PAOC Churches by the Numbers

The results of the 2017 Annual Church Life Report
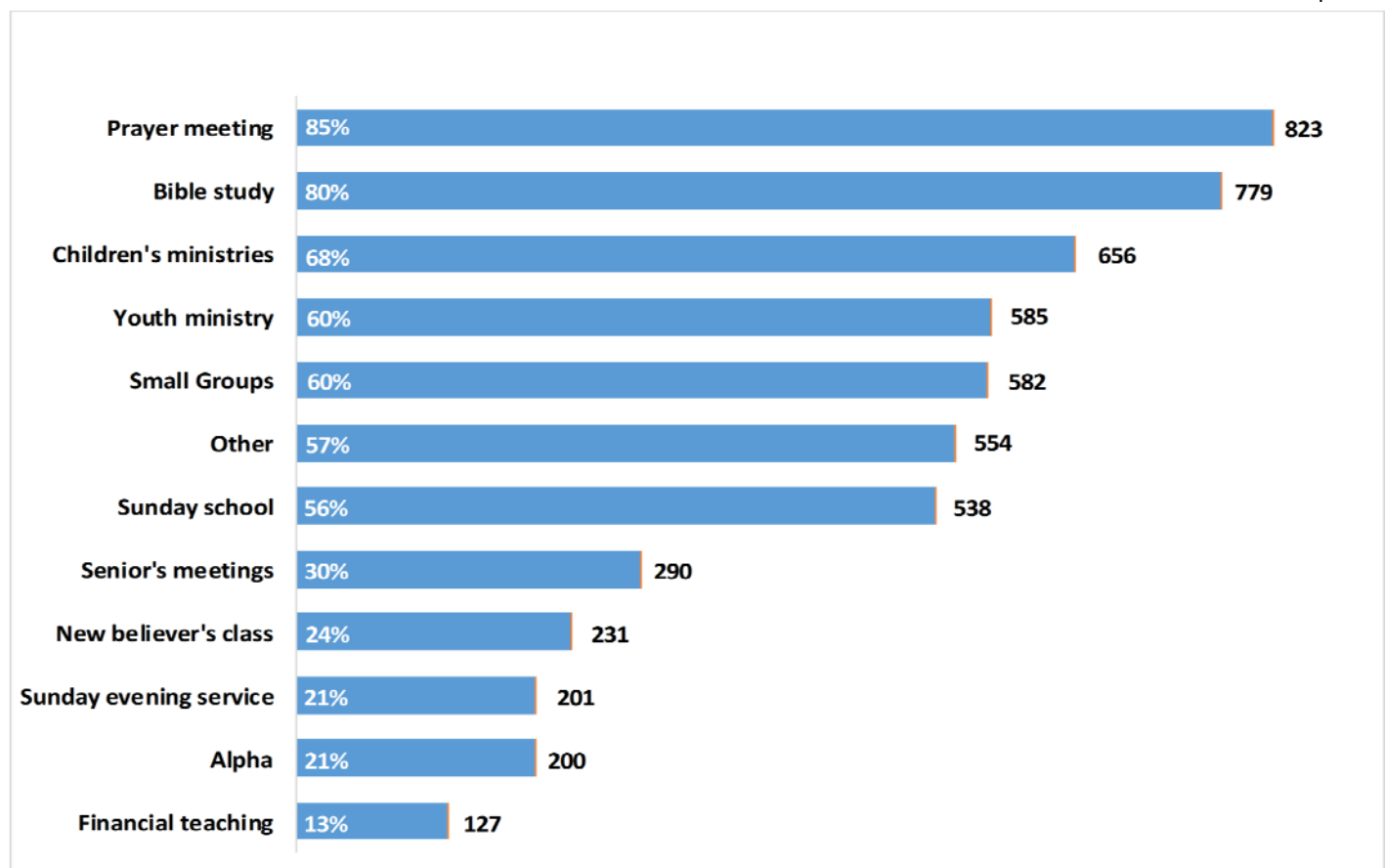
Prepared by
Tanya Couch

Observations

⇒ **Traditional ministries** such as: prayer meeting, Bible study, children's & youth ministries and small groups remain **strongly utilized methods of engaging our congregations**.

⇒ **39%** of regular attenders **serve as volunteers** (up from 37% in 2015).

⇒ Approximately **17%** of PAOC churches **rent** their meeting space.

⇒ **70% of churches** have a **strategic initiative to encourage corporate prayer and scriptural engagement** (up from 63% in 2015).

PAOC MISSION STATEMENT

To glorify God by making disciples everywhere by proclaiming and practising the gospel of Jesus Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit.
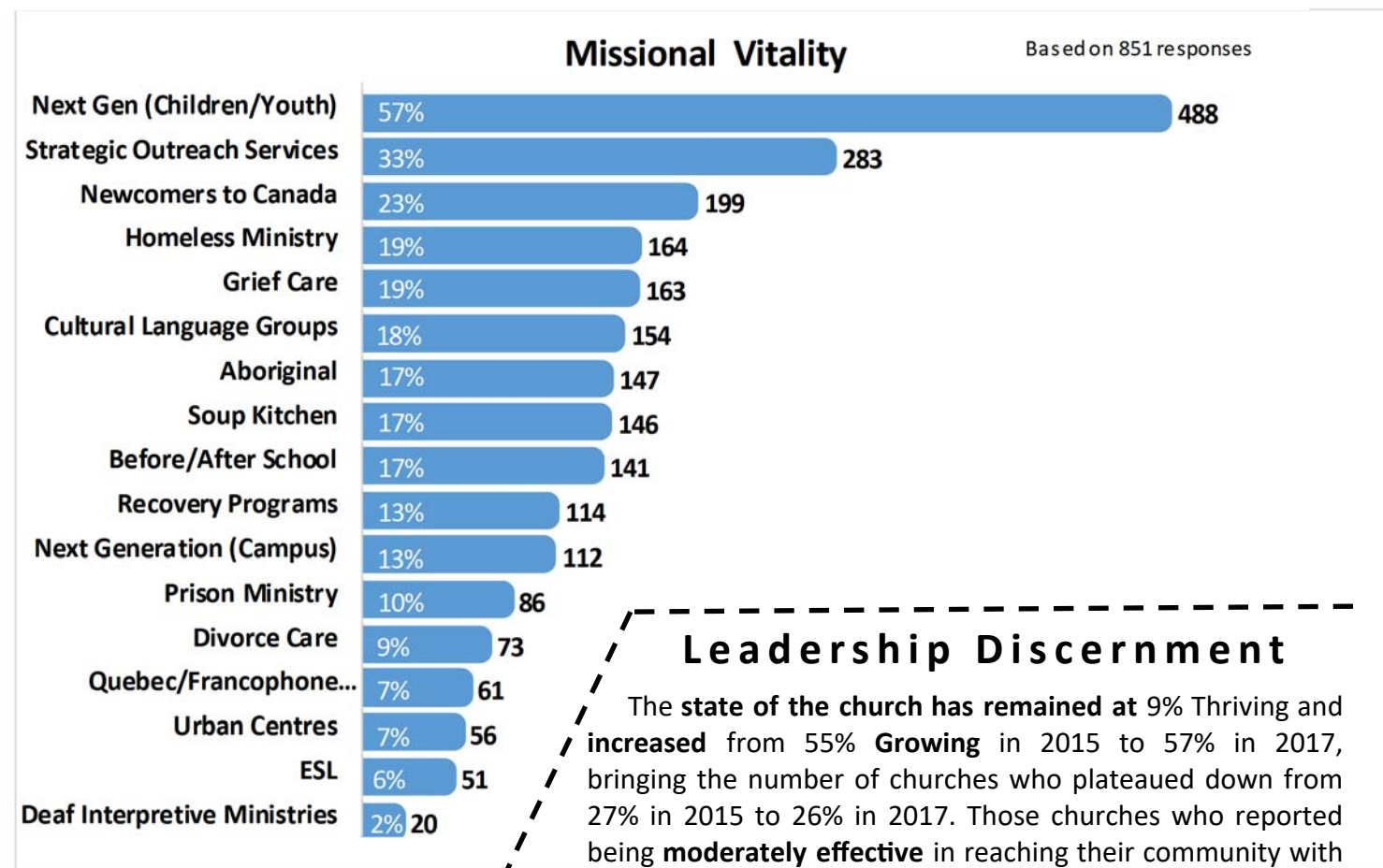
Spiritual and Theological Vitality

