

Adventist Human Subject Researcher's Association Conference

Annual Meeting

May 16, 2019

Oakwood University, Hunstville, Alabama

Church Size and Member Characteristics, Commitment, and Satisfaction

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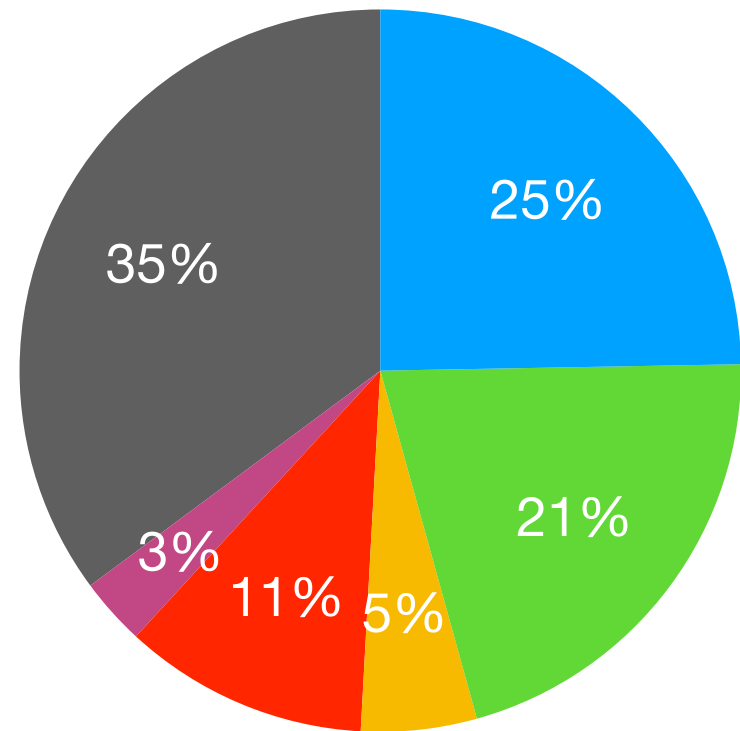
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INSTITUTE
of CHURCH
MINISTRY

Global Church Member Survey 2017

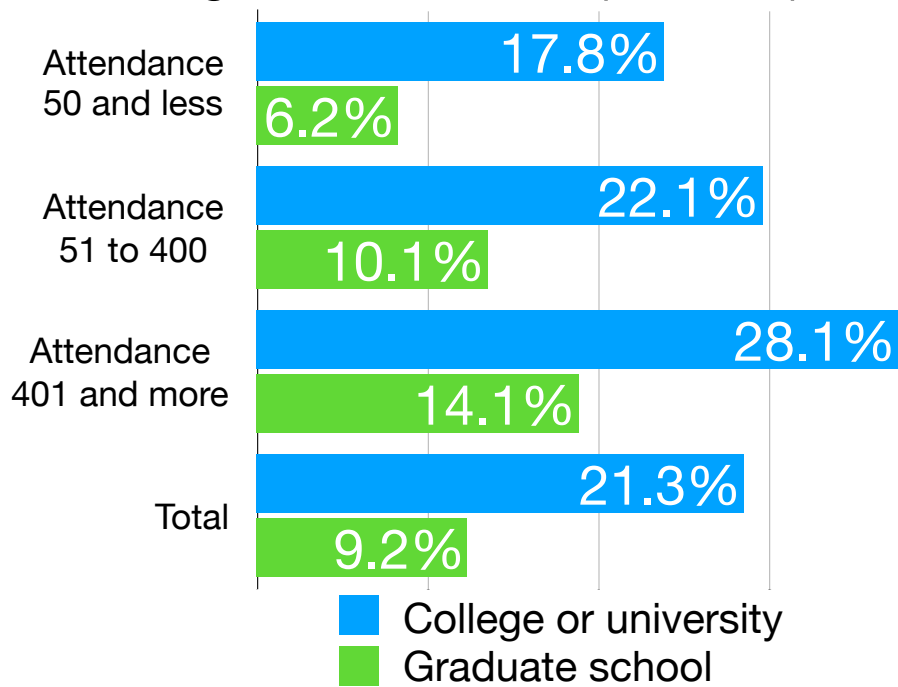
- Denominational study
- 63,756 surveys
- Stratified random sampling
- Church size categories:
 - Small (50 and less)
 - Midsize (51 to 400)
 - Large (401 and more)



