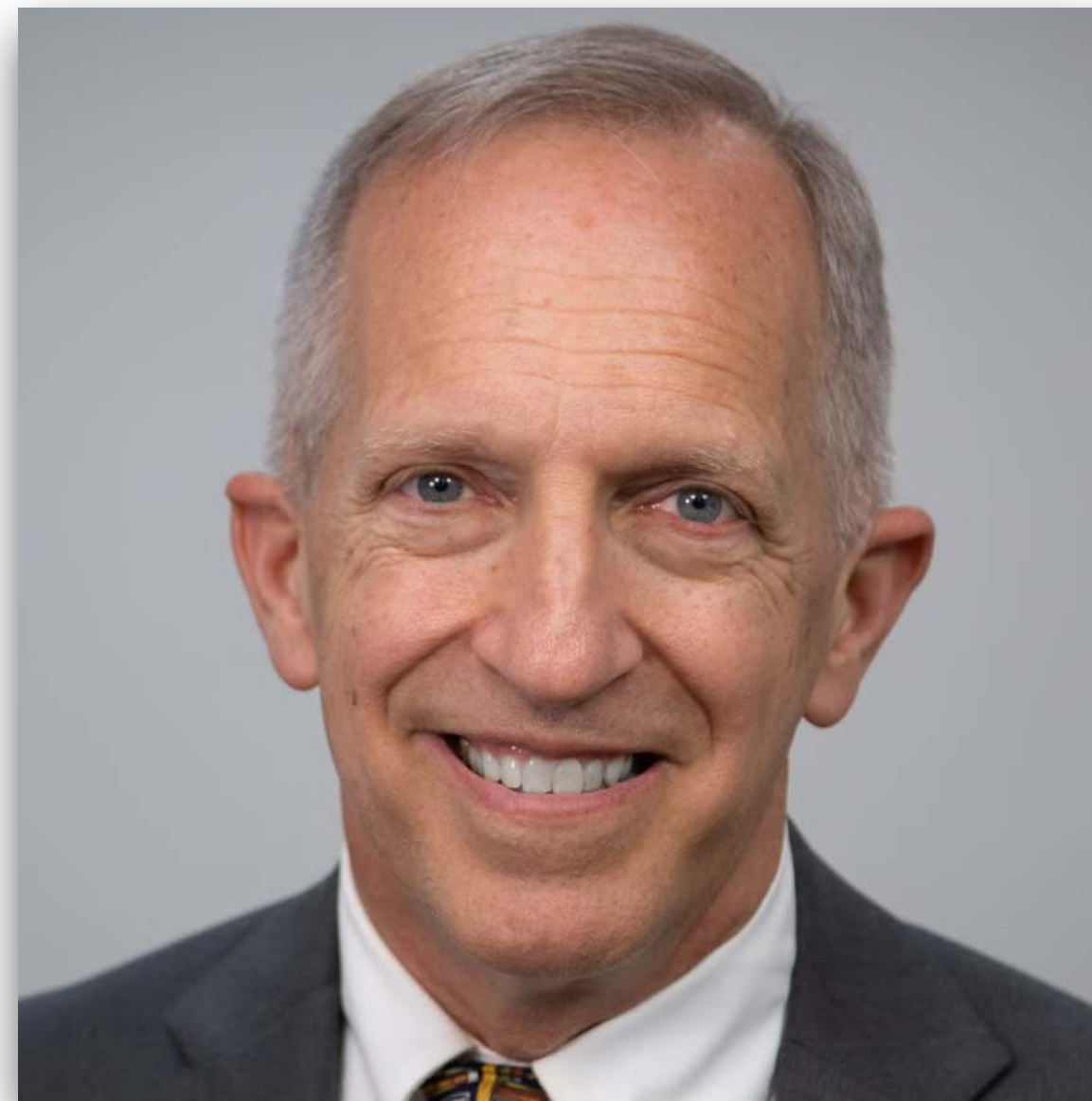
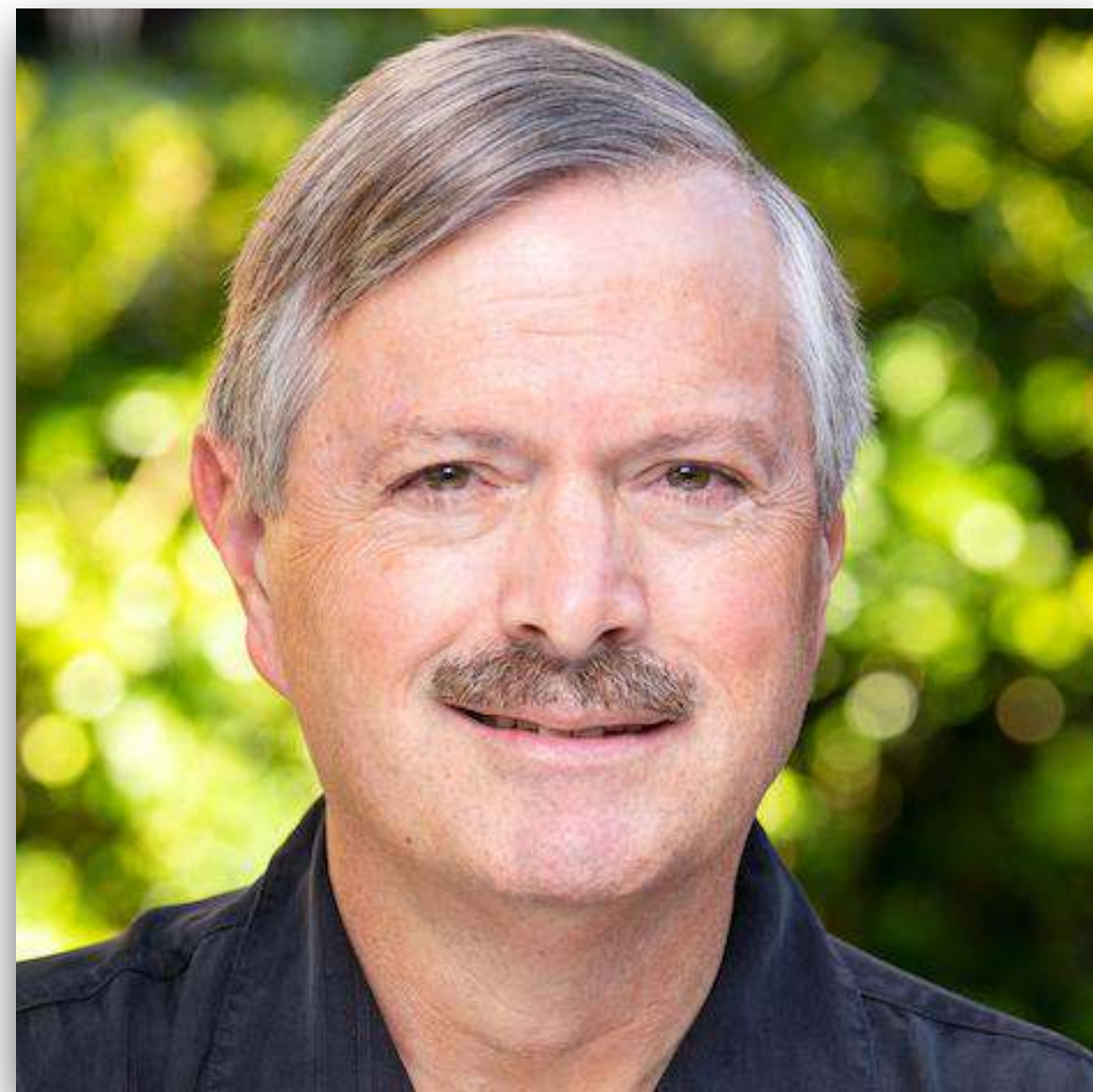


The Changing Reality in America's Largest Churches



**Fletch Talks with Noted Authors
Warren Bird & Scott Thumma**

Megachurch 2020

The Changing Reality in
America's Largest Churches

By Warren Bird, Ph.D., and
Scott Thumma, Ph.D.



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Profile of a U.S. Megachurch 2020 (Pre-pandemic)

LEADERSHIP



53 Average age of the Lead pastor

15 Number of years at the church in this role

73% Led church through most dramatic growth

FINANCES

Total 2019 budget: **\$5.3** million (median)

96% Funds income through participant contributions

78% Has financial statements audited by external/independent CPA

CHURCH

Attendance: **4,092** (mean)

5,982 (mean) Total number of regular participants

Growth from 5 years ago: **34%** (mean)

Multisite **70%**

Multiracial **58%**

Part of denomination **60%**

Seating capacity where primary services are held **1,200**

66% Helped start or plant a new congregation in the last 10 years

58% No experience with serious disagreements or conflicts in the last 5 years

83% have board of internal members

76% of churches require the board to have majority of "independent" members to ensure proper accountability