The Spiritual and Theological Vitality bar graph describes the activities of the local church throughout the week. Over **57,000 volunteers** serve alongside our pastoral leadership to make these ministries happen. This is an increase from 54,800 reported in 2016.

Based on 969 responses

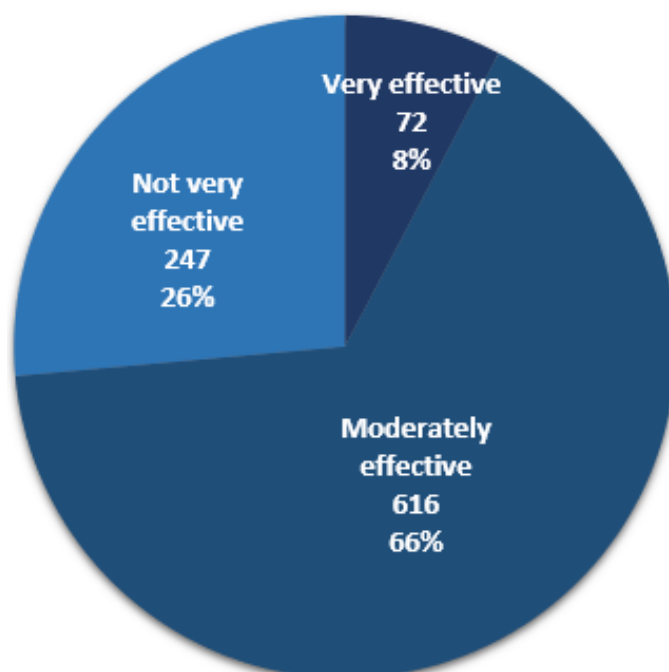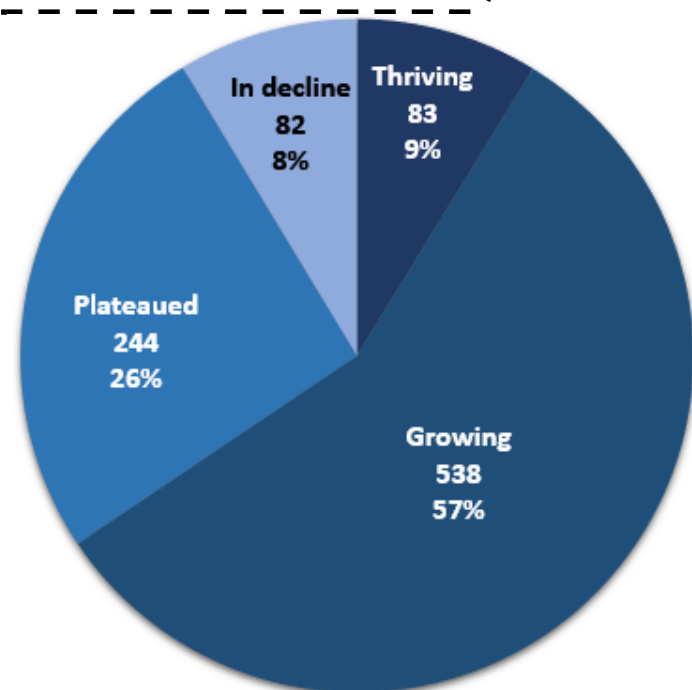| Activity	Percentage	Count
Prayer meeting	85%	823
Bible study	80%	779
Children's ministries	68%	656
Youth ministry	60%	585
Small Groups	60%	582
Other	57%	554
Sunday school	56%	538
Senior's meetings	30%	290
New believer's class	24%	231
Sunday evening service	21%	201
Alpha	21%	200
Financial teaching	13%	127

Missional Vitality

Our **Missional Vitality** describes the way we seek to serve our communities. The bar graph shows a wide variety of ministries to reach those around us. A significant focus remains on the **Next Generation**.
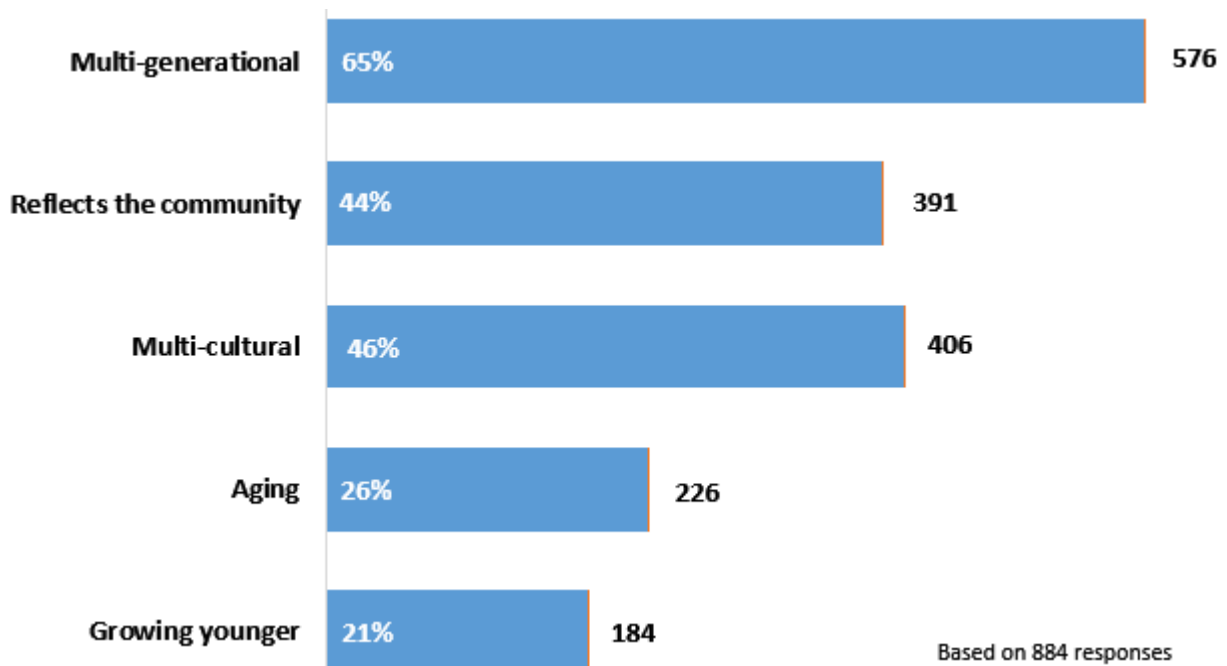
Missional Vitality

