Demographic Information

The map below outlines where members of your church live around its general vicinity.



## Marital Status

● Married ● Single ● Divorced ● Widowed ● Separated ● Common law

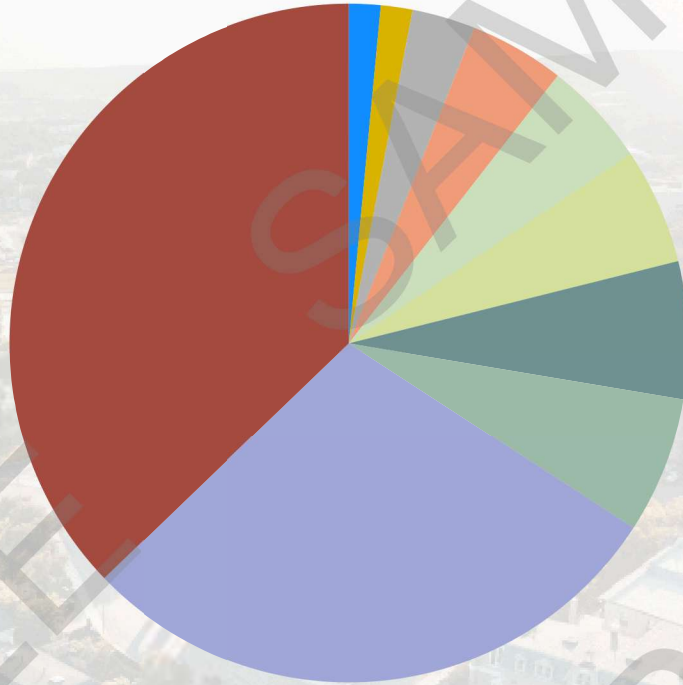


# Demographic Information

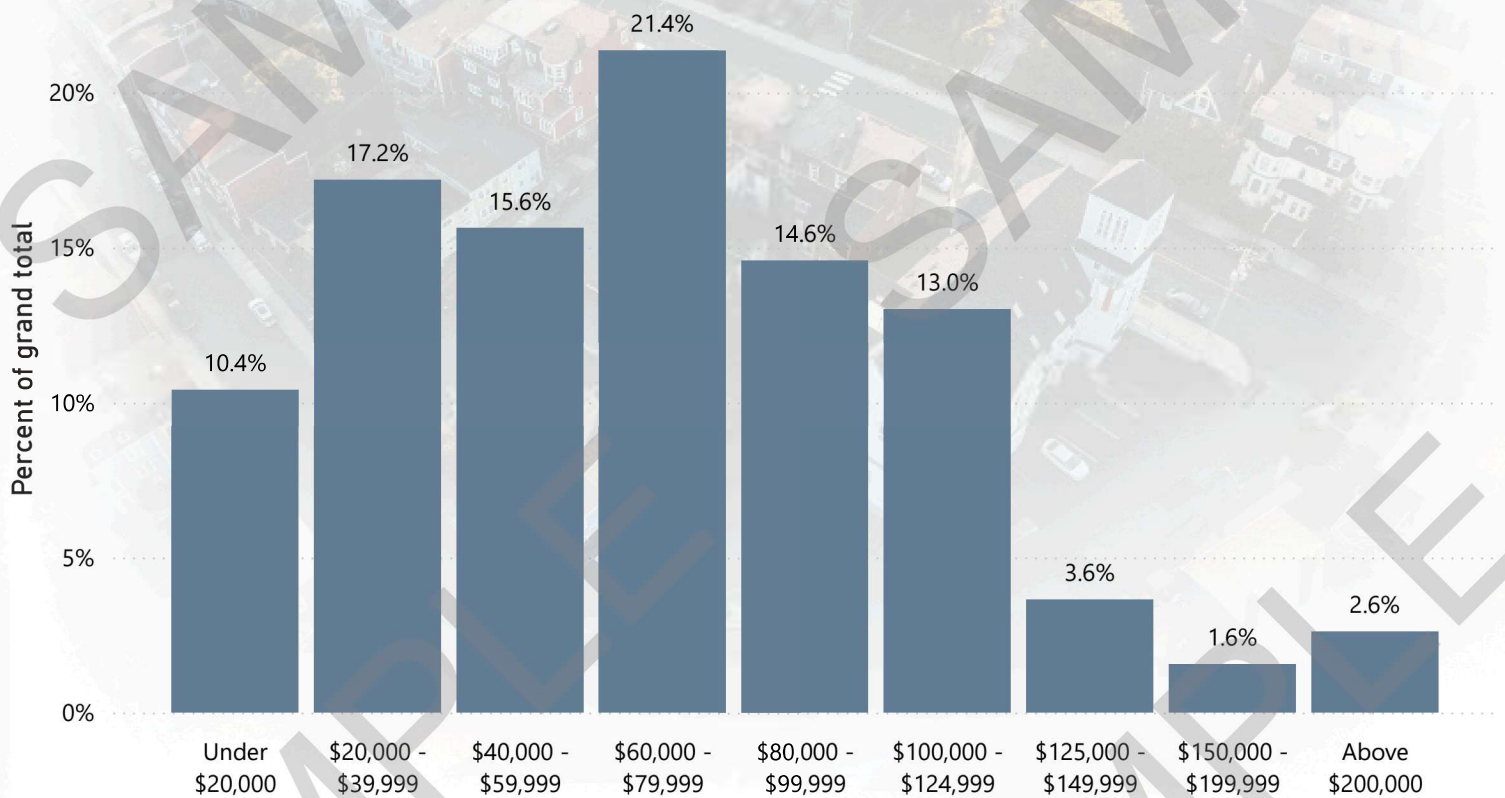
Participants were asked about their highest earned educational level and gross annual income.

## Highest Education Level Completed

- Associates
- Some high school
- Other education
- Some college
- Doctorate
- High school
- CEGEP
- College or apprenticeship
- Master's
- Bachelor's



## Gross Annual Income Brackets

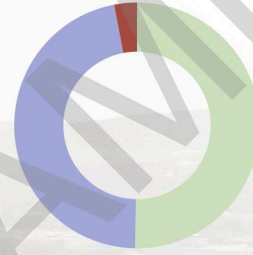


# Demographic Information

Participants were asked whether they self-identified as a visible minority. They were also asked to specify their ethnicity or ethnicities.

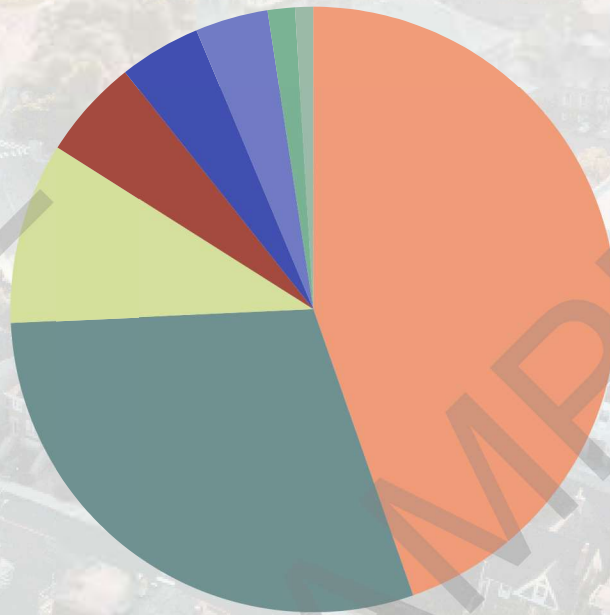
## Visible Minorities

● Non-minority ● Minority ● Unsure

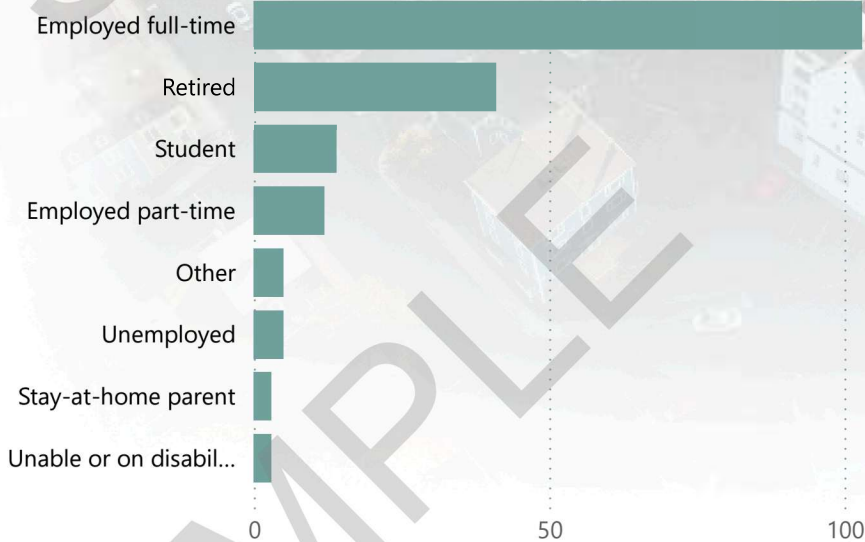


## Ethnic and Cultural Origins

- White or European
- Black or African American
- East Asian
- Hispanic or Latino
- Other ethnicities
- South Asian
- Middle Eastern or North African
- Indigenous (First Nations, Métis, ...)



## Employment Status



Participants were also asked about their employment status. "Homemakers" have been grouped into the "stay-at-home parent" category.

