Church Planting National Report

Survey of 843 Church Planters

2015

The Study was sponsored by:

- Assemblies of God
- Baptist Missionary Association of America
- Center for US Missions
- Christian and Missionary Alliance
- Converge Worldwide
- Evangelical Free Church of America
- Free Methodist Church USA

- International Pentecostal Holiness Church
- LCMS Texas District
- New Thing Network
- North American Mission Board, SBC
- Path1, United Methodist Church
- Southern Baptists of Texas
- Vineyard Church
- The Wesleyan Church.

LifeWay RESEARCH
Biblical Solutions for Life

Methodology

Methodology

- ❏ The questionnaire was fielded May--August 2015.
- ❏ Planters were individually invited to complete the online survey by email, phone, and postcard.
- ❏ This report provides analysis of 843 church plants started in 2008 or later that continue to exist today and were started as new church plants.

LifeWay
RESEARCH
Biblical Solutions for Life

Methodology

- Lists of church plants were provided by: Assemblies of God, Baptist Missionary Association of America, Center for US Missions (LCMS), Christian and Missionary Alliance, Church of the Nazarene, Converge Worldwide, Evangelical Free Church of America, Free Methodists, International Pentecostal Holiness Church, Missionary Church, New Thing Network, North American Mission Board (SBC), Presbyterian Church in America, Project Jerusalem, Path1 (UMC), Vineyard Church, and The Wesleyan Church.
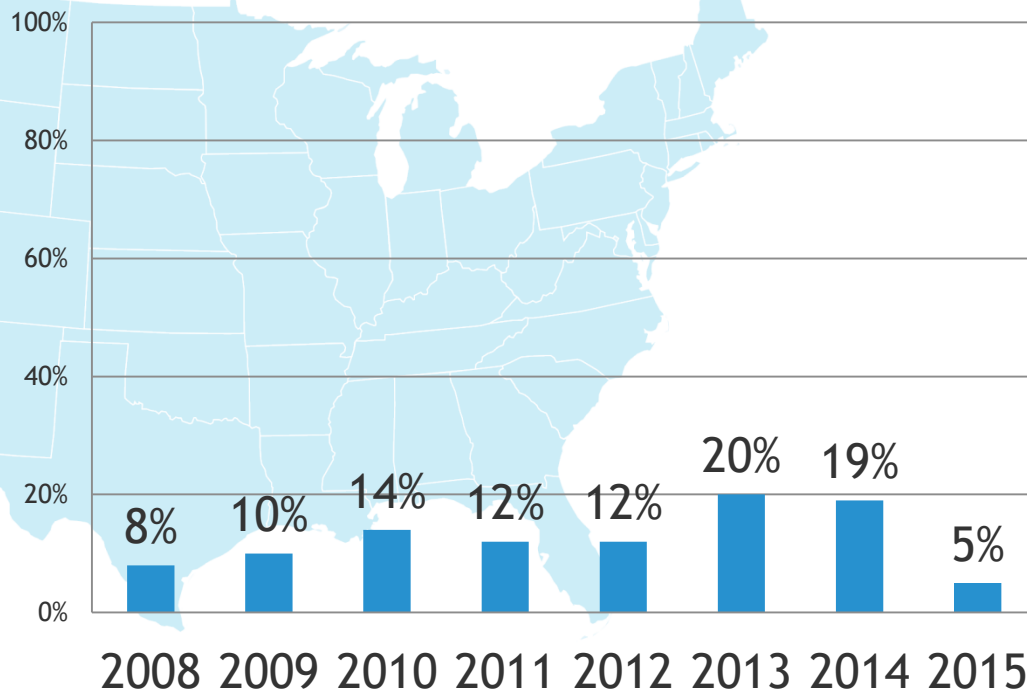
Survey Responses

97% of survey takers started the new church work
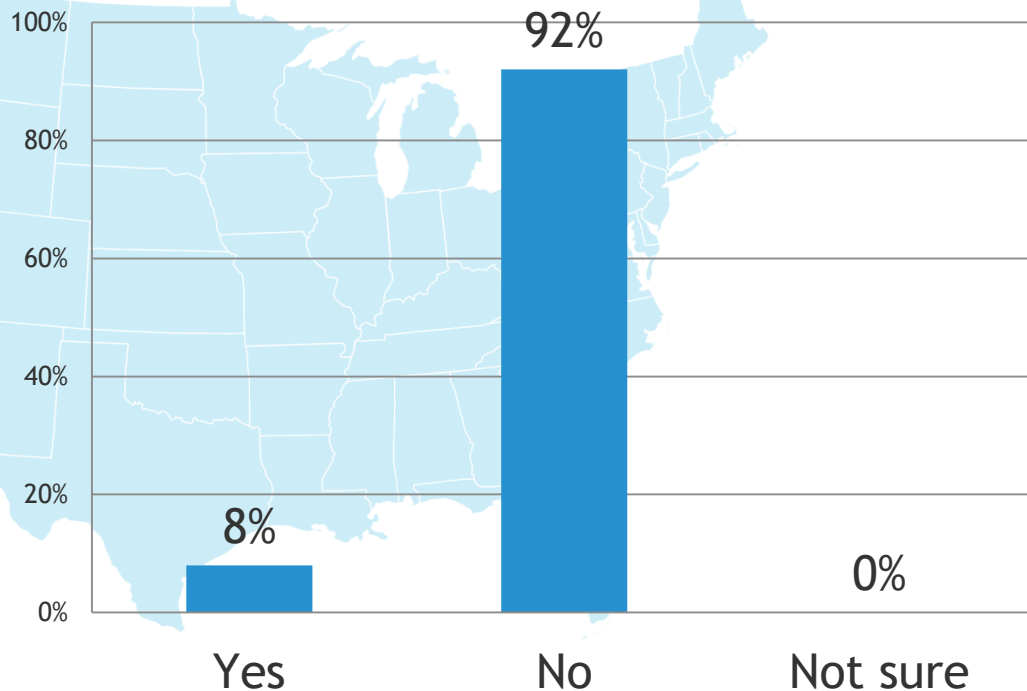

	97%	3%
	Yes	No
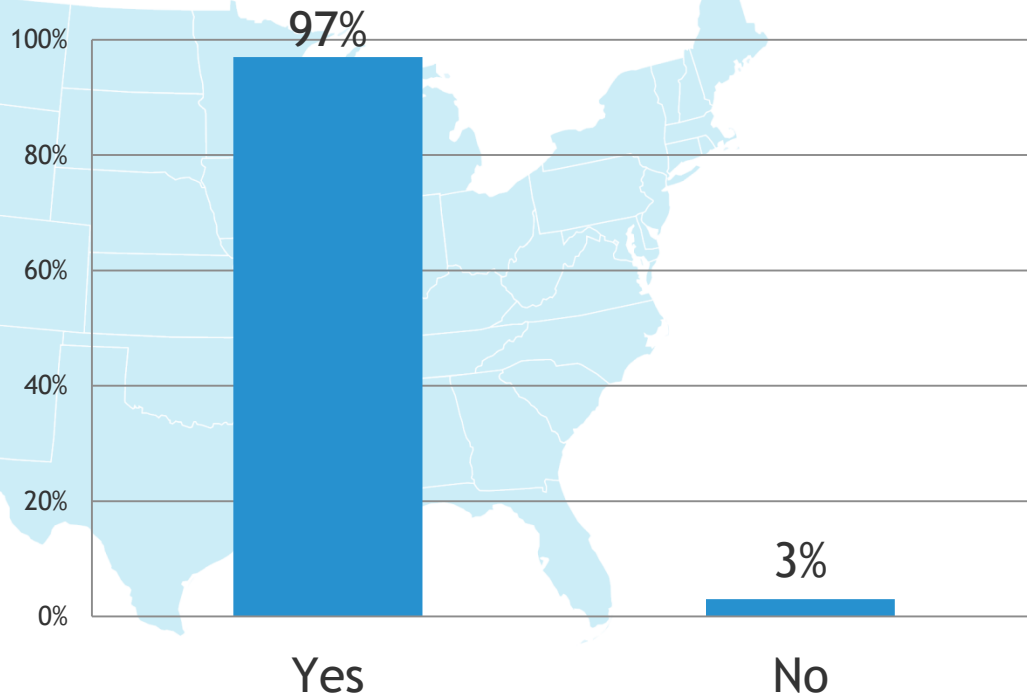
Q: "Did you start this new church work? (New church works include church plants, church mergers, revitalizations, restarts, new sites for an existing congregation). "

LifeWay RESEARCH
Biblical Solutions for Life

44% of new church works surveyed started since 2013

| Year	Percentage
2008	8%
2009	10%
2010	14%
2011	12%
2012	12%
2013	20%
2014	19%
2015	5%

Q: "What year did this new church work start? For church plants, new sites or campuses: the year when people began to meet together regularly. For mergers, revitalization, or re-starts: the year the church began to meet regularly after this change in leadership took place. (Please select the best year)"

LifeWay RESEARCH
Biblical Solutions for Life

92% have

the same pastor as when the new work began

92%

	100%		92%	
	80%			
	60%			
	40%			
	20%	8%		0%
	0%			
		Yes	No	Not sure

Q: "Please indicate whether the following statements about the new church work are true: **The pastor has changed since the new work began.**"

LifeWay
RESEARCH
*Biblical Solutions for Life*

24% of church plants surveyed are multi-ethnic
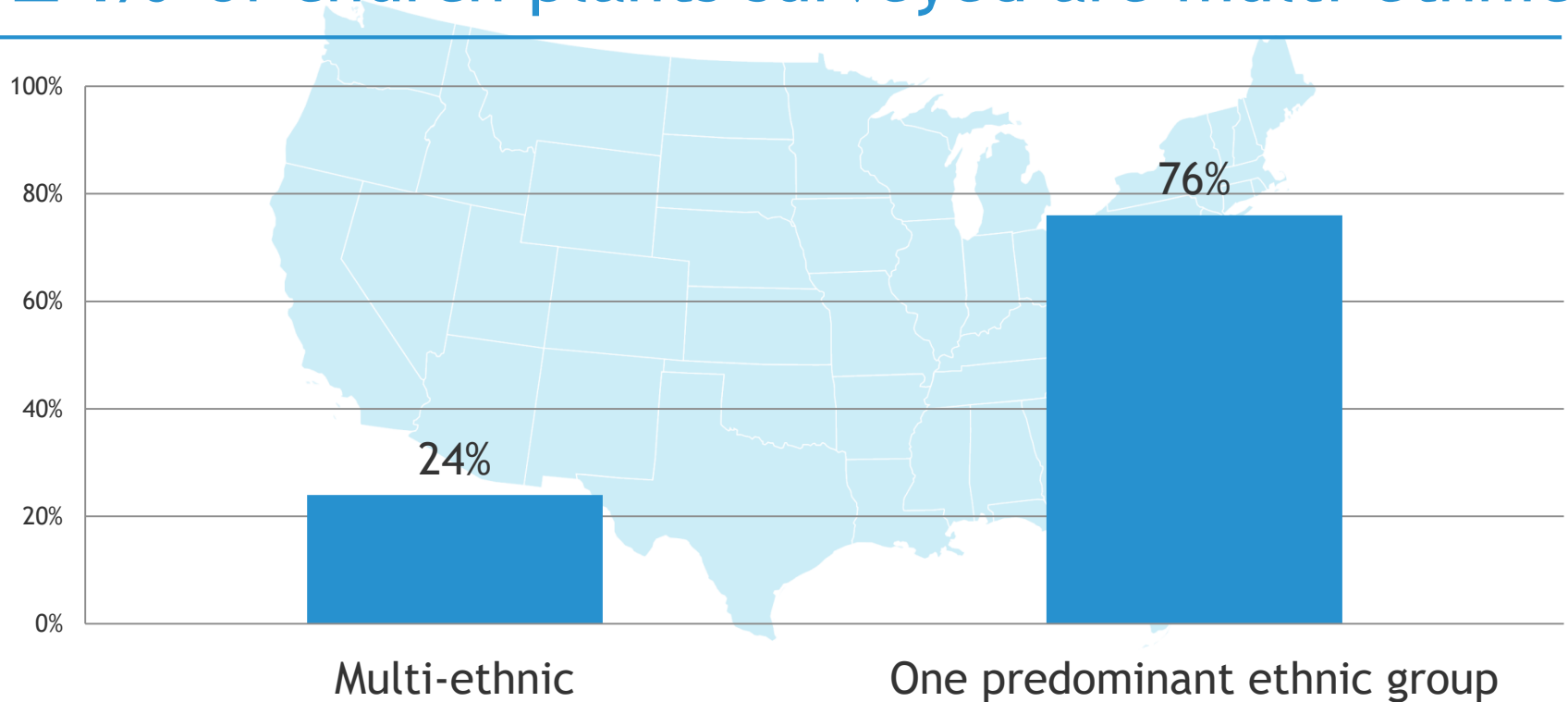
Multi-ethnic= no ethnic group comprises 80% or more of the congregation

Q: "What is the current ethnic and racial make-up of your church? Rough estimates are acceptable. If no one from a particular ethnic/racial group is in your church, please mark 0% Total percentages should add to 100%. "

LifeWay
RESEARCH
Biblical Solutions for Life
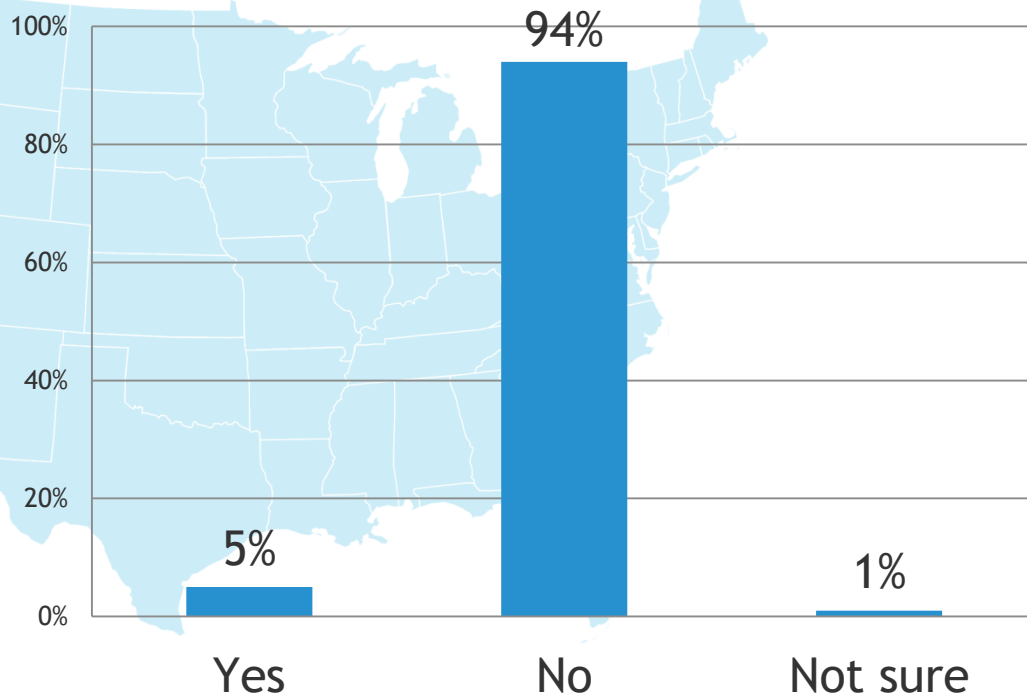
24% have faced a financial crisis
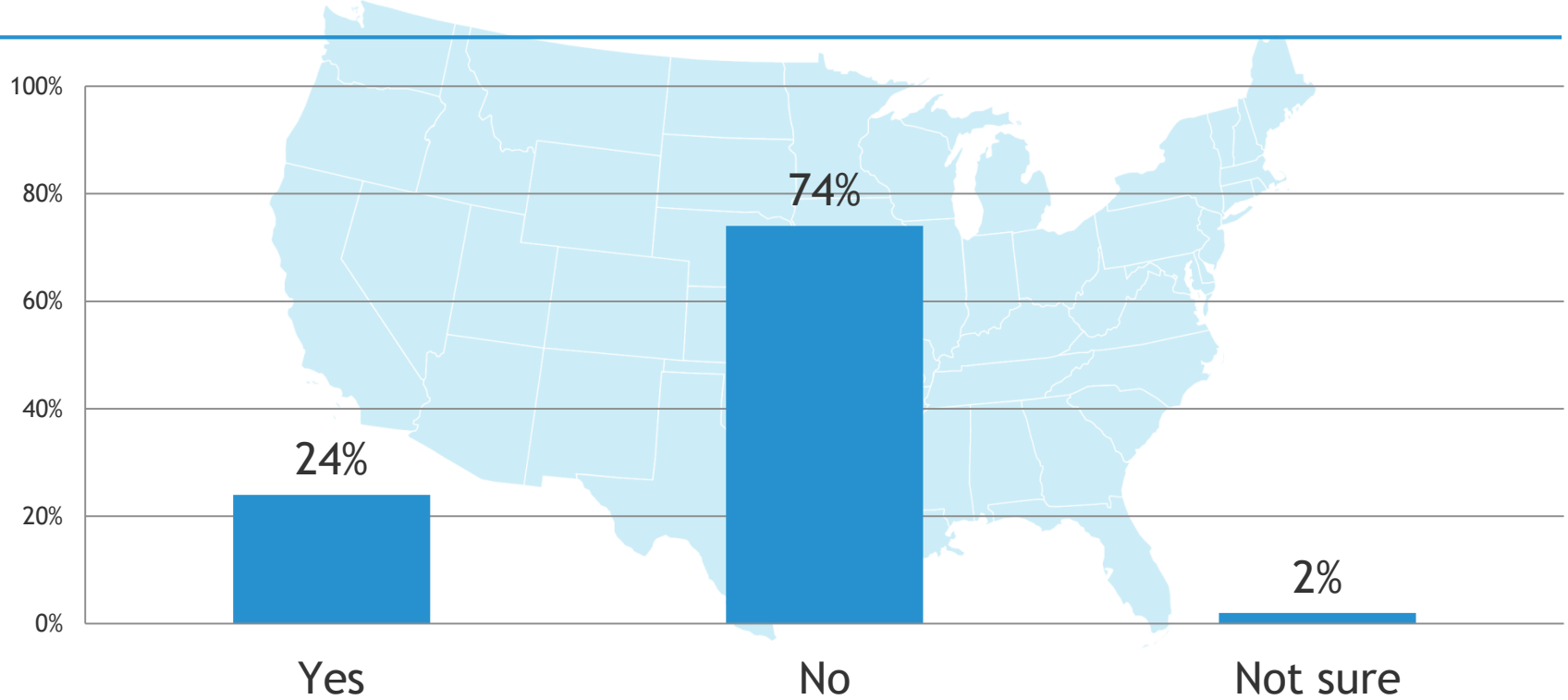
Q: "Please indicate whether the following statements about the new church work are true: **The new church work has faced a financial crisis.**"
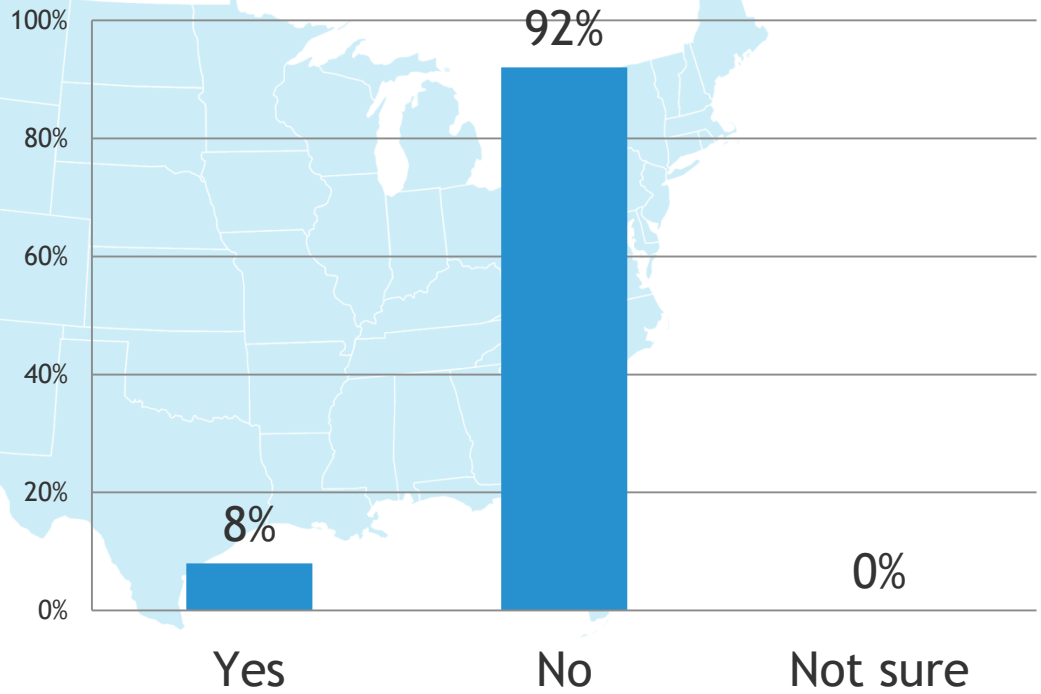
12% started with a church building
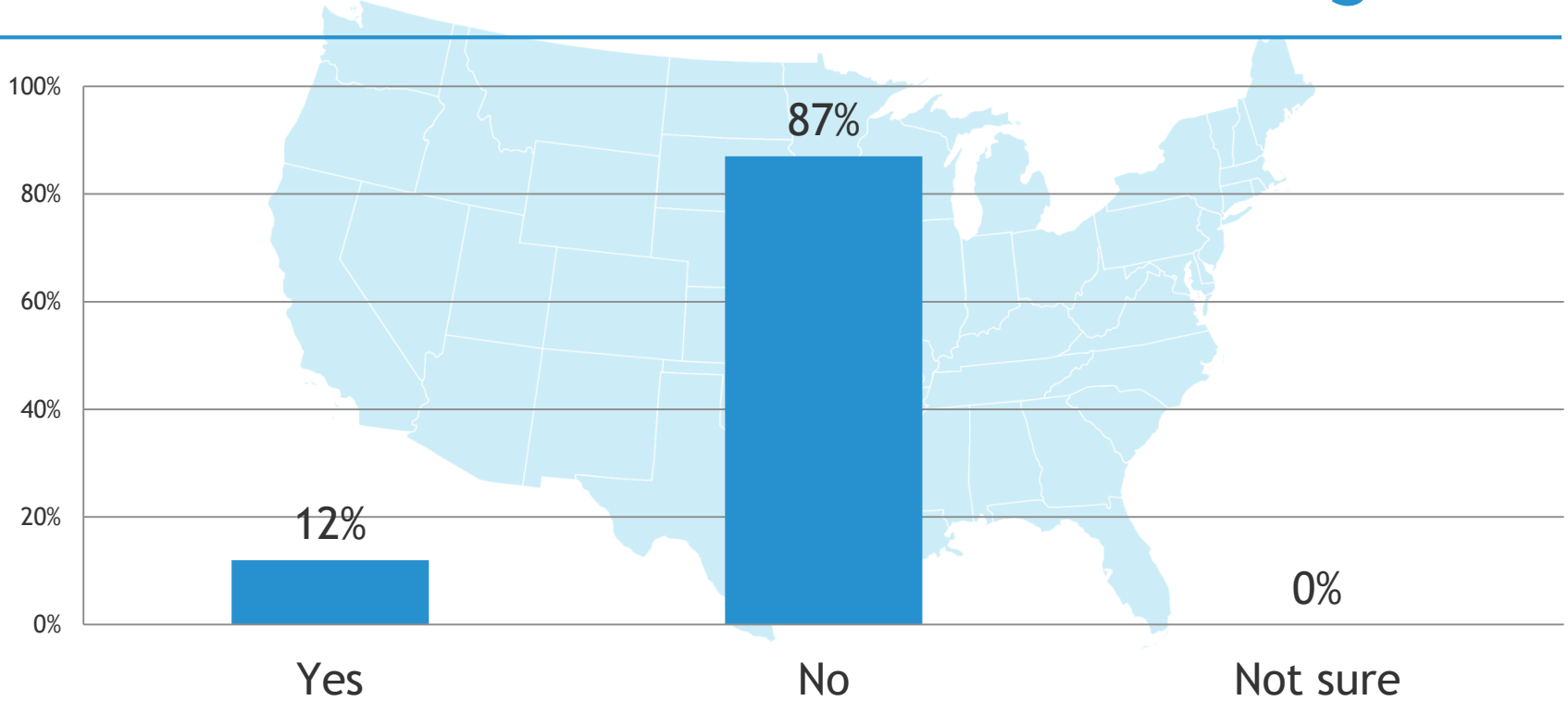
Q: "Please indicate whether the following statements about the new church work are true: **The new church work started with a church building**"

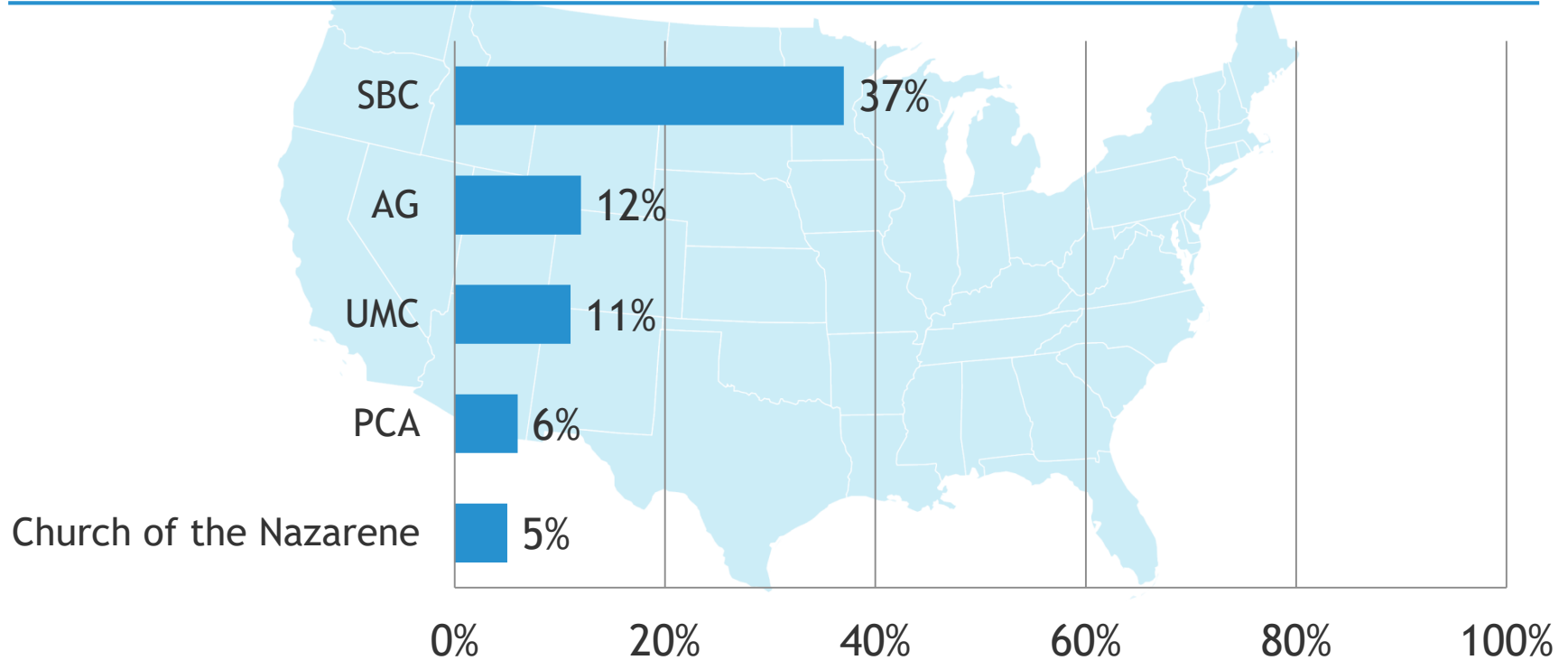**5%** had two independent groups start the church together

Q: "Please indicate whether the following statements about the new church work are true: **Two independent groups started the church together**"

Chart values:
- Yes: 5%
- No: 94%
- Not sure: 1%

LifeWay RESEARCH
Biblical Solutions for Life

92% have the same name as when the church began

|	Yes	No	Not sure
	8%	92%	0%

Q: "Please indicate whether the following statements about the new church work are true: **The new church work changed its name since it began**"

LifeWay RESEARCH
Biblical Solutions for Life

Beginning Religious Group or Denomination

Bar chart:

- SBC — 37%
- AG — 12%
- UMC — 11%
- PCA — 6%
- Church of the Nazarene — 5%

X-axis: 0% 20% 40% 60% 80% 100%

Q: "Which religious group or denomination was the new church work affiliated with when it began? (Please select one)"

LifeWay
RESEARCH
Biblical Solutions for Life

Beginning Religious Group or Denomination

Denomination	Percentage
E-Free	5%
Non-denominational	4%
CMA	3%
Vineyard	3%
Converge	3%
Other	10%

Q: "Which religious group or denomination was the new church work affiliated with when it began? (Please select one)"
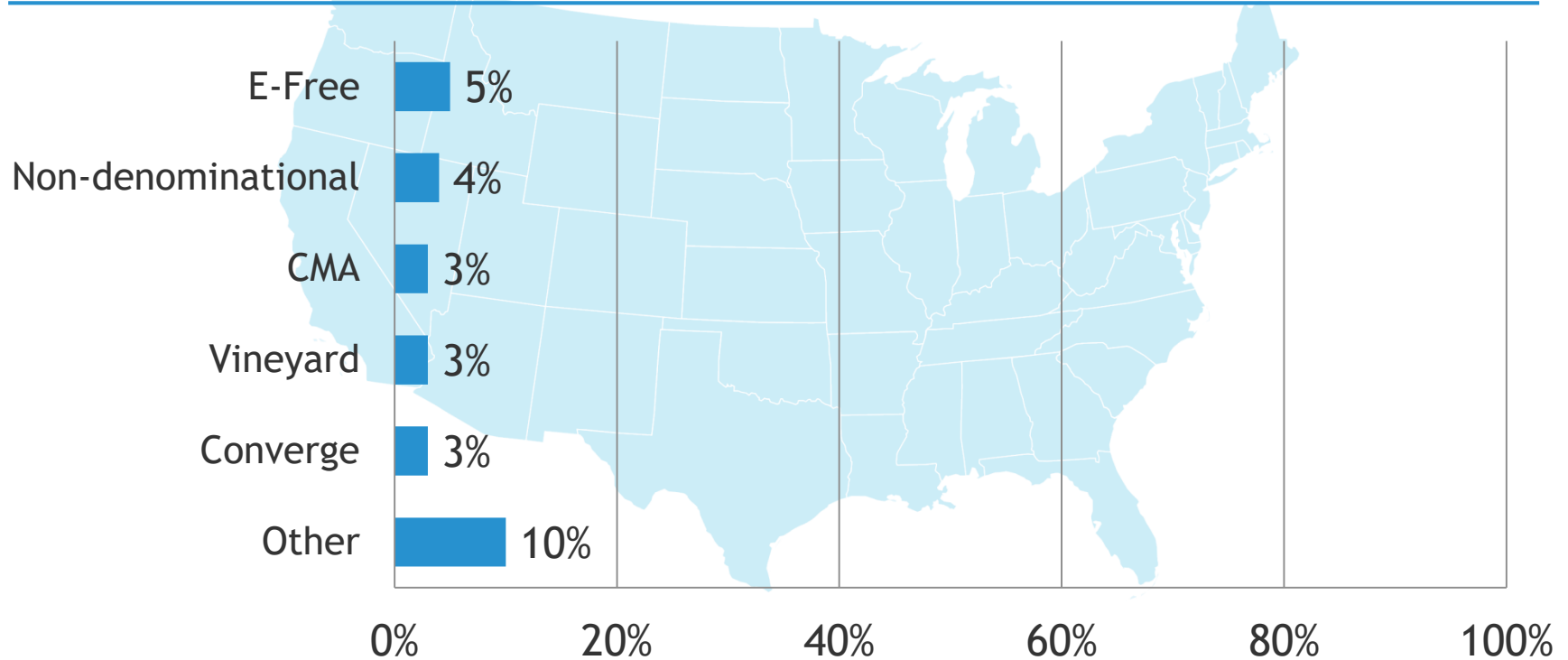
LifeWay
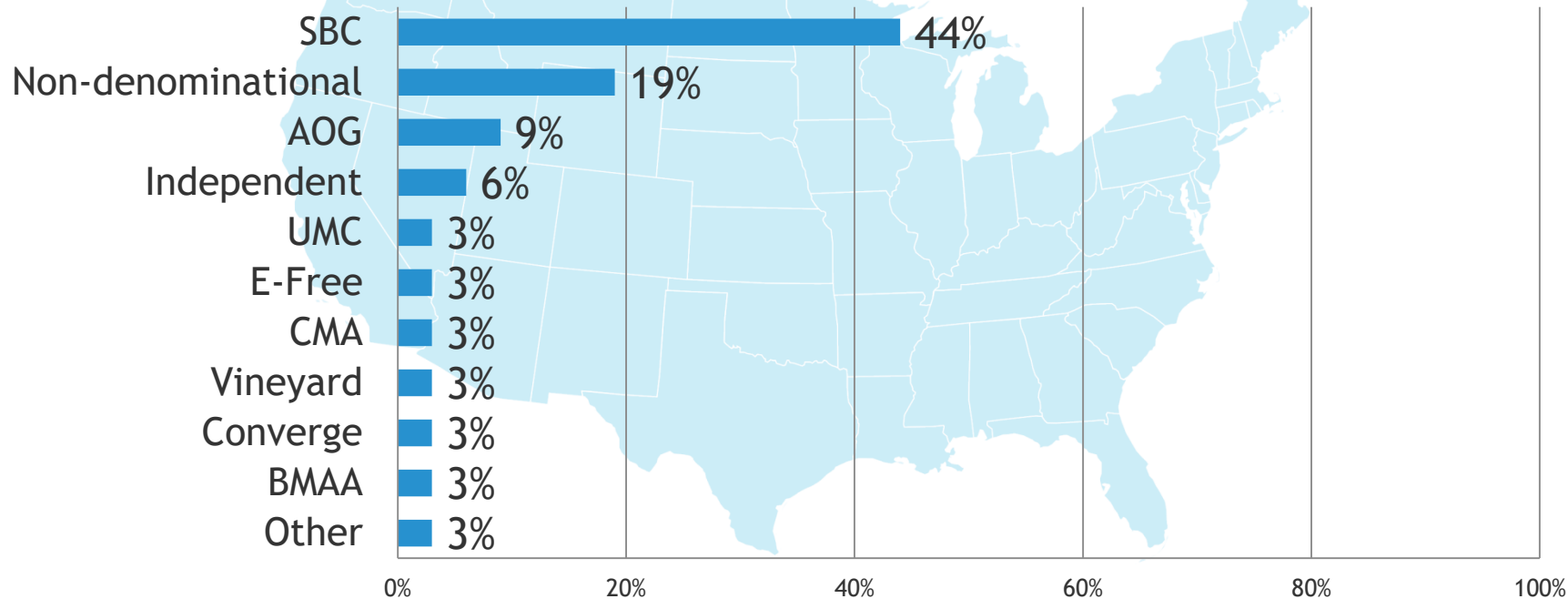RESEARCH
Biblical Solutions for Life

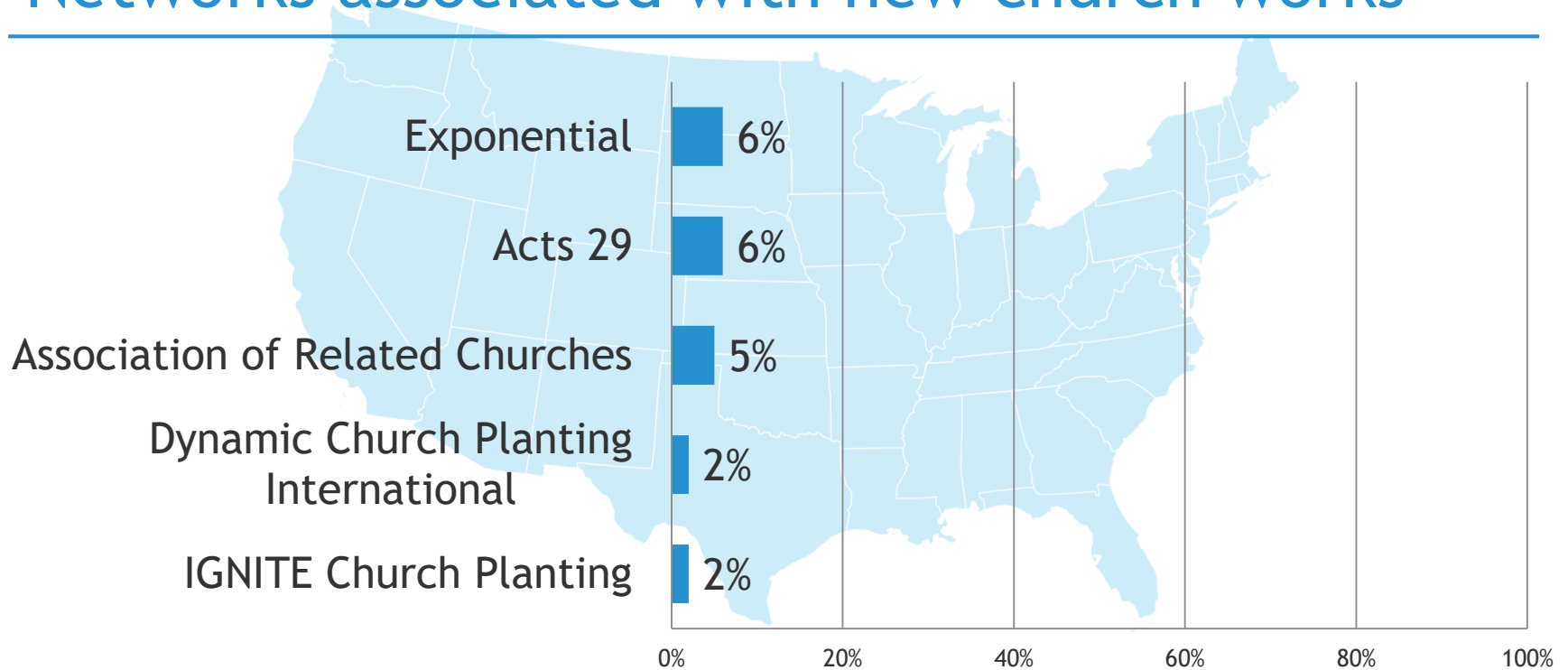# 96% are affiliated with their starting denomination

96%
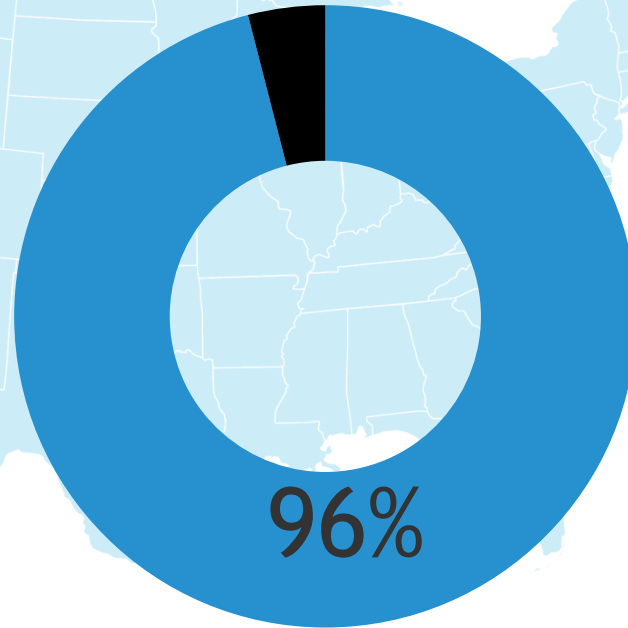
■ Yes
■ No

Q: "Is the church still affiliated with the same denomination?"

