



NLI Prayer

We are no longer our own, but yours.

Put us to what you will, rank us with whom you will;

Put us to doing, put us to suffering;

Let us be employed for you, or laid aside for you,

Exalted for you, or brought low for you;

Let us be full, let us be empty

Let us have all things, let us have nothing.

NLI Prayer

We freely and wholeheartedly yield all things to your pleasure and disposal.

And now, glorious and blessed God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,

You are ours and we are yours. So be it.

And the covenant now made on earth, let it be ratified in heaven.

Amen.

Team Introductions

- Sarah Calvert – NLI Team Lead, Bi-District Coordinator for Revitalization and Leadership Development
- Rhonda VanDyke – Mentor for Clarendon and Vice President of Shenandoah University
- Cathy Abbott – District Superintendent for Arlington District



Team Introductions

- Jason Duley, Pastor at Galilee UMC in Sterling
- Michelle Chaney, Assoc. Pastor Centreville UMC and Arlington District Developer
- Cynthia Lopynski, Program Coordinator for the Bi-District
- Kim Johnson, Communications Coordinator for the Bi-District



What is NLI?

- A multi-year process that **equips, trains and challenges** churches to reach the next level of their potential
- An **investment in larger churches** that have recognized potential for reaching more people; churches chosen are already good, **this process can help them reach 'great'!**
- An approx. **\$15,000 investment** per church; almost all paid or provided by conference grants and District resources.



NLI is NOT...

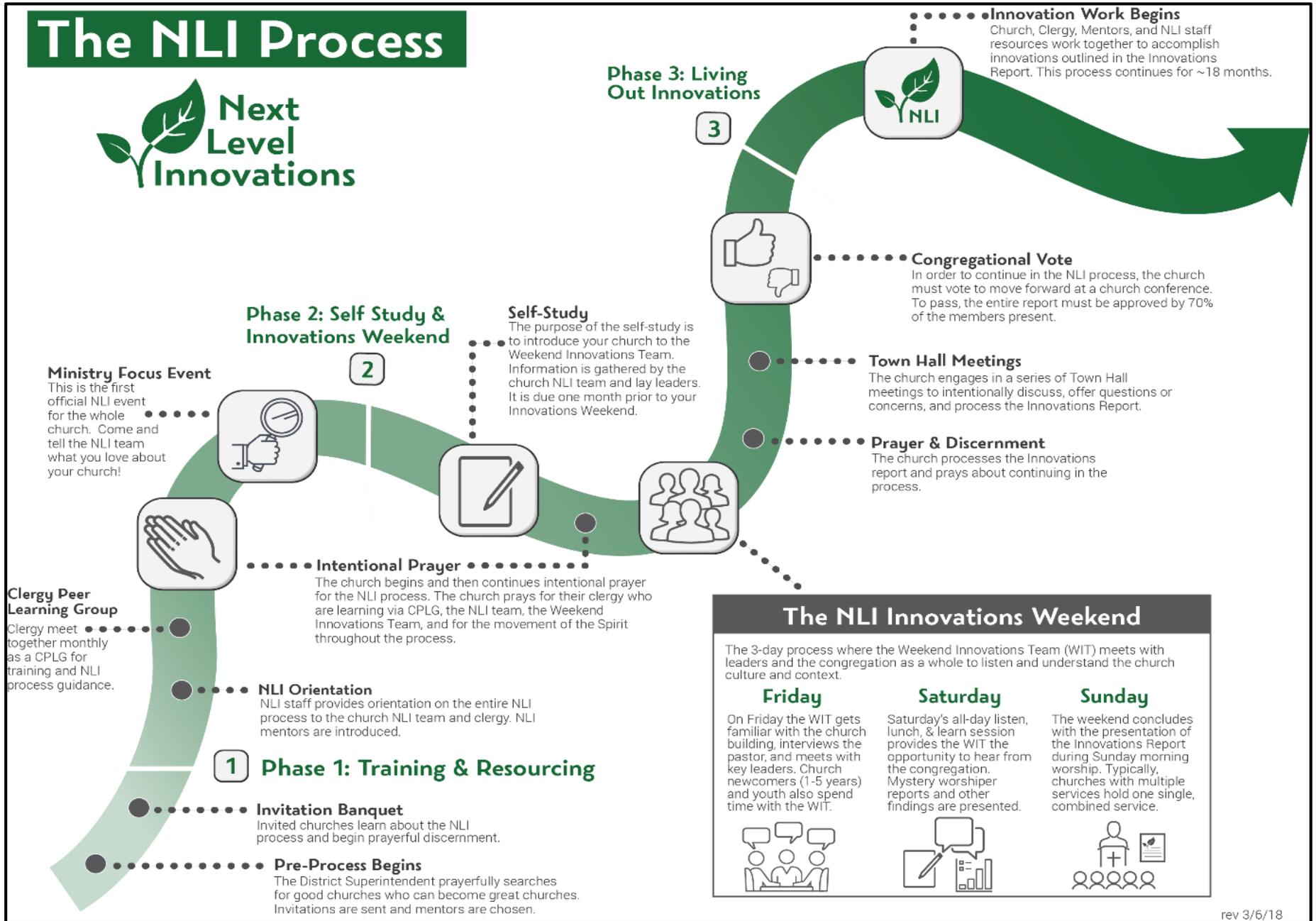
- NLI is NOT a consultation by outside experts. It is a process of prayer, discernment and listening by our team, and reflecting back what you have discerned is God's calling for this church for the 'Next Level'
- NLI is NOT related in any way to the General Conference of 2019 or the Way Forward Commission's work – this is a District and Conference process, not from the denomination
- NLI is NOT just this weekend – as you can see, it has been going on for a year, and will go on for about two more years if you so desire.



Where did it come from?

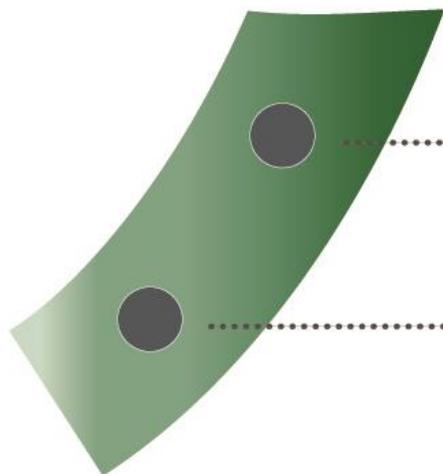
- Founded and rooted in **prayer**
- It is based on similar initiatives in other conferences that have been successful
- You are part of a process developed by large church pastors in Northern Virginia with success in our context

What is NLI?





What is NLI?



Pre-Phase

Invitation Banquet

Invited churches learn about the NLI process and begin prayerful discernment.

Pre-Process Begins

The District Superintendent prayerfully searches for good churches who can become great churches. Invitations are sent and mentors are chosen.



Phase 1: Training & Resourcing

1

Ministry Focus Event

This is the first official NLI event for the whole church. Come and tell the NLI team what you love about your church!



Intentional Prayer

The church begins and then continues intentional prayer for the NLI process. The church prays for their clergy who are learning via CPLG, the NLI team, the Weekend Innovations Team, and for the movement of the Spirit throughout the process.

Clergy Peer Learning Group

Clergy meet together monthly as a CPLG for training and NLI process guidance.

NLI Orientation

NLI staff provides orientation on the entire NLI process to the church NLI team and clergy. NLI mentors are introduced.