● Africa ● Asia ● Australia ● Europe ● North America ● Latin America

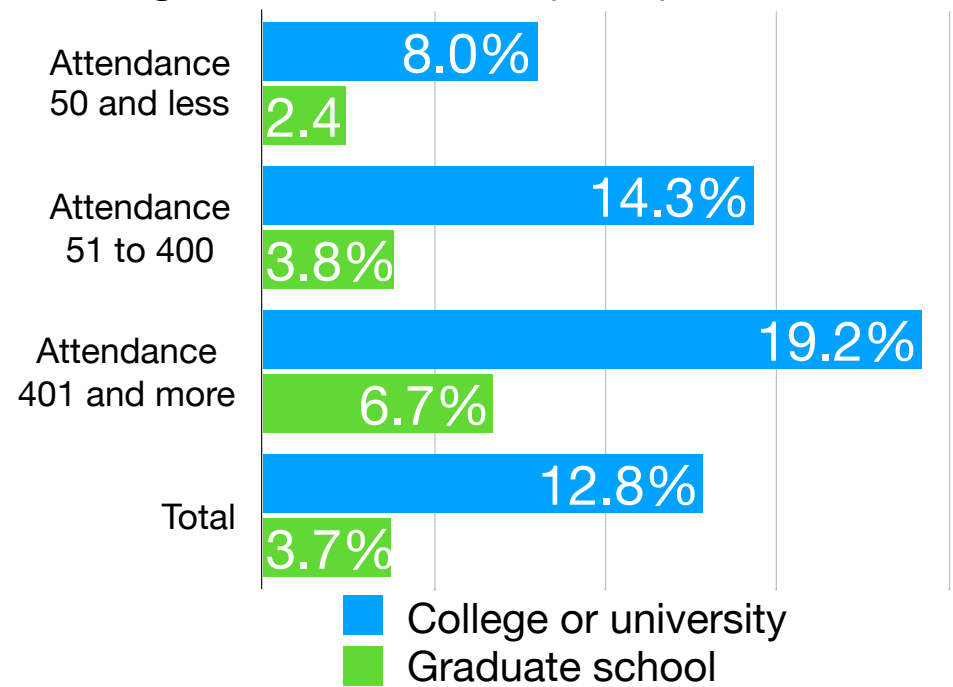
Congregational Differences by Church Size

● Highest education (General)