Among those who have changed, current religious group or denomination

Denomination	Percentage
SBC	44%
Non-denominational	19%
AOG	9%
Independent	6%
UMC	3%
E-Free	3%
CMA	3%
Vineyard	3%
Converge	3%
BMAA	3%
Other	3%

Q: "What is the church's current denomination? (Please select one)"

LifeWay RESEARCH
Biblical Solutions for Life

Networks associated with new church works*

Network	Percentage
Exponential	6%
Acts 29	6%
Association of Related Churches	5%
Dynamic Church Planting International	2%
IGNITE Church Planting	2%

*This slide shows networks that do not function as the church planting division of a larger denominational organization.

Q: "Apart from your denominational affiliation, what church networks/movements is (are) the church resourced by or associated with?"

LifeWay
RESEARCH
Biblical Solutions for Life
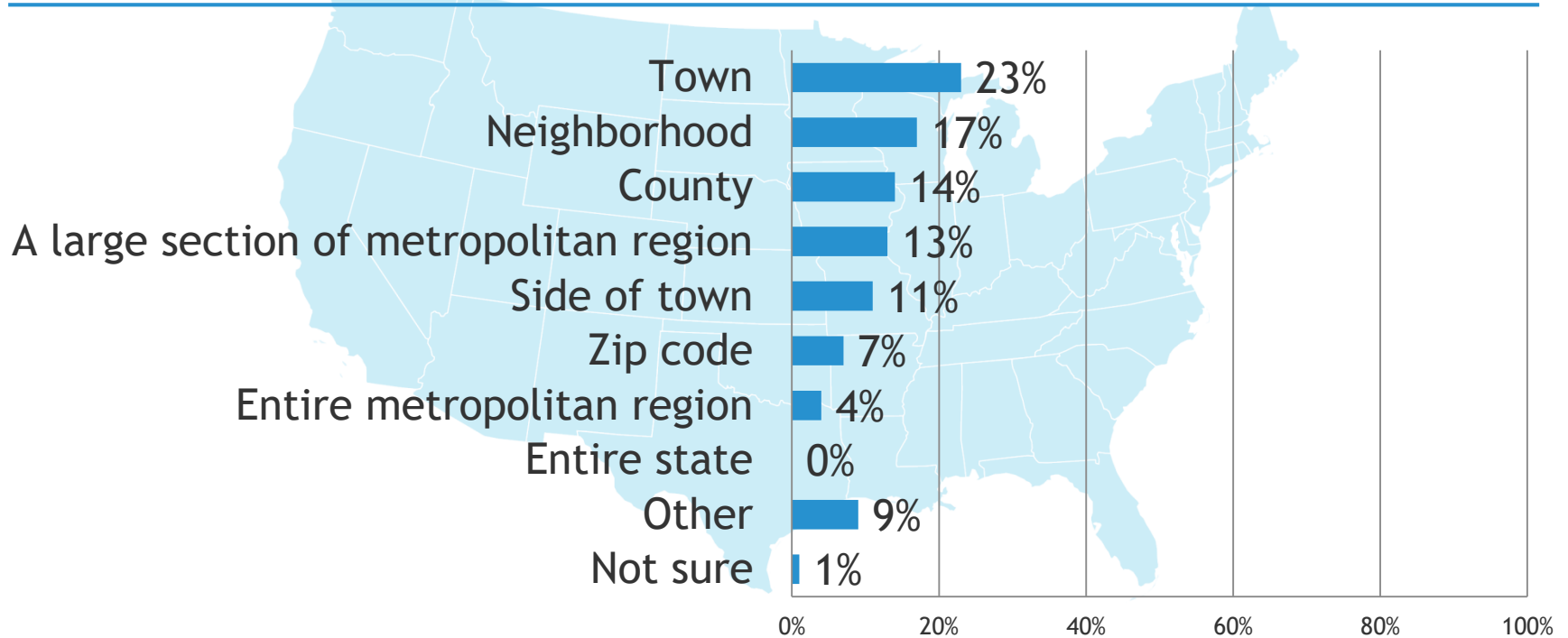
Average weekly worship attendance, by year
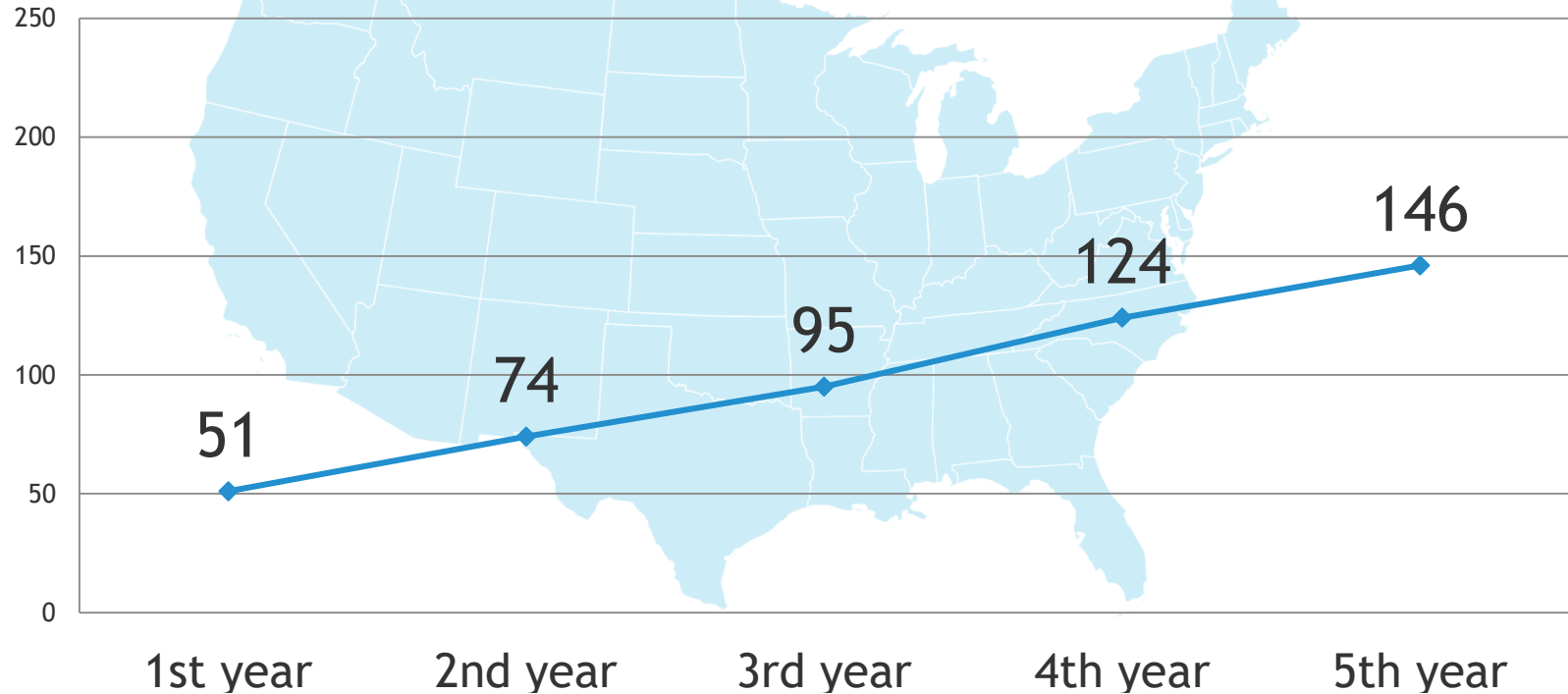
Q: "Please provide the WEEKLY average worship attendance for each year since the new church work began. If you do not have a single gathering each week, add the total number of people in smaller groups gathered each week. (If later years are not applicable, leave those blank.)"

Average number of new commitments to Christ, by year

11 — 1st year
14 — 2nd year
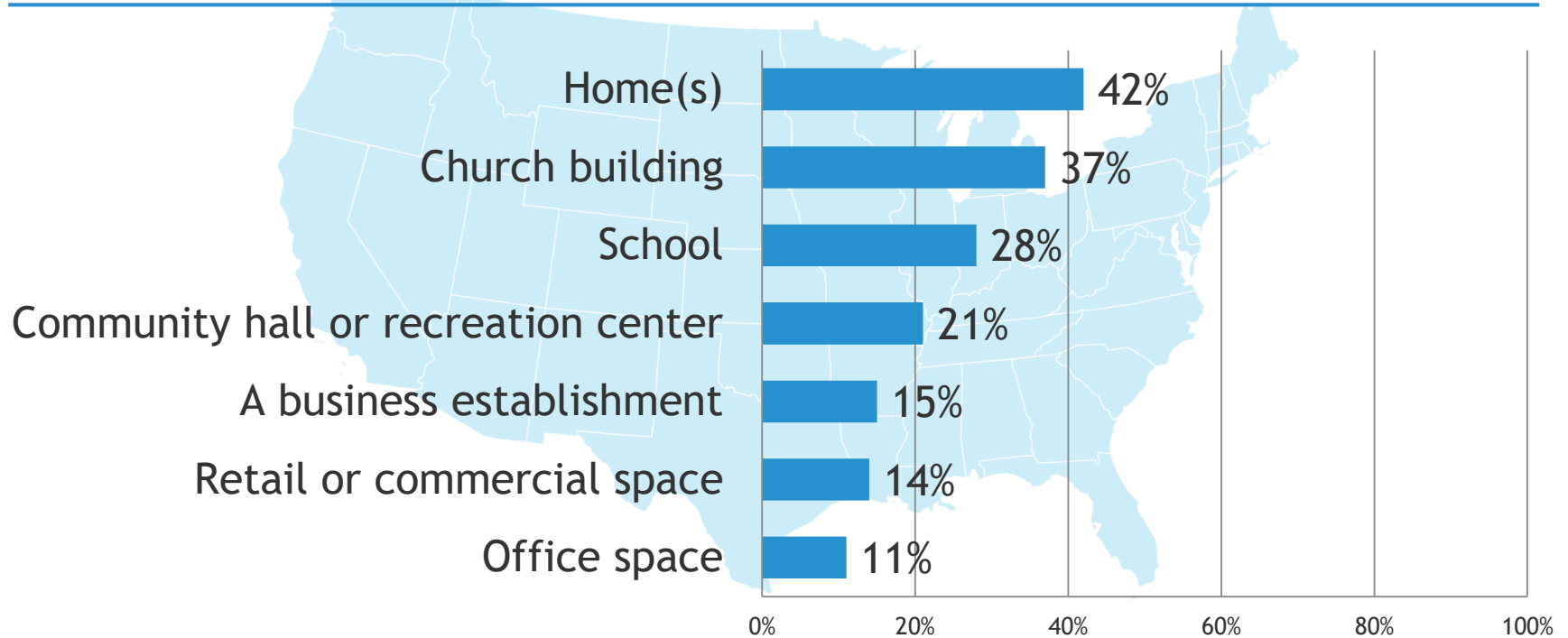18 — 3rd year
17 — 4th year
18 — 5th year
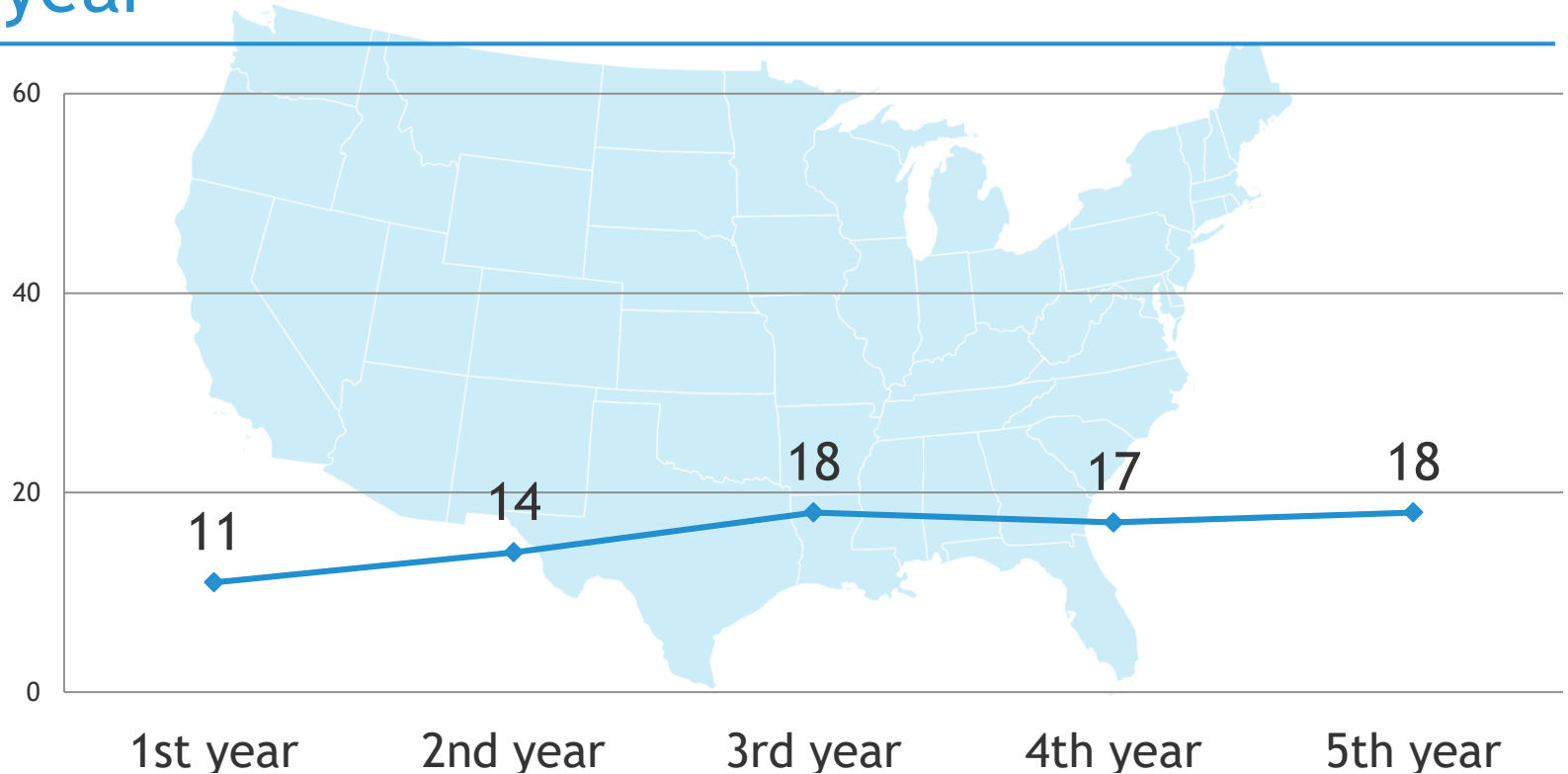
Q: "For each year the church has been in existence, please estimate the annual number of NEW, FIRST-TIME COMMITMENTS to Jesus Christ through your new church work since it began. (If later years are not applicable, leave those blank.)"
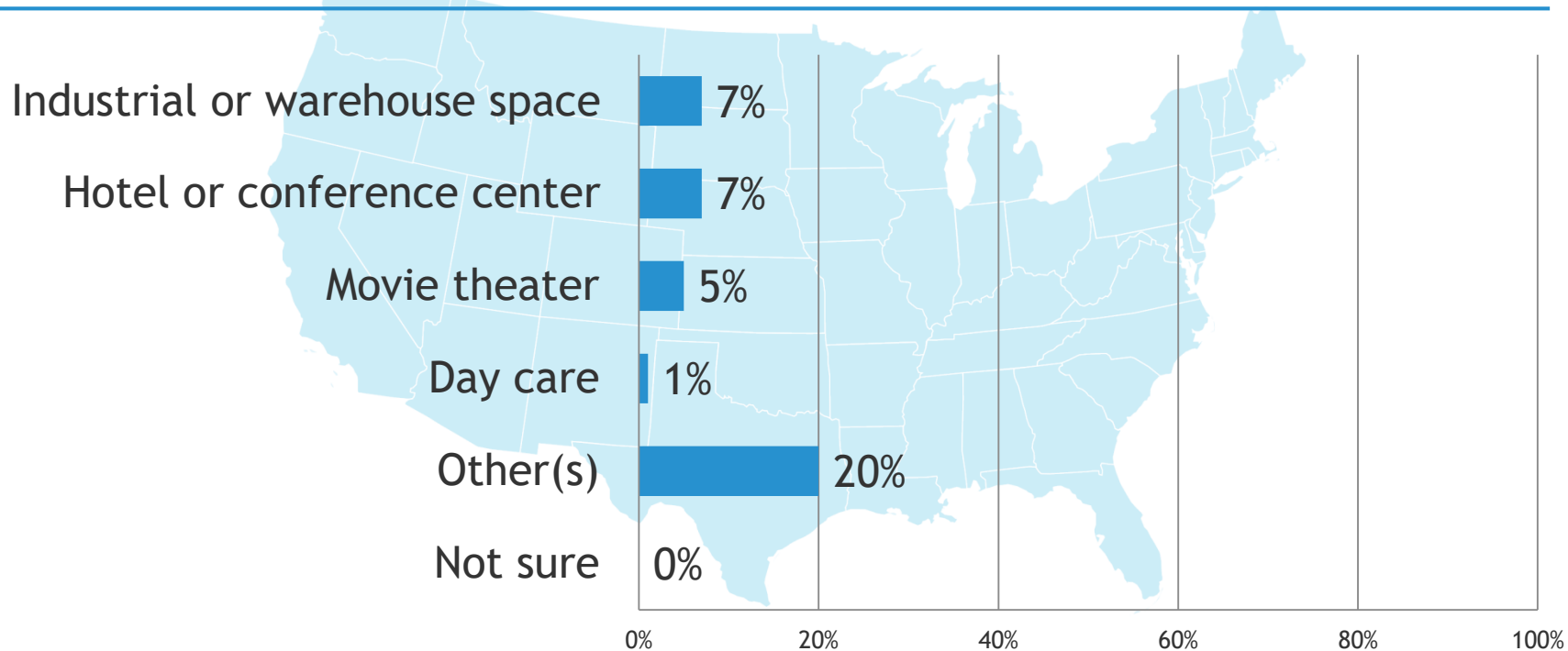
LifeWay RESEARCH
Biblical Solutions for Life

Geographic area

Category	Percentage
Town	23%
Neighborhood	17%
County	14%
A large section of metropolitan region	13%
Side of town	11%
Zip code	7%
Entire metropolitan region	4%
Entire state	0%
Other	9%
Not sure	1%

Q: "How would you best distinguish the geographic area your new church work serves? (Select one)"

LifeWay
RESEARCH
Biblical Solutions for Life

All facilities used by church plants

Facility	Percentage
Home(s)	42%
Church building	37%
School	28%
Community hall or recreation center	21%
A business establishment	15%
Retail or commercial space	14%
Office space	11%

Q: "What facilities has the church used since it started? (Please select all that apply)"

LifeWay RESEARCH
Biblical Solutions for Life

All facilities used by church plants

Facility	Percentage
Industrial or warehouse space	7%
Hotel or conference center	7%
Movie theater	5%
Day care	1%
Other(s)	20%
Not sure	0%

Q: "What facilities has the church used since it started? (Please select all that apply)"

LifeWay RESEARCH
Biblical Solutions for Life

Current Primary Facility

Facility	Percentage
Church building	31%
School	16%
Retail or commercial space	9%
Home(s)	8%
Community hall or recreation center	8%
Industrial or warehouse space	5%
A business establishment	4%

0% 20% 40% 60% 80% 100%

Q: "What is the primary facility for the church's CURRENT worship services? (Select one)"

LifeWay
RESEARCH
Biblical Solutions for Life

Current Primary Facility

Facility	Percentage
Movie theater	3%
Office space	2%
Hotel or conference center	2%
Day care	0%
Other	13%
Not sure	0%

Q: "What is the primary facility for the church's CURRENT worship services? (Select one)"

LifeWay RESEARCH
Biblical Solutions for Life

34%

have conducted worship services in only one facility

Facilities	Percentage
1	34%
2	31%
3	19%
4	8%
5	4%
More than 5	3%
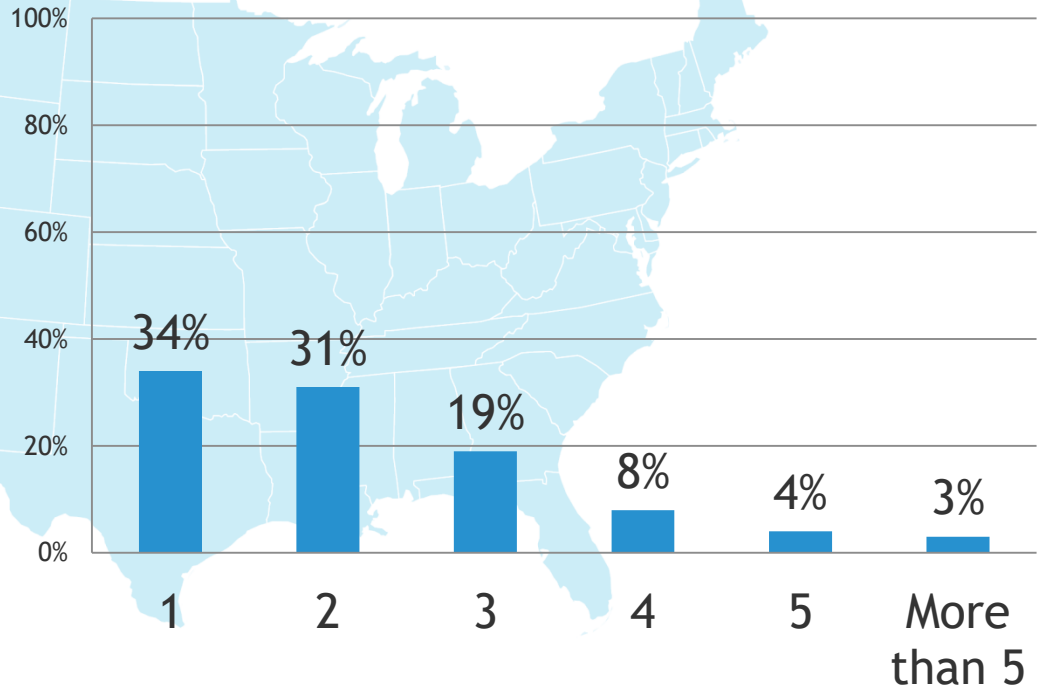
Q: "In how many different facilities has your new church work conducted worship services since it began?"

LifeWay
RESEARCH
Biblical Solutions for Life

Nearly half hold their service in a residential area

Residential area — 48%
Mixed use — 19%
City center/downtown — 15%
Retail area — 8%
Industrial — 2%
Offices — 1%
Other — 6%
Not sure — 1%

0% 20% 40% 60% 80% 100%
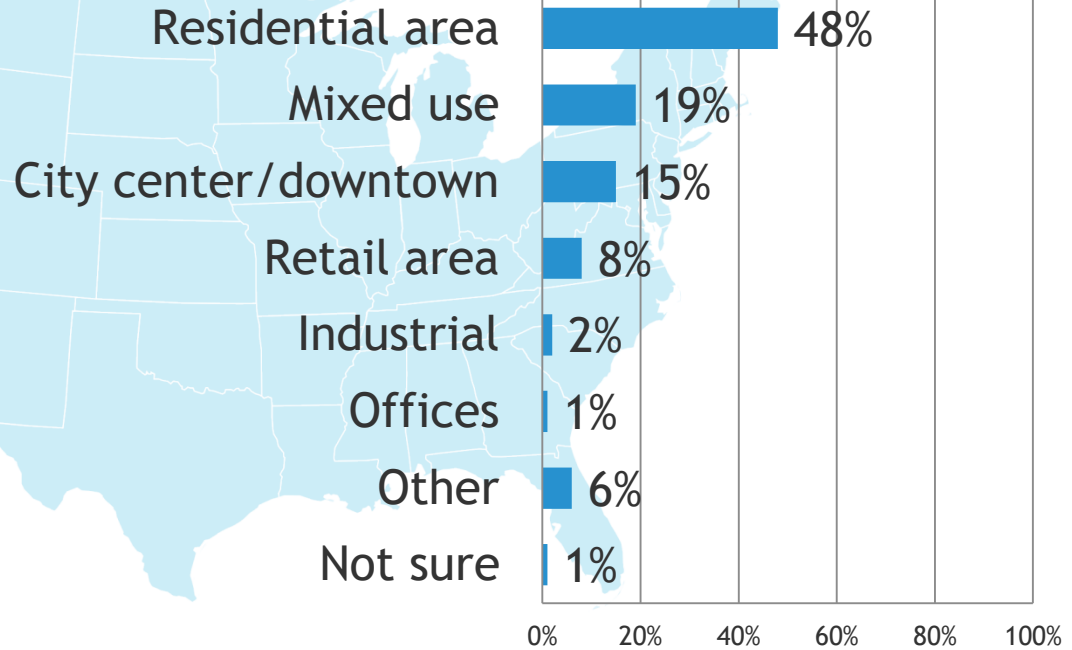
Q: "Which of the following best describes the area immediately around the place where worship services are currently held? (Please select one)"

LifeWay RESEARCH
Biblical Solutions for Life

73%

require weekly setup and tear-down at some point during the first 5 years

■ Yes
■ No

27%

73%
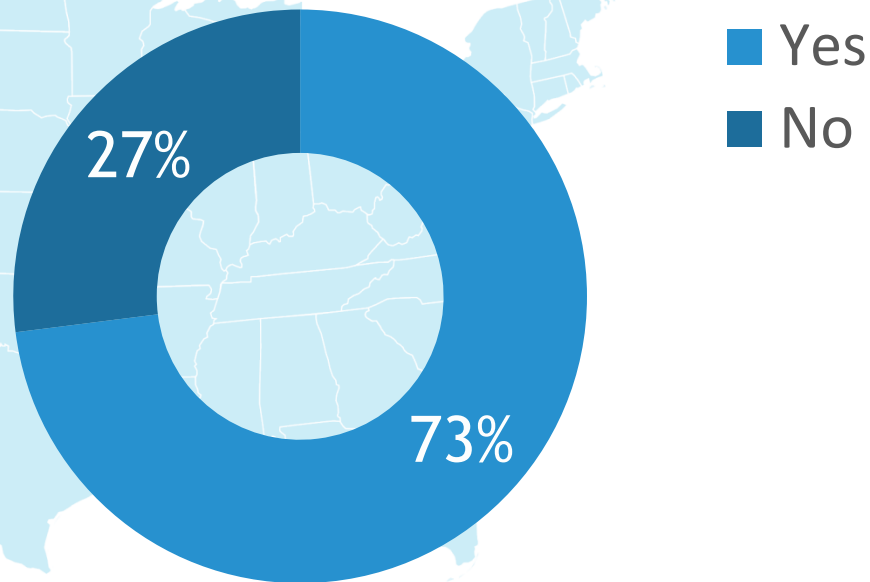
Q: "For any period during the first 5 years of the new church work, did the church's location(s) require setup and tear-down each week?"

