

# Intercultural Ministries Survey 2019

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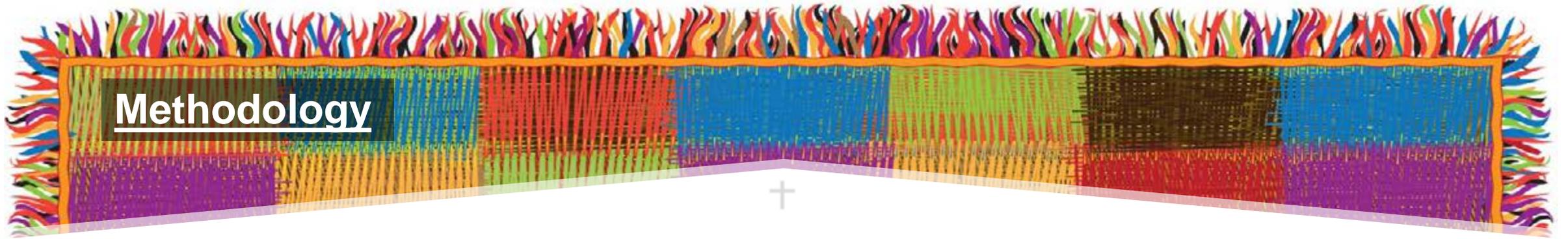


## The intercultural church – a cautionary tale in three acts

Act One: People across the church enthusiastically support The United Church of Canada's intercultural commitment.

Act Two: Locally, people report that they are on their way to becoming an intercultural community. They feel they are participating in the intercultural journey and express openness to intercultural initiatives.

Act Three: Things take a turn for the worse upon exploring the realm of personal perspectives and experiences. Lip service is sometimes paid to the intercultural church, many are not comfortable with “difference,” discrimination exists, and feeling “safe” in the church is not always a given for marginalized people.



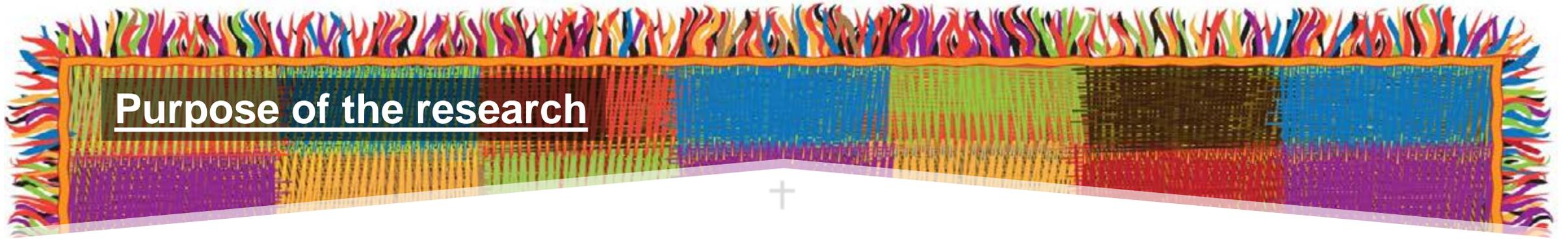
## Methodology

Online survey of 704 United Church people, including both lay people and ministry personnel

Sample generated through social media, UCC e-newsletters, *Observer* advertising and word of mouth

Questionnaire available in both English and French

Fieldwork – January 29 to March 4, 2019

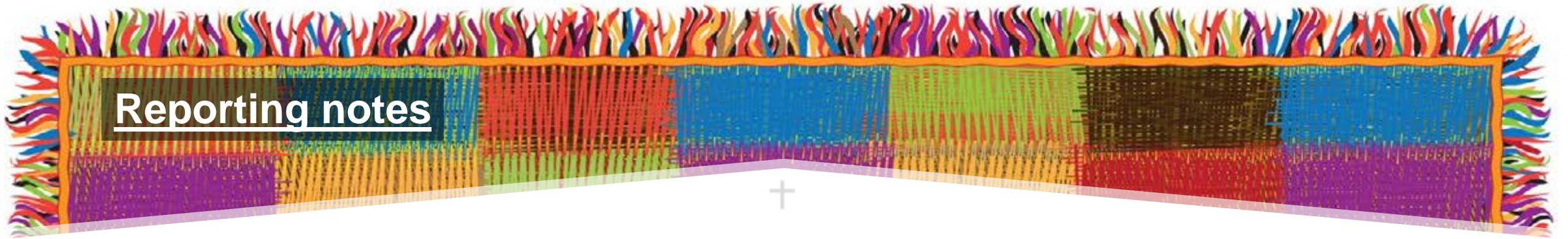


## Purpose of the research

To give the people of the church an opportunity to describe their experiences of and attitudes toward the church's commitment to becoming intercultural

To gather data that may inform the development of an overall intercultural strategy for the next several years

To provide a window on the challenges and opportunities that may exist as the church works toward implementing its intercultural vision and strategy

