

# Horizons of Mission

**Challenges  
and  
Opportunities**

# Dreams

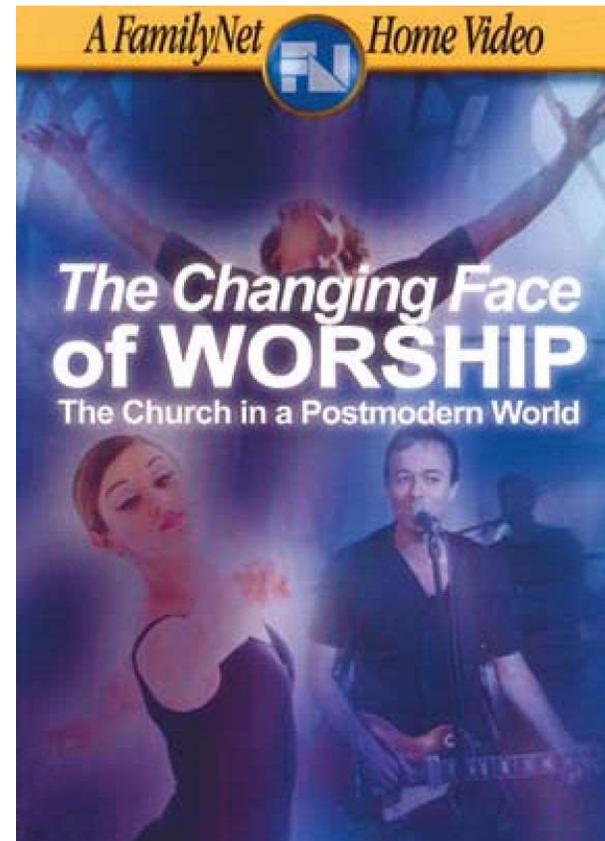
““And in the last days it shall be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams.”

Acts 2:14-21 (Joel 2:28-32)

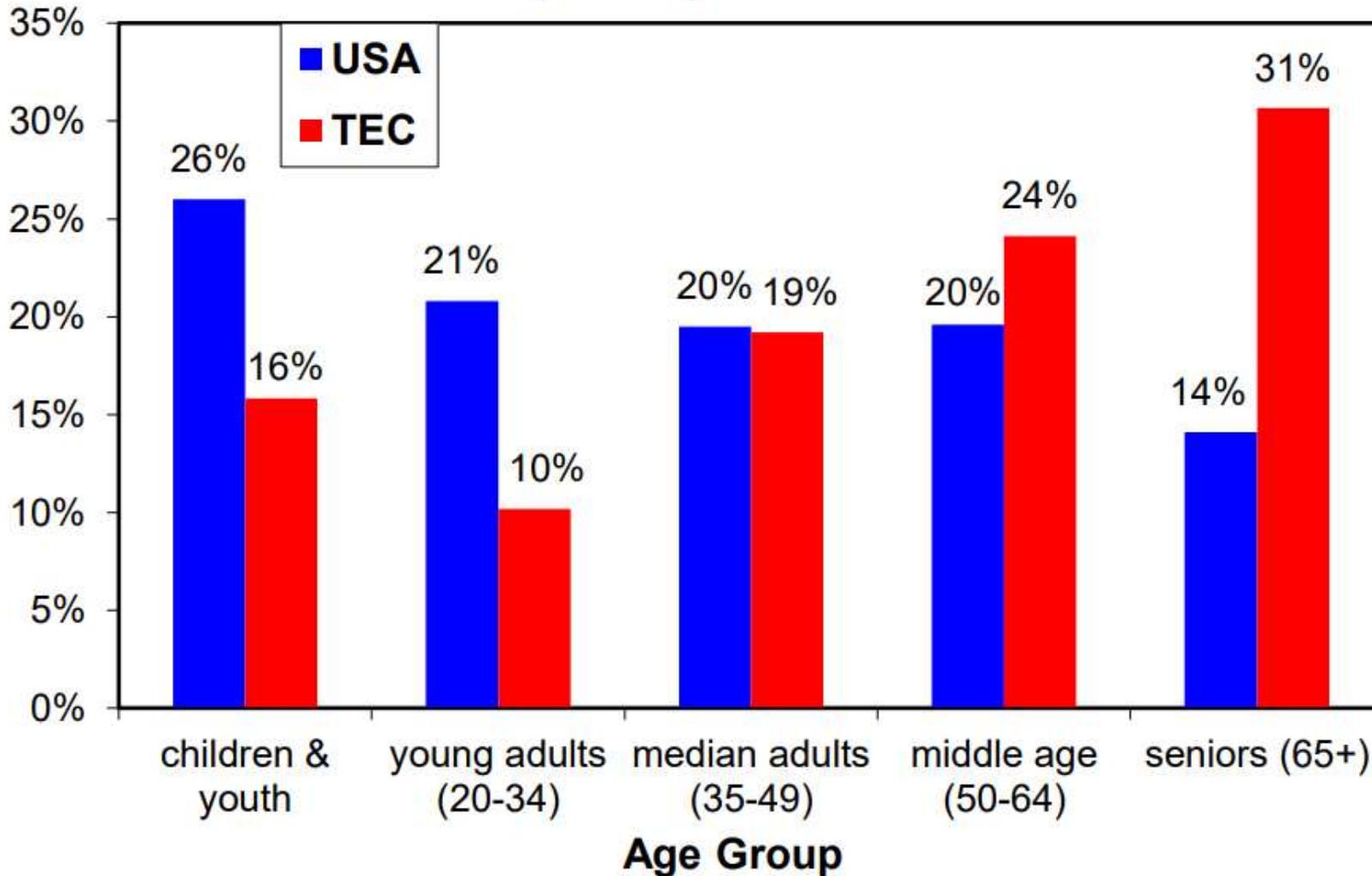
# *The Changing Face of Worship* (2004)