LifeWay RESEARCH
Biblical Solutions for Life

What participating church planters identified as their

TOP 3 FORMS OF PUBLICITY

59% use social media
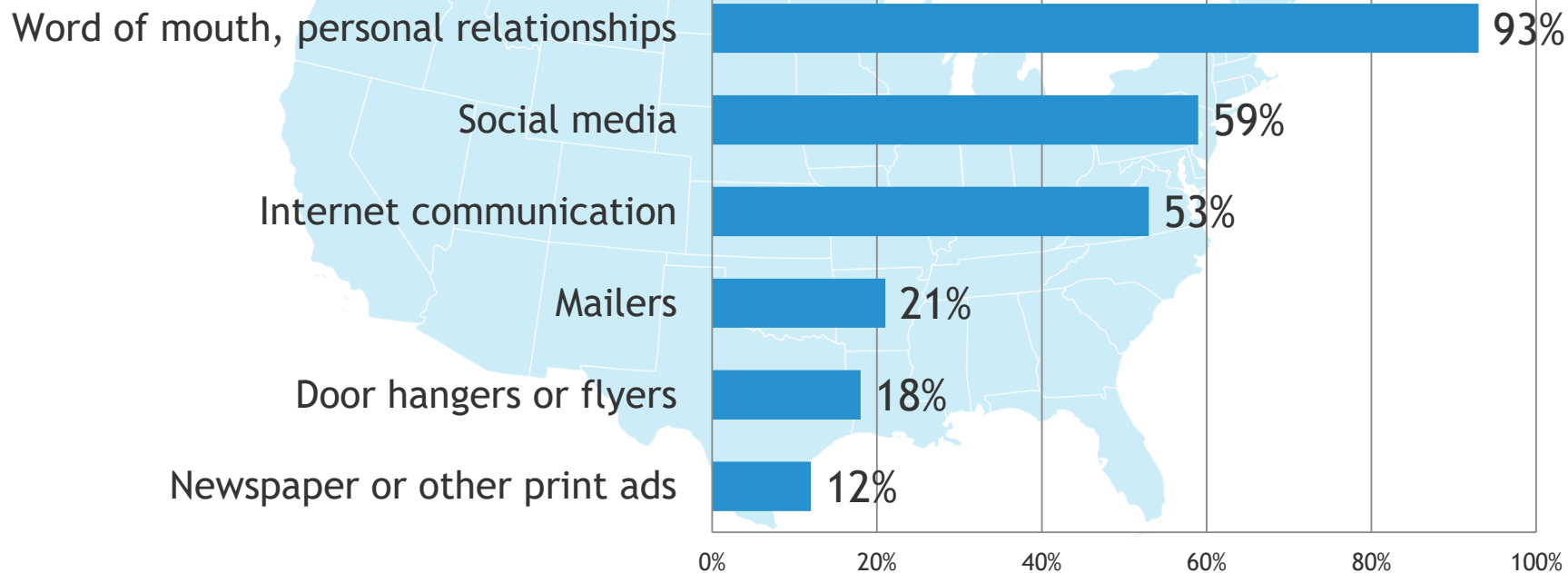
Form	Percentage
Word of mouth, personal relationships	93%
Social media	59%
Internet communication	53%
Mailers	21%
Door hangers or flyers	18%
Newspaper or other print ads	12%

Q: "What were the top 3 forms of publicity most frequently used to communicate news of a new church in the community? (Select up to three)"

LifeWay
RESEARCH
Biblical Solutions for Life

9% use billboards and/or road signs

Billboards and/or road signs — 9%

Radio or television ads — 3%

Mailers to specific demographic group — 2%

Telephone campaigns — 2%

Other — 8%

Not sure — 0%

0%   20%   40%   60%   80%   100%

Q: "What were the top 3 forms of publicity most frequently used to communicate news of a new church in the community? (Select up to three)"

LifeWay
RESEARCH
Biblical Solutions for Life
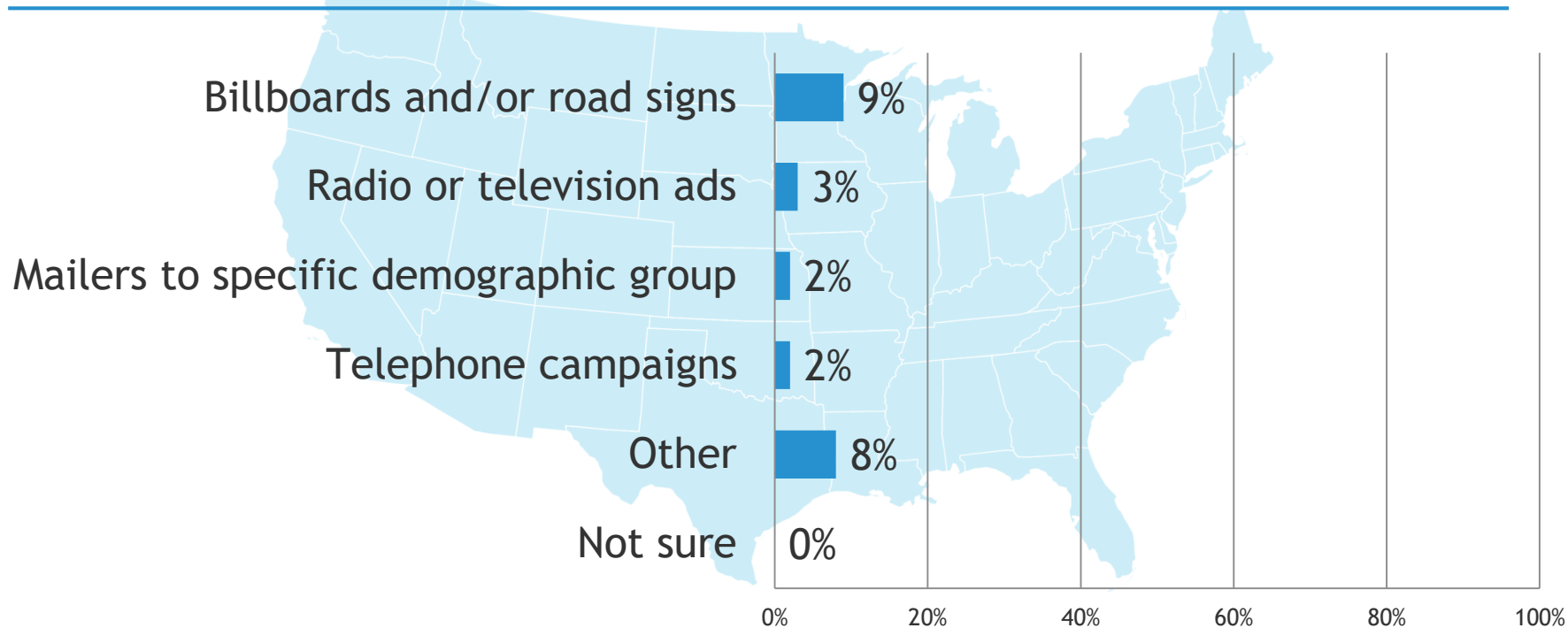
MOST SUCCESSFUL FORM OF PUBLICITY

77% say word of mouth

Form	Percentage
Word of mouth, personal relationships	77%
Social media	6%
Internet communication	4%
Mailers	3%
Billboards and/or road signs	3%
Newspaper or other print ads	1%
Door hangers or flyers	1%

Q: "What was the most successful form of publicity that attracted the most newcomers to your church? (Please select one)"

LifeWay
RESEARCH
Biblical Solutions for Life

Less than 1% say radio or television ads, mailers to specific demographic groups, or telephone campaigns were their most successful form of publicity

LifeWay
RESEARCH
Biblical Solutions for Life

REGULAR ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION (YEARS 1-5)

86%
communicate through Facebook
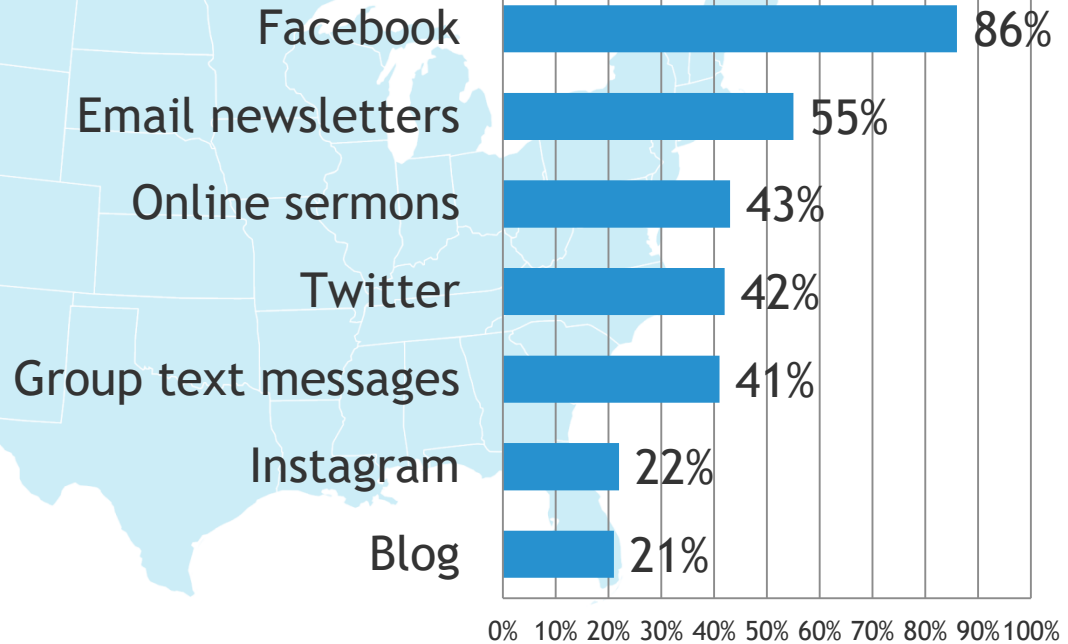
Facebook ████████████████████ 86%
Email newsletters ████████████ 55%
Online sermons ██████████ 43%
Twitter █████████ 42%
Group text messages █████████ 41%
Instagram █████ 22%
Blog █████ 21%

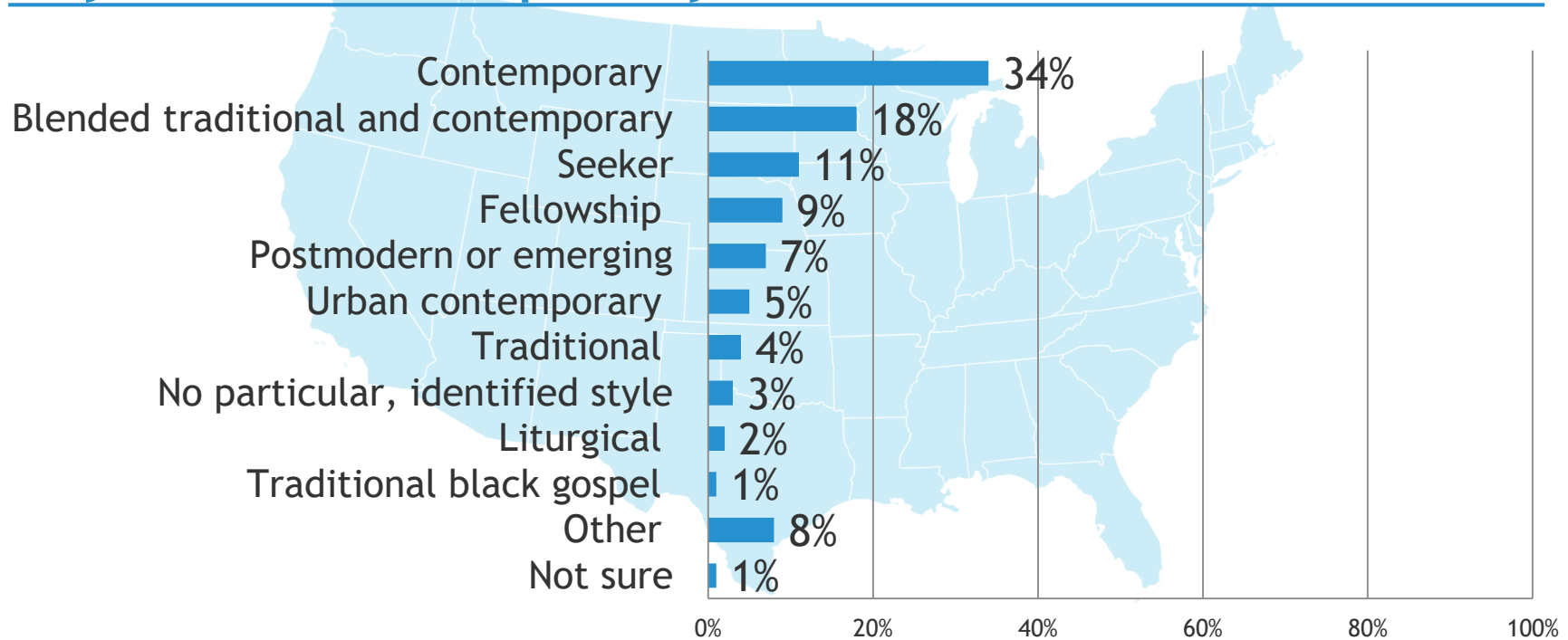0% 10% 20% 30% 40% 50% 60% 70% 80% 90% 100%

Q: "Which of the following (if any) electronic communication was regularly used for communication within your new church work during the first 5 years? (Select all that apply)"

LifeWay RESEARCH
Biblical Solutions for Life

18%
communicate through podcasts
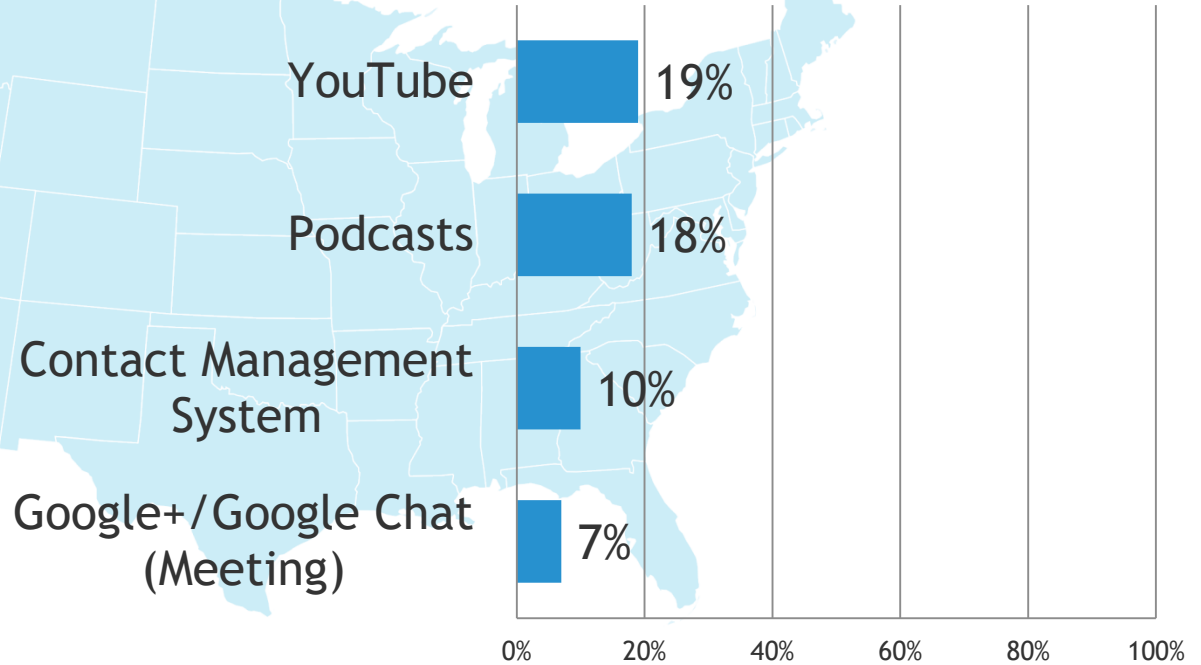
- YouTube — 19%
- Podcasts — 18%
- Contact Management System — 10%
- Google+/Google Chat (Meeting) — 7%

0% 20% 40% 60% 80% 100%

Q: "Which of the following (if any) electronic communication was regularly used for communication within your new church work during the first 5 years? (Select all that apply)"

LifeWay
RESEARCH
Biblical Solutions for Life

5%
communicate through remote meetings
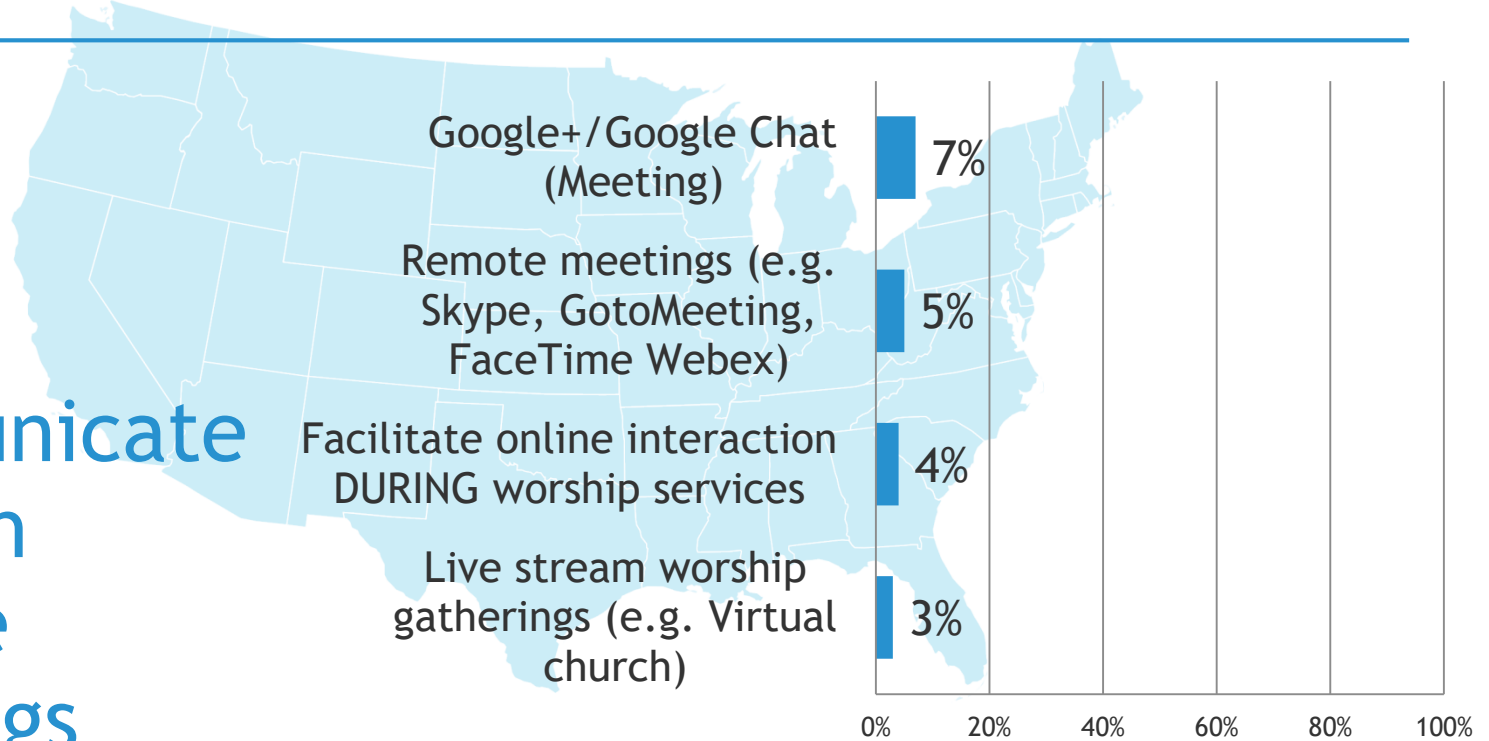
Google+/Google Chat (Meeting) — 7%

Remote meetings (e.g. Skype, GotoMeeting, FaceTime Webex) — 5%

Facilitate online interaction DURING worship services — 4%

Live stream worship gatherings (e.g. Virtual church) — 3%

0%   20%   40%   60%   80%   100%

Q: "Which of the following (if any) electronic communication was regularly used for communication within your new church work during the first 5 years? (Select all that apply)"

LifeWay RESEARCH
Biblical Solutions for Life

4% are not using electronic communication in the first five years
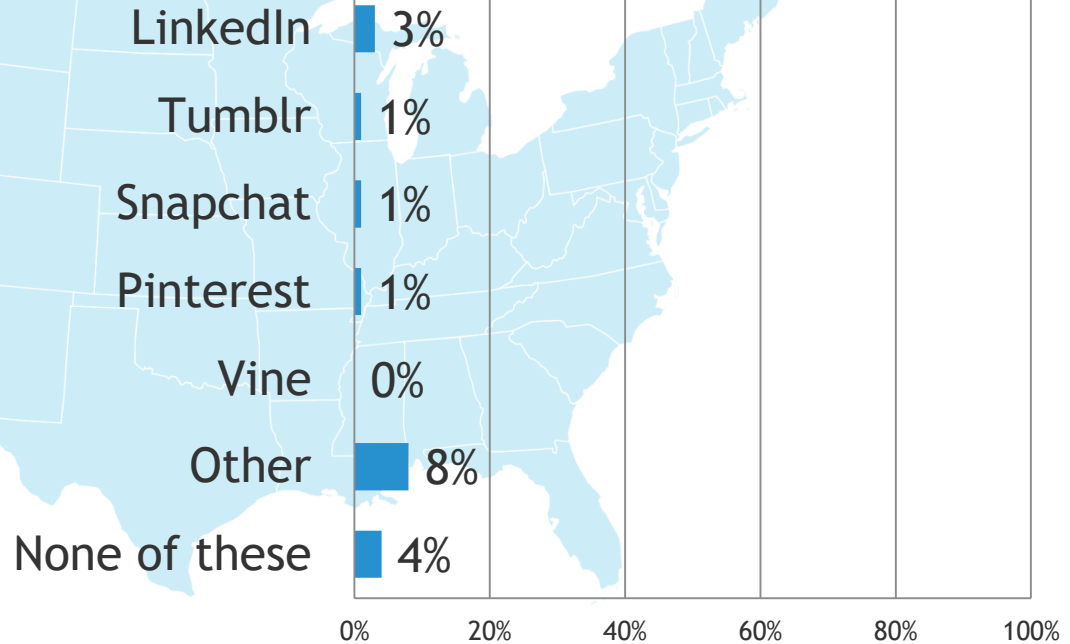
LinkedIn	3%
Tumblr	1%
Snapchat	1%
Pinterest	1%
Vine	0%
Other	8%
None of these	4%

0% 20% 40% 60% 80% 100%

Q: "Which of the following (if any) electronic communication was regularly used for communication within your new church work during the first 5 years? (Select all that apply)"

LifeWay
RESEARCH
Biblical Solutions for Life

On average, more than 4 in 10 attendees are completely unchurched or unchurched for many years

- Previously completely unchurched — 18%
- Unchurched for many years — 24%
- Previously part of other existing churches — 43%
- Children born to people who attend your church — 9%
- Other church background — 6%

(x-axis: 0% 20% 40% 60% 80% 100%)
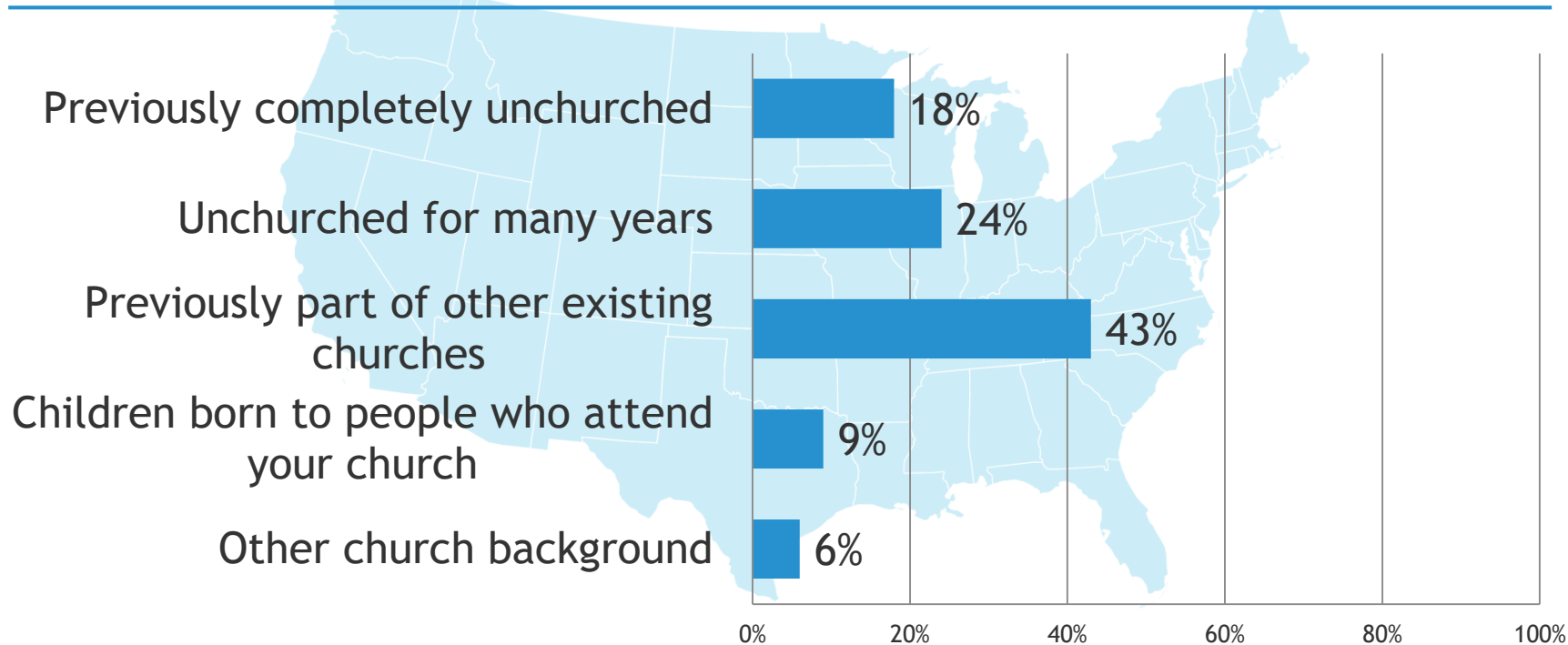
Q: "Among the people who have attended this new church work since it began, please estimate the percentage from each of the following church backgrounds. (If no one belongs to a particular group in your church, please mark 0%. Total percentages should add to 100%."

LifeWay RESEARCH
Biblical Solutions for Life

34% of congregations identify their worship style as contemporary

Contemporary — 34%
Blended traditional and contemporary — 18%
Seeker — 11%
Fellowship — 9%
Postmodern or emerging — 7%
Urban contemporary — 5%
Traditional — 4%
No particular, identified style — 3%
Liturgical — 2%
Traditional black gospel — 1%
Other — 8%
Not sure — 1%

0% 20% 40% 60% 80% 100%

Q: "How would you best describe the worship style of your church? (Select one)"

Nearly half are influenced by a missional model
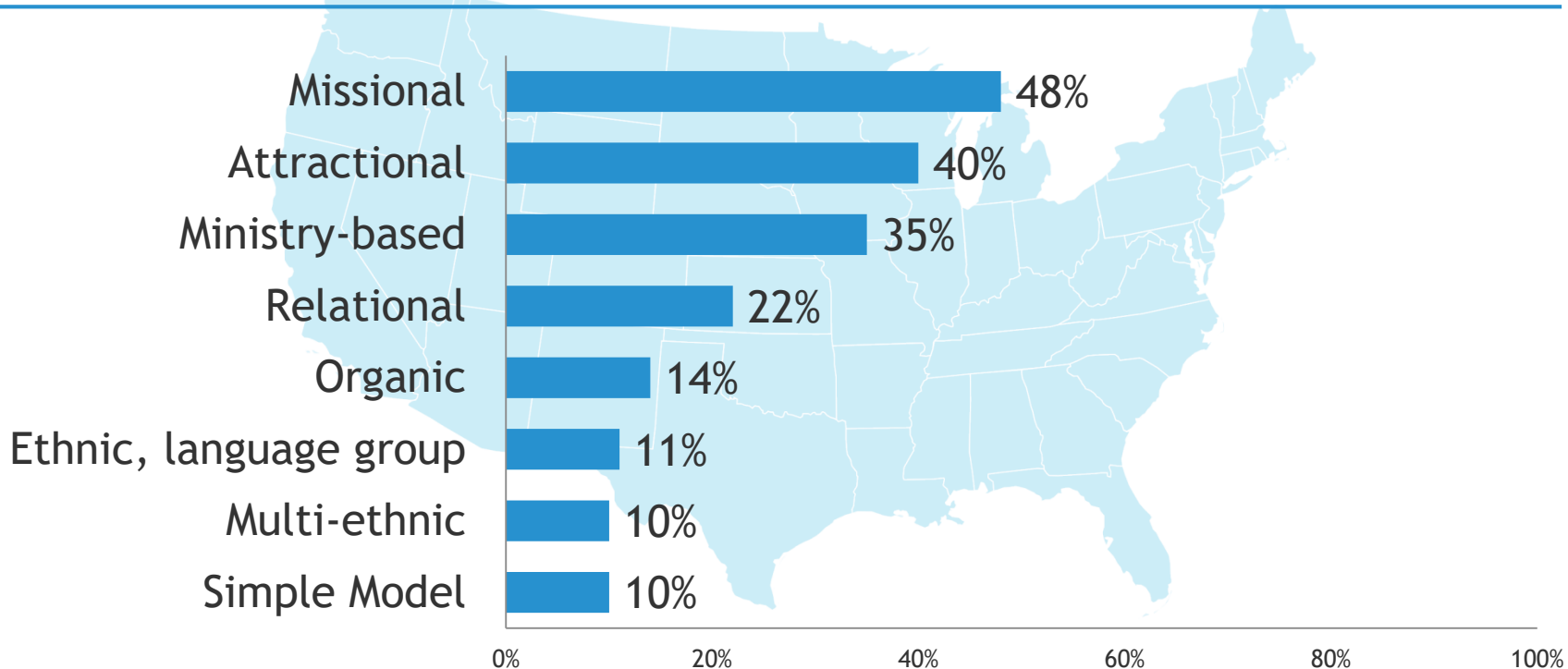
Model	Percentage
Missional	48%
Attractional	40%
Ministry-based	35%
Relational	22%
Organic	14%
Ethnic, language group	11%
Multi-ethnic	10%
Simple Model	10%

Q: "Which, if any, of the following models most strongly influenced the approach used in starting the church. SELECT THE TOP 3 MODELS."

5% say they are not influenced by any particular model
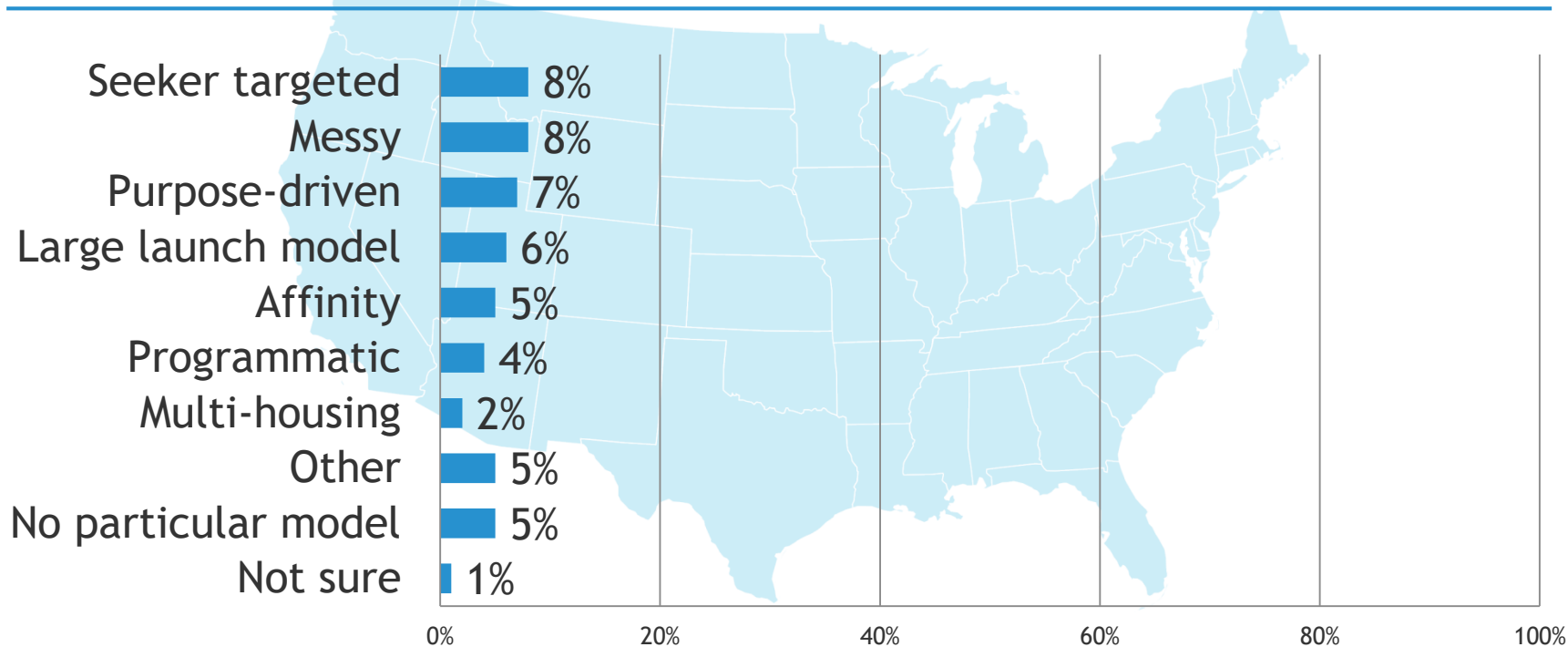
Model	Percentage
Seeker targeted	8%
Messy	8%
Purpose-driven	7%
Large launch model	6%
Affinity	5%
Programmatic	4%
Multi-housing	2%
Other	5%
No particular model	5%
Not sure	1%

Q: "Which, if any, of the following models most strongly influenced the approach used in starting the church. SELECT THE TOP 3 MODELS."

LifeWay RESEARCH
Biblical Solutions for Life

60% of

congregations are intentionally seeking to reach a cross-cultural or multi-ethnic group of people from the very beginning

Chart:

- Yes: 60%
- No: 35%
- Not sure: 5%
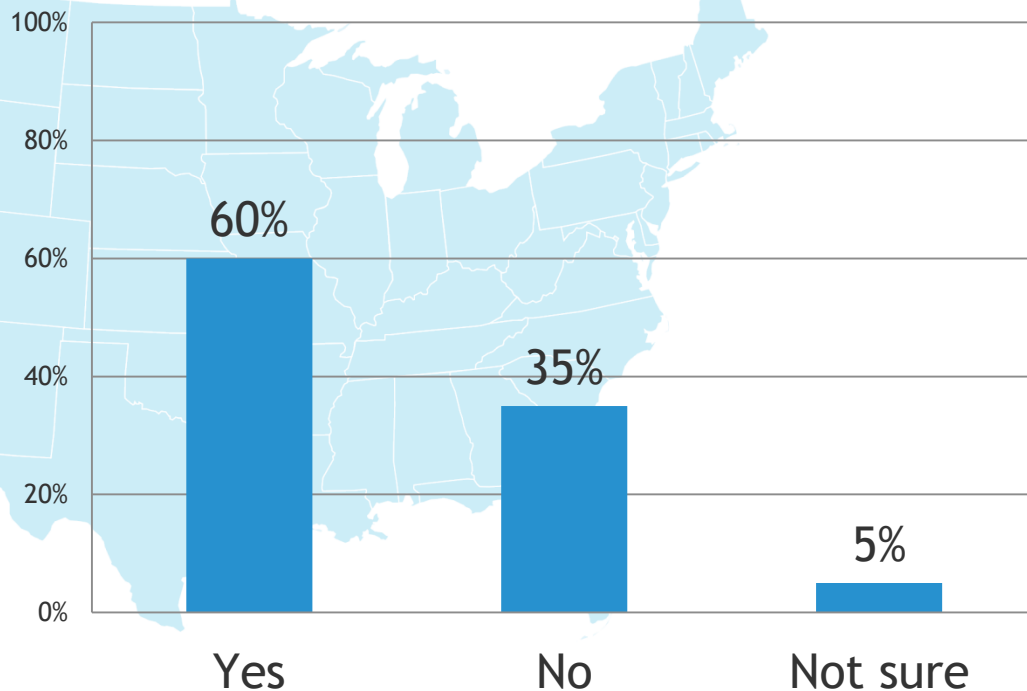
Q: "From the beginning, the church intentionally sought to reach a cross-cultural or multi-ethnic group of people."

LifeWay RESEARCH
Biblical Solutions for Life

27%

intentionally encourage the development of a culture that connects with a particular ethnic population

66% — No

27% — Yes

7% — Not sure
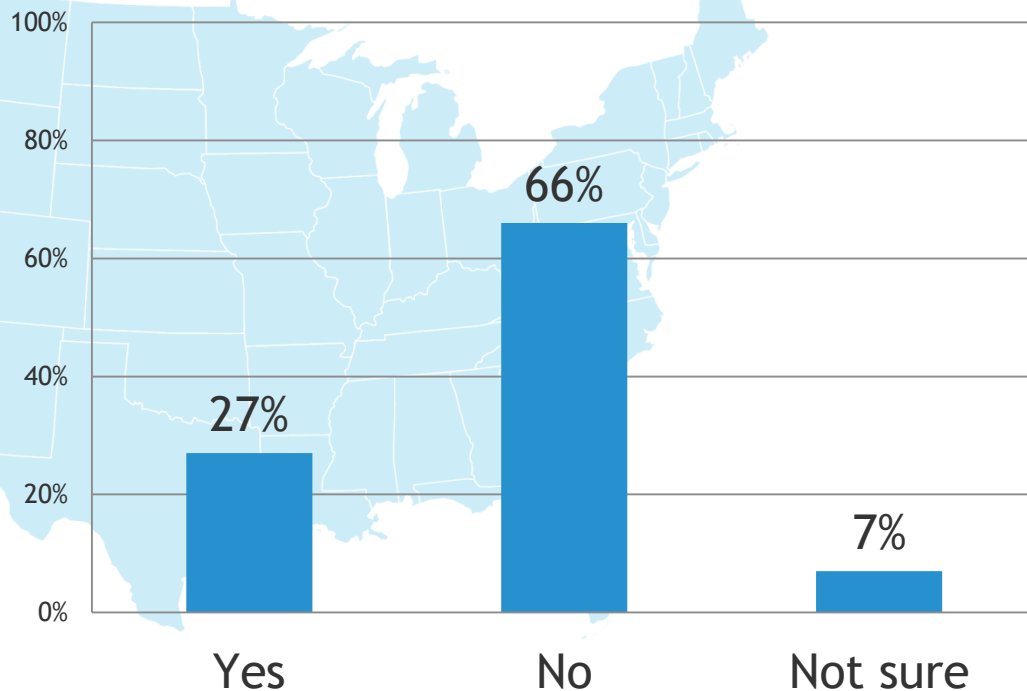
Q: "From the beginning, the church intentionally encouraged the development of a culture that connected with a particular ethnic population."

