

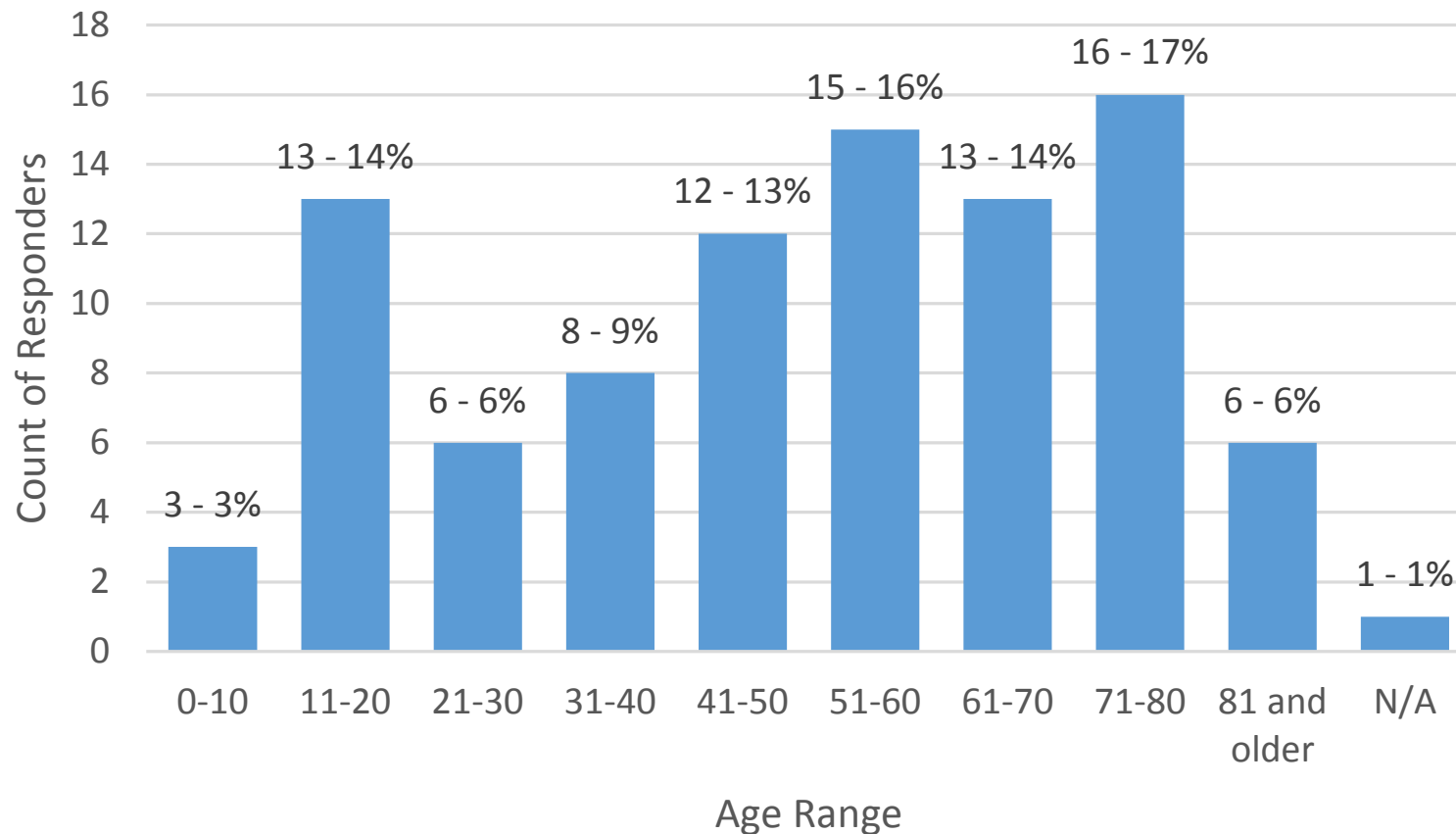
North Park Covenant Church Results of March 2019 Worship Survey

prepared by Scott Applequist

A few notes about the survey

- There were 93 usable responses
- Most people answered most questions
- 59 provided an answer to “Q8: Are there any elements of Sunday morning worship at NPCC that you find difficult or distracting?”
- 46 provided an answer to “Q10: Do you have any additional comments, questions, or skills to share with us that will help our Sunday morning worship life grow stronger?”
- Comments on the following pages were provided by Scott A and are not meant to be exhaustive. They are a quick review of the data provided by the responders.

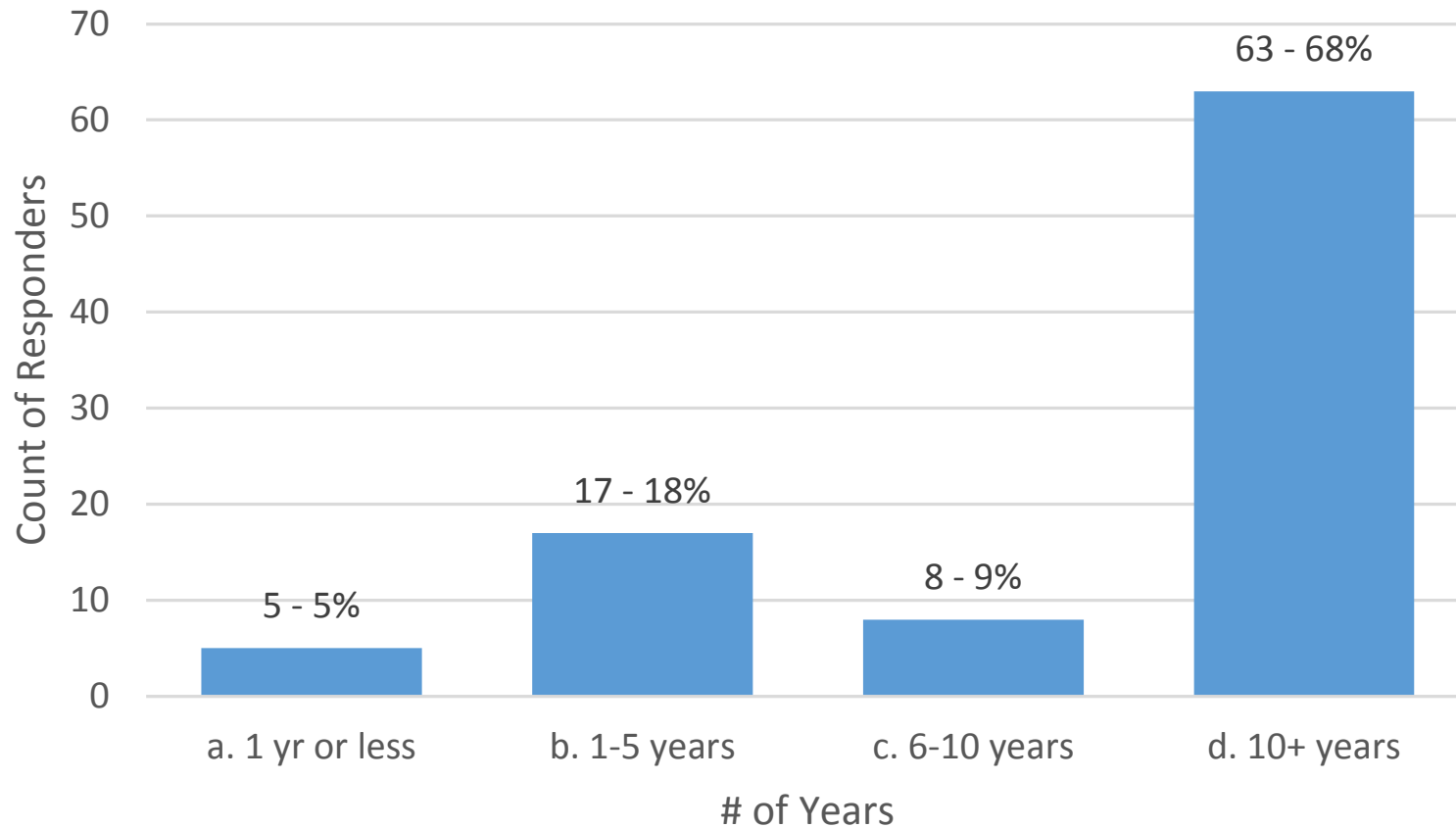
Q1. Distribution of responses by age range



Scott's Comments

- My guess is that the 21-30 and 31-40 group of responders is a little underrepresented as compared to regular attenders on Sunday mornings
- The 11-20 age group might be a little overrepresented in this survey
- The confirmation class (approx. ages 13-15) completed the survey on a Sunday morning