PARTICIPANTS

72% Predominantly white

56% Female

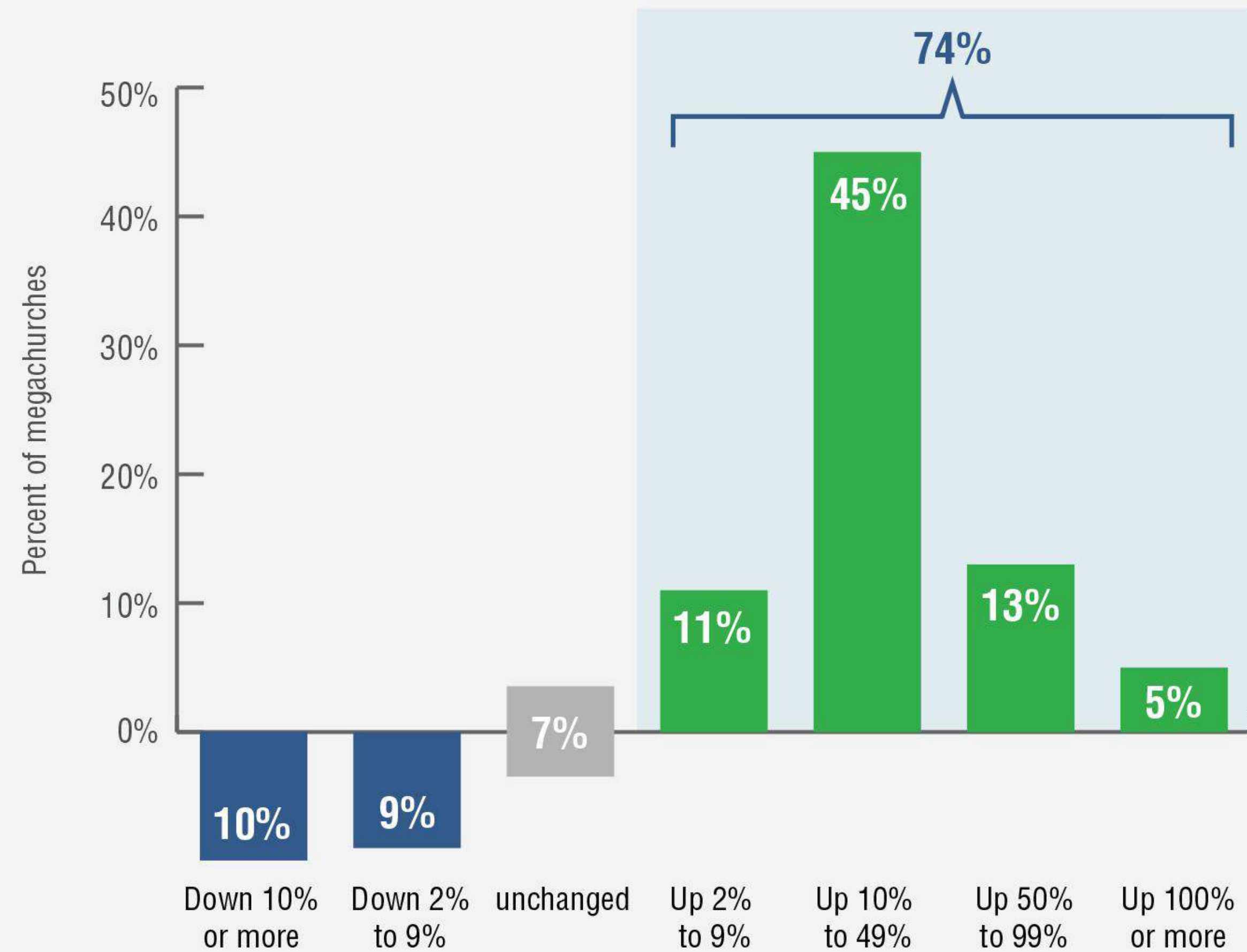
56% College graduate

65% Part of the congregation more than 5 years

Total budget is for 2019. All other statistics are for 2020.

Growth

74% of Megachurches Are Growing, Often at Fast Rates

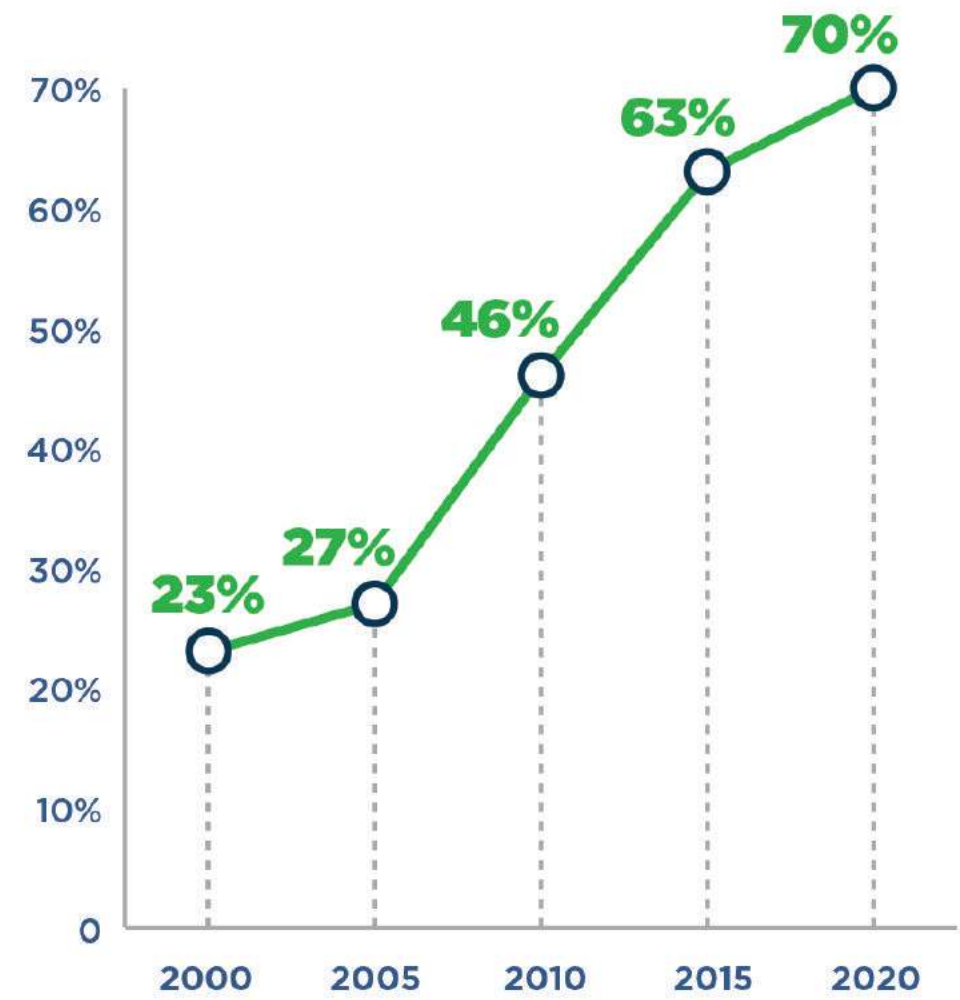


Percent of megachurches that declined or grew over 5 years (2014-2019)

Source: 2020 megachurch survey by Hartford Institute for Religion Research, ECFA (Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability), and Leadership Network.

