



Gathering 2016

CANADIAN GATHERING 2016 SURVEY ANALYSIS

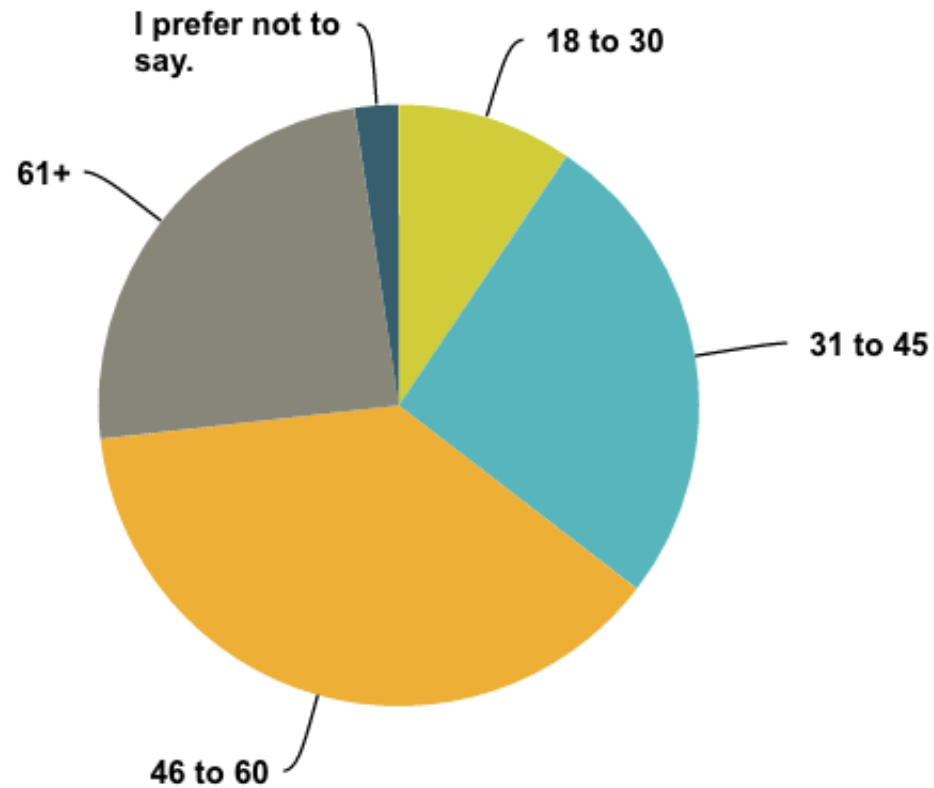
OVERVIEW

- Survey conducted during the week following Canadian Gathering 2016.
- Designed to gather feedback to help evaluate performance against stated goals of the event.
- Blend of quantitative and qualitative questions.
- Survey was sent to all 187 Gathering participants (152 respondents). (An extremely engaged group.)
- Almost 100 indicated they would be willing to help us share the story of the Gathering with their congregations, councils and/or classes.
- Some respondents had difficulty with the ranking questions.
- Others chose not to respond to open-ended questions because they were not “delegates”.
- The survey was anonymous in order to elicit more honest responses.
- Generally, the results were *very* positive, but there are some outlying voices and opinions.

AGE DISTRIBUTION

What is your age?

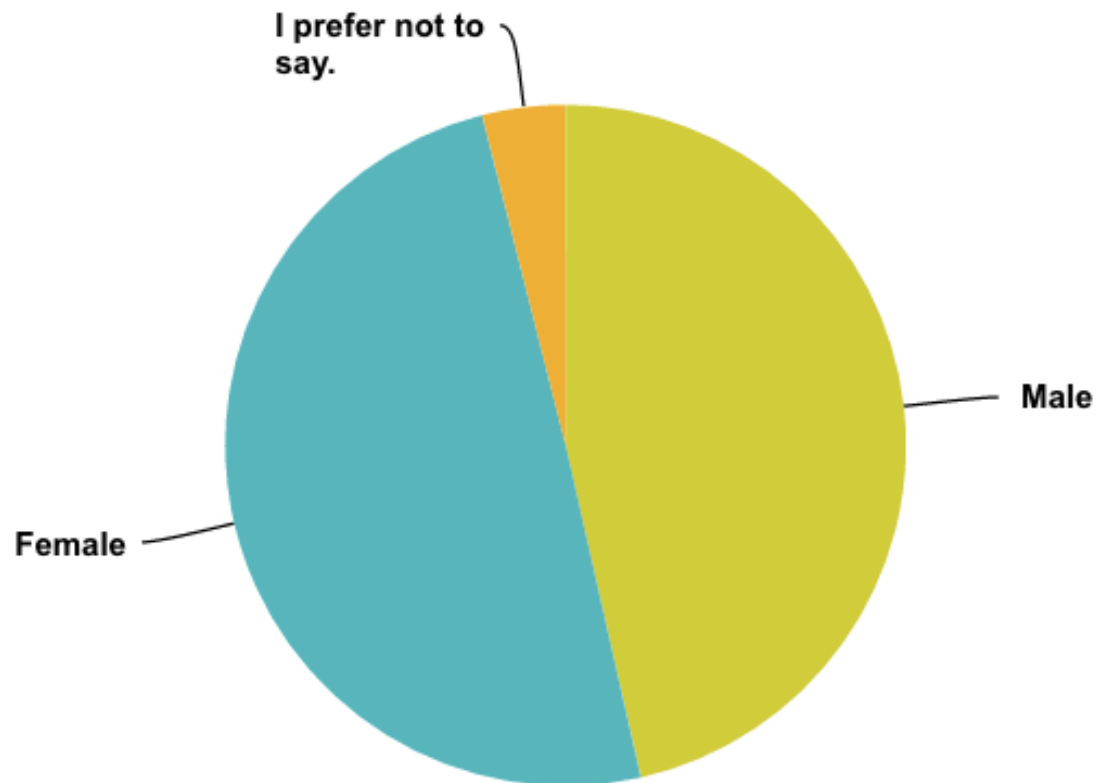
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GENDER