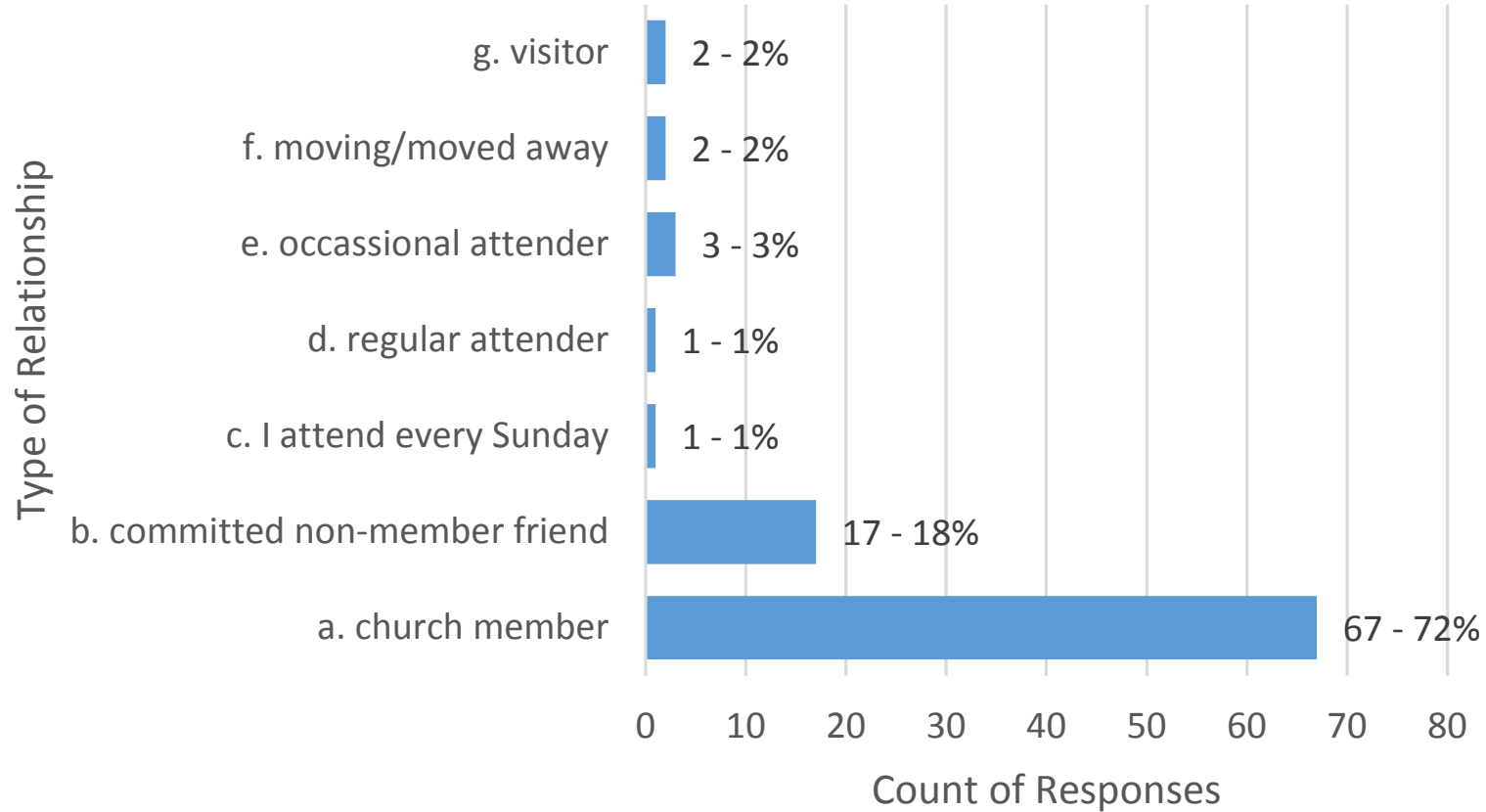
Q2. Length of time attending NPCC



Scott's Comments

- The majority of responders have been around NPCC for 10+ years

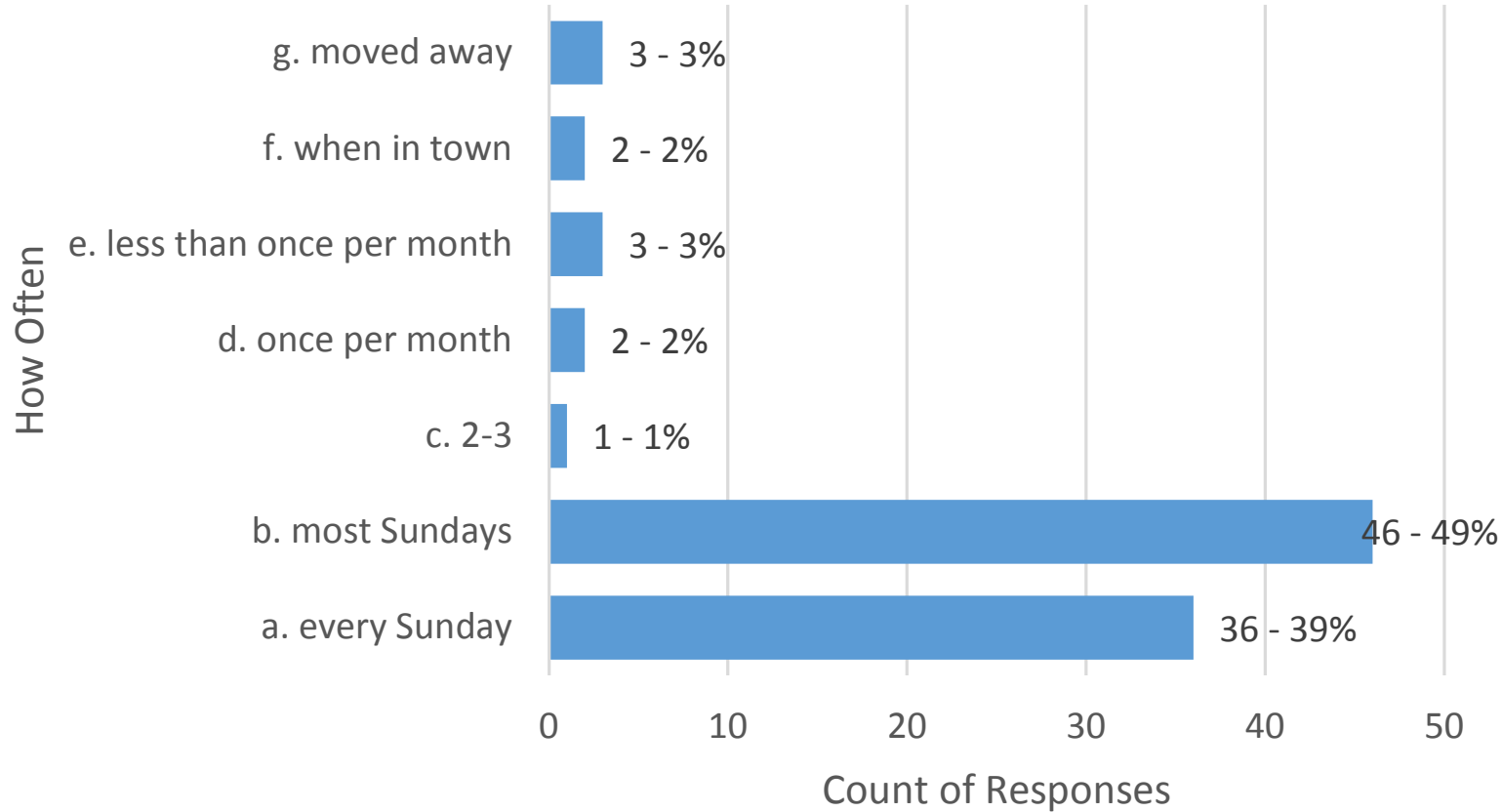
Q3. Relationship with NPCC



Scott's Comments

- The vast majority of responders are church members or non-member friends

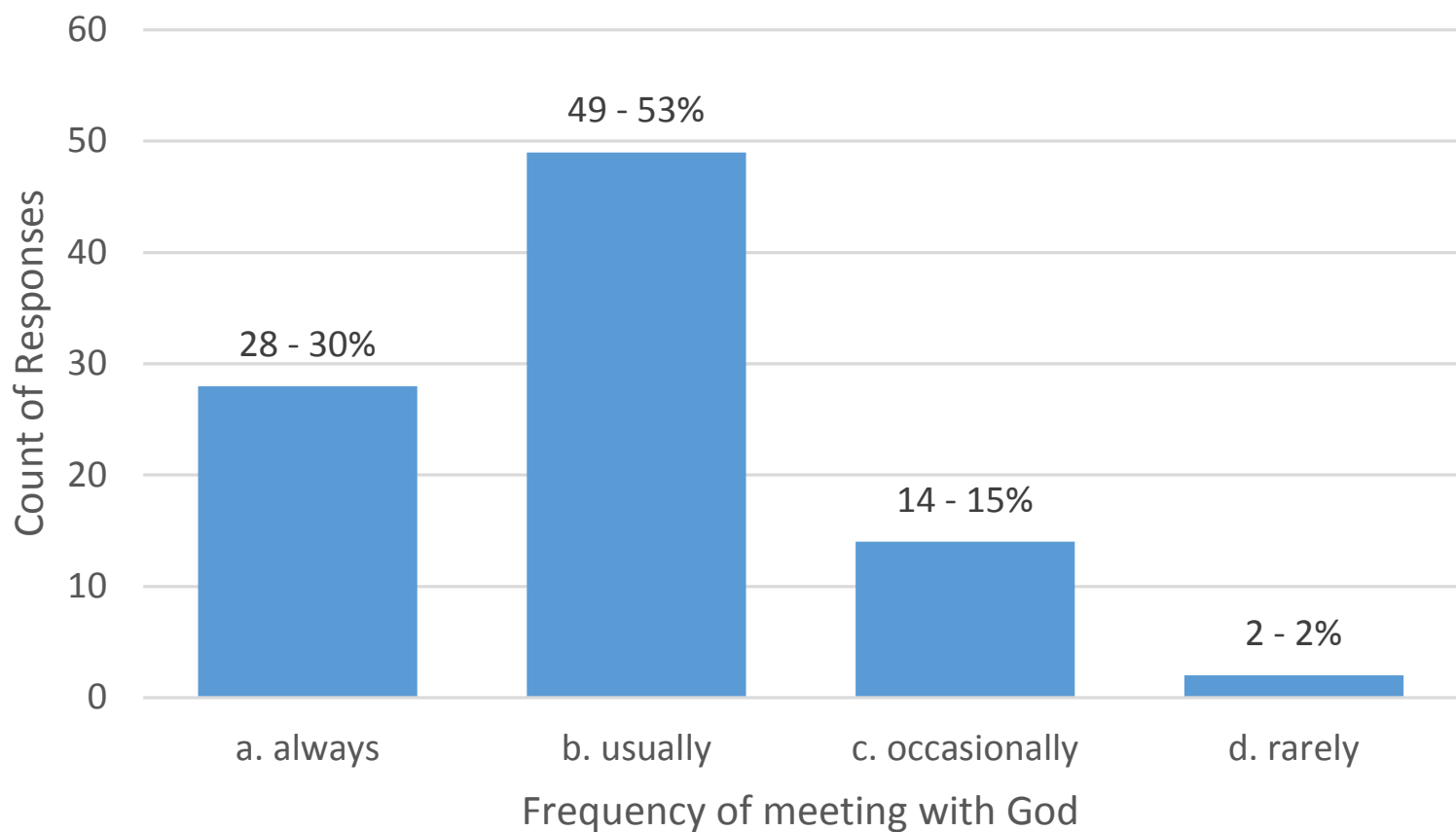
Q4. Frequency of Sunday morning attendance