Based on 851 responses

Ministry	%	Count
Next Gen (Children/Youth)	57%	488
Strategic Outreach Services	33%	283
Newcomers to Canada	23%	199
Homeless Ministry	19%	164
Grief Care	19%	163
Cultural Language Groups	18%	154
Aboriginal	17%	147
Soup Kitchen	17%	146
Before/After School	17%	141
Recovery Programs	13%	114
Next Generation (Campus)	13%	112
Prison Ministry	10%	86
Divorce Care	9%	73
Quebec/Francophone...	7%	61
Urban Centres	7%	56
ESL	6%	51
Deaf Interpretive Ministries	2%	20

Leadership Discernment

The **state of the church has remained at** 9% Thriving and **increased** from 55% **Growing** in 2015 to 57% in 2017, bringing the number of churches who plateaued down from 27% in 2015 to 26% in 2017. Those churches who reported being **moderately effective** in reaching their community with the gospel **decreased** from 68% in 2015 to 66% in 2017, while churches who reported being **very effective remained steady** at 8% in 2017.

Pie chart 1:
- In decline — 82 — 8%
- Thriving — 83 — 9%
- Plateaued — 244 — 26%
- Growing — 538 — 57%

Pie chart 2:
- Very effective — 72 — 8%
- Not very effective — 247 — 26%
- Moderately effective — 616 — 66%

Make-up of the Local Church

Churches are made up of many dynamics. The 2017 ACLR asked whether churches are: **multi-generational, multi-cultural, reflecting the community in demographics, aging, growing younger**, or any combination of those.

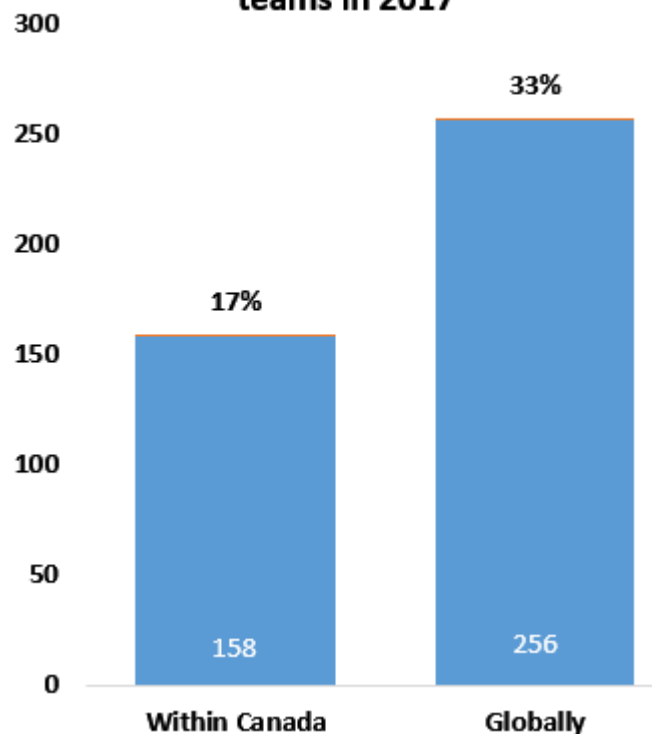| Category	Percentage	Count
Multi-generational	65%	576
Reflects the community	44%	391
Multi-cultural	46%	406
Aging	26%	226
Growing younger	21%	184

Based on 884 responses

Other Vitality Indicators

The number of churches who reported that they are **currently involved in a revitalization process** changed from 53% in 2015 to **48% in 2017**. With an increase from 24% to 27% who are planning a revitalization process in the future. In 2017, **158 churches sent out missions teams within Canada** and **256 churches sent out short-term missions teams globally**.

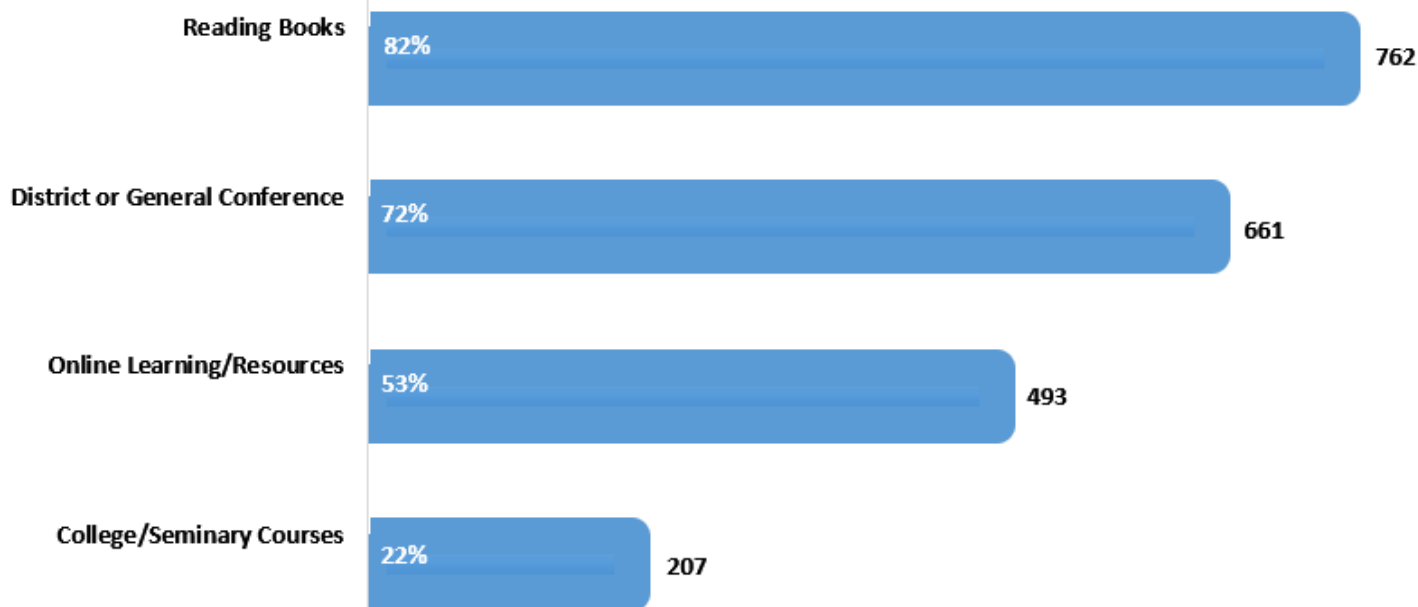## Engaged in a Revitalization Process
(out of 864 responses)