LifeWay RESEARCH
Biblical Solutions for Life

33%

emphasize racial reconciliation as a primary part of the church's vision and practices

Yes 33%

No 59%

Not sure 8%
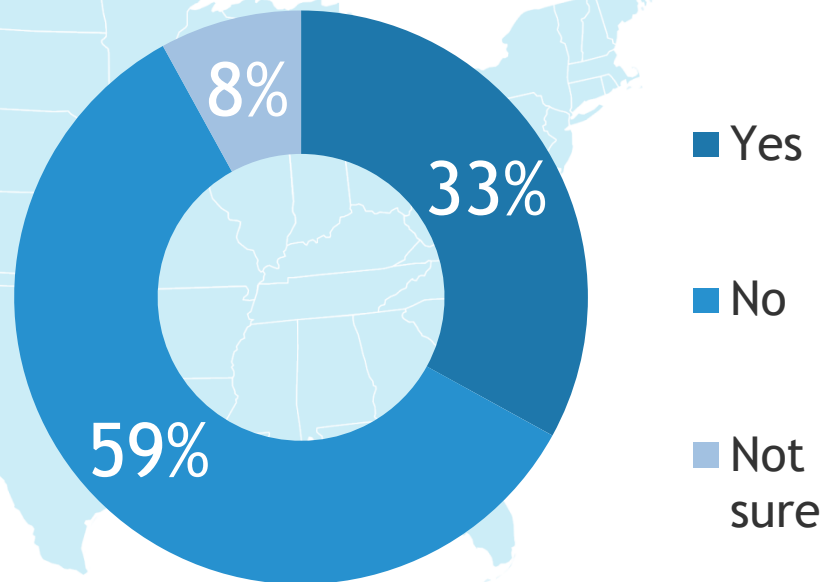
Q: "From the beginning, the church emphasized racial reconciliation as a primary part of the church's vision and practices."

LifeWay RESEARCH
Biblical Solutions for Life

SMALL GROUPS

Percentage involved in small group

60% or more in small group — 54%

40-59% in small group — 22%

20-39% in small group — 16%

0-19% in small group — 8%

| 0% | 20% | 40% | 60% | 80% | 100% |
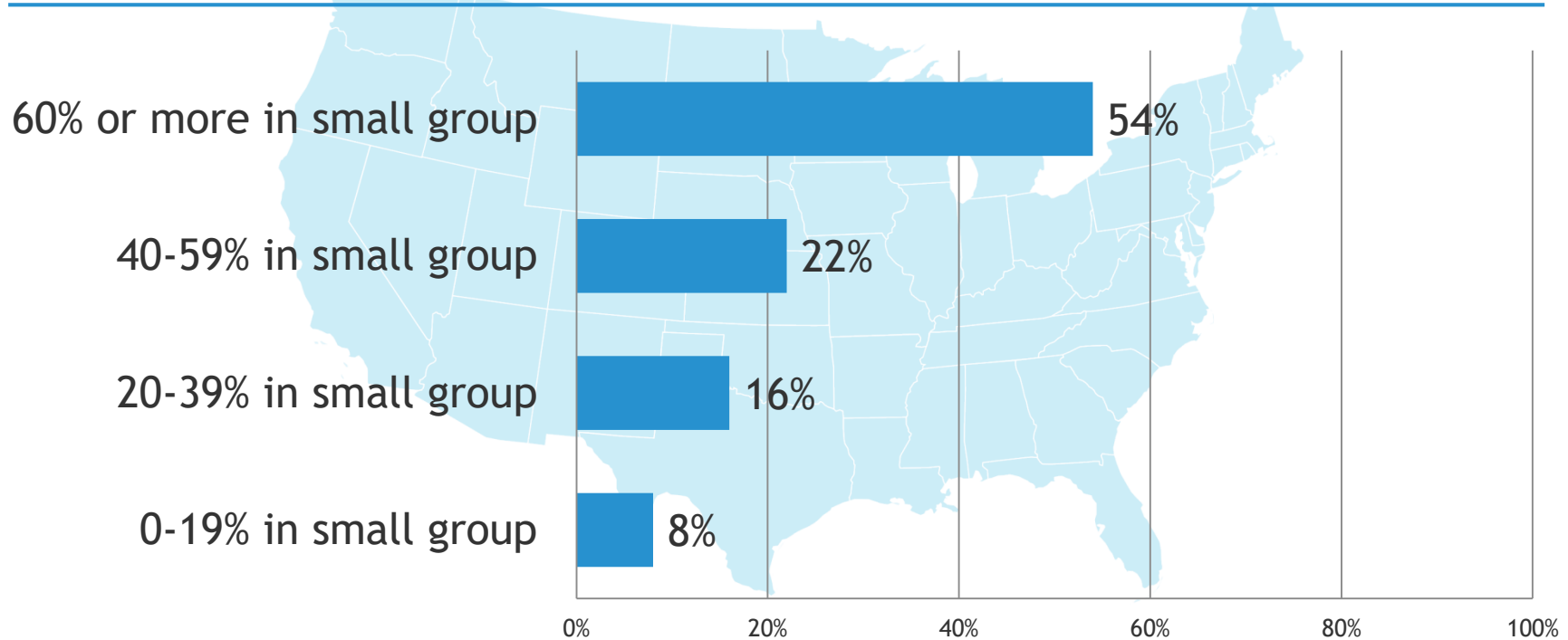
Mean percentage of adults involved in a small group: 58%   Median percentage of adults involved in a small group: 60%

Q: "What percent of your current adult weekend worship attendance is involved in some small group, Sunday school class, community group or similar group?"

LifeWay
RESEARCH
Biblical Solutions for Life

For **63%** of new church works, Bible study is the primary small group activity

2% Not sure

Q: "What is the primary activity of most of the small classes or groups for adults in your new church work? (Select one)."

Activity	Percentage
Bible study	63%
Prayer	5%
Care for those in the group	7%
Socializing	5%
Service to those outside the church	5%
Other	12%

LifeWay RESEARCH
Biblical Solutions for Life

47% say following Christ more closely is the most important value for small groups

More new individuals included and hearing the gospel — 29%

Existing individuals following Christ more closely — 47%

More individuals outside the church being served — 7%

Existing members growing closer to each other — 13%

0% 20% 40% 60% 80% 100%
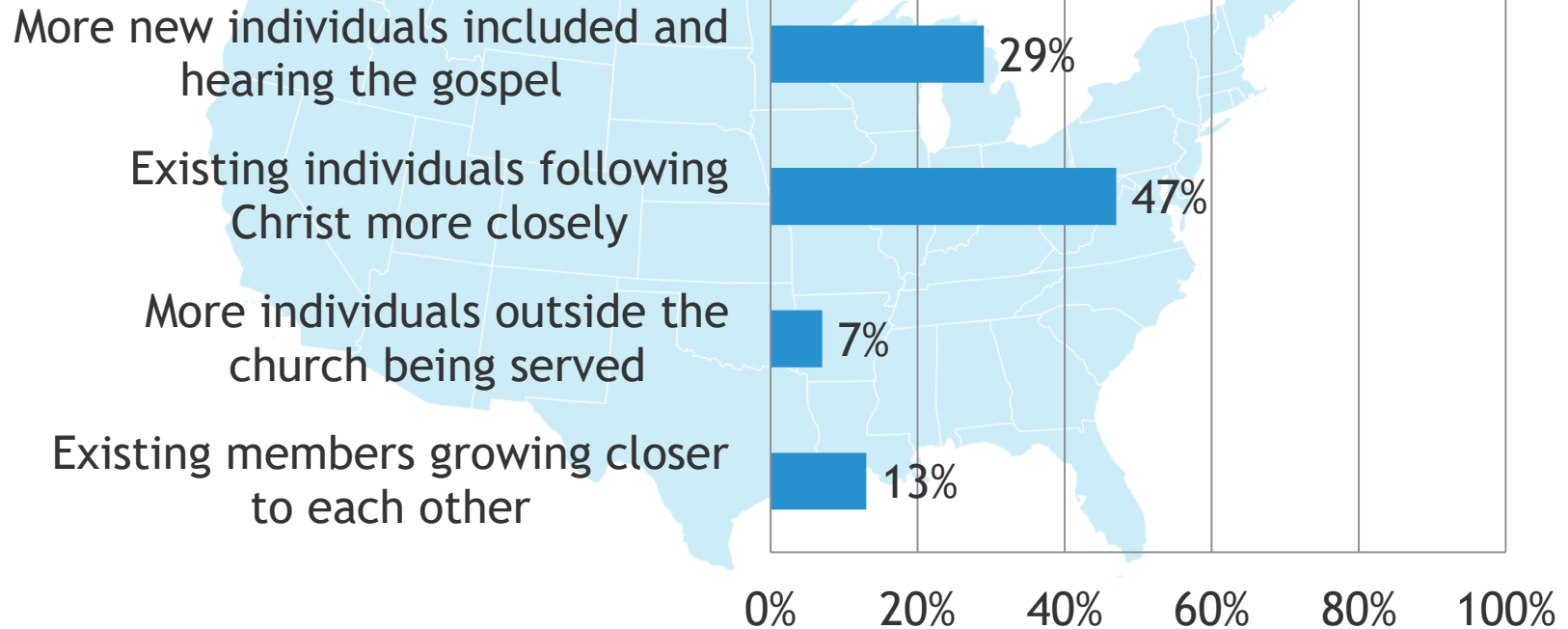
4% Not sure

Q: "Which of the following outcomes does your church value most for your small classes or groups for adults? (Select one)."

LifeWay RESEARCH
Biblical Solutions for Life

35% have staff choose small group resources

100%
80%
60%
40%
20%
0%

5% — Not sure

12% — Groups or their leaders select resources and do not need approval by a staff member

18% — Staff member provides guidelines or approved options

30% — Groups or their leaders select resources that must be approved by a staff member

35% — Staff member decides which resources will be used
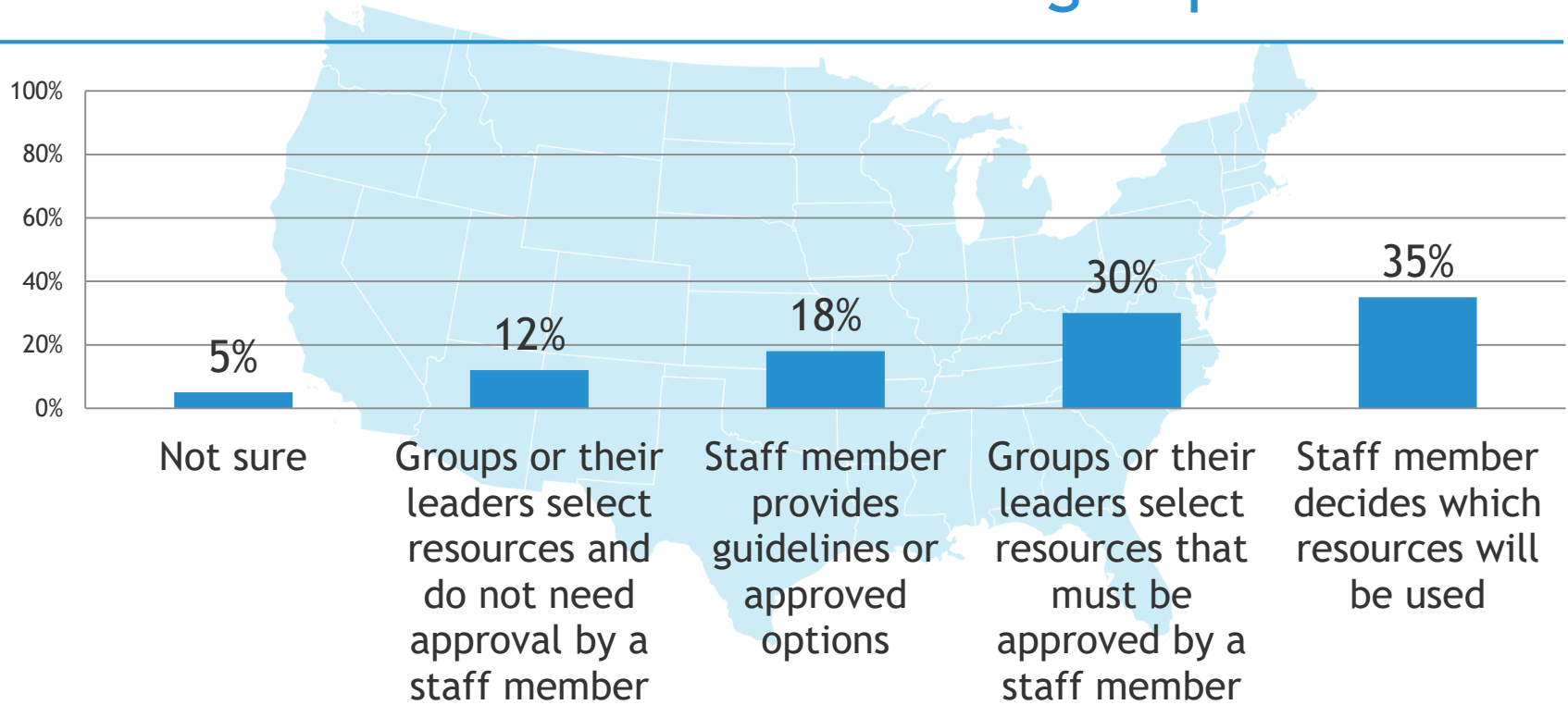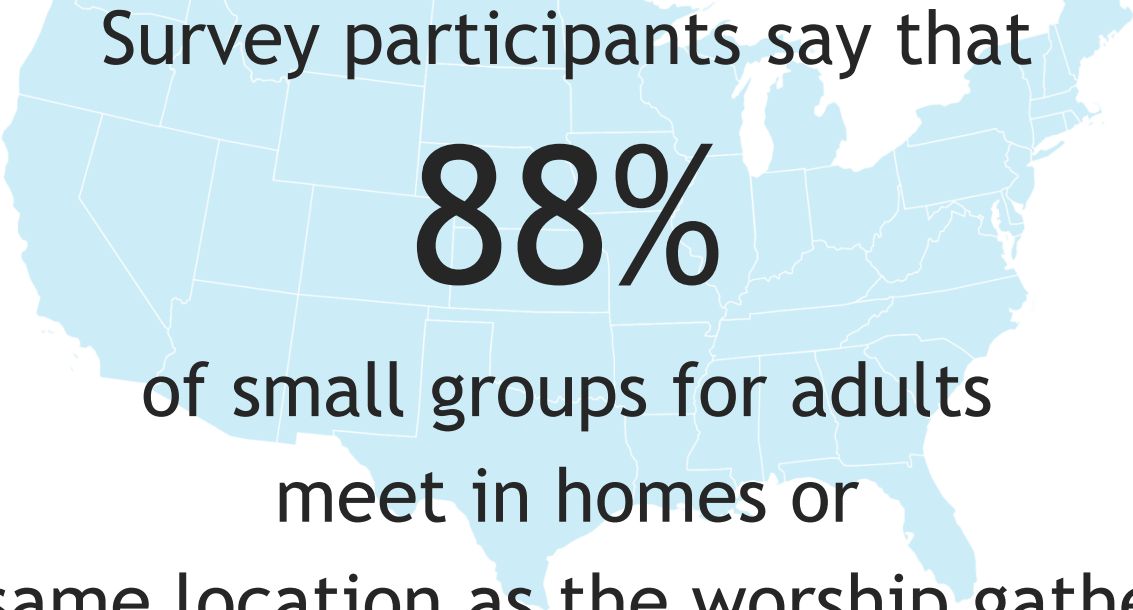
Q: "Which of the following best describes how resources are chosen for most of these small classes or groups for adults? (Select One)"

LifeWay RESEARCH
Biblical Solutions for Life

More than two thirds of congregations have between 1 and 5 small groups meeting each week

	0	1-2	3-5	6-10	More than 10
	4%	35%	33%	18%	10%
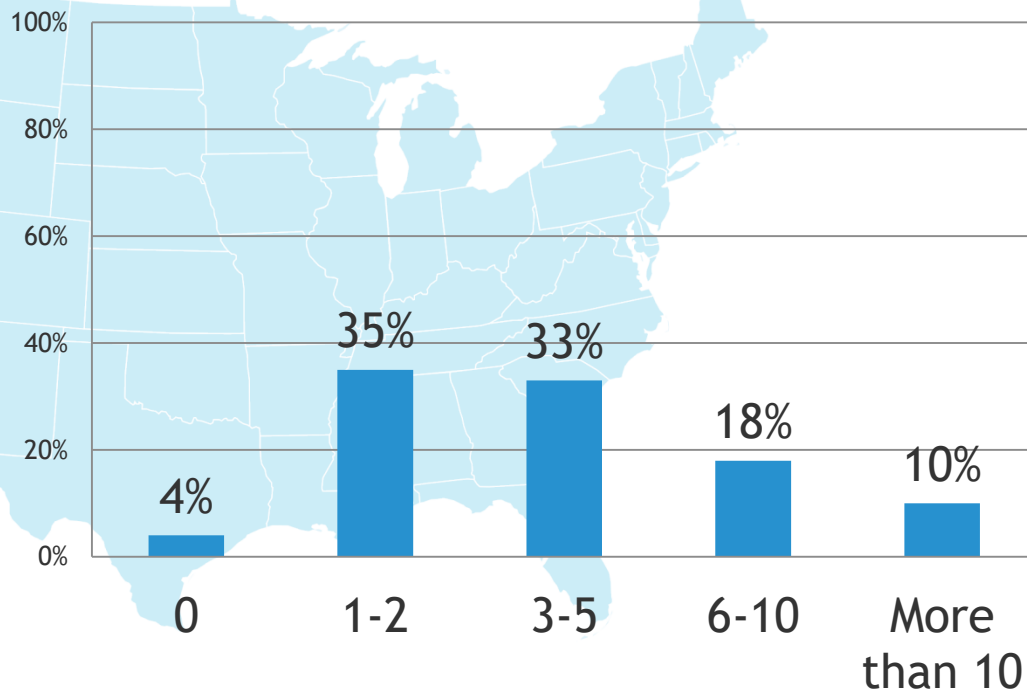
Q: "Approximately how many small classes or groups for adults in your new church work currently meet every week?"

LifeWay
RESEARCH
Biblical Solutions for Life

Survey participants say that

88%

of small groups for adults
meet in homes or
the same location as the worship gathering

Q: "In which location does the largest number of small classes or groups for adults meet? (Select one)"

LifeWay
RESEARCH
Biblical Solutions for Life

57% of congregations have small groups that meet primarily in homes
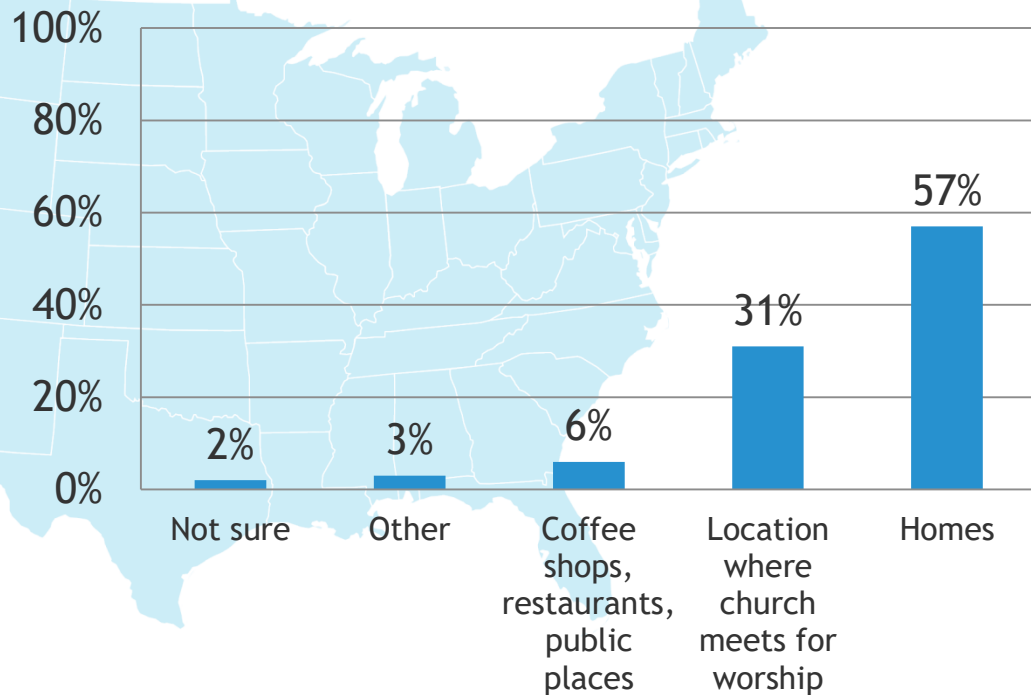
Response	Percentage
Not sure	2%
Other	3%
Coffee shops, restaurants, public places	6%
Location where church meets for worship	31%
Homes	57%

Q: "In which location does the largest number of small classes or groups for adults meet? (Select one)"
< 1% selected workplace

LifeWay RESEARCH
Biblical Solutions for Life

39% say members are experiencing the most life transformation in corporate worship;

37% say it is in small groups
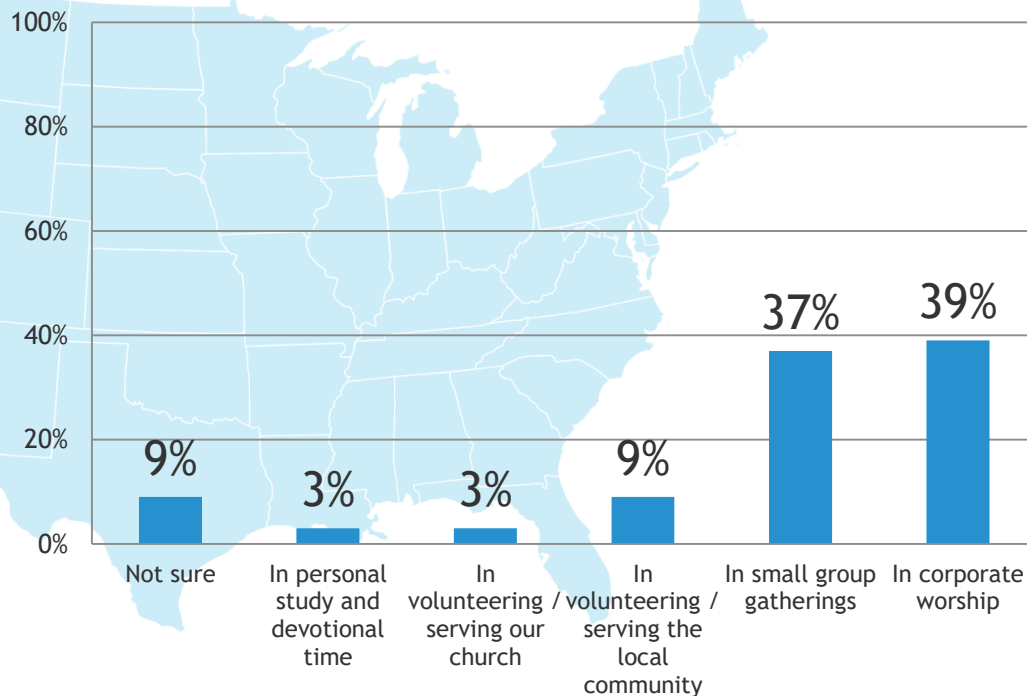
Q: "Where would most church members say they are experiencing the most "life transformation" in your church? (Select one)"

LifeWay RESEARCH
Biblical Solutions for Life

Nearly 9 in 10 hold their primary worship service(s) on Sundays

Sundays	89%
Weekdays	18%
Saturdays	6%
Varies week to week	2%
Not sure	0%

0% 20% 40% 60% 80% 100%
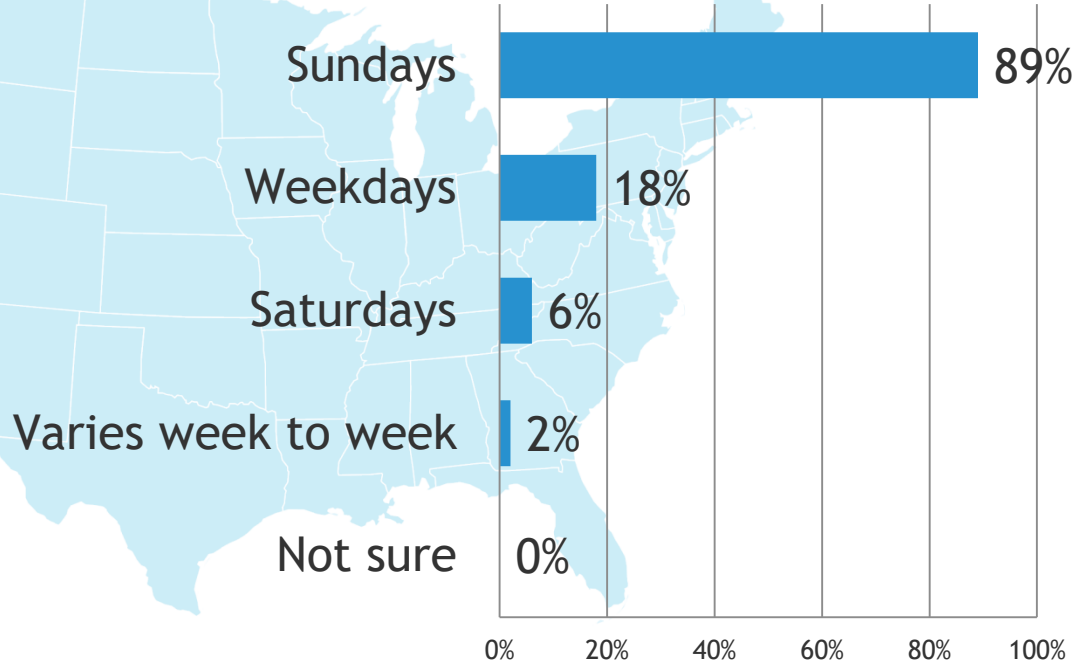
Q: "What day(s) of the week does the primary worship service(s) or gathering of the church happen? (Select all that apply)"

LifeWay
RESEARCH
Biblical Solutions for Life

Launch and Post-launch

OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

Revival meetings
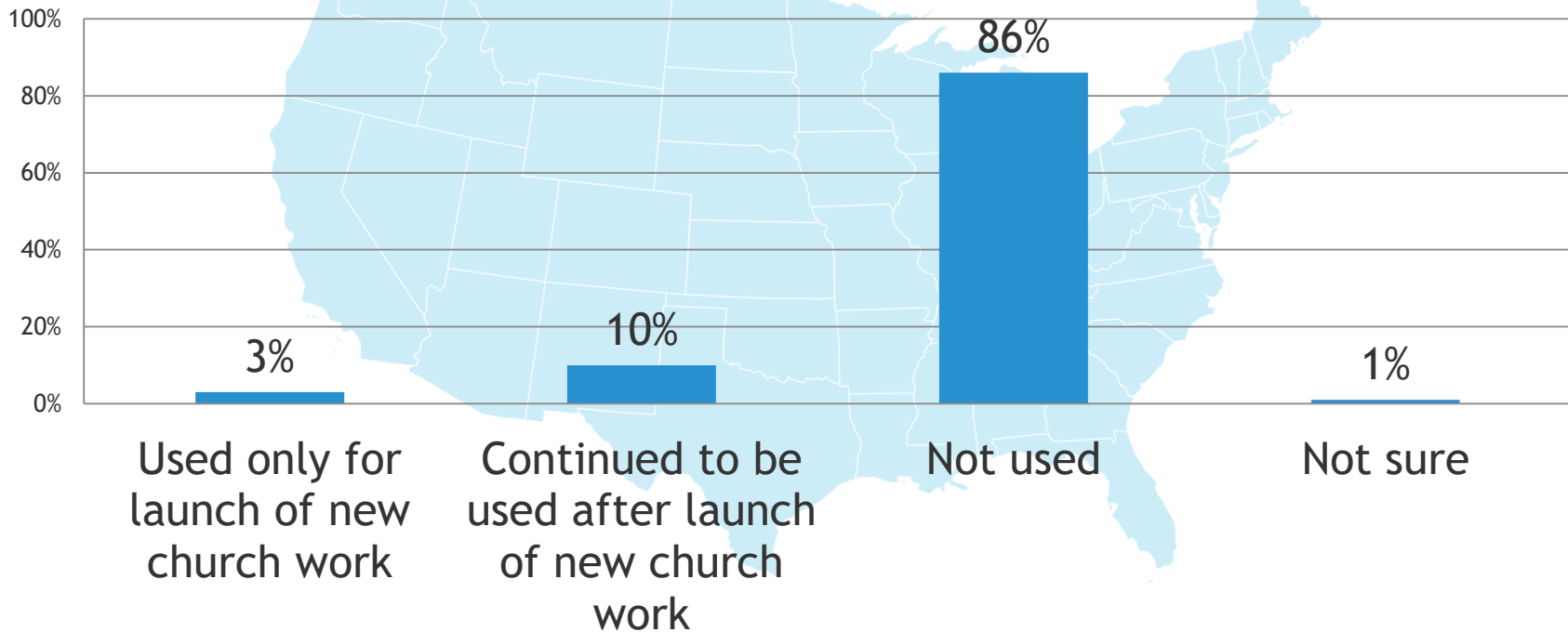
100%

80%

60%

40%

20%

0%

3%
Used only for launch of new church work

10%
Continued to be used after launch of new church work
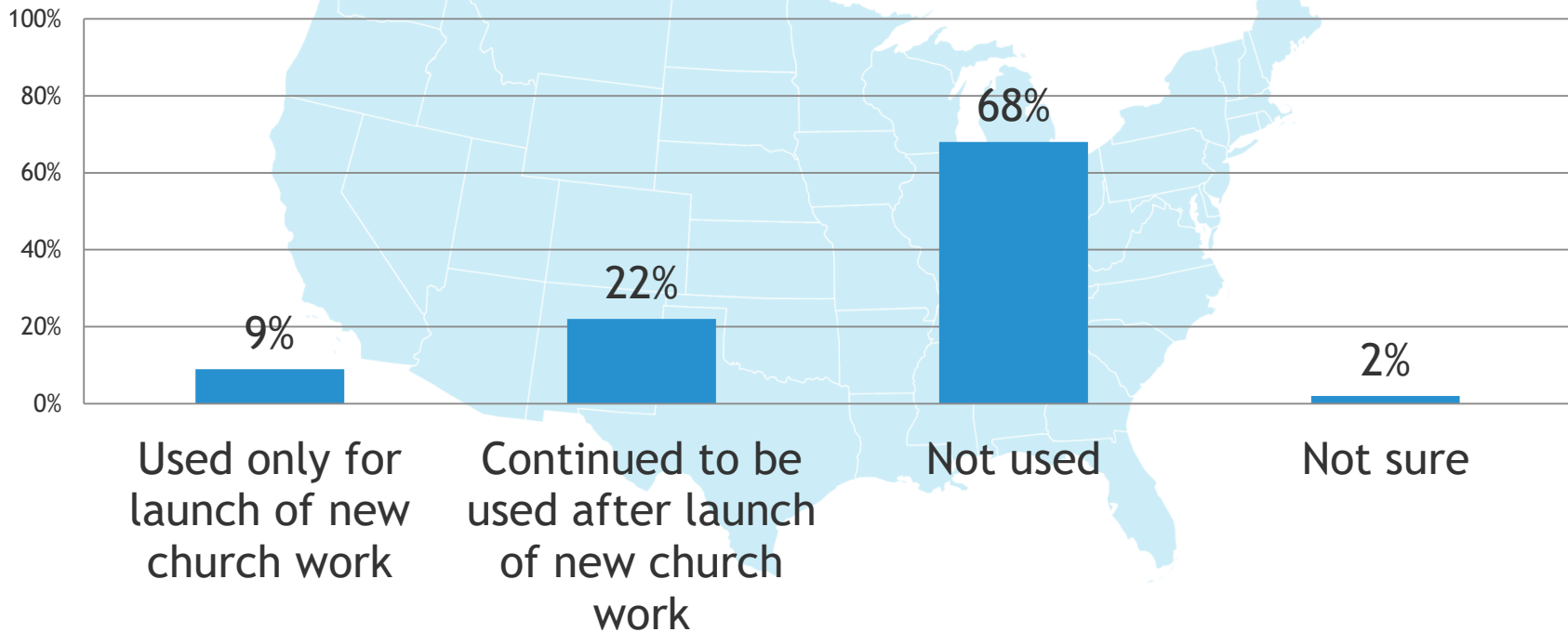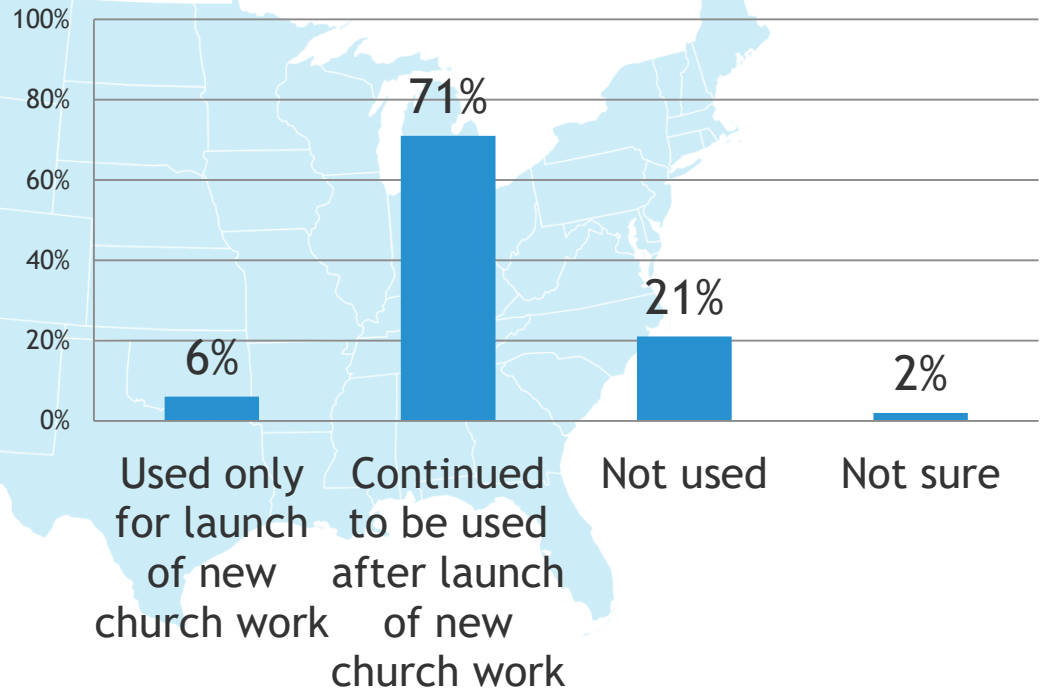
86%
Not used

1%
Not sure

Q: "For each of the following outreach activities, please indicate if it was used by the church start, either when launching the new church work or continued to be used after the launch. (Select one response for each activity)"

