

Survey on Restructuring

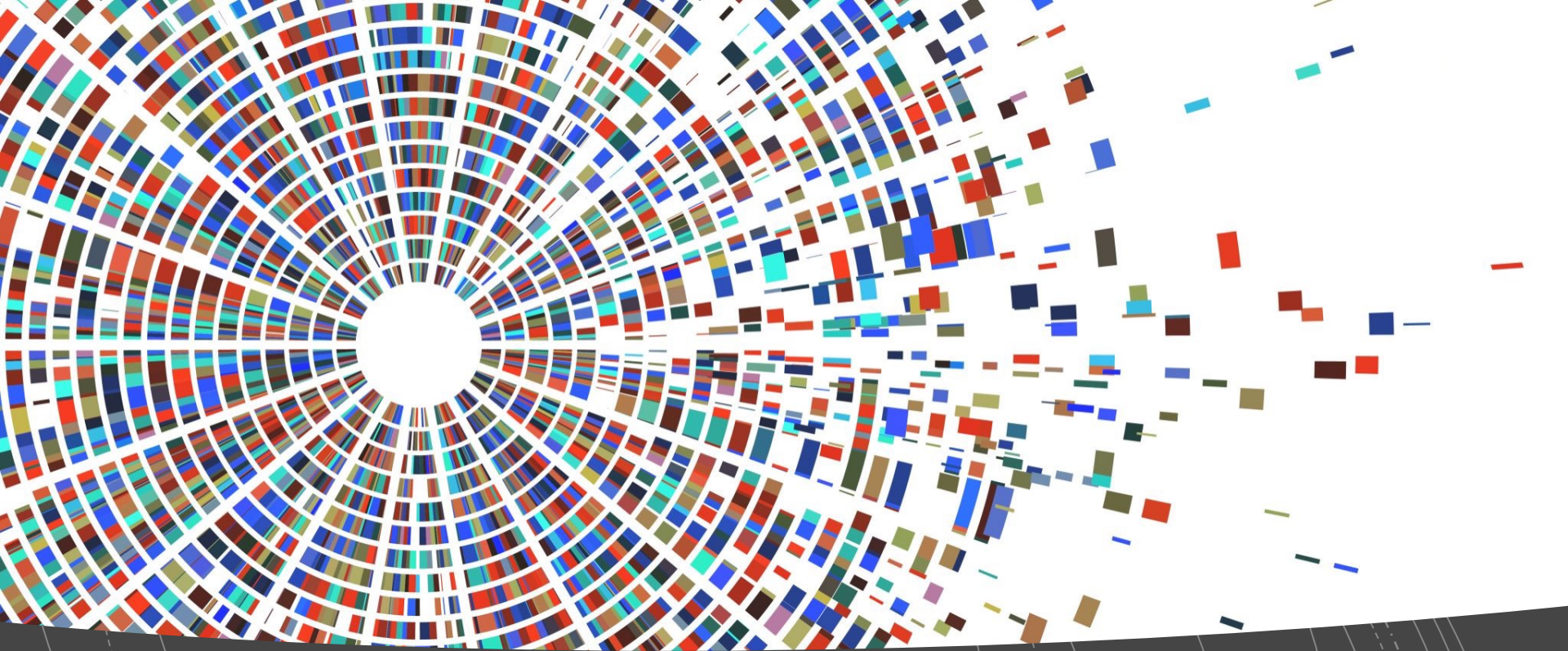
Conference-Wide Listening Campaign (Part 1)