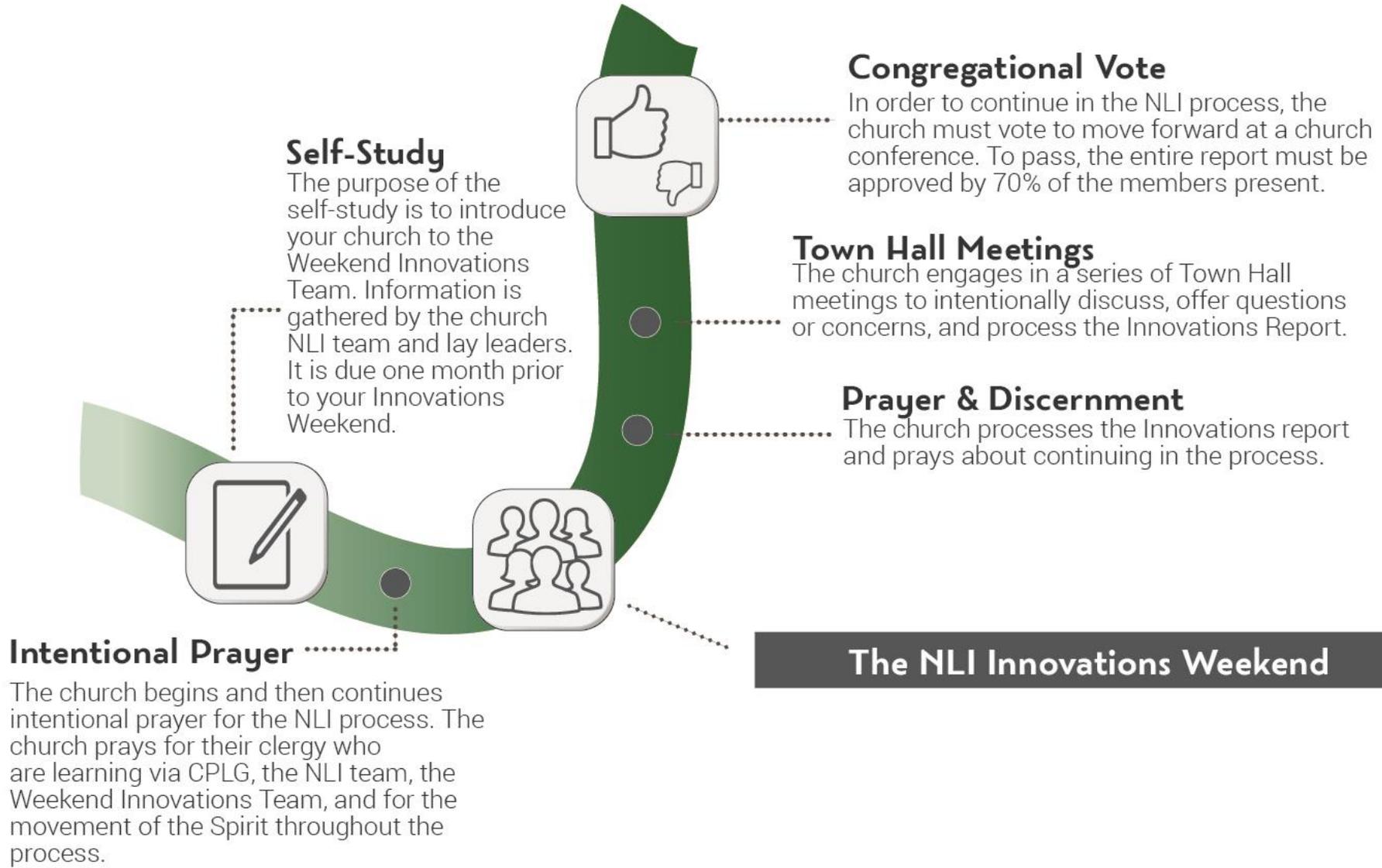
What is NLI?



Phase 2: Self Study & Innovations Weekend

2

What is NLI?





What is NLI?

The NLI Innovations Weekend

The 3-day process where the Weekend Innovations Team (WIT) meets with leaders and the congregation as a whole to listen and understand the church culture and context.

Friday

On Friday the WIT gets familiar with the church building, interviews the pastor, and meets with key leaders. Church newcomers (1-5 years) and youth also spend time with the WIT.



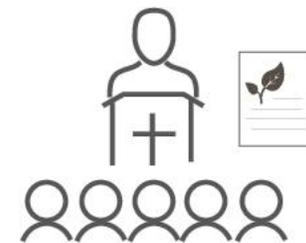
Saturday

Saturday's all-day listen, lunch, & learn session provides the WIT the opportunity to hear from the congregation. Mystery worshiper reports and other findings are presented.



Sunday

The weekend concludes with the presentation of the Innovations Report during Sunday morning worship. Typically, churches with multiple services hold one single, combined service.

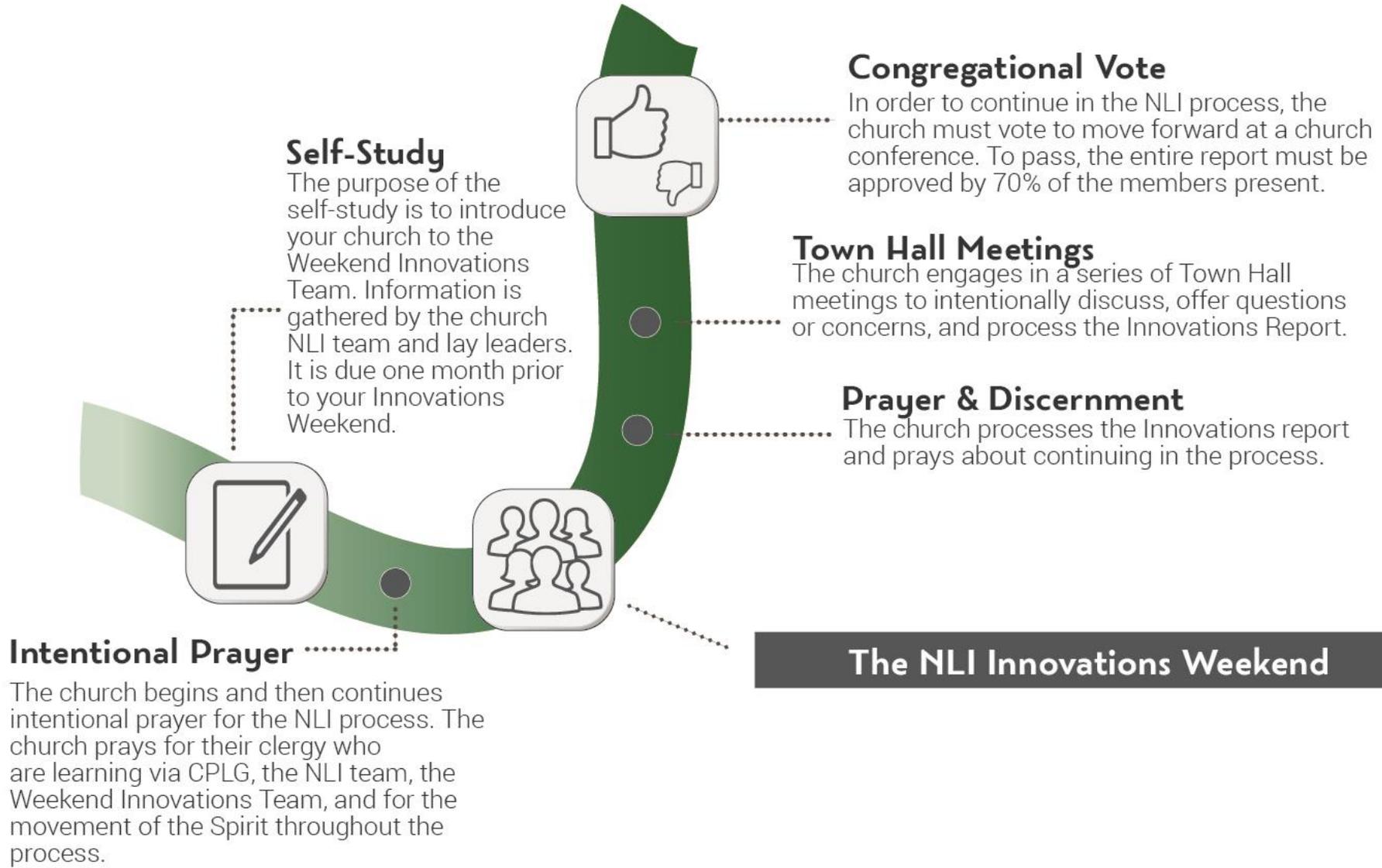




Phase 2: Self Study & Innovations Weekend

2

What is NLI?





Phase 3: Living Out Innovations 3

Innovation Work Begins

Church, Clergy, Mentors, and NLI staff resources work together to accomplish innovations outlined in the Innovations Report. This process continues for ~18 months.



What is NLI?

The Innovations Report

- Comes from the desires, dreams, needs and challenges the congregation raises throughout this process – from the self-study to interviews, focus groups and this retreat.
- Strengths, weaknesses and innovations that will take the church to the next level.
- Innovations will be detailed and time-specific, 3-6 of them.
- They are not ‘standardized’ – they are **unique to the context of your church.**



What Comes Next?

- Sunday: NLI Report during worship at **10:00 a.m.**
- Next: Town Hall Meetings – Feb 3, Feb 6, Feb 17
- Then: Called Church Conference **where you will vote (Feb 19 at 7:30pm)**
 - To pass, the Innovations need **70% acceptance.**
 - Vote is on **entire package**



What Comes Next?

- Vote is on the **entire package of Innovations**
- If the vote is “**yes**” – the mentor and leadership will begin to work the Innovations
- If the vote is “**no**” – the mentor and District team resources come to an end, but much will have been learned to that point.





Faith Sharing

“What is it about the story of your relationship with Jesus that could help your neighbor draw closer to God?”

Sharing my Story: Jesus is my _____

Jesus is my
Friend

Jesus is my
Rescuer

Jesus is my
Healer

Jesus is my
Hope

Jesus is my
Guide

Jesus is my
Teacher

Jesus is my
New Beginning

Jesus is my
????

Faith Sharing Worksheet

Who is Jesus to You?