LifeWay RESEARCH
Biblical Solutions for Life

Children's weekday ministries
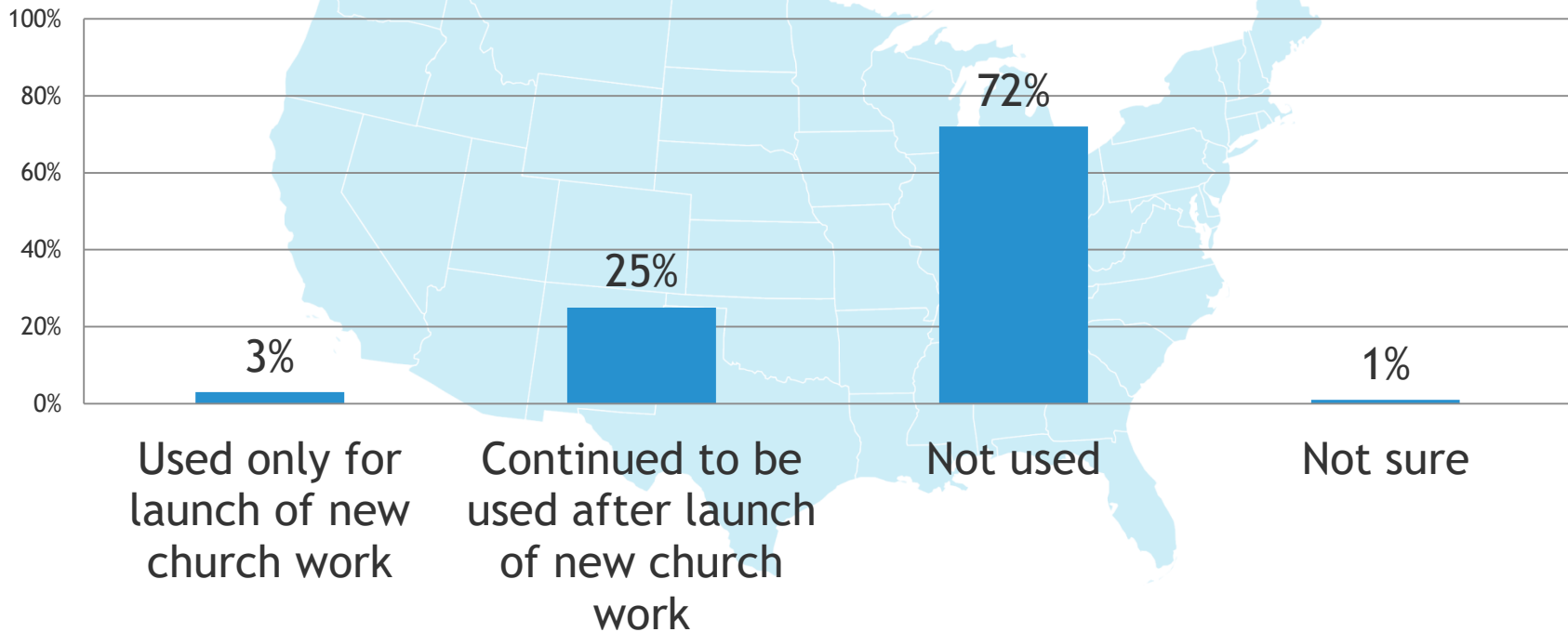
Bar chart showing:
- **Used only for launch of new church work:** 3%
- **Continued to be used after launch of new church work:** 25%
- **Not used:** 72%
- **Not sure:** 1%

Q: "For each of the following outreach activities, please indicate if it was used by the church start, either when launching the new church work or continued to be used after the launch. (Select one response for each activity)"

LifeWay RESEARCH
Biblical Solutions for Life

Children's special events
(e.g., Easter Egg Hunt, Fall Festival)
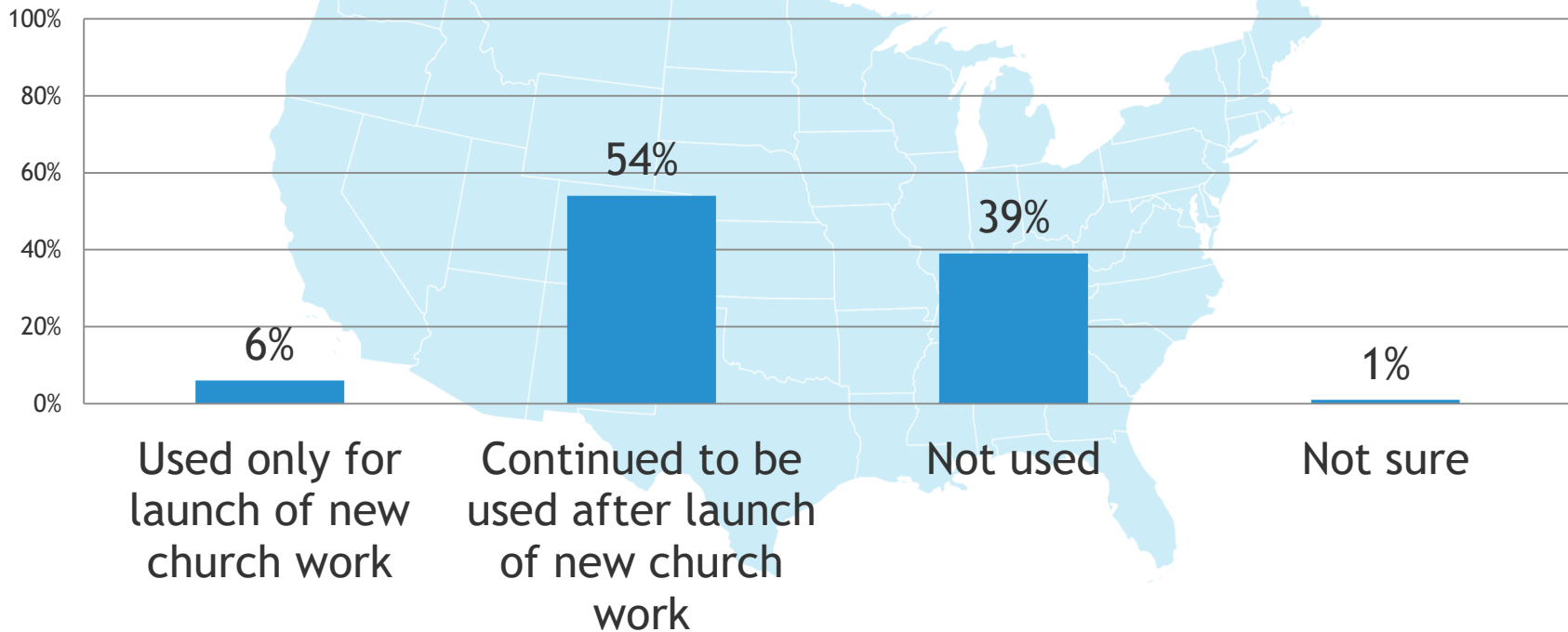
Bar chart:
- Used only for launch of new church work: 6%
- Continued to be used after launch of new church work: 54%
- Not used: 39%
- Not sure: 1%

Q: "For each of the following outreach activities, please indicate if it was used by the church start, either when launching the new church work or continued to be used after the launch. (Select one response for each activity)"
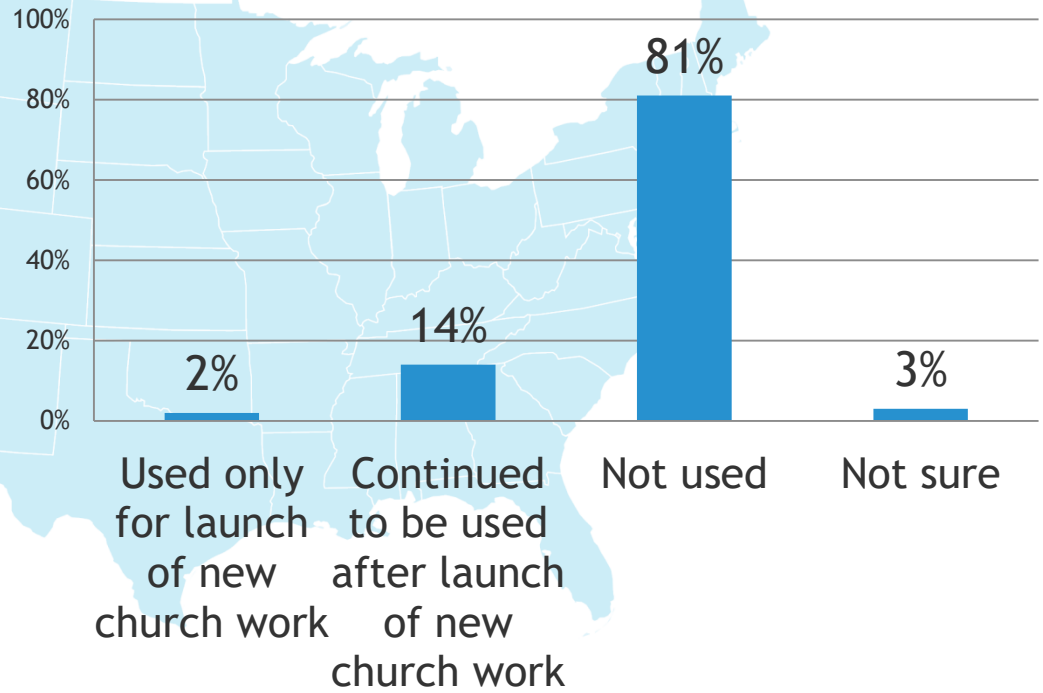
LifeWay RESEARCH
Biblical Solutions for Life

Prayer walking

Chart showing prayer walking outreach activity:
- Used only for launch of new church work: 20%
- Continued to be used after launch of new church work: 42%
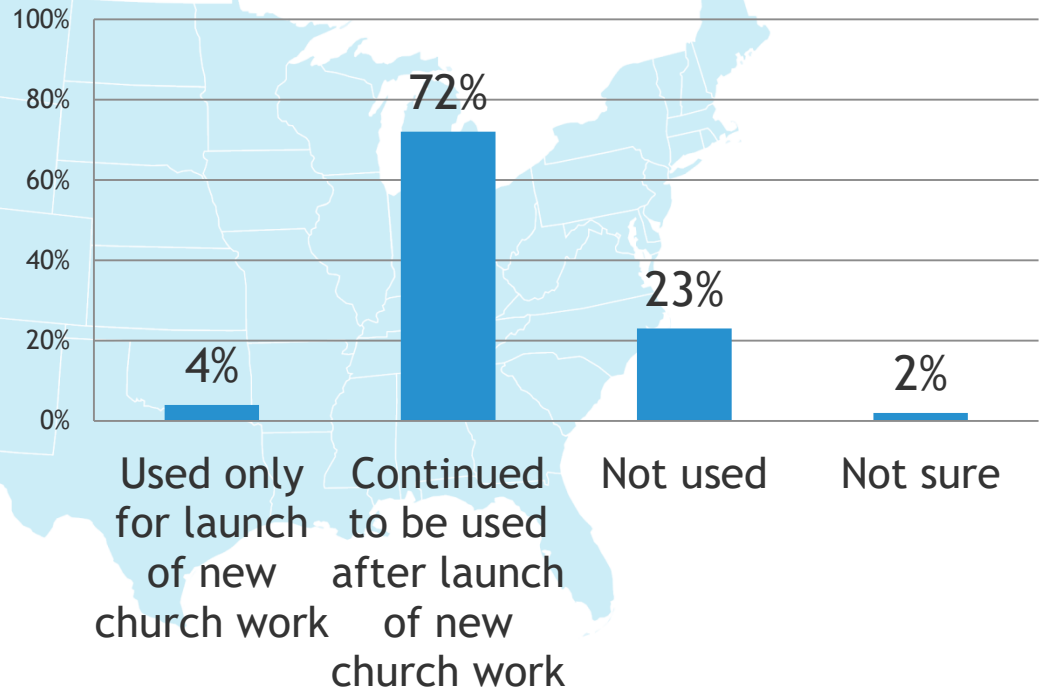- Not used: 36%
- Not sure: 2%

Q: "For each of the following outreach activities, please indicate if it was used by the church start, either when launching the new church work or continued to be used after the launch. (Select one response for each activity)"

LifeWay RESEARCH
Biblical Solutions for Life
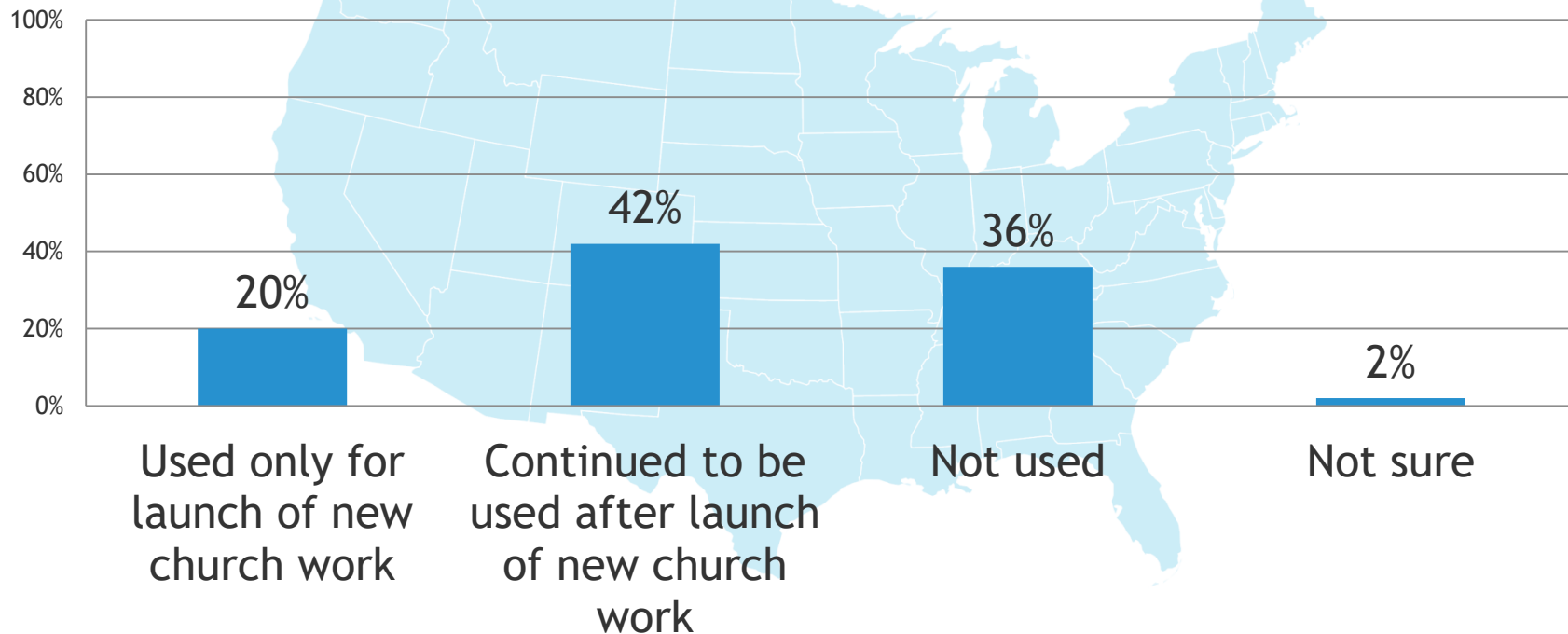
Ministry evangelism
## (e.g., food banks, clothing, shelters, drug/alcohol recovery)
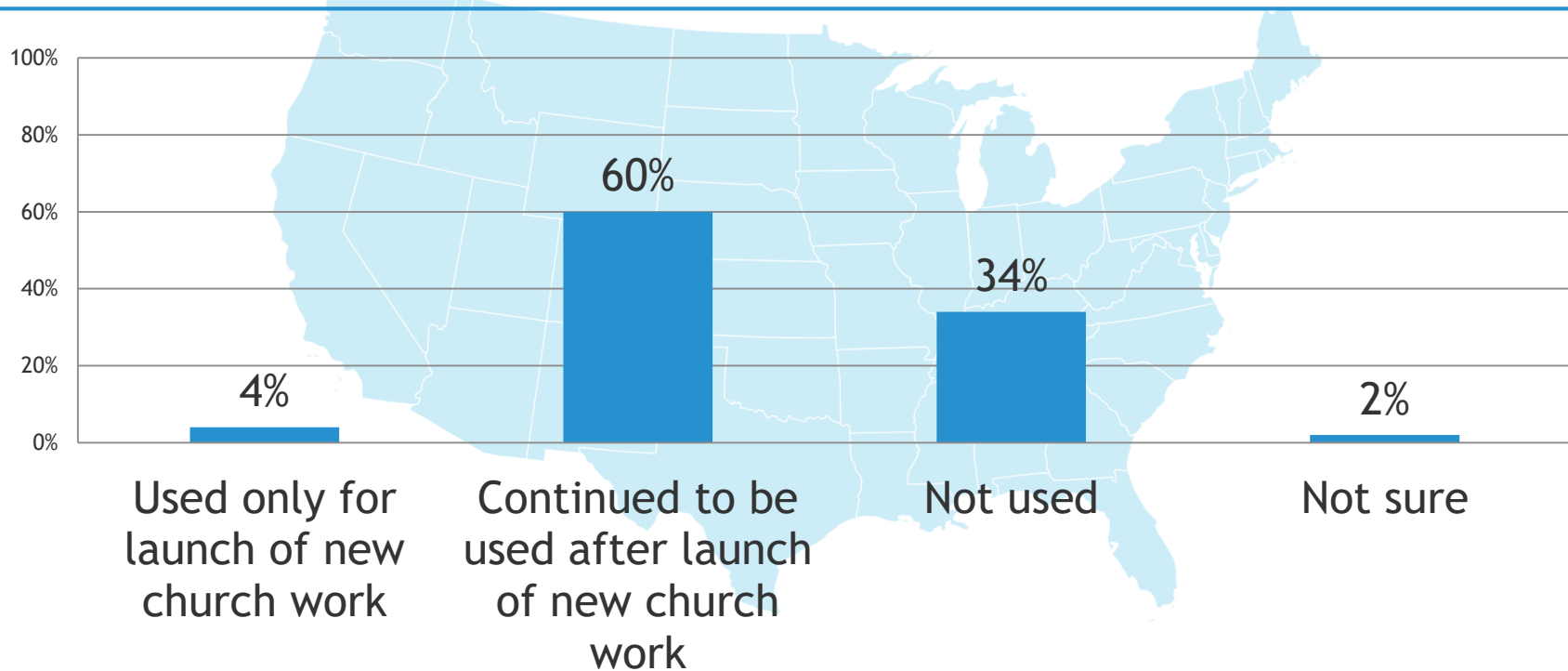
Q: "For each of the following outreach activities, please indicate if it was used by the church start, either when launching the new church work or continued to be used after the launch. (Select one response for each activity)"

Mail invitations to services, programs, events
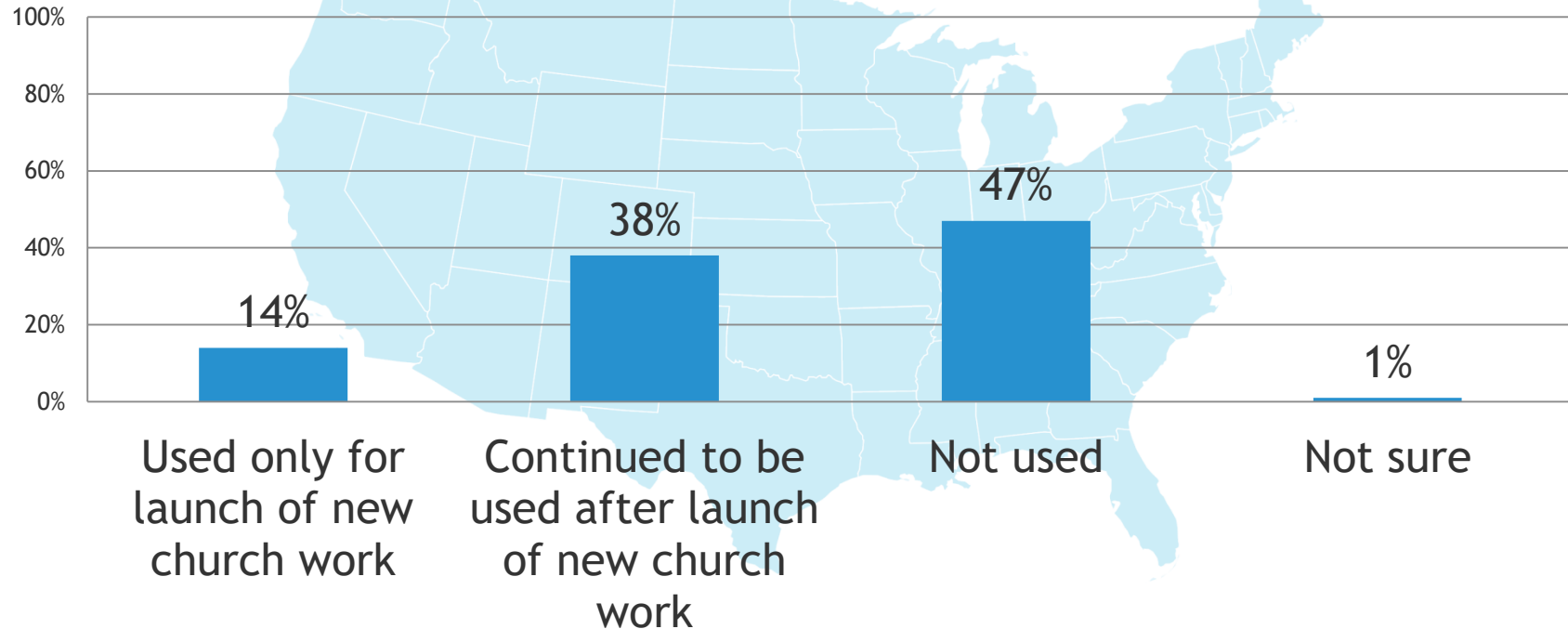
- 14% — Used only for launch of new church work
- 38% — Continued to be used after launch of new church work
- 47% — Not used
- 1% — Not sure

Q: "For each of the following outreach activities, please indicate if it was used by the church start, either when launching the new church work or continued to be used after the launch. (Select one response for each activity)"

Outreach Bible Studies
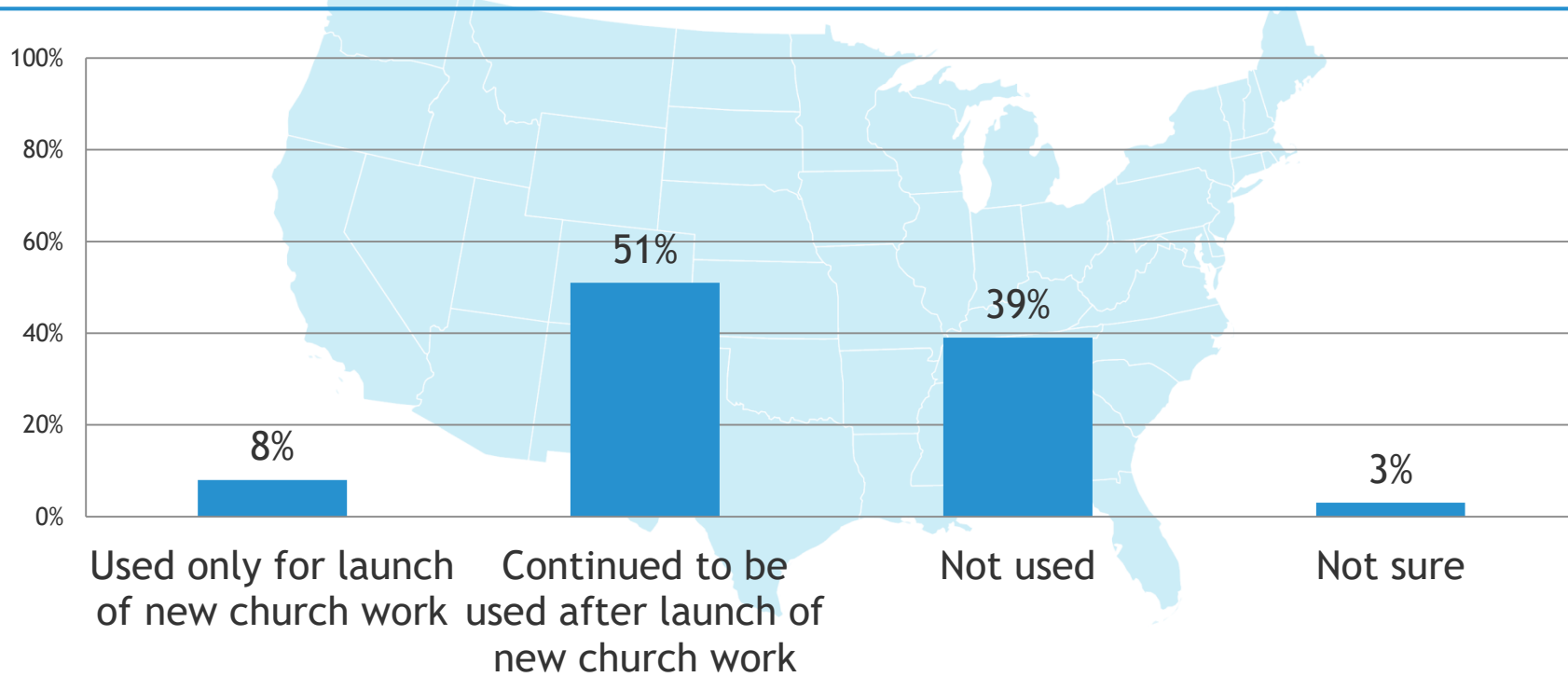
Bar chart:
- Used only for launch of new church work: 8%
- Continued to be used after launch of new church work: 51%
- Not used: 39%
- Not sure: 3%

Q: "For each of the following outreach activities, please indicate if it was used by the church start, either when launching the new church work or continued to be used after the launch. (Select one response for each activity)"

Block Party
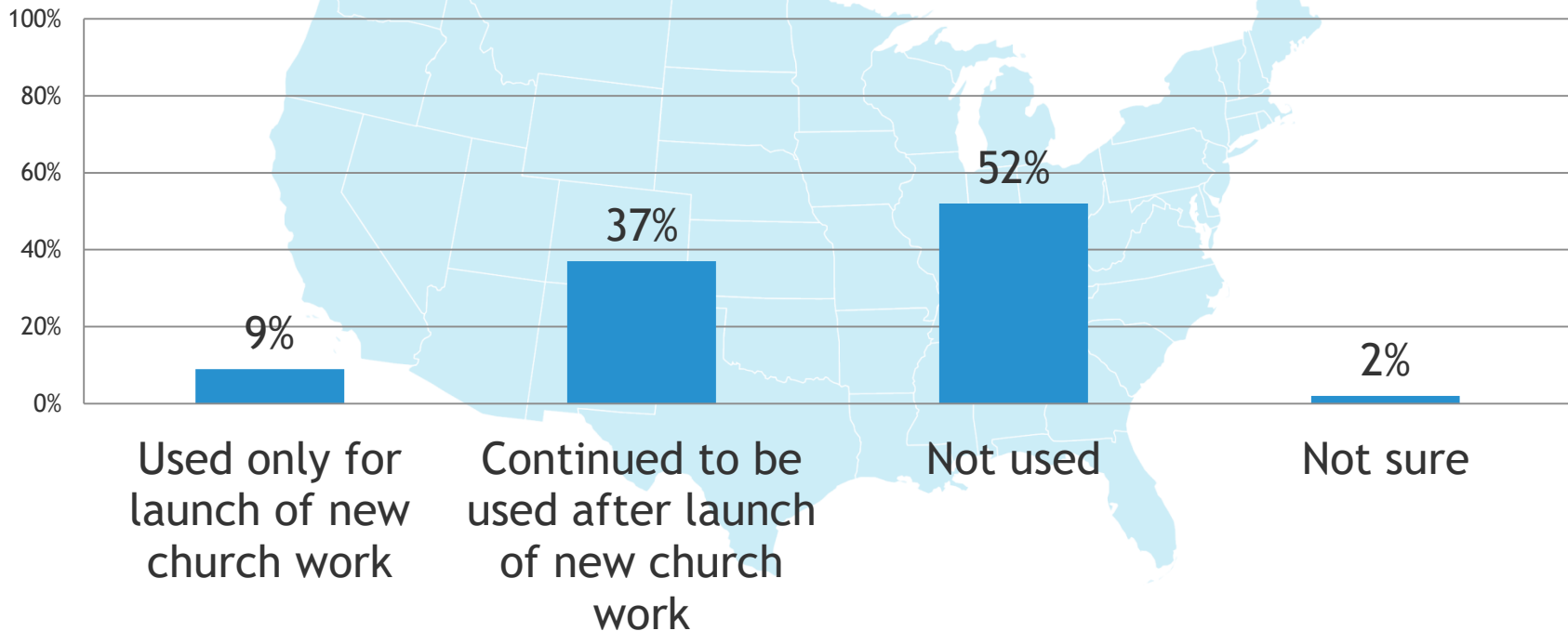
- 9% Used only for launch of new church work
- 37% Continued to be used after launch of new church work
- 52% Not used
- 2% Not sure

Q: "For each of the following outreach activities, please indicate if it was used by the church start, either when launching the new church work or continued to be used after the launch. (Select one response for each activity)"

LifeWay RESEARCH
Biblical Solutions for Life

Evangelistic visitation for identifying prospects
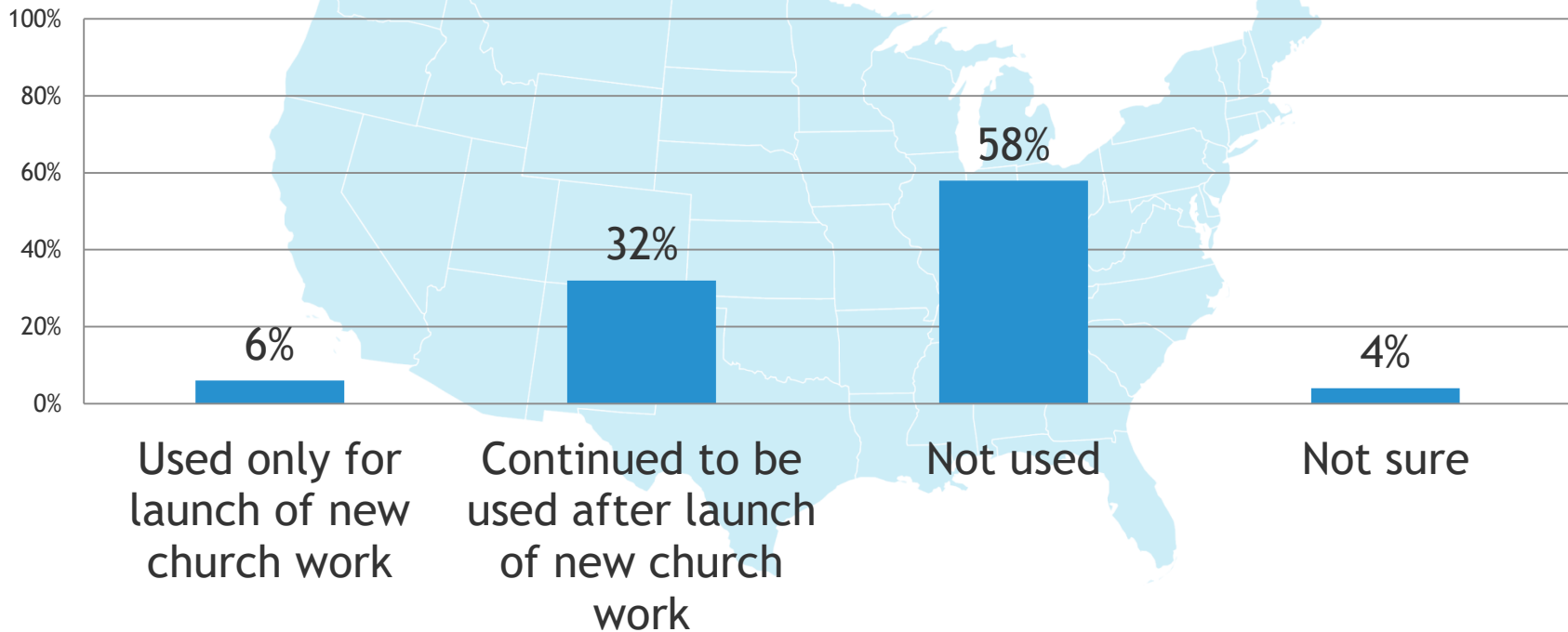
Bar chart showing percentages:
- **6%** — Used only for launch of new church work
- **32%** — Continued to be used after launch of new church work
- **58%** — Not used
- **4%** — Not sure

Q: "For each of the following outreach activities, please indicate if it was used by the church start, either when launching the new church work or continued to be used after the launch. (Select one response for each activity)"

LifeWay RESEARCH
Biblical Solutions for Life

Door-to-door evangelism

Bar chart showing:
- Used only for launch of new church work: 9%
- Continued to be used after launch of new church work: 22%
- Not used: 68%
- Not sure: 2%

Q: "For each of the following outreach activities, please indicate if it was used by the church start, either when launching the new church work or continued to be used after the launch. (Select one response for each activity)"

LifeWay RESEARCH
Biblical Solutions for Life

Fun social events
(to meet people in the community)

Response	Percent
Used only for launch of new church work	6%
Continued to be used after launch of new church work	71%
Not used	21%
Not sure	2%

Q: "For each of the following outreach activities, please indicate if it was used by the church start, either when launching the new church work or continued to be used after the launch. (Select one response for each activity)"

LifeWay RESEARCH
Biblical Solutions for Life

Ongoing social /affinity group meetings

(e.g., Bunco nights, Monday Night Football, Movie nights, etc)
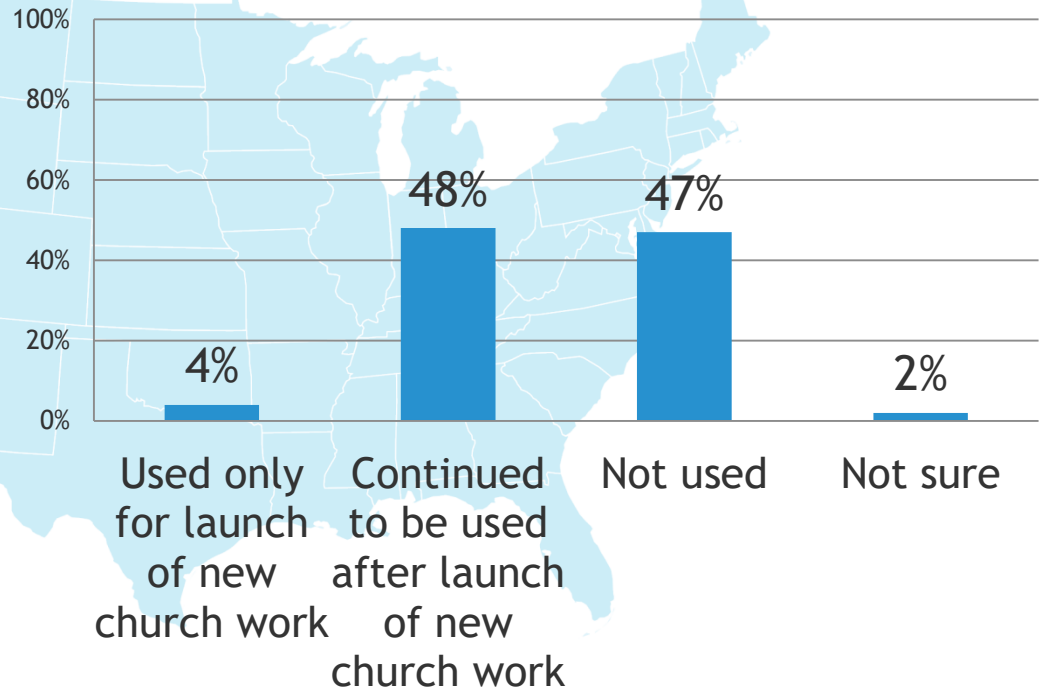
Q: "For each of the following outreach activities, please indicate if it was used by the church start, either when launching the new church work or continued to be used after the launch. (Select one response for each activity)"