Megachurches Are Expanding Their Impact by Attendance and More

Multisite megachurches



Opened a satellite or branch location in the last 5 years

2015	2020
22%	47%



Helped start or plant a new congregation in the last 5 years

2015	2020
18%	48%



Merged with another congregation in the last 5 years

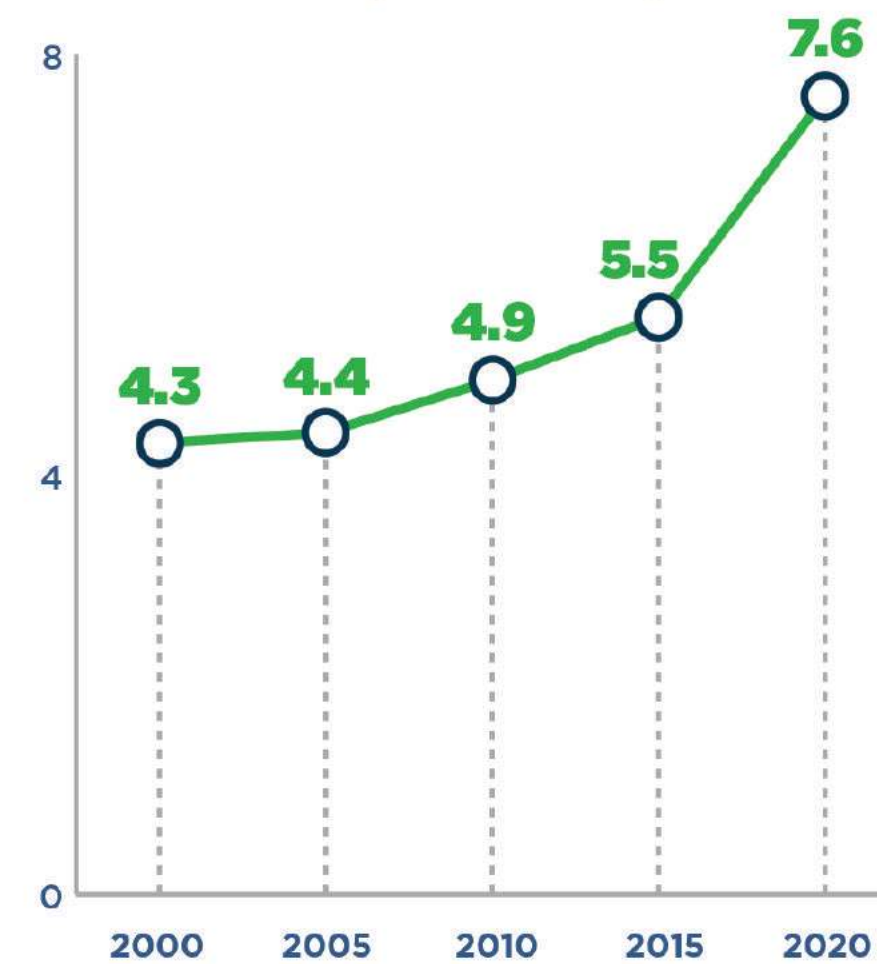
2015	2020
6%	16%



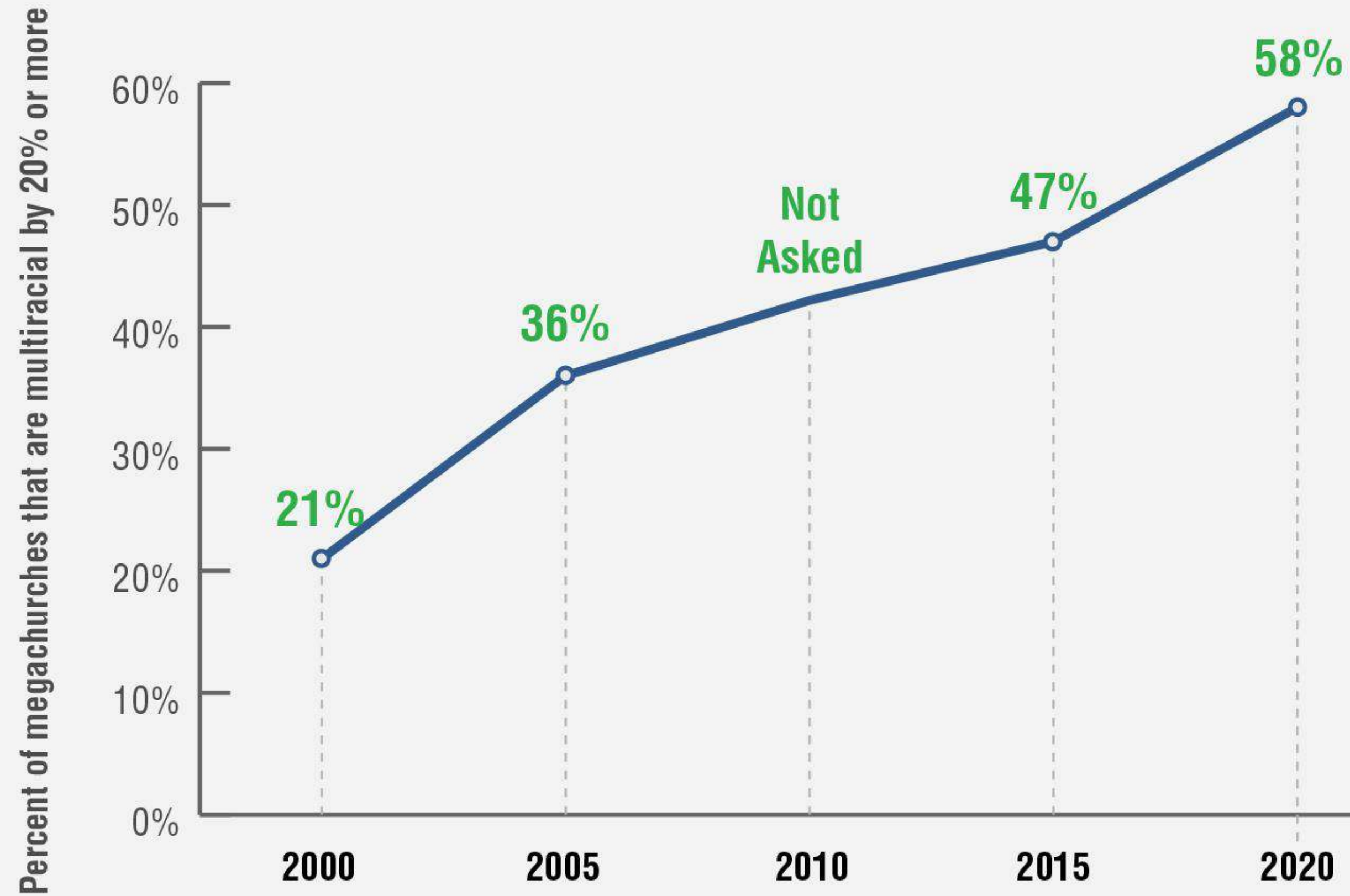
Worship attendance each weekend, adults and children (median)

2015	2020
3,800	4,200

Number of worship services offered each weekend across all campuses (average)

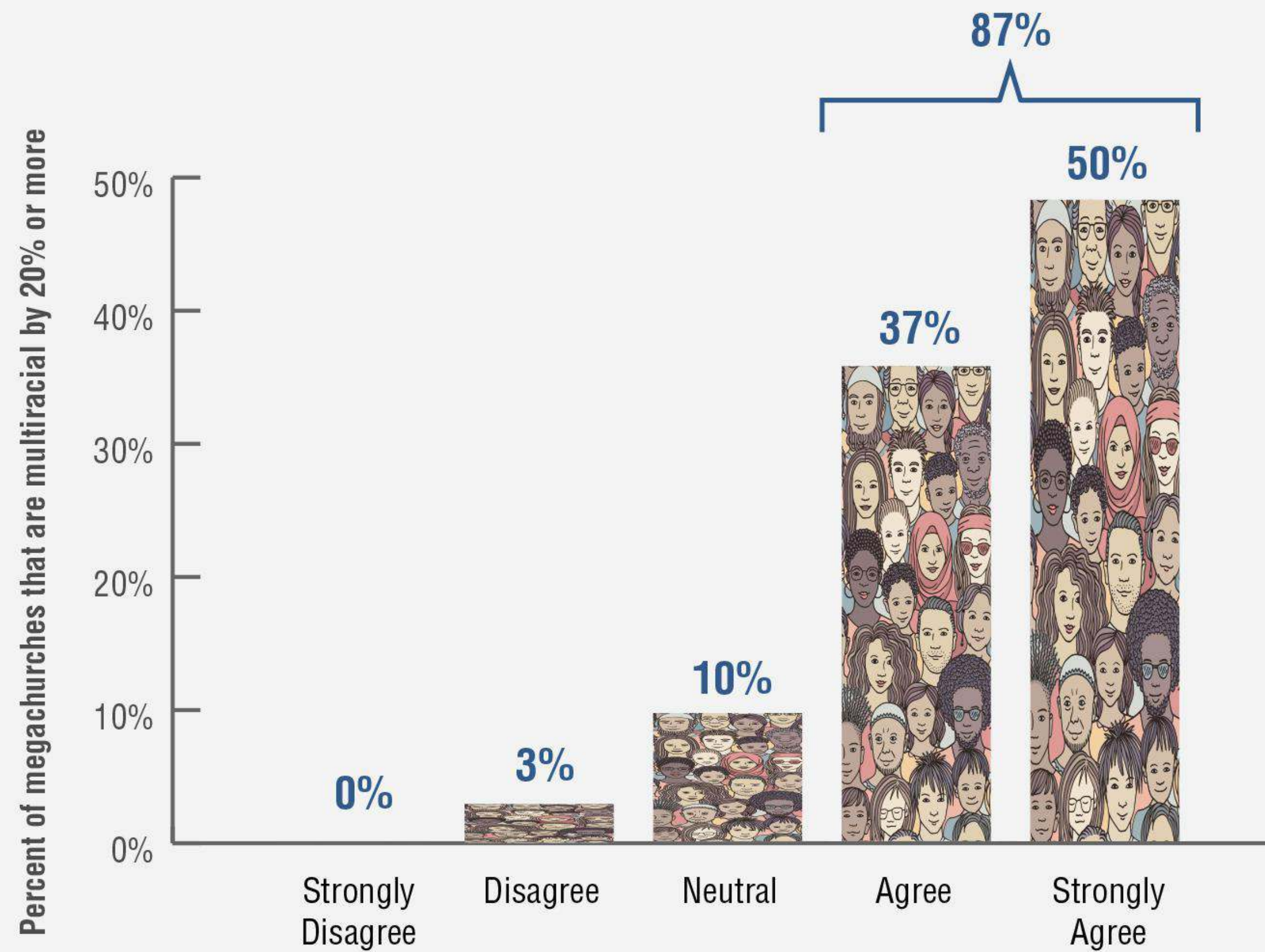


Multiracial Megachurches Continue to Increase



Source: 2020 megachurch survey by Hartford Institute for Religion Research, ECFA (Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability), and Leadership Network.

Multiracial Megachurches Become That Way Because They Strive to Be Diverse

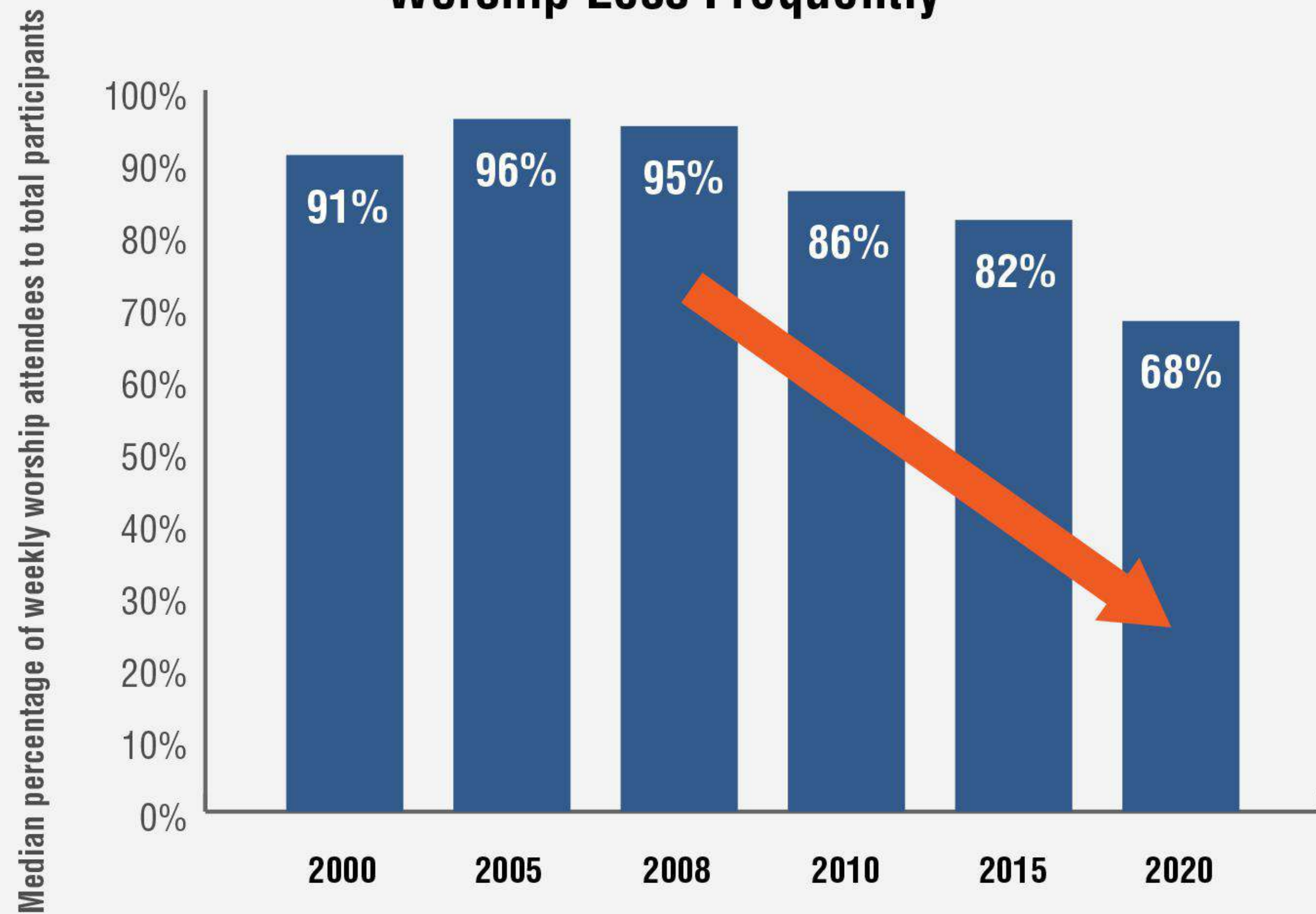


"Our congregation is striving to be diverse (e.g. racially, ethnically, socio-economically)"

Source: 2020 megachurch survey by Hartford Institute for Religion Research, ECFA (Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability), and Leadership Network.

