

# PAOC Churches by the Numbers

The results of the 2020 Annual Church Life Report

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## Observations: Pandemic Pastoring

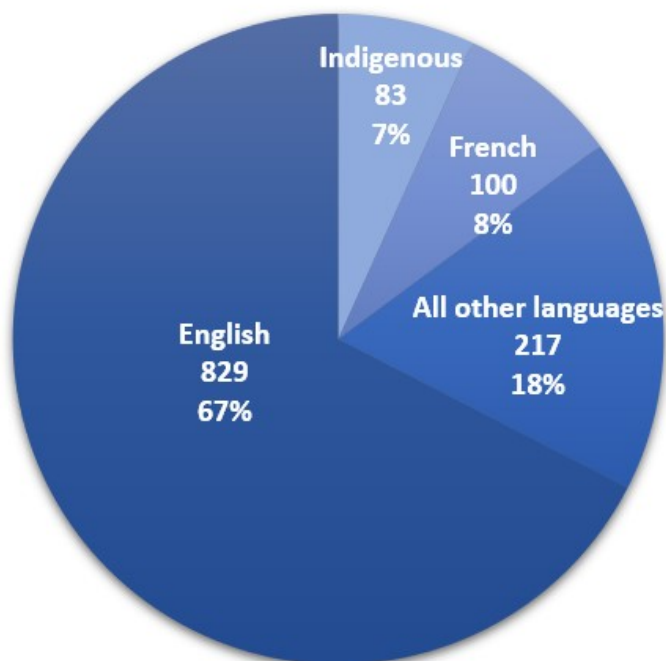
- **75%** of churches held online services for the first time in 2020. **88%** of churches see that continuing.  
*Based on 689 churches reporting.*
- Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, **27%** of churches used the Internet for **online streaming**.
- In the first quarter of 2020, churches reported **15,621 first time visitors (in-person attendees)** prior to 15 March 2020. In 2019, the total for the year was 50,178.



## A disciple-making community (DMC) 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.”

**1229 DM Communities by Language  
at November 16, 2021**

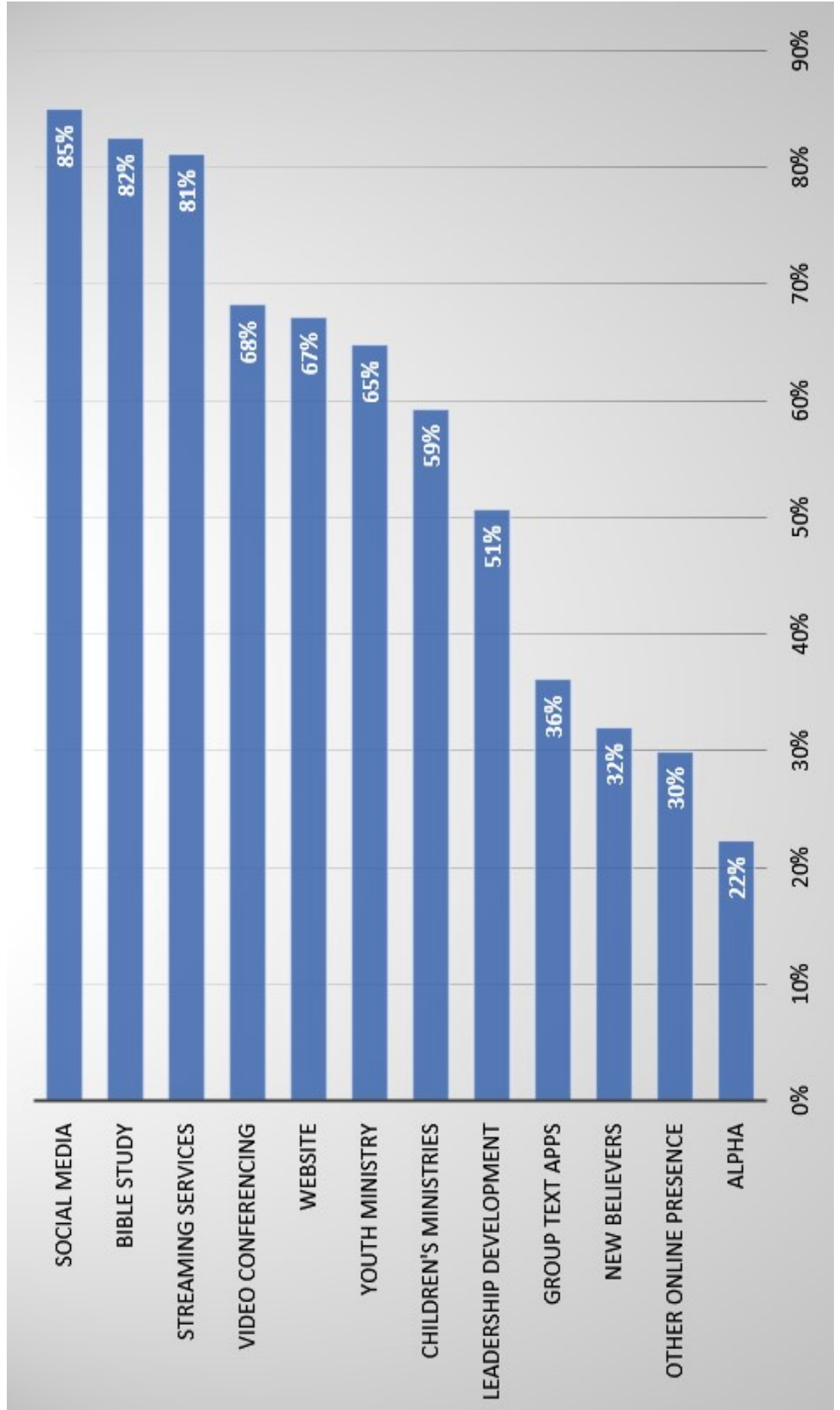


On any given Sunday, churches in Canada are meeting in **69 different languages**.