$\chi^2 = 1916.363, p = .000, N = 59018$

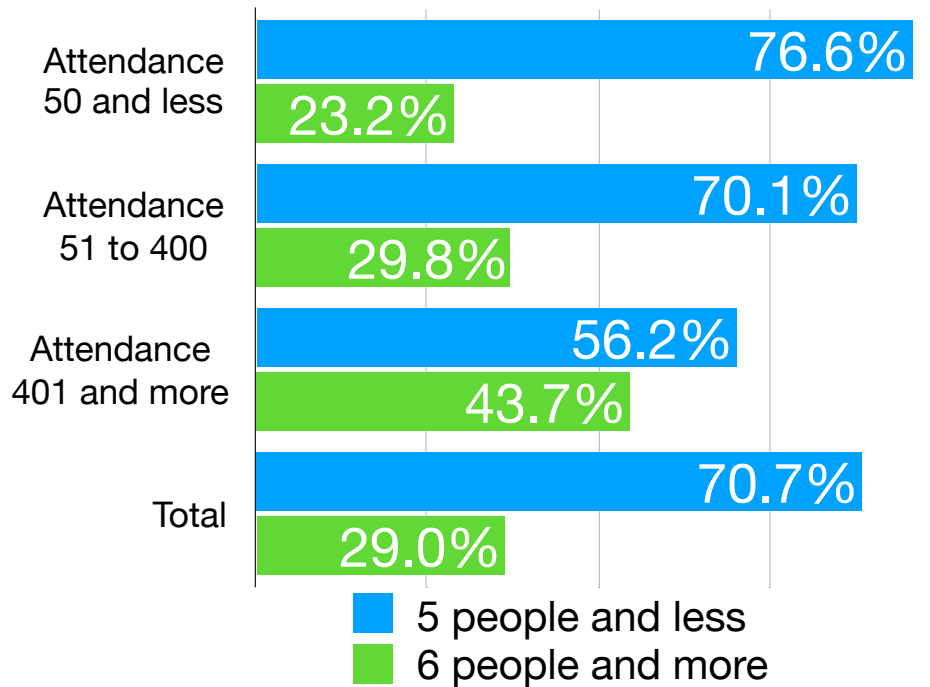
● Highest education (SDA)



$\chi^2 = 692.941, 255.337, p = .000, N = 58492$

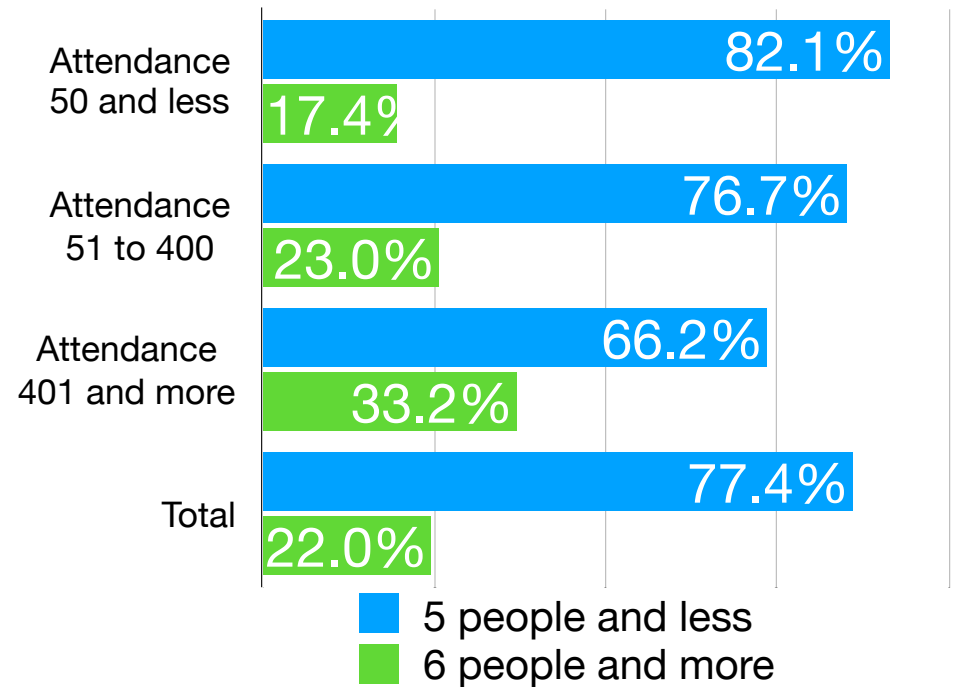
Congregational Differences by Church Size