What is your gender?

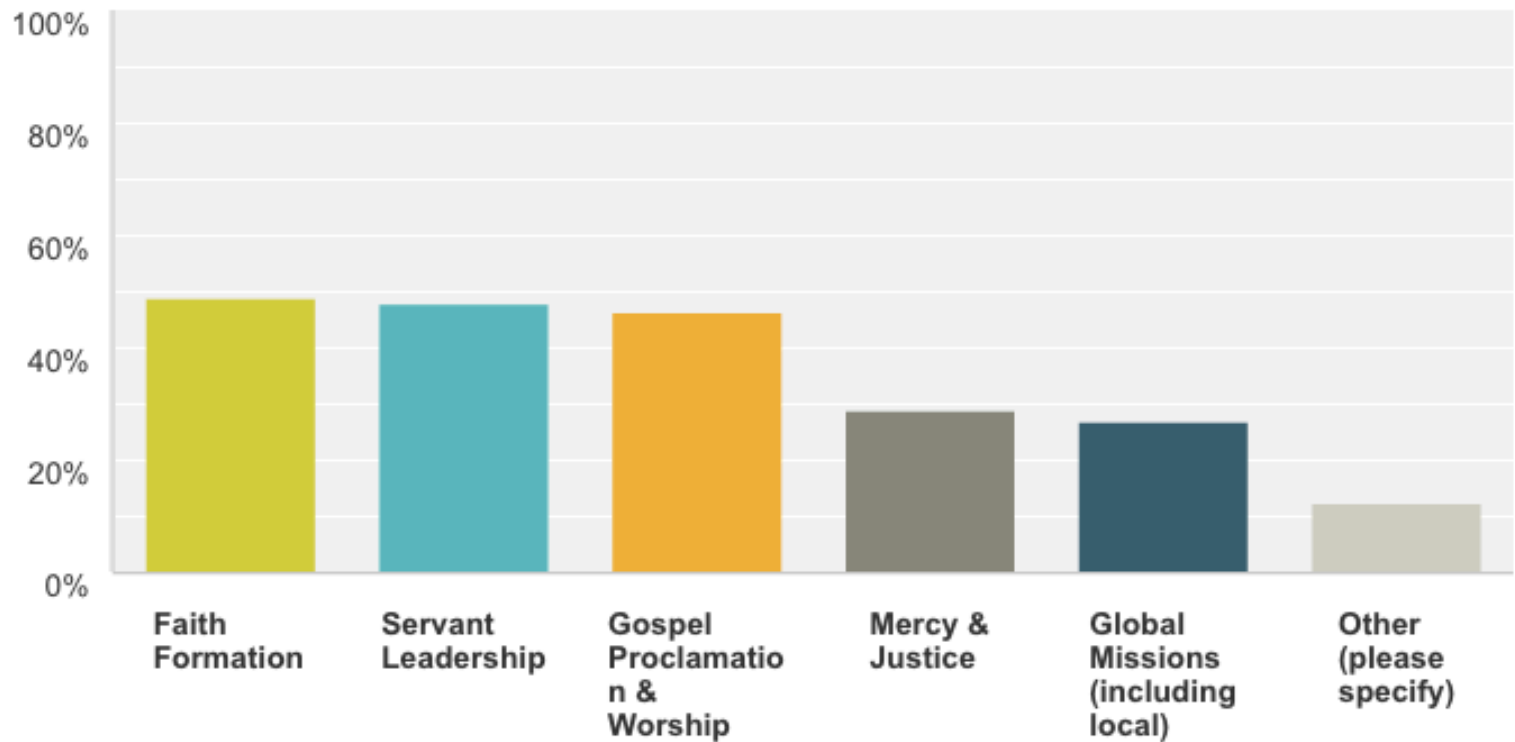
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MINISTRY AREAS

Into which of the CRC's 5 ministry area(s) does your ministry fit? (you may choose more than one)