# Workplaces

The map below shows where members of your church work throughout the week.



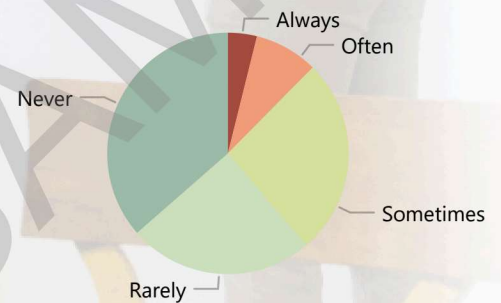
For this section, participants were asked to specify the most common way they commute to their workplace. This information can be helpful in understanding how commuting methods may vary across members of your congregation, and can be compared to church commuting methods found in the Church Attendance section.

## Commuting to Work

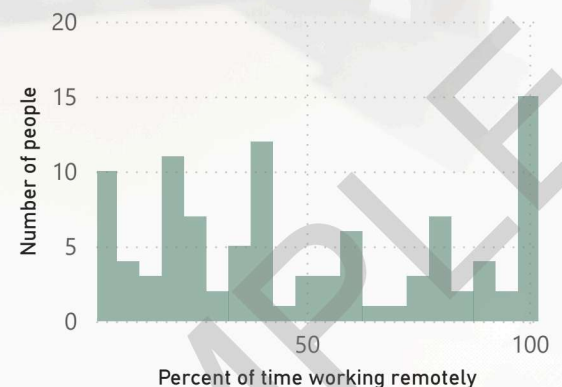
	Count	%	Estimated total*
Driving	51	40%	898
Cycling	6	5%	106
Walking	10	8%	176
Public transit	42	33%	739
Rideshares	1	1%	18
Work remote only	17	13%	299
<b>Total</b>	<b>127</b>	<b>100%</b>	

\*Estimates were calculated using the ratio of survey responses received against the estimated size of the congregation. Estimates may not reflect true counts or distributions, but provide an idea of what the overall congregation's experience may be.

## Work commute is exceedingly long and/or difficult?



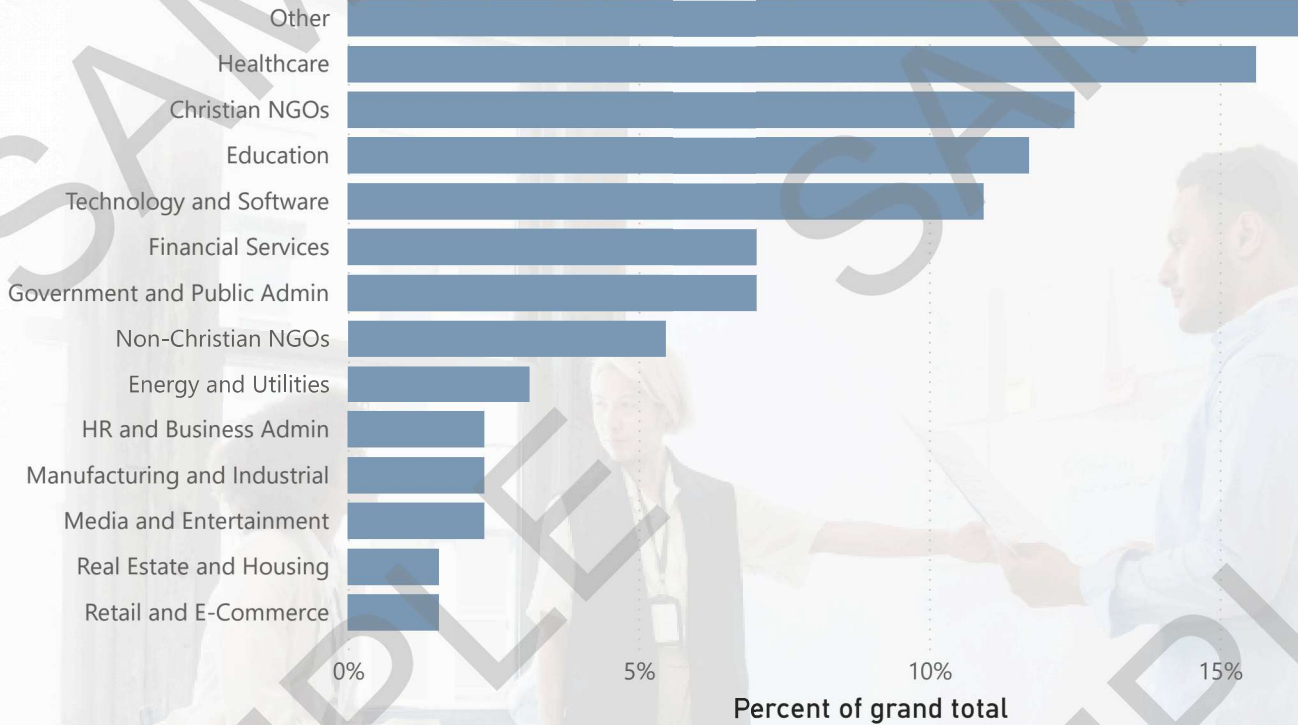
## Distribution of those working remotely



# Workplaces

It can also be interesting and important to understand what sectors are most common in your congregation. For example, congregations with higher numbers of individuals involved in charitable workplaces or among other specialized skill groups (education, healthcare, etc.) may be more inclined to volunteer in similar roles at church or participate in other volunteer activities that involve their unique skills beyond church.

## Employment Sector

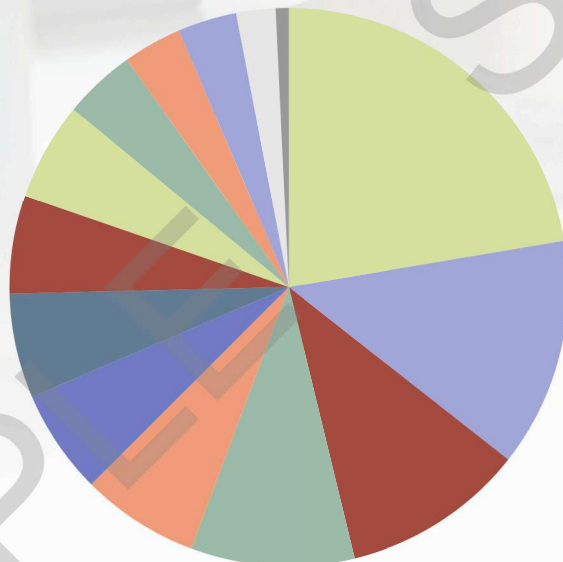


Church members may also work in unpaid and informal caregiving roles for people they know personally. The chart below demonstrates what types of caregiving are most common among those who participate in it.

For the purposes of this study being a caregiver is defined as *helping or caring for someone with a medical condition, challenges related to aging, a mental health condition, or a disability.*

## Types of Caregiving Activities

- Emotional support
- Transportation
- Meal preparation or clean...
- Access to faith community
- Managing finances
- Property maintenance
- Scheduling or coordinati...
- Financial support
- Personal care
- Medical procedures
- Access to recreation facil...
- Overnight support
- Other types of caregiving
- I don't know / prefer not...



**68**  
Total caregivers

**653**  
Estimated total caregivers

**87**  
Average annual caregiving hours

**193,918**  
Estimated total annual caregiving hours

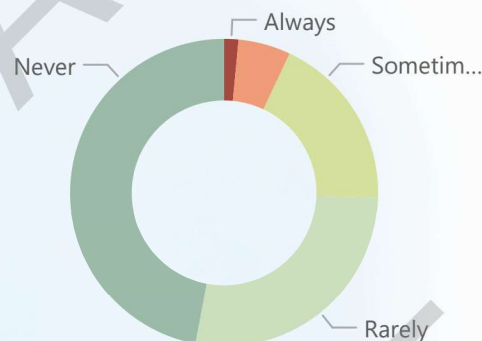
# Church Attendance

Participants were also asked to specify the most common way they commute to church. This information can be helpful for evaluating your church's needs for parking and accessibility.

## Commuting to Church

	Count	%	Estimated total*
Driving	128	64%	1K
Cycling	7	3%	78
Walking	30	15%	334
Public transit	32	16%	356
Rideshares	3	1%	33
Attend online only	1	0%	11
<b>Total</b>	<b>201</b>	<b>100%</b>	

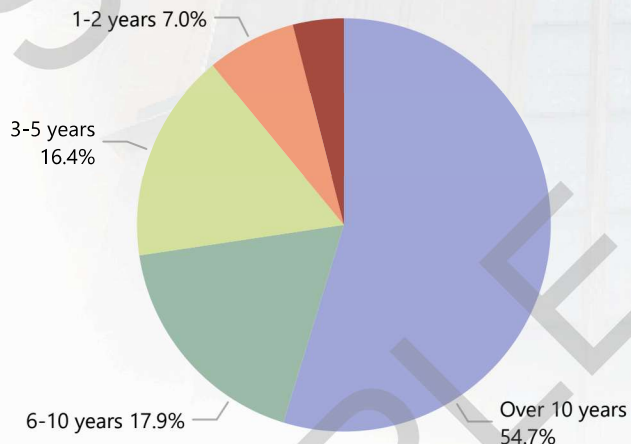
## Church commute is exceedingly long and/or difficult?