Scott's Comments

- The vast majority of responders attend Sunday AM services regularly

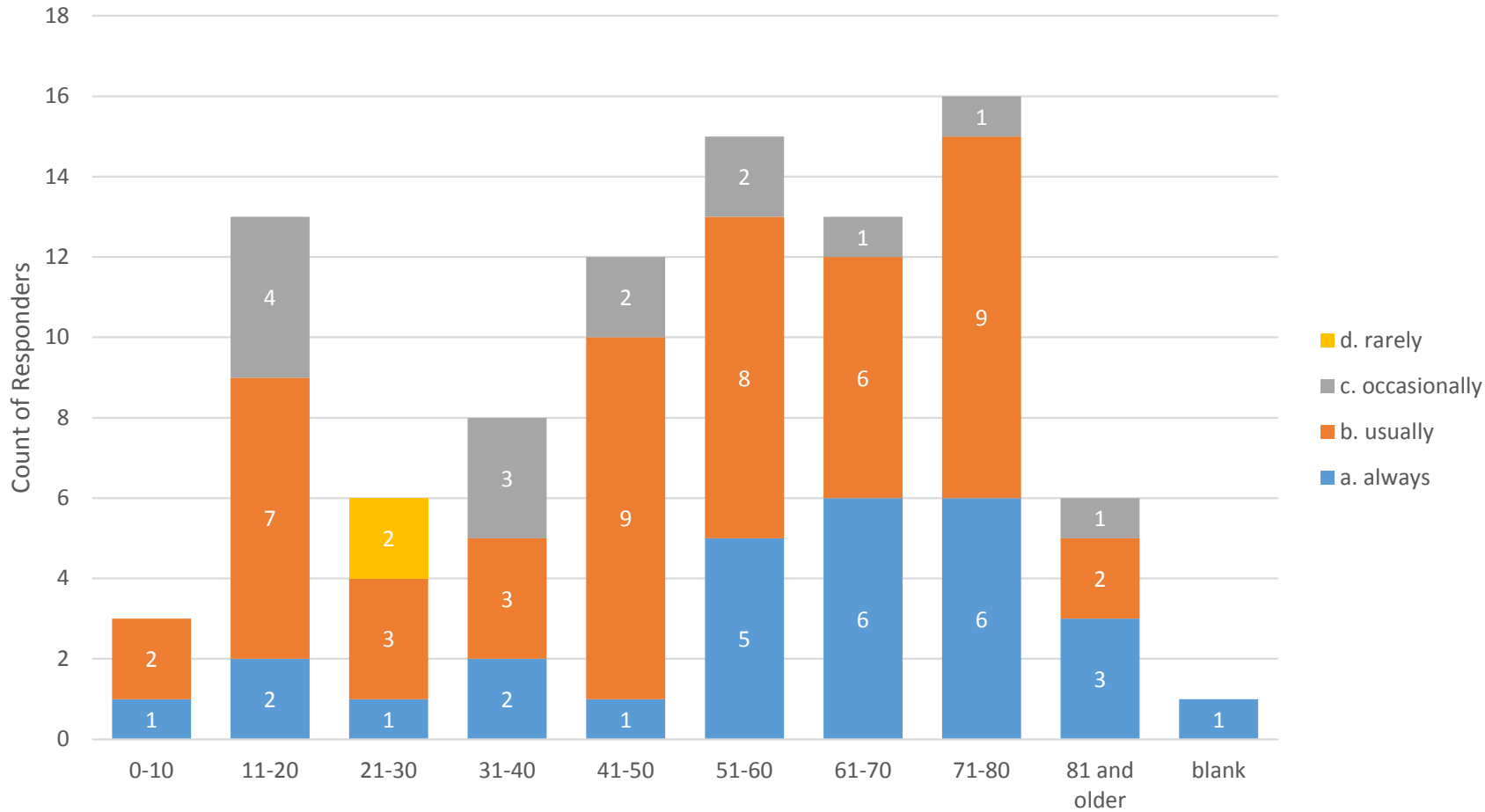
Q4. Sunday AM worship helps me meet with God



Scott's Comments

- Most of the responders “always” or “usually” meet with God during Sunday AM services

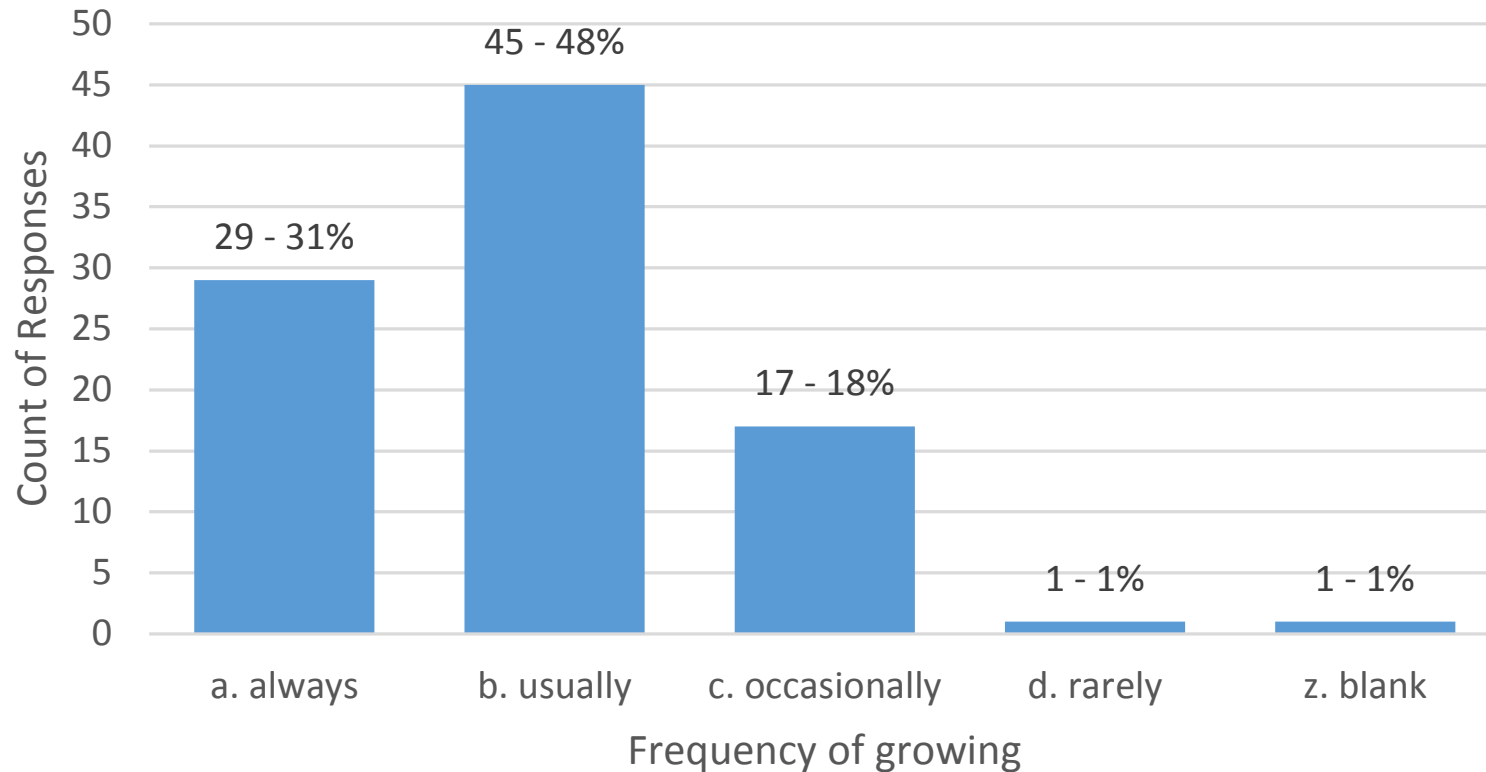
Sunday AM service helps meet with God considerations by Age Range