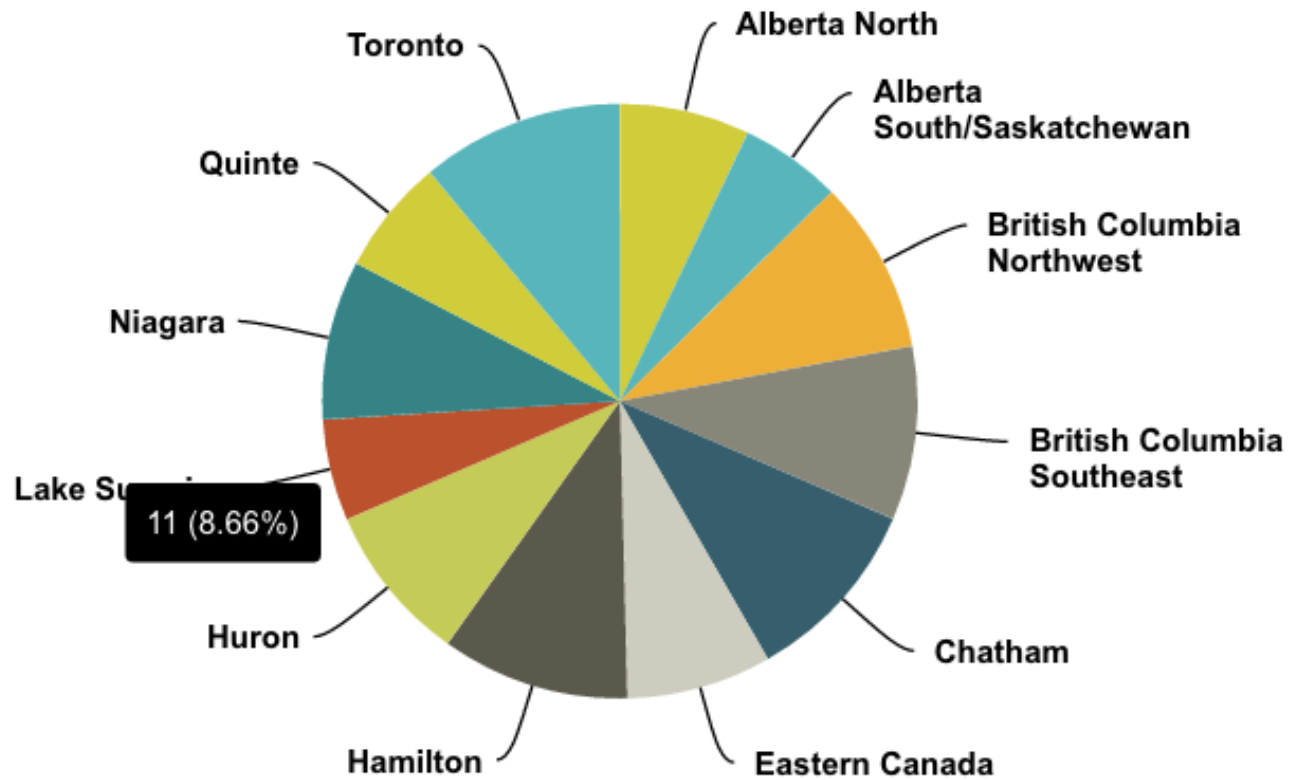
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DISTRIBUTION BY CLASSIS

What Classis are you from?

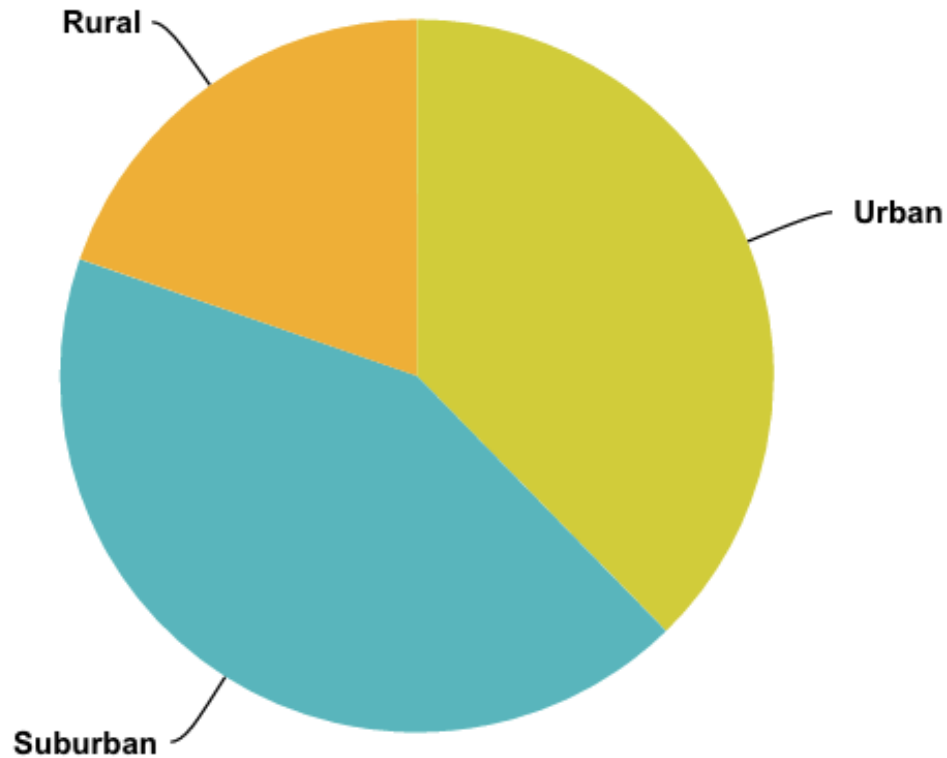
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CHURCH SETTING

