



# Survey Results

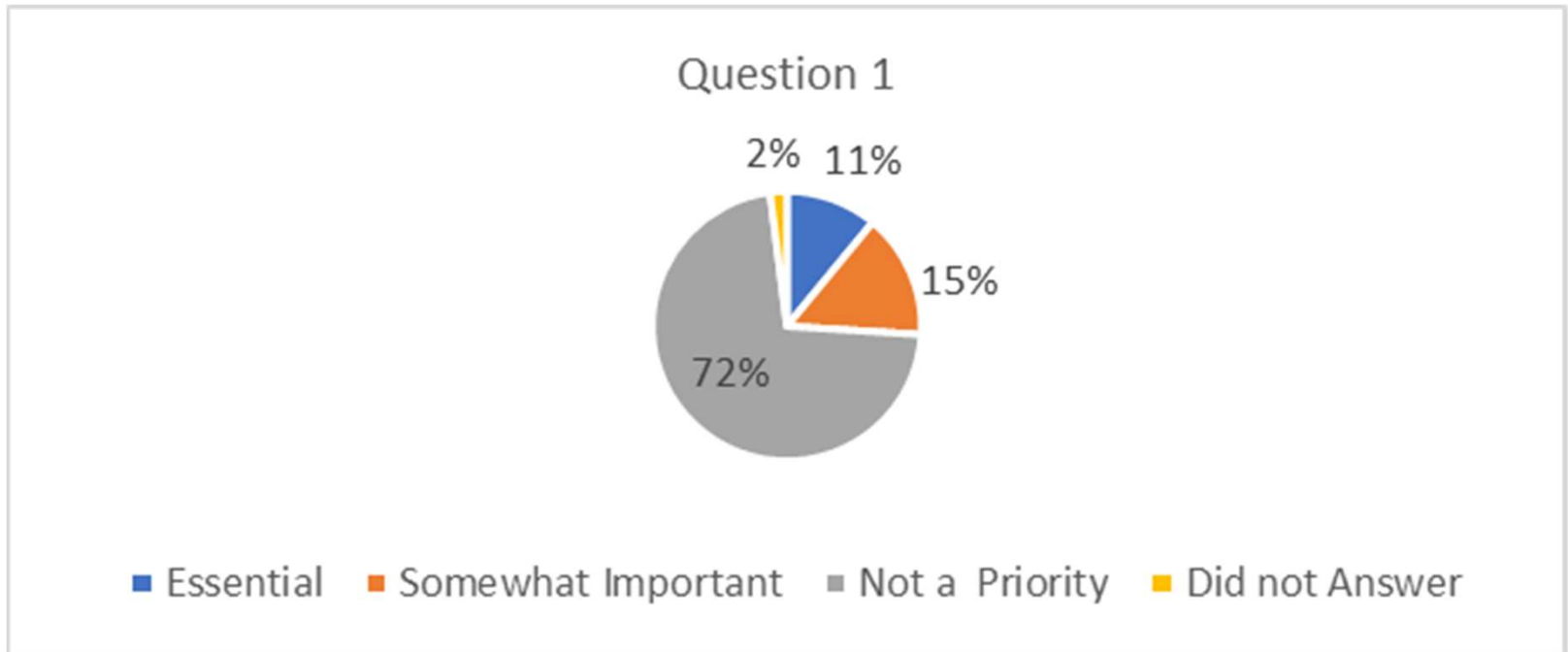
## November, 2023



## Question 1: Importance of a Trust Clause

Under the United Methodist Church, we had a “trust clause”. In essence, this was a legal relationship that prohibited the local church from buying or selling its land and facilities without the involvement of the outside denominational leadership of the UMC. How important is it that our local church commit to a denomination with a trust clause as we explore a future potential affiliation?