## Online Ministry Engagement (post 15 March 2020)

The following online platforms were started, changed or enhanced to increase online missional effectiveness and disciple-making in 2020. Compared with the **Spiritual and Theological Vitality** chart, **Bible Study** was the most utilized online presence to enhance disciple-making. **Social media** and **Streaming services** provided the most effective outreach.

*Based on 622 churches reporting*



# Spiritual and Theological Vitality

Describes the activities of the local church throughout the week. Compared with the 2015 reporting, there are noticeable changes in:

**Prayer meeting** (51% ↓ from 82%), **Bible Study** (49% ↓ from 75%), and **Children’s ministries** (30 ↓ from 67%).

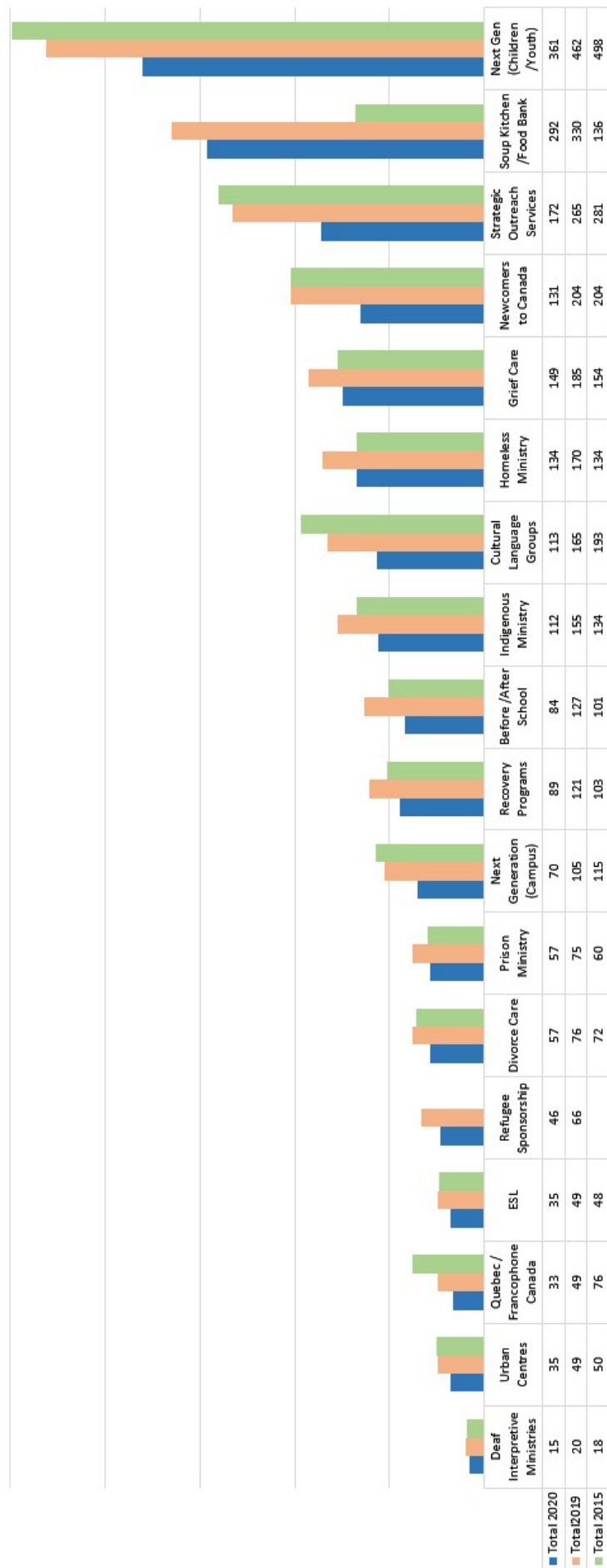
**Youth** Ministry has moved up since 2015 to take top spot at 60% of churches reporting.

*Based on 718 churches reporting*



# Missional Vitality

Describes the way we serve our communities. This graph includes the missional ministry activities churches are currently involved in from the 2020, 2019 and 2015 ACLR responses.