How would you describe your church setting?

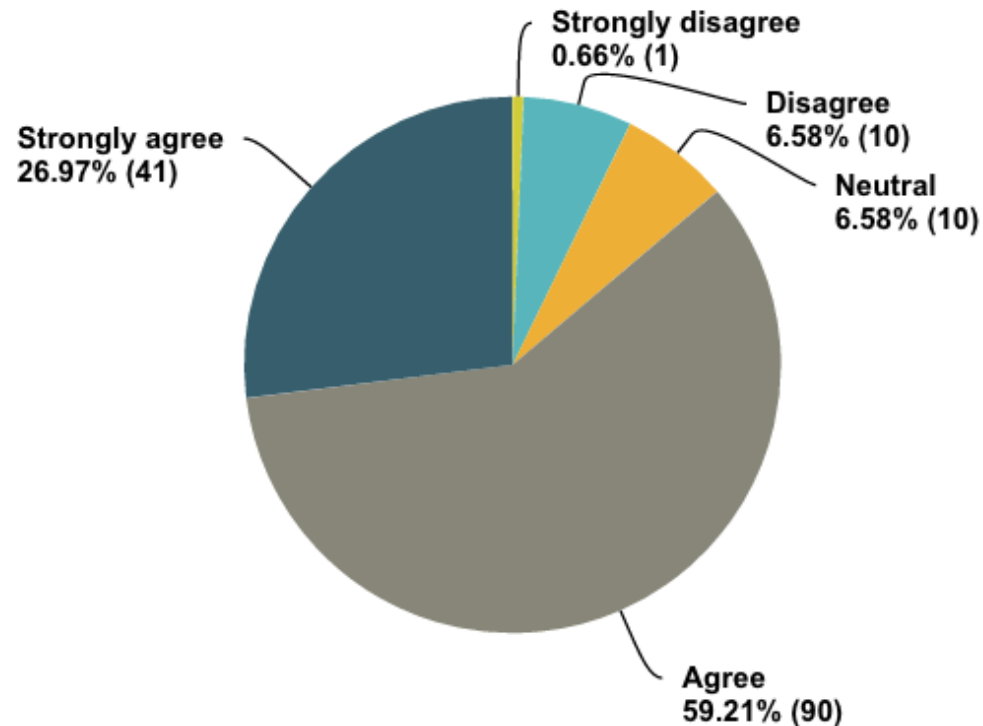
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SEEKING GOD'S GUIDANCE

Adequate time and effort were devoted to seeking God's guidance for ministry direction.

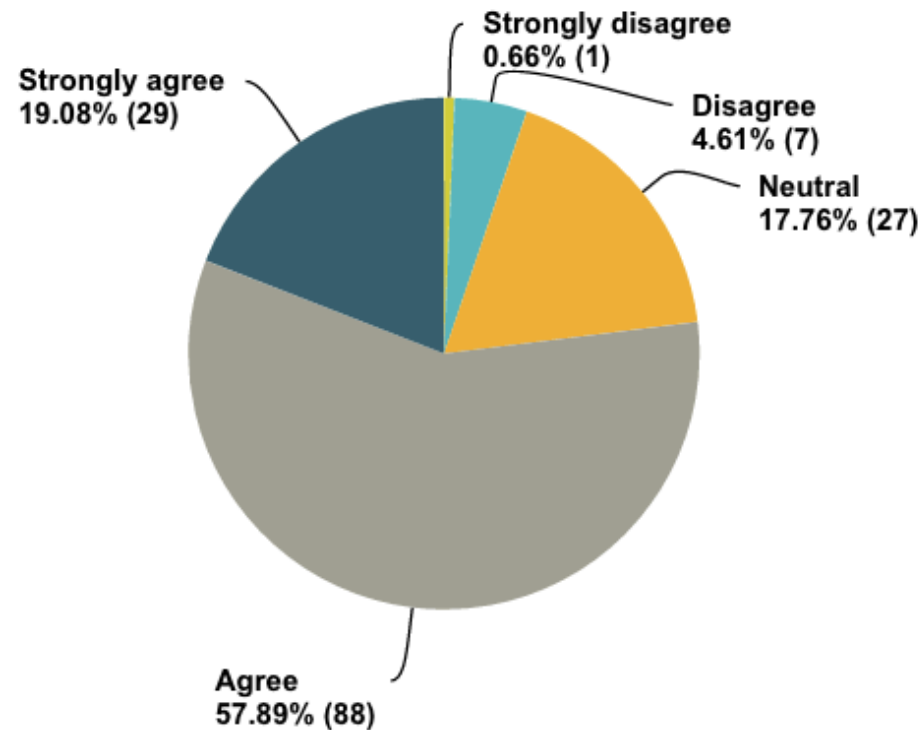
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SHARING MINISTRY STORIES WITH CAD CRC