Scott's Comments

- Most age ranges have at least 1 response for each of the frequency at which the Sunday AM service helps meet with God
- The 51 and older age ranges seem to have more responders that “always” meet with God during the service
- The 11-20 and 31-40 have the most responders that “occasionally” meet with God during the service

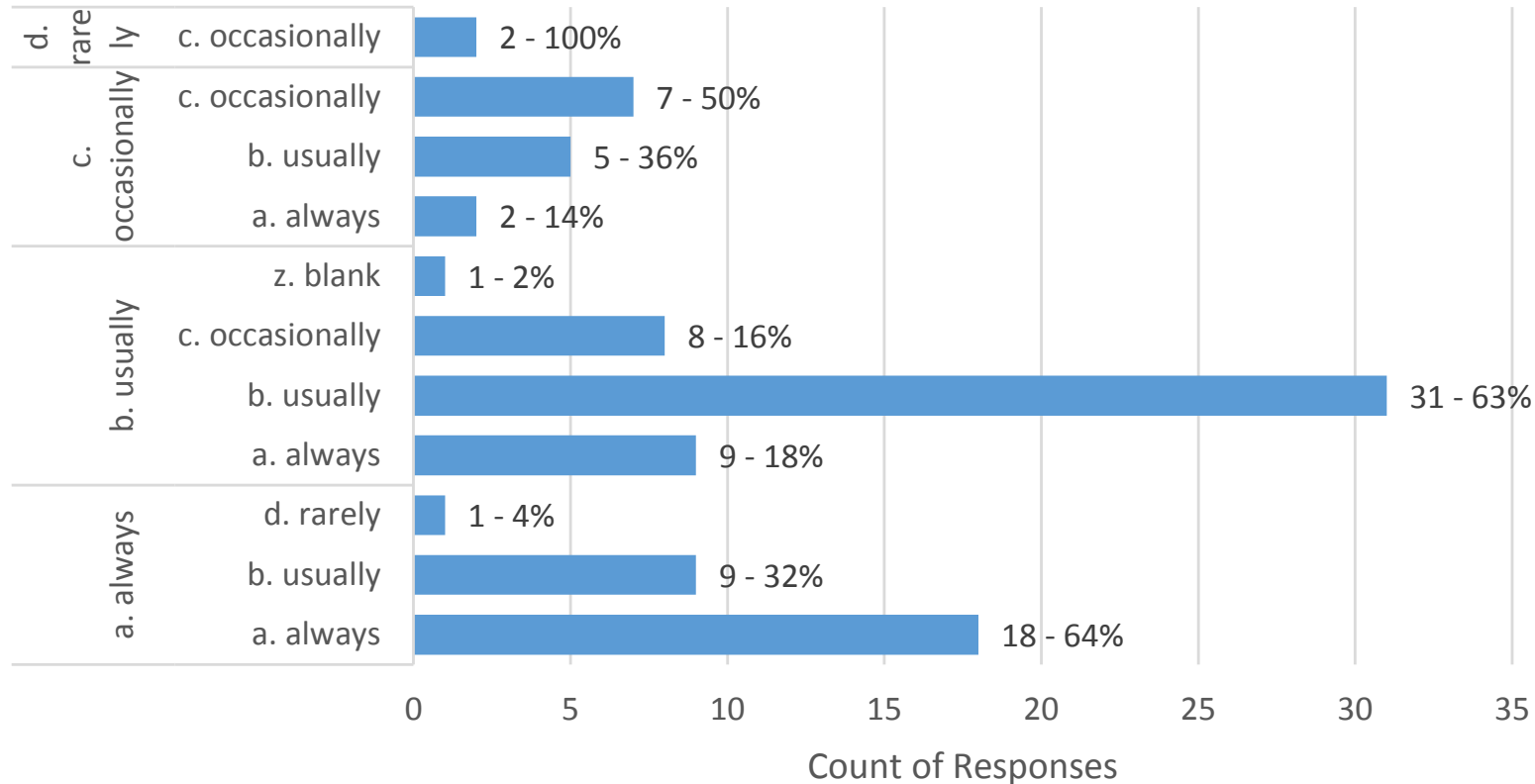
Q5. Sunday AM worship helps me grow in my relationship with family of faith



Scott's Comments

- Most of the responders grow in their relationships regularly during Sunday AM services

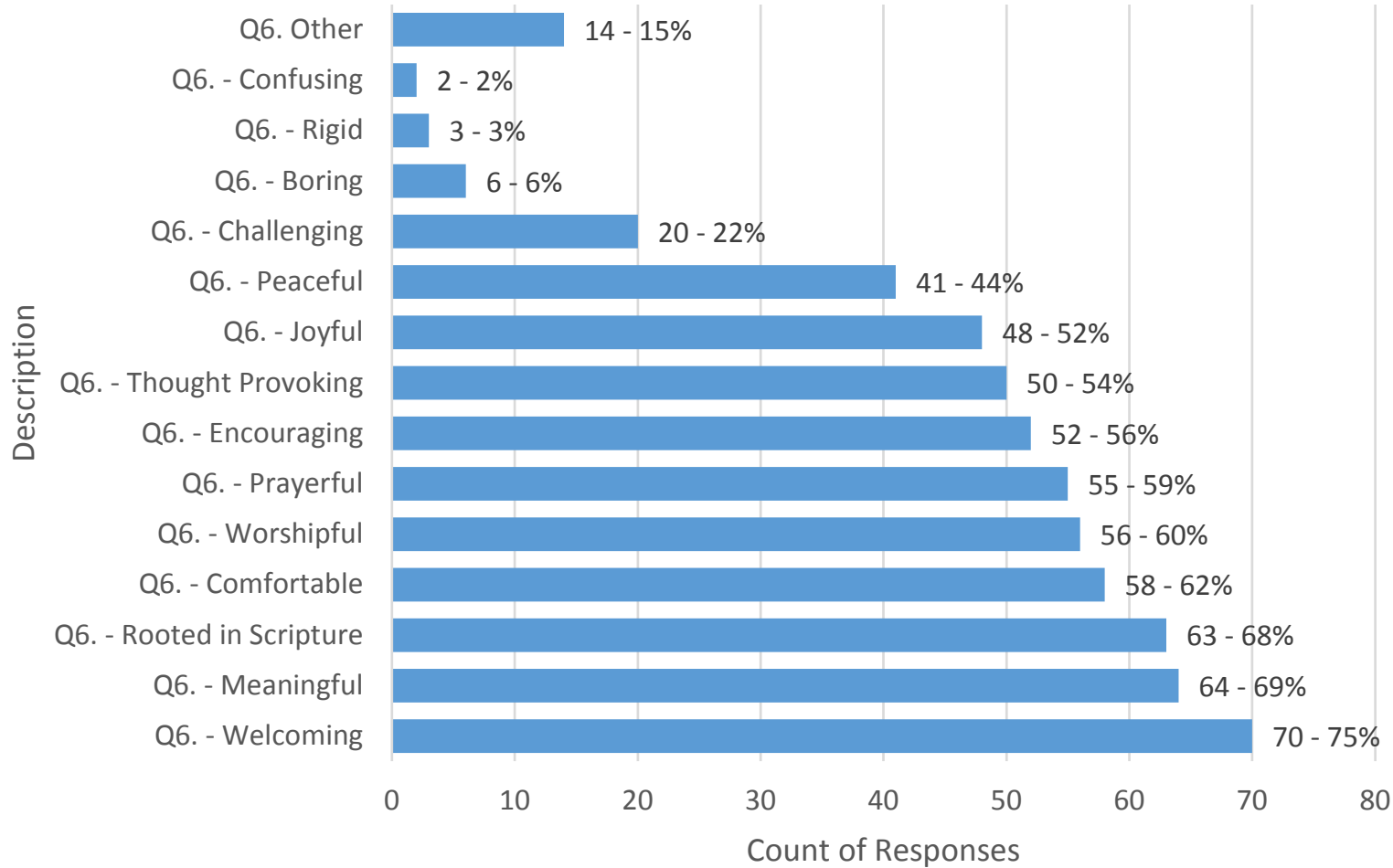
First: Helps me meet with God
 Second: Helps me grow in relationship



Scott's Comments

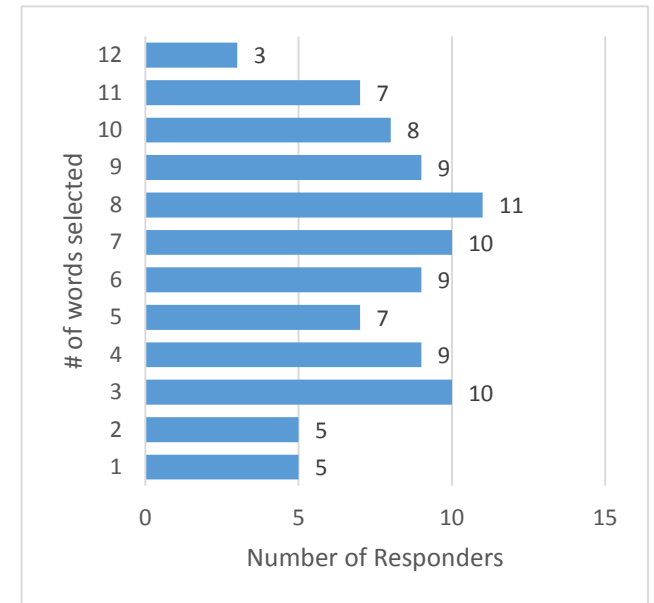
- Combination of the prior two questions in order to look for some consistency in meeting with God and growing in relationships during Sunday AM services
- For example: 28 people always meet with God during Sunday AM services, and of those 28
 - 18 always grow in relationships
 - 9 usually grow in relationships
 - 1 rarely grows in relationships