● Household size



$\chi^2 = 1294.225, p = .000, N = 58964$

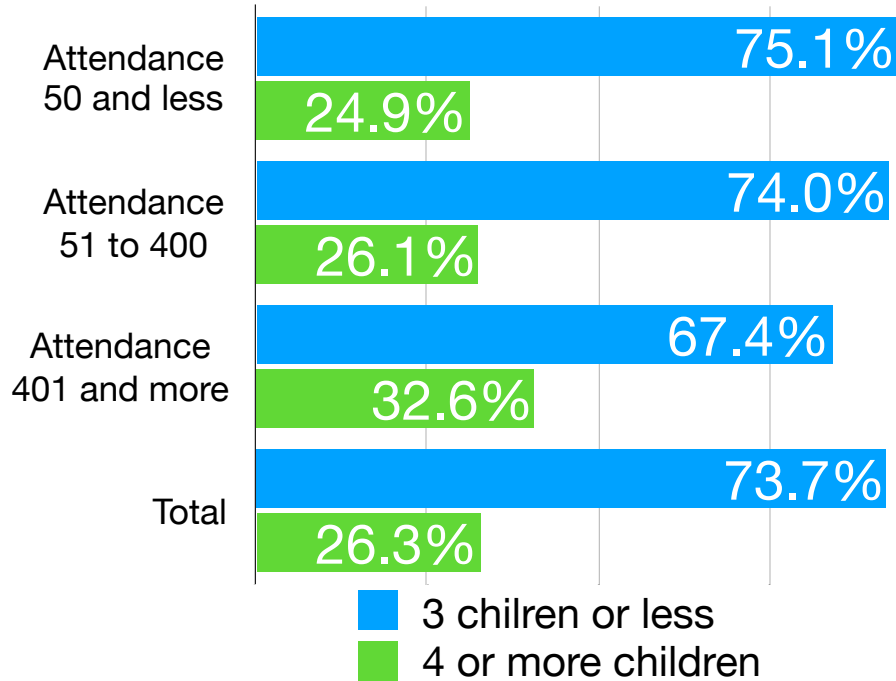
● Household Sabbath observance



$\chi^2 = 1155.820, p = .000, N = 58626$

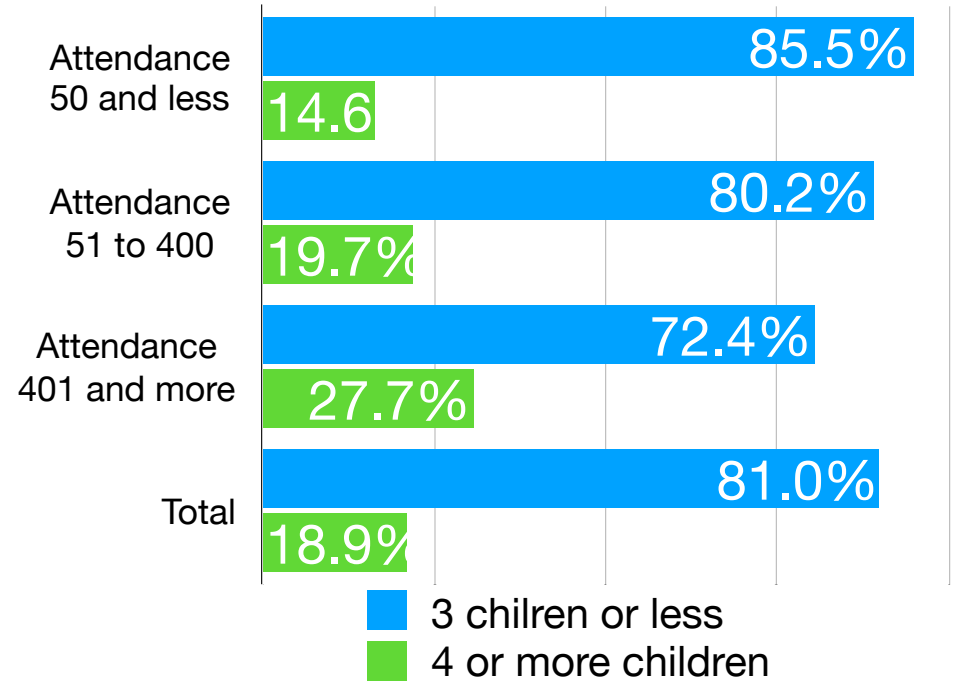
Congregational Differences by Church Size