I was able to effectively share my local ministry stories and priorities with the CRC's Ministry in Canada.

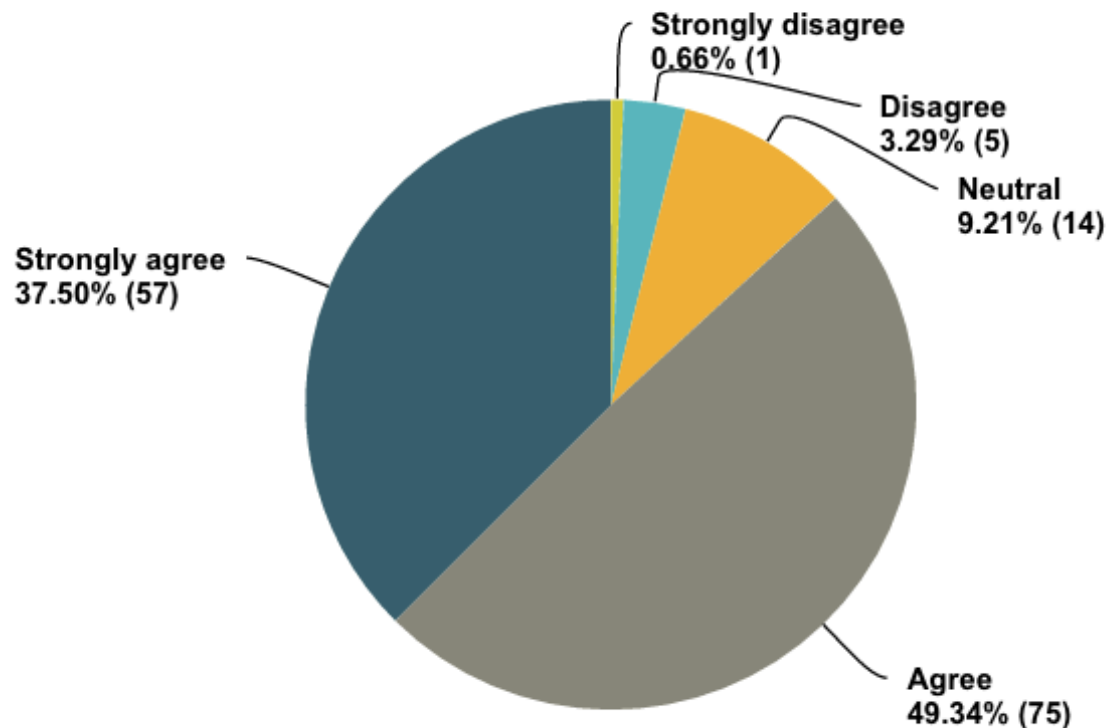
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ABLE TO SHARE MINISTRY STORIES & PRIORITIES WITH OTHER PARTICIPANTS.

I was able to effectively share my local ministry stories and priorities with other participants.

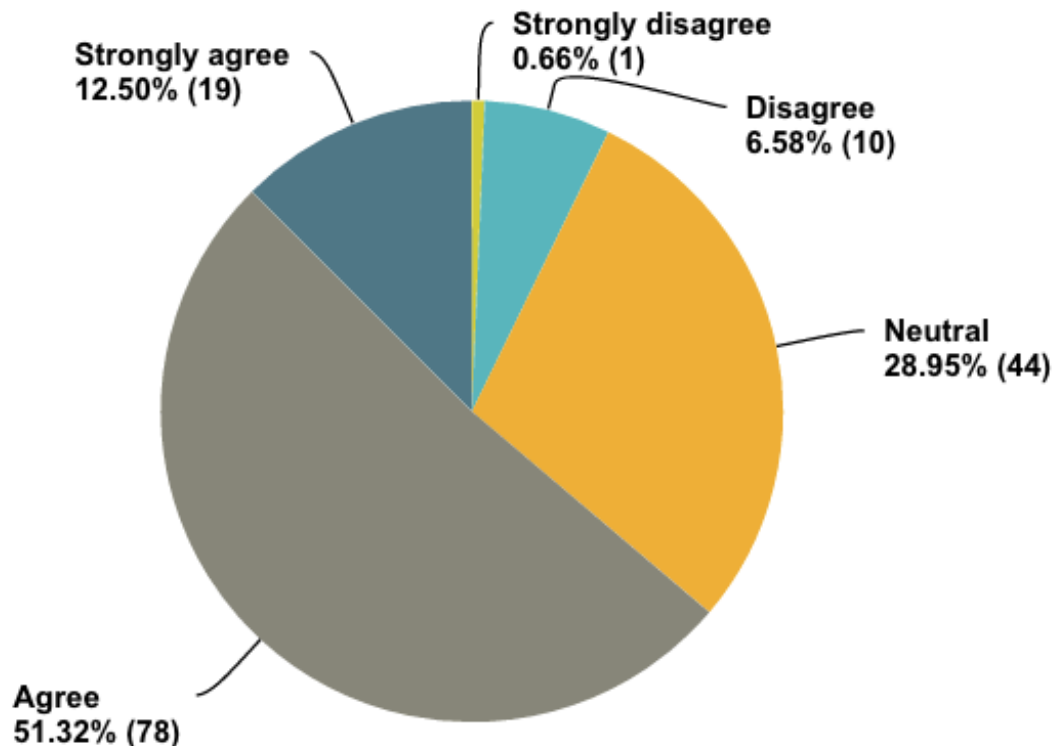
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SUPPORTING LOCAL MINISTRY