- Not considering 158 18%
- In the past 55 7%
- Currently 415 48%
- Planning in the future 236 27%
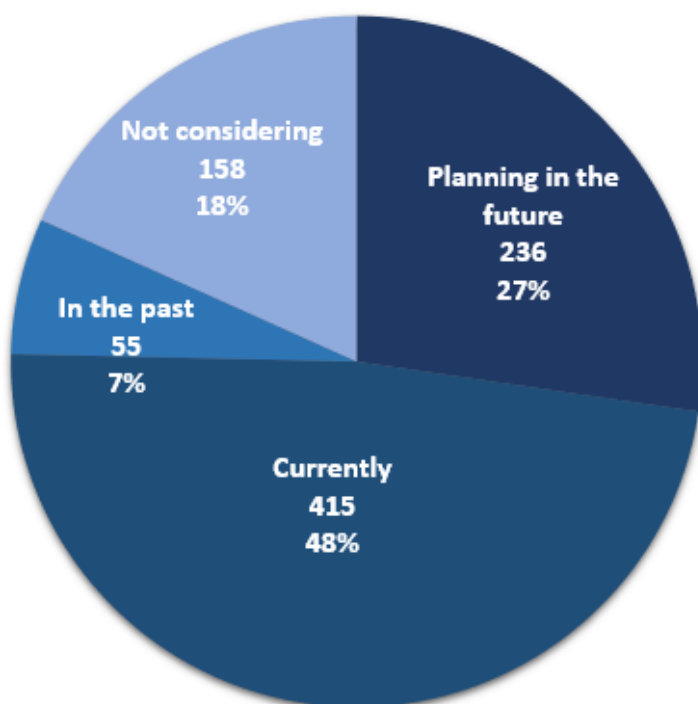
Churches who sent out missions teams in 2017

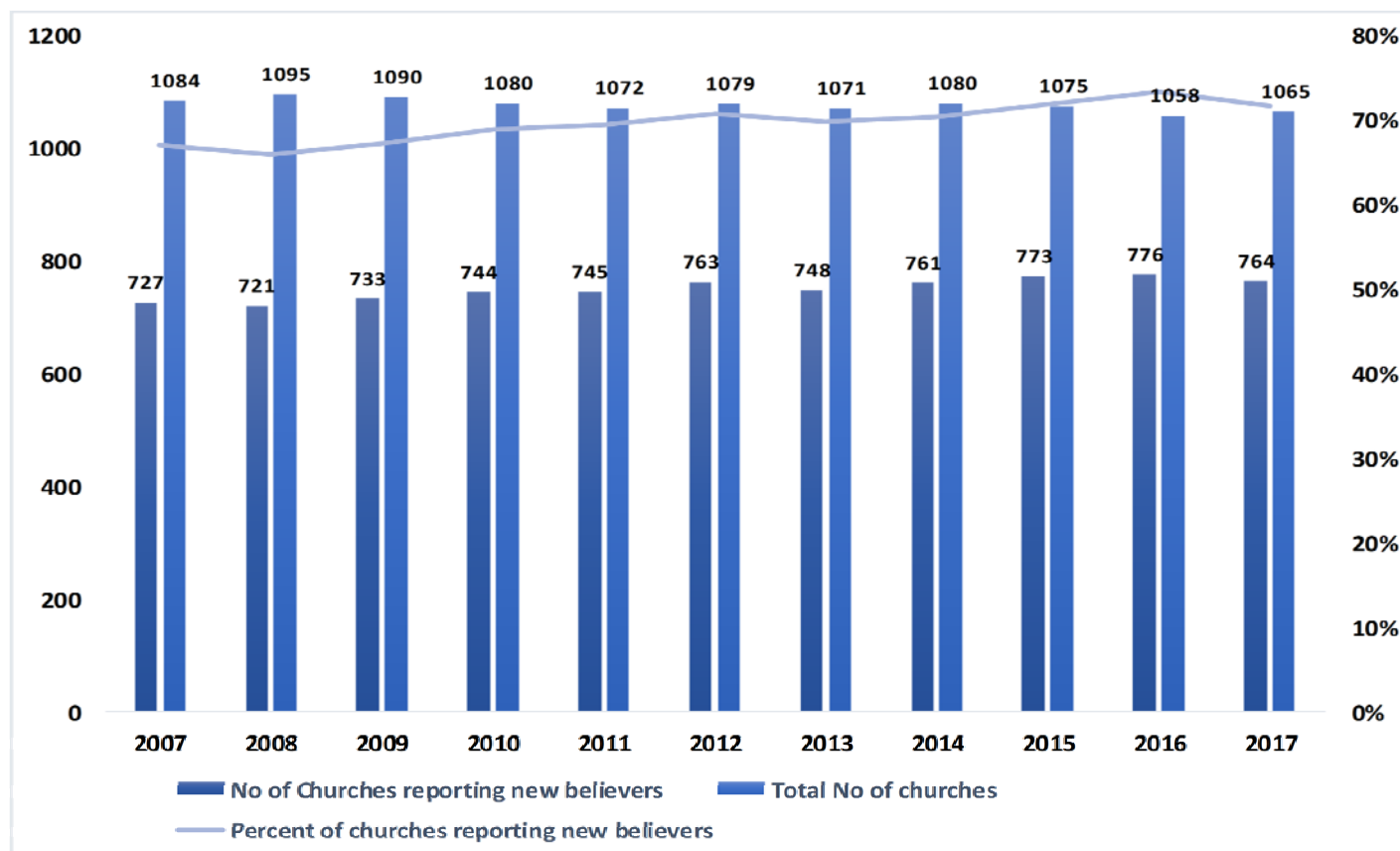|	Within Canada	Globally
Percentage	17%	33%
Count	158	256

