



The Sustaining Pastoral Excellence (SPE) Initiative Survey of Participants in Groups for Ministers and Other Pastoral Leaders

Following are the summary survey results from 2,098 participants in SPE groups for ministers and other pastoral leaders. They do not include the non-SPE Indiana Clergy Peer Group responses which were a part of statistics report #2, and they do include responses from SPE peer group participants involved in the Institute of Clergy Excellence that were not a part of that report.

Section One: SPE Group Participation

1. Median number of years respondents participated in an SPE-initiated minister or pastoral leader group:

2 years

Length of participation in years: (**% response**)

One year or less	: 28
2 years	: 28
3 years	: 24
4 years	: 13
5 or more years	: 7

2. The groups met a median # of 9 times a year for a median # of 3 hours per meeting.

Meetings per year: (**% response**)

Less than 4	: 15
4 . 6	: 21
7 . 11	: 36
12 or more	: 28

Hours per meeting: (**% response**)

2 or less	: 29
2.25 . 4	: 37
4.25 . 12	: 16
More than 12	: 18

3.

7.

10. The total number of persons in each SPE group: (**% response**)

Less than 6 : **13**
 6 - 7 : **32**
 8 - 9 : **28**
 10 or more : **27**

A median # of **8** persons participated in each SPE group.

11. Out of a median # of **8**, how many persons in your SPE group

Were original members of your group (**median #**) : **6**
 Knew you before this group (**median #**) : **4**
 Socialize with you outside of group meetings (**median #**) : **1**
 Agree with you on most things (**median #**) : **5**
 Live an hour or less by car from you (**median #**) : **4**
 Dropped out of the group (**median #**) : **1**

12. Does/did your SPE group engage in any of the following? *If yes, is it a relatively minor emphasis or a key practice of your group?* (**% response**)

(one on each line)	<u>NO</u>	<u>YES...</u>	
		<u>MINOR EMPHASIS</u>	<u>KEY PRACTICE</u>
A. Discussing a common reading or topic	6	25	69
B. Participating in a discipline of silence or guided meditation	48	32	20
C. Praying for each other	5	26	69
D. Sharing and getting feedback on ministry problems or challenges	2	18	80
E. Engaging in community service or mission activities	74	17	9
F. Sharing ideas and resources for more effective ministry	2	32	66
G. Expressing spirituality through art, music, literature, or drama	53	32	15
H. Sharing personal concerns or struggles	1	16	83
I. Enjoying fellowship (eating, drinking, laughing, talking casually)	1	19	80
J. Traveling together	47	31	22
K. Engaging in intentional Biblical or theological reflection	12	36	52
L. Meeting with experts in fields of common interest	33	31	36
M. Studying issues related to worship, including preaching	27	39	34
N. Seeking spiritual direction together	26	33	41
O. Exploring Exploring an interesting subject or new approach to ministry together	10	34	56

13. To what extent do you disagree or agree

18.

5. How much time and attention do you spend on the areas listed below? (**% response**)

VERY

QUITE

9. Not including your SPE group, how often during the past year did you take part in some form of ongoing education in ministry lasting at least a full day? (one option only) **(% response)**

Never : 7
Once or twice : 49
Three to five times : 33
More than five times : 11

10. Does your congregation or ministry organization provide financial support for you to participate in continuing education or training? **(% response)**

No : 17
Yes : 83

11. Does your congregation, ministry organization, or denomination require you to participate in continuing education or training on an annual basis? **(% response)**

No : 62
Yes : 38

12. Do you regularly take a day off each week? **(% response)**

No : 20
Yes : 80

13. Have you taken a sabbatical leave from a congregation or ministry organization *in the past ten years*, and if so, for how long? **(% response)**

Yes : 25
No : 75

13.a. Yes, I took my most recent sabbatical leave for _____ weeks:

Less than 6 weeks : 26
6-8 weeks : 19
9-12 weeks : 36
More than 12 weeks : 19

Median length of sabbatical was 10 weeks.

14. In the past two years, how many persons have you personally encouraged to consider becoming a pastor, priest, or minister? **(% response)**

0 : 19
1 : 17
2 : 28
3 : 15
More than 3 : 21

Median # of persons encouraged to consider ministry was 2 per respondent.

15.

19. How old is your congregation or ministry organization? (**% response**)

10 years or younger	: 7
11 . 50 years	: 24
51 . 100 years	: 24
101 . 150 years	: 25
Older than 150 years	: 20

20. How would you describe the place where your congregation or ministry organization is located?
(**% response**)

B. Do you tend to be more attracted to . . .

Sensible people

: 39

I.