● Living children



$\chi^2 = 108.746, p = .000, N = 39007$

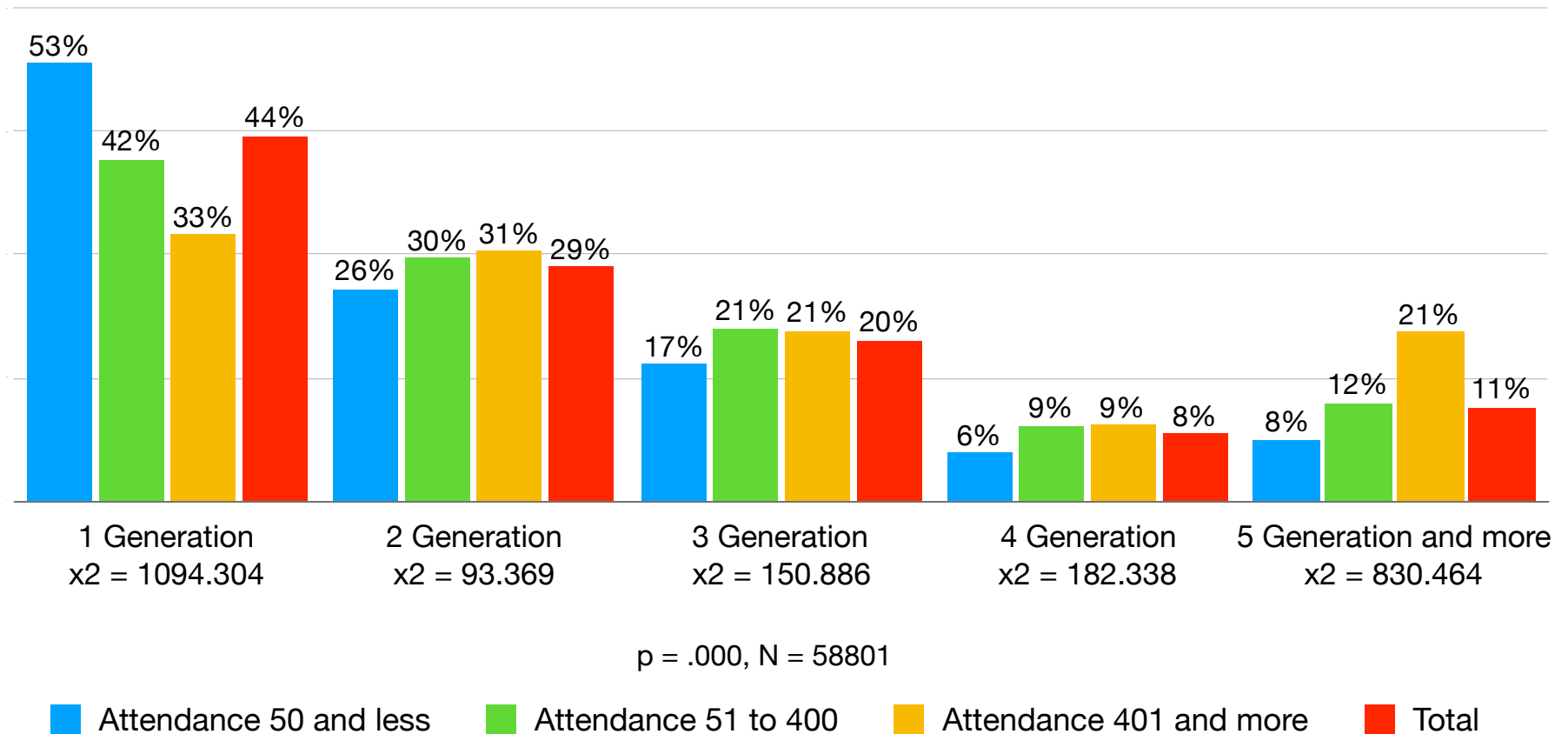
● SDA children



$\chi^2 = 355.282, p = .000, N = 32703$

Congregational Differences by Church Size

Family history in the SDA Church



Congregational Differences by Church Size

Likelihood of continuing SDA membership

	Very Unlikely/ Somewhat Unlikely	Neutral	Somewhat Likely/Very Likely
Attendance 50 and less	4.6%	3.7%	91.7%
Attendance 51 to 400	3.3%	4.2%	92.6%
Attendance 401 and more	2.5%	2.3%	95.2%
Total	3.6%	3.8%	92.6%

$\chi^2 = 213.795, p = .000, N = 56010$

Congregational Differences by Church Size

Religious routines - Agree/Strongly Agree				
	Attendance 50 and less	Attendance 51 to 400	Attendance 401 and more	Total
Praying before meals was a habitual practice in my family	59.3%	69.3%	78.5%	67.0%
	$\chi^2 = 1188.400, p = .000, N = 54959$			
Having morning or evening worship with one more parents was a habitual practice in my family	41.8%	50.4%	57.4%	48.4%
	$\chi^2 = 956.808, p = .000, N = 54123$			
One or both of my parents or guardians attended church regularly	58.3%	68.7%	75.7%	66.1%
	$\chi^2 = 1124.145, p = .000, N = 54420$			
Adventist education was an important factor in family	46.4%	55.2%	62.8%	53.2%
	$\chi^2 = 1007.124, p = .000, N = 53912$			

Congregational Differences by Church Size

Religious routines - More than Once a Week/Daily or More than Once a Day

	Attendance 50 and less	Attendance 51 to 400	Attendance 401 and more	Total
Have morning or evening worship with members of my family	50.0%	54.7%	58.7%	53.6%
	$\chi^2 = 258.970, p = .000, N = 55195$			
Listen to an Adventist radio broadcast	25.4%	30.0%	33.9%	28.9%
