



Social Research Lab
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SOCIAL RESEARCH LAB

Engaging Young Adults Survey 2019-Roberts Park United Methodist Church

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Prepared
by

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The Social Research Lab at UNC prepared this report at the request of the Center for Congregations. All identifying information has been removed and identified data is stored securely at the SRL only. The SRL is dedicated to assisting individuals and organizations in all stages of data collection and analysis. Any questions about this report and/or inquiries about specific data should be directed to Executive Director Josh Packard at josh.packard@unco.edu or 970-351-3385.

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Executive Summary

Overview

This report summarizes findings from the survey administered to the 22 congregations that are part of the Center for Congregations Engaging Young Adults program. Results shown in this document are for Roberts Park United Methodist Church only.

The survey assesses how your congregation engages young adults by evaluating 11 different categories:

1. Awareness
2. Authenticity
3. Clarity
4. Relationship building
5. Welcoming environment
6. Activities beyond the building
7. Space to think and question
8. Action oriented
9. Young adult leadership
10. Different metrics
11. One-on-one interactions

The Findings section of this report is divided into 11 sub-sections based on the categories listed above.

How to Read this Report

The following page is an overview of Major Lessons Learned at Roberts Park United Methodist Church based on an analysis of the survey data. This analysis includes both quantitative findings (the numbers of people who selected each answer choice) as well as qualitative findings (the types of answers people wrote in response to open-ended questions).

Next, tables in the Demographic section show demographic data for Roberts Park United Methodist Church.

Finally, the Findings section is organized by group and divided into sub-sections. Each sub-section shows the percentage of respondents that agree, are neutral, or disagree with each statement presented in the survey. (Note that questions were answered in 5-point Likert Scales. The top 2 [Strongly Agree and Agree] were combined and the bottom 2 [Strongly Disagree and Disagree] were combined for ease of reading.)

Any questions about this report and/or inquiries about specific data should be directed to Project Manager, Megan Bissell at megan.bissell@unco.edu or 970-351-3385.

Major Lessons Learned at Roberts Park United Methodist Church

- The open-ended responses reflect that the majority of respondents are excited and eager to have Roberts Park United Methodist Church participate in the Engaging Young Adults Initiative and believe that participating in this initiative is an important and necessary step toward sustaining the life and future of their congregation.
- The majority of respondents from Roberts Park United Methodist Church are supportive of the Engaging Young Adult Initiative
- The majority of respondents agree that the congregation is authentic.
- The majority of respondents from Roberts Park United Methodist Church agree that the congregation provides a welcoming environment.
- The majority of respondents from your congregation agree that different metrics must be used to engage young adults.

Demographics

The survey was first administered on June 26th, 2019 via email to participants and data collection was completed on July 26th, 2019. 54 participants were from Roberts Park United Methodist Church. Not all participants completed the survey in its entirety. Due to partially completed surveys, the response rate (N) fluctuates in the Demographic and Findings section.

What is your age?	Percentage
Under 25 years old	1.9%
25-35 years old	9.3%
35-45 years old	9.3%
45-55 years old	9.3%
55-65 years old	20.4%
65-75 years old	37.0%
75 years or older	13.0%

What is your gender?	Percentage
Female	44.4%
Male	51.9%
Prefer not to say	3.7%

How long have you been active in your congregation	Percentage
0-1 years	18.5%
1-10 years	48.1%
10-20 years	14.8%
More than 20 years	18.5%

How often do you attend worship service at your congregation?	Percentage
At least once a week	50.0%
A few times a month	35.2%
Once a month	9.3%
Once every other month	1.9%
Once every three months	1.9%
Once every 6 months	1.9%
Once a year	0.0%

How often do you attend activities hosted by your congregation?	Percentage
At least once a week	14.8%
A few times a month	27.8%
Once a month	13.0%
Once every other month	13.0%
Once every three months	20.4%
Once every 6 months	5.6%
Once a year	5.6%