Question 1: Importance of a Trust Clause				
	Essential	Somewhat Important	Not a Priority	Did not Answer
<b>Total across all 180 responses</b>	11%	15%	72%	2%

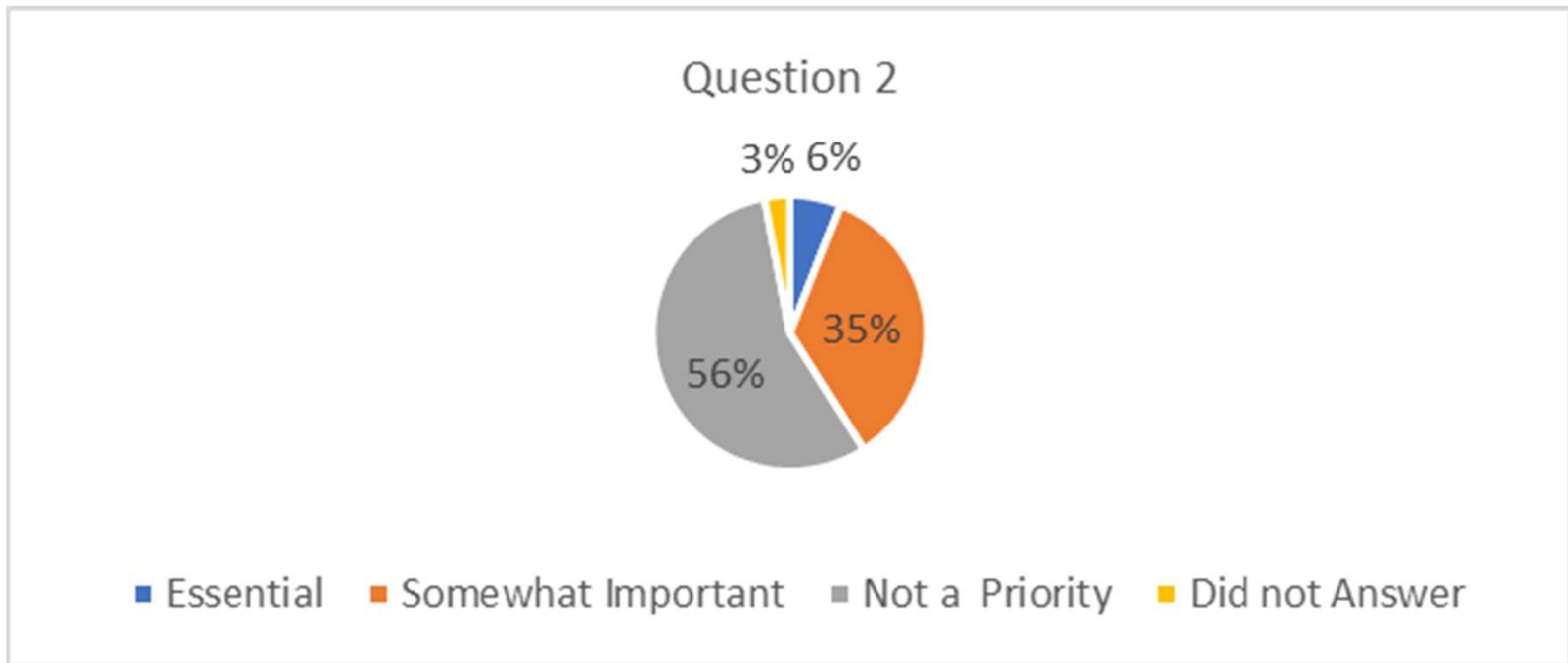




## Question 2: Importance of outside superintendency

How important is an outside “superintendency”? For example, a bishop who has ultimate authority in assigning pastors to each church, and assists in resolution of potential issues between a local church and its assigned pastor?

Question 2: Importance of an outside superintendency							
			Essential	Somewhat Important	Not a Priority	Did not Answer	
<b>Total across all 180 responses</b>				6%	35%	56%	3%



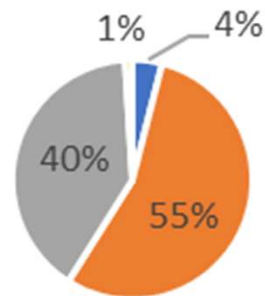


## Question 3a: Familiarity with the UMC Book of Discipline

To what degree are you familiar with the Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church, which sets for the laws, governance, and process by which the denomination governs itself?