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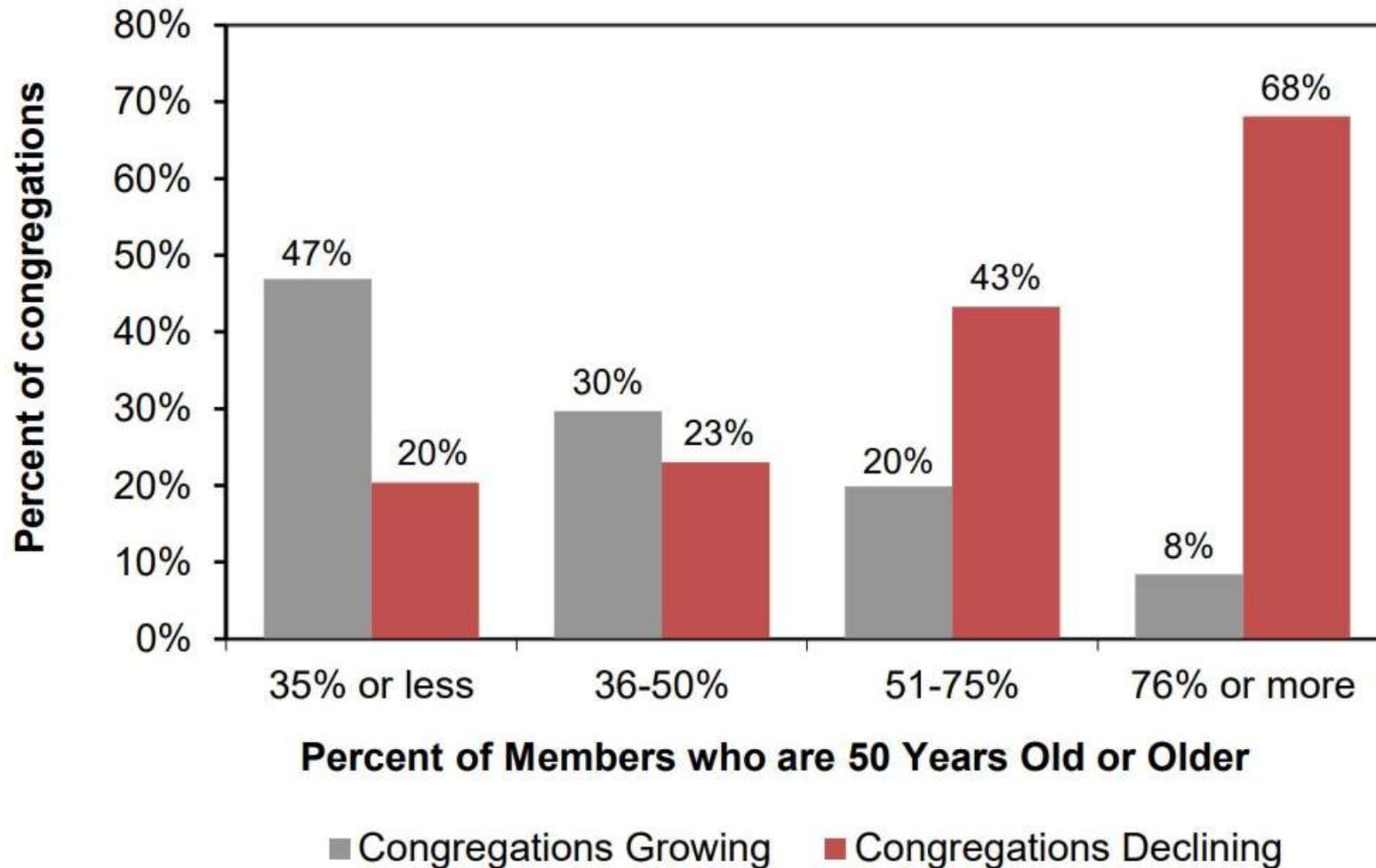
Exploration of innovative and effective expressions of worshiping Christ in a postmodern culture