Q. In your opinion, is it worse to be . . .

Unjust	: 20
OR	
Without mercy	: 80

R. Is the mystery of God or certainty about God more important for your faith?

Mystery	: 63
OR	
Certainty	: 37

Section Five: Your Health and Well-Being

1. In general, would you say your health is . . . (% response)

Poor	: 1
Fair	: 7
Good	: 35
Very good	: 40
Excellent	: 17

4. Within the last week, how much time did you spend in the following activities? **Average # of hours**

- A. Using the internet (including the web and email) : **9.5**
- B. Family life (family activities including meals) : **17**
- C. Household chores (cleaning, errands, shopping, etc.) : **6.5**
- D. Physical exercise for your health : **3.5**
- E. Recreation and hobbies : **3**
- F. Prayer, meditation, Bible reading, and other spiritual disciplines : **7**
- G. Commuting to work : **3**
- H. Socializing with friends : **3.5**
- I. Watching television : **8**
- J. Reading for pleasure : **4.5**

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F. Prayer, meditation, Bible reading, and other spiritual disciplines

Less than 4	: 28
4 . 7	: 40
7.5 . 14	: 21
More than 14	: 11

G. Commuting to work

None	: 24
Some, but less than 4	: 49
4 . 7	: 19
More than 7	: 8

H. Socializing with friends

None	: 14
Some, but less than 4	: 49
4 . 7	: 26
More than 7	: 11

I. Watching television

Less than 4	: 27
4 . 7	: 32
7.5 . 14	: 29
More than 14	: 12

J. Reading for pleasure

None	: 12
Some, but less than 4	: 40
4 . 7	: 31
More than 7	: 17

Section Six: Your Faith and Ministry Background

1. What was the denomination you were most involved in while you were growing up?

10 most frequent responses: (% response)

Southern Baptist Convention	: 11
Christian Reformed Church in North America	: 10
American Baptist Churches	: 9
United Methodist Church	: 8
Presbyterian Church USA	: 7
Reformed Church in America	: 6
Roman Catholic Church	: 5
Church of God . Cleveland	: 3
United Church of Christ	: 3
Church of the Brethren	: 2
Other Conservative Protestant	: 14
Other Baptist	: 7
Other Presbyterian	: 5
Other Moderate or Liberal Protestant	: 4
Other Methodist	: 4
Other (Judaism, Eastern Orthodox, Bahai, Islam, etc.)	: 1

2. How would you best describe your church attendance during your teenage years? (% response)

Did not attend	: 4
Occasional (a few times a year)	

7. What is your present religious denomination, if any?

10 most frequent responses: (% response)

American Baptist Churches	: 13
Presbyterian Church USA	: 11
Christian Reformed Church in North America	: 10
United Methodist Church	: 8
Reformed Church in America	: 8
United Church of Christ	: 6
Church of God . Cleveland	: 5
Cooperative Baptist Fellowship	: 4
Church of the Brethren	: 4
American Baptist Association	: 3
Other Conservative Protestant	: 10
Other Baptist	: 5
Other Moderate or Liberal Protestant	: 4
Other Presbyterian	: 2
Other Methodist	: 1
Other (Judaism, Roman Catholic, Eastern Orthodox, Bahai, etc.)	: 4

Section Seven: Your Personal Background

1. What is your gender? (% response)

Female	: 29
Male	: 71

2. How old are you? (% response)

20 . 39	: 10
40 . 49	: 23
50 . 59	: 39
60 or older	: 28

3. Which of the following racial categories best describes you? (% response)

African-American or Black	: 7
Asian-American or Pacific Islander	: 2
American Indian or Alaskan Native	: *
White	: 87
Other	: 4

* = less than 0.5 %

4. Would you categorize yourself as Hispanic or Latino/a? (% response)

Yes	3
No	97

5. Which of the following best describes your current marital status? (**% response**)

Never married	: 5
In first marriage	: 76
Divorced or separated	: 4.5
Widowed	: 2
Remarried after death of spouse	: 1
Remarried after divorce	: 11
Other	: 0.5

6. How many children age 18 or under do you have living at home? (**% response**)

No children at home	: 60
Children living at home	: 40

Of those with children living at home, the # of children: (**% response**)

1	: 37
2	: 38
3	: 17
4	: 6
More than 4	: 2

7. What is the highest educational qualification you have completed? (**% response**)

High school diploma or equivalent	: 5
Community college diploma	: 2
Bachelor degree from a four year college or equivalent institution	: 10
Masters degree	: 62
Earned doctorate	: 19
Other	: 2