Small Groups

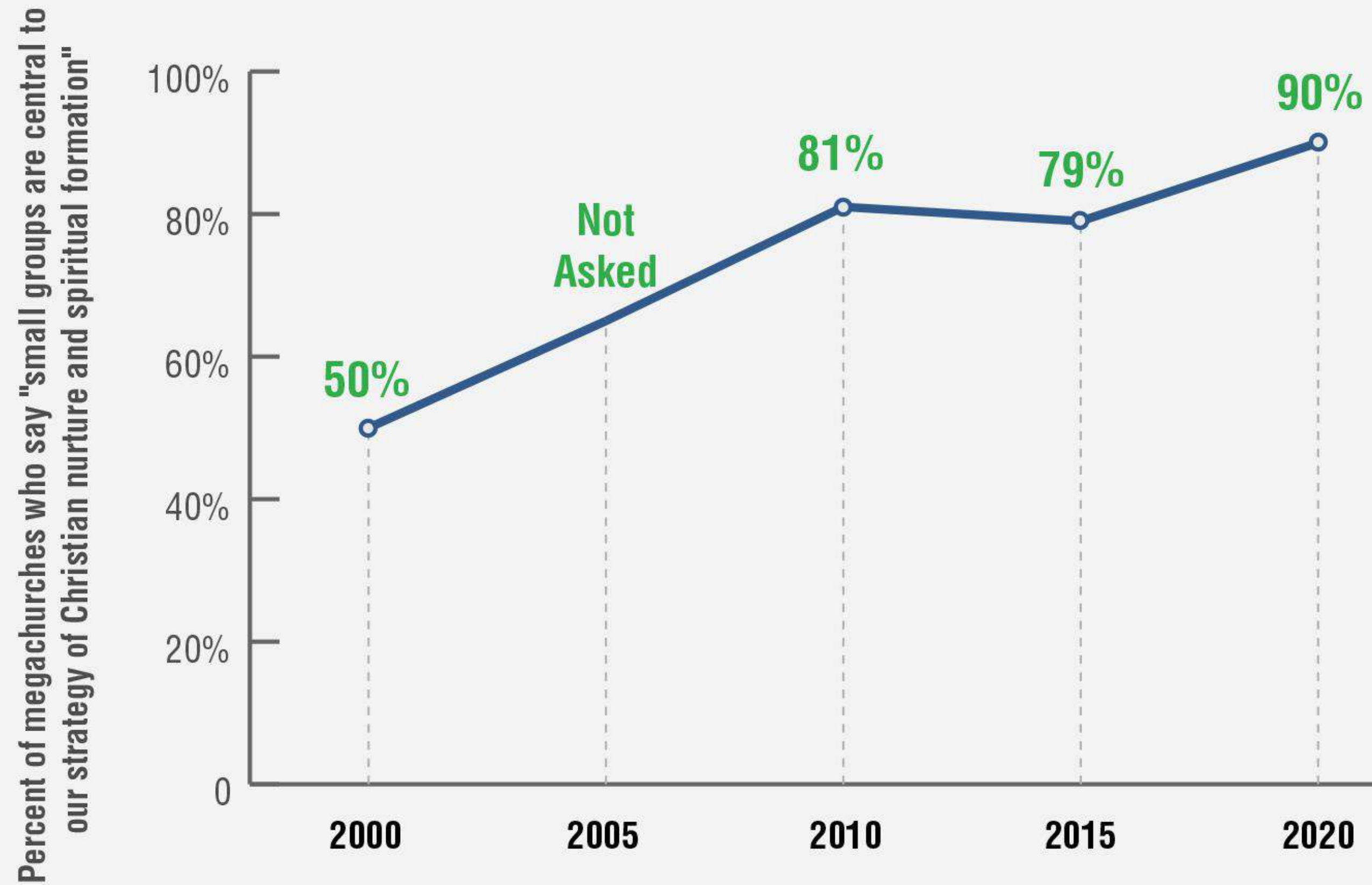
Regular Participants Are Attending Worship Less Frequently



Source: 2020 megachurch survey by Hartford Institute for Religion Research, ECFA (Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability), and Leadership Network.

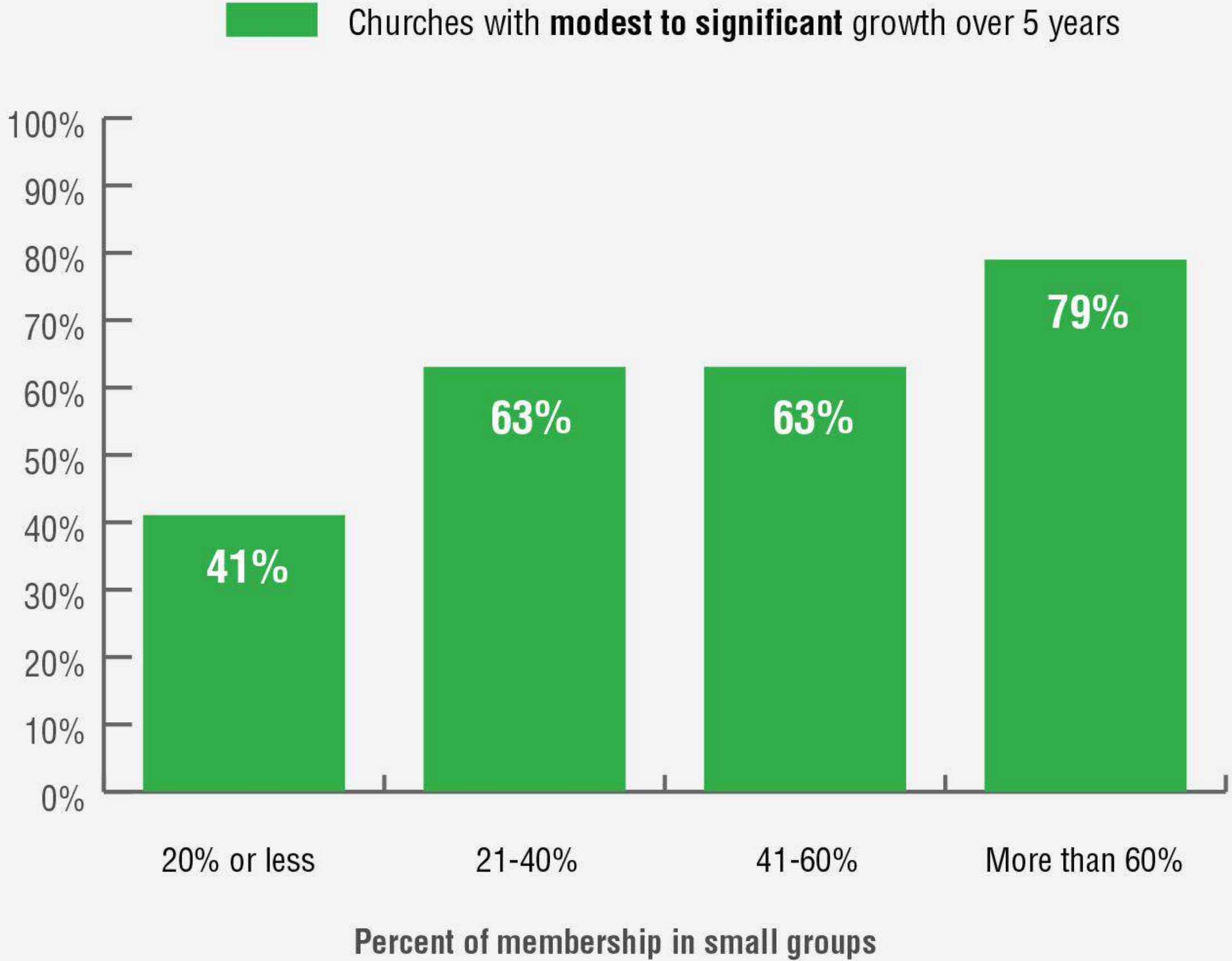
Figure 8

Small Groups as a Central Strategy in Megachurches Continues to Increase



Source: 2020 megachurch survey by Hartford Institute for Religion Research, ECFA (Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability), and Leadership Network.