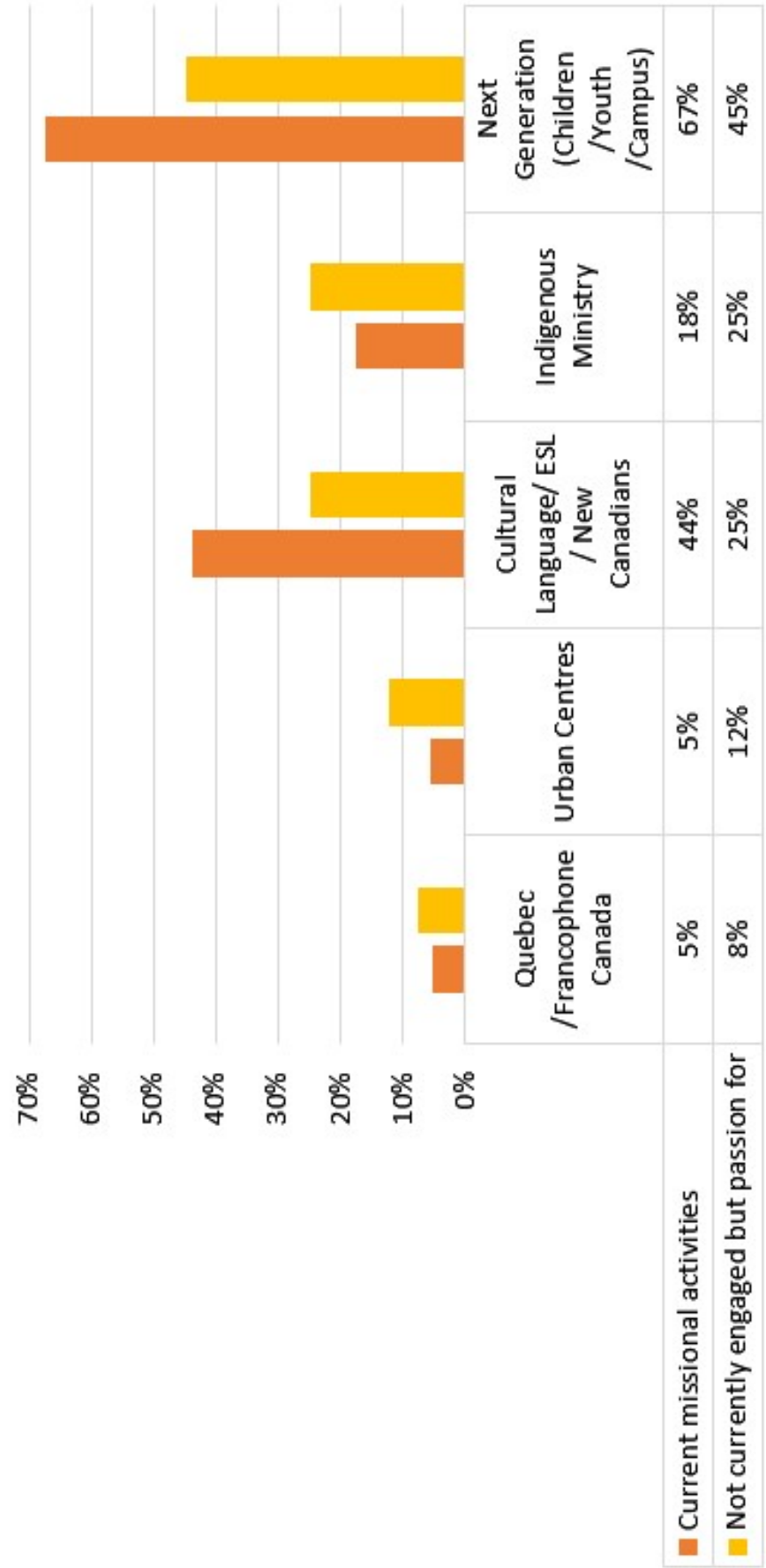
# Missional Vitality

The graph below combines certain categories and compares the current missional activities with the ones the churches have a passion for but are not currently engaged in.

*Based on churches reporting per section.*

*Current missional activities: 431 of 639 reporting.*

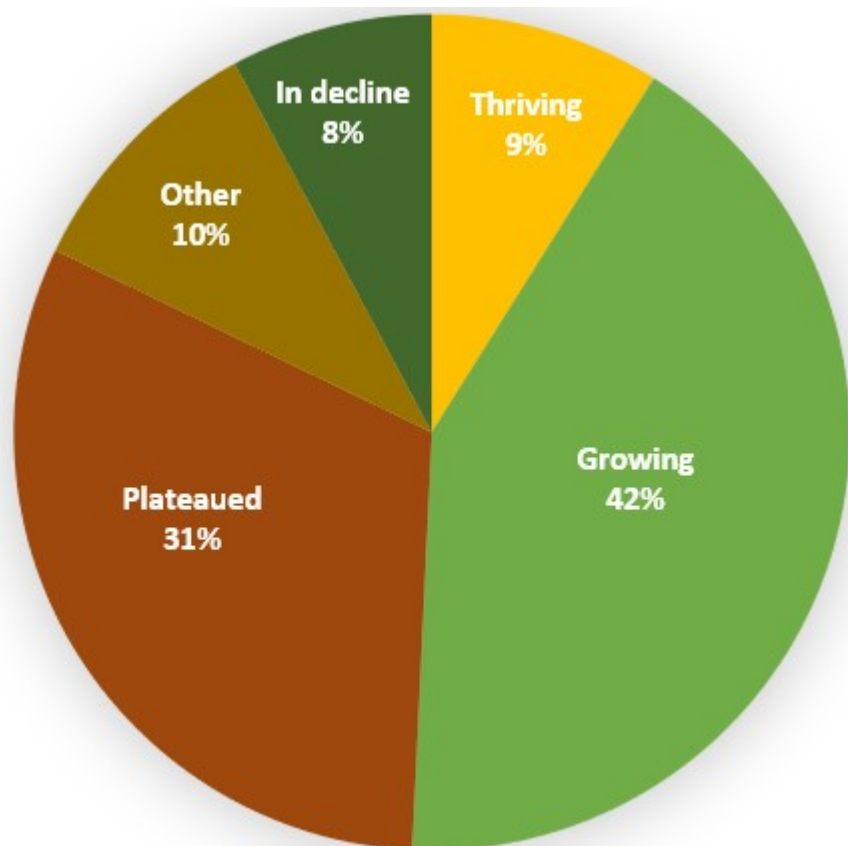
*Not currently engaged but passion for: 239 of 535 reporting.*