How often do you connect with people from your congregation outside of congregation activities?	Percentage
At least once a week	7.4%
A few times a month	14.8%
Once a month	27.8%
Once every other month	13.0%
Once every three months	14.8%
Once every 6 months	5.6%
Once a year	16.6%

Findings

Awareness

Your Congregation

Question	%Agree	%Neutral	%Disagree
I am aware that my congregation is participating in an initiative to engage young adults under the age 35.	98.1%	1.9%	0.0%
I believe that my congregation should participate in this initiative.	90.7%	9.3%	0.0%
I believe that my congregation should allocate financial resources toward the initiative to engage young adults.	83.3%	14.8%	1.9%
I believe that my congregation will benefit from engaging young adults.	98.1%	1.9%	0.0%
I support my congregation making efforts to engage young adults.	96.2%	3.8%	0.0%
I want to be an active part of activities that increase my congregation's engagement with young adults.	63.0%	25.9%	11.1%
I believe that engaging young adults aligns with my congregation's core values.	88.9%	9.3%	1.9%

N=54

Highlights:

- 96.2% of respondents support the congregation making efforts to engage young adults.
- Although your congregation is aware and believes they should participate in the young adult's initiative, only 63.0% of respondents want to be an active part of activities that increase the congregation's engagement with young adults.

Authenticity

Your Congregation

Question	%Agree	%Neutral	%Disagree
My congregation is open and honest.	88.0%	12.0%	0.0%
My congregation is authentic with me.	90.0%	8.0%	2.0%
My congregation is transparent about what it believes.	90.2%	9.8%	0.0%
My congregation supports me being exactly who I am.	90.0%	10.0%	0.0%

N=50

Highlights:

- 90.2% of respondents agree that the congregation is transparent about what it believes.
- Overall, your congregation agrees that there is authenticity within the congregation.

Clarity

Your Congregation

Question	%Agree	%Neutral	%Disagree
My congregation's beliefs and values align with my life values.	78.4%	17.6%	4.0%
My congregation makes an effort to engage all participants.	90.0%	8.0%	2.0%
My congregation's values align with my own values.	80.0%	18.0%	2.0%
I truly understand the identity of my congregation.	76.0%	20.0%	4.0%
My congregation provides meaning for my life that I cannot find elsewhere.	62.0%	26.0%	12.0%

N=50

Highlights:

- 90.0% of respondents agree that the congregation makes an effort to engage all participants, while only 2.0% disagree.
- Only 62.0% of respondents agree that the congregation provides meaning for their life that they cannot find elsewhere, while 12.0% disagree.

Relationship Building

Your Congregation

Question	%Agree	%Neutral	%Disagree
My congregation makes me feel heard.	72.5%	21.6%	5.9%
My congregation values genuine connections.	82.0%	14.0%	4.0%
My congregation takes the time to assess different individuals' needs.	76.5%	15.7%	7.8%
I experience my congregation as a supportive community.	84.3%	13.7%	2.0%
It is easy to form relationships with others in my congregation.	66.7%	27.5%	5.9%

N=51

Highlights:

- 84.3% of respondents agree that they experience the congregation as a supportive community.
- Only 66.7% of respondents agree that it is easy to form relationships with other in the congregation, while 5.9% disagree.

Welcoming Environment

Your Congregation

Question	%Agree	%Neutral	%Disagree
My congregation is welcoming to new people.	92.0%	6.0%	2.0%
I always feel welcomed in my congregation.	96.0%	2.0%	2.0%
My congregation makes an effort to be a welcoming space for all.	94.0%	4.0%	2.0%

N=50

Highlights:

- Overall, your congregation agrees that there is a welcoming environment within the congregation.