The More Members in Small Groups, the Greater the Church's Growth



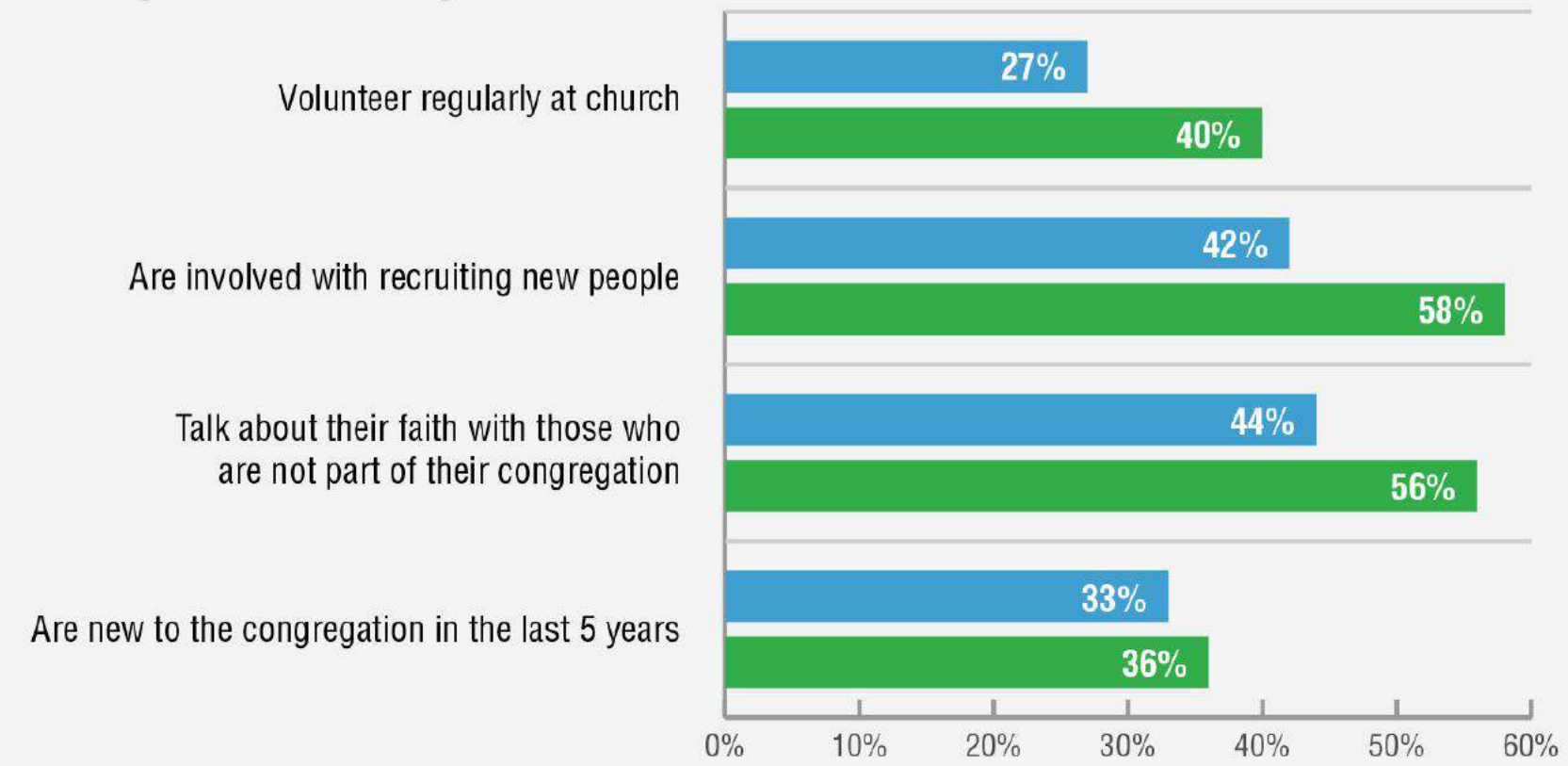
Source: 2020 megachurch survey by Hartford Institute for Religion Research, ECFA (Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability), and Leadership Network.

Figure 7

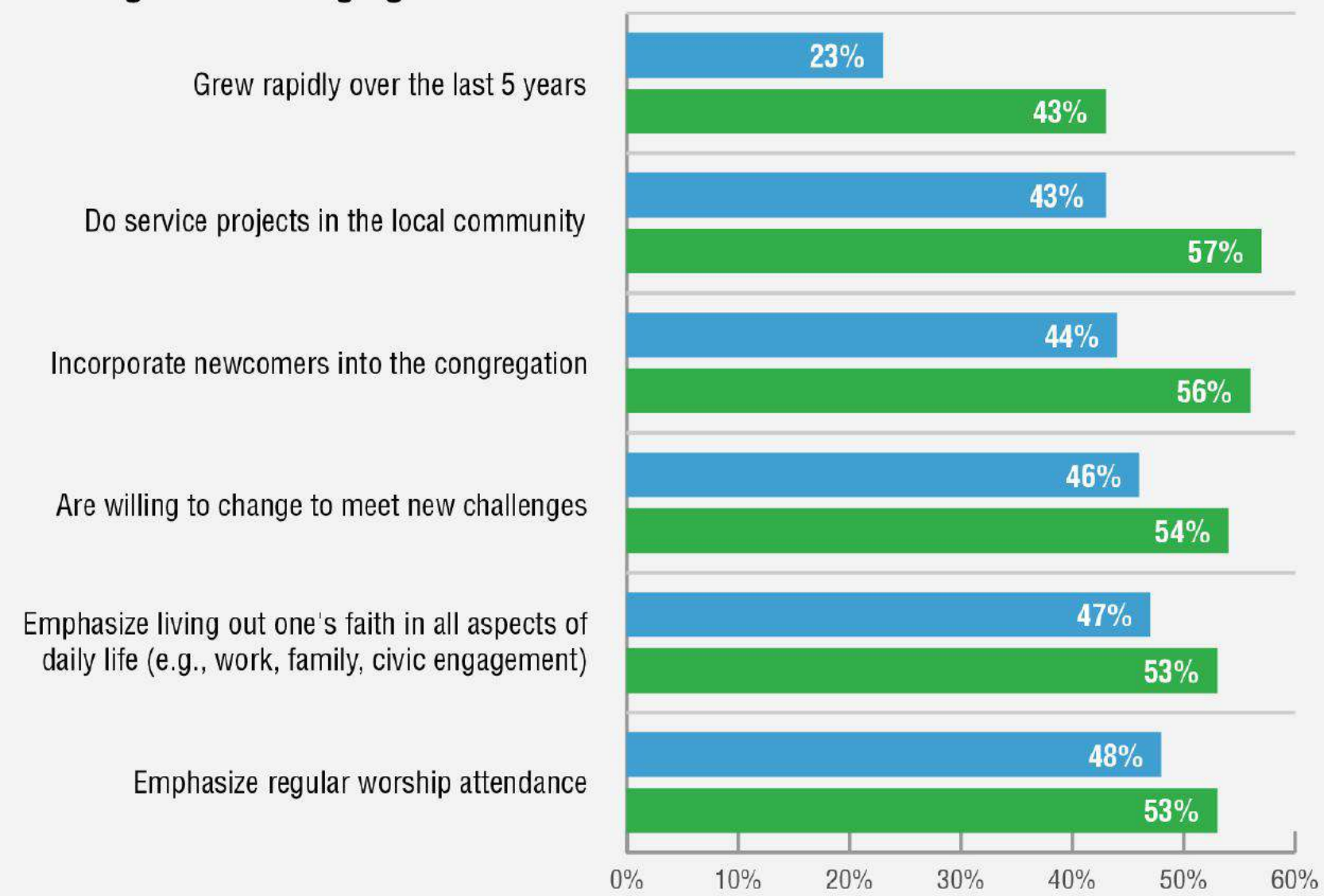
Increased Involvement in Small Groups Makes a Huge Difference

■ **Less** of the church is involved in small groups (40% or less)
■ **More** of the church is involved in small groups (41% or more)

Megachurch Participants



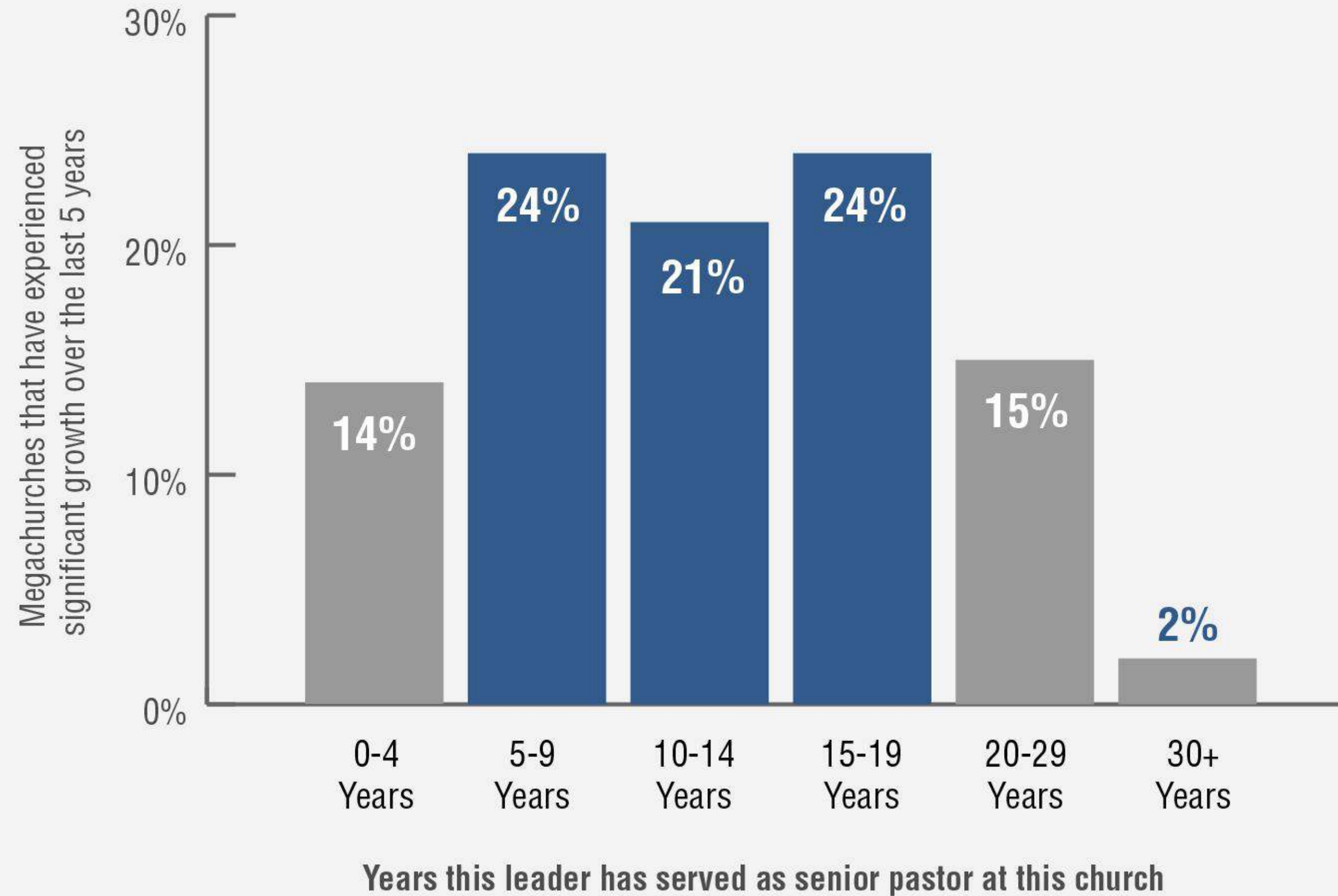
Megachurch Congregations



Source: 2020 megachurch survey by Hartford Institute for Religion Research, ECFA (Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability), and Leadership Network.