Question 3a: Familiarity with the UMC Book of Discipline						
			Very Knowledgeable	Somewhat Knowledgeable	Generally Unfamiliar	Did not Answer
<b>Total across all 180 responses</b>			4%	55%	40%	1%

Question 3a



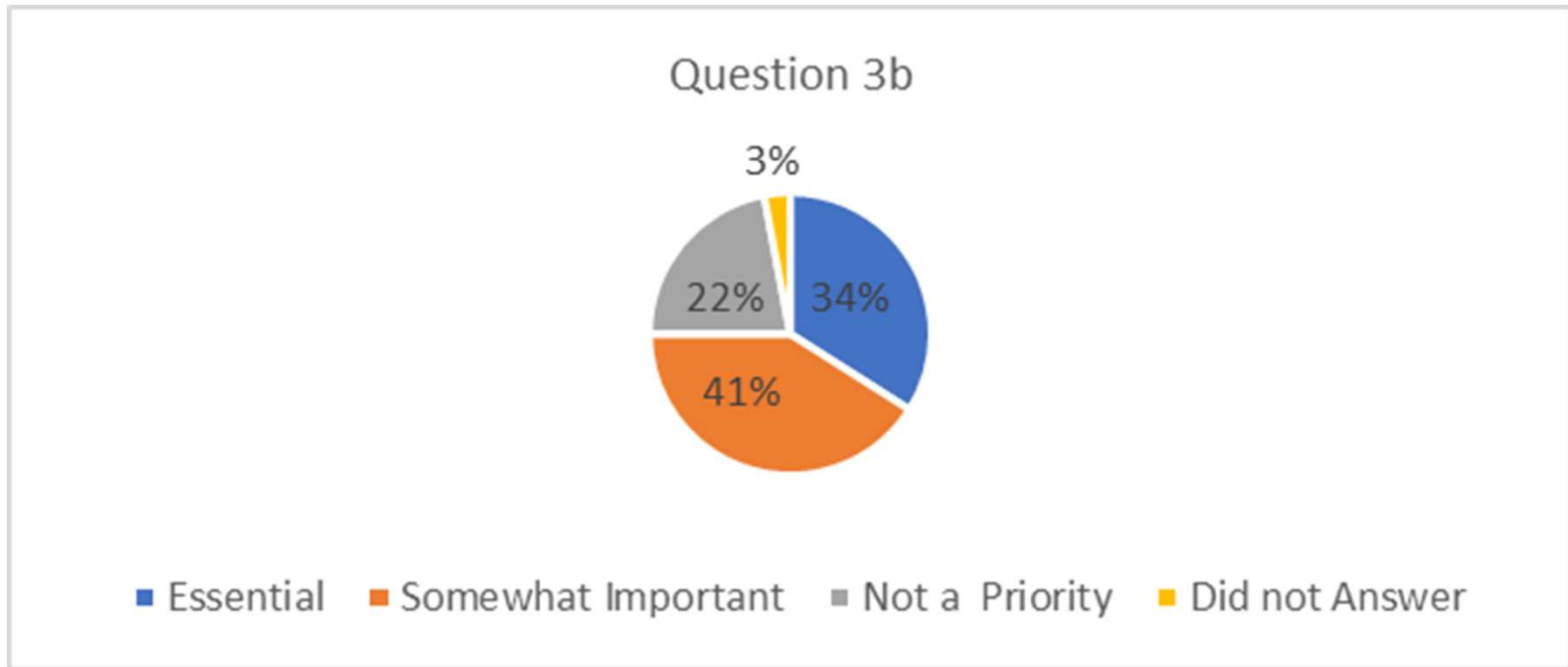
■ Very Knowledgeable  
 ■ Somewhat Knowledgeable  
 ■ Generally Unfamiliar  
 ■ Did not Answer



## Question 3b: Importance of having a common book laws/governance with other congregations

How important is it that our church have a common book of laws, governance, and process with other congregations? In other words, a shared governance of discipline?