Q6. Description of Sunday AM service

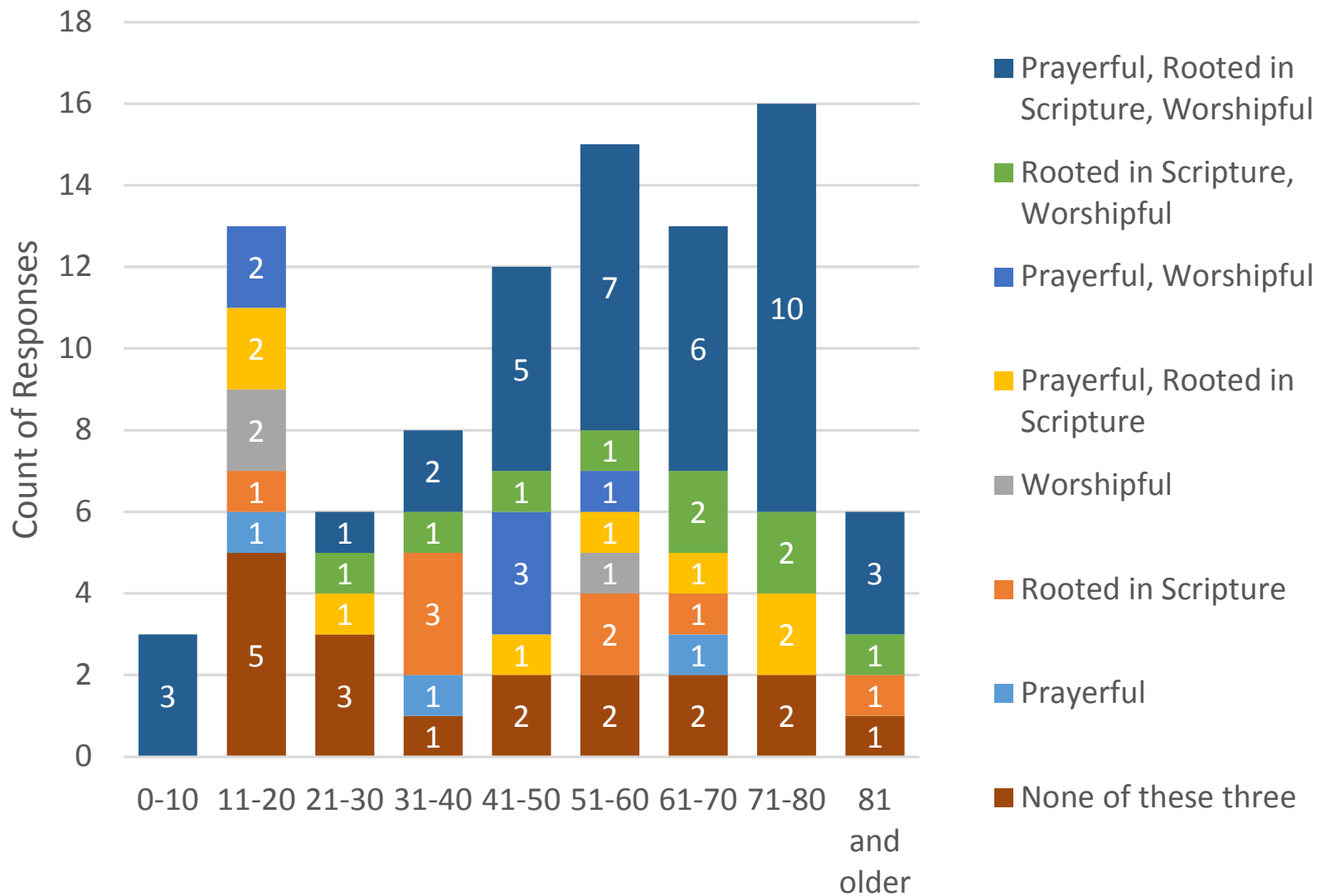


Q6: Which of the following words describe your experience of Sunday morning worship at NPCC? (Select all that apply)

- 63 selected “Rooted in Scripture”
- 55 selected “Prayerful”
- 6 selected “Boring”
- 602 total words selected



- 11 responders selected 8 words
- 5 responders selected 1 or 2 words



Description of Sunday AM service for the 3 core identities by age range

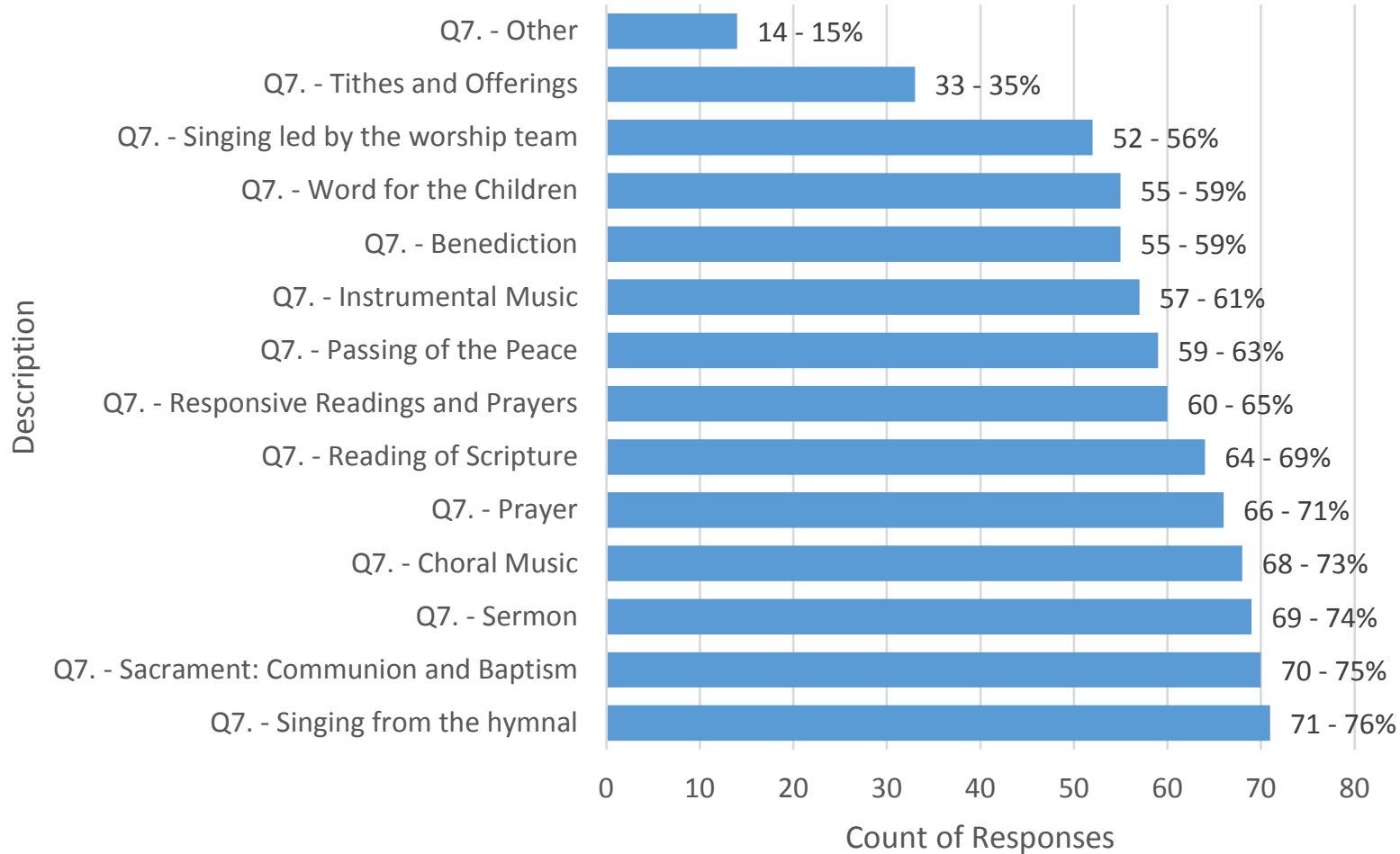
- The 41+ age ranges have all three identified more often than the other ranges (the most dark blue at the top of the bar)
- The 11-20 age range did not pick one of the 3 core identities 5 times (5 of 13 responders = 38%)
- The 21-30 age range did not pick one of the 3 core identities 3 times, 50% of the 21-30 responders

Q6: Which of the following words describe your experience of Sunday morning worship at NPCC? (Select all that apply)

The following are the 14 “Other” responses (alphabetical order)