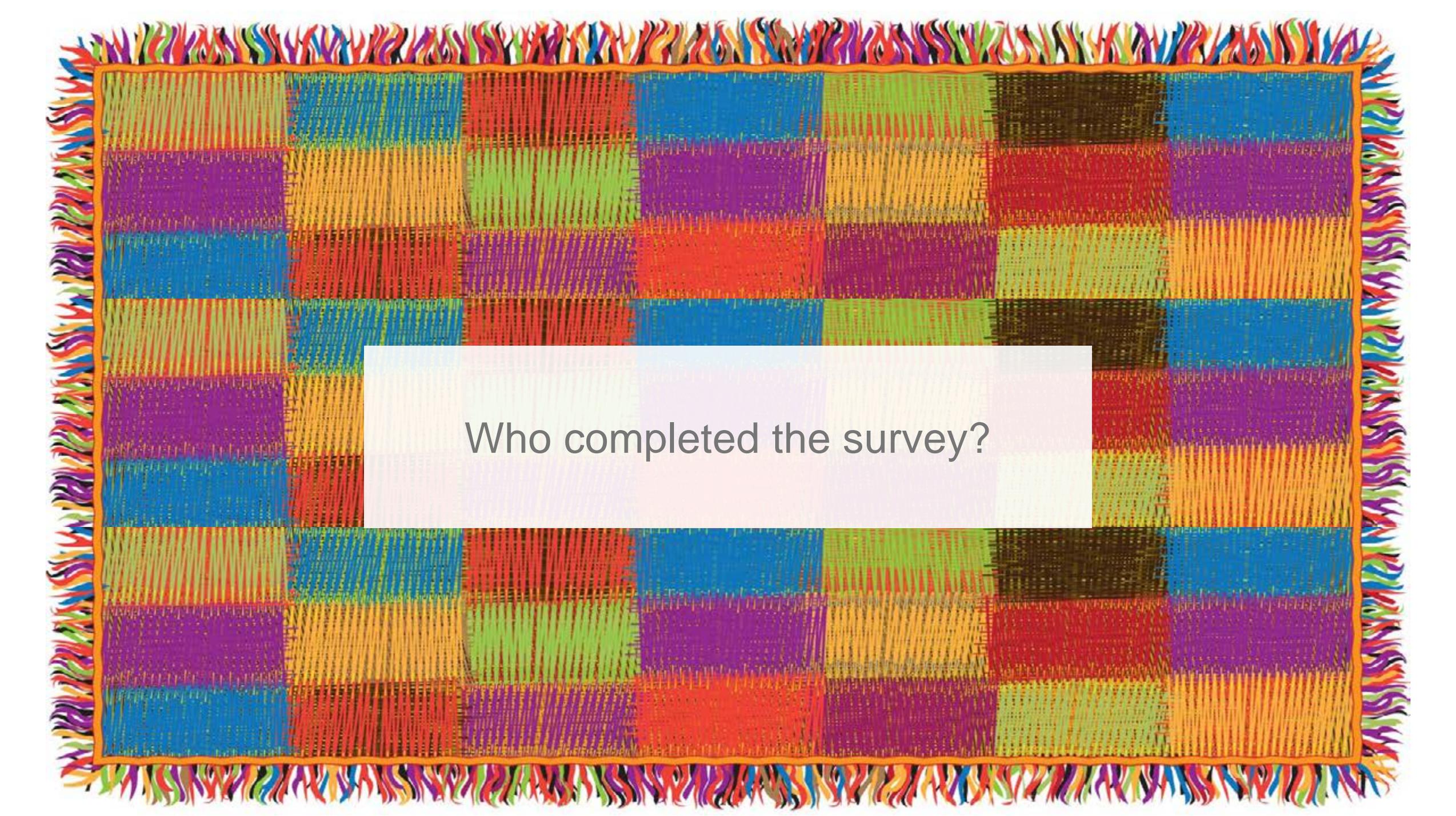


## Reporting notes

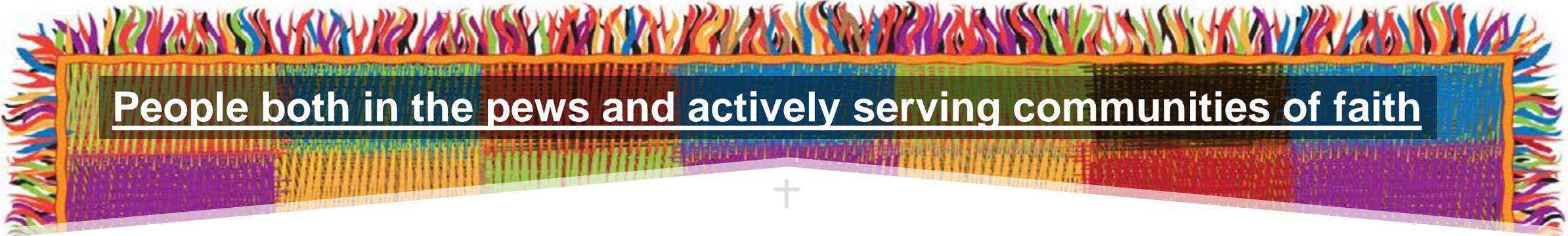
All numbers are expressed in percentages unless otherwise noted.

Percentages sometimes add to less than 100 due to rounding or possible absence of “don’t know/prefer not to say/not applicable” data.

Percentages sometimes add to more than 100. This happens when the question is a multiple response question (i.e., choose all that apply.)

A vibrant, multi-colored rug with a fringe border. The rug features a grid of squares in various colors including blue, purple, green, orange, and red. A white rectangular box is centered on the rug, containing the text "Who completed the survey?".

Who completed the survey?



# People both in the pews and actively serving communities of faith



75%

Part of a United Church community of faith (including both lay people AND ministry personnel)

1%

Part of an ecumenical shared ministry (including both lay people AND ministry personnel)