Leadership Development

The majority of our Lead Pastors who completed the 2017 ACLR are developing their leadership skills through reading books. Over 2/3 attended a General or District Conference in 2016. Just over half of respondents use online learning or resources to continue their leadership development while almost 1/4 are continuing their education through College or Seminary courses.
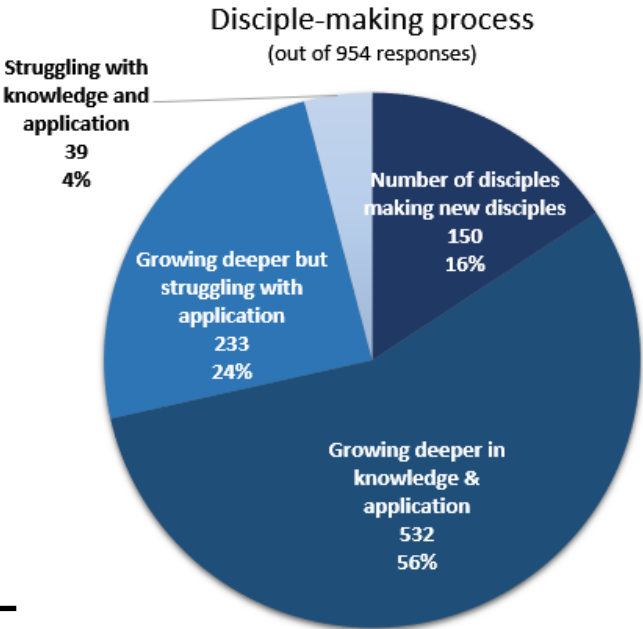
Category	Percent	Value
Reading Books	82%	762
District or General Conference	72%	661
Online Learning/Resources	53%	493
College/Seminary Courses	22%	207

Number of conversions reported 2007—2017

Year	No of Churches reporting new believers	Total No of churches
2007	727	1084
2008	721	1095
2009	733	1090
2010	744	1080
2011	745	1072
2012	763	1079
2013	748	1071
2014	761	1080
2015	773	1075
2016	776	1058
2017	764	1065

Legend: No of Churches reporting new believers — Total No of churches — Percent of churches reporting new believers
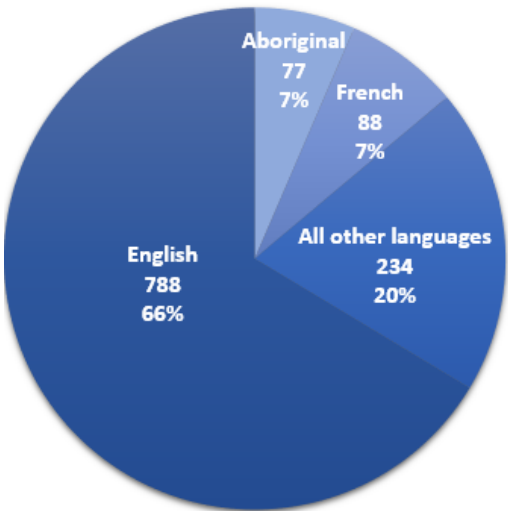
How churches describe the disciple-making process:

Questions asked on the ACLR:

1. People are **struggling in their knowledge and application** of the Bible.

2. People are **growing deeper** in their knowledge **but struggling with their application**.

3. People are **growing deeper in their knowledge and application** of the Bible.

4. People are growing deeper and it is resulting in the **disciples of the church making new disciples** themselves.
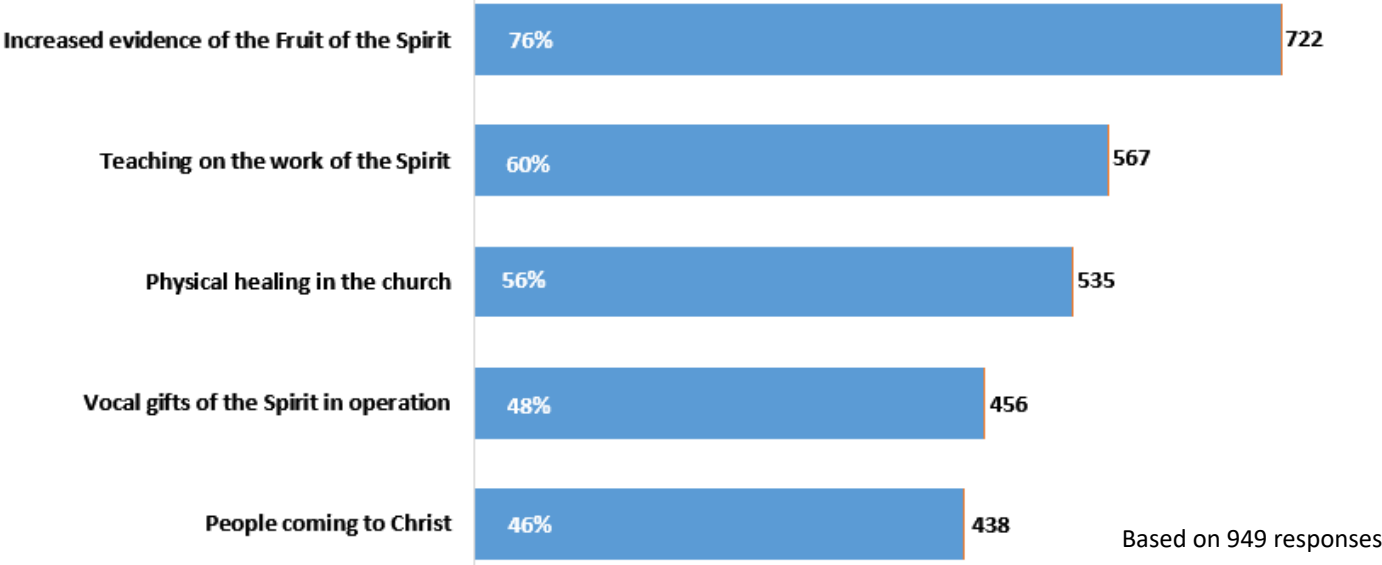
Disciple-making process
(out of 954 responses)

- Struggling with knowledge and application — 39 — 4%
- Number of disciples making new disciples — 150 — 16%
- Growing deeper but struggling with application — 233 — 24%
- Growing deeper in knowledge & application — 532 — 56%

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1187 DM Communities by Language at September 13, 2018