I had a meaningful opportunity to contribute my ideas about how CRC's Ministry in Canada can support my local ministry.

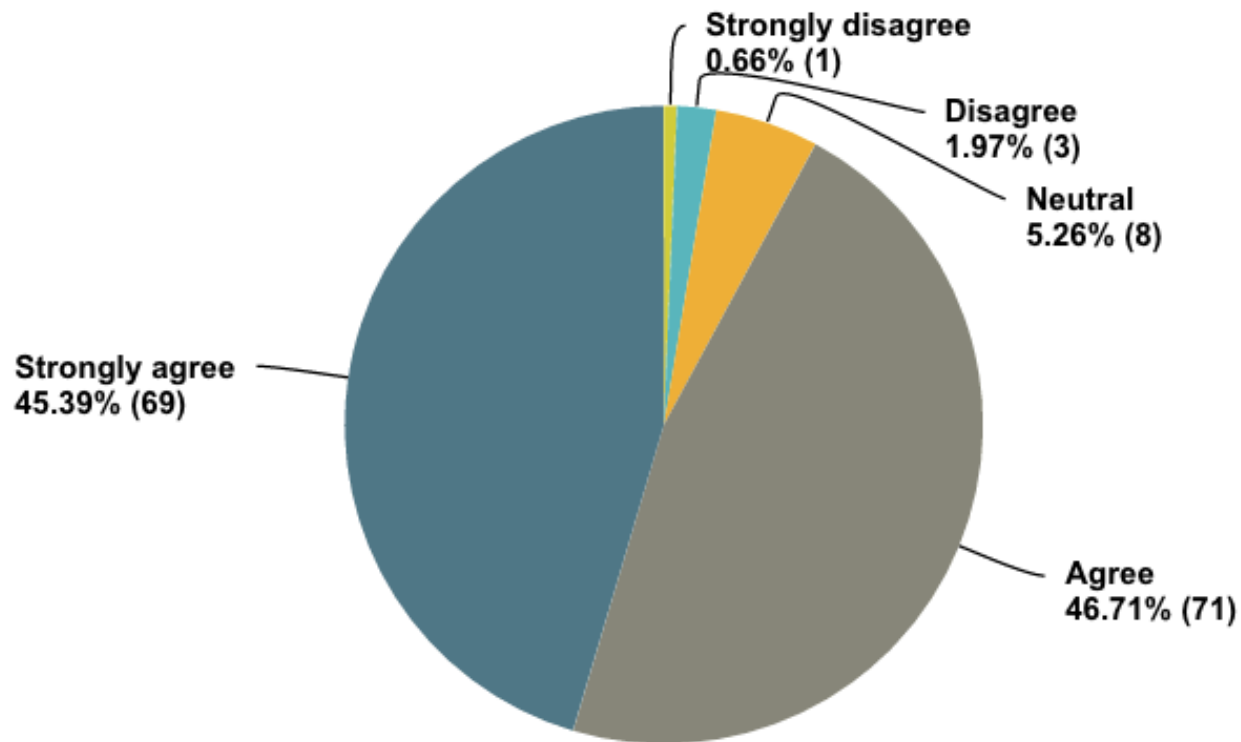
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MAKING CONNECTIONS