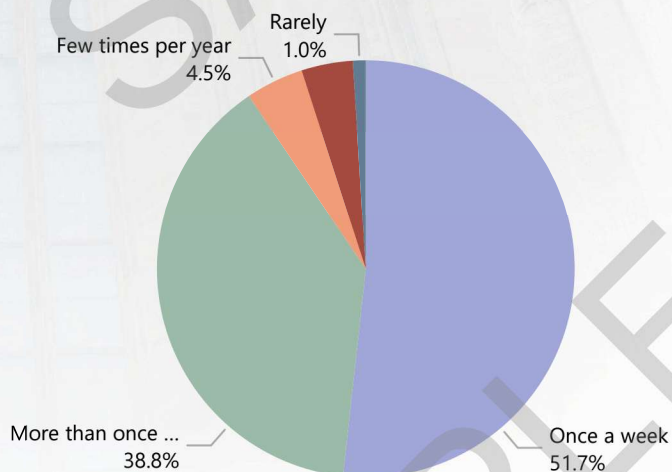
\*Estimates were calculated using the ratio of survey responses received against the estimated size of the congregation. Estimates may not reflect true counts or distributions, but provide an idea of what the overall congregation's experience may be.

Participants were also asked to provide information on how many years they have attended the church and their average attendance (or participation) frequency.

## Church Attendance in Years



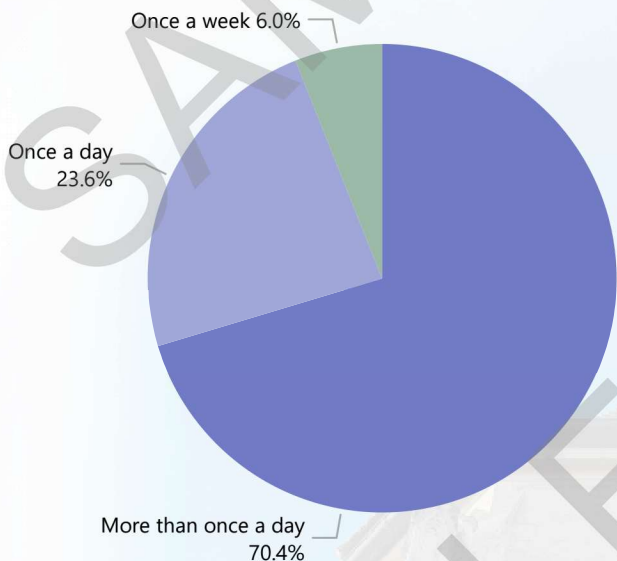
## Church Attendance Frequency



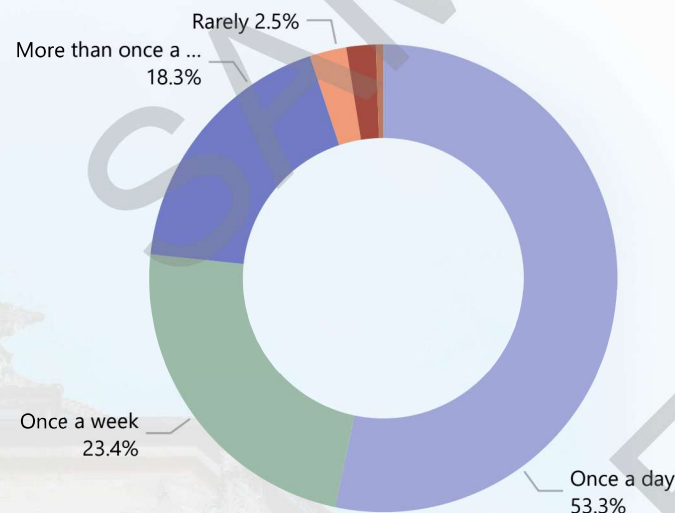
# Religious Practice

Participants were asked several additional questions about their religious identity and beliefs. We evaluated prayer and Bible reading frequency. Although these are not the only metrics from which to evaluate religious practice and participation, these questions provide a starting point from which to explore these questions further.

### Prayer Frequency



### Bible Reading Frequency



We also asked participants to rank the likelihood of them inviting friends (Christian and non-Christian) to church. We also evaluated their likelihood to continue attending their church even if it was further away on the same scale. These were measured on a scale of 0-10, where 0=Not at all likely; 10=Extremely likely.

### Likelihood of inviting Christian friends to church



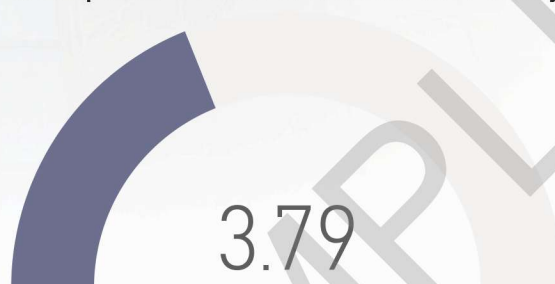
### Likelihood of inviting non-Christian friends to church



### Likelihood of continuing to attend church even if it was further away



### Likelihood of continuing to attend workplace even if it was further away



# Charitable Giving

This section outlines participant's annual average giving to a variety of different organizations and charities. The distribution shown below gives you an idea of what types of charitable giving your congregation participates in most generously, as well as what motivates them to give.

	Sum	Average/person (95% trimmed mean)	Estimated total*
Local (home) church	\$743,9...	\$2,583	\$5,776,605
Other local congregations	\$39,025	\$77	\$172,978
Domestic Christian charities	\$193,1...	\$532	\$1,188,755
Foreign Christian charities	\$86,020		
Domestic secular charities		\$185	\$414,428
Foreign secular charities	\$8,695		
<b>Total</b>			

\*Estimates were calculated using the ratio of survey responses received against the estimated size of the congregation. Estimates may not reflect true counts or distributions. The true Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) earnings are displayed in the adjacent box.

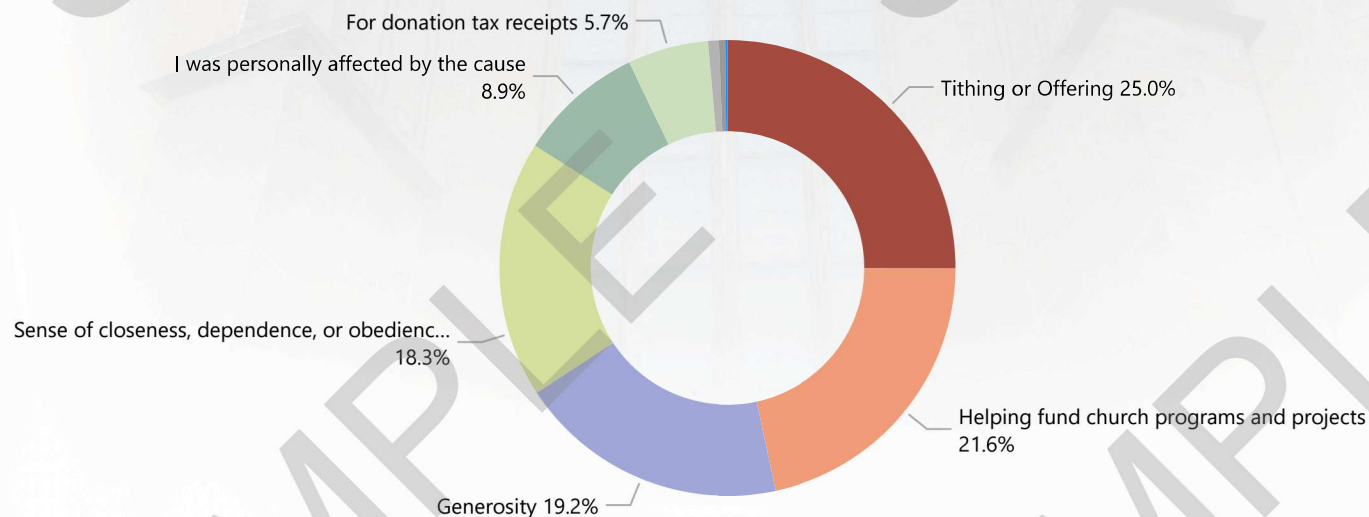
(Blank)  
2024 tax-receipted income

## Giving Distribution

- Local church
- Other local congregations
- Domestic Christian charities
- Domestic secular charities
- Foreign secular charities
- Foreign Christian charities