Senior Pastor

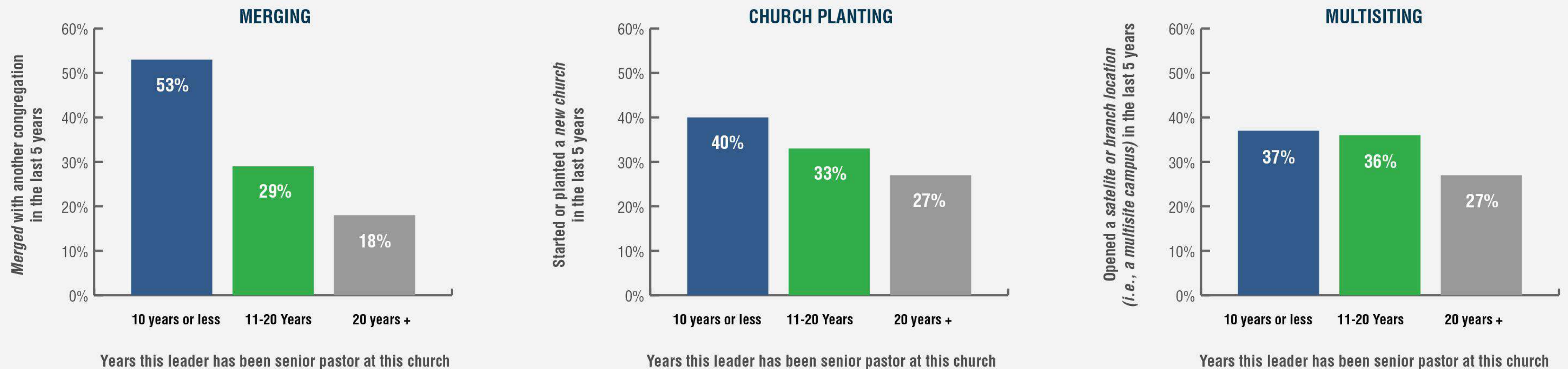
A Megachurch's Greatest Growth Occurs Between Years 5 and 20 for the Lead Pastor



Source: 2020 megachurch survey by Hartford Institute for Religion Research, ECFA (Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability), and Leadership Network.

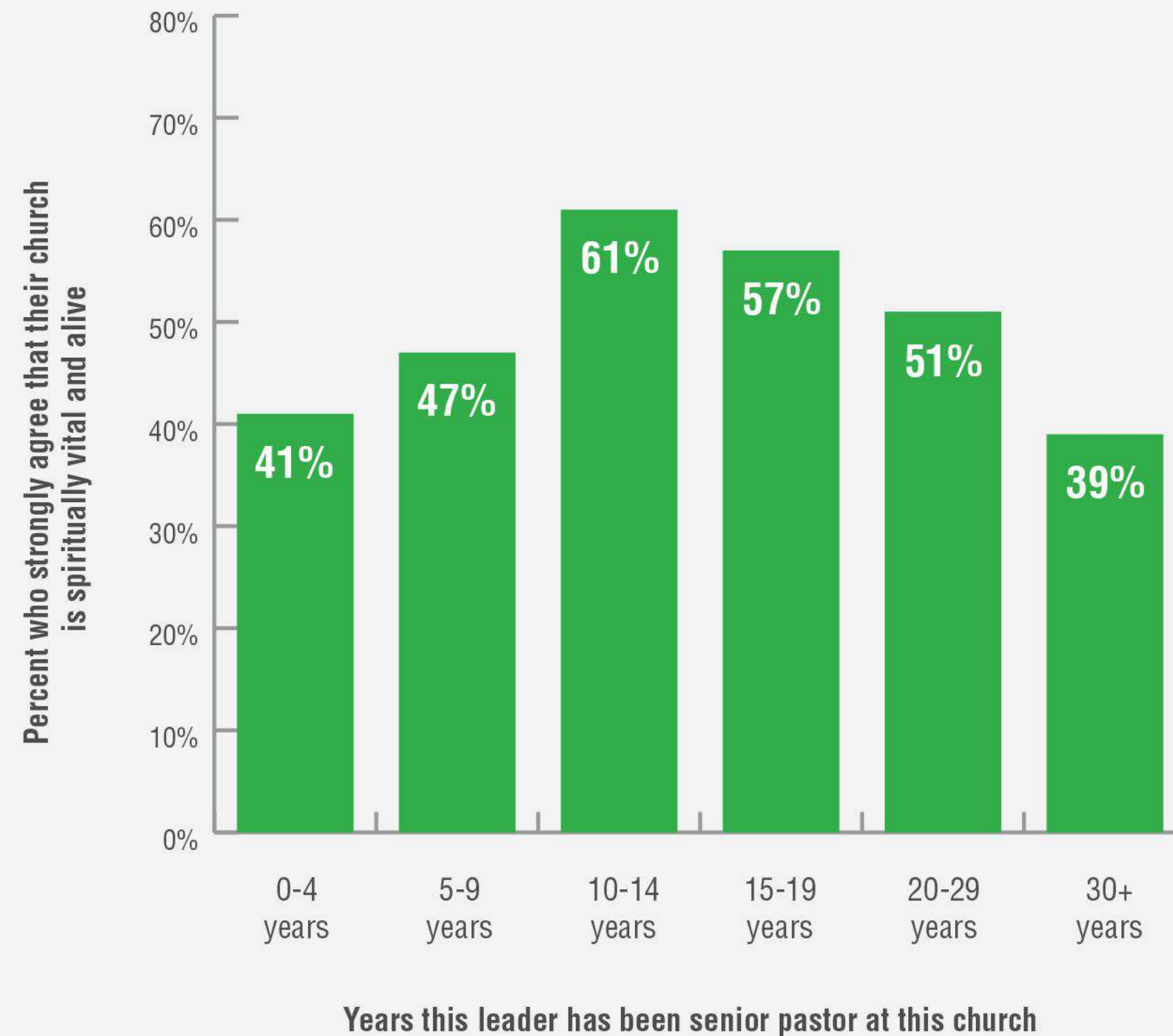
Figure 15

The Longer the Pastor Is at the Church, the Less Likely to Merge, Plant or Open Campuses



Source: 2020 megachurch survey by Hartford Institute for Religion Research, ECFA (Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability), and Leadership Network.

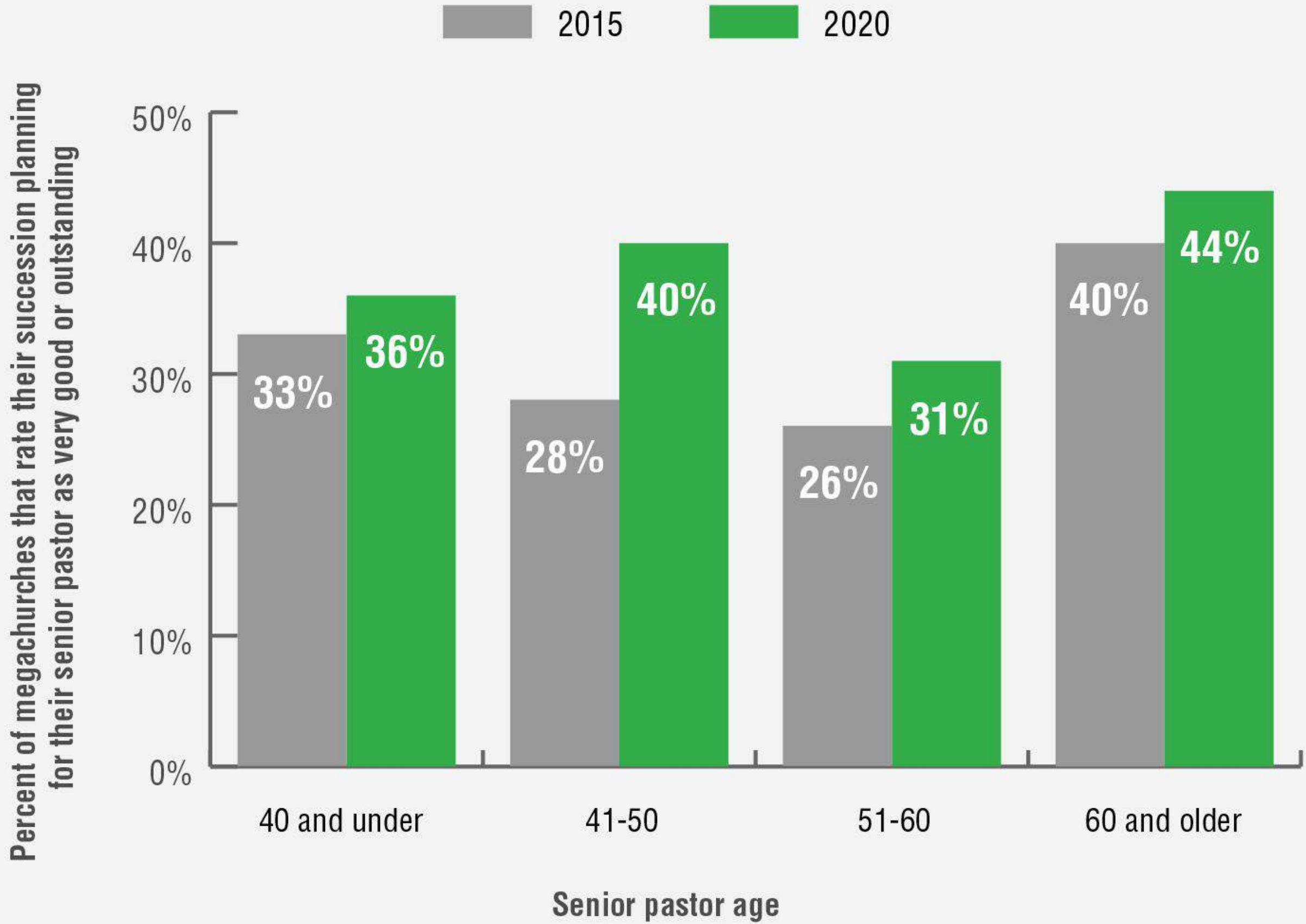
A Megachurch's Spiritual Vitality Peaks Between 10 and 20 Years Under the Same Senior Pastor



Source: 2020 megachurch survey by Hartford Institute for Religion Research, ECFA (Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability), and Leadership Network.