23%

United Church of Canada ministry personnel actively serving a community of faith

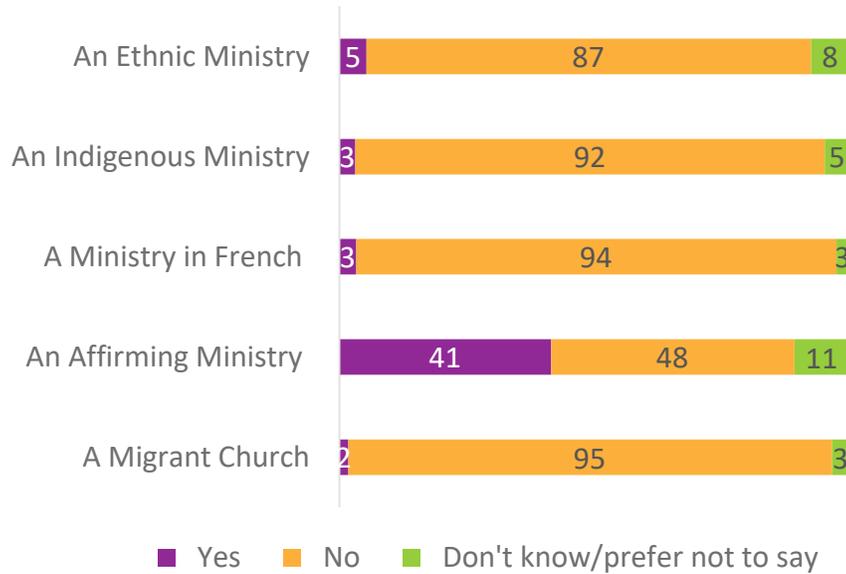
1%

Ministry personnel (non-United Church), actively serving an ecumenical shared ministry

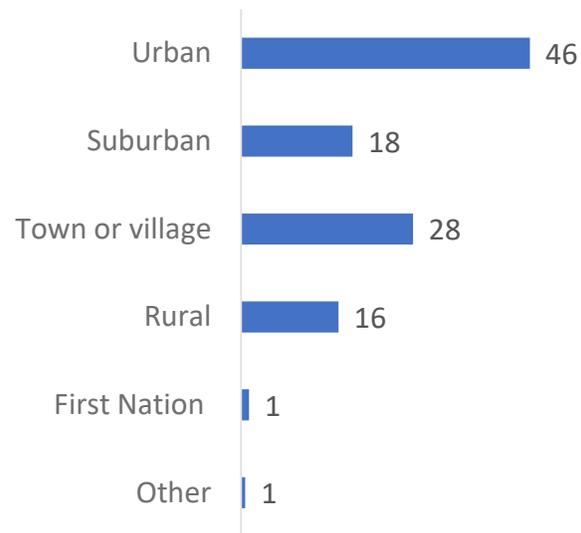
# People from different types of communities of faith



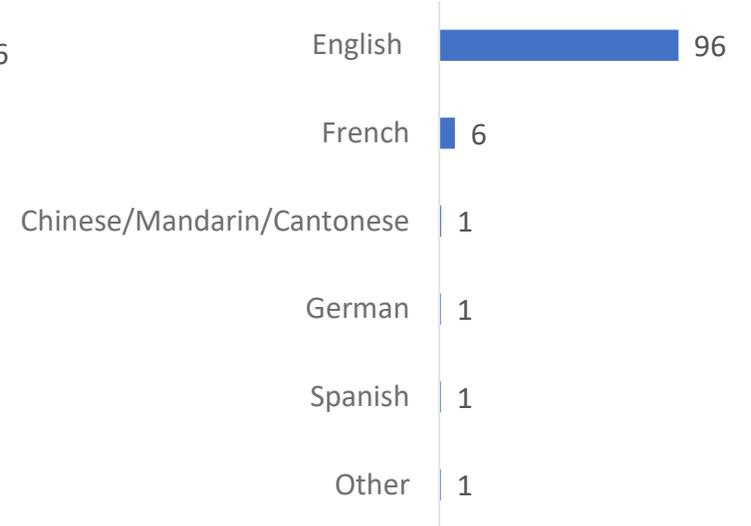
Designation



Type of community



Language of worship



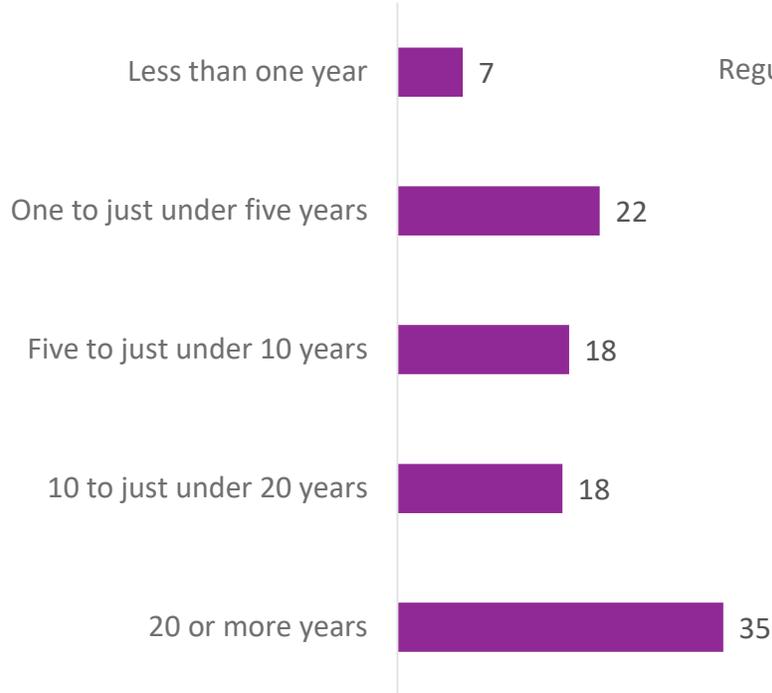
Q2. Is your community of faith designated as:

Q3. What type of community is your community of faith situated in?