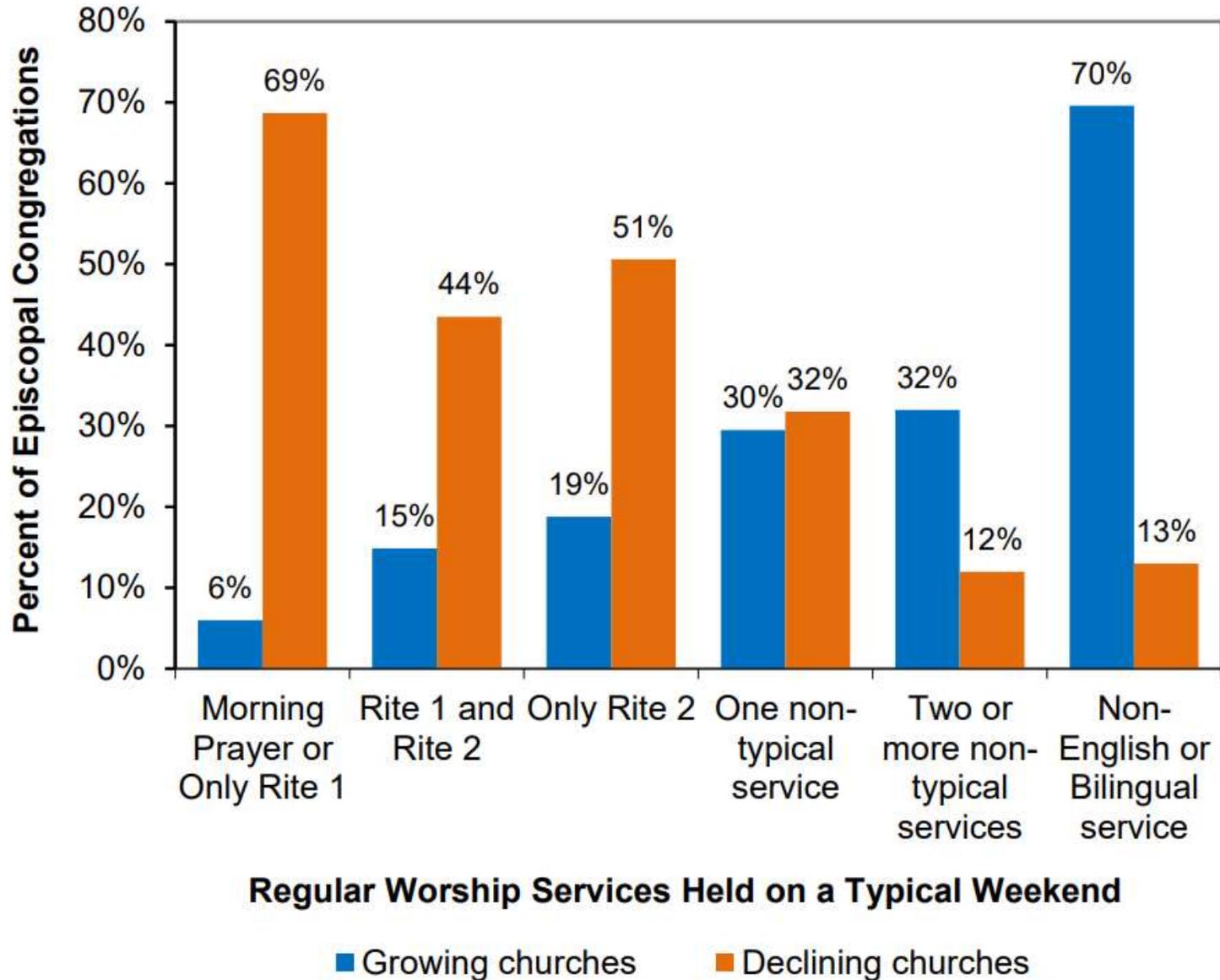
**Figure 5. Age Structure of the USA and The Episcopal Church: 2014**