- Aboriginal — 77 — 7%
- French — 88 — 7%
- All other languages — 234 — 20%
- English — 788 — 66%
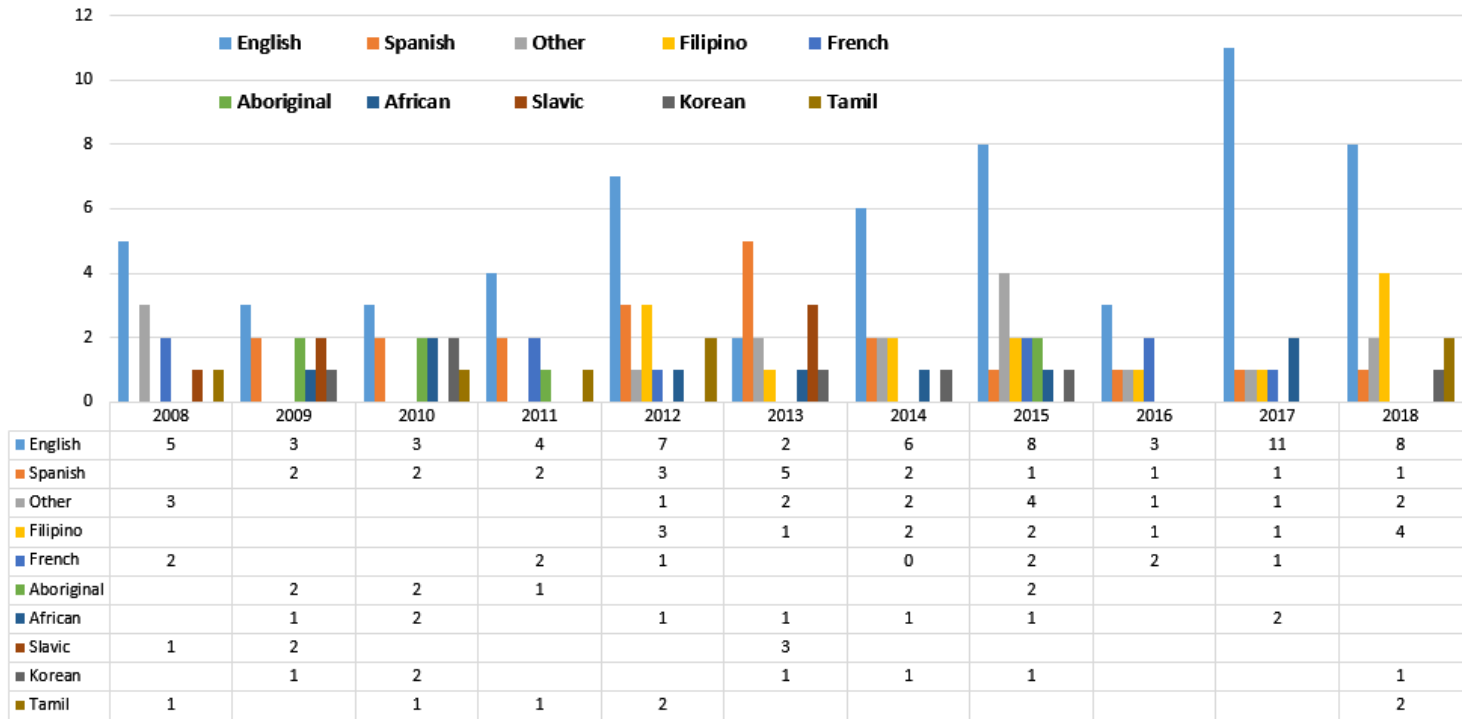

A disciple-making community is defined as:

"A Christ-centered gathering of people, with the support of leadership, meeting regularly for worship, caring, teaching, praying, and actively engaging in mission with the intention of continuing to meet for these purposes indefinitely."

Churches describe the work of the Spirit in their gatherings:

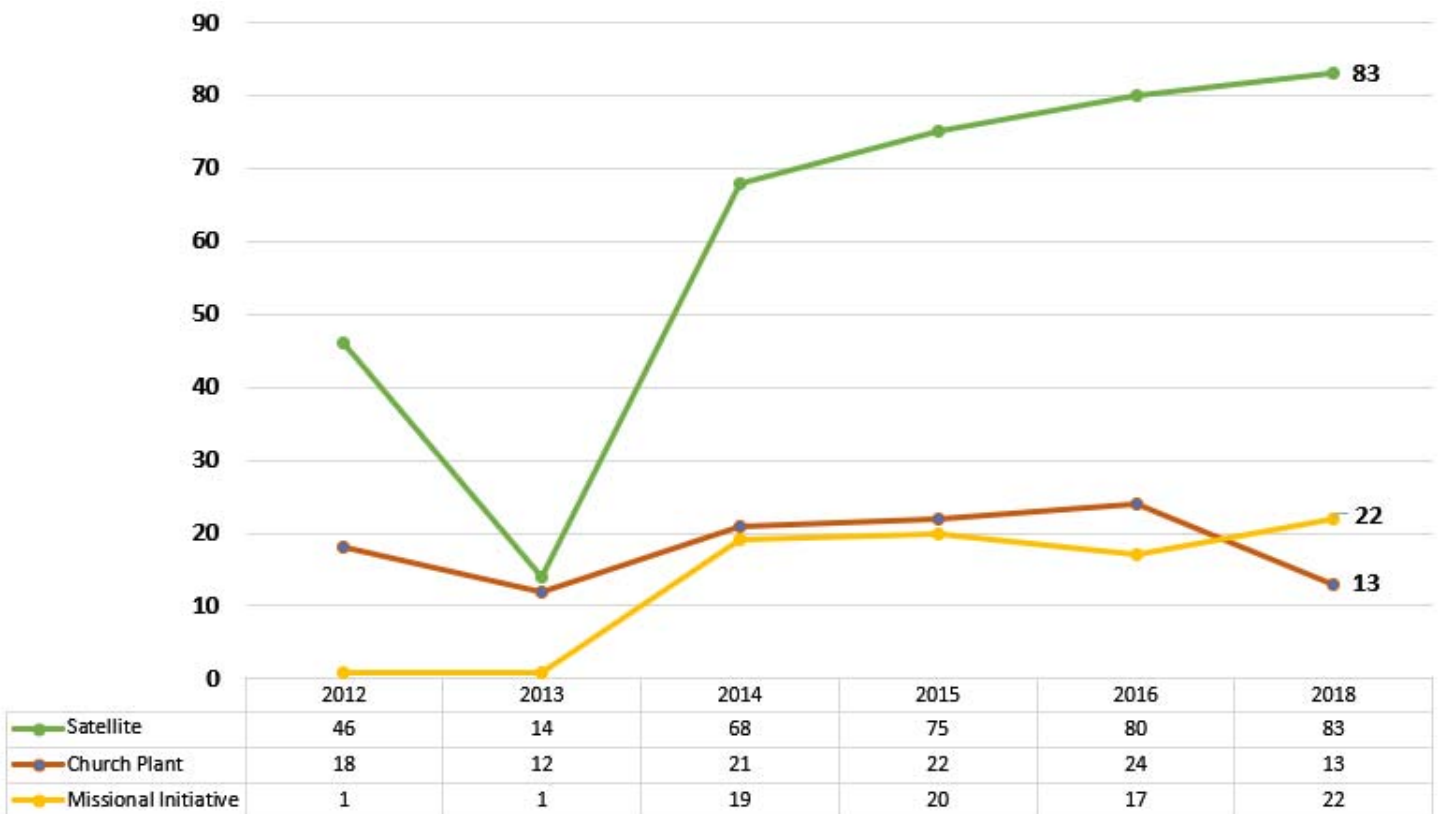| Description	Percent	Value
Increased evidence of the Fruit of the Spirit	76%	722
Teaching on the work of the Spirit	60%	567
Physical healing in the church	56%	535
Vocal gifts of the Spirit in operation	48%	456
People coming to Christ	46%	438