Distribution and Participation

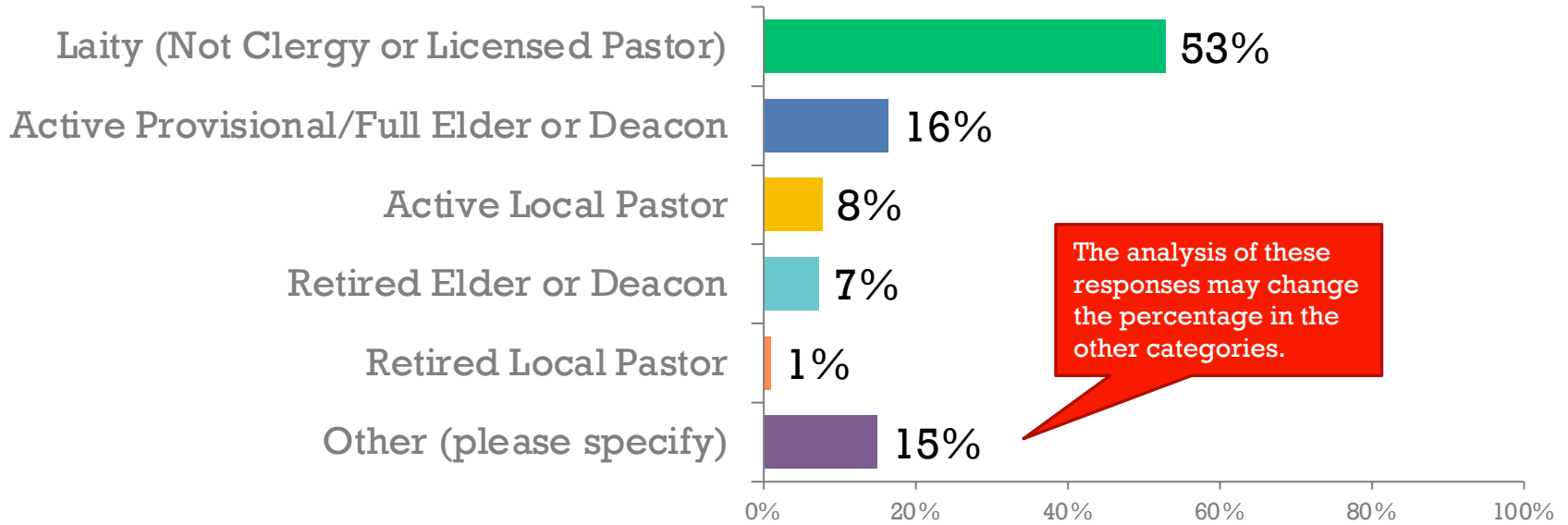
- **Survey Period:** Monday, 11/6/23 @ noon to Wednesday, 11/15/23 @ 9 am
- **Distribution:** Approximately **15,000** individuals
 - Local church members who serve on any local church committee, all clergy/pastors, conference committee members and BWC staff
 - Distribution did not include church members or clergy/pastors associated with churches that have already disaffiliated or approved to disaffiliate at the 2023 Annual Conference session
- **Survey Responses: 2,244**
 - 271 people were disqualified
 - 827 surveys were not completed