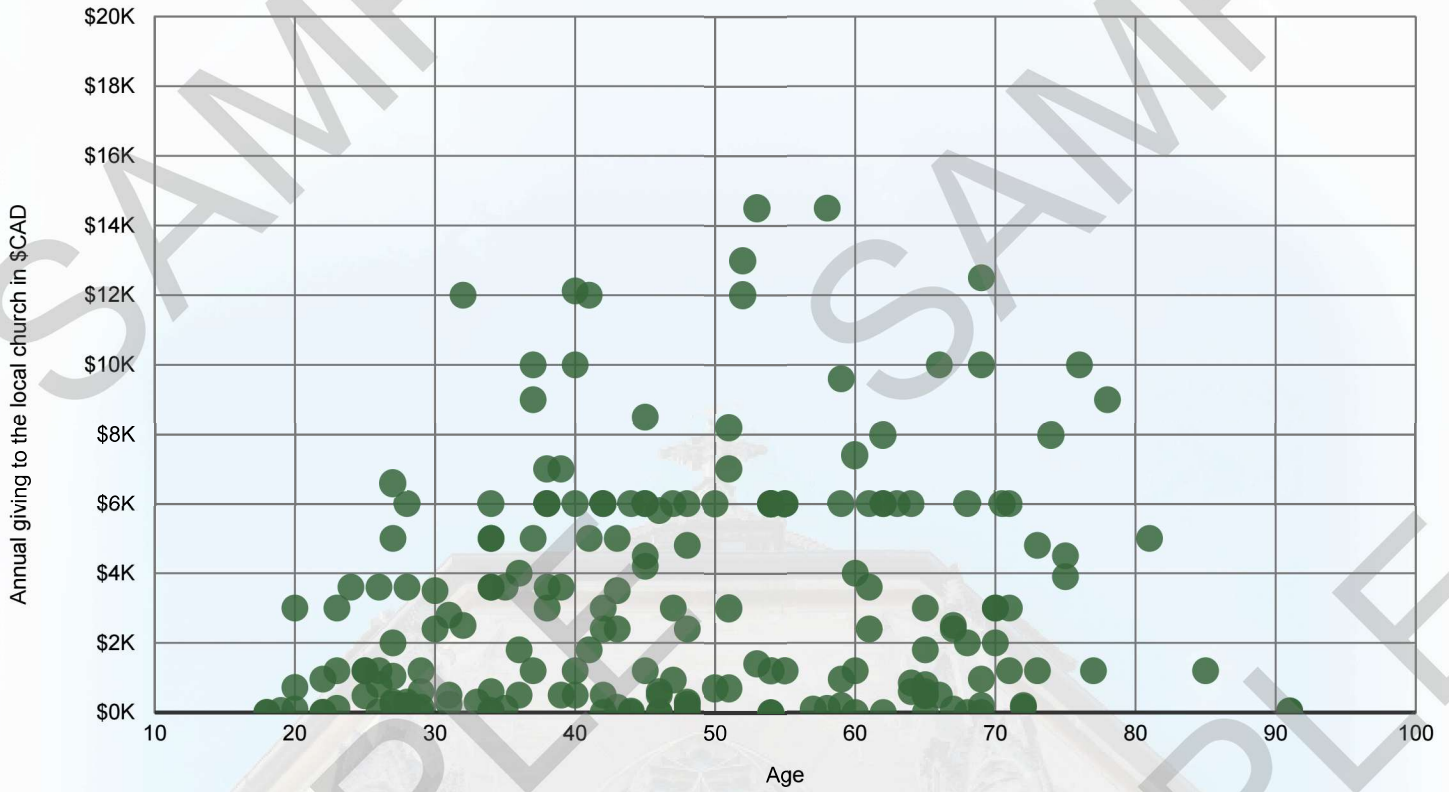
## Reason for financial giving at church



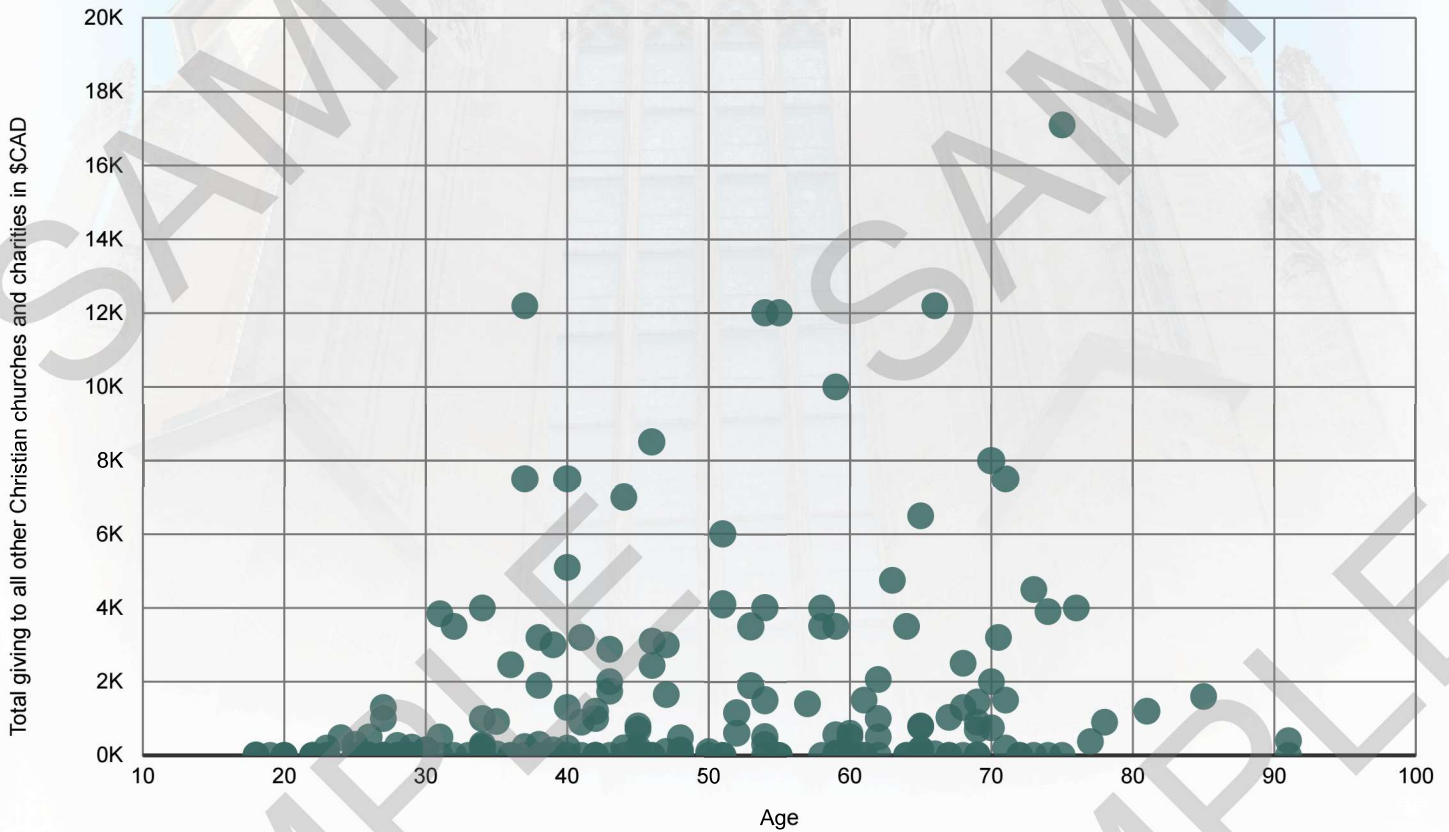
# Giving to Local Church and Christian Charities

The following scatterplot displays the relationships between church member's age and the number of dollars they gave to the church.

### Giving to local church by age



### Giving to all other Christian churches and charities by age



# Church Volunteering

Participants were asked about their volunteer activities at (and related to) church. Volunteer activities for this section range from volunteering in musical worship roles, to volunteering with children's ministries, to leading a small group or Bible study at your home on a weeknight. The graphs and cards below outline what volunteer activities are most common as well as the average number of hours spent in these roles annually.