Figure 21

Megachurch Pastors Seem Better Prepared for Succession Than in 2015

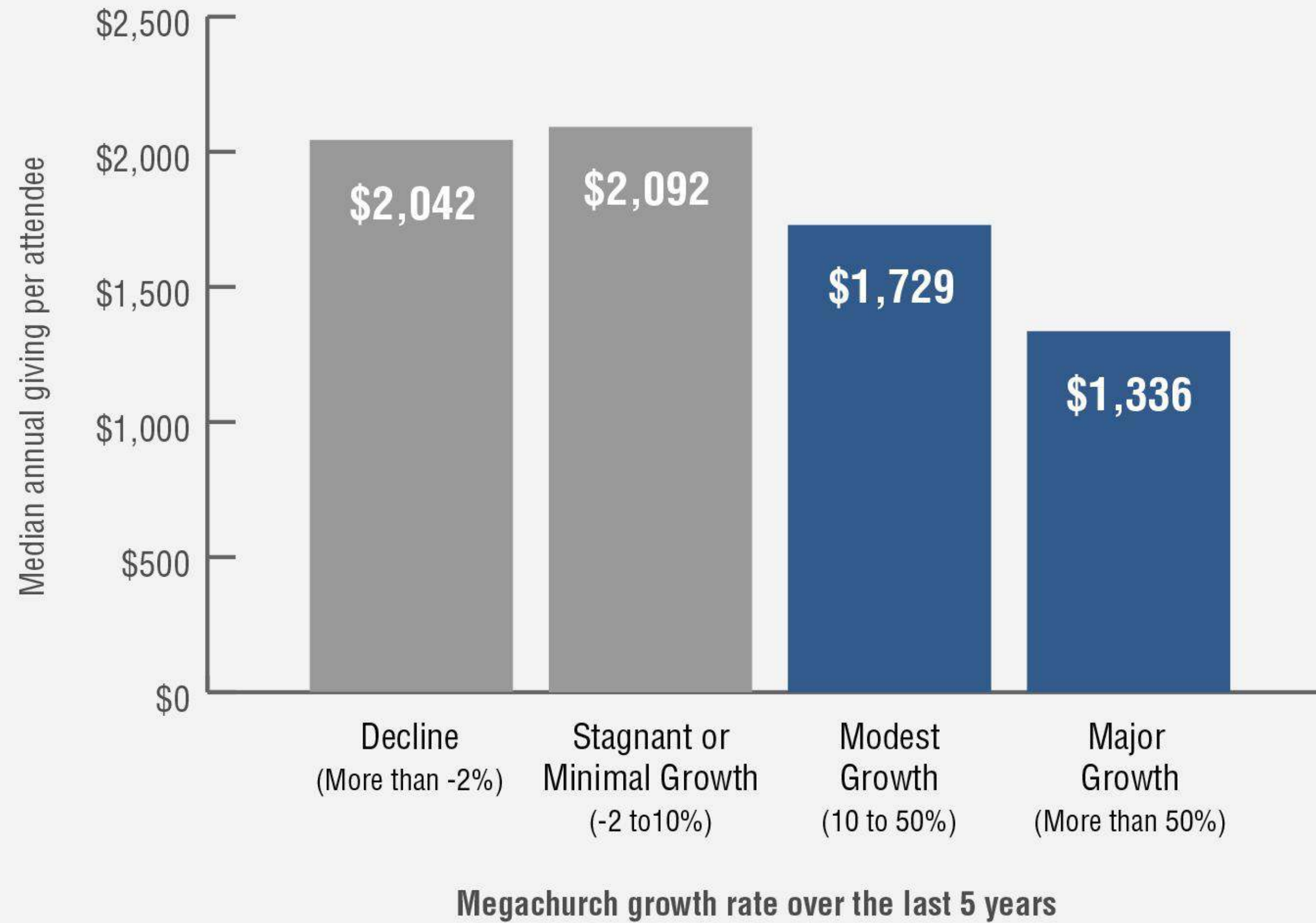


Source: 2020 megachurch survey by Hartford Institute for Religion Research, ECFA (Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability), and Leadership Network.

Figure 17

Giving

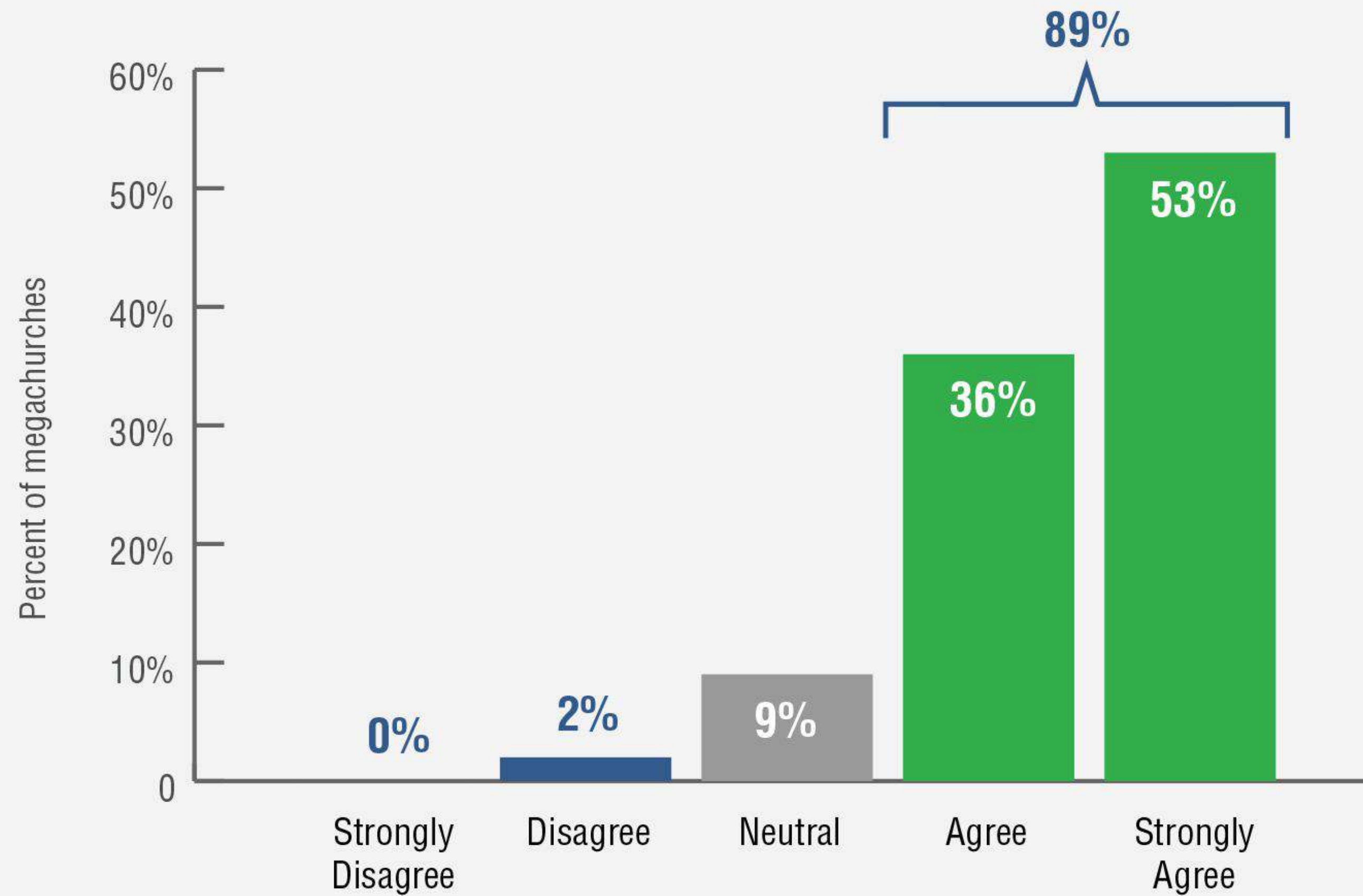
Significant Growth Means Decreased Per Capita Giving



Source: 2020 megachurch survey by Hartford Institute for Religion Research, ECFA (Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability), and Leadership Network.