	$\chi^2 = 514.605, p = .000, N = 54813$			
Use a mobile device like a cell phone or tablet for Bible study or personal devotions	36.7%	42.5%	44.7%	40.8%
	$\chi^2 = 487.893, p = .000, N = 54759$			

Congregational Differences by Church Size

Behavior - More than Once a Week

	Attendance 50 and less	Attendance 51 to 400	Attendance 401 and more	Total
Helped with a church ministry during the week	9.2%	10.3%	12.4%	10.1%
$\chi^2 = 111.585, p = .000, N = 53343$				
Ate with members of the church other than my family	8.3%	9.0%	11.1%	9.0%
$\chi^2 = 144.491, p = .000, N = 55147$				

Behavior - Sometimes/Often/Often

I give a significant amount of money to help other people.	41.9%	44.1%	54.9%	44.5%
$\chi^2 = 466.479, p = .000, N = 54639$				
I help others with their religious questions and struggles.	62.5%	62.9%	70.8%	63.6%
$\chi^2 = 277.7431, p = .000, N = 55608$				

Congregational Differences by Church Size

Religious beliefs - Strongly Agree				
	Attendance 50 and less	Attendance 51 to 400	Attendance 401 and more	Total
The Seventh-day Adventist Fundamental Beliefs as a whole reflect the loving and gracious character of God.	63.0%	64.8%	68.5%	64.6%
	$\chi^2 = 87.949, p = .000, N = 54782$			
I believe God created the universe.	79.1%	79.3%	83.8%	79.7%
	$\chi^2 = 122.6648, p = .000, N = 55214$			
All believers are called by God to serve each other without distinction of race, culture, education, nationality, gender,	67.5%	68.4%	72.4%	68.5%
	$\chi^2 = 73.637, p = .000, N = 54886$			
My body is the temple of the Holy Spirit.	72.7%	74.5%	78.6%	74.3%
	$\chi^2 = 92.269, p = .000, N = 55091$			