**184**

Volunteer at church

**79%**

Volunteer at church

**2K**

Estimated total church volunteers

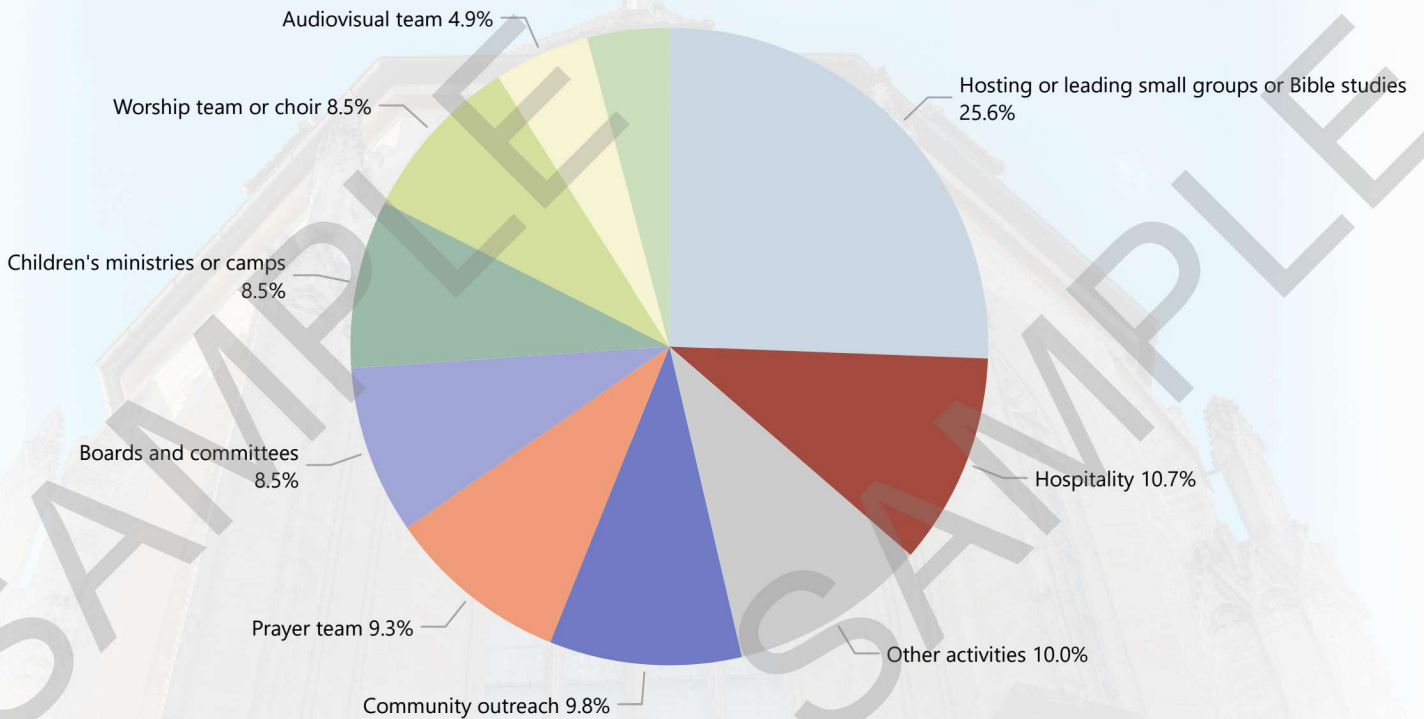
**165**

Average annual church volunteer hours per person

**466,303**

Estimated total annual church volunteer hours

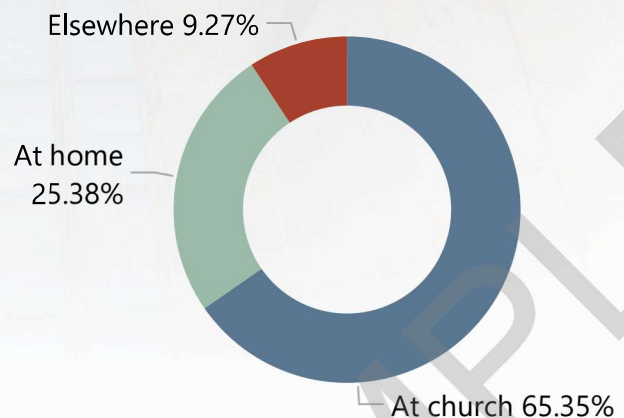
## Church Volunteer Activities



Church-related volunteering can happen in various locations. People might volunteer in church programs and events in the church building itself, at home, or elsewhere in the community.

Participants were asked what percentage of their church volunteer hours are spent at:

- 1) The church or surrounding neighbourhood,
- 2) home or surrounding neighbourhood, or
- 3) elsewhere in the community

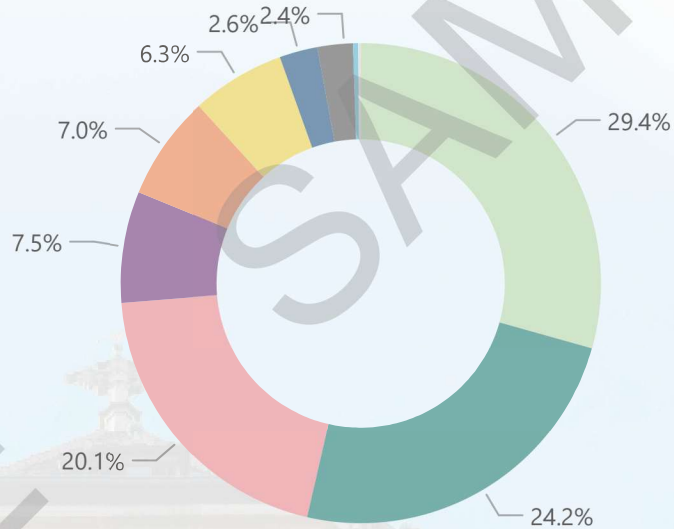


# Church Volunteering

Participants were also asked to provide reasoning for why they choose to volunteer at church. For some, the reason may be highly personal, and for others, it could be motivated by skill development or networking. Spiritual growth is another potential factor, as well as being 'volun-told' (told/forced to volunteer).

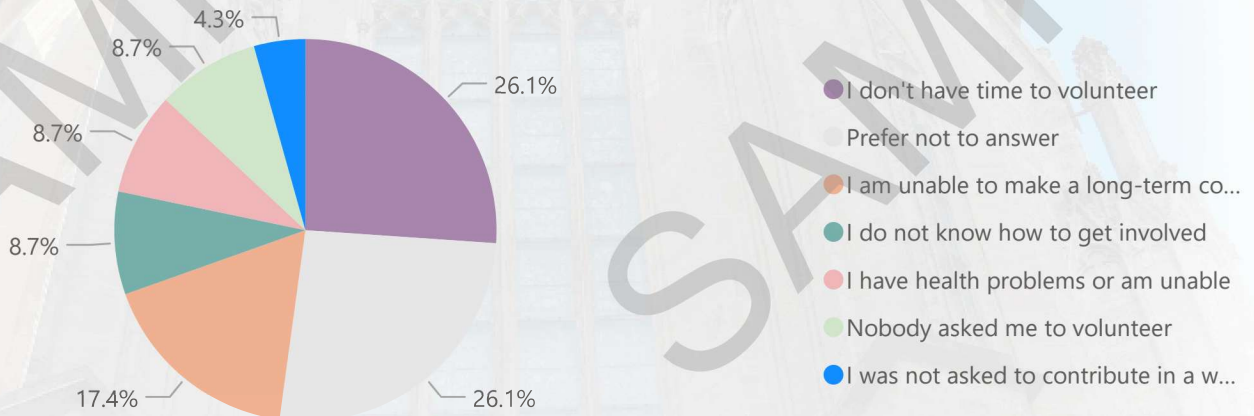
## Reasons for volunteering at church

- To help others in my congregati...
- For spiritual growth, or a sense ...
- For personal enjoyment and fulf...
- To gain or improve my skills and...
- You or someone you know has ...
- I feel appreciated when I volunt...
- For networking, connections, or ...
- Other reasons
- I was told or forced to volunteer
- Prefer not to answer



Furthermore, why might people choose not to volunteer at church? The following graph displays each reason why individuals indicated that they do not volunteer.

## Reasons for not volunteering at church

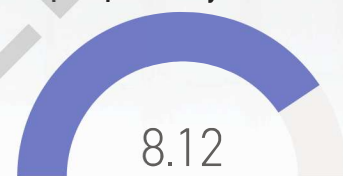


Participants were also asked to rank their perceived level of feeling burnt out and appreciated while volunteering at church. These questions follow a scale of 0-10 where 0=Never; 10=All the time.