Final count of usable responses: 1,146 surveys (7.6% response rate)*

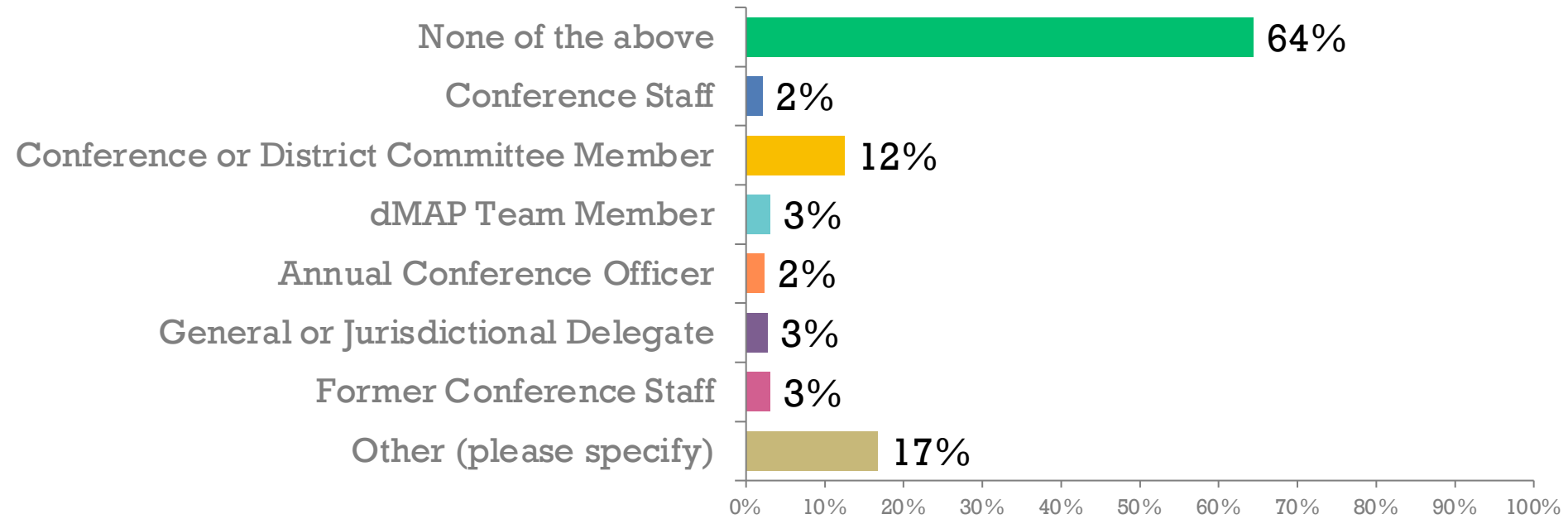
*A response was deemed usable if all required questions were answered.
The response rate is good for a survey of this length and complexity.



Survey Participation Demographics



Conference Relationship



Describe your role, if any, within the Annual Conference or District (check all that apply)

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
None of the above	64.40%	738
Conference Staff	2.09%	24
Conference or District Committee Member	12.48%	143
dMAP Team Member	3.05%	35
Annual Conference Officer	2.36%	27
General or Jurisdictional Delegate	2.71%	31
Former Conference Staff	3.05%	35
Other (please specify)	16.67%	191
TOTAL		1224

Q14: Describe your role, if any, within the Annual Conference or District (check all that apply)

Note: Some people responded in multiple categories which creates a total larger than on other questions.

District	% Members	% Survey Respondents
Annapolis	14%	11%
Baltimore Metropolitan	10%	13%
Baltimore Suburban	13%	13%
Central Maryland	14%	12%
Cumberland-Hagerstown	10%	6%
Frederick	14%	11%
Greater Washington	14%	18%
Washington East	12%	10%
Don't Know		5%

Current District

Under 18	0.17%	2
19-24	0%	0
25-34	2.44%	28
35-44	7.94%	91
45-54	9.51%	109
55-64	22.51%	258
65-74	34.21%	392
75 & Up	21.03%	241
Would rather not answer	2.18%	25
TOTAL		1146

Seeking to increase response rates of 14-to 24-year-olds between now and January 8.

Other than the under 25 response, this resembles the age distribution of membership.

Age

Racial/Ethnic Identity	BWC members*	Survey Participants	Survey%	Member%
American Indian or Alaskan Native	64	4	0.35%	0.05%
Asian / Pacific Islander	1,931	19	1.66%	1.56%
Black or African American	29,166	316	27.57%	23.58%
Hispanic/Latino	658	11	0.96%	0.53%
White /Caucasian	91,078	707	61.69%	73.63%
Multiple Ethnicity/Other*	805	17	1.48%	0.65%
Would rather not answer		72	6.28%	
TOTAL	123,702	1146		