Activities Beyond the Building

Your Congregation

Question	%Agree	%Neutral	%Disagree
My congregation offers some programs and/or sponsors some activities that are not in the congregation's primary building(s).	61.2%	24.5%	14.3%
My congregation is connected to people and organizations in the neighborhood or surrounding community.	81.6%	12.2%	6.2%
I would be open to participate in gatherings outside of our primary building(s) as a way to engage young adults.	71.5%	26.5%	2.0%

N=49

Highlights:

- 81.6% of respondents agree that the congregation is connected to people and organizations in the neighborhood and surrounding community, while only 6.2% disagree.
- Only 61.2% of respondents agree that the congregation offers some programs and/or sponsors some activities that are not in the congregation's primary building(s), while 14.3% disagree.

Space to Think and Question

Your Congregation

Question	%Agree	%Neutral	%Disagree
My congregation is relevant to my day-to-day life.	68.0%	26.0%	6.0%
My congregation makes me think deeply about meaning, purpose and spirituality.	72.0%	22.0%	6.0%
My congregation gives me the space to question and think critically.	70.0%	24.0%	6.0%
My congregation engages in real life issues.	90.0%	8.0%	2.0%

N=50

Highlights:

- 90.0% of respondents agree that the congregation engages in real life issues.
- Only 68.0% of respondents agree that the congregation is relevant to their day-to-day life, while 6.0% disagree.

Action Oriented

Your Congregation

Question	%Agree	%Neutral	%Disagree
My congregation is action oriented.	64.0%	24.0%	12.0%
My congregation cares about making a lasting impact in the community.	88.0%	6.0%	6.0%
My congregation provides opportunities for me to be active in my community in ways that make a difference.	78.0%	16.0%	6.0%
I believe congregations should be action oriented.	94.0%	6.0%	0.0%

N=50

Highlights:

- 94.0% of respondents agree that the congregation should be action oriented.
- Although 94.0% of respondents agree that the congregation should be action oriented, only 64.8% of respondents agree that their congregation is action oriented.

Young Adult Leadership

Your Congregation

Question	%Agree	%Neutral	%Disagree
My congregation makes space for the leadership of adults in their 20s and 30s.	68.0%	22.0%	10.0%
I feel like I can be a leader in my congregation.	72.0%	16.0%	12.0%
I feel like I am heard and respected in my congregation.	78.0%	20.0%	2.0%
I feel like I can participate to my fullest ability and commitment within my congregation.	82.0%	12.0%	6.0%

N=50

Highlights:

- 82.0% of respondents agree that they can participate to their fullest ability and commitment within the congregation.
- Although a majority of respondents agree that they can participate within the congregation, only 68.0% of respondents agree that the congregation makes space for leadership of young adults.

Different Metrics

Your Congregation

Question	%Agree	%Neutral	%Disagree
I believe that engaging young adults is different than engaging older members of the congregation.	94.0%	6.0%	0.0%
Young adults may not be able to participate in financial giving as often as other members.	82.0%	12.0%	6.0%
I believe it is important to engage young adults in our congregation regardless of financial contributions.	98.0%	2.0%	0.0%

N=50

Highlights:

- 94.0% of respondents believe that engaging young adults is different than engaging older members of the congregation.
- Overall, your congregation agrees that different metrics should be used when trying to engage young adults.

One-on-One interactions

Your Congregation

Question	%Agree	%Neutral	%Disagree
I personally believe that developing relationships with young adults takes time and may not always show an increase in financial contributions and/or worship attendance.	94.0%	4.0%	2.0%
I personally believe that engaging young adults does not show an immediate increase in membership.	86.0%	10.0%	4.0%
My congregation understands that engaging young adults and developing relationships takes time and may not show an increase in financial contributions and/or worship attendance.	70.0%	26.0%	4.0%

N=50

Highlights:

- 94.0% of respondents agree that developing relationships with young adults takes time and may not always show an increase in financial contributions and/or worship attendance.
- Although 94.0% of respondents agree that developing relationships with young adults takes time, only 70.0% of respondents agree that their congregation understands that engaging young adults takes time.