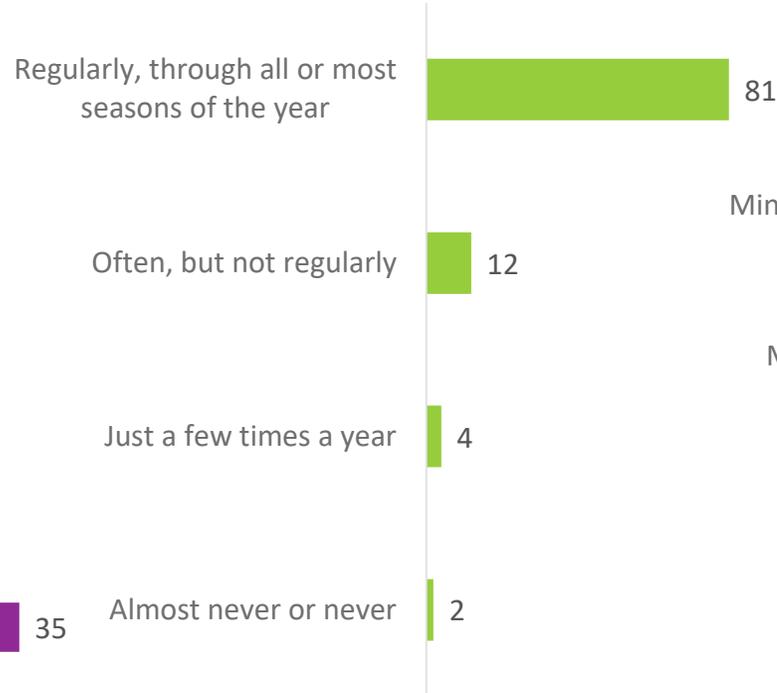
D10B. In which of the following languages does your community of faith typically worship?

# People with a variety of experiences of church

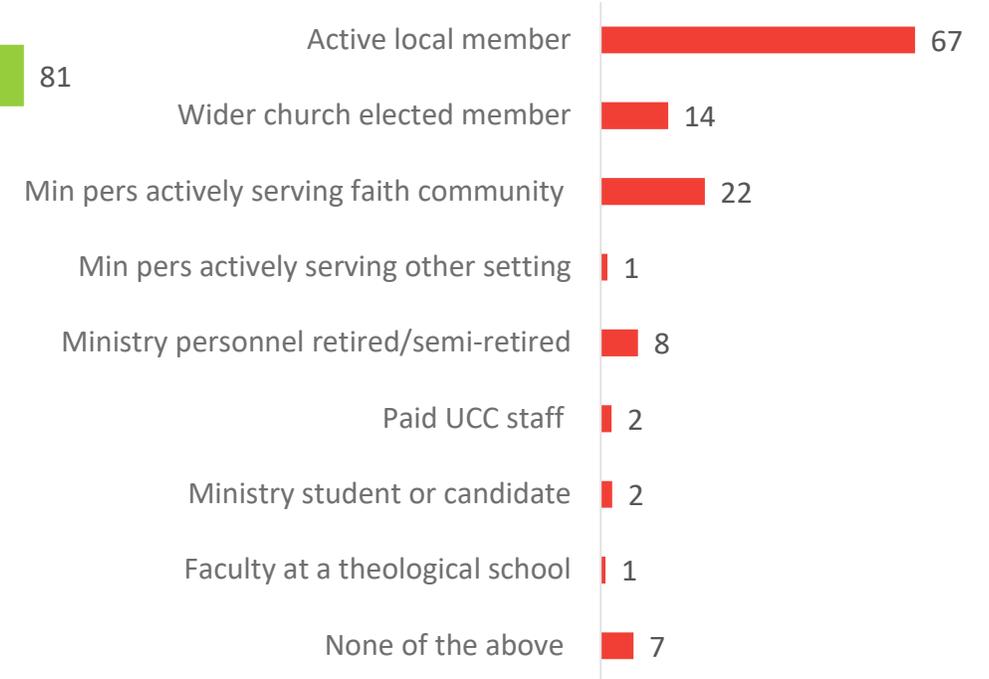
## Tenure



## Frequency of worship Excluding active ministry personnel



## Role(s)



Q4. How long have you been a part of your current community of faith?

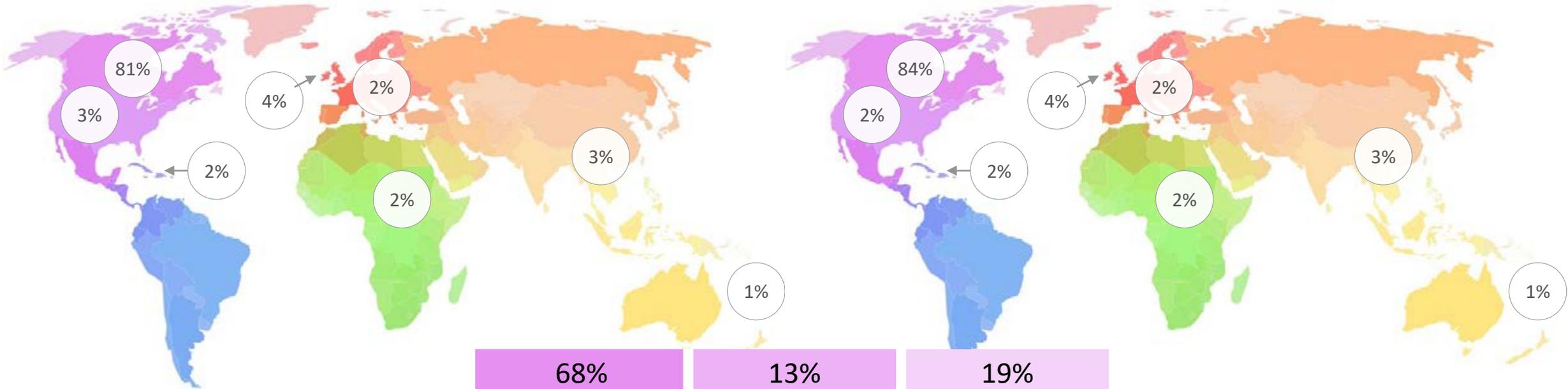
Q5. Do you worship with your community of faith:

D12. Are you currently:

# People from across the globe, although primarily Canada

Birth place

Childhood



<b>68%</b>	<b>13%</b>	<b>19%</b>
Both parents born in Canada	One parent born in Canada and one parent born outside Canada	Both parents born outside Canada

D1A. In what part of the world were you born?