LifeWay
RESEARCH
Biblical Solutions for Life

Sports league for people from the community

Bar chart:
- Used only for launch of new church work: 2%
- Continued to be used after launch of new church work: 14%
- Not used: 81%
- Not sure: 3%

Q: "For each of the following outreach activities, please indicate if it was used by the church start, either when launching the new church work or continued to be used after the launch. (Select one response for each activity)"

LifeWay RESEARCH
Biblical Solutions for Life

Service projects to meet practical needs in the community

100%
80%
60%
40%
20%
0%

4% Used only for launch of new church work

72% Continued to be used after launch of new church work

23% Not used

2% Not sure

Q: "For each of the following outreach activities, please indicate if it was used by the church start, either when launching the new church work or continued to be used after the launch. (Select one response for each activity)"

LifeWay RESEARCH
Biblical Solutions for Life

ACTIVITIES USED SINCE START OF NEW WORK

75% use a demographic analysis and assessment of the community when starting the new work
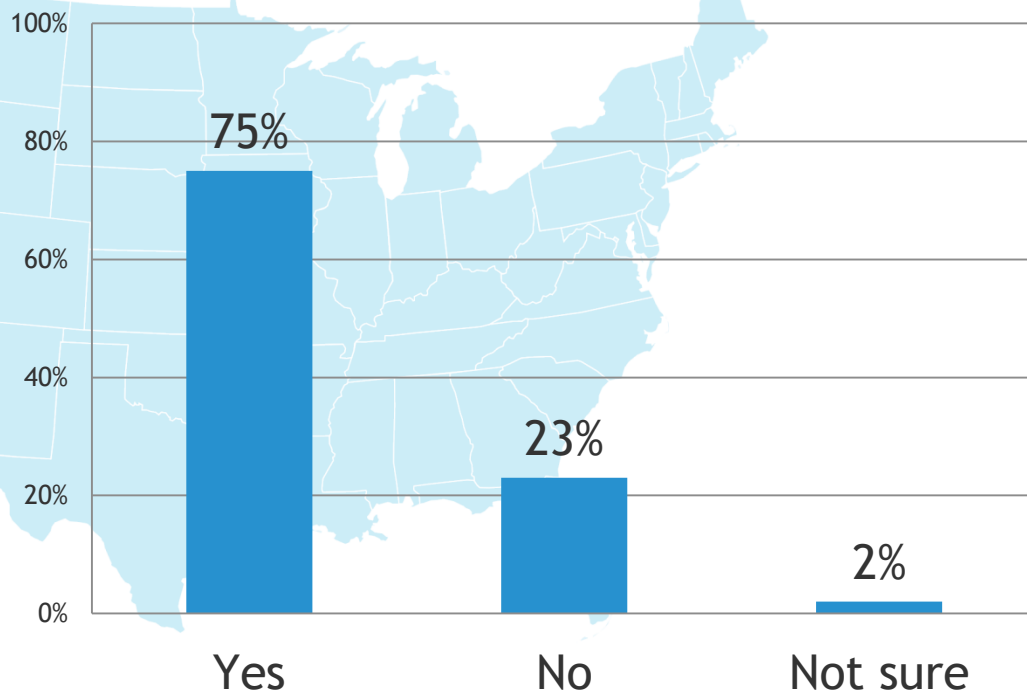
100%
80% **75%**
60%
40%
20% **23%**
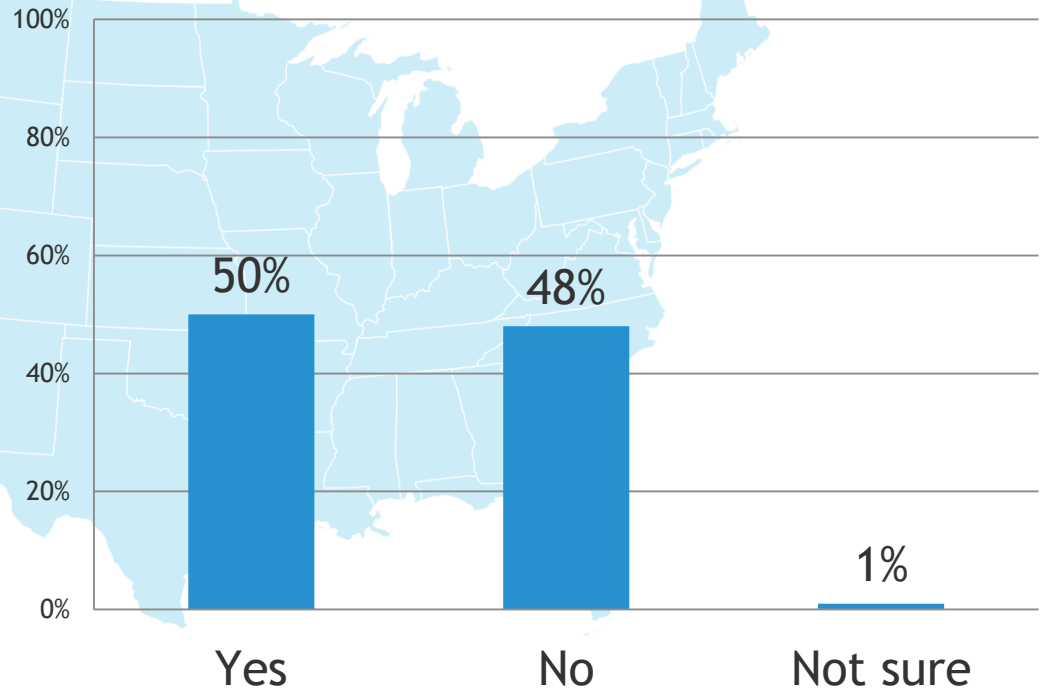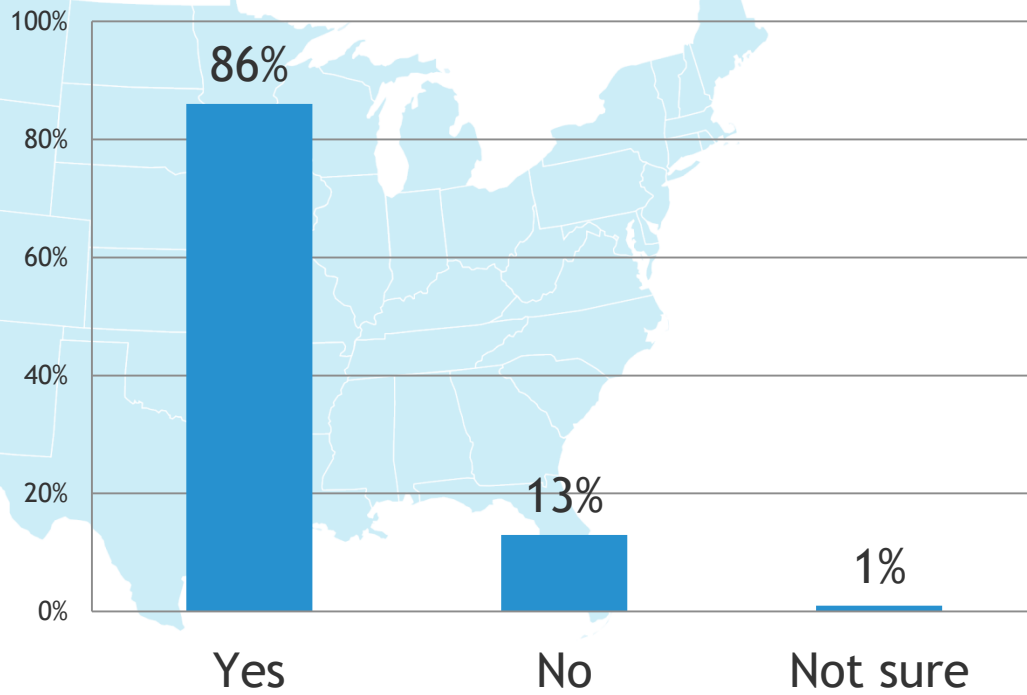0% **2%**

Yes   No   Not sure

Q: "Please indicate whether the activity below occurred in the church since the start of the new church work. (Select one response for each activity): A demographic analysis and assessment of the community "

LifeWay
RESEARCH
Biblical Solutions for Life

38% use weekly Sunday School classes
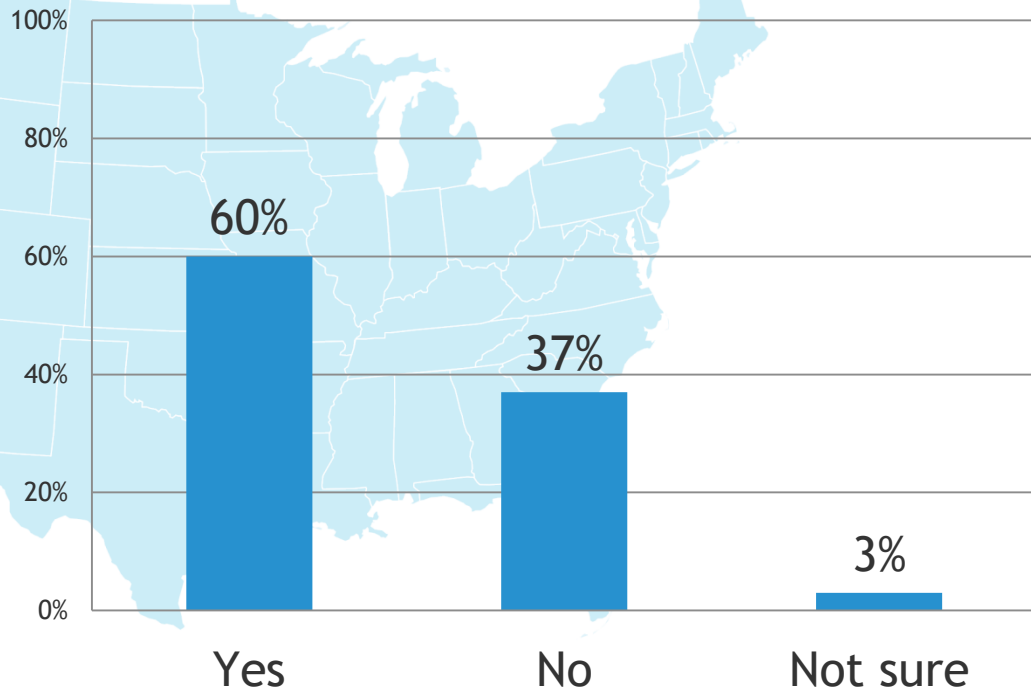

- Yes: 38%
- No: 61%
- Not sure: 1%
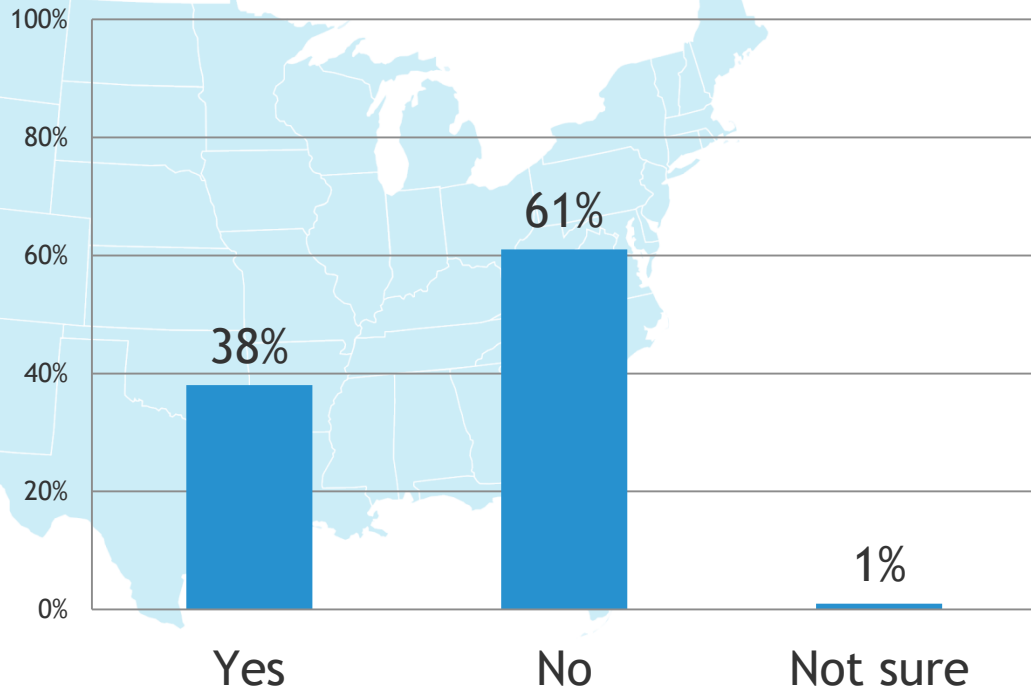
Q: "Please indicate whether the activity below occurred in the church since the start of the new church work. (Select one response for each activity): Weekly Sunday School classes "

LifeWay
RESEARCH
Biblical Solutions for Life

87%

use a weekly small group discipleship program (Community groups, Life Groups, etc.)
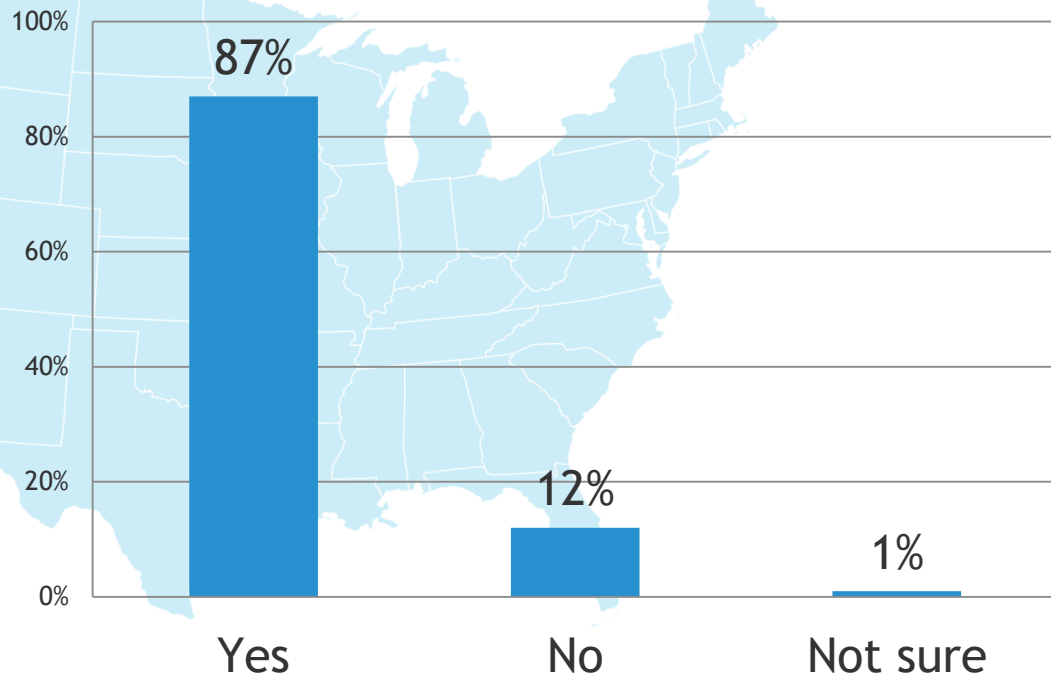
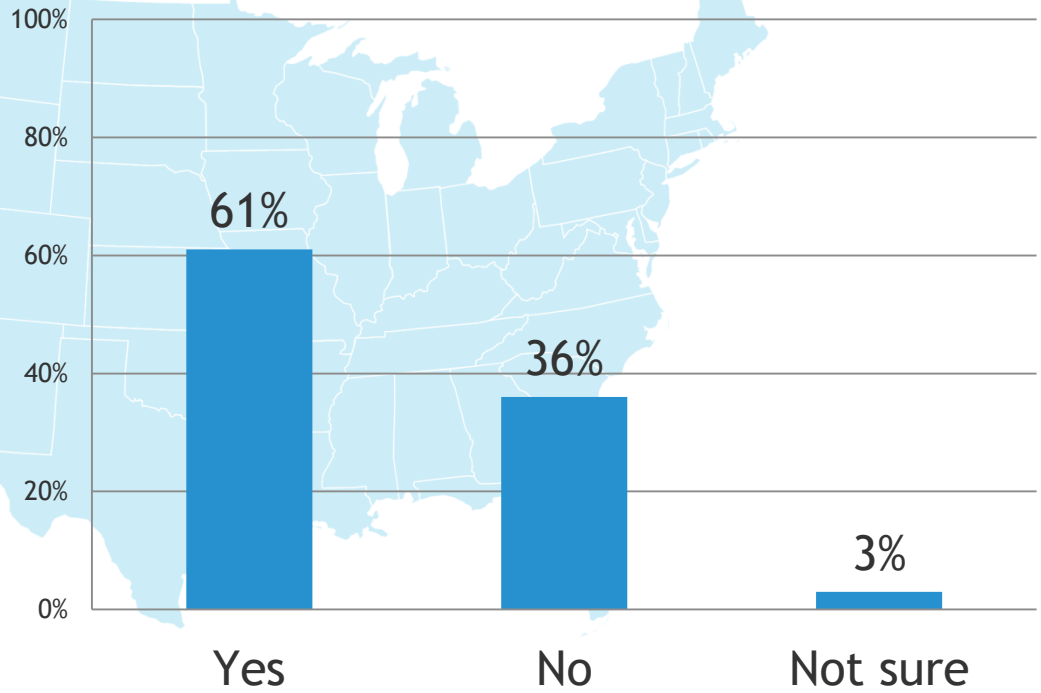|	
Yes	87%
No	12%
Not sure	1%

Q: "Please indicate whether the activity below occurred in the church since the start of the new church work. (Select one response for each activity): **Weekly small group discipleship program (Community groups, Life Groups, etc.)**"

LifeWay RESEARCH
Biblical Solutions for Life

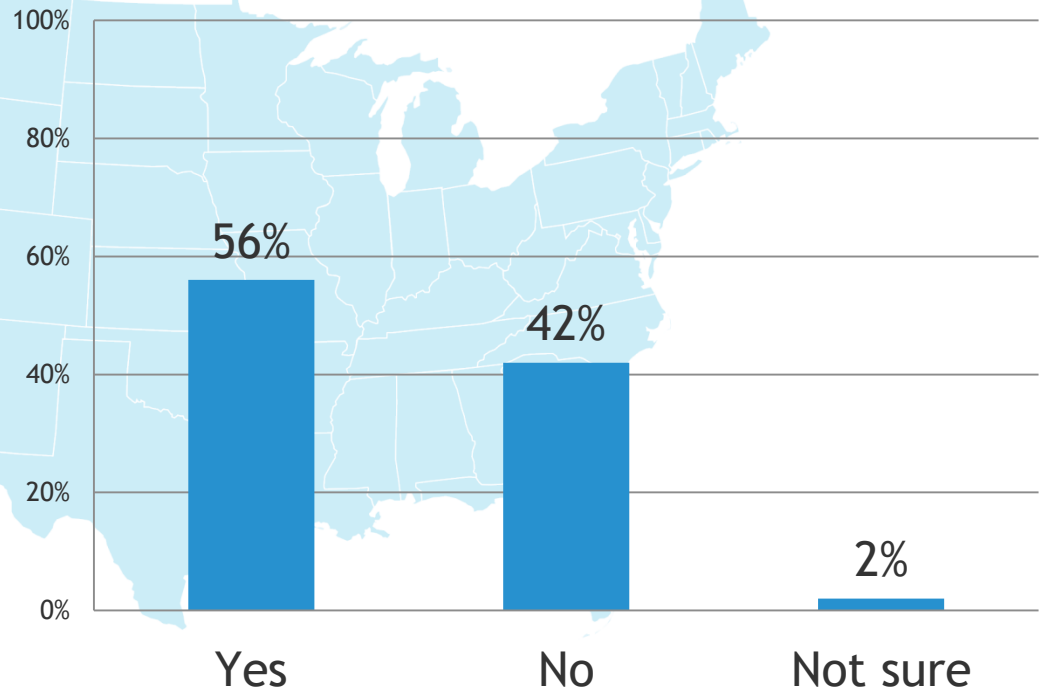# 71% use

one-on-one discipleship or mentoring program
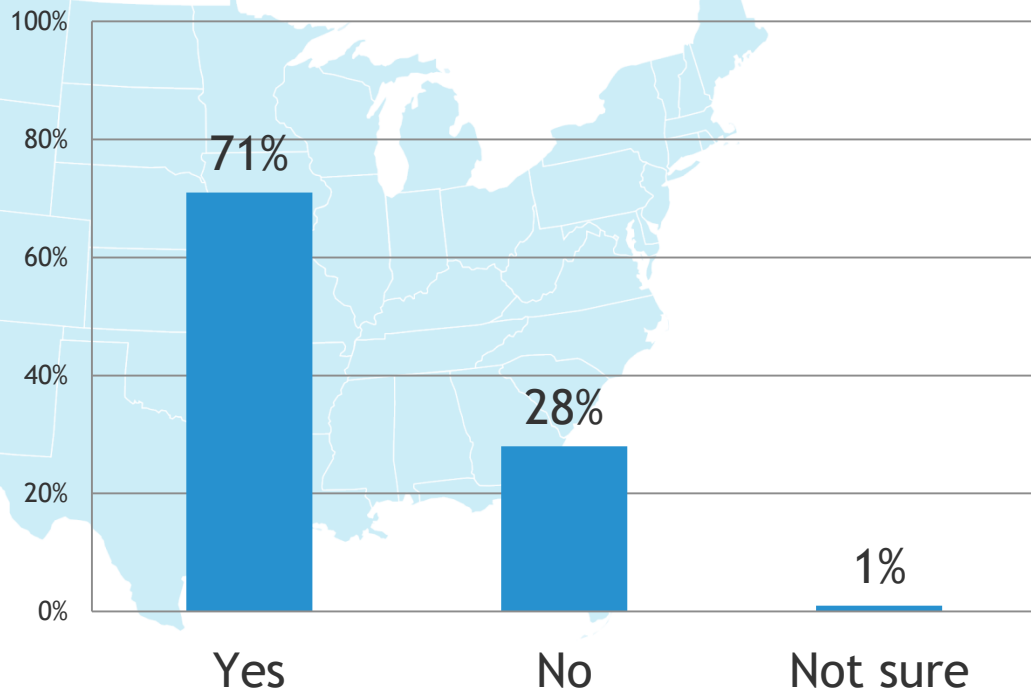
Q: "Please indicate whether the activity below occurred in the church since the start of the new church work.
(Select one response for each activity): **One-on-one discipleship or mentoring program** "

Yes — 71%
No — 28%
Not sure — 1%

53% use intentional weekly prayer meeting for church members
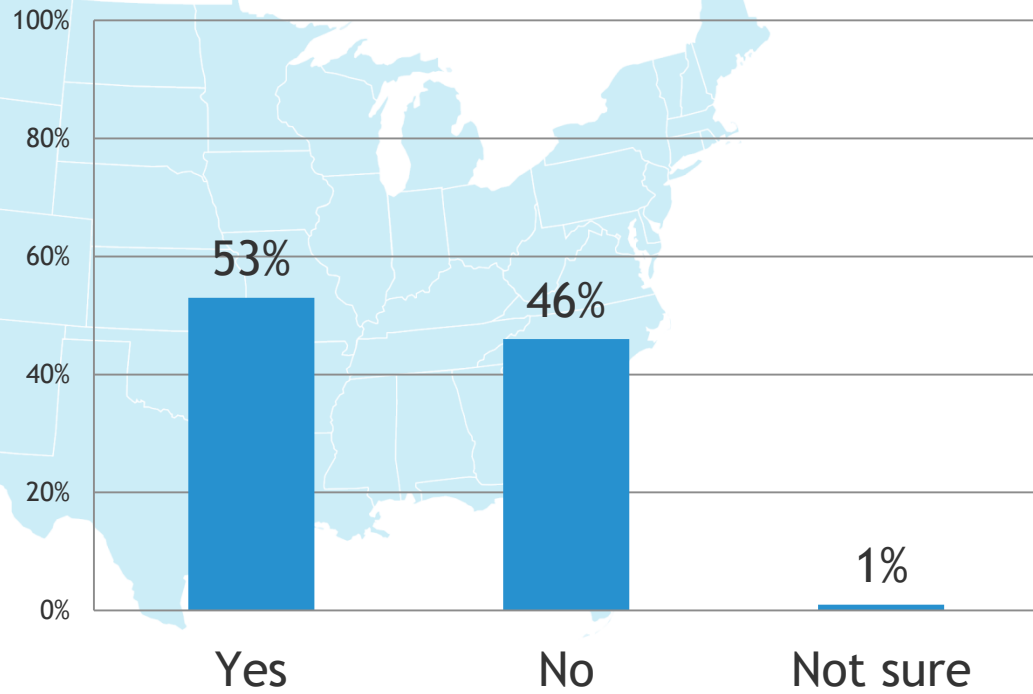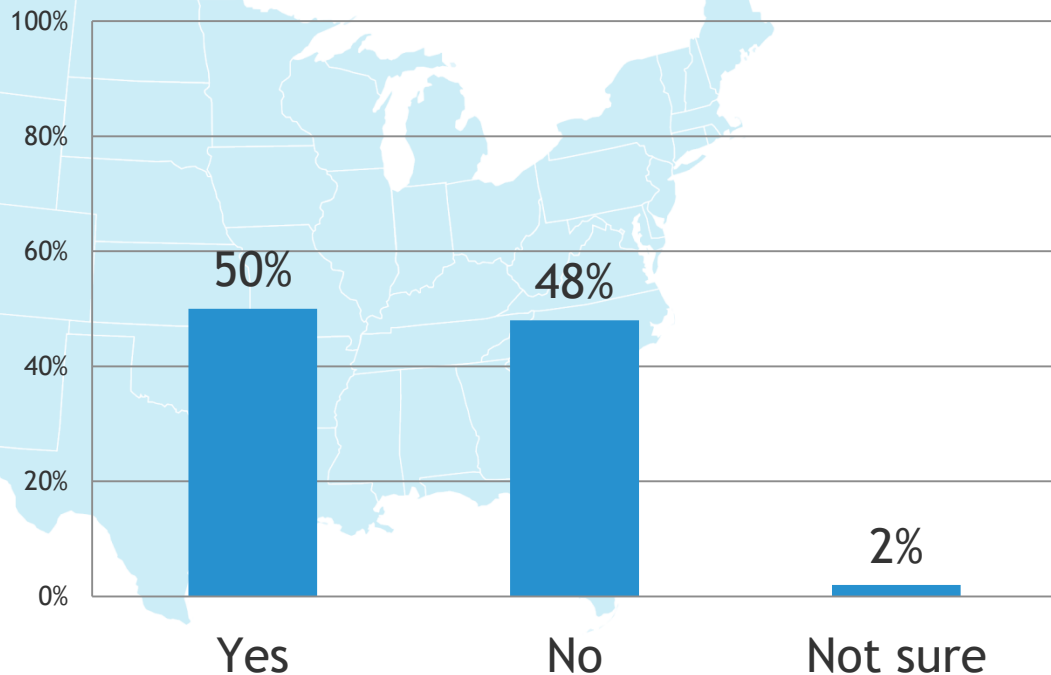

Yes: 53%
No: 46%
Not sure: 1%

Q: "Please indicate whether the activity below occurred in the church since the start of the new church work. (Select one response for each activity): **Intentional weekly prayer meeting for church members**"
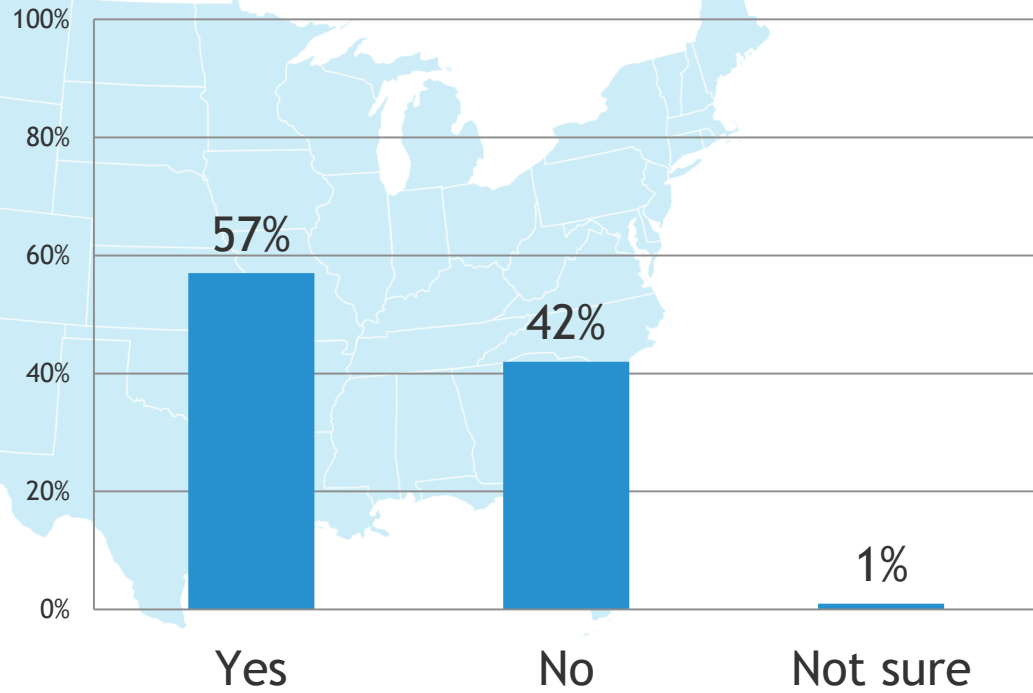
LifeWay RESEARCH
Biblical Solutions for Life

57% use a new member class

100%
80%
60%
40%
20%
0%

57%
42%
1%

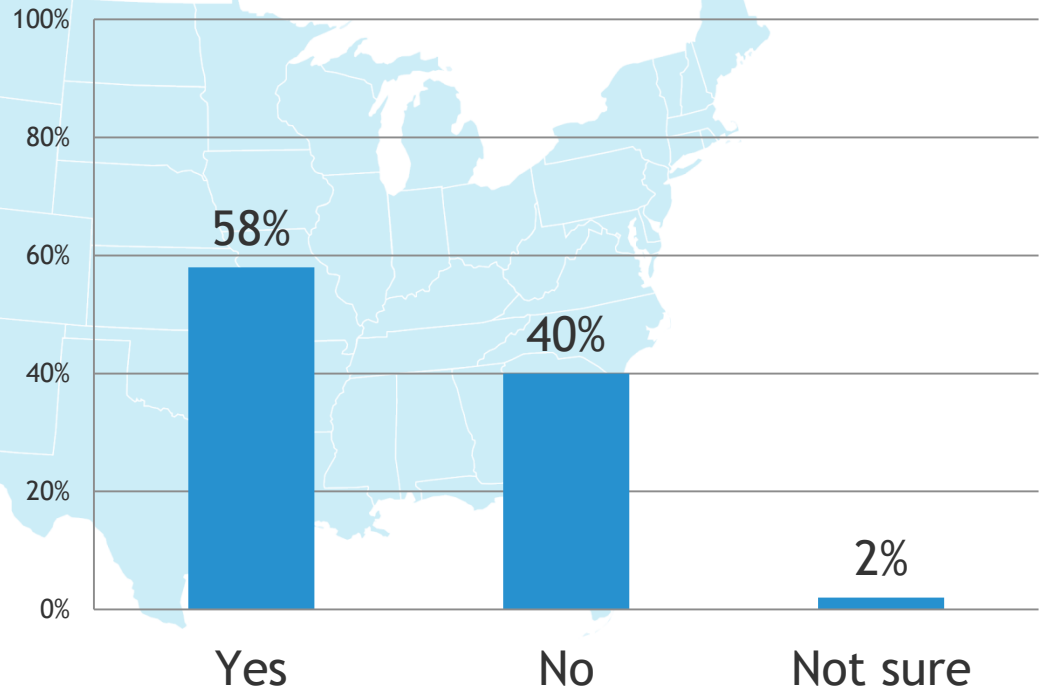Yes   No   Not sure

Q: "Please indicate whether the activity below occurred in the church since the start of the new church work.
(Select one response for each activity): **A new member class** "

LifeWay
RESEARCH
Biblical Solutions for Life

Among those started in 2012 or earlier, 16% started at least one daughter church within 3 years of existence
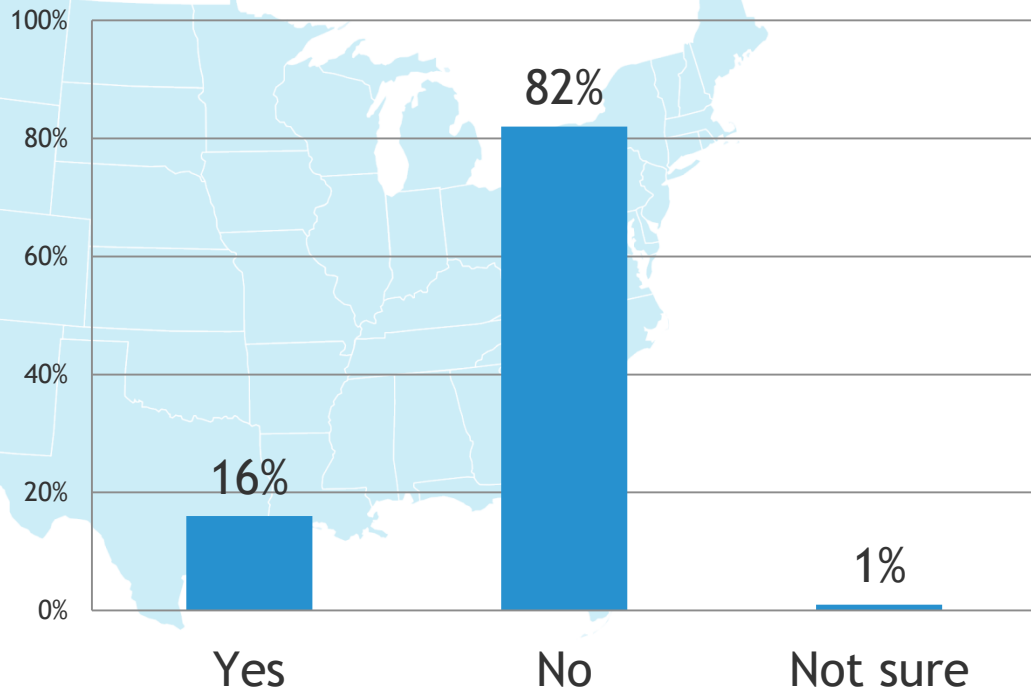
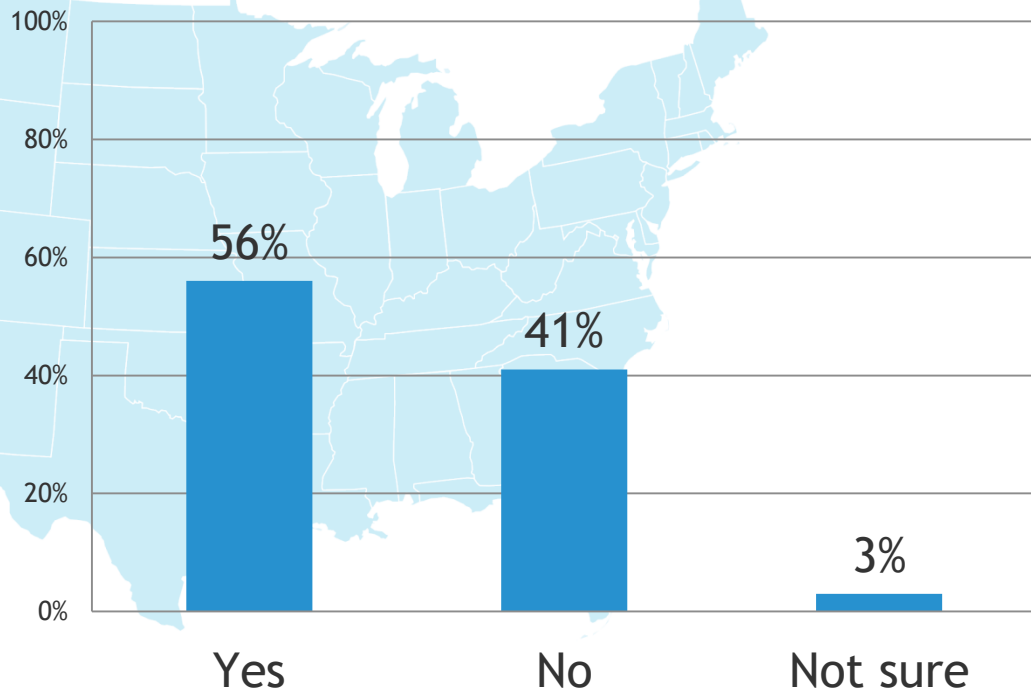|	Yes	No	Not sure
	16%	82%	1%