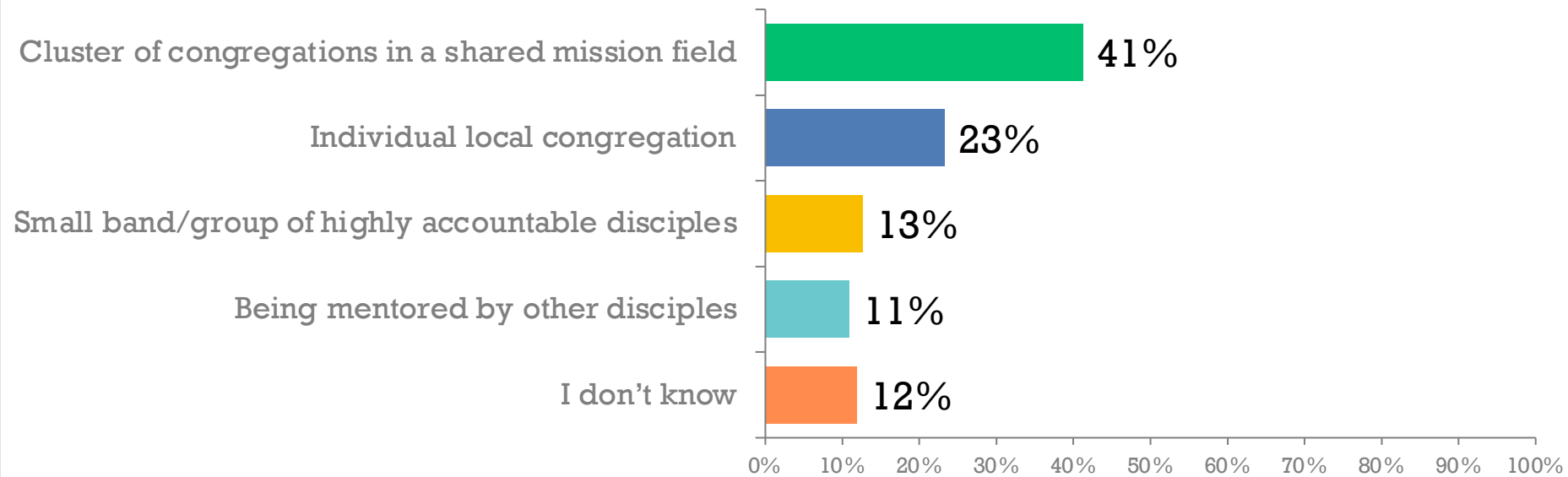
*BWC membership data is based on 2022 statistical reports submitted by churches with disaffiliated congregations removed. "Other" is not a choice on statistical reports.

Race/Ethnicity

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Female	56.89%	652
Male	39.44%	452
Non-binary	0.17%	2
Would rather not answer	3.23%	37
Other (please specify)	0.26%	3
TOTAL		1146

This represents the known gender distribution of membership.