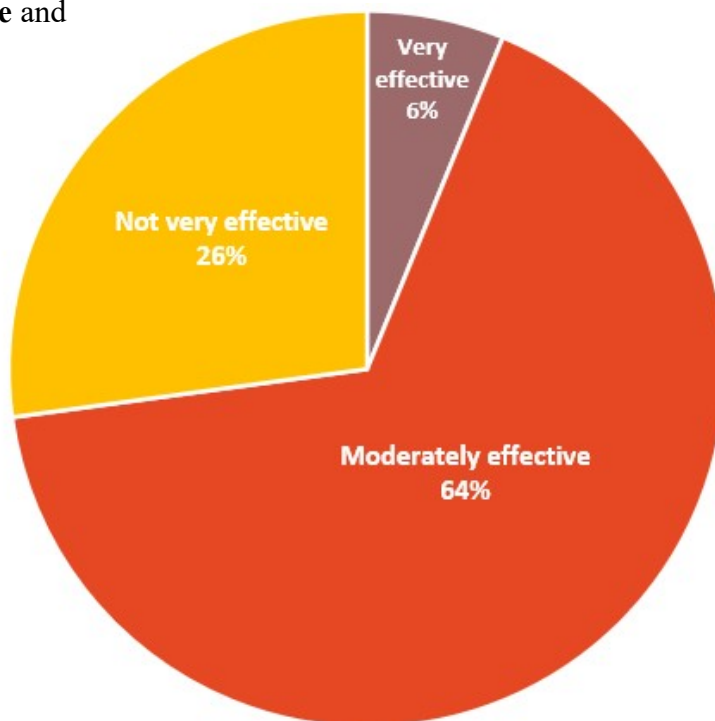
## Leadership Discernment

The **state of the church** in 2020 was:  
42% ↓ from 55% **Growing** in 2015,  
31% ↑ from 27% **Plateaued** and  
8% ↓ slightly from 9% **In decline**.

9% of churches report they are **Thriving** [same as 2015].