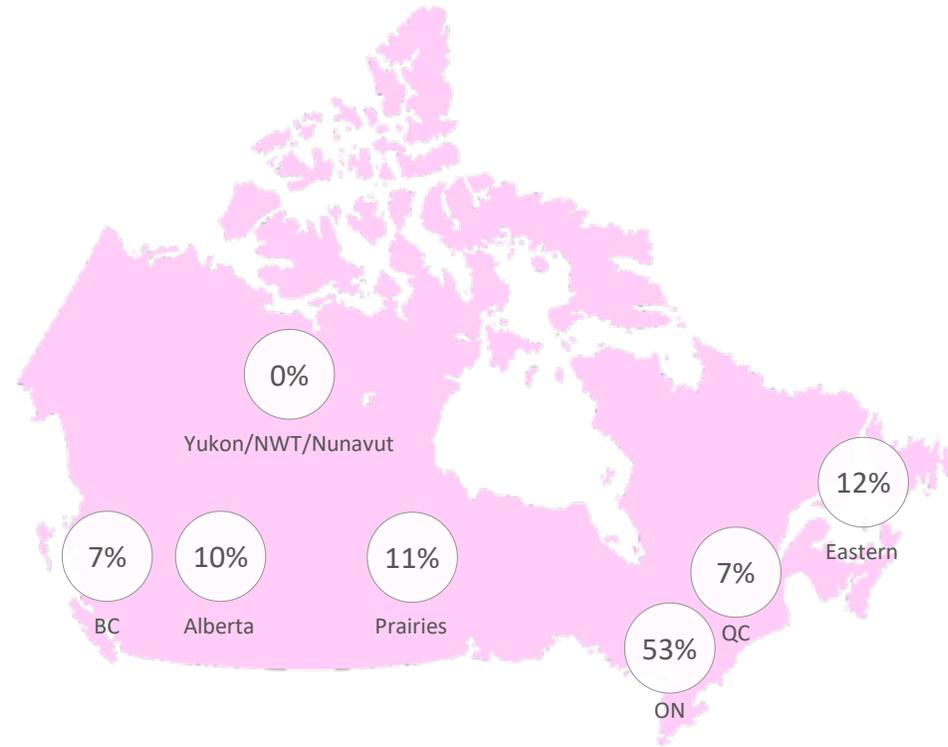
D1B. In what part of the world did you spend most, or all, of your childhood?

D2. Were your parents born in Canada?