Question 3b: Importance of having common book of laws/governance, etc with other congregations (shared governance)				
	Essential	Somewhat Important	Not a Priority	Did not Answer
<b>Total across all 180 responses</b>	34%	41%	22%	3%

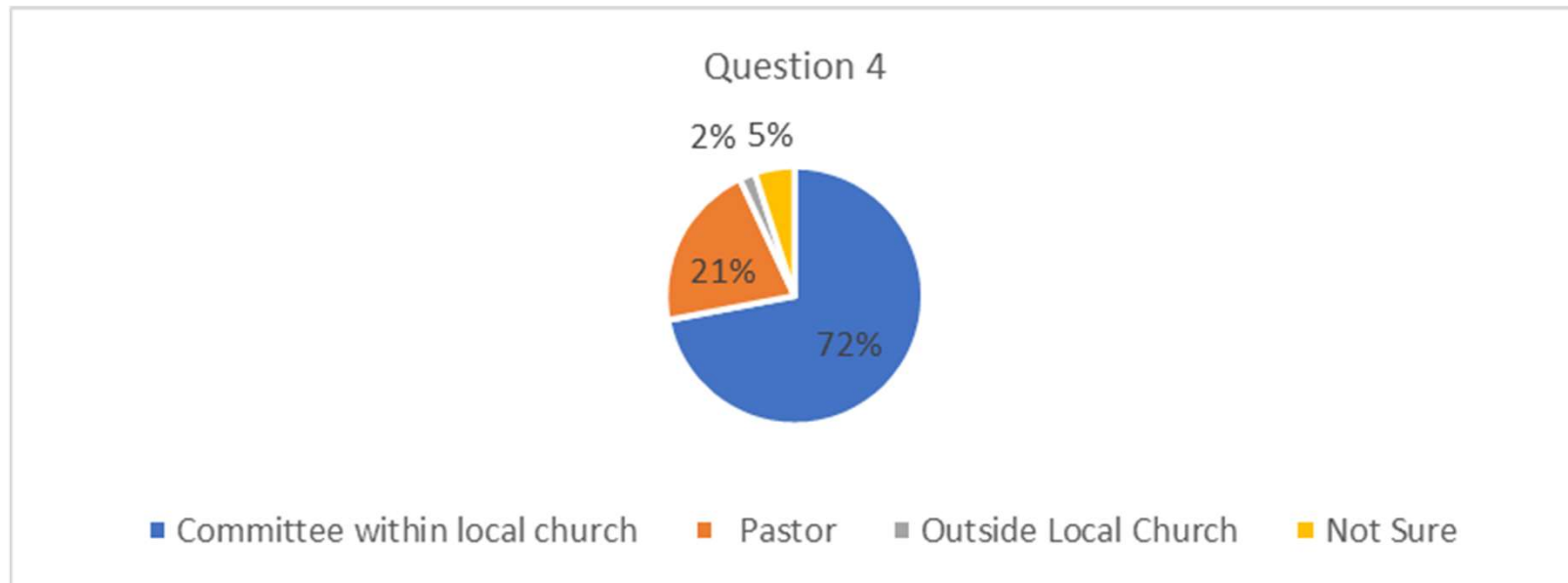




## Question 4: Best way to manage accountability of lay leaders

What is the best way to manage accountability and oversight of *lay leaders*?

Question 4: Best way to manage accountability of lay leaders						
			Committee within local church	Pastor	Outside Local Church	Not Sure
<b>Total across all 180 responses</b>			72%	21%	2%	5%