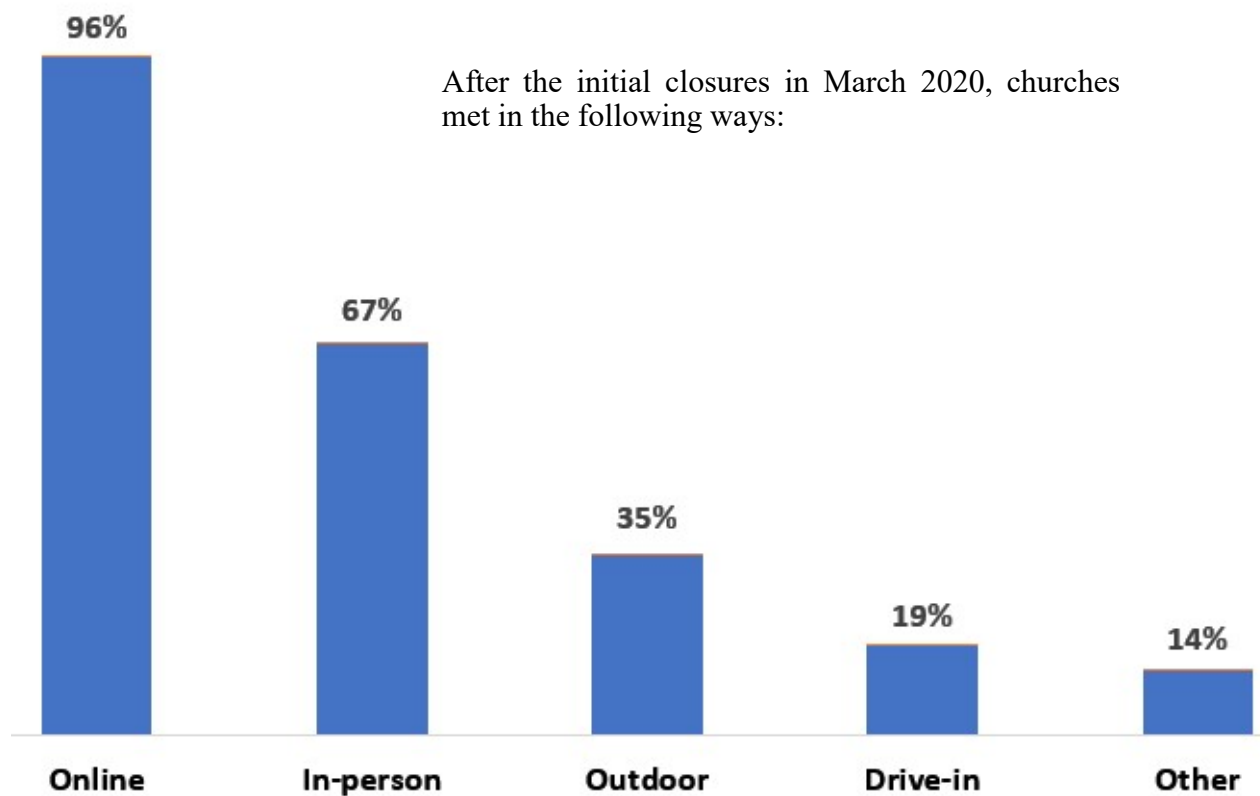
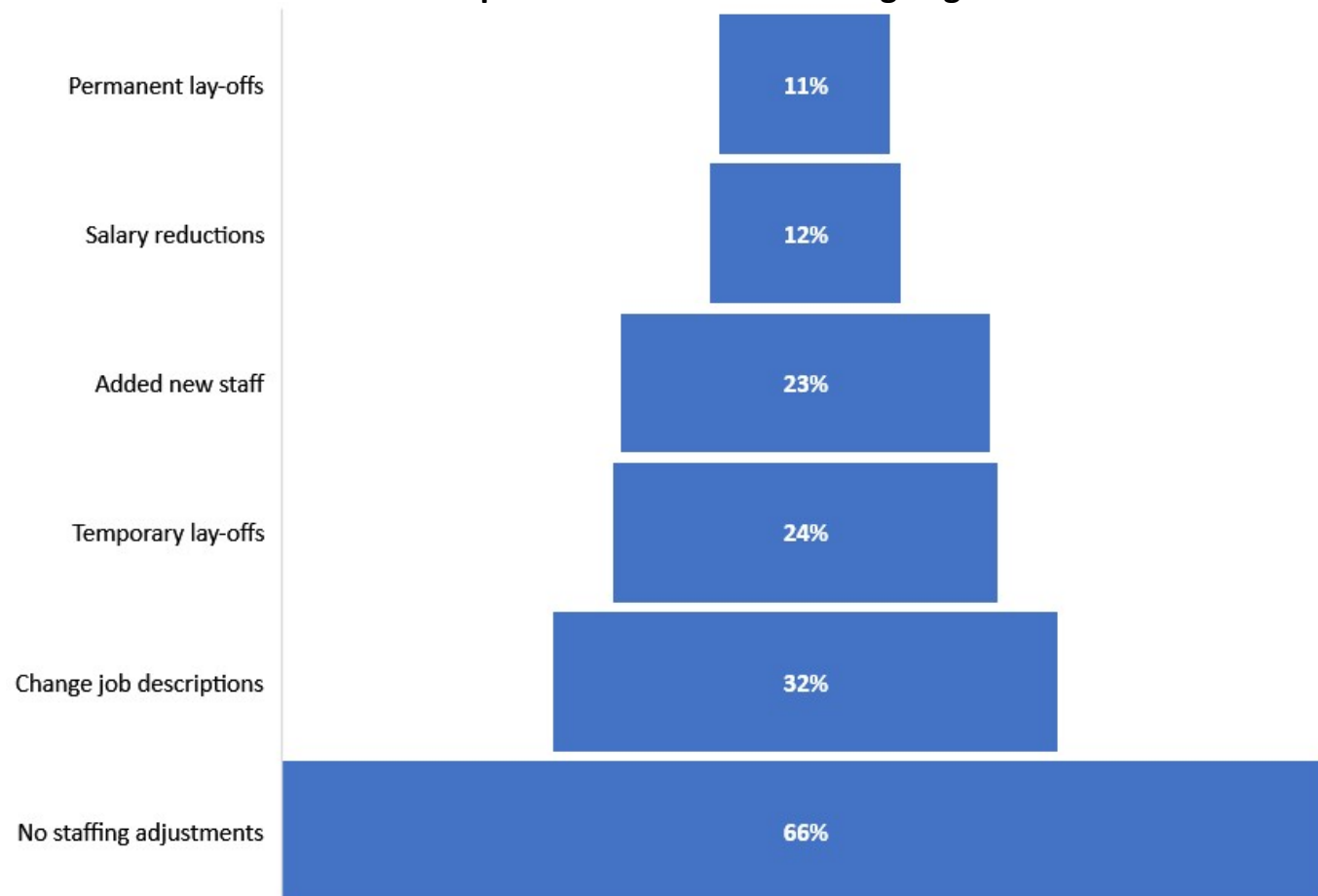


In **reaching our community**, we have moved  
6% ↓ from 8% **Very effective** in 2015,  
64% ↓ slightly from 68% **Moderately effective** and  
26% ↑ slightly from 24% **not very effective**.