# People living in all regions of the country, except the North

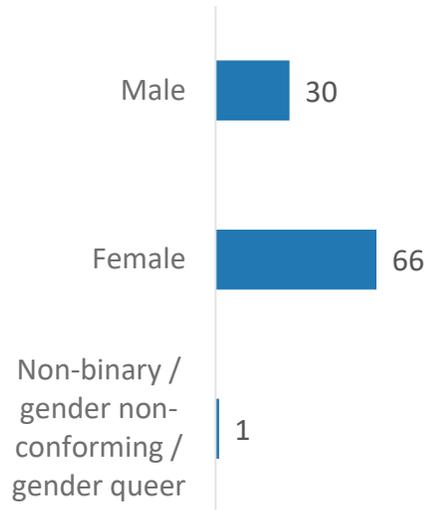


Home region

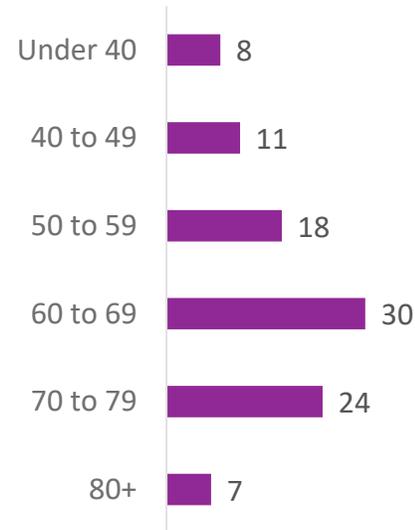


# People with different demographic profiles

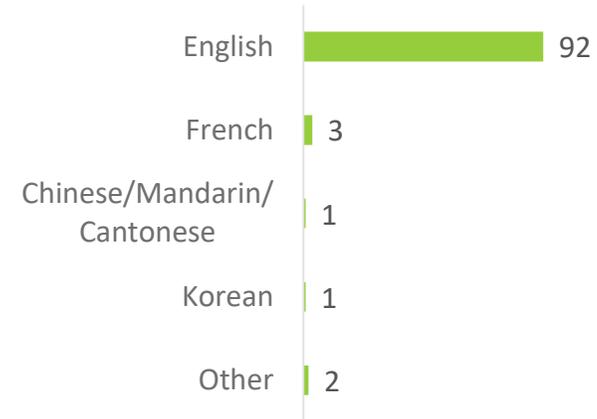
## Gender



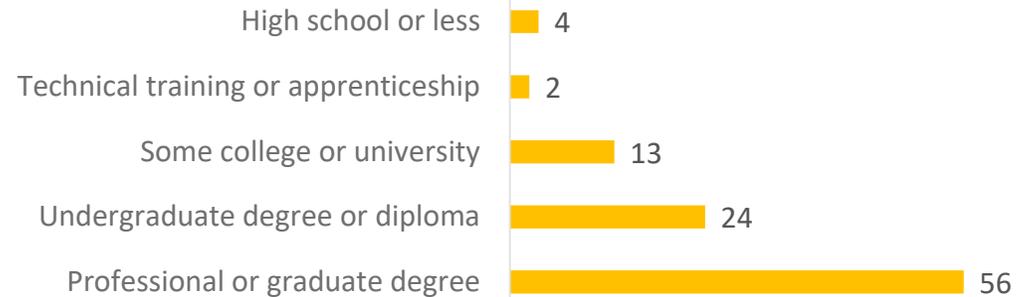
## Age



## Language of comfort



## Education

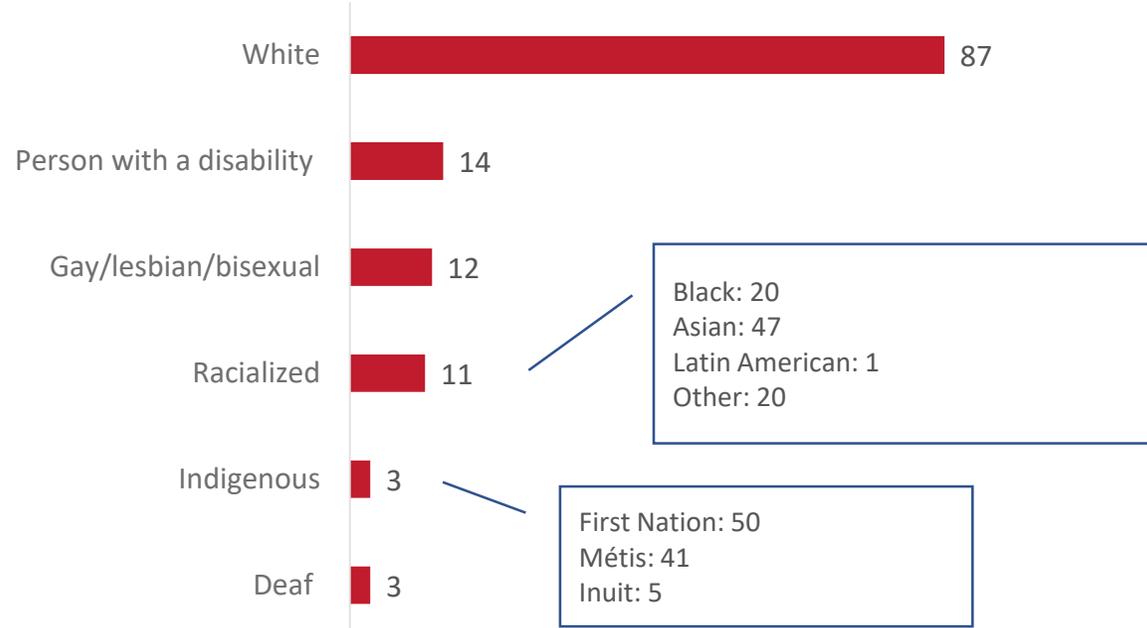


- D3. Are you:
- D9. What is your year of birth?
- D10A. For you personally, what is your language of greatest comfort?
- D8. What is the highest level of education that you have received?

# People representing a number of different identities

+

Identity(ies)