Feel appreciated by leadership



Feel appreciated by the people they serve



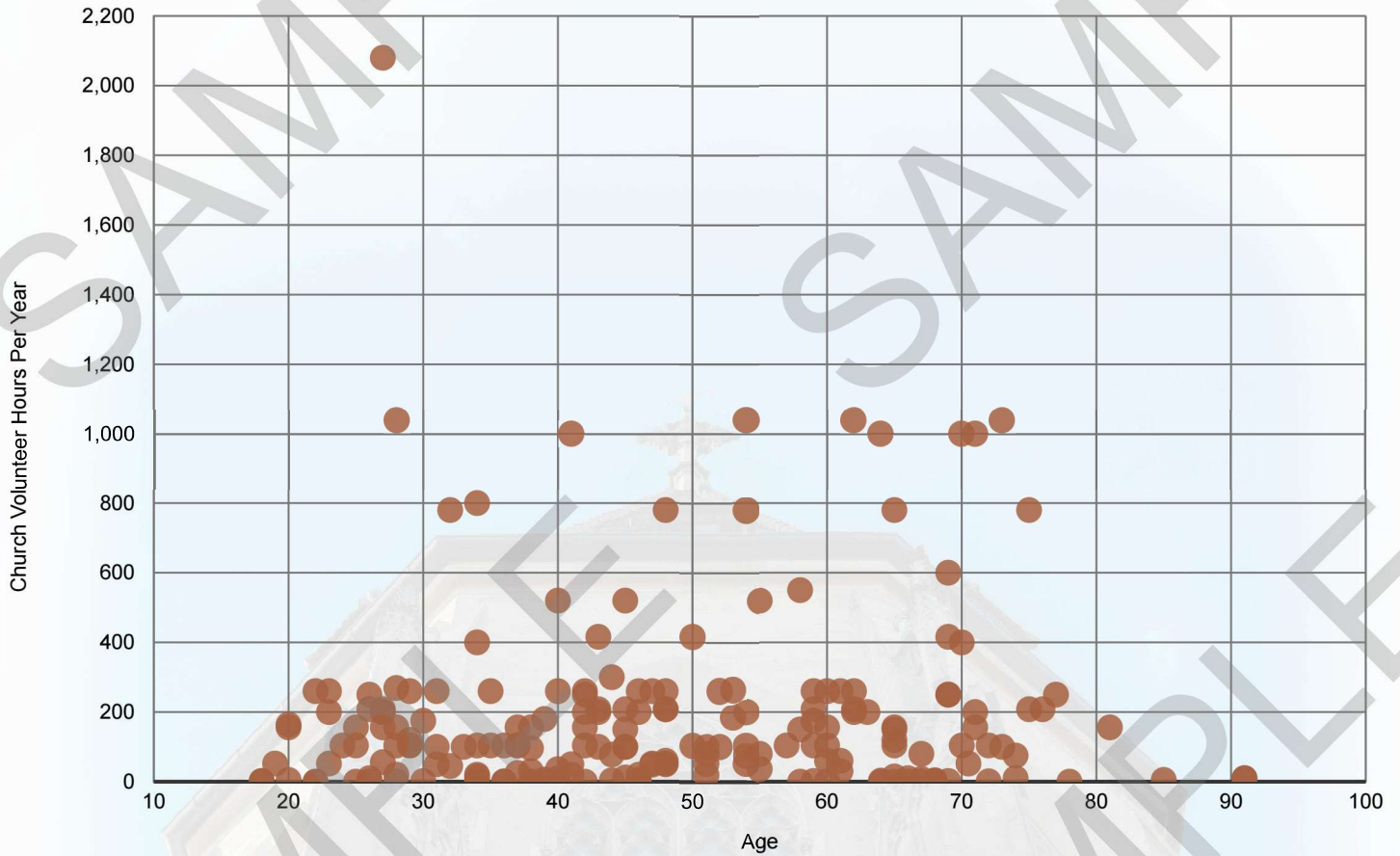
Feel burnt out or overextended



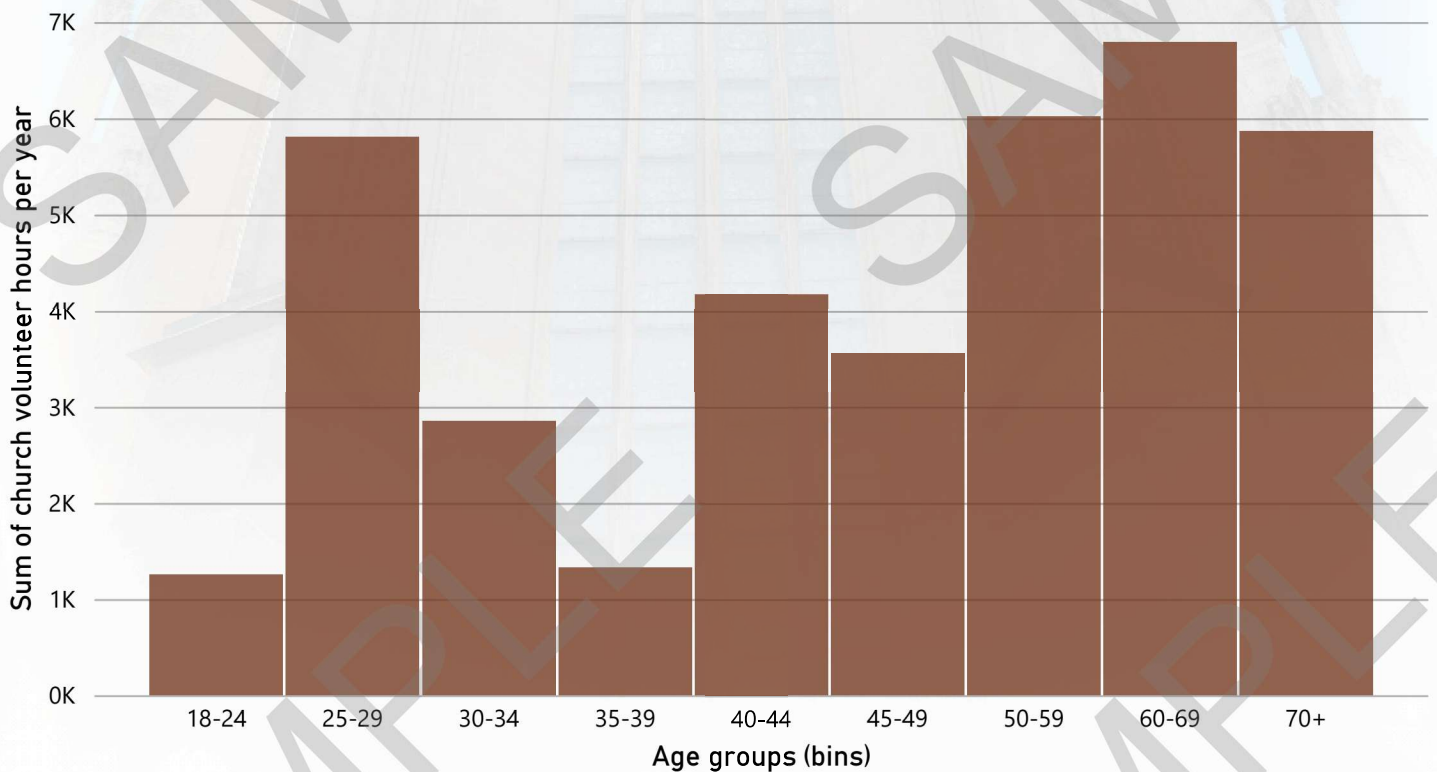
# Church Volunteering

The following scatterplot displays the relationships between church member's age and the hours they spent volunteering at your church per year.

Church volunteer hours per year and age



Church volunteer hours per year and age (binned)



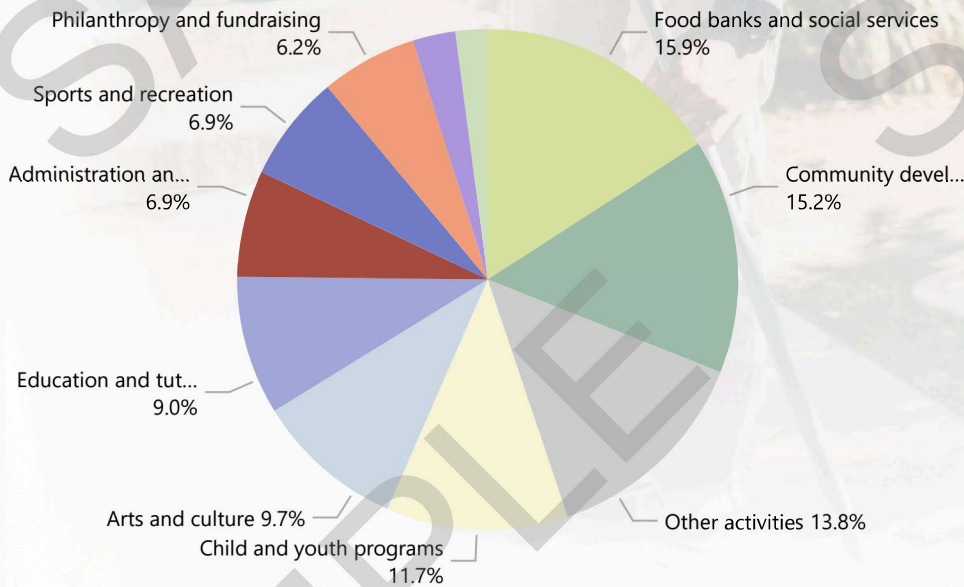
# Volunteering Beyond Church

Many Christians volunteer beyond their local church. For example, individuals might volunteer to clean up litter in parks, volunteer as a tutor or fundraiser, or help coach a soccer team. Religious volunteer activities may also be included in this section, but are not explicitly connected to your church. For example, members may volunteer at a Christian food bank in their local community that is unassociated with their home church.

The map and cards below highlight the extent of your congregation's volunteerism beyond church-related activities.



## Volunteer Activities Beyond Church



**73**

Volunteer outside of church

**31%**

Volunteer outside of church

**701**

Estimated total (outside) volunteers

**68**

Average annual (outside) volunteer hours

**488,139**

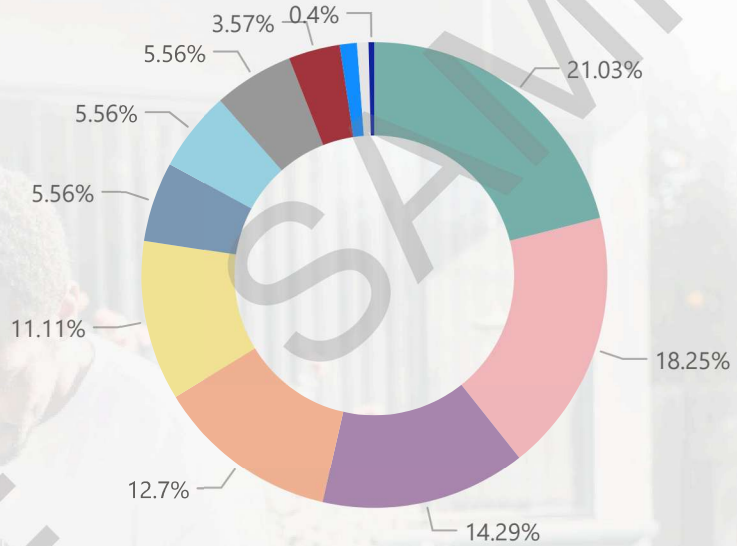
Estimated total annual (outside) volunteer hours

# Volunteering Beyond Church

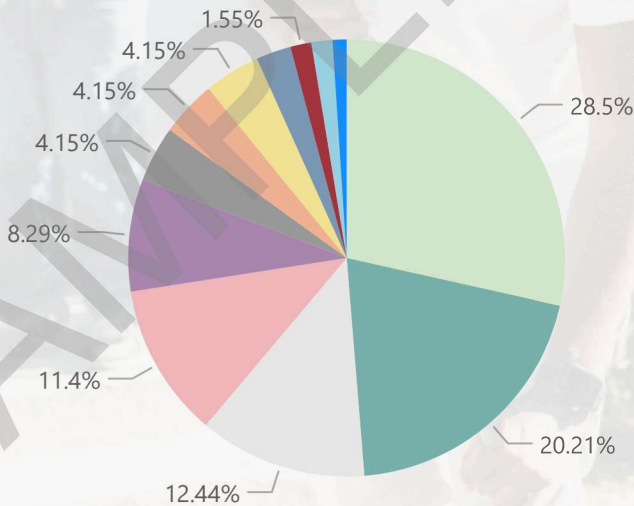
Participants were also asked to provide reasons for why they choose to (or don't choose to) volunteer outside of church. The results presented here can be compared with the previous Church Volunteering section.