Congregational Differences by Church Size

Religious beliefs - Strongly Agree

	Attendance 50 and less	Attendance 51 to 400	Attendance 401 and more	Total
The true Sabbath is the seventh day (Saturday).	82.2%	83.1%	86.4%	83.2%
	$\chi^2 = 111.574, p = .000, N = 55374$			
God wants me to take care of my body by avoiding alcohol, drugs, and tobacco.	76.2%	77.3%	82.0%	77.4%
	$\chi^2 = 103.386, p = .000, N = 55397$			
The soul is a separate, spiritual part of a person and lives on after death.	16.2%	18.3%	26.1%	18.4%
	$\chi^2 = 454.276, p = .000, N = 54303$			

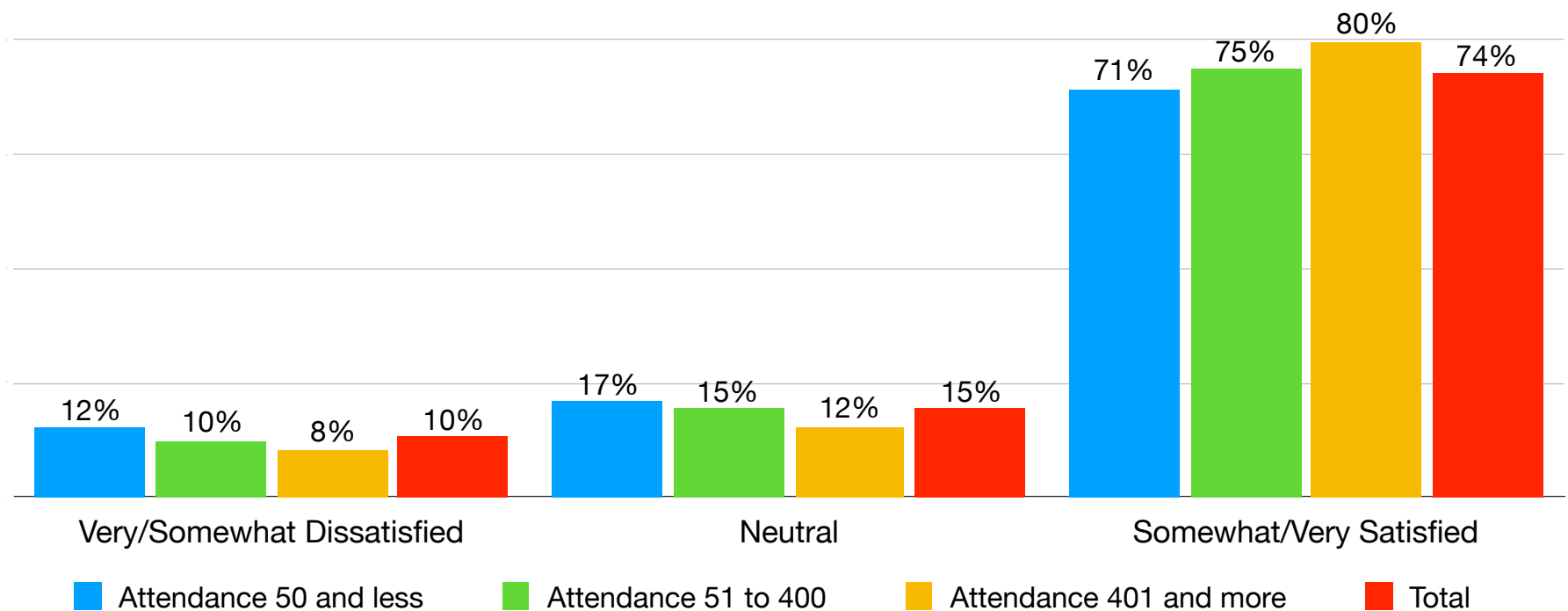
Congregational Differences by Church Size