**I was able to make valuable connections
with other ministry leaders within the CRC.**

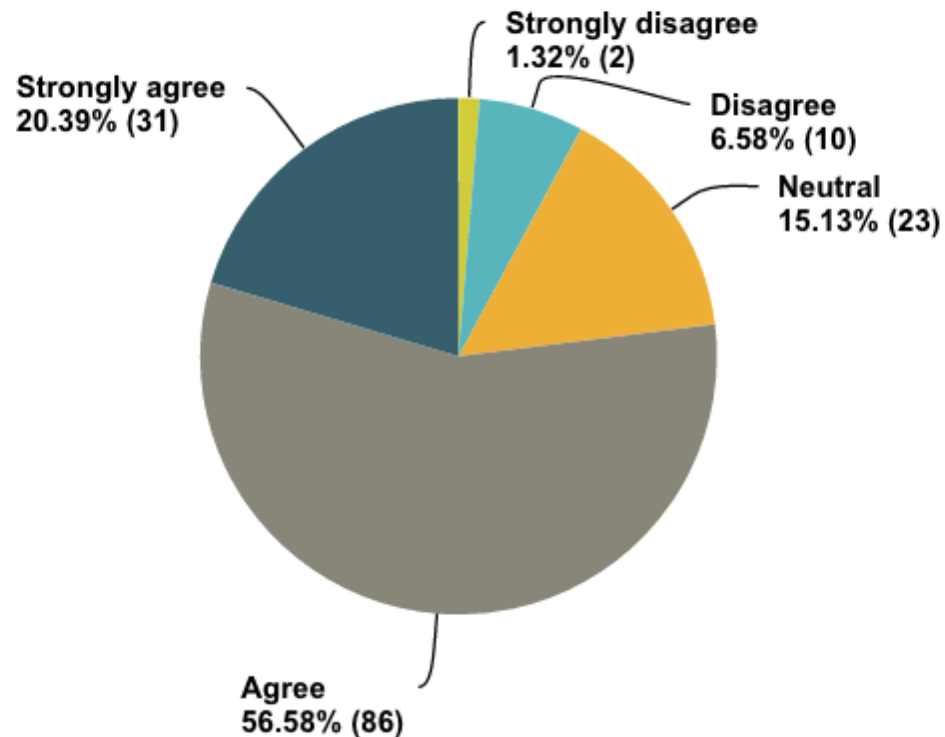
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UNDERSTANDING OF CRC RESOURCES

I now have a better understanding of the CRC resources that are available to my local ministry.

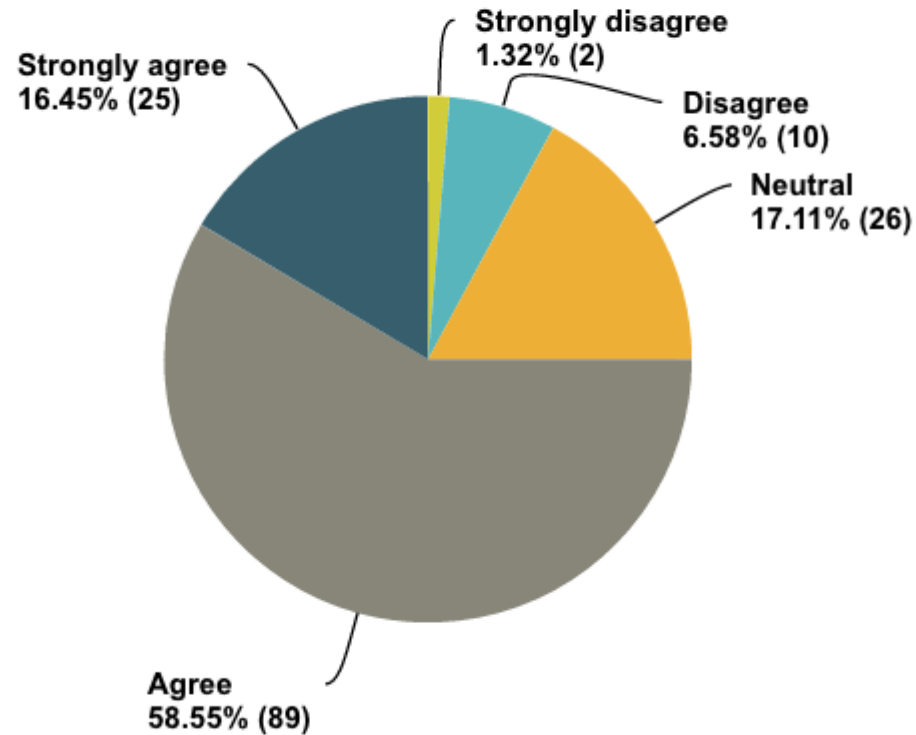
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ACCESS TO CRC RESOURCES

**I know how to access CRC resources
available to my local ministry.**

Answered: 152 Skipped: 0



RANKING OF PROGRAM ITEMS BY RELEVANCE FOR LOCAL MINISTRY

Rank	Program Item	Weighted Average
1	Dr. Glenn Smith - Keynote	6.96
2	Dr. Sylvia Keesmaat - Keynote	6.85
3	Storytelling – Friday Night Group	6.65
4	Facilitated Classis Groups – What is our takeaway?	6.22
5	Facilitated Class Ministry Dialogue	5.76
6	Dr. Glenn Smith – Table discussions	5.64
7	Rev. Dr. Darren Roorda – Evening workshop	5.58
8	Michelle Visser-Wikkerink – Keynote	4.3
9	Open Plenary	3.81
10	Ministry Fair	3.67

RANKING OF DESIRED FUTURES OF CRC MINISTRY PLAN AS THEY RELATE TO YOUR CANADIAN CONTEXT.