- Fill out this worksheet for yourself.
- Then once your table has completed the worksheet, share your **Jesus is my...** stories around your table

Next Level Innovations

Faith Sharing

“What is it about the story of your relationship with Jesus that could help your neighbor draw closer to God?”

Sharing my Story: Jesus is my _____

Jesus is my Friend	Jesus is my Rescuer	Jesus is my Healer	Jesus is my Hope
Jesus is my Guide	Jesus is my Teacher	Jesus is my New Beginning	Jesus is my ????

What is your two-minute God Story?

Before Jesus I _____

How I know Jesus _____

After Jesus I _____

Originally from: MCCI program, West Ohio Conference

rev. 8/29/18



Faith Sharing

Sharing our Stories

Let's Hear From You!

On the paper provided, answer:

Awesome

What is **awesome** about this church?

Take
a
Break!



A close-up, shallow depth-of-field photograph of an organ console. The focus is on the wooden structure and the metal components of the stop action, with the background showing rows of organ pipes. The lighting is warm and slightly dim, creating a sense of depth and texture.

The Church in the World Today

&

The Church in the U.S. Today

A group of elderly people, mostly women, are shown in profile, singing enthusiastically in a church choir. They are holding red songbooks. The background is slightly blurred, focusing on the individuals in the foreground.

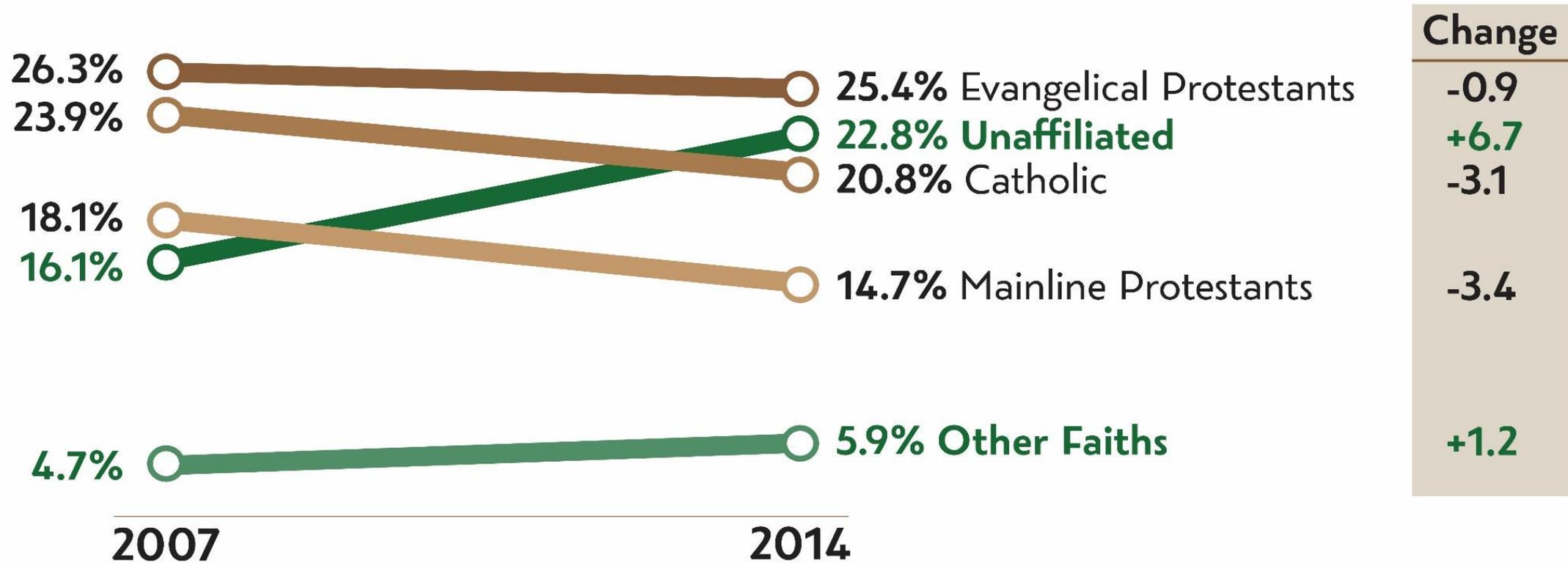
The Church in the World Today

A group of four young adults (two men and two women) are sitting at a table in a restaurant, smiling and eating. They are dressed in casual attire. The setting is bright and modern.

Young adults (ages 18-39) are **less religious than their elders** (ages 40+). This “age gap” in religion is occurring across the world and particularly in **predominantly Christian nations.**

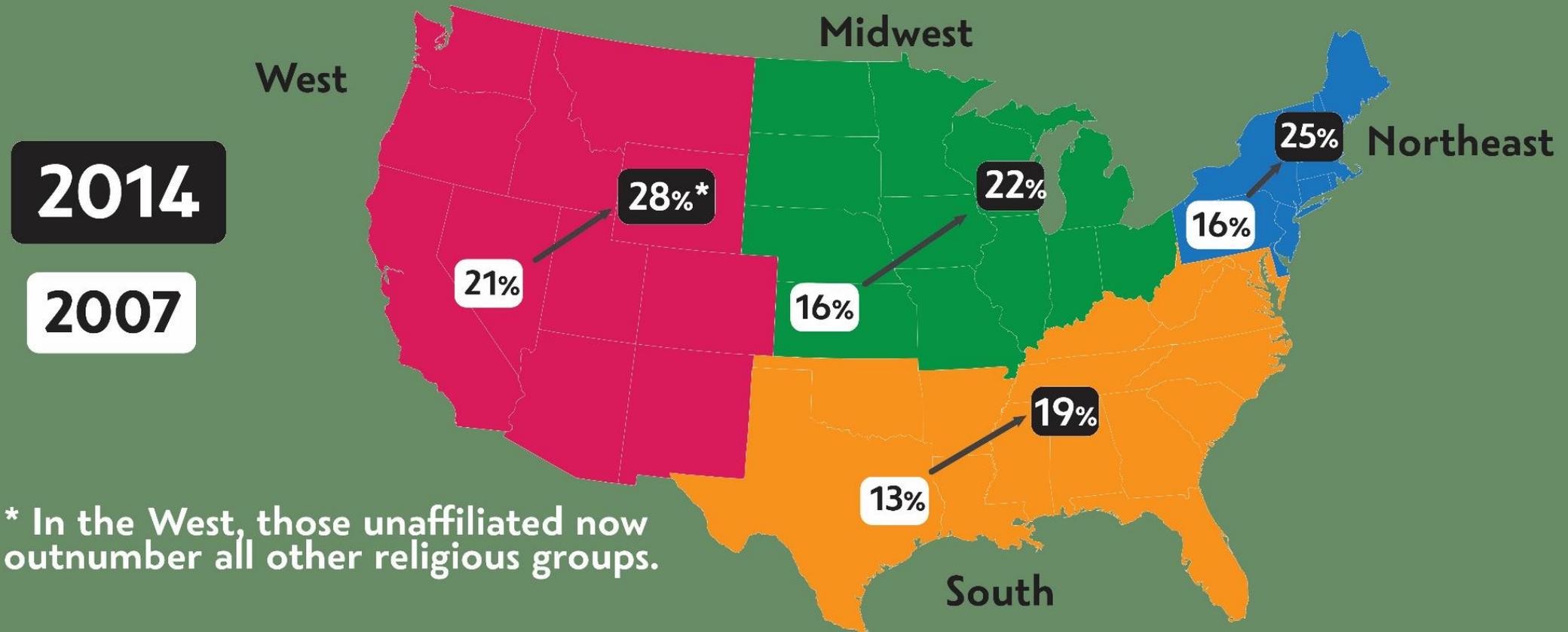
The Church in the U.S. Today

Between 2007 and 2014, **Christians have declined** as a share of the U.S. population (ages 18+). **Other faiths and the unaffiliated grew.**