Based on 949 responses

New Church growth: Affiliated Assemblies

There have been 156 new Affiliated Assemblies added to the PAOC since 2008. The following graph shows a breakdown of the most common cultural language of these new churches.
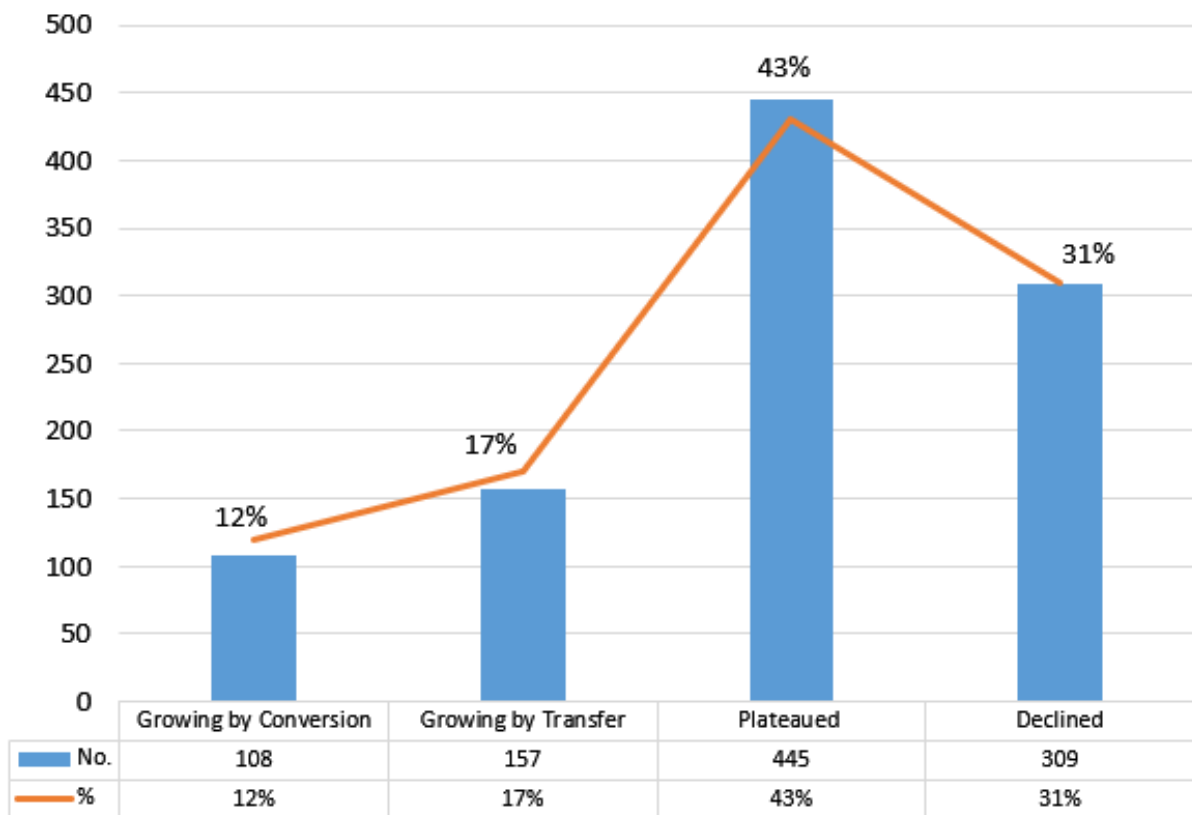

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
English	5	3	3	4	7	2	6	8	3	11	8
Spanish		2	2	2	3	5	2	1	1	1	1
Other	3				1	2	2	4	1	1	2
Filipino					3	1	2	2	1	1	4
French	2			2	1		0	2	2	1	
Aboriginal		2	2	1				2			
African		1	2		1	1	1	1		2	
Slavic	1	2				3					
Korean		1	2			1	1	1			1
Tamil	1		1	1	2						2

New church growth: Disciple-making communities

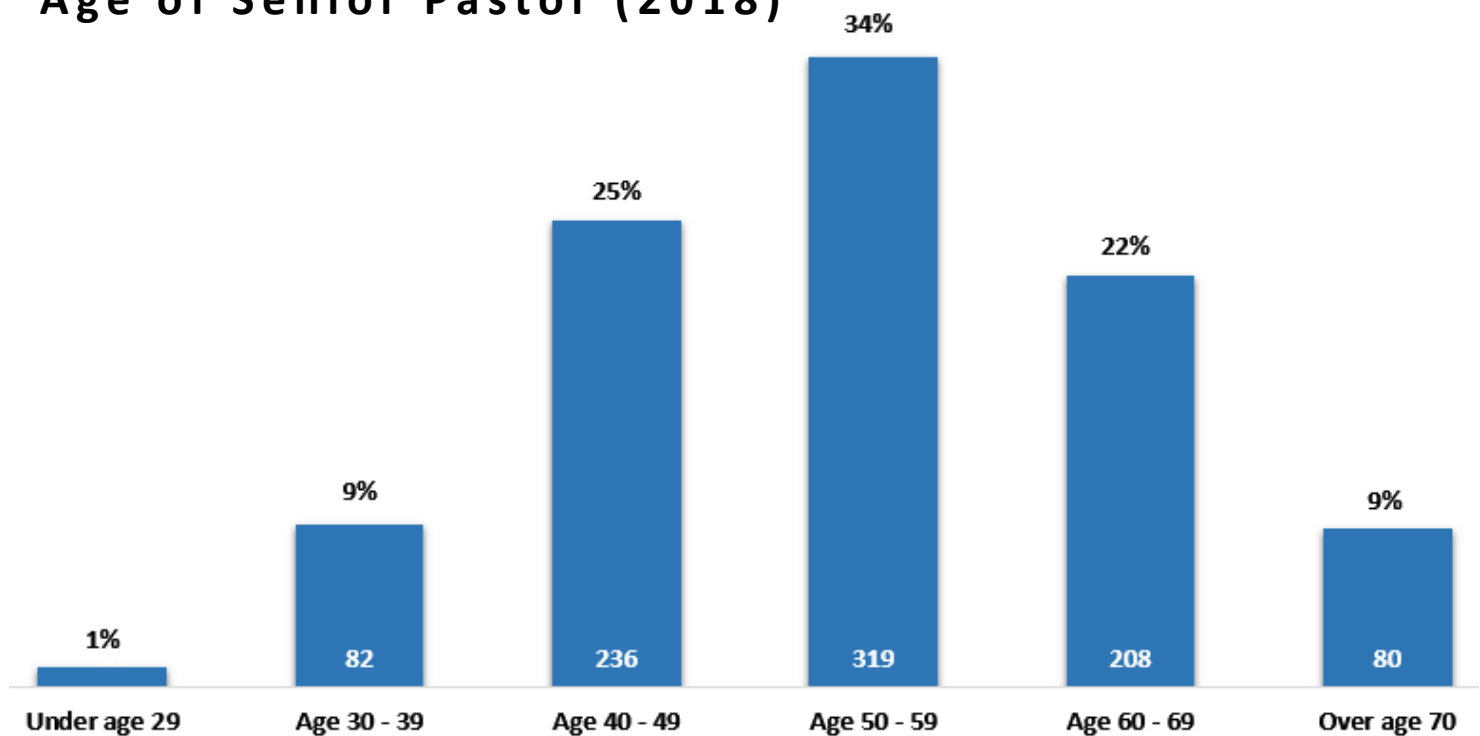|	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2018
Satellite	46	14	68	75	80	83
Church Plant	18	12	21	22	24	13
Missional Initiative	1	1	19	20	17	22

Reported Attendance: Comparison

Based on a comparison of the Average Attendance reported on the 2016 and 2017 ACLRs, 74% of PAOC churches across Canada are plateaued or in decline (*based on the analysis by John Albiston, Effectiveness Coach, ABNWT*).