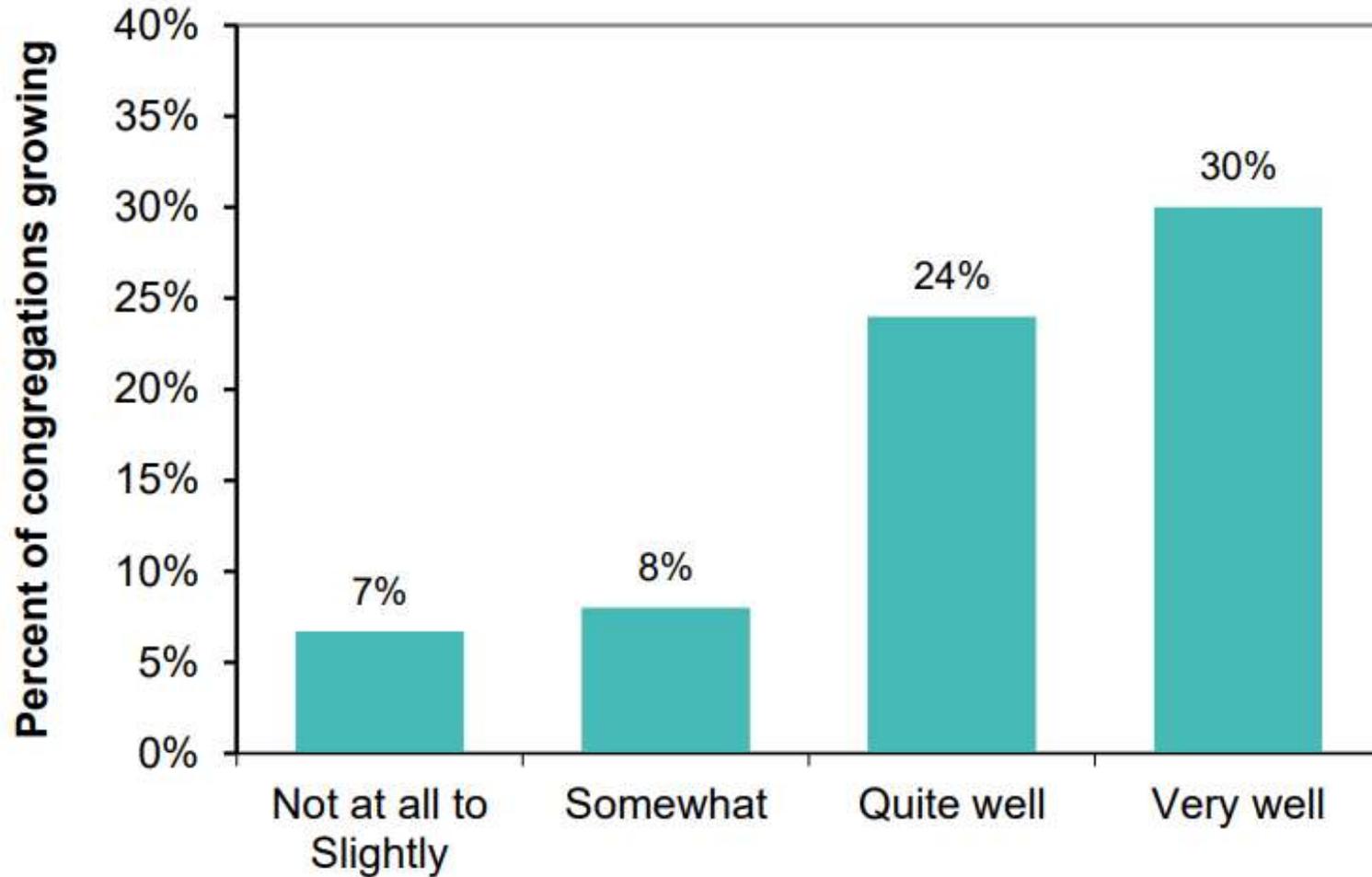
**Figure 6. Aging Congregations Don't Grow**