## COVID-19 Impact (after 15 March 2020)

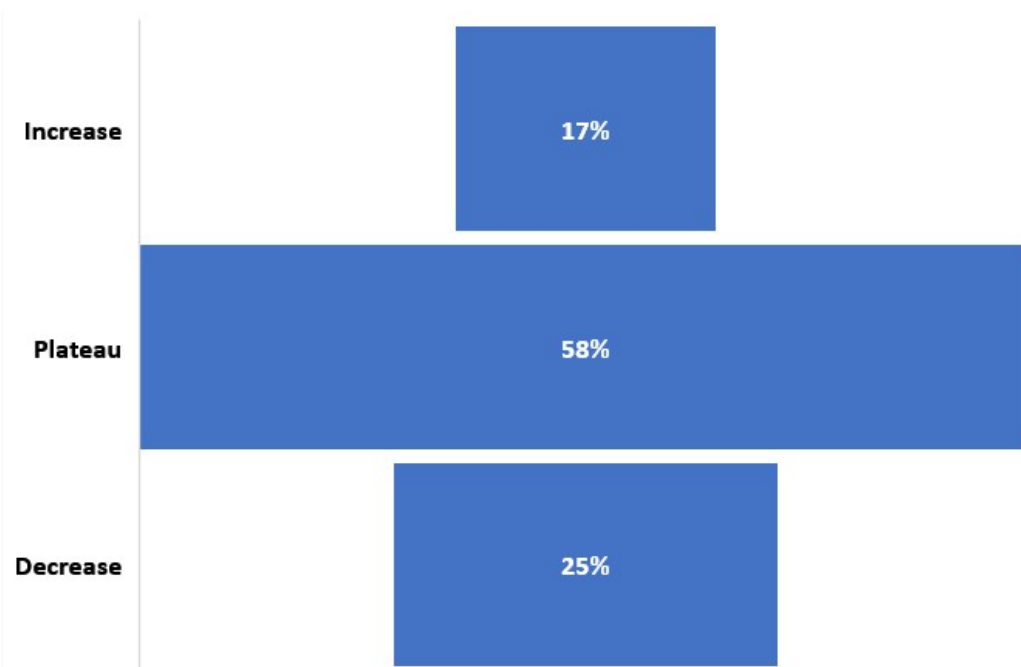
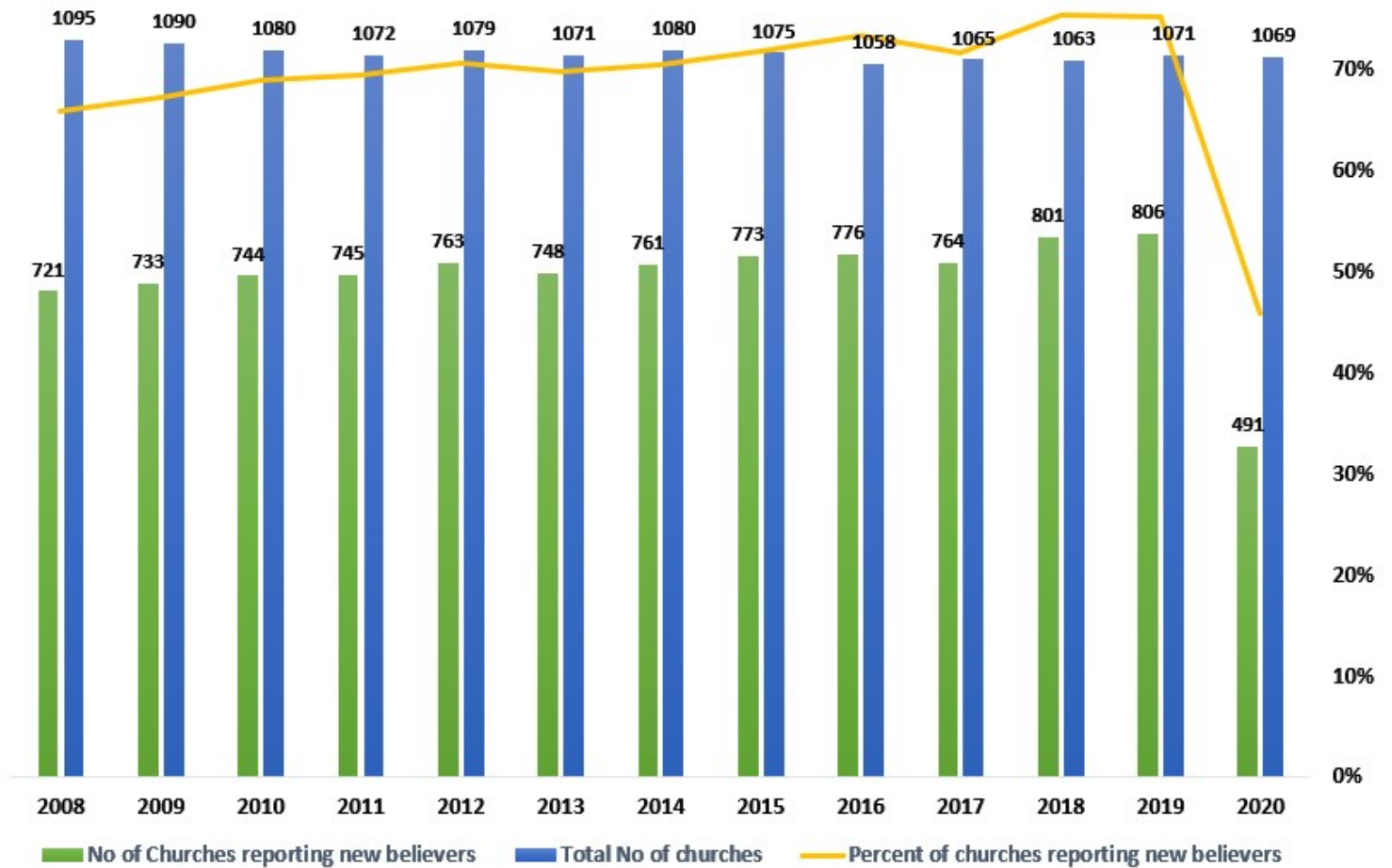
How churches have responded to the changing environment:





## Number of conversions reported 2008—2020

The 2020 responses indicate a significant drop in the number of identified persons who have confessed Christ as Saviour for the first time. This is most likely attributed to the COVID-19 closures in March 2020.