	Growing by Conversion	Growing by Transfer	Plateaued	Declined
No.	108	157	445	309
%	12%	17%	43%	31%

Age of Senior Pastor (2018)

Under age 29	Age 30 - 39	Age 40 - 49	Age 50 - 59	Age 60 - 69	Over age 70
1%	9%	25%	34%	22%	9%
	82	236	319	208	80

Attendance by Church Size (2018)

Currently, 85% of PAOC churches are under 200 in attendance at their main worship service. Notably, a number of churches have decreased in average attendance and changed size range categories (from their original size range in 2010).
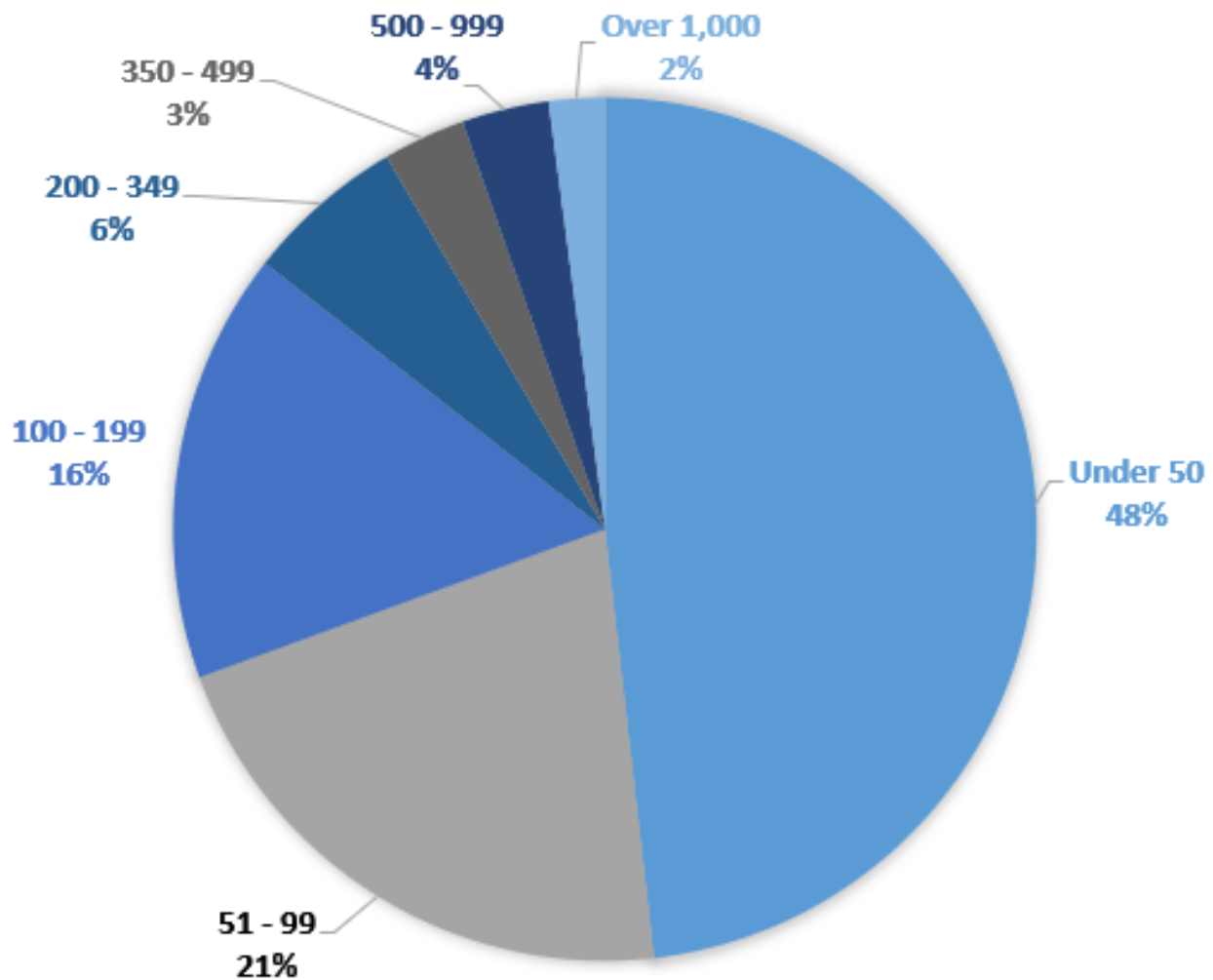
Church Attendance Matrix - 2017 ACLR

Church Size Range	No of churches	Total Number Served	Ave. of Total No. served by church size	Percent (Total No. Served)	Average Attendance	Ave of Average Attendance by church size	Percent (Ave. Attendance)
1000+	23	70,154	3,050	29%	38,610	1,679	27%
500-999	36	42,292	1,175	18%	23,816	662	16%
350-499	34	22,118	651	9%	13,719	404	9%
200-349	66	25,796	391	11%	16,528	250	11%
100-199	170	34,161	201	14%	22,906	135	16%
51-99	230	24,614	107	10%	16,605	72	11%
Under 50	505	19,926	39	8%	12,861	25	9%
TOTAL	**1064**	**239,061**	**225**	**100%**	**145,045**	**136**	**100%**

Going up / Going Down	↑	↓
Over 1,000		0
500 - 999	2	7
350 - 499	0	0
200 - 349	5	12
100 - 199	0	13
51 - 99	0	62
Under 50	0	

The number of churches with over 1,000 in attendance size stayed the same.

Church size range between 500 - 999	2 moved up and 7 fell down a class.
Church size range between 350 - 499	0 churches moved up, 7 bigger churches shrank to join this class and 5 churches grew to join this class.
Church size range between 200 - 349	5 churches moved up and 12 churches moved down a class.
Church size range between 100 - 199	0 churches moved up, 12 churches shrank to join this class and 13 churches fell down a class.
Church size range between 51 - 99	0 churches moved up, 13 churches shrank to join this class, and 62 fell down a class.
Church size range under 50	0 churches moved up, 62 churches shrank to join this class,

Since 2010, 28 more churches were planted/affiliated than churches closed.

* We understand that all of this movement represents net gains and losses and ignores offsetting gains and losses.

With all of this in mind, shrinking churches that dropped a category outnumbered growing churches that graduated a category by a margin of 13 to 1 - very bad news. The overall negative trend should be cause for alarm. The churches in the 51 - 99 category are at the greatest risk with more that double the odds of dropping down a category than any other group.

(this analysis provided by John Albiston, Effectiveness Coach, ABNWT)