# People of both marginalized and non-marginalized identities

+

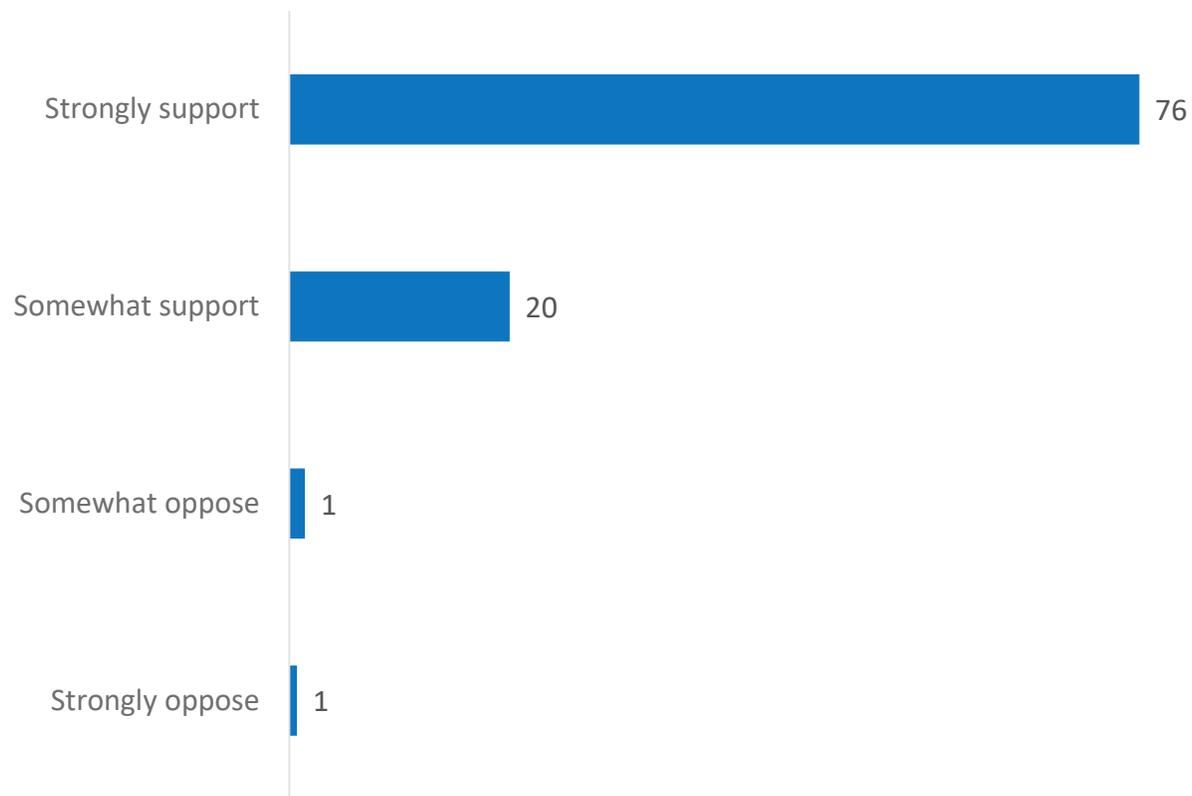


63%

37%

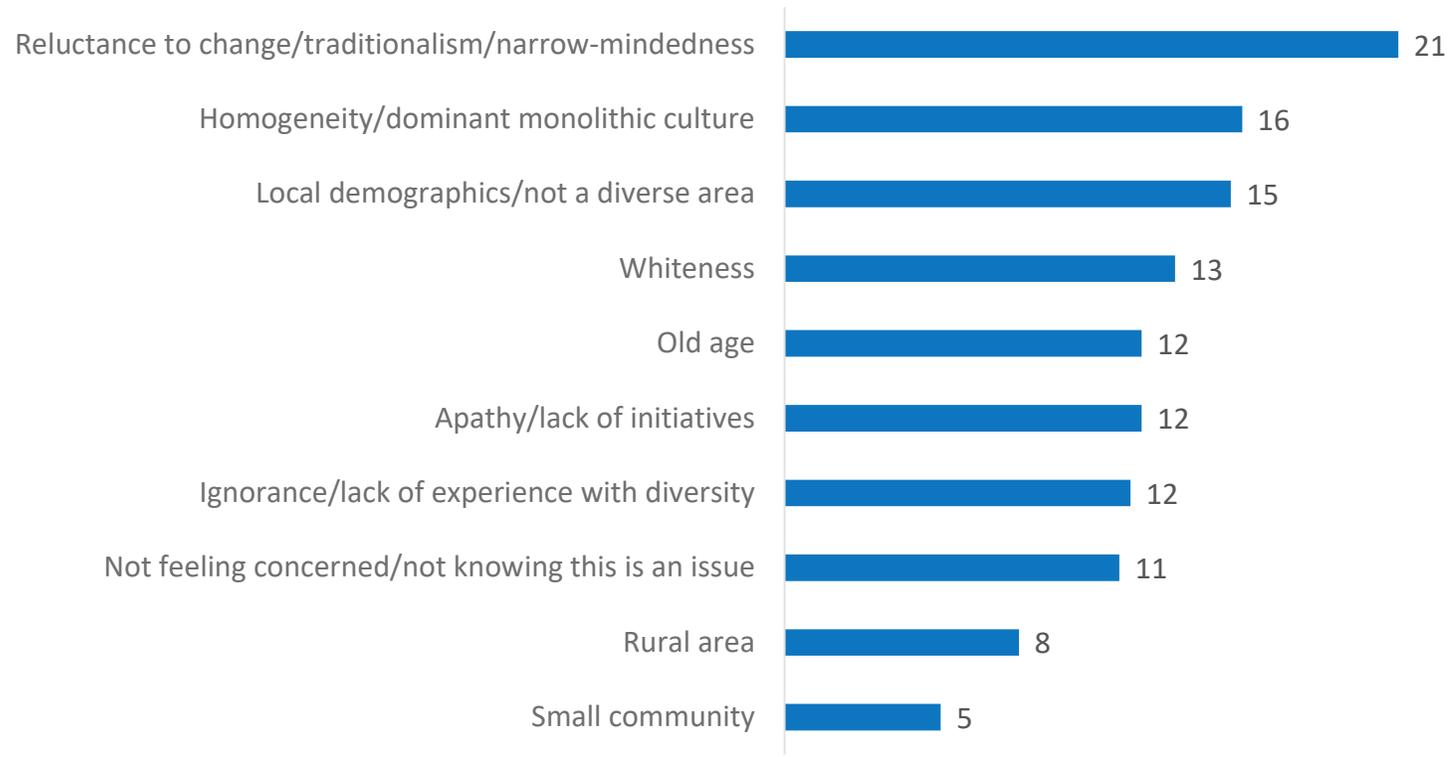
# Support for the UCC's intercultural commitment

Total



# Barriers getting in the way of progress

Among those who gave a rating of 0 to 4 on progress towards becoming intercultural



# Factors contributing to progress

Among those who gave a rating of 5 to 10 on progress towards becoming intercultural



# Agree with attitudinal statements

Total

Many good people discriminate without even knowing they are doing it.

41 48 89

If we strive in the church to be intercultural, this will help to deepen our understanding and experiences of God and one another.

60 29 89

The intercultural church does not result in “winners and losers”...

52 34 86

In our community of faith, just as in society, the dominant culture still holds most of the power.

46 39 85

Apologies for harms done in the past to minority groups by the dominant culture are necessary to move forward in a positive way.

45 34 79

It would be so much better if we could all just accept that, regardless of our various “identities,” we are all human beings with the same hopes and...

53 24 77

If you are part of the dominant culture, you were born with advantages that you didn’t ask for but that you have not earned or paid for either.

48 26 74

We would be better off as a church if everyone could just treat everyone else as an individual, regardless of their various identities.

44 25 68

It is admirable to aspire to be an intercultural church, but to achieve success, people will have to look deep within themselves ... this is unlikely to...

19 39 59

Reconciliation between minority and majority culture groups will only be addressed once the power imbalance has been corrected.