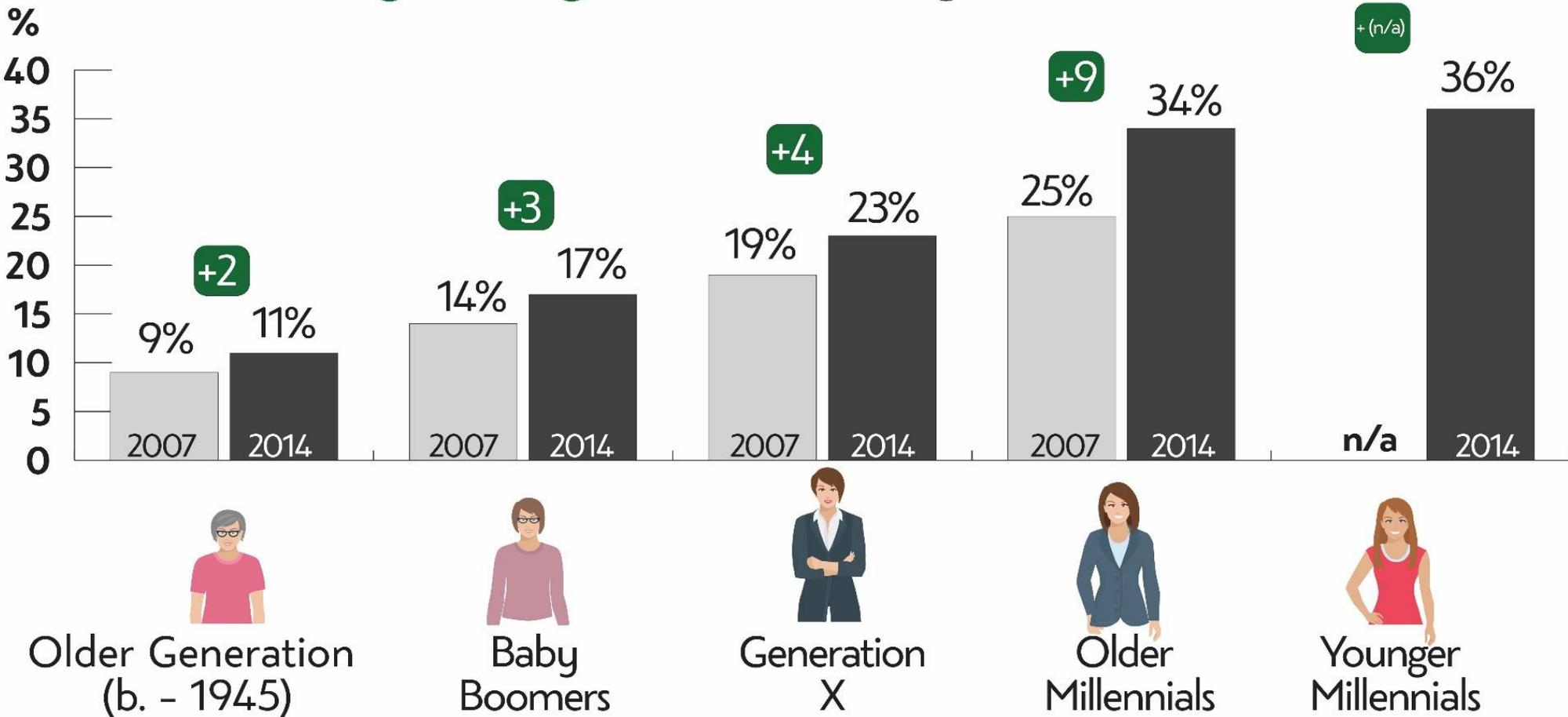
The Church in the U.S. Today

The number identifying as **religiously unaffiliated** is **growing** in **all four** geographic regions of the country.



The Church in the U.S. Today

The **religiously unaffiliated** make up a **growing share** across generations.



Source: Pew Research Center, 2014 Religious Landscape Study.

The Church in the U.S. Today

Reasons Why Americans **Don't** Identify with a Religion

Questioning religious teachings **60%**

Dislike the position churches take on social/political issues **49%**

Dislike the religious organizations **41%**

Do not believe in God **37%**

Religion is irrelevant **36%**

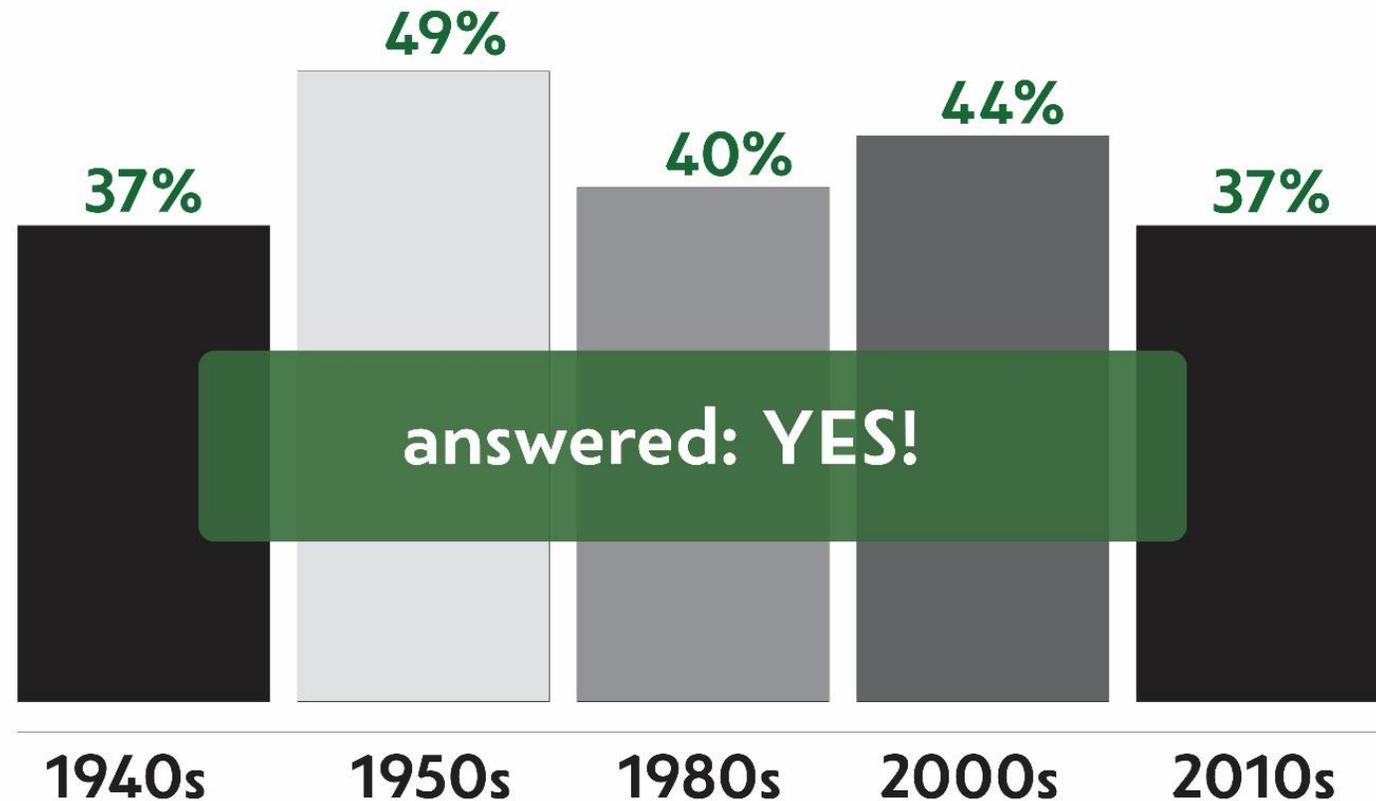
Dislike religious leaders **34%**



The Church in the U.S. Today

In U.S., self-reported **weekly church attendance** has **dwindled** and is now at a level seen in the 1940s.

Did you, yourself, happen to attend church, synagogue, or mosque in the last seven days?