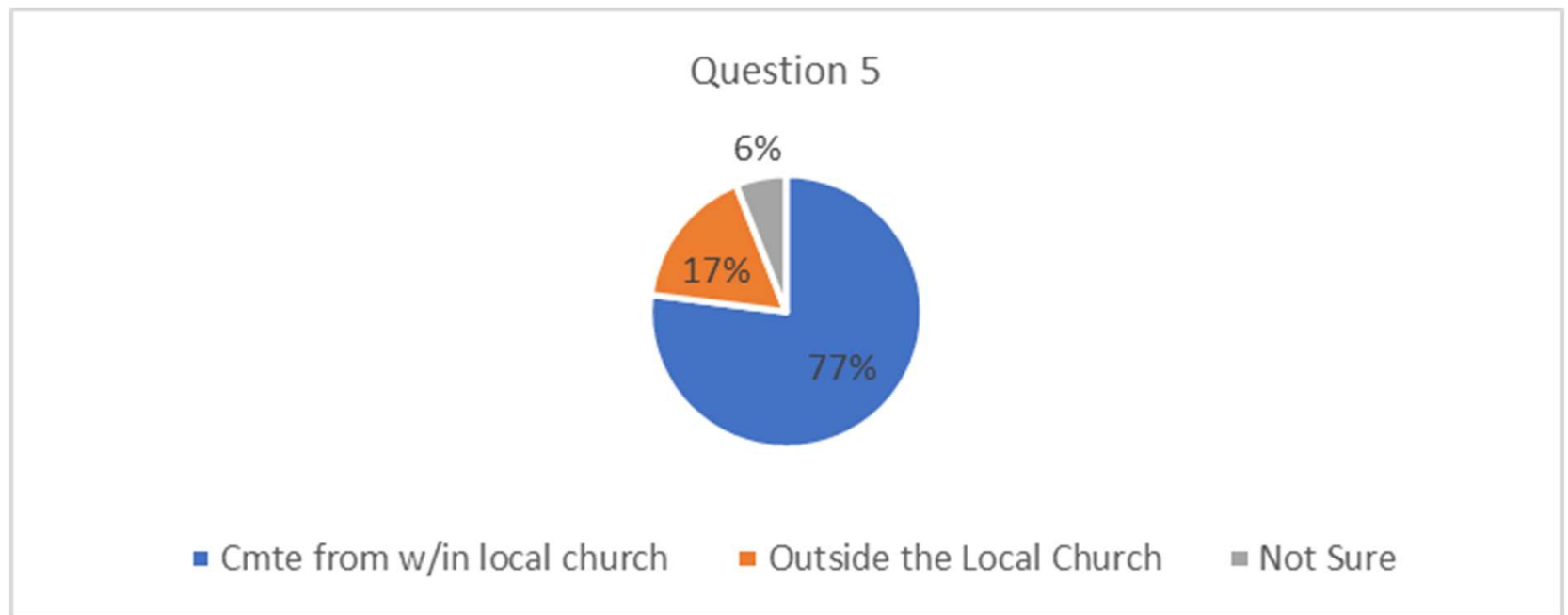




## Question 5: Best way to manage accountability of pastor

What is the best way to manage accountability and oversight of the *pastor*?

Question 5: Best way to manage accountability of pastor			
	Cmte from w/in local church	Outside the Local Church	Not Sure
<b>Total across all 180 responses</b>	77%	17%	6%