## Reasons for volunteering outside church

- Helping others
- Getting involved in my commun...
- Sense of fulfillment or purpose
- Giving back/paying it forward
- You or someone you know has ...
- Evangelization
- Improved mental or physical he...
- Skill development
- Career advancement, connectio...
- Social influence or peer pressure
- Other reasons
- I am told or forced to volunteer



## Reasons for not volunteering outside church



- I don't have time to volunteer
- I gave enough time already volunteering
- Prefer not to answer
- I am unable to make a long-term commitment
- I do not know how to get involved
- I am not interested in volunteering
- I prefer to give money instead of my time
- Nobody asked me to volunteer
- I have health problems or am unable
- I cannot afford the cost of volunteering
- There is no opportunity to use my skills
- I am dissatisfied with my previous volunteering

Again, participants were asked to rank their perceived level of burn out and feeling appreciated for these activities. These questions were set on a scale of 0-10 where 0=Never; 10=All the time.



# Volunteering Summary

Questions concerning burnout and feeling appreciated by those served and those who lead in volunteer roles are compared on this page. These questions were set on a scale of 0-10 where 0=Never; 10=All the time.

## CHURCH VOLUNTEERING

Feel appreciated by the people they serve



Feel appreciated by leadership



Feel burnt out or overextended



## OTHER VOLUNTEERING

Feel appreciated by the people they serve



Feel appreciated by leadership

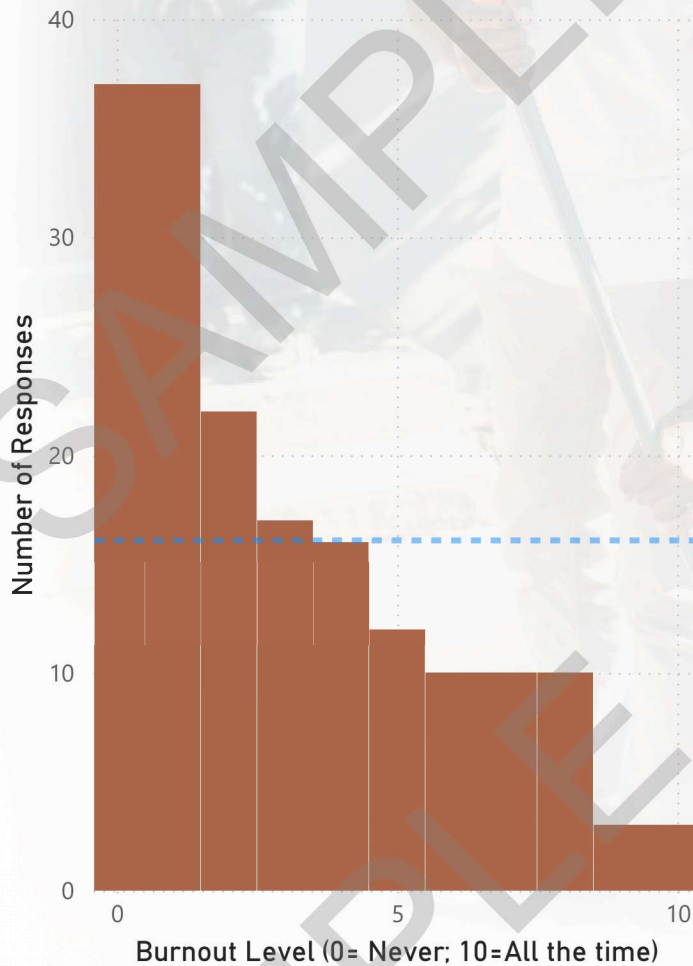


Feel burnt out or overextended



How might burnout differ depending on volunteer activity? We compared both church and outside volunteering in terms of burnout for further analysis below.

Burnout When Volunteering at Church



Burnout When Volunteering Outside of Church



# Congregational Flourishing

From congregation member's perspectives, these five flourishing metrics [1] are used to quantify whether the congregation is united by a shared mission, is actively being uplifted, supported, and satisfied by its leadership, and whether members trust one another.

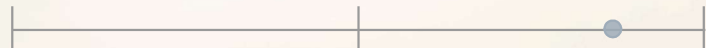
Participants were asked to rank these metrics, where 0 = Strongly disagree and 10 = Strongly agree.

Leaders have the skills and understanding they need to lead the congregation well.



8.3

The shared mission [of the church] is clear to everyone.



8.5

There are structures and practices that allow us [the church] to accomplish our goals.



8.2

Everyone trusts each other [in our church].



7.0

Everyone is satisfied with how things are [at our church].

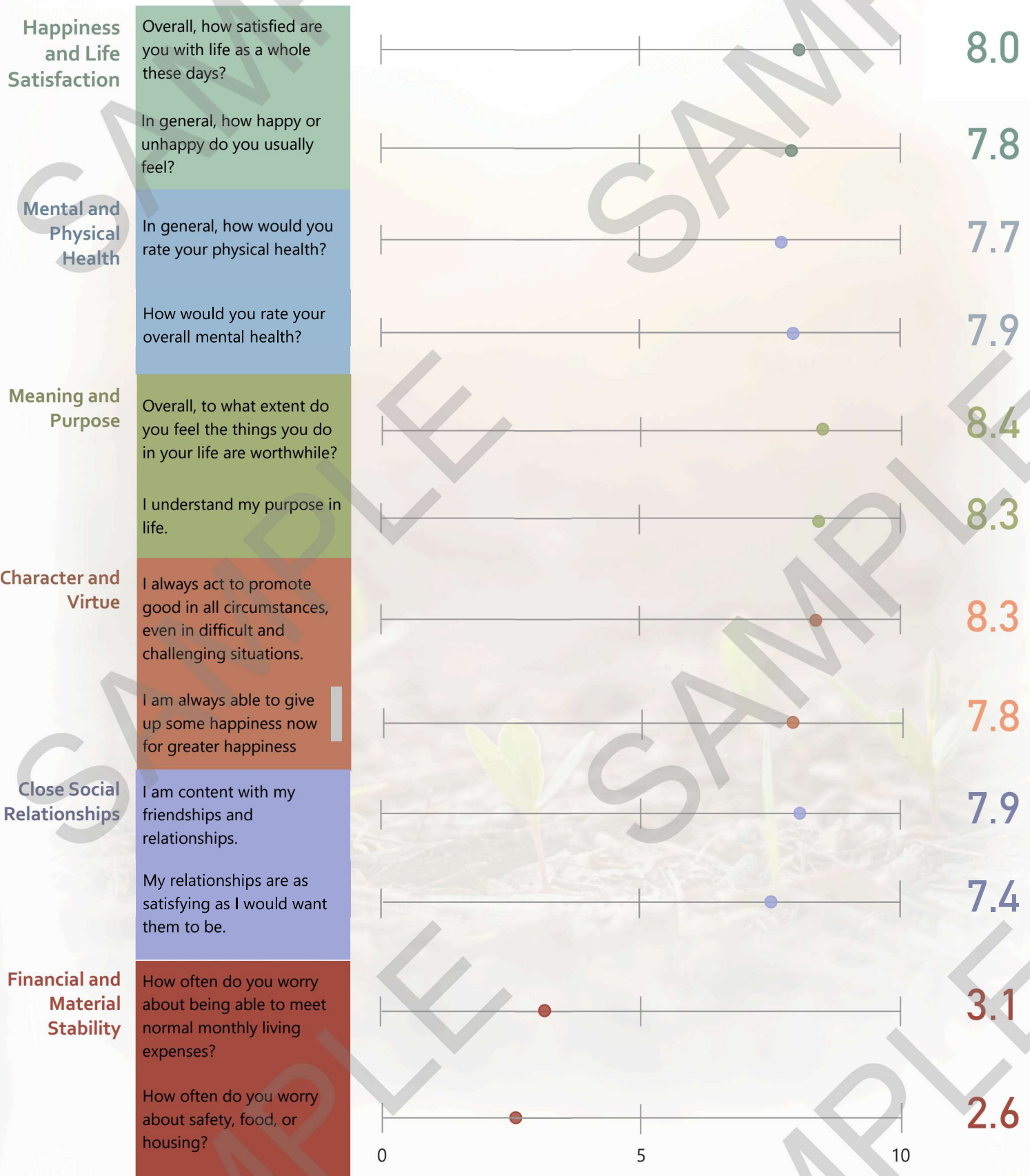


7.0

0 5 10

# Human Flourishing

Several metrics can be used to measure human flourishing (or, wellbeing) from several angles. Although not explicitly related to religion, human flourishing has been tied to religiosity in several studies. The REACH project uses the Human Flourishing Program's metric based out of Harvard University[2].