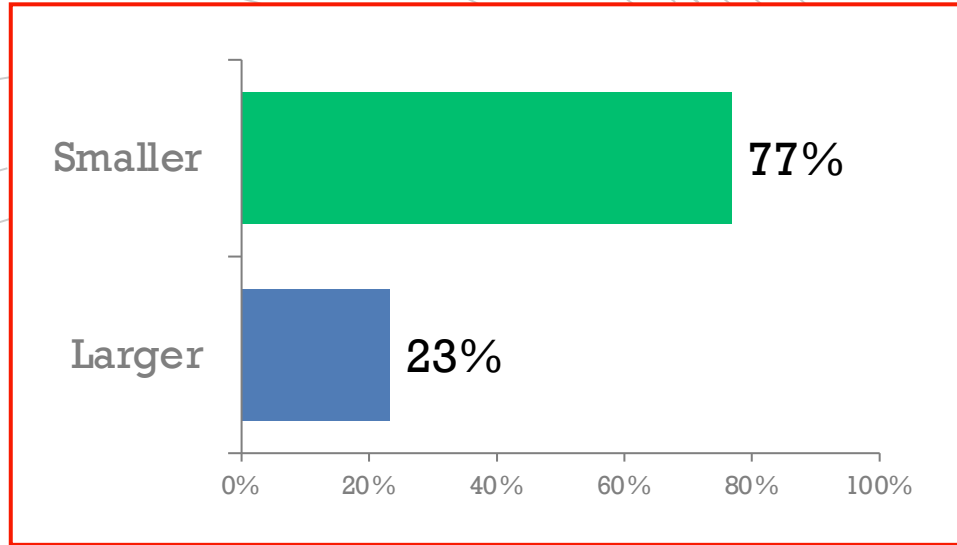
Gender



Q2: What do you think is the best way to make and grow world-transforming disciples of Jesus Christ?

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Cluster of congregations in a shared mission field	41.27%	473
Individual local congregation	23.30%	267
Small band/group of highly accountable disciples	12.65%	145
Being mentored by other disciples	10.91%	125
I don't know	11.87%	136
TOTAL		1146

Q2: What do you think is the best way to make and grow world-transforming disciples of Jesus Christ?

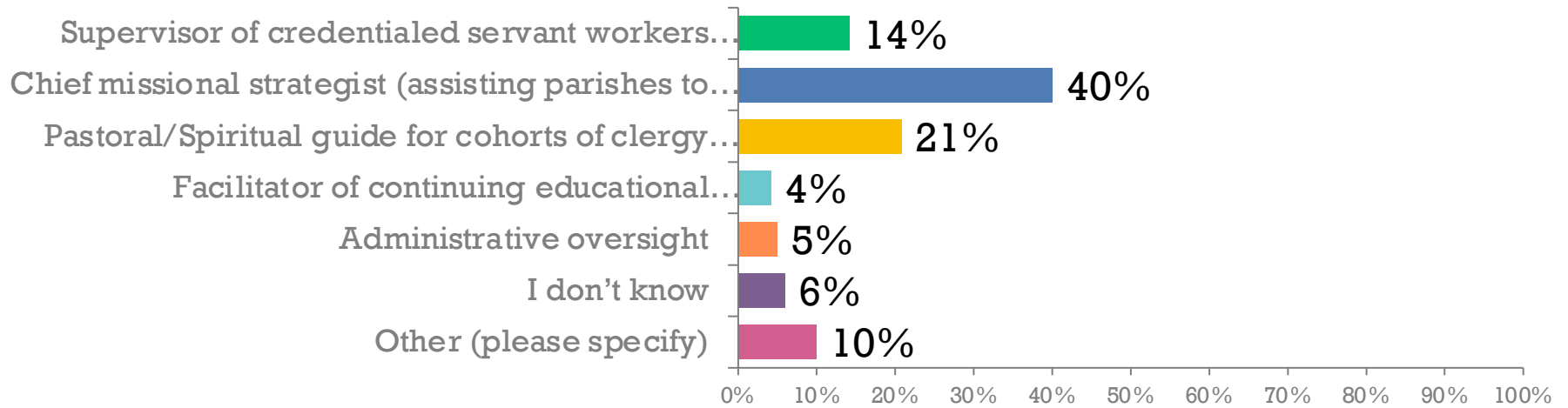


Q3: Do you believe the conference would benefit from larger or smaller districts?

Conducting further analysis on Q4 to compare patterns of response and clarification provided in the “other” data field

	LESS IMPORTANT	MODERATELY IMPORTANT	VERY IMPORTANT	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
Geographic configurations	11.17% 128	42.93% 492	45.90% 526	1146	2.35
Similar ministry contexts (i.e., rural, urban, town/suburban)	12.65% 145	44.07% 505	43.28% 496	1146	2.31
Missional similarities (addressing poverty, environment, health equity, dismantling the preschool to prison pipeline, etc.)	15.71% 180	35.43% 406	48.87% 560	1146	2.33