Religious beliefs - Strongly Agree

	Attendance 50 and less	Attendance 51 to 400	Attendance 401 and more	Total
In order to reach people for Christ, we need to get to know them and their needs before we preach the Gospel to them.	51.6%	52.5%	56.0%	52.6%
	$\chi^2 = 44.649, p = .000, N = 54550$			
The most effective method for reaching people for Christ is to mingle with them, meet their needs, win their confidence, and then bid them to follow Christ.	61.3%	63.0%	66.7%	62.8%
	$\chi^2 = 134.861, p = .000, N = 55252$			
My local church offers training on Christ's method of evangelism	23.0%	24.6%	28.1%	24.4%
	$\chi^2 = 296.801, p = .000, N = 55314$			

Larger Churches More Satisfied...

Overall Satisfaction with Local Church



$\chi^2 = 366.614, p = .000, N = 55867$

Larger Churches More Satisfied...

Agree/Strongly Agree about Local Church

	Attendance 50 and less	Attendance 51 to 400	Attendance 401 and more	Total
I feel proud of my church and its role and reputation in my community	76.8%	80.2%	84.4%	79.5%
	$\chi^2 = 221.247, p = .000, N = 56273$			
My local church offers training on nurture and discipling of church	59.4%	66.6%	71.9%	65.0%
	$\chi^2 = 592.406, p = .000, N = 54869$			
My local church has the ability to communicate across cultures, clans, tribes, and religions	55.9%	59.9%	70.7%	59.8%
	$\chi^2 = 594.410, p = .000, N = 54746$			
Youth and young adults are actively involved in carrying out the mission of my local church	61.6%	70.9%	80.5%	68.9%
	$\chi^2 = 1076.310, p = .000, N = 55800$			

Larger Churches Less Satisfied...

Involvement Needs to Increase Greatly				
	Attendance 50 and less	Attendance 51 to 400	Attendance 401 and more	Total
Overall evangelistic outreach by my church in the local community	32.7%	31.3%	38.2%	32.5%
	$\chi^2 = 329.307, p = .000, N = 55252$			
My involvement in evangelistic outreach by my church to the local community	30.2%	30.0%	37.0%	30.8%
	$\chi^2 = 275.004, p = .000, N = 54777$			
Overall efforts by my church to meet the needs of my local community	29.1%	29.5%	36.4%	30.1%
	$\chi^2 = 237.444, p = .000, N = 54431$			
Overall caring for and nurturing members by my church	28.5%	29.6%	39.6%	30.3%
	$\chi^2 = 452.874, p = .000, N = 54444$			

Larger Churches Less Satisfied...

Involvement - Needs to Increase Greatly

	Attendance 50 and less	Attendance 51 to 400	Attendance 401 and more	Total
Overall reclaiming of former members by my church	39.1%	39.7%	46.2%	40.2%
	x2 = 186.696, p = .000, N = 54060			
My involvement in reclaiming of former church members	36.9%	37.2%	43.1%	37.7%
	x2 = 172.539, p = .000, N = 53754			
Support by my church for a local Seventh-day Adventist school	28.6%	30.6%	36.9%	30.7%
	x2 = 1378.956, p = .000, N = 53338			

Congregants in Larger Churches

- Are more highly educated congregants
- Have engaged in more SDA education
- Have larger families or number of people in household and larger number of those who keep Sabbath
- More often report that they are more likely to continue SDA membership (while statistically significant the percentages show only small differences)
- Engage in more religious routines (worship, radio, bible study)
- Engage more frequently with ministries (giving and helping) and with other church members
- Report stronger levels of agreement with SDA fundamental beliefs
- Are more satisfied with their local church
- Are not satisfied with the status quo. They want their church to do better and grow more.