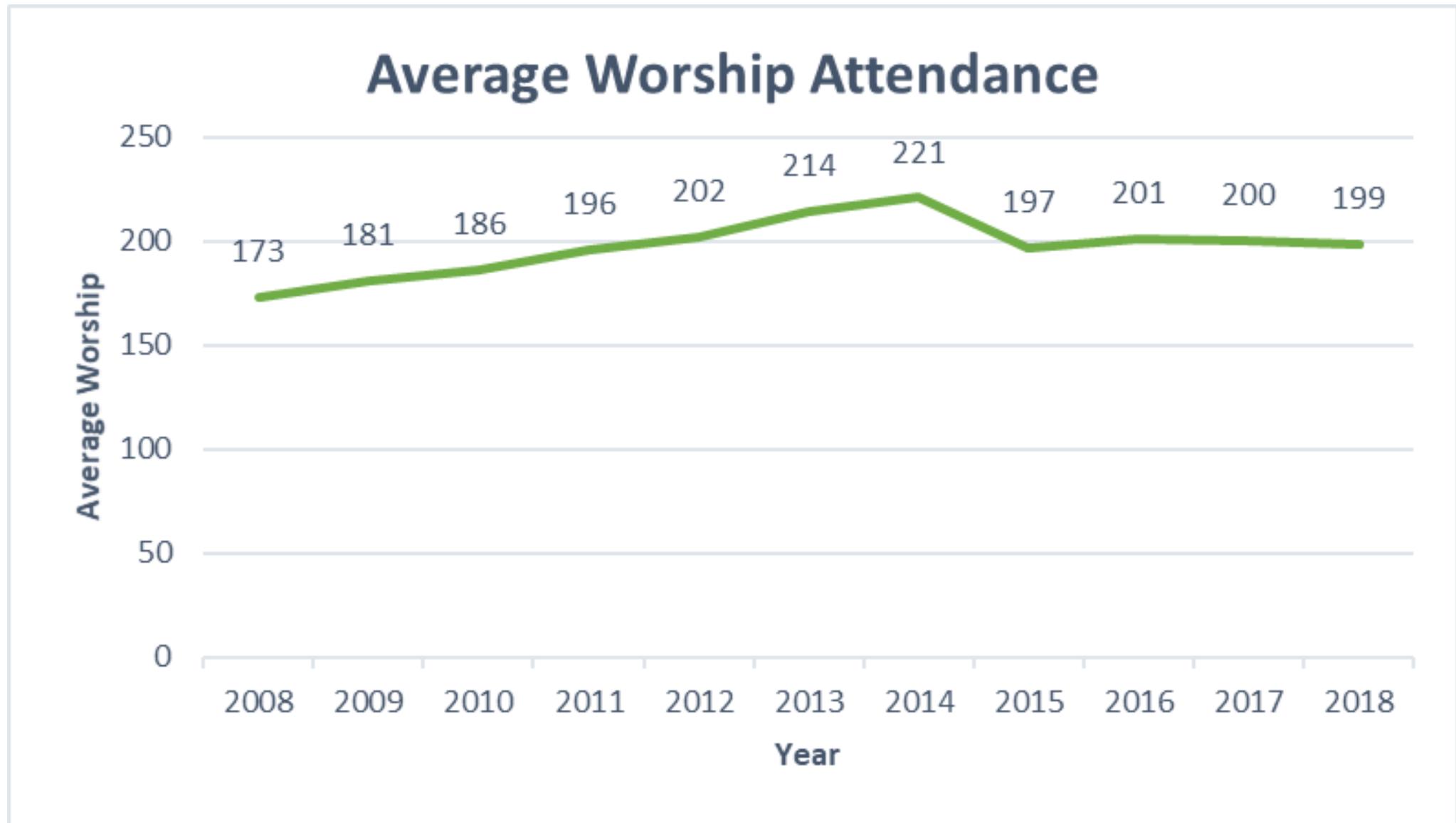
Source: Gallup, Dec 2013 polling, In U.S., Four in 10 Report Attending Church Last Week.
<https://news.gallup.com/poll/166613/four-report-attending-church-last-week.aspx?>

The Church in the U.S. Today

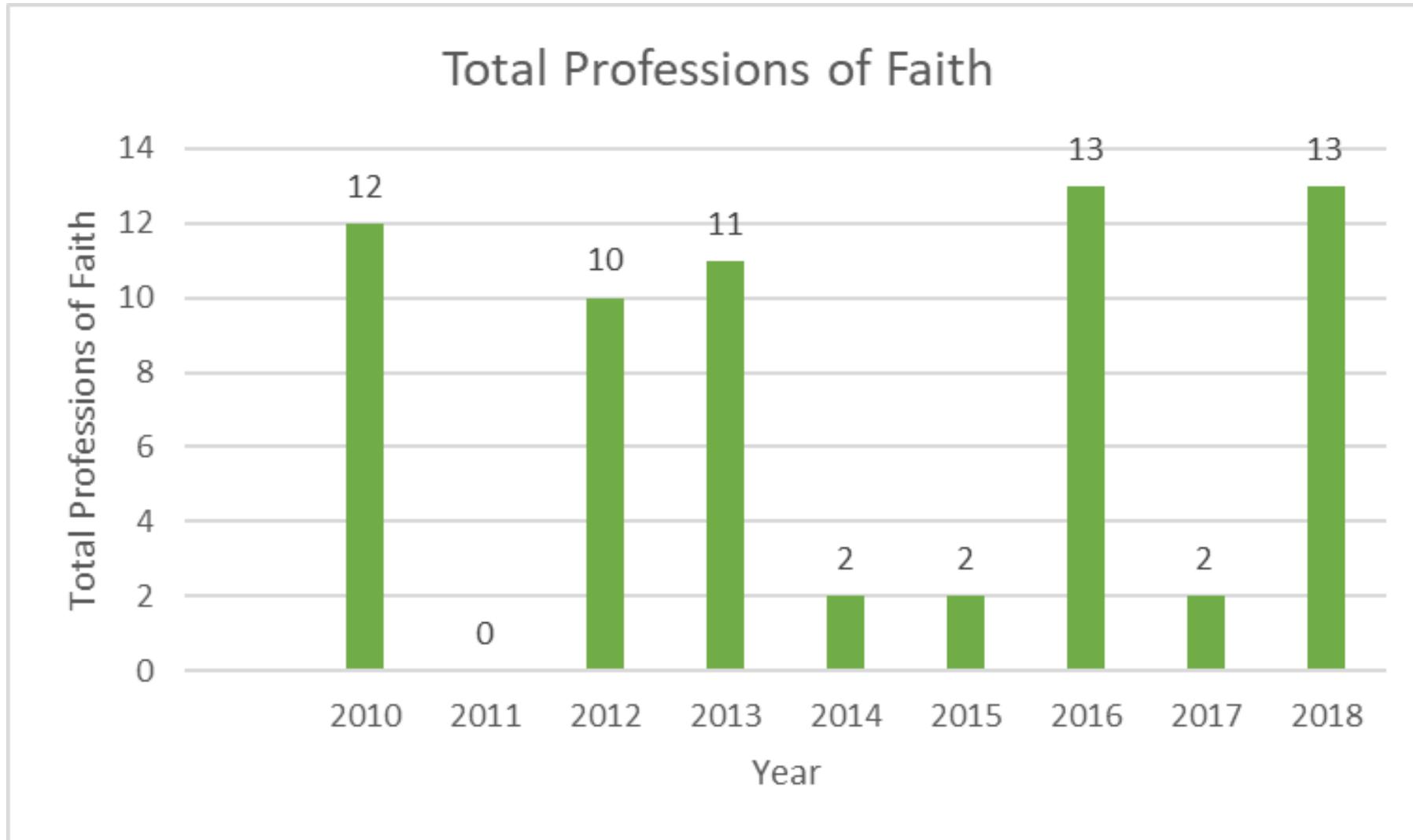
65% of U.S. churches
are **declining** or
have **plateaued**.

Source: Thom S. Rainer, his own study of 1100 churches, published June, 2017, based on worship attendance not membership.