# Impact and Outlook

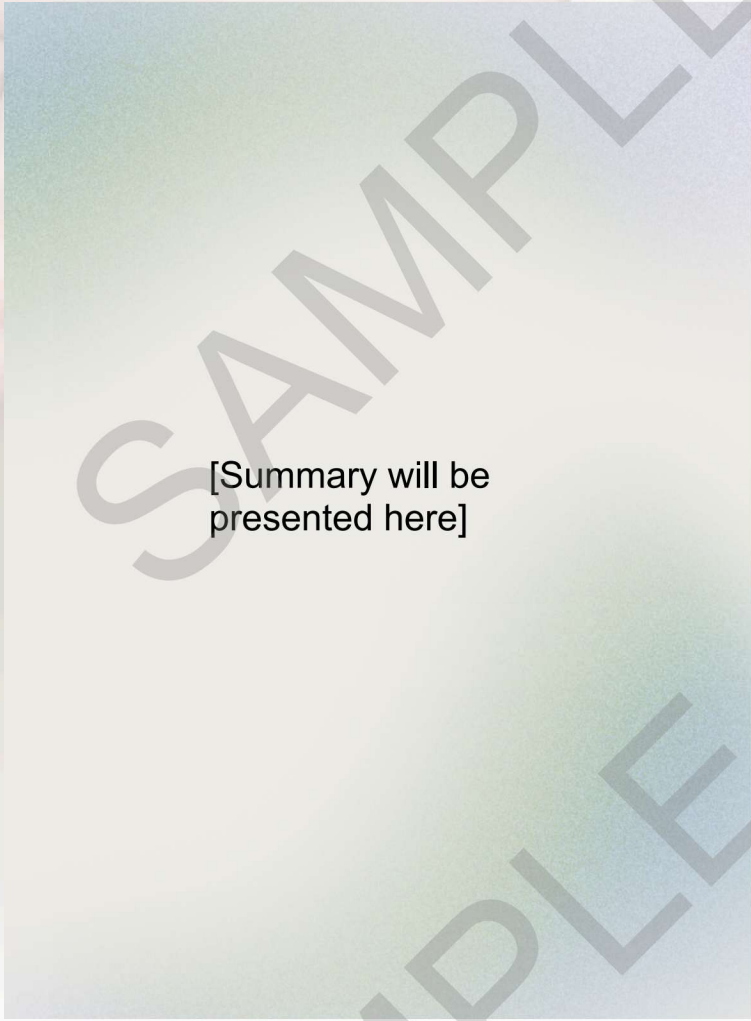
Churches spiritually support their local community in a variety of ways. The social support networks, spiritual guidance, mentorship, and friendships that churches provide also have positive impacts on the emotional and spiritual health of its members.

Participants were asked to rate their church's impact across three separate rankings:

- 1) Spiritual impact on the community,
- 2) Physical (material) impact on the community, and
- 3) Personal impact



## Specific impacts your church has made on the community



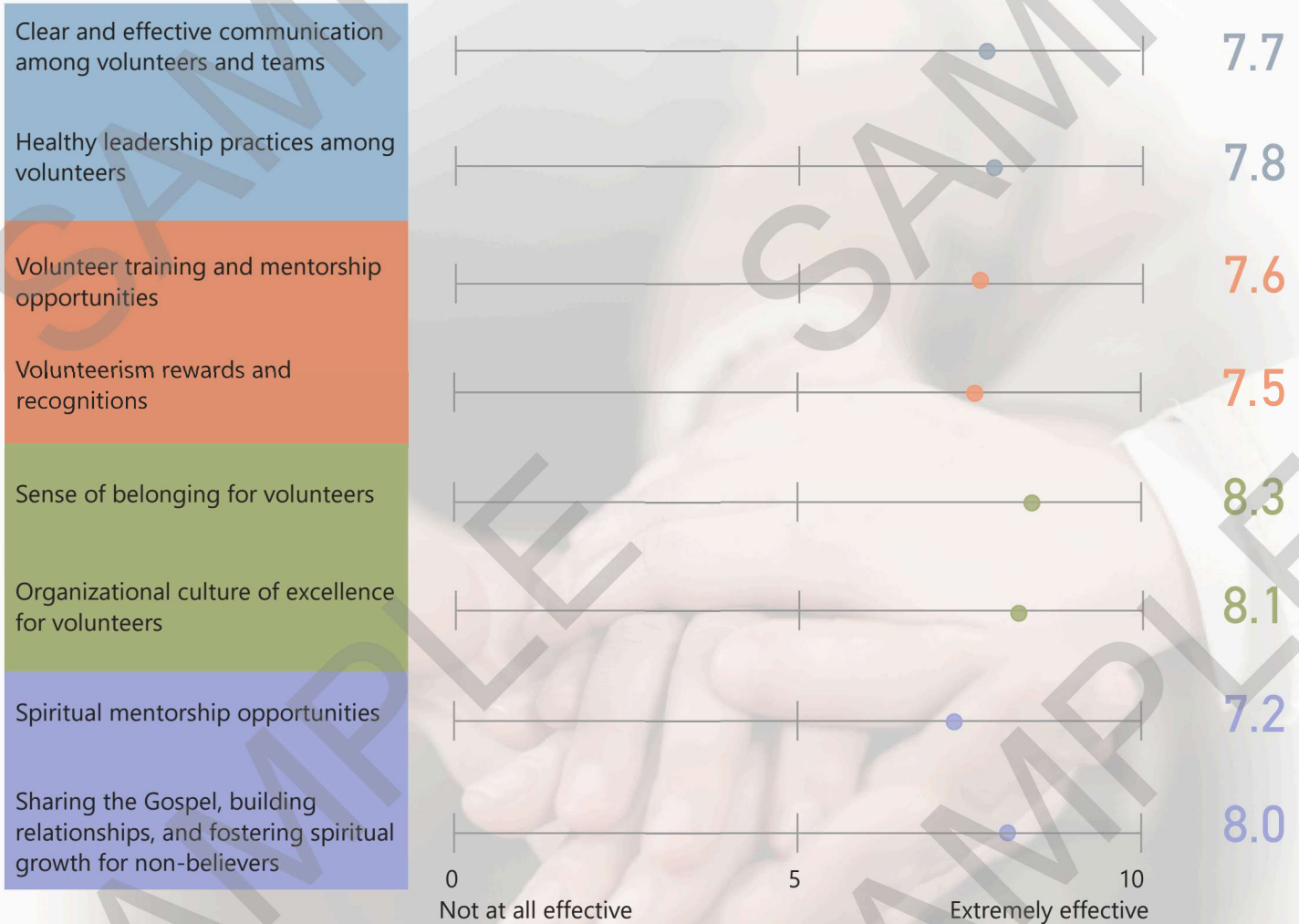
\*Summaries were generated using the help of Artificial Intelligence (AI).



# Suggestions from your Congregation

Finally, participants were asked to provide some suggestions of how their church can improve its approach to reach the greater community spiritually, socially, and materially. They were also asked to rank some key items.

**Question:** How well does your church promote and uphold...



Summary of Suggestions\*

[Summary will be presented here]

# Next Steps

While the REACH project and this Volunteer Impact Report gives you helpful information on your congregation, the team at the Canadian Institute for Empirical Church Research (CIECR) at Wycliffe College (University of Toronto) is available to continue to work with you on the topics found herein. Whether it be volunteering, resilience, growth, or harnessing the power of data-forward church research, we would love to connect with you and your church!

One way to connect is through our workshops. The CIECR has a series of in-person (or virtual) workshops that are designed to help equip churches with the skills and knowledge they need to grow and thrive. The *Volunteer Impact & Community Engagement* workshop, for example, connects to the ideas presented in this report. Please contact us if you are interested.

## CIECR WORKSHOP SERIES #5

# Volunteer Impact & Community Engagement



Walk through your congregation's REACH report and discover your church's volunteer DNA and level of flourishing. Requires a completed REACH survey and report.

We also have a variety of other workshops available:

### CIECR WORKSHOP SERIES #1

#### Connecting to Thrive



Identify, engage, and develop ministry opportunities in your local context. Explore why community engagement is not just beneficial but essential to fulfilling your church's mission.

### CIECR WORKSHOP SERIES #2

#### 'Greatness' in the Canadian Church



Learn how churches move from good to great and assess your own church's level of 'greatness.'

### CIECR WORKSHOP SERIES #3

#### Intercultural Fluency at Church



Empower and strengthen your church community by embracing intercultural fluency through key insights and actionable steps.

### CIECR WORKSHOP SERIES #4

#### Futures after Closure: Resources for Continued Impact



Learn how local congregations and the community continue to engage mission, even after churches close. A collaboration with the Centre for Missional Leadership.

### CIECR WORKSHOP SERIES #6

#### Data-Informed Churches



Learn how your church can harness the power of data-driven insights to accomplish its mission and vision.

You can also visit [ciecr.wycliffecollege.ca/events](http://ciecr.wycliffecollege.ca/events) for information on our upcoming webinars and conferences.

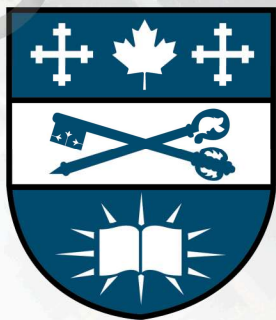
# End Notes

[1] Long, K. N. G., Nakamura, J. S., Long, P. M., Gregg, R. J., Abraham, F., Counted, V., Johnson, B. R., & VanderWeele, T. J. (2025). Flourishing Communities: The Role of Faith Communities in the Promotion of Flourishing and the Common Good. *Journal of Psychology and Christianity*, 44(1), 84–107. <https://dash.harvard.edu/handle/1/42720284>

[2] *Our Flourishing Measure | The Human Flourishing Program*. (n.d.). Retrieved July 30, 2025, from <https://hfh.fas.harvard.edu/measuring-flourishing>

Thank you for your participation in the Volunteer Impact Survey and the Regional Engagement Atlas of Churches (REACH) project.

Your contribution will allow the Canadian Institute for Empirical Church Research (CIECR) at Wycliffe College to continue innovating data-centric research on the Canadian Church for years to come.



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