More Data

Megachurches Are Strongly Involved in Their Local Community

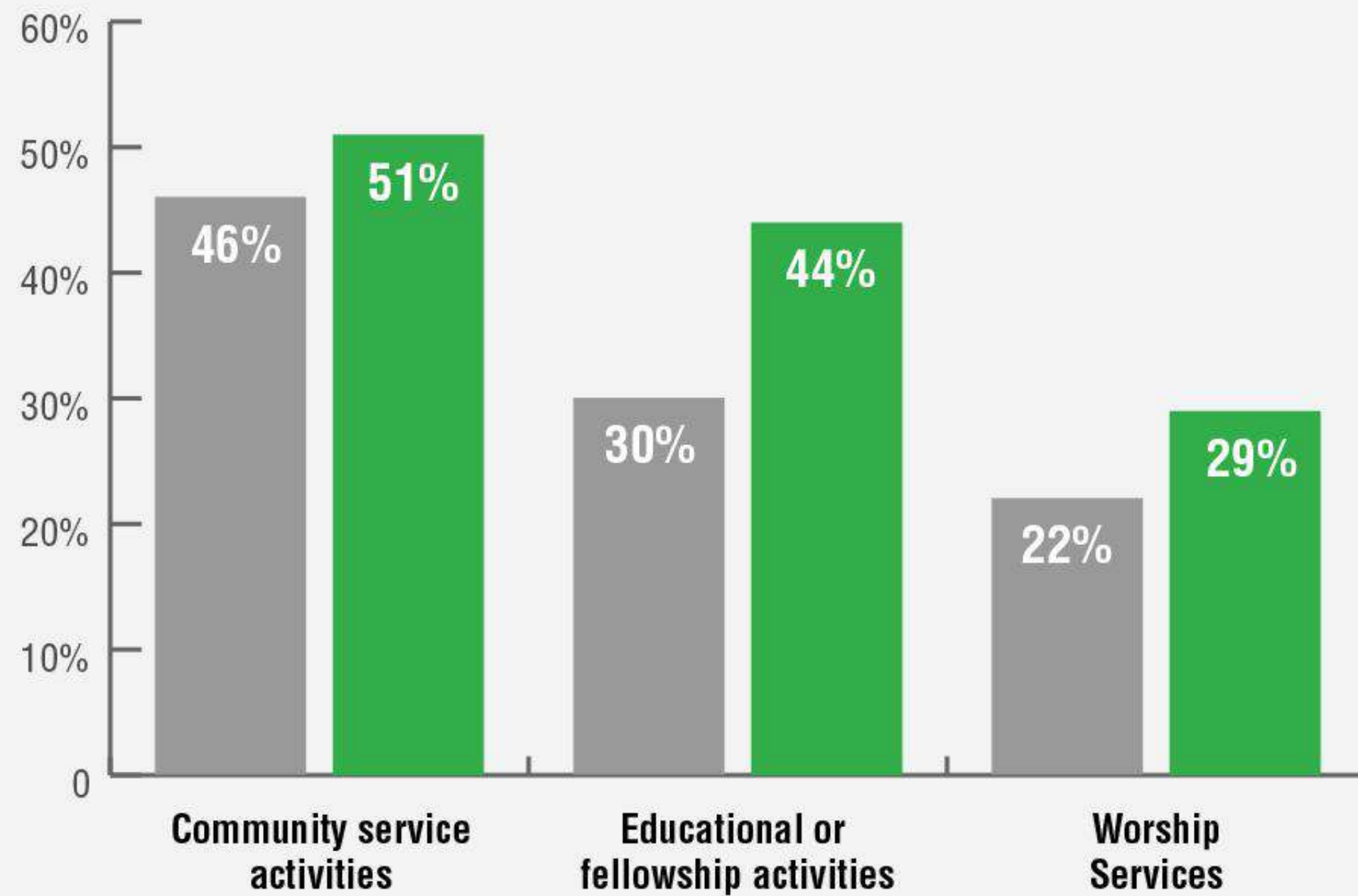


"Our congregation is actively involved in our local community"

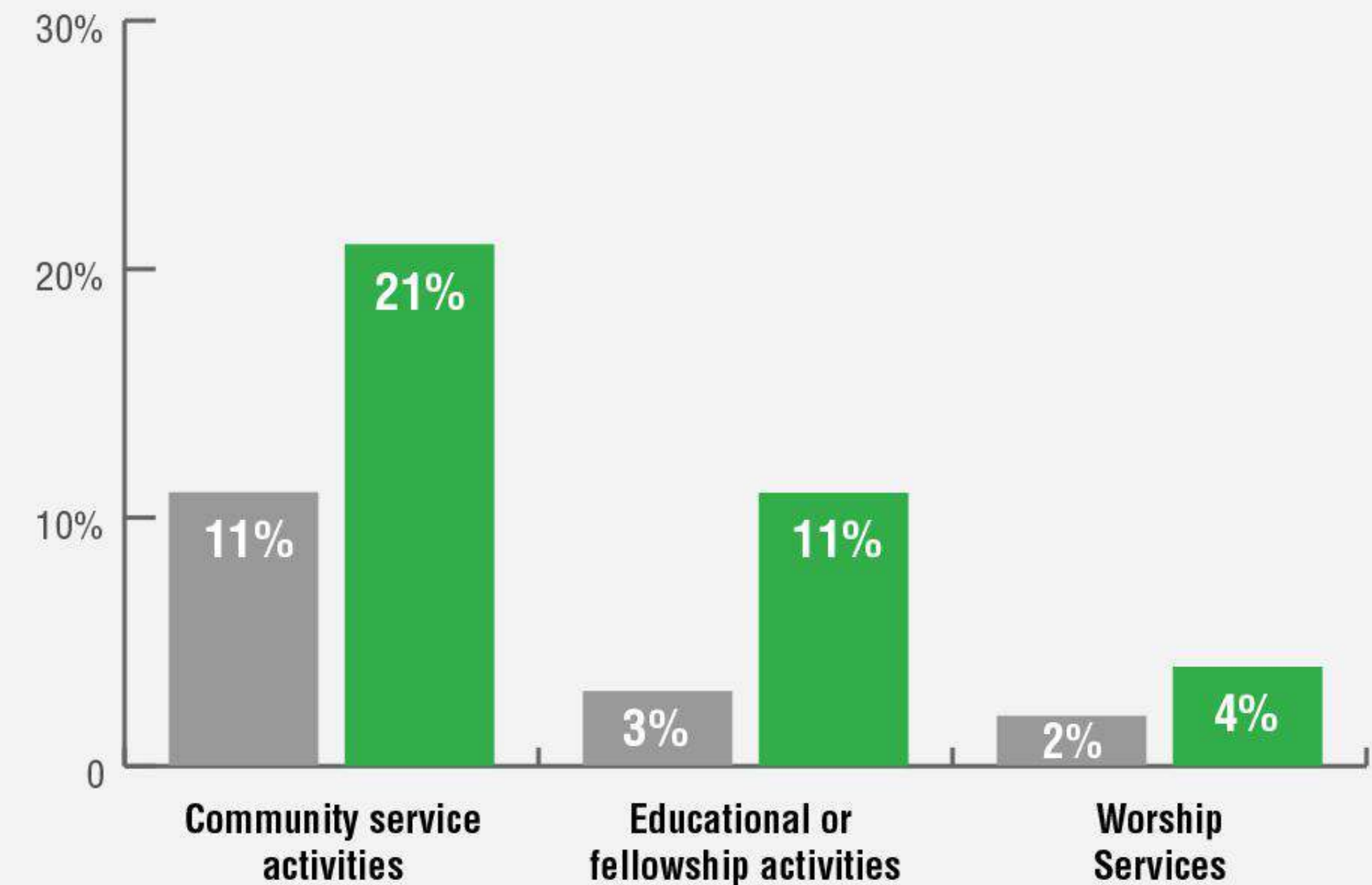
Source: 2020 megachurch survey by Hartford Institute for Religion Research, ECFA (Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability), and Leadership Network.

Megachurches Have Increased Their Involvement...

With Other Christian Groups



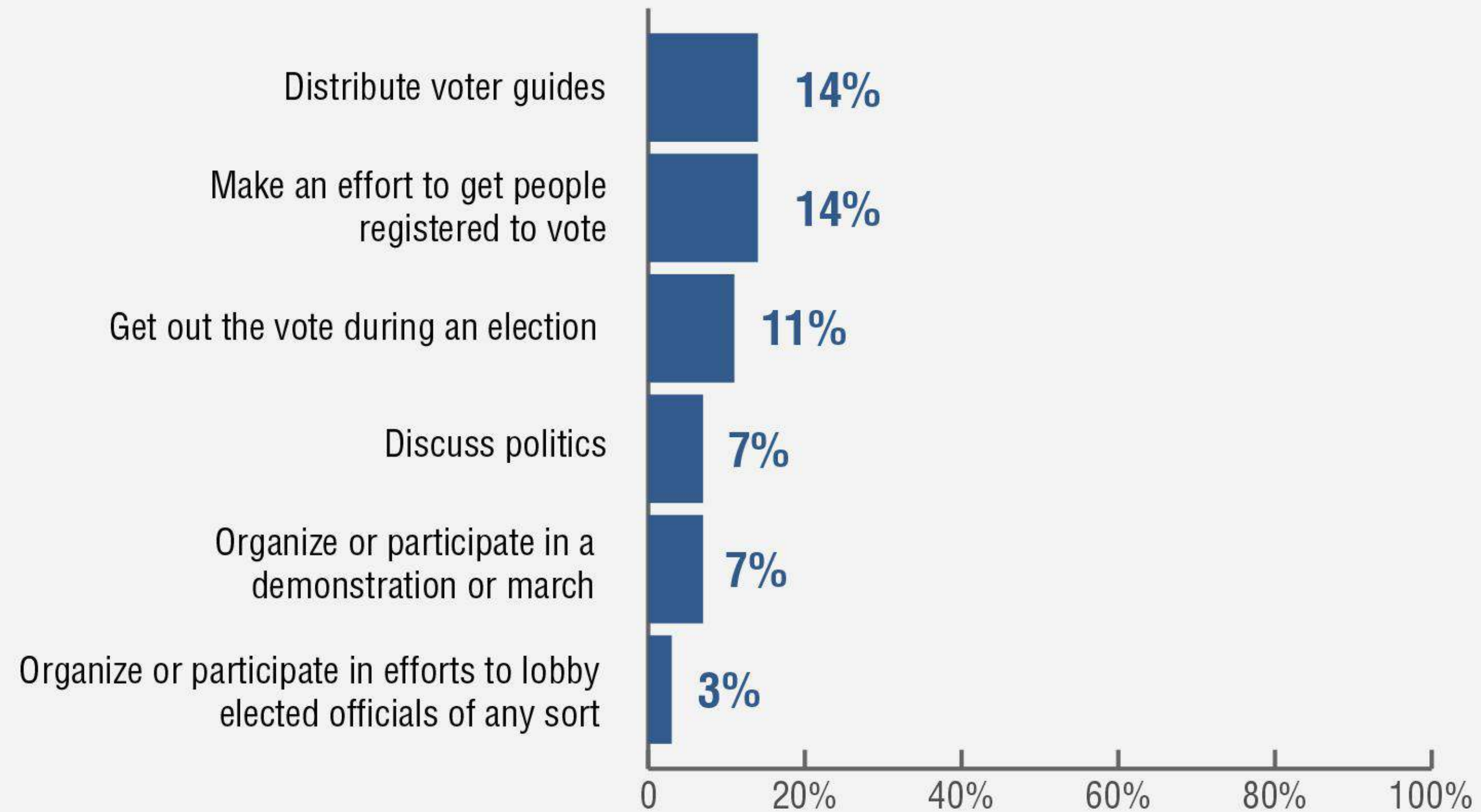
With Other Faith Traditions



Source: 2020 megachurch survey by Hartford Institute for Religion Research, ECFA (Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability), and Leadership Network.

Megachurches Take Little Political Action

In the past 12 months, has the congregation organized any groups, meetings, classes, or events specifically focused on the following purposes or activities?



Source: 2020 megachurch survey by Hartford Institute for Religion Research, ECFA (Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability), and Leadership Network.

Megchurches Avoid Discussing Politics, in Part Because They Are Politically Diverse

This congregation avoids discussing political issues when it gathers



Almost everyone in this congregation has the same political position



Source: 2020 megachurch survey by Hartford Institute for Religion Research, ECFA (Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability), and Leadership Network.