Clarendon Statistically

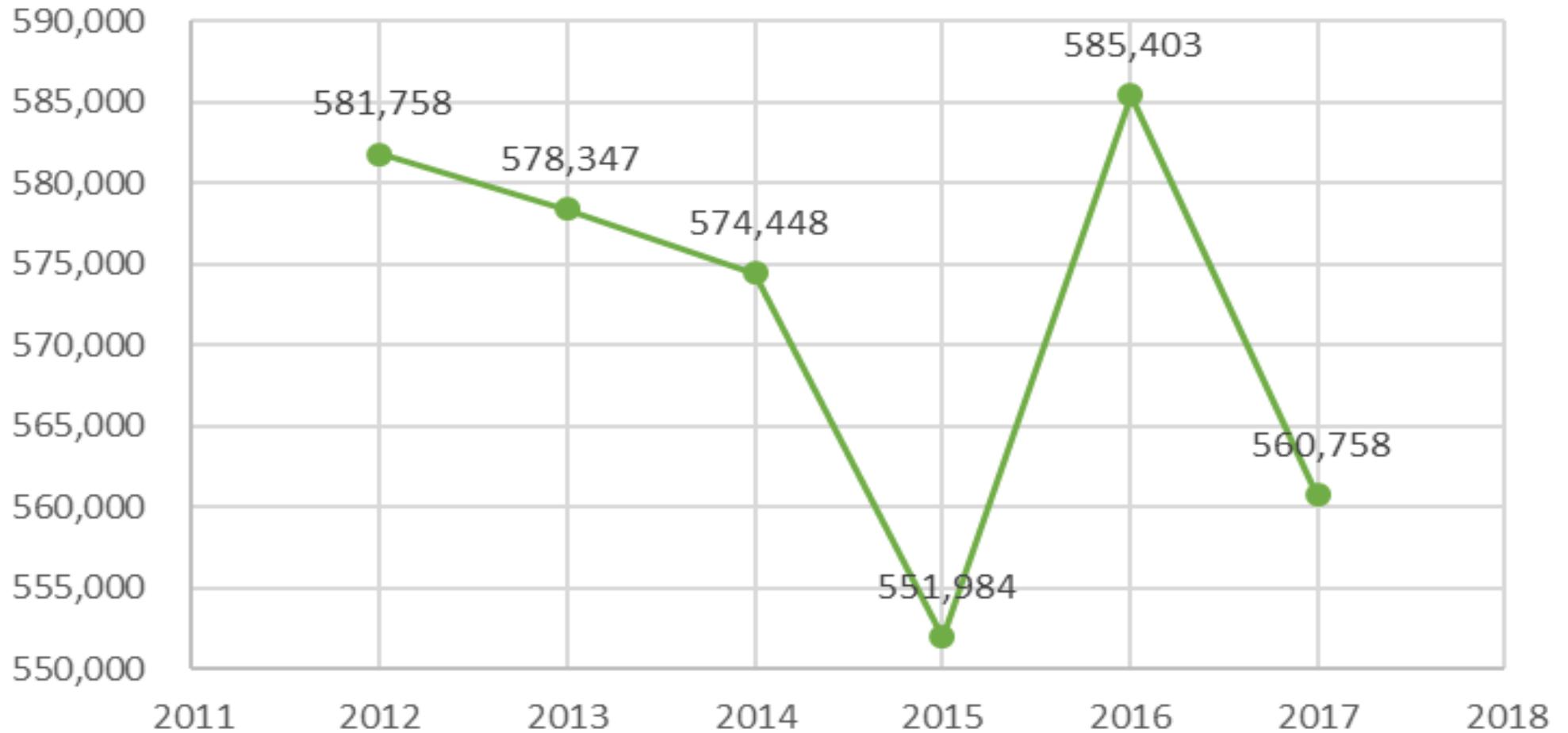


Clarendon Statistically



Clarendon Statistically

Total Giving





Clarendon Study Area

Study Area-
The natural
area a
newcomer
would come
from to church
- about a 5
minute drive,
adjusted for
roads

Clarendon Today

ExecutiveInsite Report Highlights:

- There has been some growth in this area- 14.4% 2010-2018. Predicted small to negative growth (note: this is without the Amazon statistics) page 2 ExecutiveInsite

- Whites are 67% of the neighborhood, Asian 10%, Hispanic/Latino 14%, Black/African American 6% page 3 ExecutiveInsite

- Age groups that will be increasing 5-17 (12.4%) page 5 ExecutiveInsite

Clarendon Today

ComparativeInsite Report Highlights:

- The church **inside the study** area is older (50) than the community inside the study area (49).

page 2 ComparativeInsite

- The church **inside the study area** much more married (60.5%) than the community inside the study area (20.4%)

page 2 ComparativeInsite

- The church **inside the study area** has a higher HH income (\$113,703) than the community inside the study area (\$84,956)

page 3 ComparativeInsite

Clarendon Today

ComparativeInsite Report Highlights:

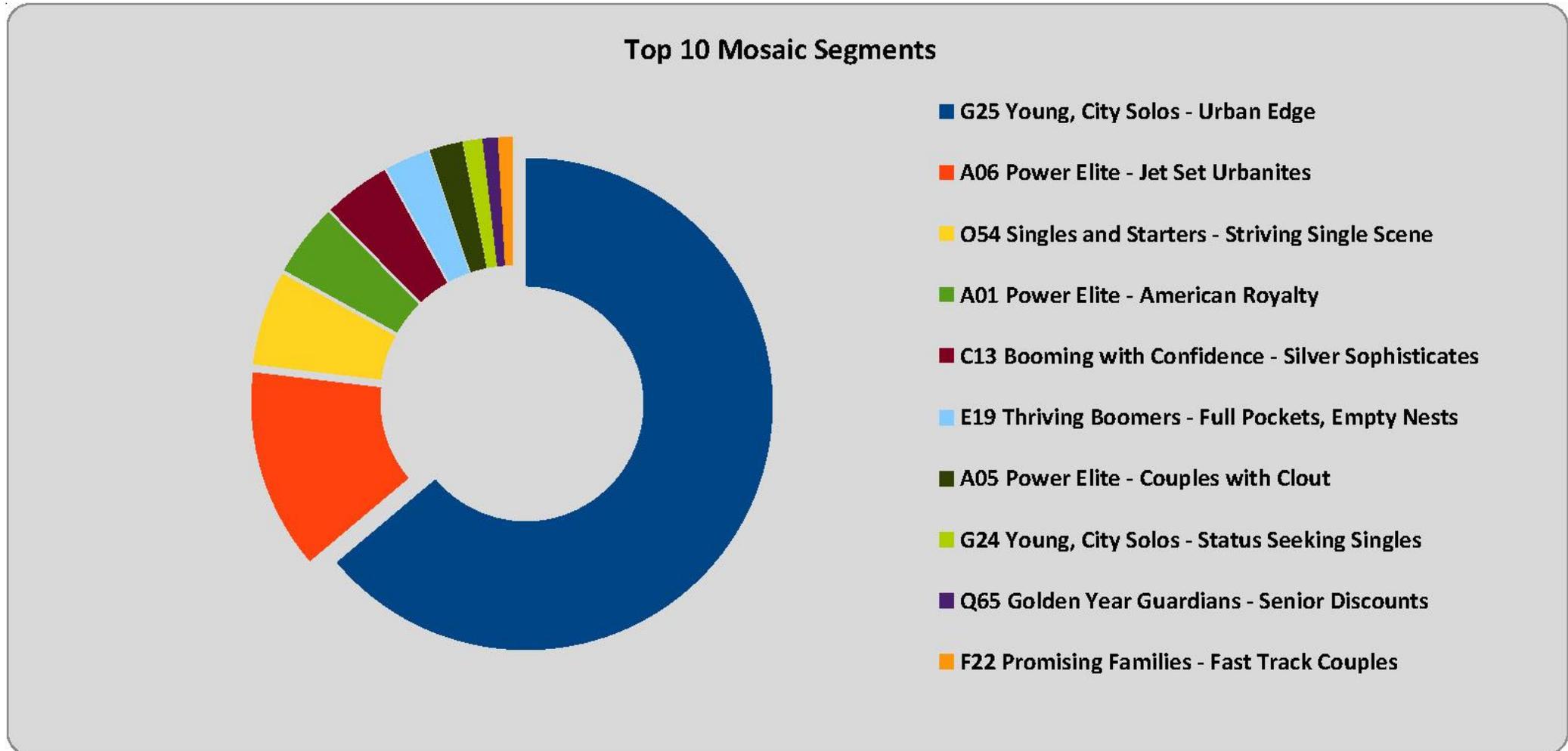
- The church **inside the study** area is less diverse than the community inside the study area (diversity score of .7 vs. 1.3)
page 3 ComparativeInsite
- If all the church people **inside the study** area tithed 5%, the church giving could be over 680,000 dollars; 7% tithe would be 952,927 dollars.
For those **JUST inside** the study area.

page 8 ComparativeInsite

Clarendon Mosaic Groups

Mosaic Lifestyle Segmentation Types (Experian)

Mosaic Lifestyle Types provides insight into the behaviors, attitudes and preferences of the households within the Study Area. The result is a fuller multidimensional understanding of a community, neighborhood, zip code or other geography.



G25 - Urban Edge

61.9% study area neighbors; 24.7% Congregation in study area

These extremely liberal, eclectic, singles in their 20's and 30's live in funky, hip urban neighborhoods. They are extremely skeptical of organized religion, although many consider themselves broadly "spiritual". Spirituality and artistic sensibilities flow together. They live in the present moment and are not particularly anxious about tomorrow. Although traditional moral norms are uncomfortable, they are notable for their commitments to peace, equality, human rights, the environment, and free speech. People in this segment deliberately flaunt the "herd mentality", and consider the church (and organized religion in general) as agencies of artificial conformity and even oppression. However, they can show remarkable respect for priests, prophetic pastors, and anyone that models a highly disciplined spiritual life committed to bless the disadvantaged.



Key Features

- Progressive views
- Urban-dwellers
- Highly educated
- Ambitious
- Environmental advocates
- Exercise enthusiasts

Who We Are

Head of household age



Type of property



Estimated household income



Household size



Home ownership



Age of children



Channel Preference



49



165



132



201

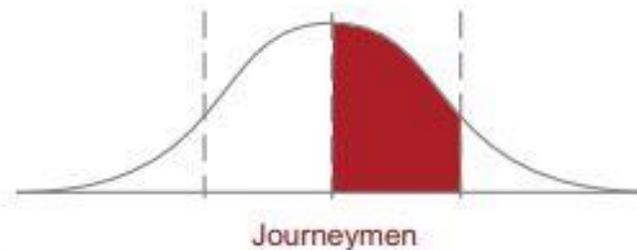


192



250

Technology Adoption



A01: American Royalty

4.5 % study area neighbors; 33.3% Congregation in study area

People in this segment regard church membership as a status, and often choose churches like they choose cars. They enjoy privileges of membership, and expect to shape church policy and choose church personnel. However, they may be sporadic in church attendance, and may gladly connect with a church via web casts on the internet. People in this segment can be extraordinarily generous givers, but only if the church has a proven record of excellent stewardship with minimum waste. They demand clear strategic plans and measurable results.

People in this segment generally prefer a larger church (but not necessarily a mega-church). It will usually be a church with multiple programs and significant resources.