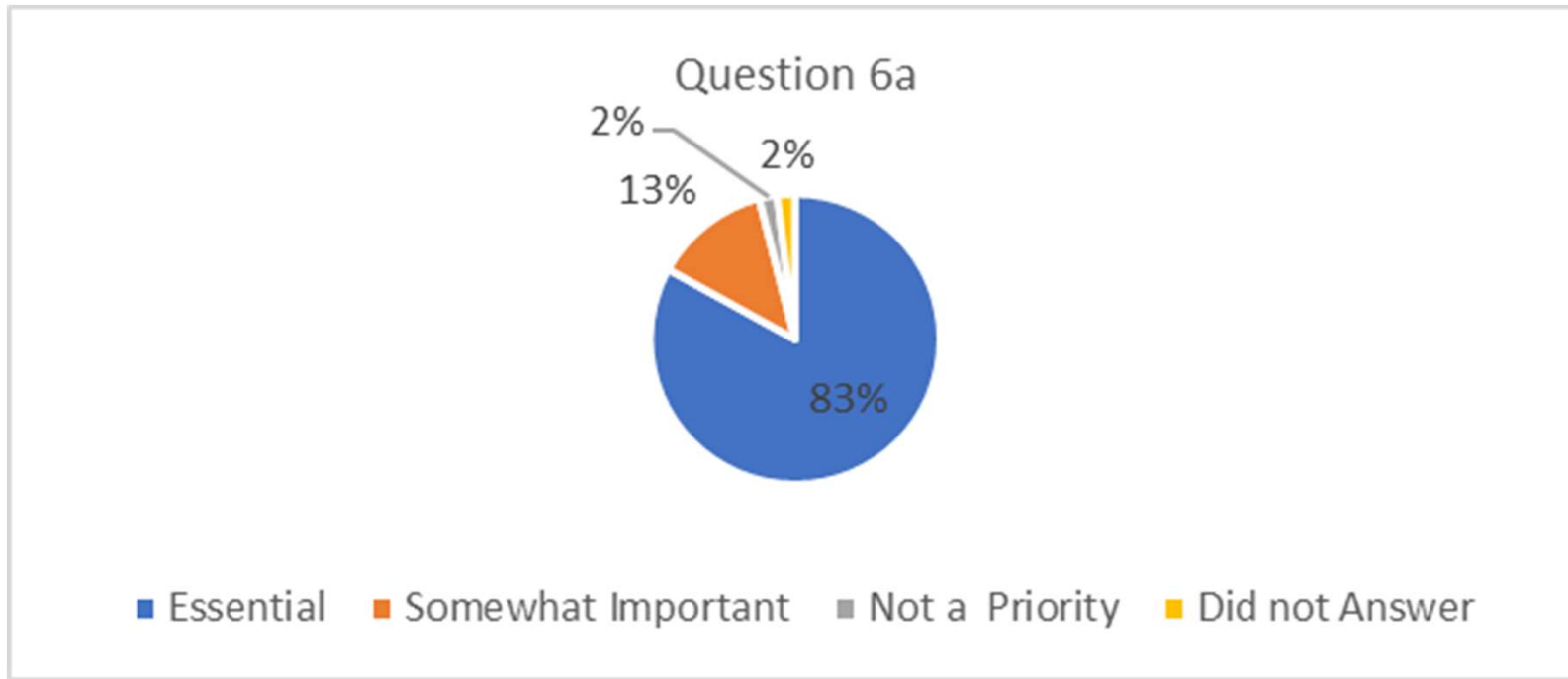




## Question 6a: Importance of defined ordination process for pastors

How important is a defined ordination process for preparing candidates to be a Senior Pastor?

Question 6a: Importance of defined ordination process for pastors				
	Essential	Somewhat Important	Not a Priority	Did not Answer
<b>Total across all 180 responses</b>	83%	13%	2%	2%





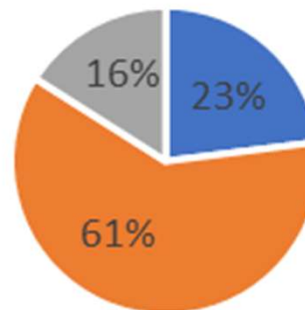
## Question 6b: Most appropriate process for pastoral succession

What process do you feel is most appropriate for pastoral succession? In other words, when the congregation and pastor decide God is calling the pastor to new mission, what is the best process by which the congregation would identify and select a new pastor?

- a. "Itinerancy" / "appointed" system. Essentially, having a pool of pastors from within a denomination or network of churches that move around and are appointed through collaboration between pastor, congregation, and the denomination or network.
- b. "Congregational call" system. In this type of system, the church puts out an open or targeted "call" to pastors, soliciting their credentials and interviewing them via a committee within the local church.
- c. Not sure.

Question 6b: Most appropriate process for pastoral succession			
	Itinerancy/ Appointed	Congregational Call	Not Sure
<b>Total across all 180 responses</b>	23%	61%	16%