Ranking	Desired Future	Weighted Average	#1 choice
1	Church & Community	3.88	43%
2	Discipleship	3.84	34%
3	Leadership	3.23	15%
4	Collaboration	2.17	3.17%
5	Identity	2.02	6.5%

IN TERMS OF INSPIRATIONAL IMPACT, WHAT IS ONE THING YOU ARE MOST EXCITED TO SHARE WITH YOUR CHURCH COMMUNITY ABOUT CANADIAN GATHERING 2016?

Underlying Themes:

- A general sense of excitement around energy, hope, togetherness and renewal for the denomination and an appreciation for its strengths and resources.
- Enthusiasm for outreach and mission (including ecumenical partnerships), particularly as they relate to First Nations, the marginalized, and within local contexts.
- Acknowledgment that the Holy Spirit was at work within the gathering, which was also reflected in prayer and worship.
- A growing appreciation for the power of storytelling.
- A celebration of the presence of engaged young adults at the event and a general appreciation for the overall demographic mix.
- A perception that the leadership of the CRC is committed to supporting local churches in how they do ministry.

WHAT IS ONE THING YOU WOULD LIKE TO SHARE WITH THE CRC'S MINISTRY IN CANADA?

Underlying Themes:

- Thankfulness and encouragement to continue their good work and push the boundaries of people's comfort zones.
- Encouragement to continue to provide resources for discipleship and faith formation.
- Concern from some that the program had an agenda that focused too much on the marginalized and on First Nations.
- Several calls to remember to focus on the Word and the preaching of the Word as denominational priorities.
- Some calls for a change in how Classes function, with a desire for similar but more locally focused mini-gatherings.
- A general desire for continued improvements in communications, with a variety of suggestions, including visits by Darren to every classis.

WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE IMPROVED AT FUTURE CANADIAN GATHERINGS?

Underlying Themes:

- Accommodations: numerous comments about the comfort of the beds, the size of the rooms, and difficulty navigating around the campus.
- Schedule: many people shared that they would like more down time in order to process and absorb the information and listen for God's voice. Some asked for a less compressed schedule. Others asked for time limits on speakers and fewer questions for discussion groups.
- Inclusivity: There was a challenge to be more accommodating to those on the margins within the participant pool, particularly the disabled. Along with this was the suggestion to see more diversity among the speakers themselves.
- Discussions: There were some requests to limit the size of discussion groups to enable more meaningful conversations. Also, more advanced preparation of participants and more opportunity for storytelling would enrich the discussion times.
- Ministry Fair: Needed more space.
- Worship: Observations that worship did not adequately reflect different styles.
- Plenary question period: Would have been good to limit question time and bring more focus to the questions.

SOME UNDERLYING TENSIONS

- CRC Identity – How do we sensitively honour our Dutch Reformed traditions without offending?
- Inclusivity – There is a desire for greater inclusivity and obvious signs that there is more work to be done.
- Agenda – Some had a perception that while the purpose of the gathering was for CRC HQ to listen, there was a hidden agenda.
- Tension between administrative processes of the denomination (Synod, Classis, and local Councils) and grass roots efforts and desires to do effective ministry.



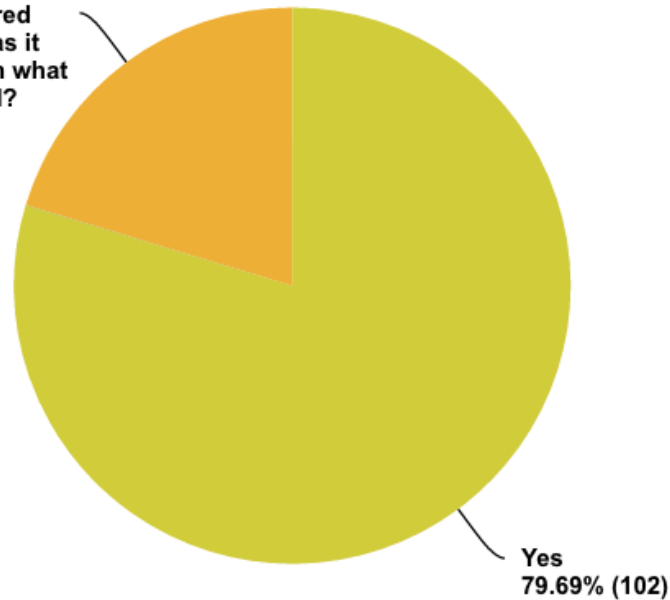
DID THE CANADIAN GATHERING MEET YOUR EXPECTATIONS?

Did Canadian Gathering 2016 meet your expectations based on the information you received about the event?

Answered: 128 Skipped: 24

If you answered "No", how was it different from what you expected?

20.31% (26)



Note that most respondents who answered "no" added a comment to the effect that the event exceeded their expectations.