A01

American Royalty

Wealthy, influential couples and families living in prestigious suburbs

James & Nancy

🏠 1.44% | 2.08% 👤



Who We Are

Head of household age



Type of property



Estimated household income



Household size



Home ownership



Age of children



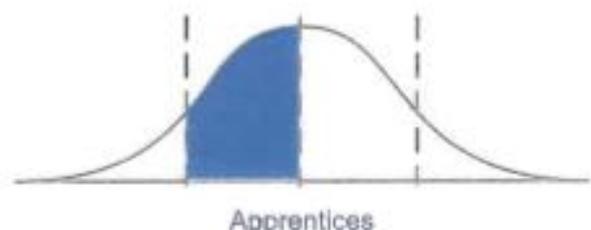
Channel Preference



Key Features

- Prestigious housing
- Luxury living
- Upscale cars
- Healthy lifestyles
- Charitable giving
- World travelers

Technology Adoption



C13: Silver Sophisticates -

4.1% study area neighbors; 17.3% Congregation in study area

People in this group are over 65 and many are widowed or divorced, but they tend to be long time residents in the stylish homes of their community neighborhood. They join churches that prioritize education and the arts, and which have the resources to provide high quality worship. They tend to be very loyal to their local church and to their denomination. The members are often old friends, although they may not socialize regularly during the week. They may make generous bequests to the church. The architecture, liturgy, and symbols of the church provide them a strong sense of belonging.

C13

Silver Sophisticates

Mature, upscale couples and singles in suburban homes

David & Kathleen

🏠 2.27% | 2.33% 👤



Who We Are

Head of household age



Type of property



Estimated household income



Household size



Home ownership



Age of children



Channel Preference



191



25



18



8



190

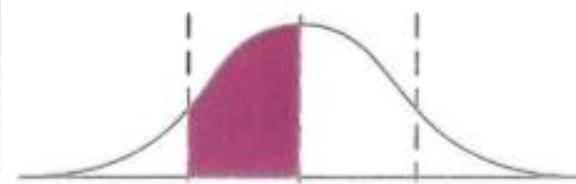


95

Key Features

- Retiring in comfort
- Experienced travelers
- Art connoisseurs
- Philanthropic
- Retirement investments
- Ecological lifestyles

Technology Adoption



Apprentices



Youth Report



Let's Hear From You!

Need

What do we really need to change?

TIME FOR
LUNCH





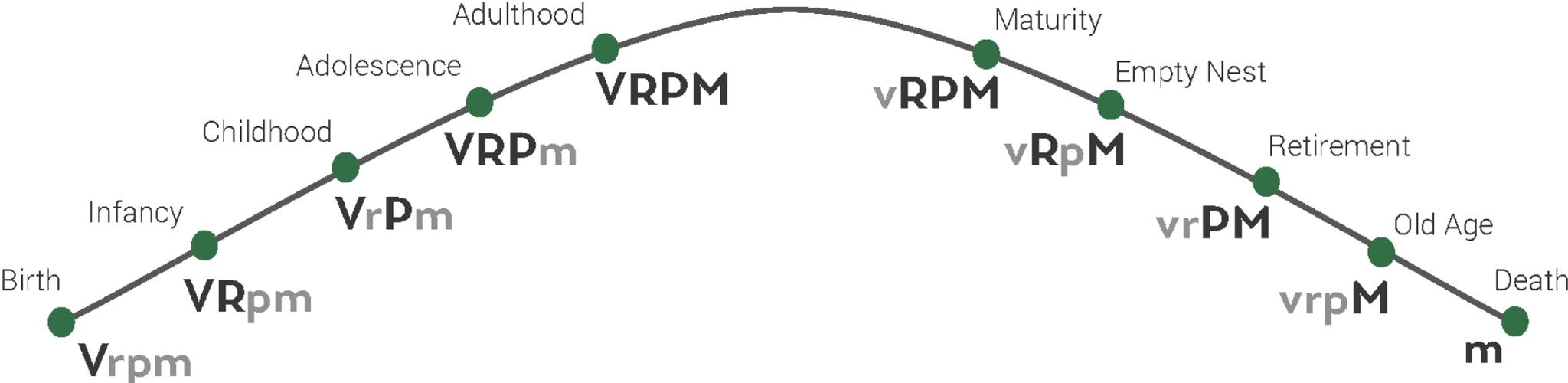
Over Lunch:

Take a moment and talk at your table about what you've heard.

What opportunities do you see around you?

Where does your church fall within these patterns?

Life Cycle of A Church



V = Vision Where should we go?
 R = Relationship Whom should we bring?
 P = Program How will we get there?
 M = Management What should we avoid?

Vision

- The current understanding of God's direction for a congregation
- Vision...
 - Is cast by leadership, owned by congregation
 - Reflects core values of the congregation
 - Is contextual
 - Can fuel the congregation into the future

Relationships

- Building relationships that help people meet God and grow as disciples
 - Current and future disciples – not just inside the church
 - Community building, sharing of gifts
 - Fruit of relationships = deepened spirituality, new leadership developing and many hands making light work



Programs

- Ministries and activities that embody the vision and reflect gifts and callings of congregation.
 - Meet spiritual, social and emotional needs of the people in the congregation
 - Meet the same needs of those in the neighborhood
 - Excellence is the goal

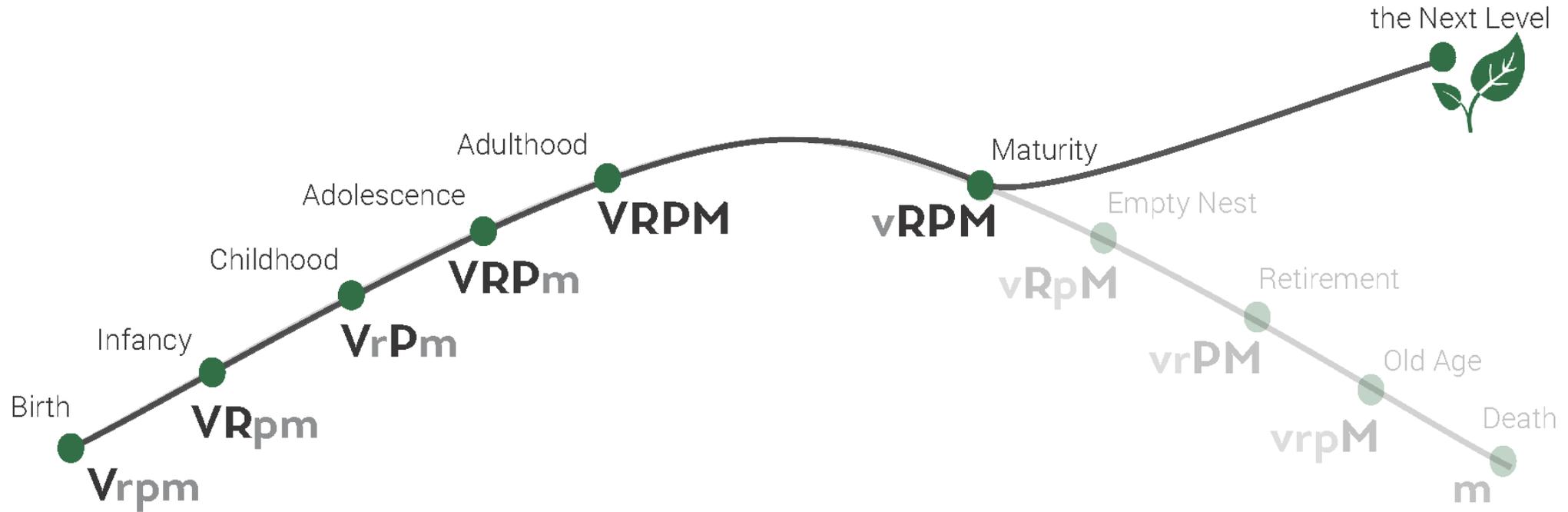


Management

- Systems that facilitate orderly decision making, allocation of resources, strategizes new developments and keeps boundaries
 - Efficient, well defined, supports vision, relationships and programs
- Accountable to the congregation



Life Cycle of A Church



V = Vision..... Where should we go?
 R = Relationship..... Whom should we bring?
 P = Program..... How will we get there?
 M = Management..... What should we avoid?