Question 6b



■ Itinerancy/ Appointed   ■ Congregational Call   ■ Not Sure

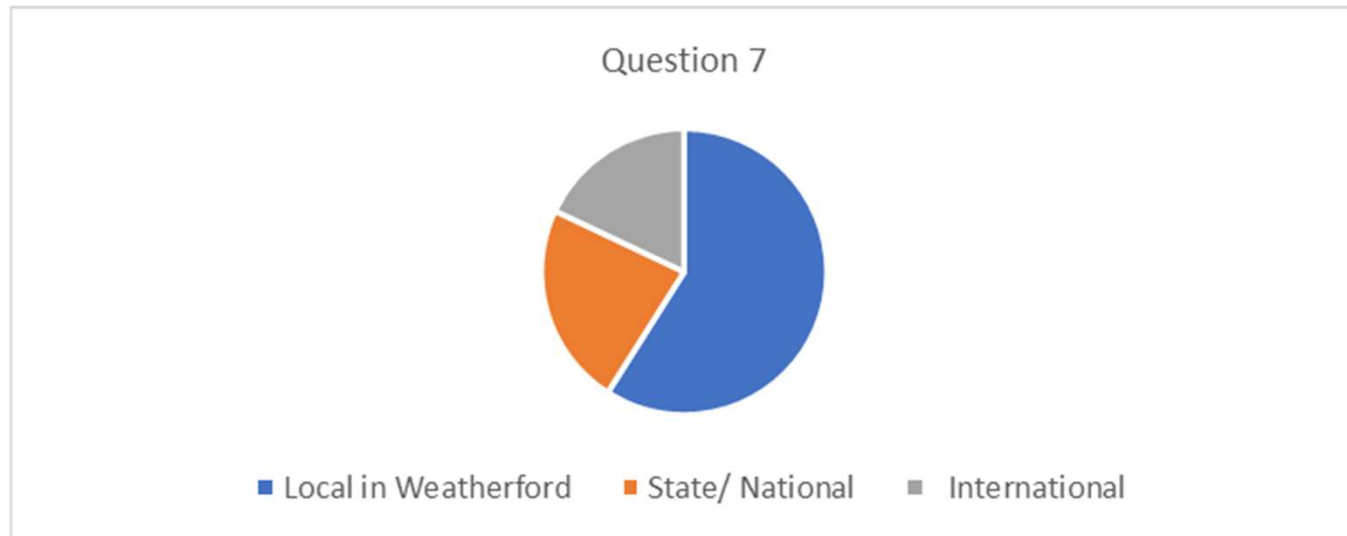


## Question 7: % of FMC's missional efforts in the following categories

In your opinion, what percent of First Methodist Weatherford's missional efforts be in the following categories?

- a. Local mission in Weatherford \_\_\_\_\_%
- b. State/National mission \_\_\_\_\_%
- c. International mission \_\_\_\_\_%

	Local in Weatherford	State/National	International
<b>Total across all 180 responses</b>	59%	23%	18%





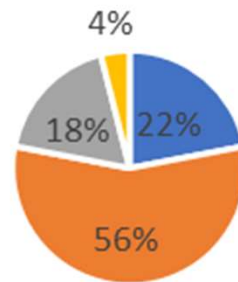
## Question 8: \*\*\* Question of Affiliation \*\*\*

Please reflect on your answers to all the questions above. Based on those answers and other thoughts you might have, we should:

- a. Affiliate with a mainstream Wesleyan denomination
- b. Affiliate with a smaller (regional) Wesleyan-based network of churches that share common concerns & best practices
- c. Remain a completely autonomous and independent congregation

Question 8: Based on all questions above, FMC should...				
	Affiliate w/ Mainstream Wesley Denom (was choice "a")	Affiliate w/ Wesleyan Reg'l Network (choice "b")	Remain Independent (choice "c")	Did not Answer
<b>Total across all 180 responses</b>	22%	56%	18%	4%

Question 8



- Affiliate w/ Mainstream Wesley Denom
- Affiliate w/ Wesleyan Reg'l Network
- Remain Independent
- Did not Answer



## Question 9: Impact of apportionments

If you answered "a" to Question 8, would your answer ***be the same*** knowing the cost to our church in affiliating with a mainstream denomination would be around 10% of our annual budget?

Question 9: If you answered "a" to Question 8, would your answer ***be the same*** knowing the cost to our church in affiliating with a mainstream denomination would be around 10% of our annual budget?

	Yes	No	Maybe	Did not Answer
<b>Total across all 180 responses</b>	20%	6% (11 people)	9%	65%