**Figure 15. Worship Service Types and Growth/Decline**

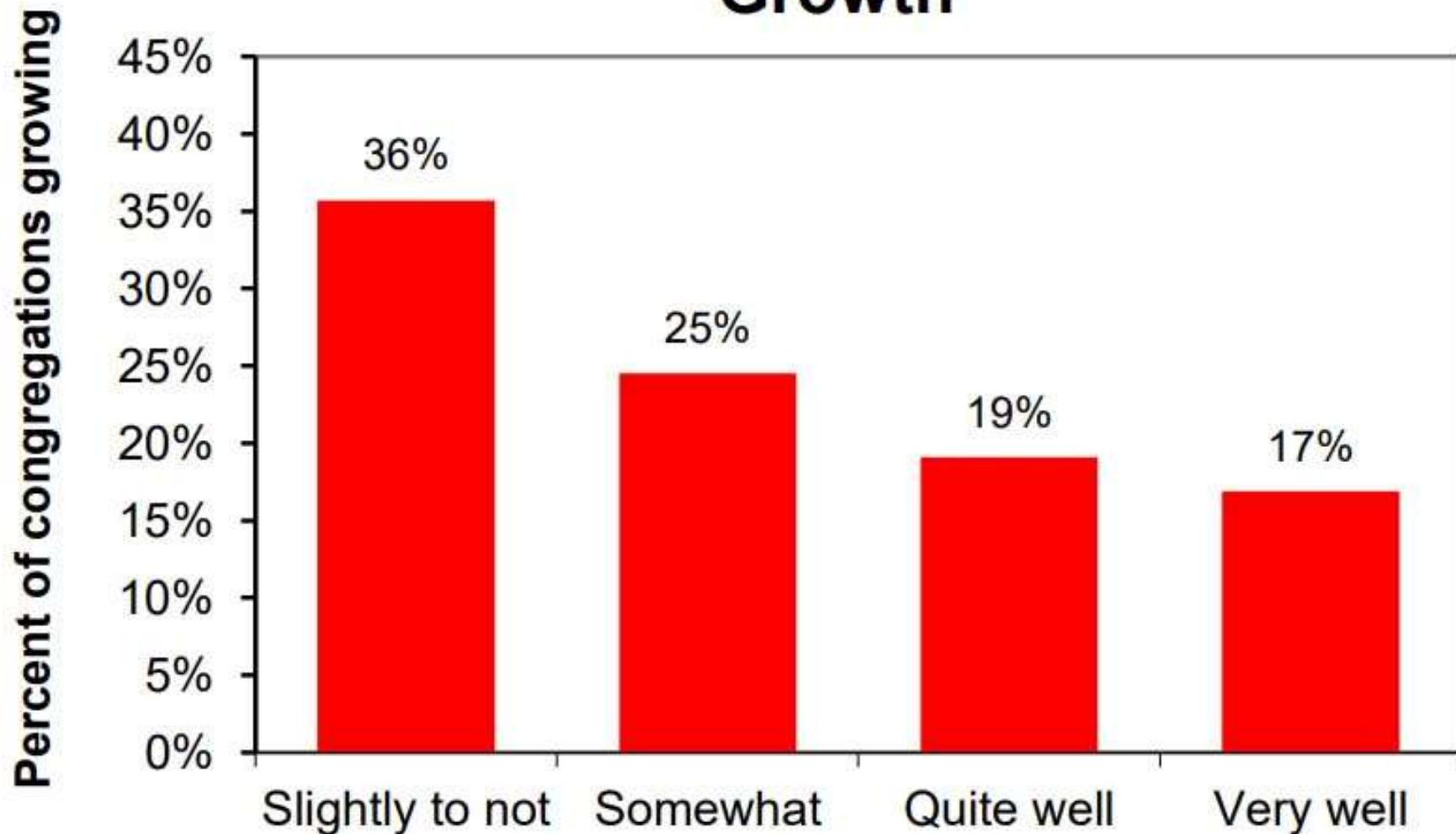


**Figure 16. Vibrant & Engaging  
Worship**