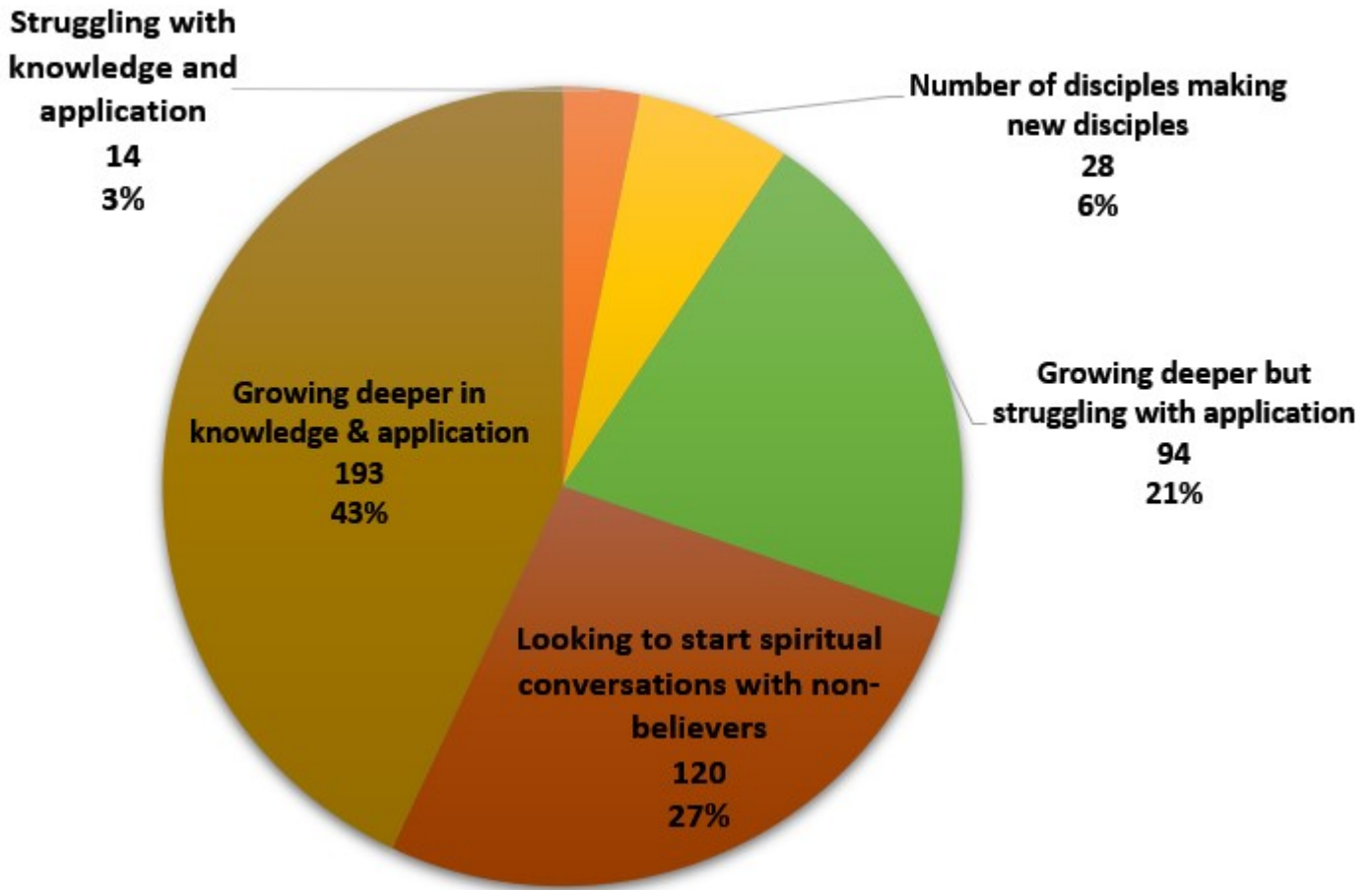
## First-time salvations

This funnel chart shows the responses of churches who have seen an **Increase**, **Plateau** or **Decrease** in the number of first-time salvations since March 2020.