22 37 59

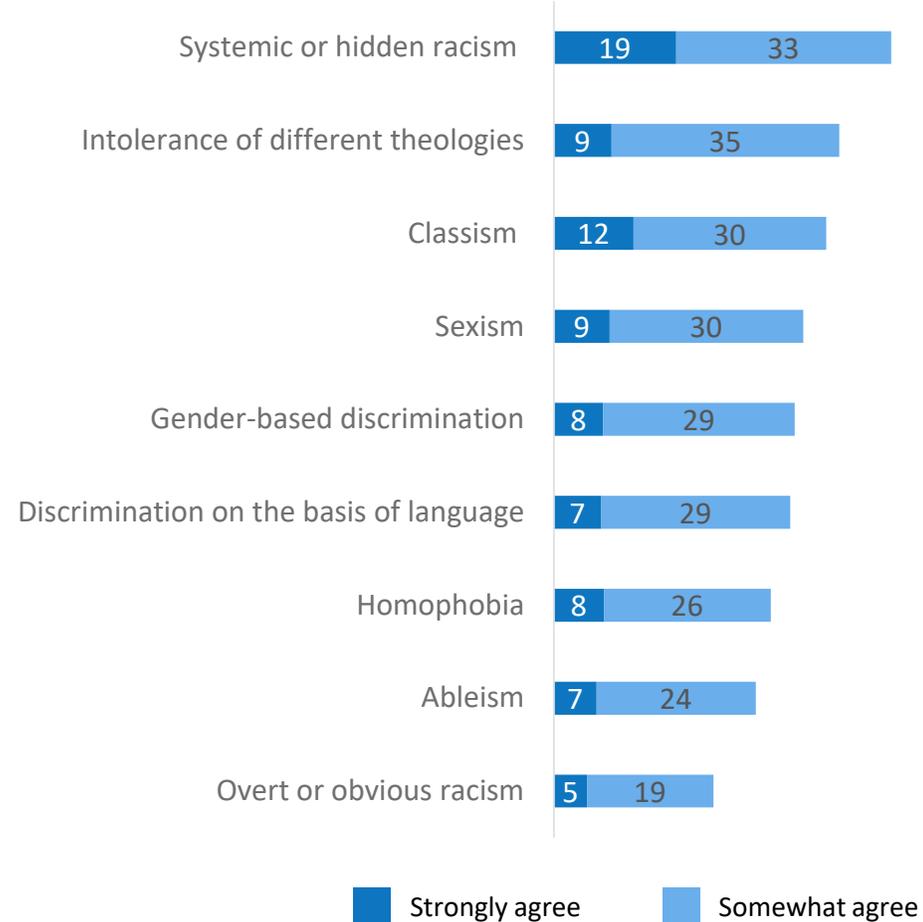
Strongly agree

Somewhat agree

Q.33 Here are some attitudes that do not necessarily reflect the views of The United Church of Canada but that are sometimes expressed. Do you agree or disagree with the attitude expressed in each statement? Or do you just not believe the statement to be true?

# Agree that discrimination exists in community of faith

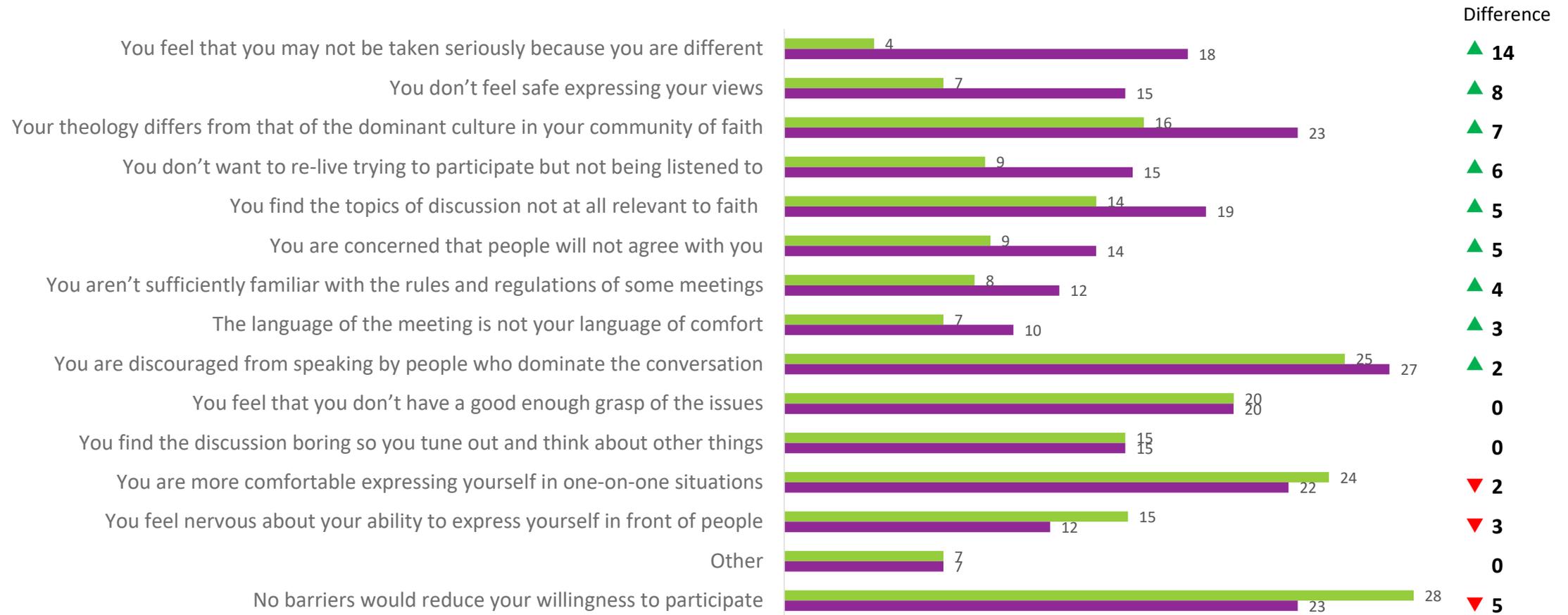
Total



Q30. Do you agree or disagree that each of the following exists in your community of faith?

# Barriers to participating in meetings or groups

■ Not marginalized  
■ Marginalized



Q8. Which of the following barriers, if any, might reduce your willingness to participate in a meeting or discussion group with your community of faith?