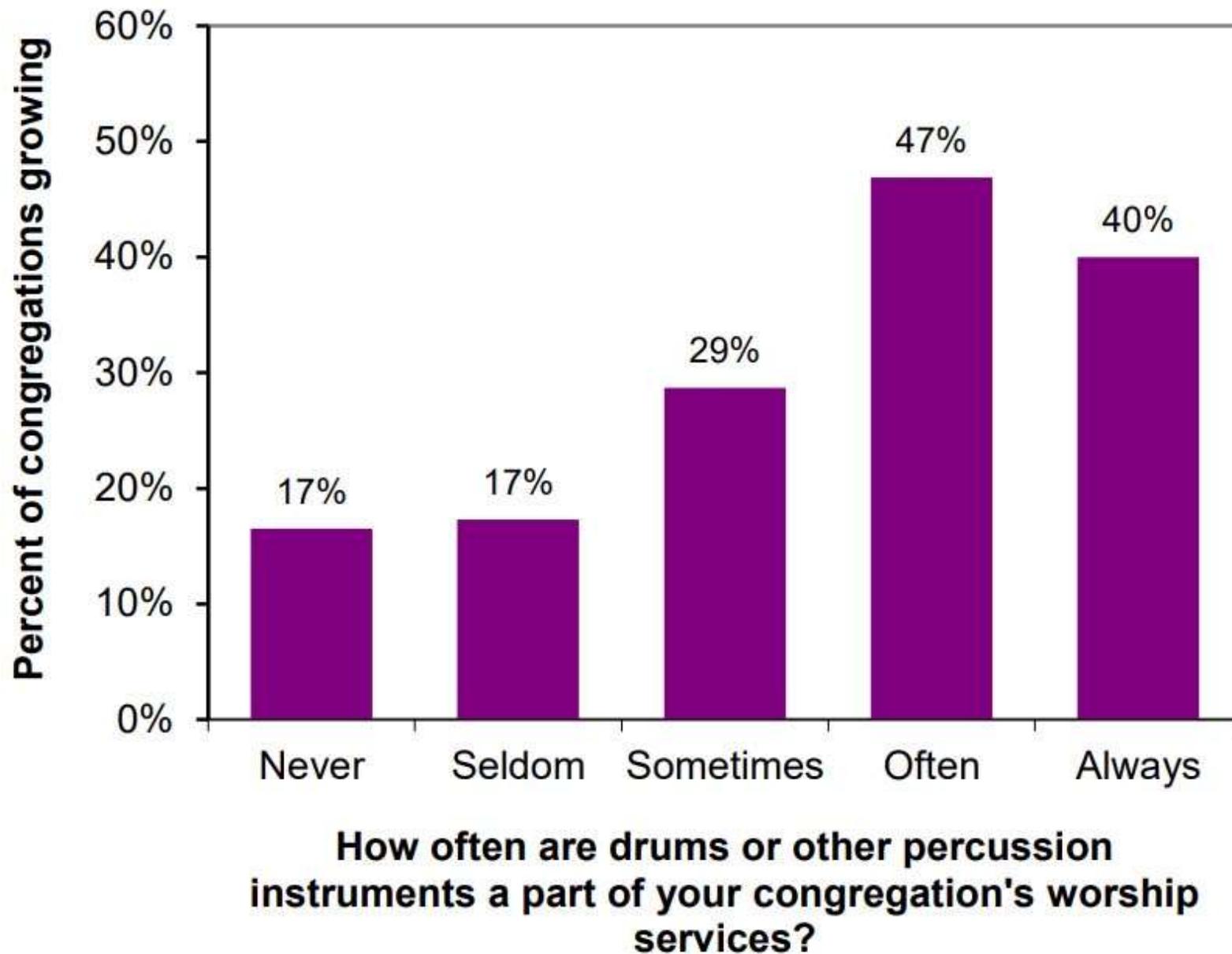
**How well does "Vibrant and Engaging" describe your  
worship service with the largest attendance?**