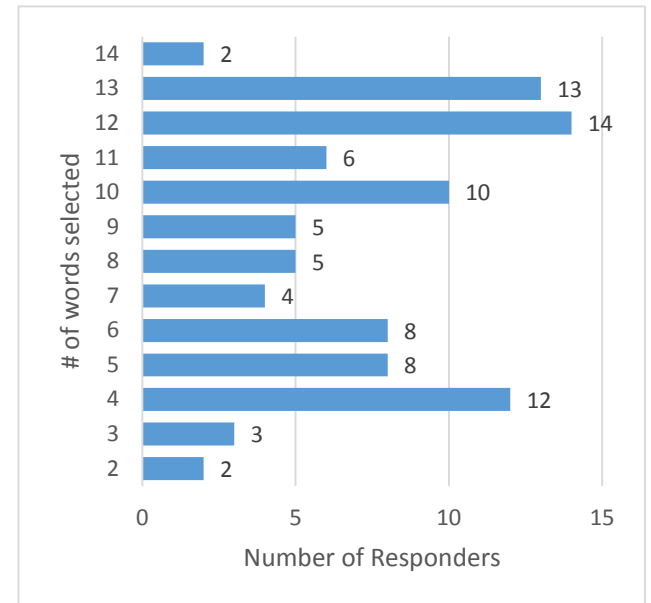
- Challenging - but that's a season of life. I sit with several small children and encourage/worship with/manage/restrain them. ;)
- Comfortable leaning towards complacency (not in a good way)
- comforting to be with my church family
- Easy...requires little from me...and I have mixed feelings about that
- Family
- Included
- Irrelevant
- Irritating
- It's kind of the same every week
- occasionally expands my knowledge of Scripture and its meaning for my life
- sharing spiritual journey with other Christians
- Sometimes challenging
- Status quo
- Using our hymnal. There is no children's' stories - it should be called Question Time and a run off time at the races.

Q7. I feel connected during



Q7: In Sunday morning worship, I feel connected to God and to the family of faith during: (select all that apply)

- 69 selected “Sermon”
- 59 selected “Passing of the Peace”
- 52 selected “Singing led by the worship team”
- 793 total words selected



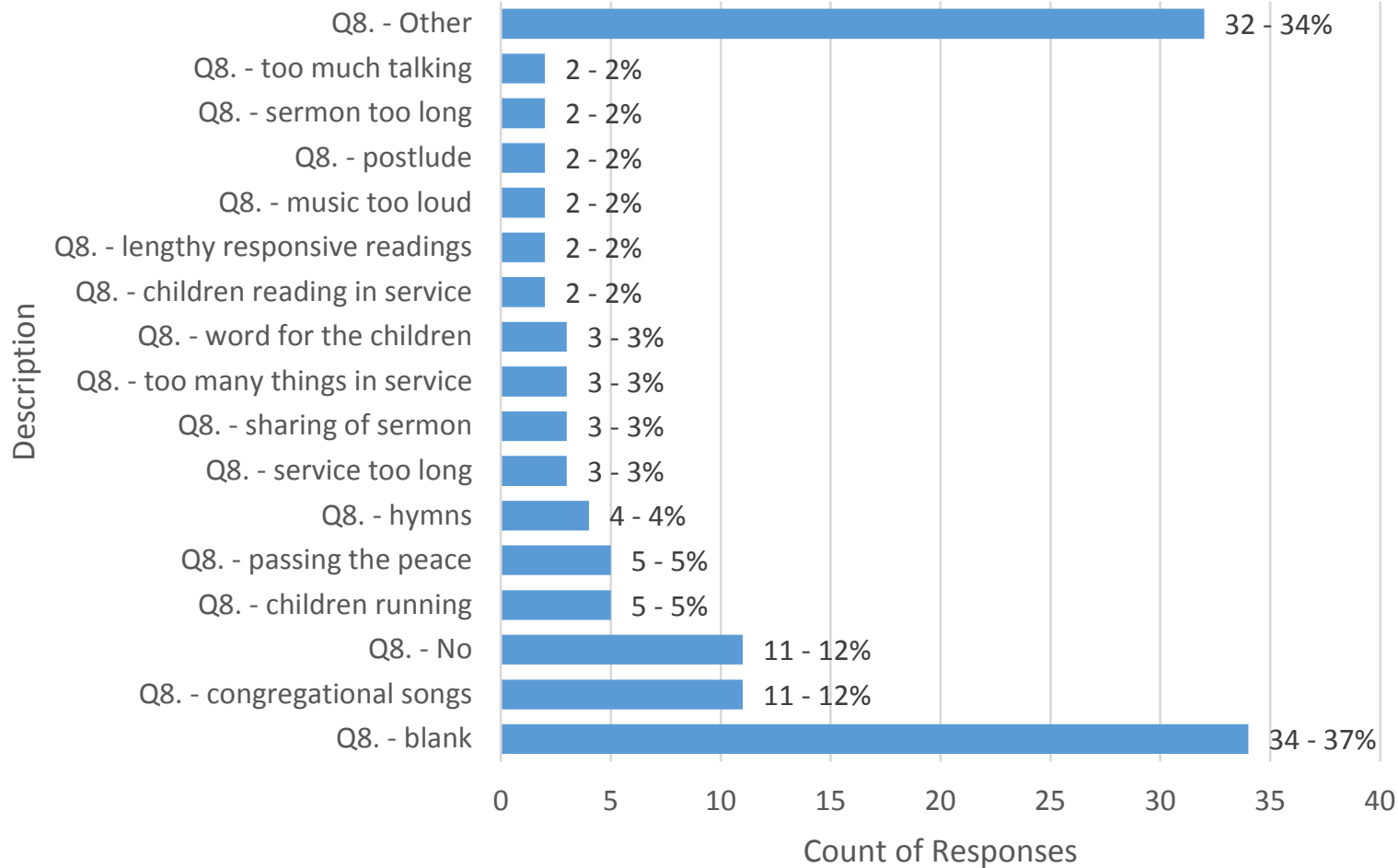
- 12 responders selected 4 words
- 14 responders selected 12 words

Q7: In Sunday morning worship, I feel connected to God and to the family of faith during: (select all that apply)

The following are the 14 “Other” responses (alphabetical order)

- All of these things
- Beautiful worship space - stained glass windows
- Brian's playing
- Busy bags
- Coffee hour to visit and share with fellow members/friends
- I enjoy music and musical talent, but even with great instrumental music, I focus on lyrics if I can find them which draws me to God
- I feel there is a deliberate choosing of songs we all would like and I appreciate that.
- I like some contemporary singing
- I would distinguish between what makes me feel connected to God and what makes me feel connected to the family of faith so care might need to be taken in interpreting responses to this question
- nice outside flowers. Children bringing the light (candles).
- Organ & Piano Instrumental Music Especially.
- Sometimes
- The closing music by Mr. Ward
- Sometimes the hymns do help me feel connected but some of the hymns are unfamiliar and very solemn. It feels like many more people participate in the singing when it is led by a small team with a guitar or with the piano. Sometimes the choral pieces are moving but often they are times when it feels a lot of people check out and read the bulletin.

Q8. Elements that are difficult or distracting



Scott's Comments

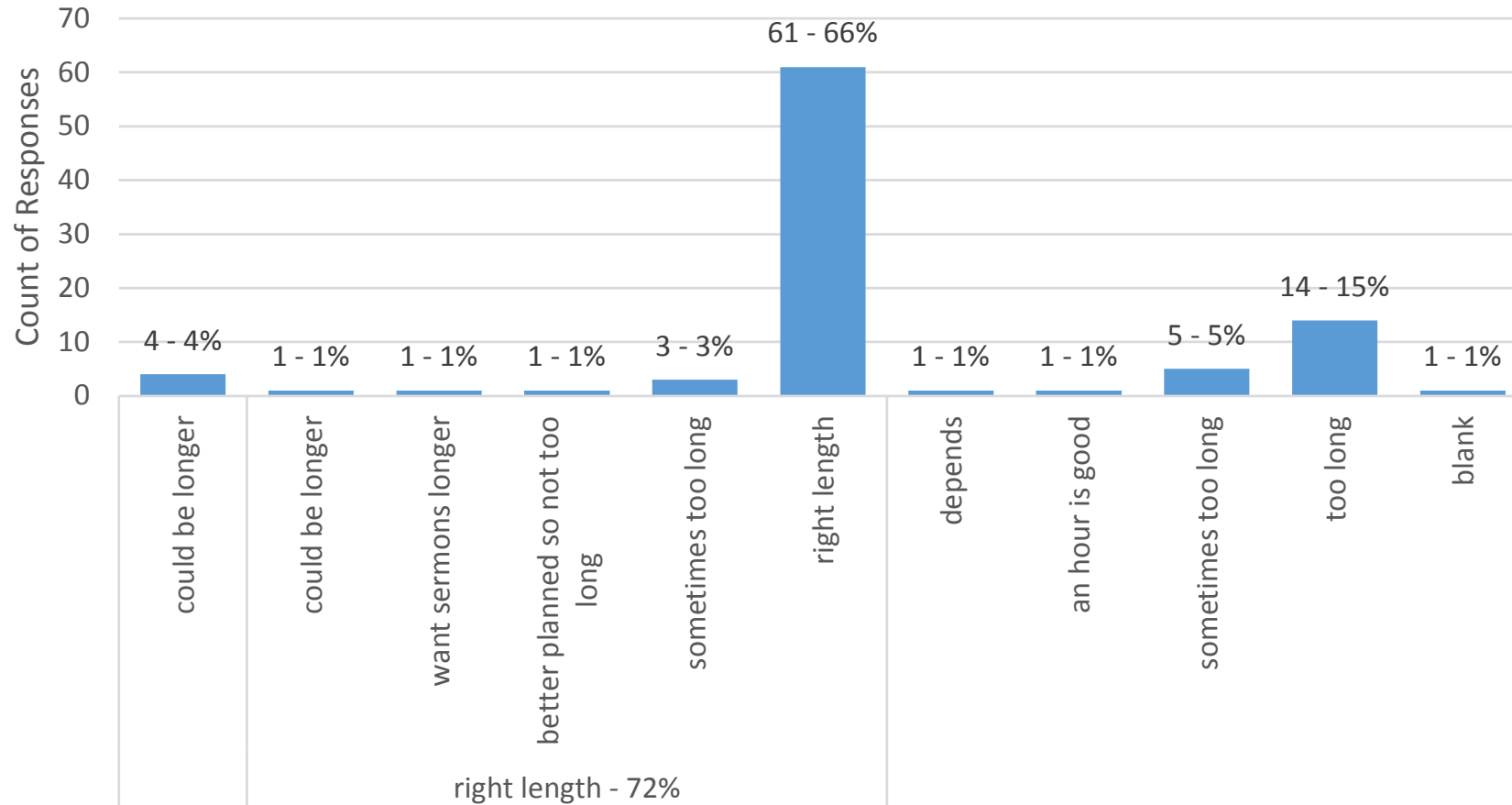
- 34 of the 93 responders did not provide a response to this question (a.k.a. “blank”)
- There were 126 total responses
 - 75 responders provided only 1 response
 - 10 provided 2 responses
 - 8 provided 3 or more responses