Q: "Please indicate whether the activity below occurred in the church since the start of the new church work. (Select one response for each activity): **The church started at least one daughter church within 3 years of existence**"

LifeWay
RESEARCH
Biblical Solutions for Life

Among those started in 2012 or earlier, 22% started at least one daughter church within 5 years of existence
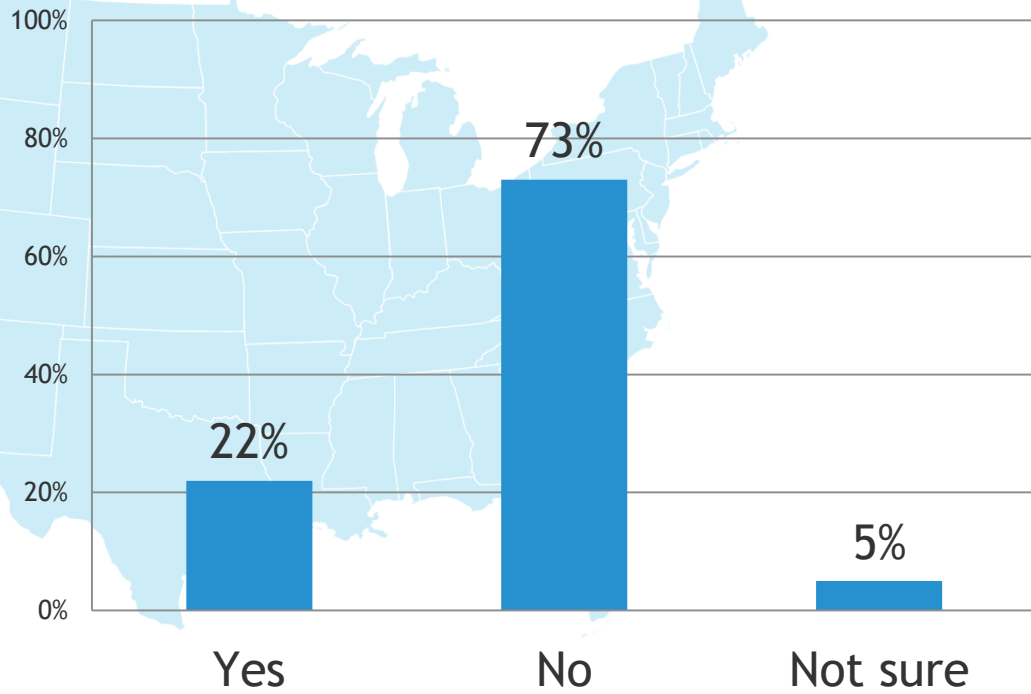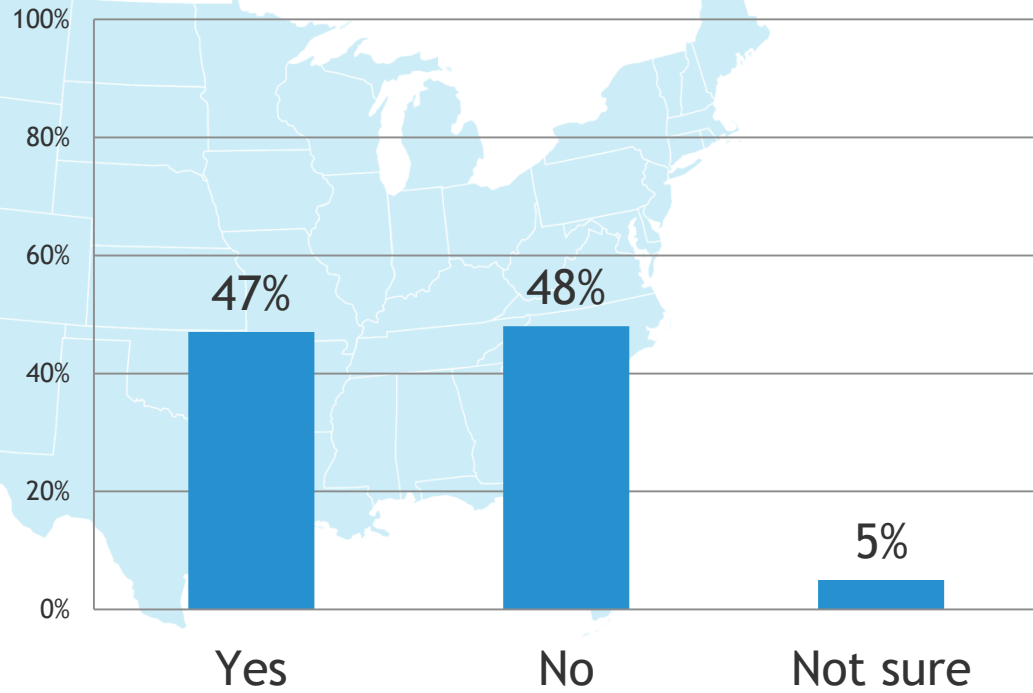

Q: "Please indicate whether the activity below occurred in the church since the start of the new church work. (Select one response for each activity): **The church started at least one daughter church within 5 years of existence**"

LifeWay RESEARCH
Biblical Solutions for Life

42% have a church covenant signed by new members
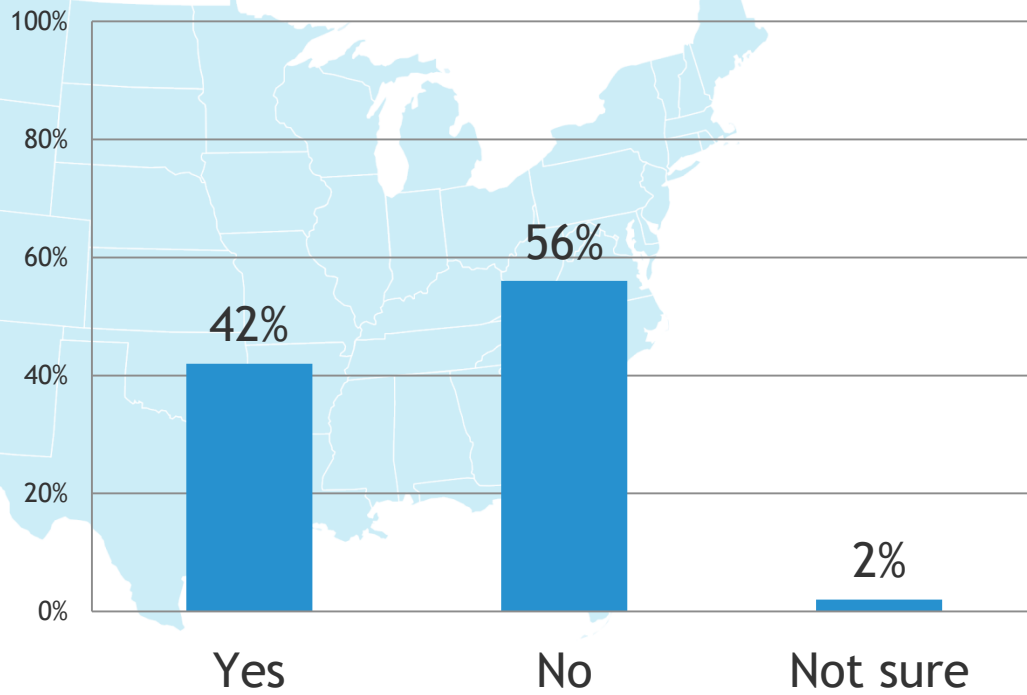
100%

80%

60% 56%

42% 42%
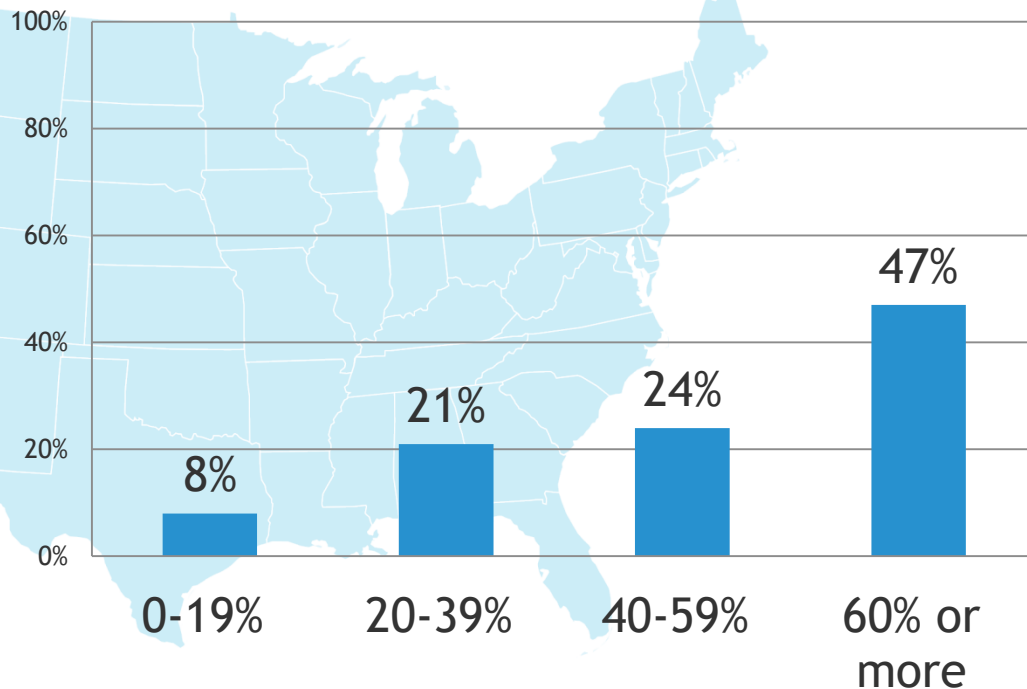
40%

20%

2%

0%

Yes   No   Not sure

Q: "Please indicate whether the activity below occurred in the church since the start of the new church work.
(Select one response for each activity): **A church covenant signed by new members**"

LifeWay
RESEARCH
Biblical Solutions for Life

38% are

actively involved in neighborhood / city political processes
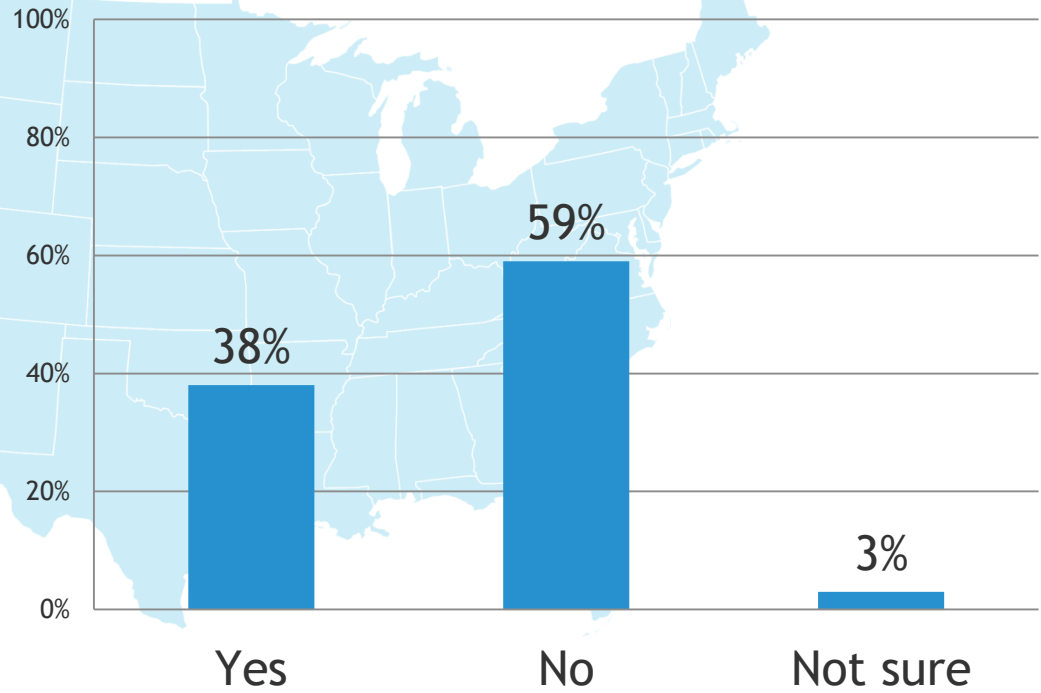
100%

80%

60%

40%

20%

0%

38%

59%

3%

Yes   No   Not sure

Q: "Please indicate whether the activity below occurred in the church since the start of the new church work. (Select one response for each activity): **Active involvement in the neighborhood and/or city's political process"**

LifeWay
RESEARCH
Biblical Solutions for Life

50%

provide evangelistic training
(one-on-one training or a class or workshop)

Q: "Please indicate whether the activity below occurred in the church since the start of the new church work. (Select one response for each activity): **Evangelistic training including one-on-one training or a class or workshop**"

86%

delegate key leadership roles to volunteers

86% Yes
13% No
1% Not sure

Q: "Please indicate whether the activity below occurred in the church since the start of the new church work. (Select one response for each activity): **Delegation of key leadership roles to volunteers**"

LifeWay RESEARCH
Biblical Solutions for Life

60% have

a proactive stewardship development plan

Q: "Please indicate whether the activity below occurred in the church since the start of the new church work. (Select one response for each activity): **A proactive stewardship development plan enabling the church to be financially self-sufficient**"

Bar chart:
- Yes: 60%
- No: 37%
- Not sure: 3%

61% have leadership training for new church members

61% — Yes
36% — No
3% — Not sure

Q: "Please indicate whether the activity below occurred in the church since the start of the new church work. (Select one response for each activity): **Leadership training for new church members**"

LifeWay
RESEARCH
Biblical Solutions for Life

56%

conduct meetings and interviews with area leaders

	56%	42%	2%
	Yes	No	Not sure

Q: "Please indicate whether the activity below occurred in the church since the start of the new church work. (Select one response for each activity): **Meetings and interviews with area leaders to understand the community**"

LifeWay RESEARCH
Biblical Solutions for Life

50%

partner with another organization to plant new churches

Q: "Please indicate whether the activity below occurred in the church since the start of the new church work. (Select one response for each activity): **Partnering with another organization to plant new churches**"

58%

financially contribute to other church plants

Q: "Please indicate whether the activity below occurred in the church since the start of the new church work. (Select one response for each activity): **The church financially contributes to other church plants**"

LifeWay
RESEARCH
Biblical Solutions for Life

56%

communicate monthly their commitment to multiplication

56%

41%

3%

Yes   No   Not sure

Q: "Please indicate whether the activity below occurred in the church since the start of the new church work. (Select one response for each activity): **Our commitment to being a multiplying church is communicated to the whole congregation each month**"

LifeWay
RESEARCH
Biblical Solutions for Life

47%
say their church leadership invests in church planters quarterly

47% Yes
48% No
5% Not sure

Q: "Please indicate whether the activity below occurred in the church since the start of the new church work. (Select one response for each activity): **Members of our staff or church leadership invest in new or potential church planters at least each quarter (mentor, train, internship, residency, coach, etc.)**"

LifeWay RESEARCH
Biblical Solutions for Life

In **47%** of congregations, at least 6 in 10 attendees have regular responsibilities

Chart:

- 0-19%: 8%
- 20-39%: 21%
- 40-59%: 24%
- 60% or more: 47%

Mean percentage of adults with regular responsibilities: 54%

Median percentage of adults with regular responsibilities: 50%

Q: "What percentage of adults who attend your church at least once a month have regular responsibilities at your church, for example, greeter, teacher, child care, etc."

LifeWay RESEARCH
Biblical Solutions for Life

In 21% of churches, at least 6 in 10 attendees are serving in the community
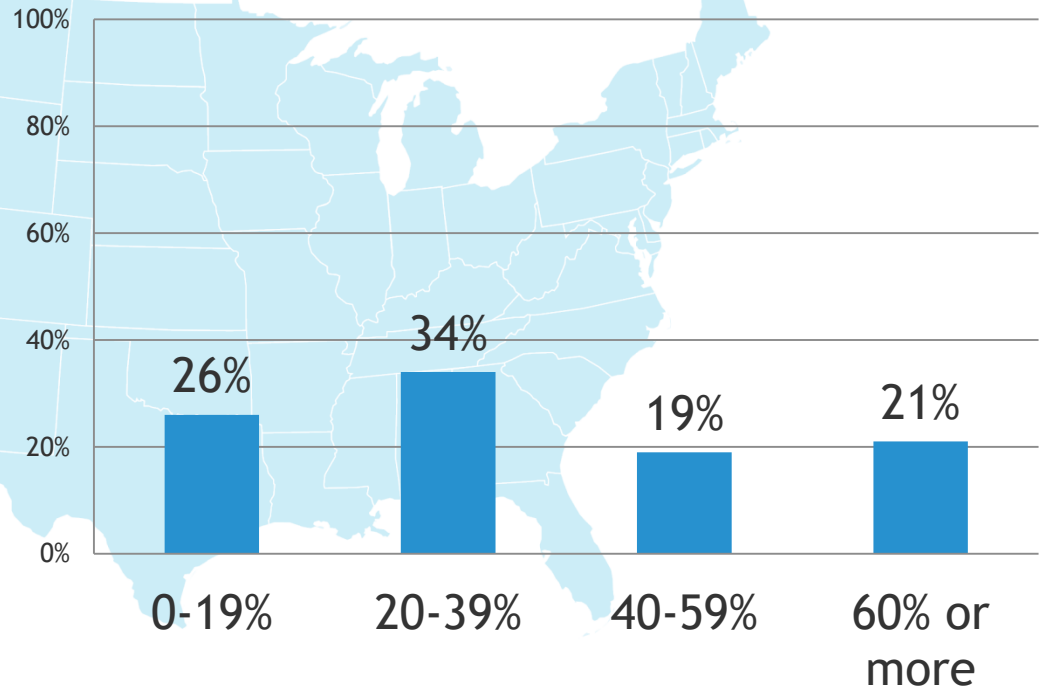
Mean percentage of adults serving in community: 36%   Median percentage of adults serving in community: 30%

Q: "What percentage of adults who attend your church at least once a month are involved in ministries or projects that serve people in your community not affiliated with your church? (If you are not sure, provide a rough estimate)"

LifeWay RESEARCH
Biblical Solutions for Life

40% of congregations encourage members to serve the community through existing organizations

Encouraged members to serve through existing community service organizations — **40%**

Encouraged existing small groups, Sunday School classes, or community groups to meet needs — **31%**

Encouraged the starting of new church ministries to meet needs — **19%**

Not sure/not applicable — **10%**

0% 20% 40% 60% 80% 100%
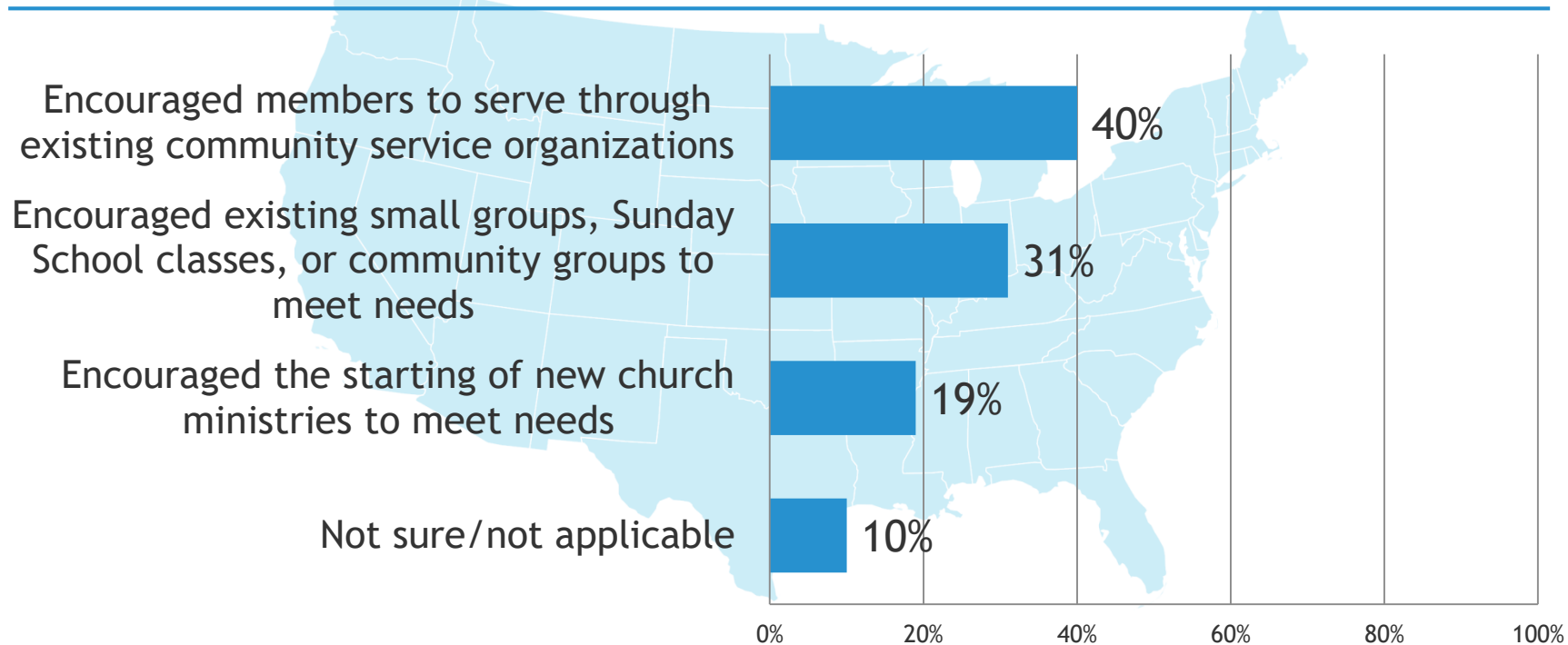
Q: "Which of the following best describes how your church has approached serving your community? (Select one)"

LifeWay RESEARCH
Biblical Solutions for Life

77%

report that newcomers tend to first attend a worship gathering

Chart values:

- Other: 4%
- Community service project: 3%
- Themed community events: 5%
- Small group: 12%
- Weekend worship gathering: 77%
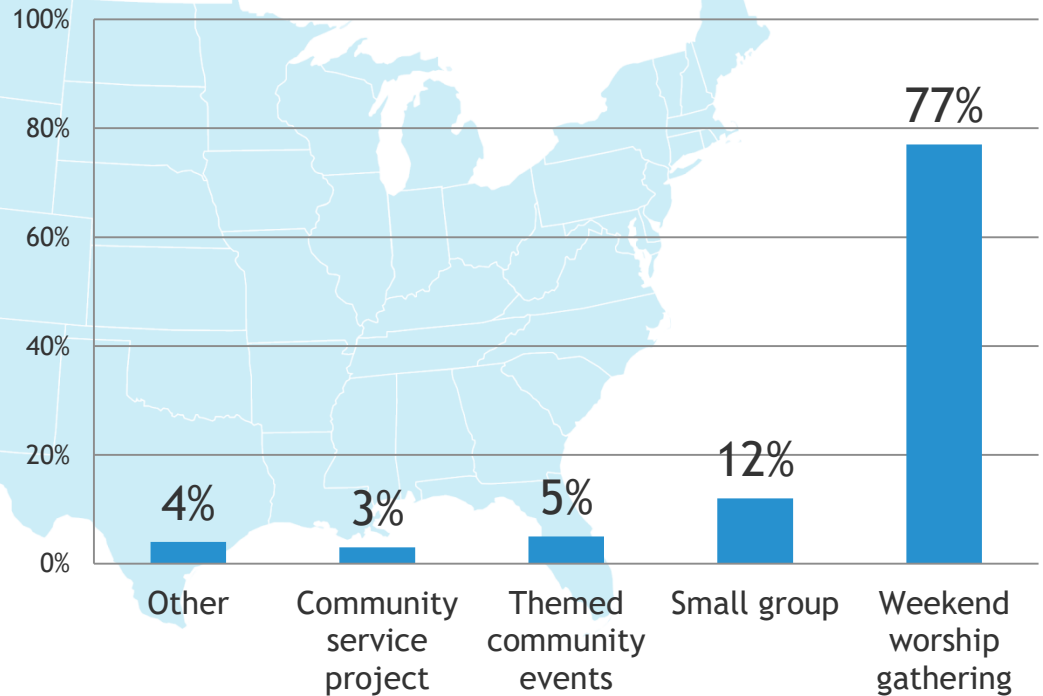
Q: "Of newcomers to your church, which activity or event did most FIRST attend?"
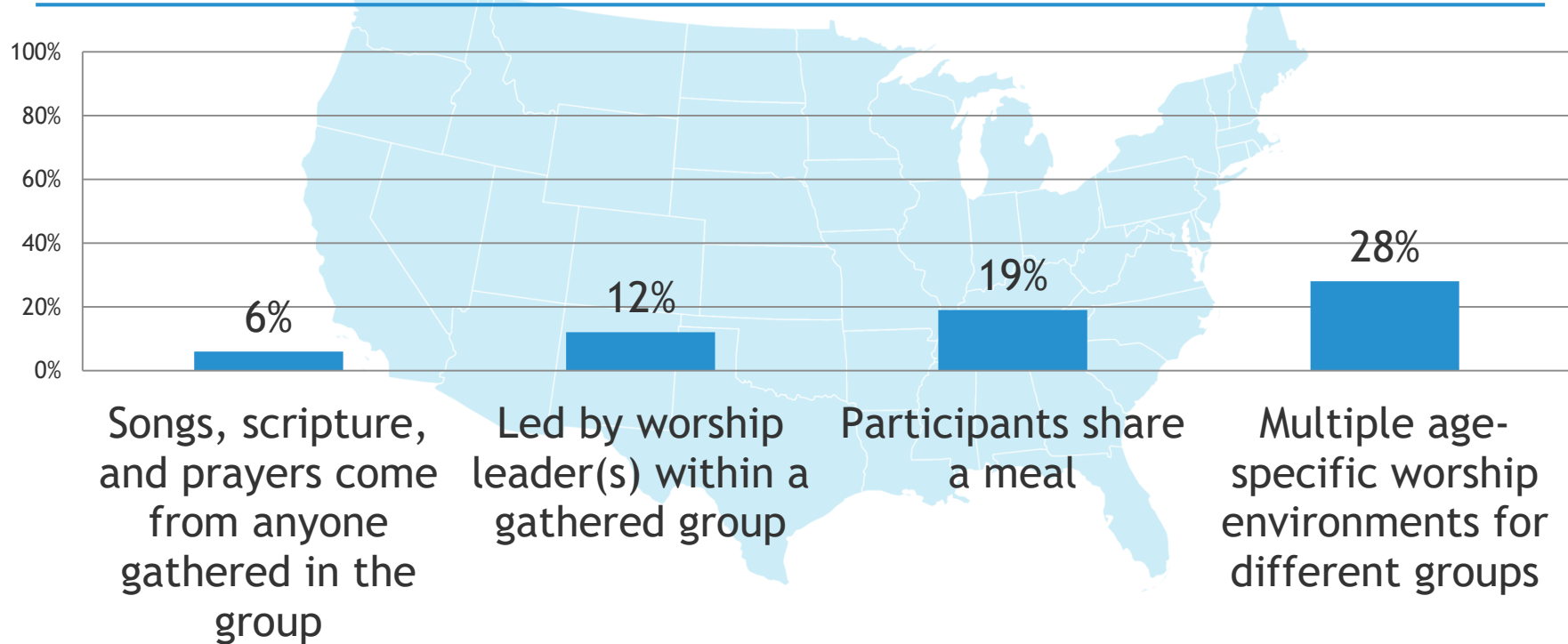
LifeWay RESEARCH
Biblical Solutions for Life

Description of typical weekly worship gathering

Bar chart:
- Songs, scripture, and prayers come from anyone gathered in the group: 6%
- Led by worship leader(s) within a gathered group: 12%
- Participants share a meal: 19%
- Multiple age-specific worship environments for different groups: 28%

Q: "Which of the following describe your typical weekly worship gathering? (Select all that apply)"

LifeWay RESEARCH
Biblical Solutions for Life

Description of typical weekly worship gathering
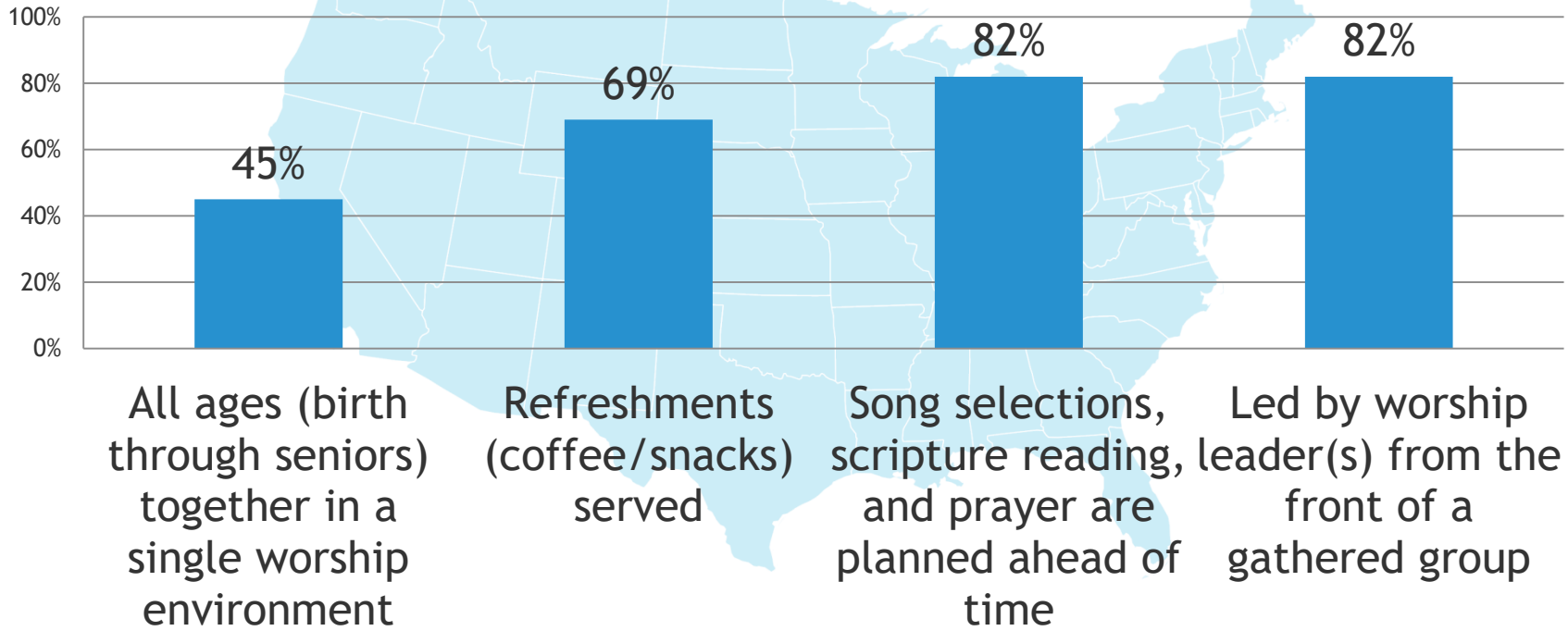
Q: "Which of the following describe your typical weekly worship gathering? (Select all that apply)"

FUNDING SOURCES

89%

receive initial funding from church attendees
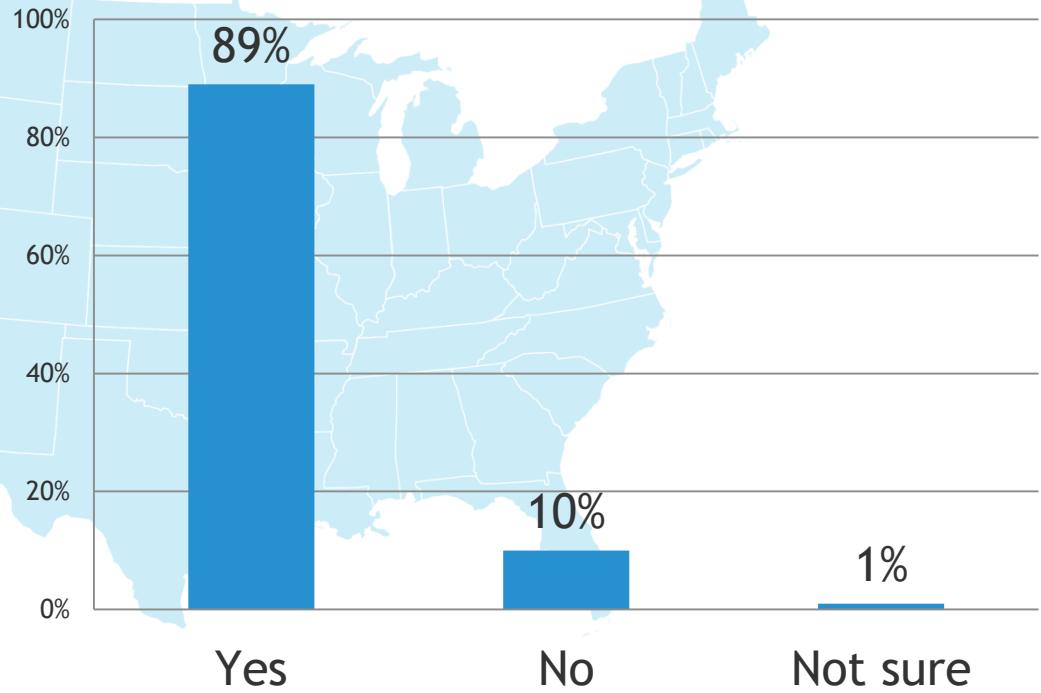
(offerings/receipts)

	Yes	No	Not sure
	89%	10%	1%

Q: "Please indicate whether the following funding sources were used to start the new church work (including the pastor's or church staff's salary): **Church attendees (offerings/receipts)**"