# Figure 18. Reverence and Lack of Growth



**How well does "it is reverent" describe your worship service with the largest attendance?**

# Figure 17. Drums, Percussion and Growth



# QUESTIONS TO ASK YOURSELF

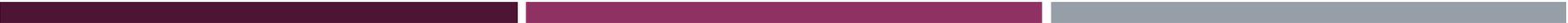
What catches your attention?

What makes you uncomfortable?

What excites, inspires you?

What do you outright reject?

What is God pushing us towards regardless?



# INTRODUCTION

- Want to be loved and accepted
- Loss of truth comes after loss of truth
- Hunger for relationships, for us to care
- Acknowledge my pain
- Keep traditions, but lose children
- Art and beauty, aesthetics
- Not what is proved, but felt, experienced
- Embrace challenge, build bridges
- New ways of conveying their unchanging message

## QUOTES—MISSION

### ■ ***Revolution*** (Atlanta)

- “We want people to come to us, but we are supposed to come to the. That’s what Christ did.”

### ■ ***Solomon’s Porch*** (Minneapolis)

- “We are not a church, we are a ‘holistic missional community.’”

### ■ ***Mosaic*** (Los Angeles)

- “The church is us; we are here for the world”

## ***Faith Communities Today* report**

“Churches that are clear about why they exist and what they should be doing are most likely to be growing congregations. They do not grow because they have been at their location for a century or two nor because they have an attractive building where they worship. They grow because they understand their reason for being and make sure they do the things well that are essential to their lives as communities of faith.”

## **Aaron Milavec, *Didache***

“Any community that cannot artfully and effectively pass on its cherished way of life as a program for divine wisdom and graced existence cannot long endure. Any way of life that cannot be clearly specified, exhibited, and differentiated from the alternative modes operative within the surrounding culture is doomed to growing insignificance and gradual assimilation.”

## QUOTES—*THE ARTS*

- ***Mosaic*** (Los Angeles)
  - “beauty transcends belief”
  
- ***Mars Hill*** (Seattle)
  - “music is the language of God”

## QUOTES—WORSHIP STYLE

- ***Mars Hill*** (Seattle)
  - “I do not see in Scripture any prescription of style or form of worship service”
- ***First Baptist Church*** (Springfield, AK)
  - “We are willing to negotiate methodology but we will not negotiate the message”
- ***Marshall McLuhan***
  - “The Medium is the Message”

## LEONARD SWEET, “*EPIC CHURCH*”

- **E**xperiential
- **P**articipatory
- **I**mage-Based
- **C**onnecting