Q8: Are there any elements of Sunday morning worship at NPCC that you find difficult or distracting?

The following are the 32 “Other” responses (alphabetical order)

- "true faith" expressions
- "worship team"
- bell choir
- children crying
- children in service
- choral pieces
- complex harmonizations
- contemporary christian music
- don't roll up sleeves when preaching
- don't like silent times
- don't turn around so often when preaching
- going forward for communion
- including all lectionary texts in sermon
- Jeff's voice tails off
- long liturgical readings
- moment for mission
- opening with announcements
- others don't take it seriously
- personal sharing during sermon
- political correctness
- prayer for the journey
- print Lord's prayer in bulletin
- rare sound-booth issue
- really loud organ and piano
- silent prayer
- some choir songs
- some hymns
- speak to fast or quiet
- talking in sanctuary
- too much in the service
- using the same people in service
- wish pastors would sit in pulpit

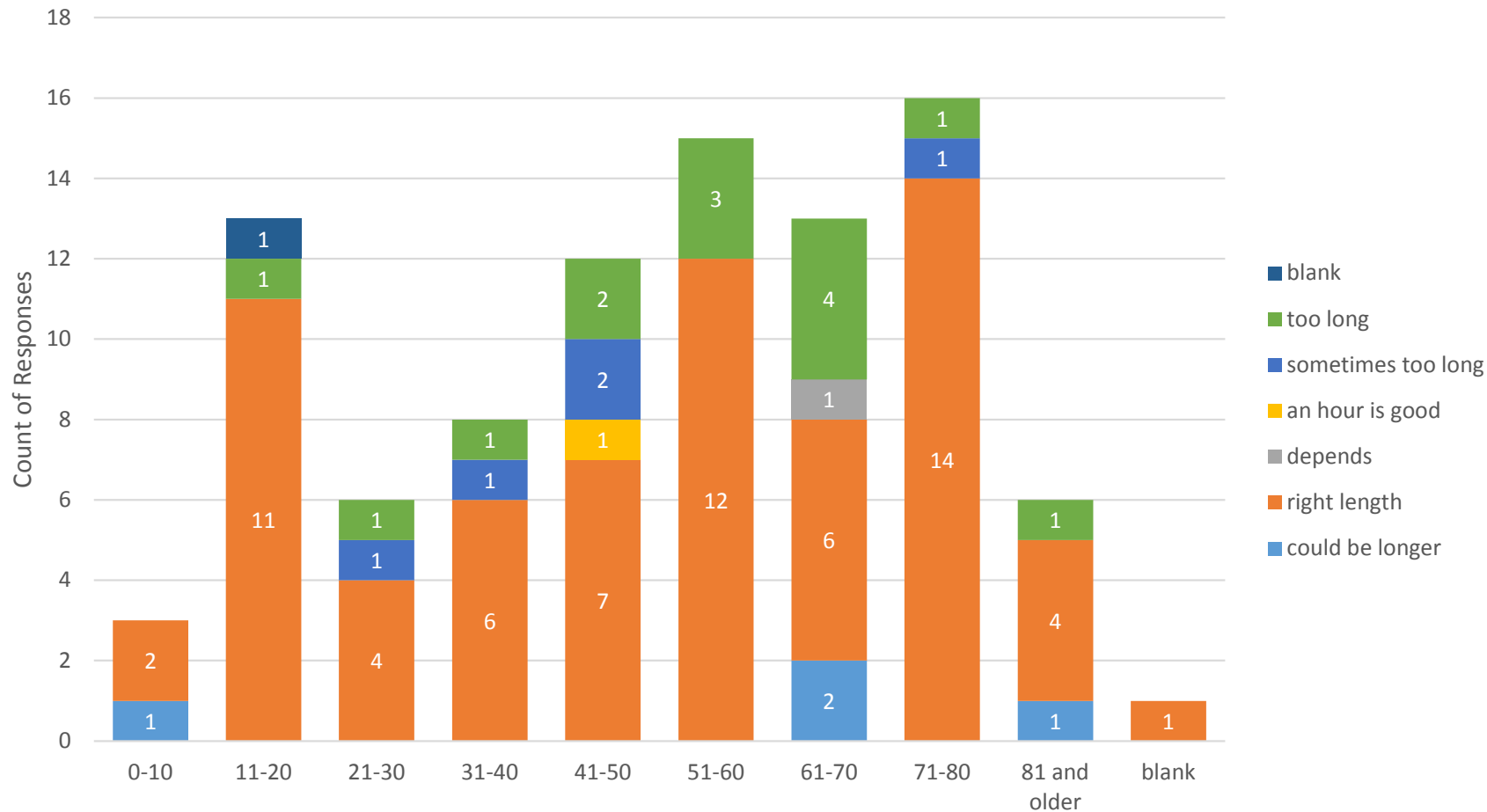
Q9. Length of the service is generally...



Scott's Comments

- 67 responders think the length of the service is the right length (72%)
 - And 6 provided some additional input
- 4 responders think the length of the service could be longer
- 19 responders think the length of the service is sometimes too long or too long

Length of service considerations by Age Range

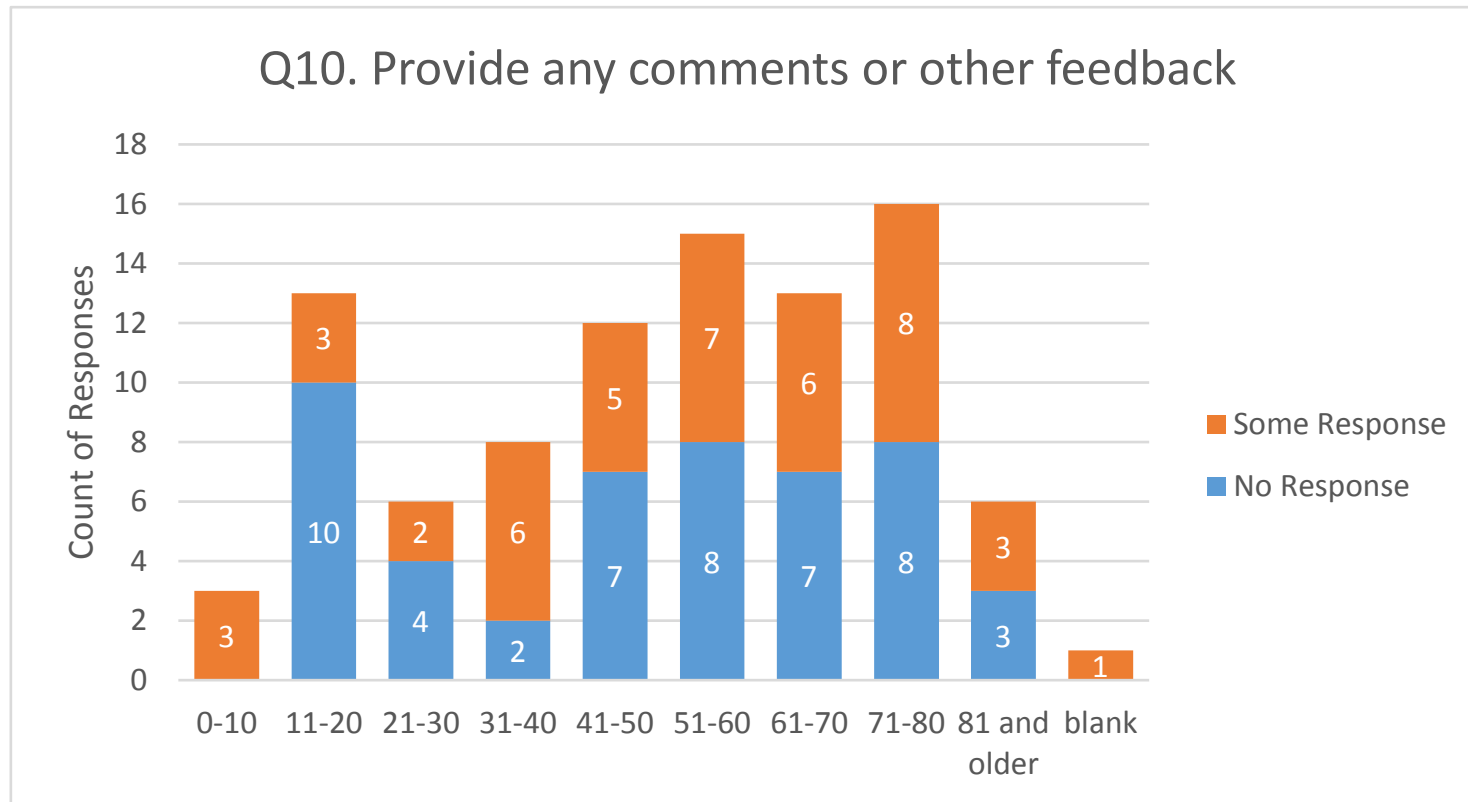


Scott's Comments

- 12 responders in the 41-50 age range, and of those 12
 - 7 said it is the right length
 - 1 said an hour is good
 - 2 said sometimes too long
 - 2 said it is too long
- 13 responders in the 61-70 age range, and of those 13
 - 2 said could be longer
 - 6 said it is the right length
 - 1 said it depends
 - 4 said it is too long

Q10: Do you have any additional comments, questions, or skills to share with us that will help our Sunday morning worship life grow stronger?