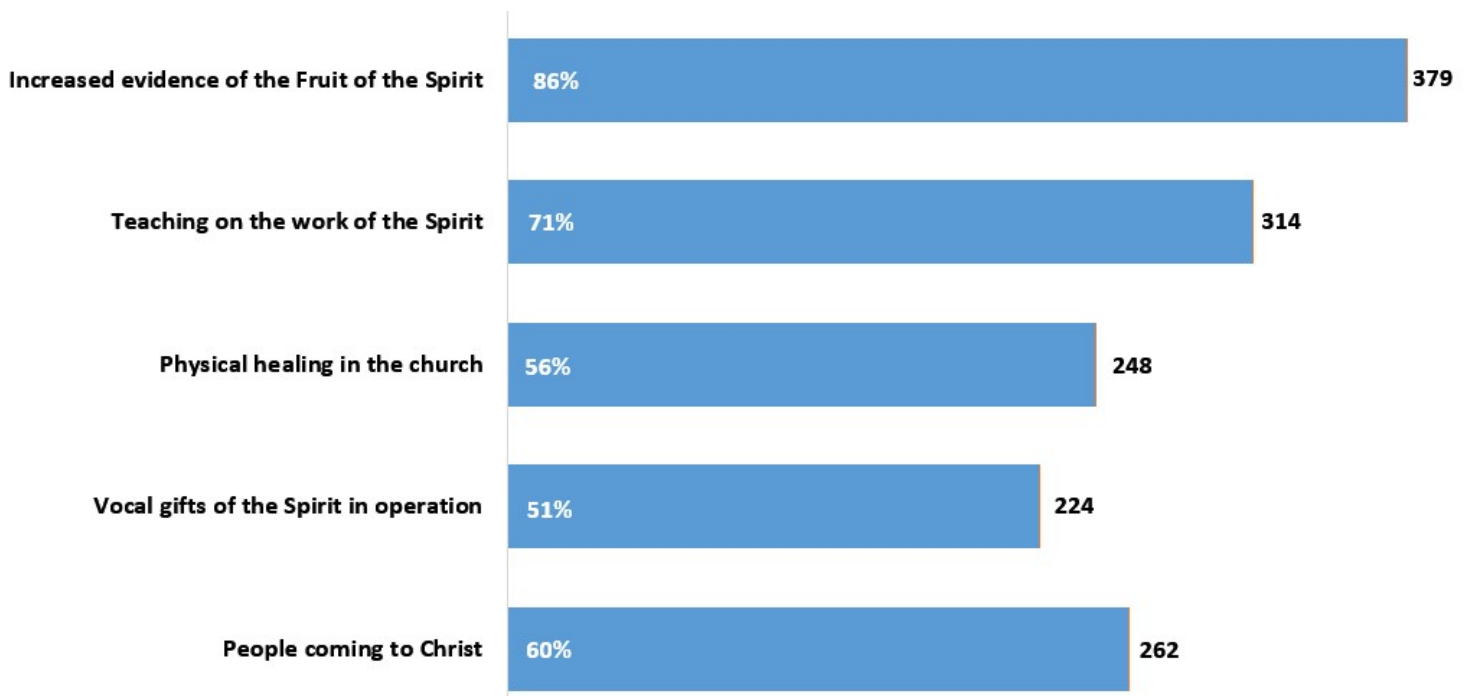
## Disciple-making process

(out of 449 responses)

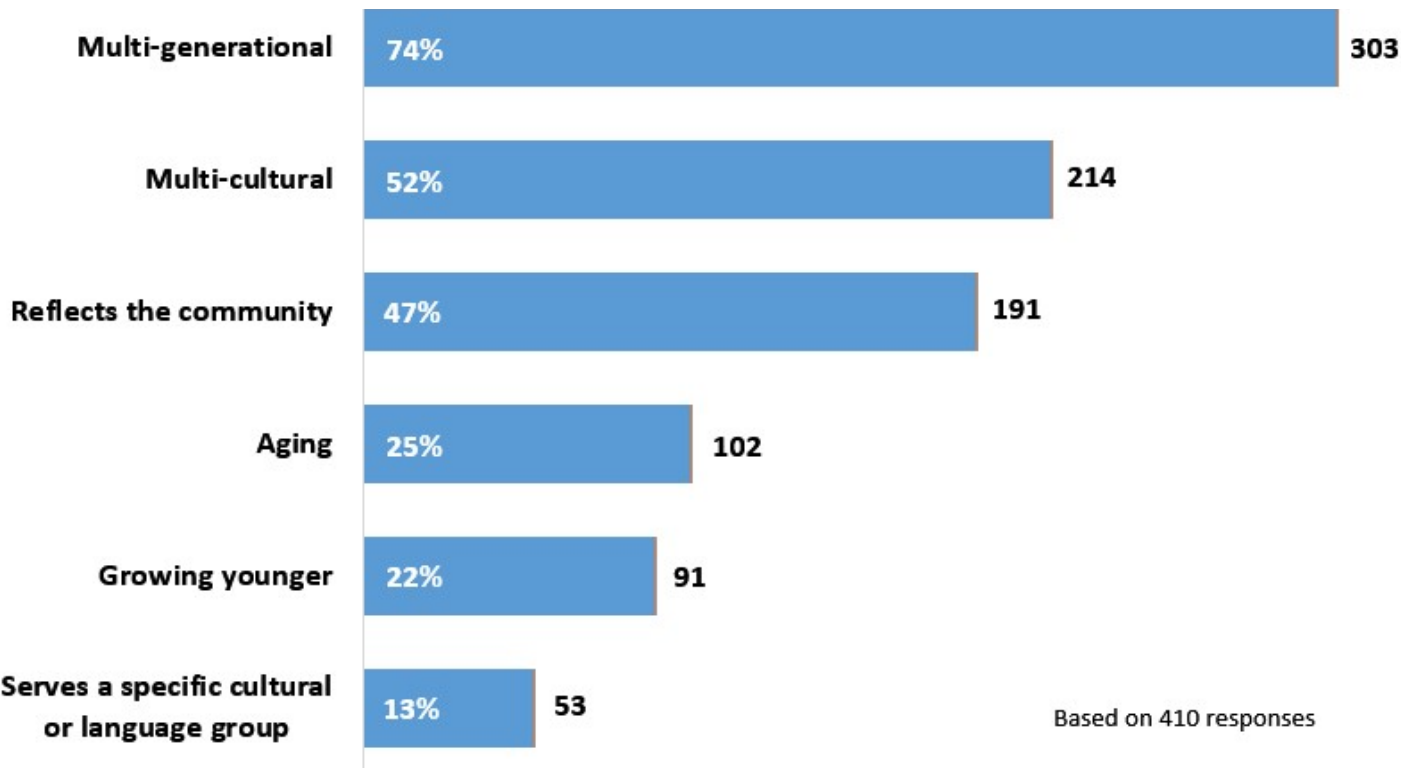


## The Work of the Spirit in the Church

Note that 60% of churches reported that people are coming to Christ, but only 48% reported actual new conversions in their numbers for 2020. This may be attributed to the challenge of measuring new conversions.



# Make-up of the Local Church



## New Disciple-making community (DMC) growth: *(excluding Affiliated Assemblies; based on year-end 2021 total # per category)*