Ways a church can reach a new level

- **Innovations that:**

- Seek God's **vision** for the church to find a fresh wind of the Holy Spirit
- Seek to expand **relationships** and increase engagement of congregation
- Seek excellence in **programs**, aligning them with vision and relationships
- Seek **management** that aligns with vision and is well defined



Ways a church can reach a new level

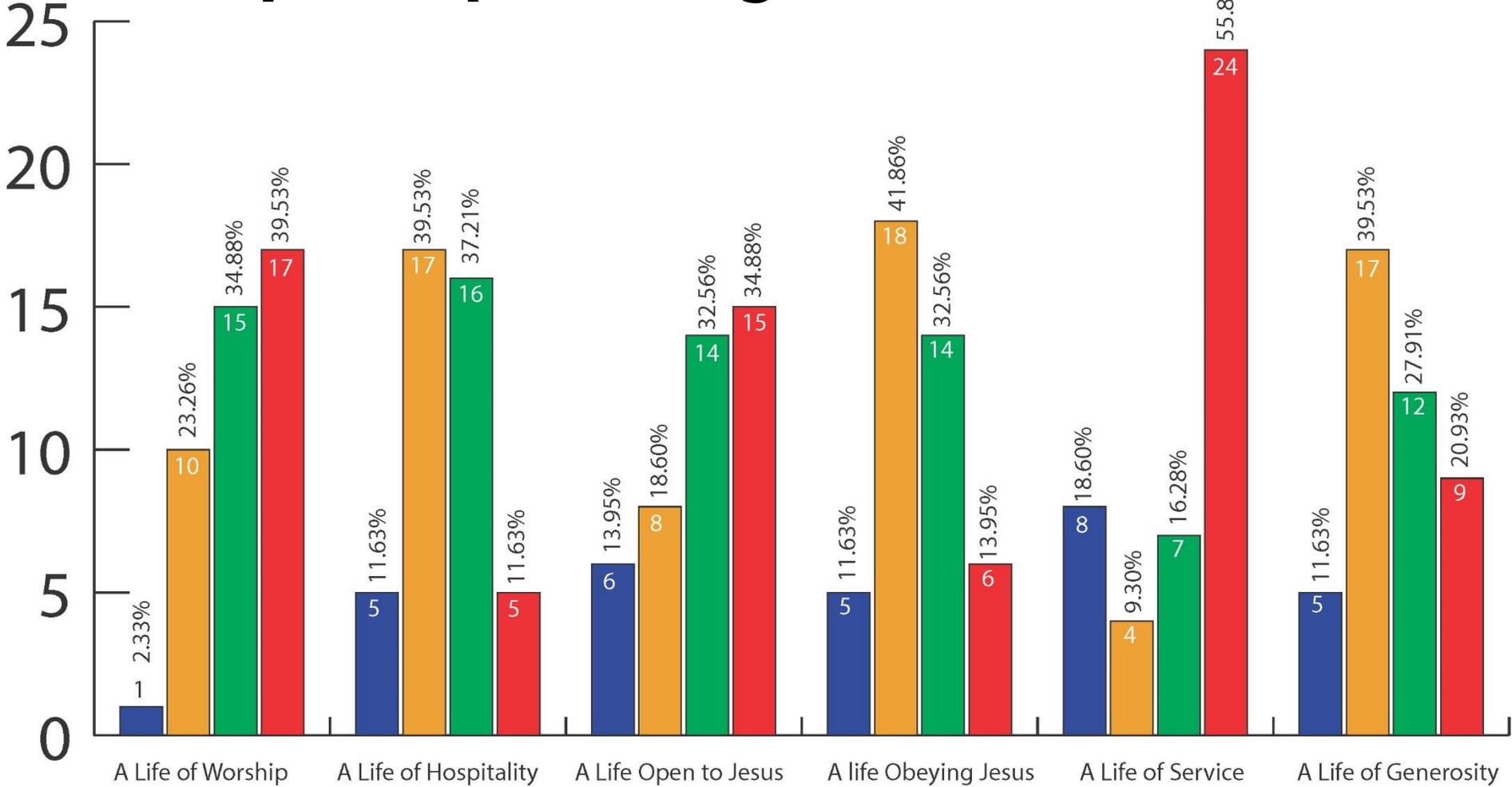
- **Some churches have:**
 - Expanded their understanding of hospitality
 - Established community ministry with their gifts
 - Realigned church staff and leadership structures



Mentor Moment



Real Discipleship Survey



Key: Exploring Beginning Growing Maturing



Mystery Worshipper Report



Let's Hear From You!

Hope

If you left for five years and came back, what would you hope to see different about this church?

Take
a
Break!



New Comer/Young Adult Report



Let's Hear From You!

Magic Wand!

What one thing should be changed immediately?

You get a “magic wand” – what do you want to change **today**?!



Let's Hear From You!

Time to Share!

- **Awesome**

What is **awesome** about this church?

- **Need**

What do we really need to change?

- **Hope**

If you left for five years and came back, what would you hope to see different about this church?

- **Magic Wand**

What one thing should be changed immediately?

Thank You for Your Time!

And, please:

- Pray for the team at work this afternoon, tonight and tomorrow
- Attend worship tomorrow: **10:00 a.m.** - where we will present the Innovations
 - This might be a long service – plan on 90 minutes!

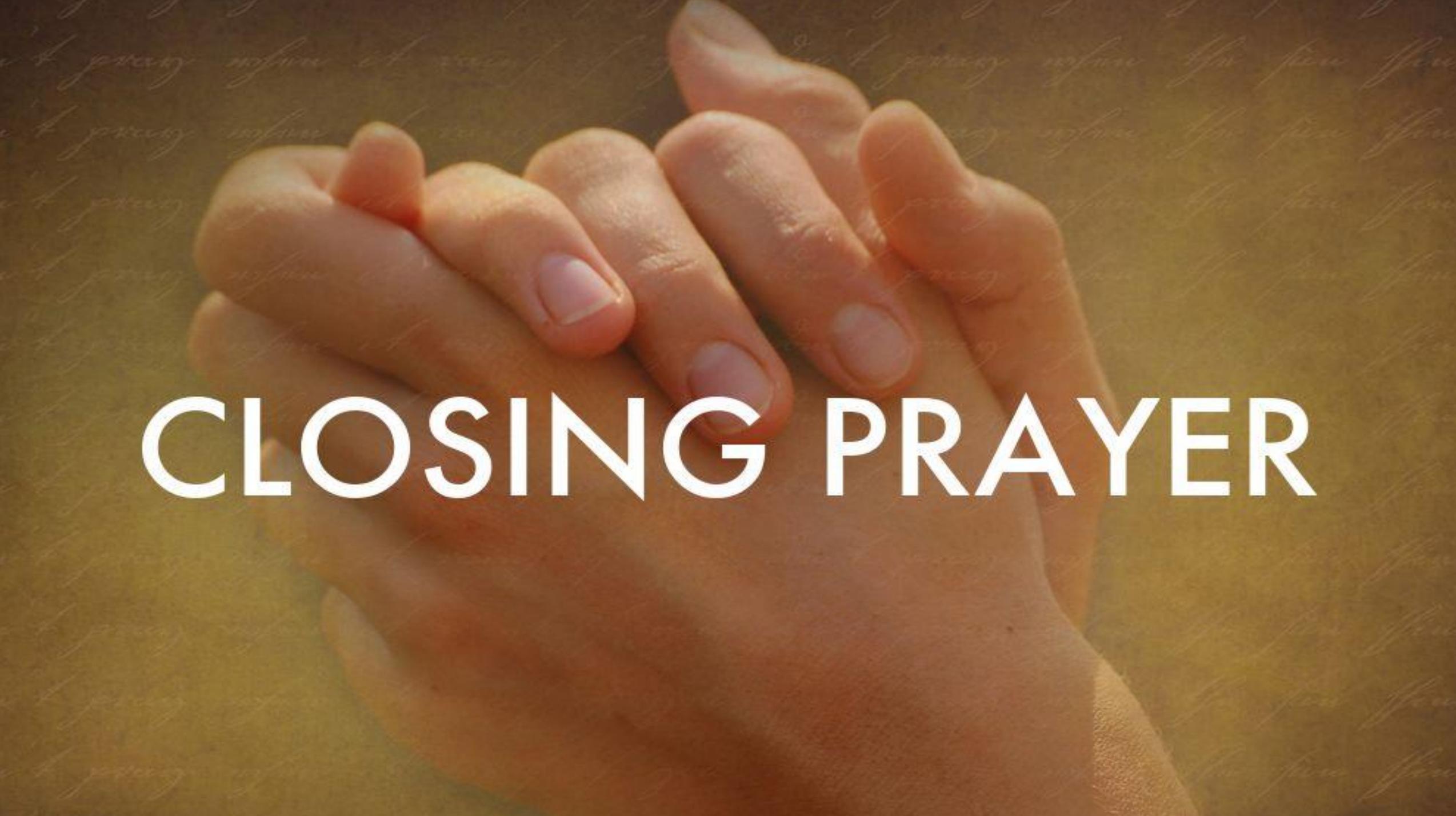


Thank You for Your Time!

And please:

- Speak to your fellow congregation members about what you learned here today
- Keep praying for discernment over the next 6-8 weeks
 - Attend the Town Halls – Sunday, February 3 at 9:45am, Wednesday, February 6 at 7:30pm, Sunday February 17 at 9:45am
 - Come out and vote at the Called church Conference on Tuesday, February 19 at 7:30pm.





CLOSING PRAYER