- 49 people did not provide any response
- 44 provided a response (2 are not shared on following pages)



- The 11-30 age ranges provided the fewest additional responses (as a percentage of the total)

Q.10 These are the comments from the 44 who provide comments (p.1)

1. I would LOVE more contemporary worship. It is my favorite part of worship and what I find most meaningful. I think it would also be nice to have a contemporary vespers service maybe once a quarter or twice year, maybe on a saturday or sunday evening.
2. If this church wants to be inclusive and welcoming, I think you might need to consider a broader range of musical styles in order to present a more welcoming presence to people of other cultures
3. A suggestion for welcoming new members: sing 617, Will You Let Me Be Your Servant.
4. Have 8 prayers so that more and more people have more feeling in Jesus
5. Have Herb Hedstrom and other retired professionals preach a greatest hit; stop the assumption that silence means assent (I have no desire for confrontation)
6. I am finding the balance in many aspects of our services to be really true and good these last couple of years. There's a balance of less formal/comfortable/"here we are as real people doing this together" but still liturgical/worshipful/reverent going on. And there's a balance of nourishing to ourselves, and the charge to be Christian in our community. And even the balance of quiet meditative time vs participatory time seems good.
7. I appreciate all the work the entire team puts into our Sunday morning services. There are many voices to be heard in a process like this - please know that we are thankful for your service, gifts, and shepherding.
8. I appreciate that so many different people, children through adults, are involved in each service; it's nice to see the church coming together where each one has a part
9. I deeply appreciate NPCC Sunday morning worship, the members and pastoral staff. I feel at home with a great sense of peace. Many thanks.
10. I don't always hear what's being said. Why do prayers have to be softly spoken? Some speakers drop their voice at the end of sentences.
11. I feel blessed to be a part of NPCC. I love all of it!
12. I have enjoyed the worship team leading in music along with the traditional hymns. And I love the organ music!
13. I have some comments, but later –
14. I like when the worship team leads a song! There should be more.
15. I love both the adult & children's sermons! I greatly appreciate Brian's piano & organ playing. The contemporary selection that involves a variety of musicians is delightful. And both the chancel choir and bell choir are such a blessing! The offering element feels a bit like a habit, rather than worship.
16. I love Sunday morning because I get to be with my friends. More perky music (mom interpretation: perky = modern).
17. I love this church,our pastors and the people. It completes (or begins) my week In a good place. Also, we have so much talent in our church and I love hearing the many voices, but could we please sometimes hear a solo sung by our choir director? He too has an excellent voice! Thanks for listening.

Q.10 These are the comments from the 44 who provide comments (p.2)

18. I love when Jeff has asked us to turn to the Bible. I liked his flashlight connection. I am looking for the Good News to take home each week. I try to take sermon notes on the bulletin to use during the week. I like that you turn to the choir or the south room and look directly at them. I hope the sacraments will be another discussion. Keep up the good work and planning so all parts follow the same theme. I love your enthusiasm.
19. I often wish the sermons were more expository (is that the correct word for teaching through a passage or subject) in nature and connected from week to week so thoughts could develop over time and really sink in. I realize that this is not very compatible with lectionary and I do appreciate the breadth of reading. It's just usually too much for me to actually absorb any given Sunday. I try to pay attention, but it feels like if I space out for a minute I miss an entire scripture or the link that held them together and struggle to describe what the sermon was about if asked. And I feel awful saying that because I can also see and so appreciate the prayerful work that goes into the sermons. This is just where I am at the moment. Thanks for asking. Maybe I'm more of a Bible study person than a sermon person.
20. I really appreciate that we are a church that follows the liturgical year, observes holy days throughout the year, and stays with the lectionary texts. Please don't switch to sermon series on popular or shallow topics. Continue to challenge us.
21. I regularly love the children's message—it's so often a wonderfully distilled message. The postlude drives me crazy sometimes, but I know other people love it. I'm not a big singer, and some of the
- the hymns are really, really slow (I get it, I'm a musical simpleton, but give me something interesting to sing). There's a theme here, and I only speak for myself. I also keep coming back because it's an overall meaningful experience.
22. I want our church to be ****completely**** inclusive to people of all race, sexual identity, gender, and opinion. Please make an effort to let this be known!!!
23. I wonder if we could acknowledge visitors so during the coffee hour we know who to approach and welcome. I understand there are drawbacks and difficulties.
24. I would like pastoral prayers that mention the names of people in our church who need or have requested prayer.
25. I would like to see more emphasis on God's grace, love for all and forgiveness. I think that would help us be a more welcoming church, especially to outsiders
26. I wouldn't mind seeing if we could do communion every Sunday. Or maybe offer communion in the north chapel after the service for anyone that wants. Similar to the invitation for prayer after the service.
27. I'd like to see more musically interactive prayer or responsive readings like Prayers of the People.
28. Inter generational Sunday school is something I enjoy
29. It is really helpful to see God in His ways.

Q.10 These are the comments from the 44 who provide comments (p.3)

30. It might be nice to do the sticky name tags thing again. I feel embarrassed when I'm a member of the church but don't know everyone's name.
31. It would be helpful to have more direction from the pastors on when to rise and ****sit**** during the service.
32. It's not all about what happens on Sunday-but how my every day is God filled/ spirit led
33. One thought I have is that I have heard that at some churches people can put a slip in the offering basket that says "I give online" or something like that. It allows people to experience the symbol of giving in the basket but still give electronically. I am not sure that it is necessary but it seems that often the offering plate is passed but many people just pass it because they give online. This would be one option if it would be symbolic to some people. I think everyone is doing a great job at our church. I love the co-pastor model and we are very happy with both Jeff and Libby. We also think the music has been a very nice mix but it does seem that people are much more participatory in the worship team songs. Brian does a fantastic job leading those. I also really like the worship song that was mixed with the prayers that we did this past Sunday. It was really a beautiful way to bring the prayers of the church to God. I also think that as a church, we do a really good job taking care of each other, bringing meals to families and praying for families.
34. Random thoughts: I love "creative" engagement with scripture like responsive readings and more dramatic approaches; this adds excitement for me. I also enjoy creative prayer expressions - bidding prayers, bringing prayer requests to the prayer tree, etc.
35. Thanks to the pastors, choir, and whole worship team
36. The choir and organ music really help me feel connected
37. the congregation and pastors are caring and this is obvious specially before/after formal service
38. The grape juice for communion for the last few months has been "light" with a terrible aftertaste. It would be great if we could go back to regular grape juice.
39. This comment is less about the actual worship service, so I know it is a bit off topic. Even though there have been some that have tried to start something for young adults, it still feels there are no avenues for worship, connection, or community for young adults. I was hopeful that the gatherings that were happening once/month would turn into a Bible study and/or a space where we as young adults can gather together and have honest conversation about our faith and our relationships with God and less about just our weeks. I have been longing for community with others at a similar phase and it seems that no matter what I have tried, it has not worked at this church. It is really drawing me to wonder if this is the place where I will find community in faith and worship or if I need to start the long and frustrating process of looking for a new church in the hopes of finding community.

Q.10 These are the comments from the 44 who provide comments (p.4)

40. Unfortunately for me, despite being at the church for a few years now, the more I try to dig in and get involved, the less I feel connected to the church. I have tried connecting through various activities and programs, but more often than not these events don't seem to stick, and I am unable to form longer lasting meaningful relationships with other church members. I know that there have been attempts to create a way for young adults to connect to the church, summer softball league, young adults gatherings, etc, but ultimately I have been disappointed that what starts out with what seems like a lot of momentum, ends up burning out like a firework: quickly and without much fanfare. I am disappointed that there is not more of an emphasis put on this age-group to connect to the church. If you don't have an active and engaged young adult community at this church, how do you expect to keep the church growing by the time they start having families? If this trend continues, I fear I will need to find another church in which I can connect in meaningful ways with other church members in my age group and find a church that can satisfy my connection with God that I am unable to find here consistently.
41. We loved our time NPCC and would still be there if we could!
42. Why do the readers and singers use the platform but our pastors don't? The pastors are THE worship leaders and as such need to be leading!! (the whole service)