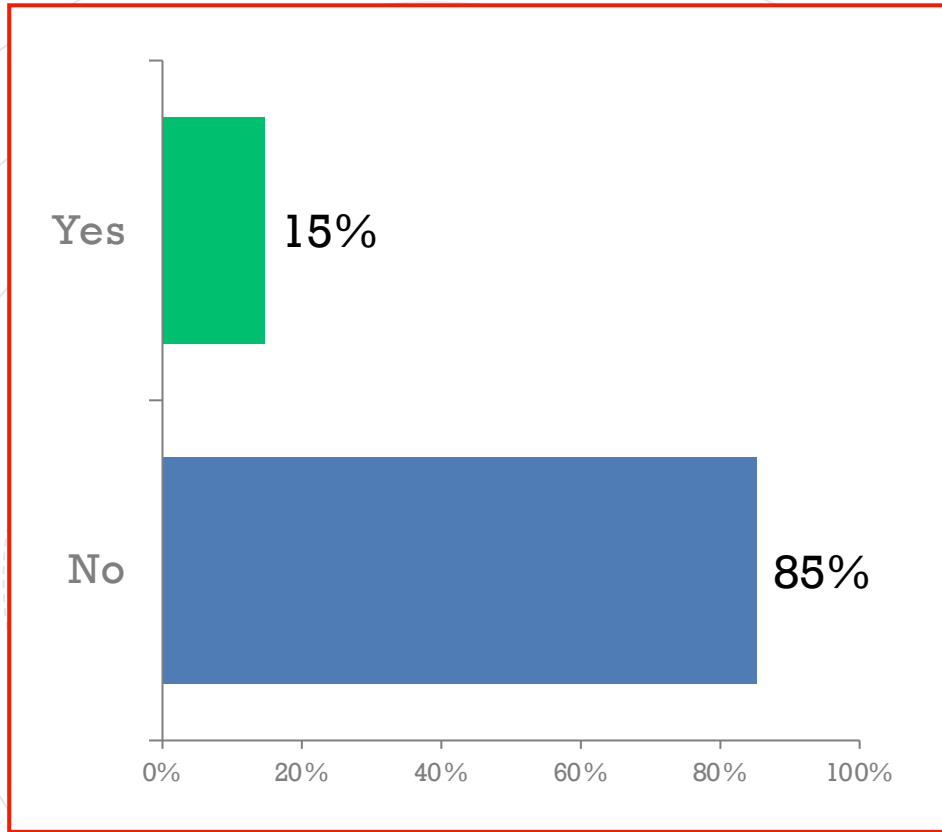
Q4: What organizing principle for districts best supports vitality in congregations and communities?



Q6: Which role of a DS helps us develop disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world?

Supervisor of credentialed servant workers (pastors and Certified Lay Ministers)	14.14%	162
Chief missional strategist (assisting parishes to realize the vision and mission of the church)	40.05%	459
Pastoral/Spiritual guide for cohorts of clergy and/or laity	20.77%	238
Facilitator of continuing educational opportunities for clergy and laity	4.19%	48
Administrative oversight	4.97%	57
I don't know	5.93%	68
Other (please specify)	9.95%	114
TOTAL		1146

Q6: Which role of a DS helps us develop disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world?



Q9: Have you been involved in previous restructuring efforts (1993 and/or 2008) in the Baltimore-Washington Conference?

A Note on Open-Ended Questions

There are 12 open-ended questions or explanations of responses that are in the process of being analyzed

- Q3: Explain District Size Response
- Q4: Other District Organizing Principle
- Q5: What is the purpose of a district?
- Q7: How has district membership strengthened mission/ministry?
- Q8: How could district membership reignite the UMC?
- Q10-12: questions to learn from those who were involved in prior restructuring efforts
- Q19: Anything else?
- 3 demographic questions with “other” as an option

Next Steps



Implement additional listening strategies to add more perspectives from 14-24 year olds.



Summarize open-ended responses and analyze any differences between a variety of people groups. A summary report of findings along with the raw data will be shared.



Conduct Listening Campaign (Part 2) from Jan 16-Feb 8 to continue and increase active participation across the conference.