LifeWay
RESEARCH
Biblical Solutions for Life

72%
receive initial funding from an affiliated denomination (local, state, or national office)
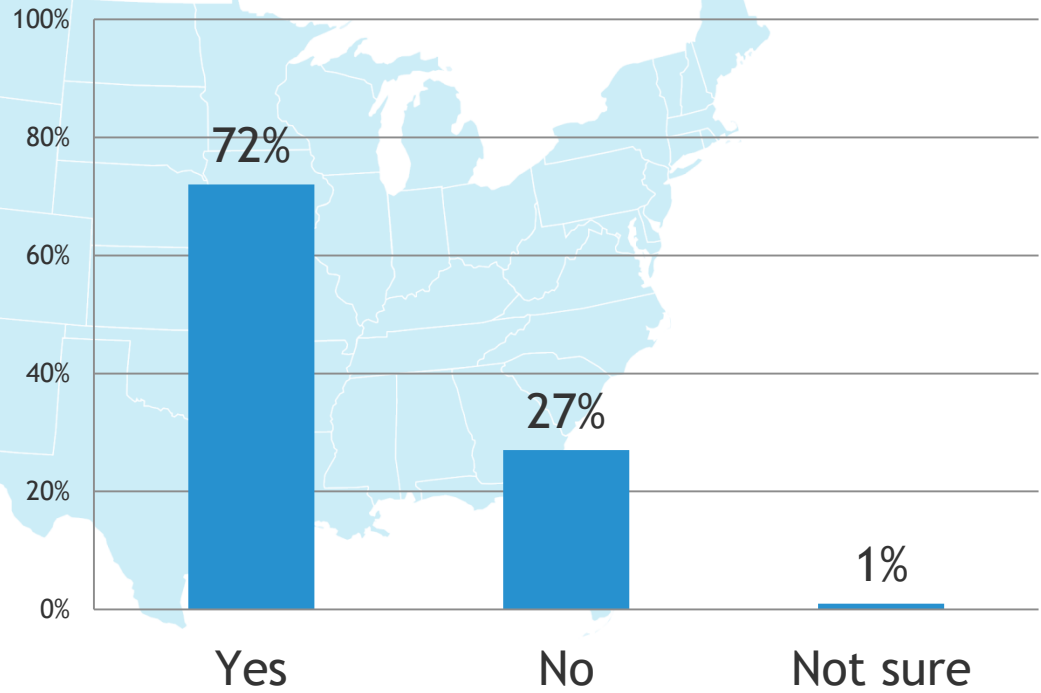
Q: "Please indicate whether the following funding sources were used to start the new church work (including the pastor's or church staff's salary): **Affiliated denomination (local, state, or national office)**"

LifeWay
RESEARCH
Biblical Solutions for Life

56%
receive initial funding from one or multiple sponsoring (mother, partner) church(es)
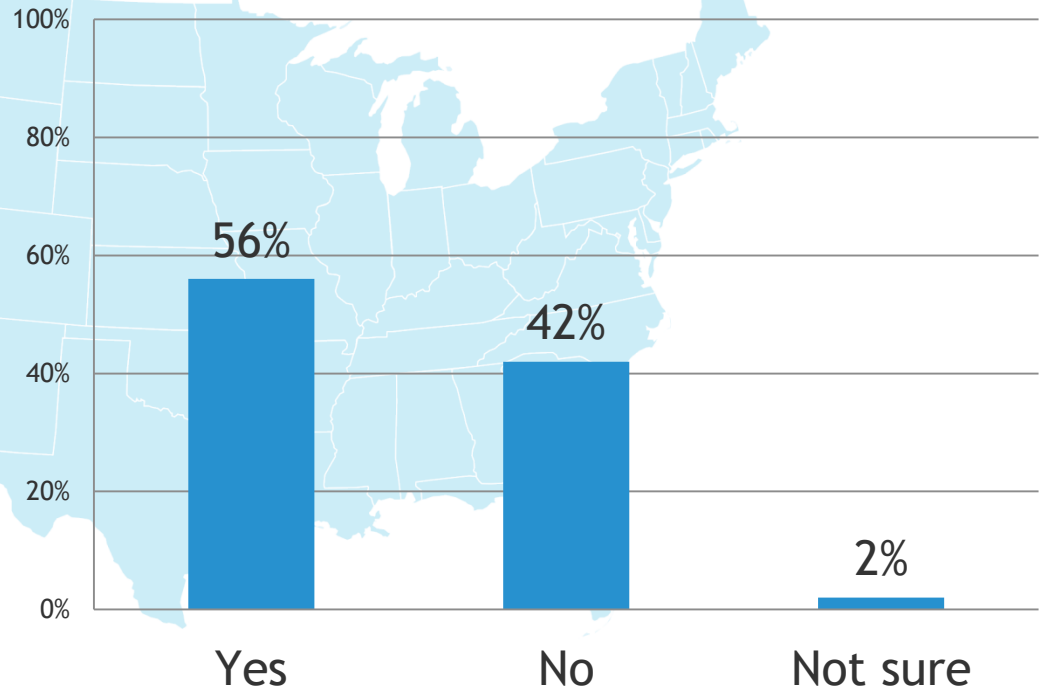
Q: "Please indicate whether the following funding sources were used to start the new church work (including the pastor's or church staff's salary): **One or multiple sponsoring (mother, partner) church(es)**"

56% use a personal financial support network created by lead pastor or staff
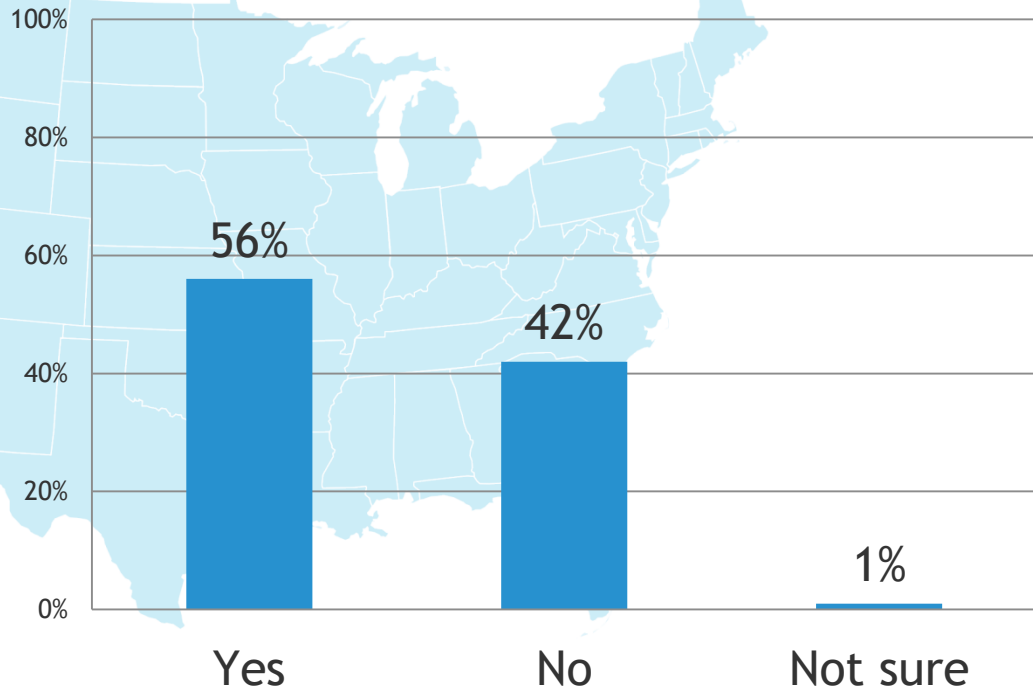
Yes — 56%
No — 42%
Not sure — 1%

Q: "Please indicate whether the following funding sources were used to start the new church work (including the pastor's or church staff's salary): **Personal financial support network created by the church's lead pastor or church's staff**"

LifeWay
RESEARCH
Biblical Solutions for Life

26%
receive initial funding from a single individual or non-profit foundation
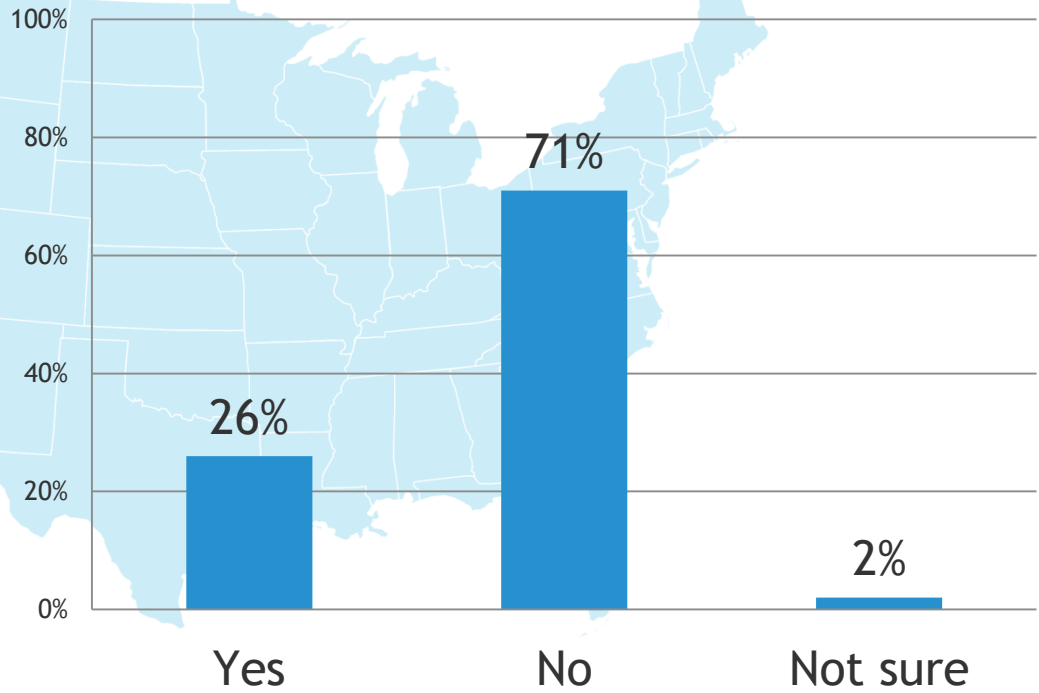
100%

80% — **71%**

60%

40%

26%

20%

2%

0%

Yes — No — Not sure

Q: "Please indicate whether the following funding sources were used to start the new church work (including the pastor's or church staff's salary): **A single individual or non-profit foundation**"

LifeWay RESEARCH
Biblical Solutions for Life

52%
receive initial funding directly from the church's pastor or church staff
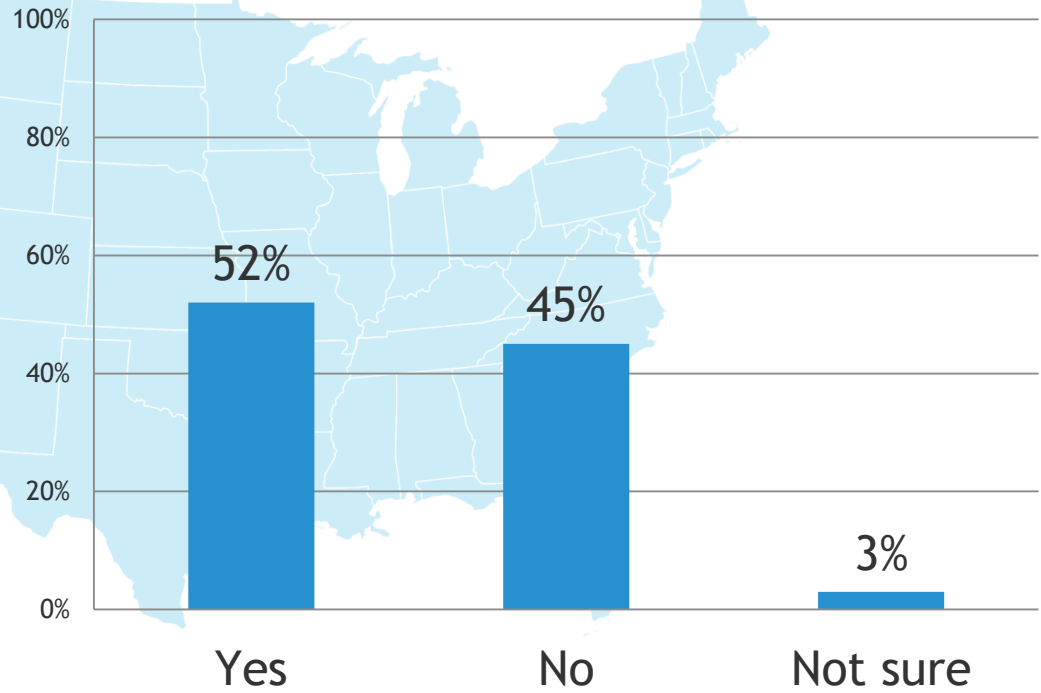
Q: "Please indicate whether the following funding sources were used to start the new church work (including the pastor's or church staff's salary): **Directly from the church's pastor or church staff**"

Average total dollars received from outside sources, by year
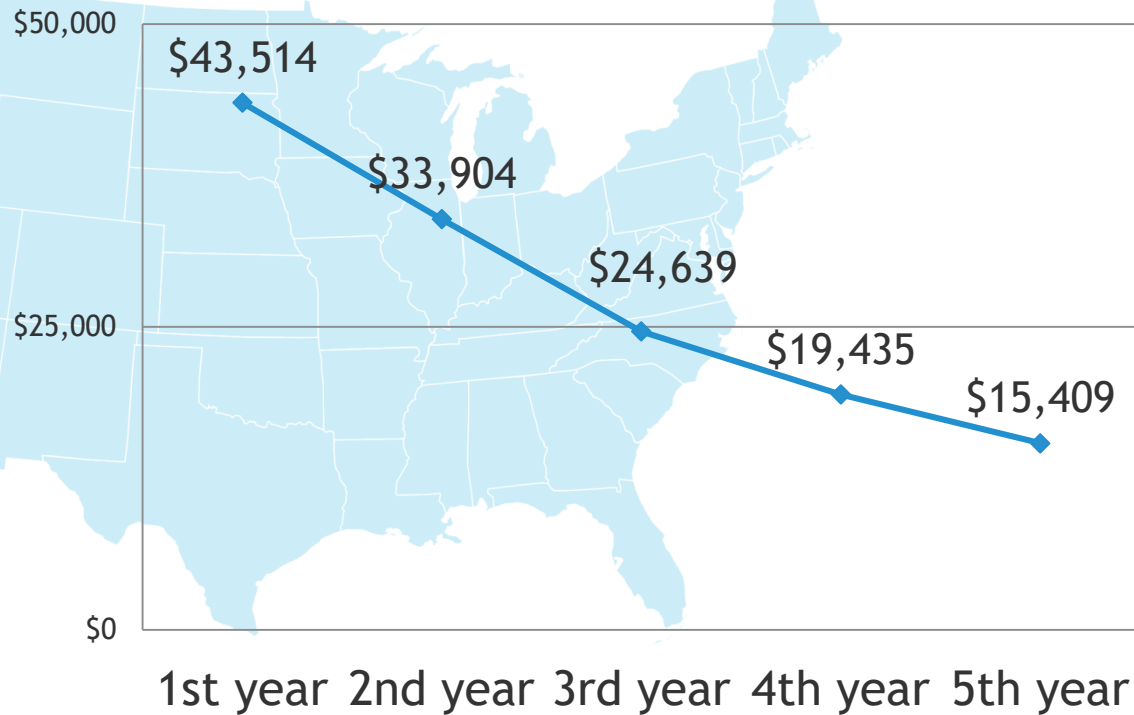
$50,000

$43,514

$33,904

$25,000

$24,639

$19,435

$15,409

$0

1st year 2nd year 3rd year 4th year 5th year

Q: "For each year of the new church work's existence, please indicate the amount of TOTAL dollars received from OUTSIDE SOURCES. This does not include funds given by church's members. Rough estimates are acceptable. If later years are not applicable, leave those blank."

LifeWay RESEARCH
Biblical Solutions for Life

Average total dollars received from church members and attendees by year
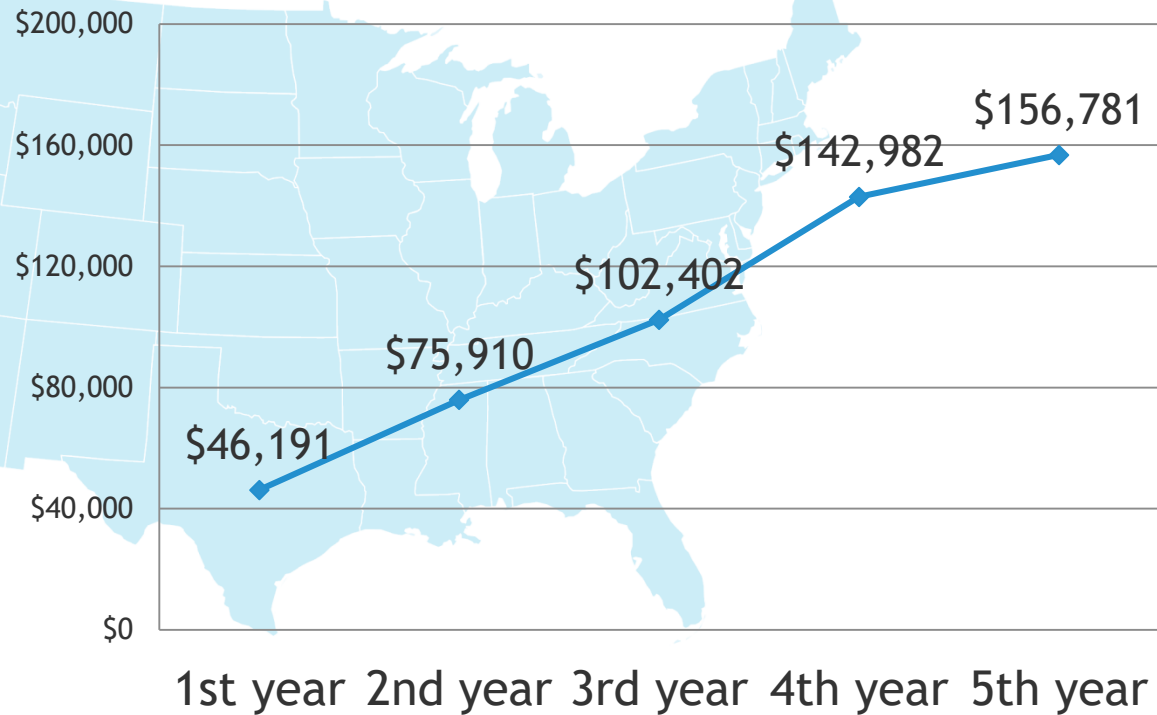
$200,000

$160,000 — $156,781

$142,982

$120,000 — $102,402

$75,910

$80,000

$46,191

$40,000

$0

1st year   2nd year   3rd year   4th year   5th year

Q: "For each year of the new church work's existence, please indicate the amount of TOTAL dollars received from CHURCH MEMBERS AND ATTENDEES. Rough estimates are acceptable. If later years are not applicable, leave those blank."

LifeWay RESEARCH
Biblical Solutions for Life

Among those started in 2012 or earlier,

31%

are not self-sufficient

1st year/from beginning	23%
2nd year	8%
3rd year	13%
4th year	14%
5th year	6%
6th year	2%
7th year	0%
8th year	0%
Not self-sufficient	31%
Not sure	2%

0% 20% 40% 60% 80% 100%
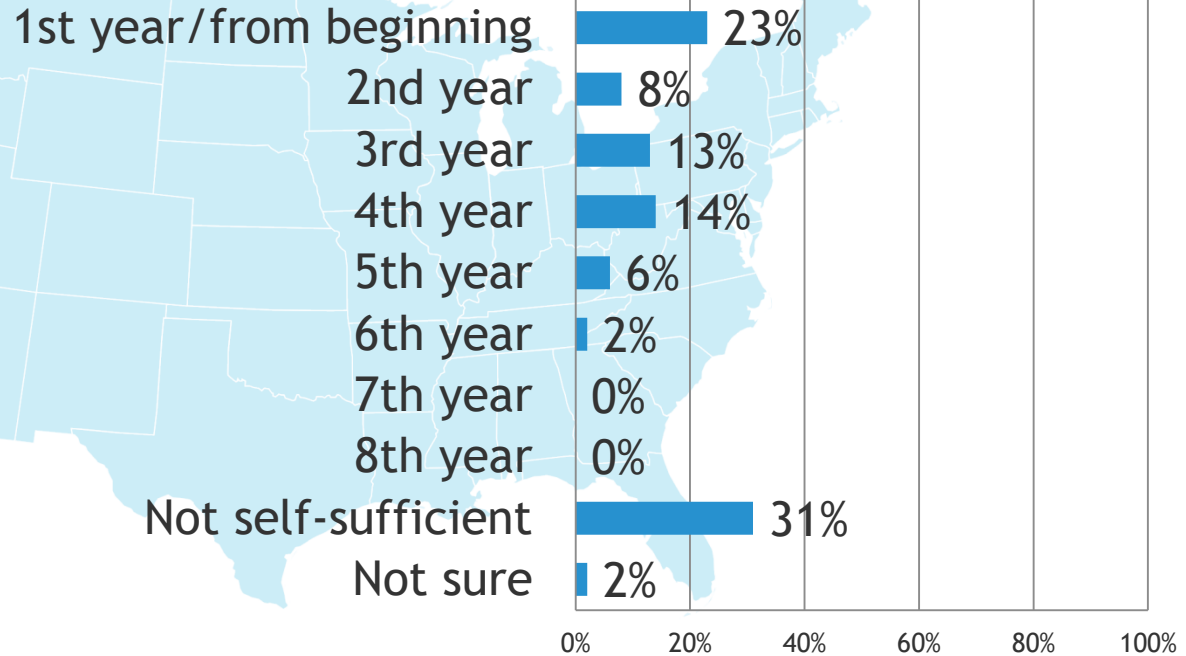
Q: "During which year (if at all) did the church become financially self-sufficient, meaning no financial support is being received from outside sources."

LifeWay RESEARCH
Biblical Solutions for Life

Nearly half will use less than 10 percent of their 2015 budget toward new church work efforts outside their own church

0-4%	5-9%	10-14%	15-19%	20-24%	25-49%	50% or more
30%	17%	29%	8%	5%	6%	6%
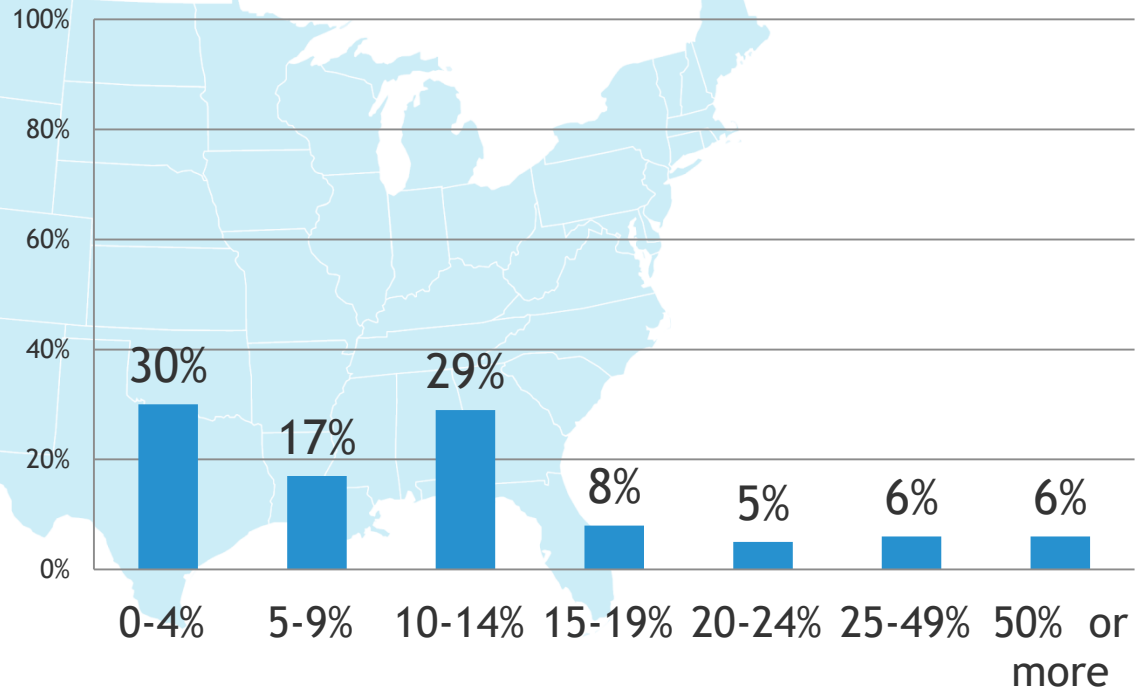
Q: "Approximately what share of your church budget in 2015 will be spent on new church work efforts besides expenditures for your own church. Include direct investments into new church works affiliated with your church as well as donations to denomination or church networks that principally seek to start new church works."

Offered and Received

DENOMINATIONAL & NETWORK SUPPORT

Demographics and/or research expertise
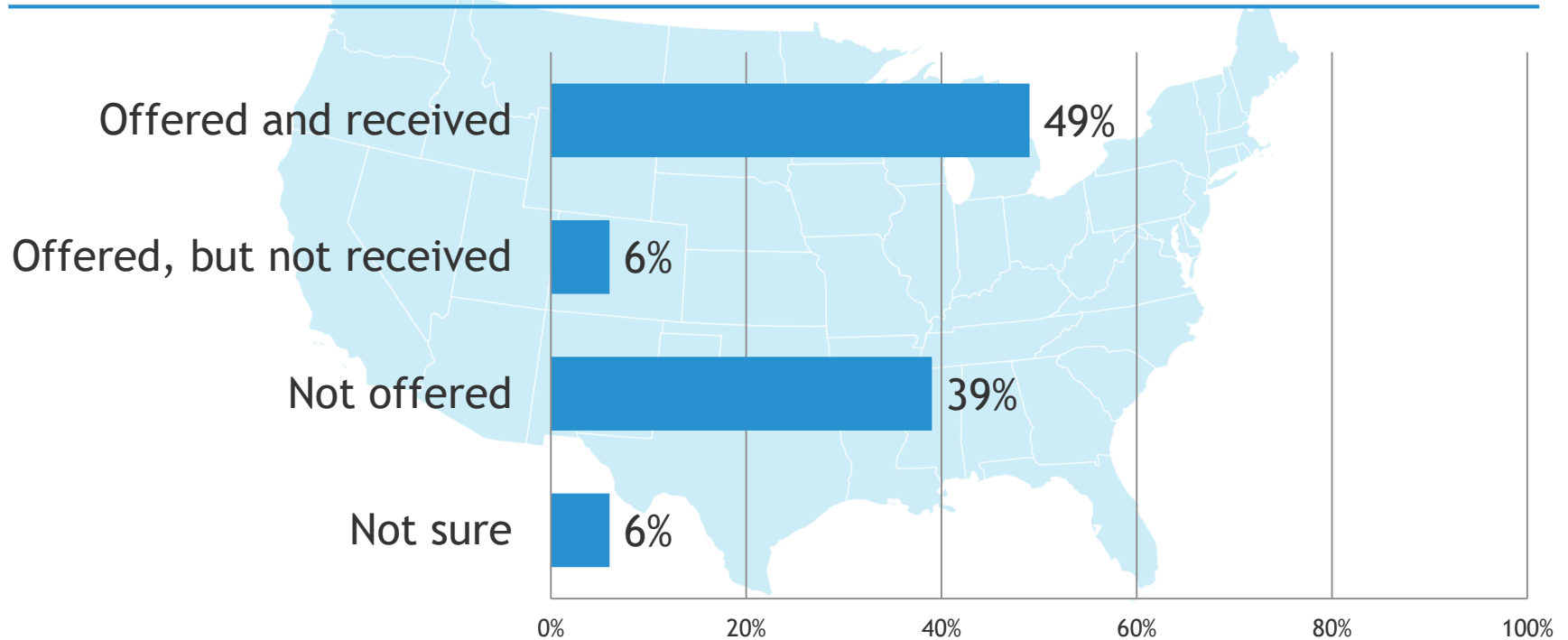
- Offered and received — 49%
- Offered, but not received — 6%
- Not offered — 39%
- Not sure — 6%

Q: "For each of the following other forms of support please indicate whether the resource was offered to the church and/or received from a denomination or network. (Select one response for each statement)"

Mentoring, Coaching, and/or Supervision
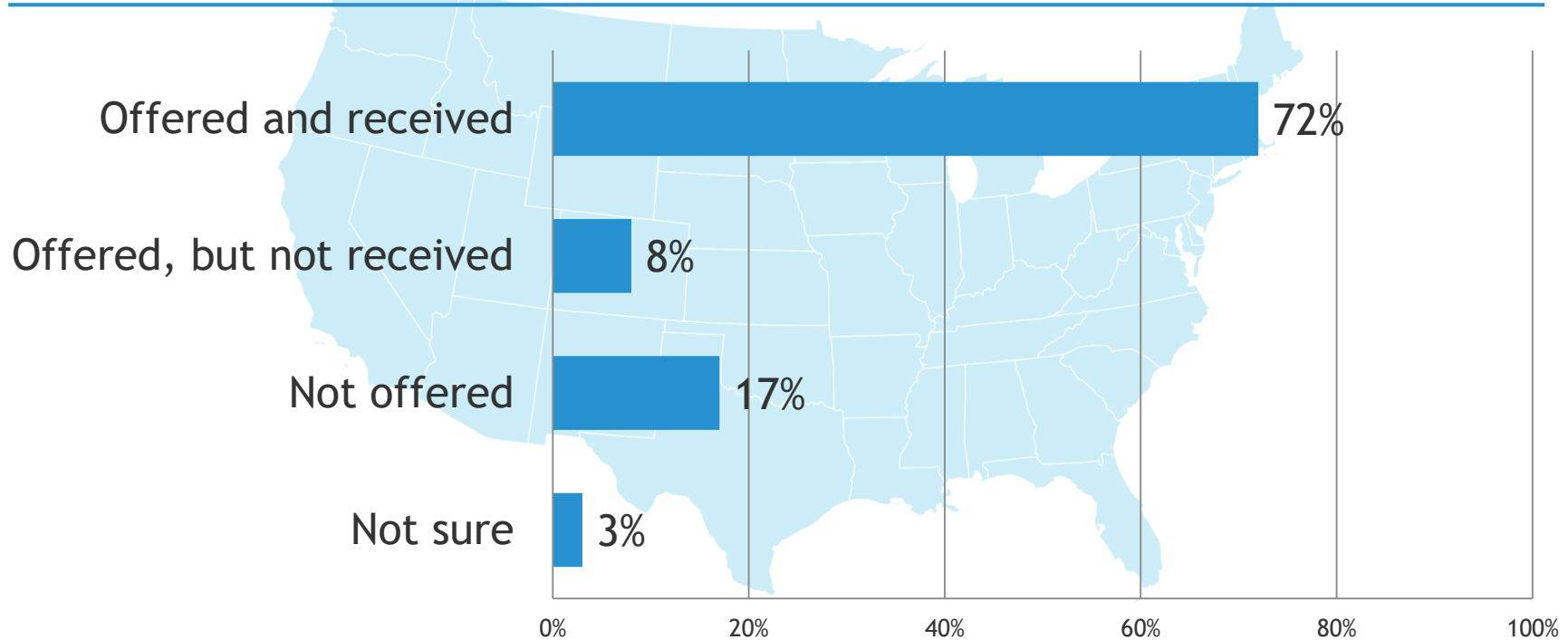
Offered and received — 72%

Offered, but not received — 8%

Not offered — 17%

Not sure — 3%

0% 20% 40% 60% 80% 100%

Q: "For each of the following other forms of support please indicate whether the resource was offered to the church and/or received from a denomination or network. (Select one response for each statement)"

LifeWay
RESEARCH
Biblical Solutions for Life

Church leader peer network
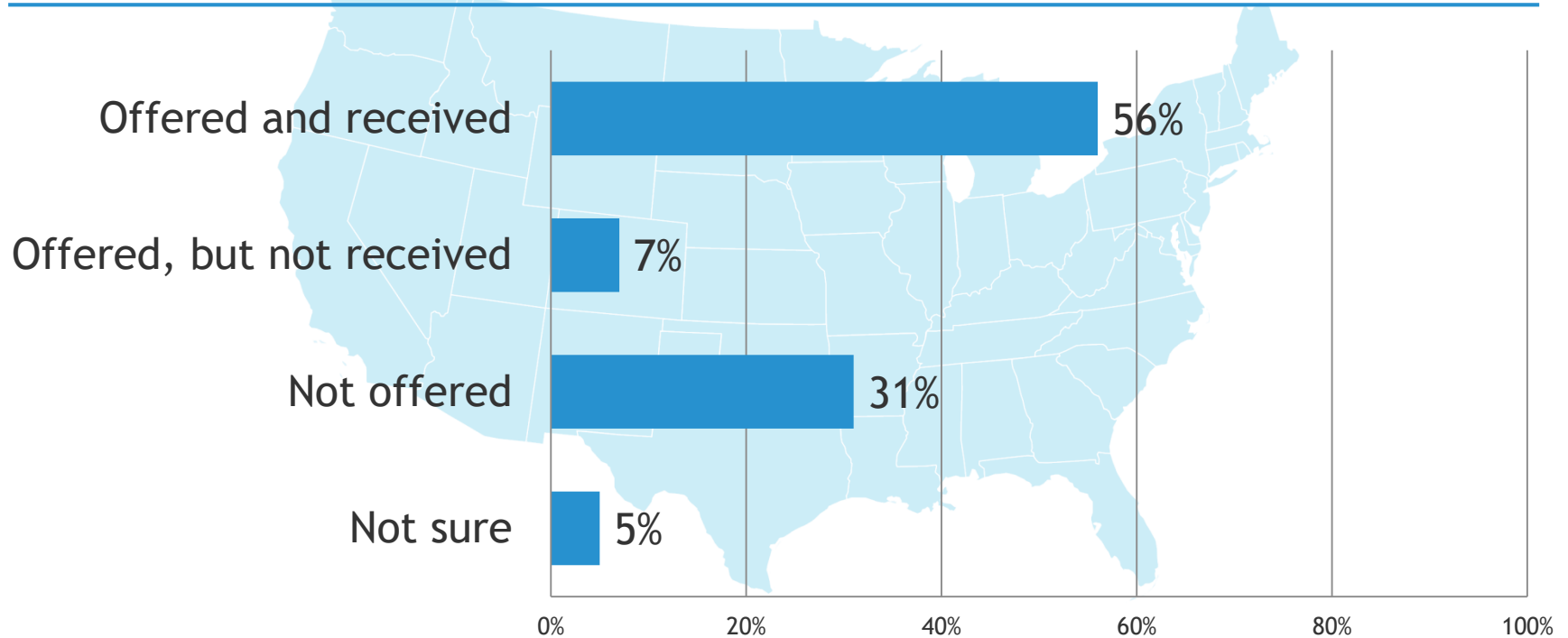
Offered and received — 56%

Offered, but not received — 7%

Not offered — 31%

Not sure — 5%

0%   20%   40%   60%   80%   100%

Q: "For each of the following other forms of support please indicate whether the resource was offered to the church and/or received from a denomination or network. (Select one response for each statement)"

LifeWay
RESEARCH
Biblical Solutions for Life

Training for church's pastor and/or team
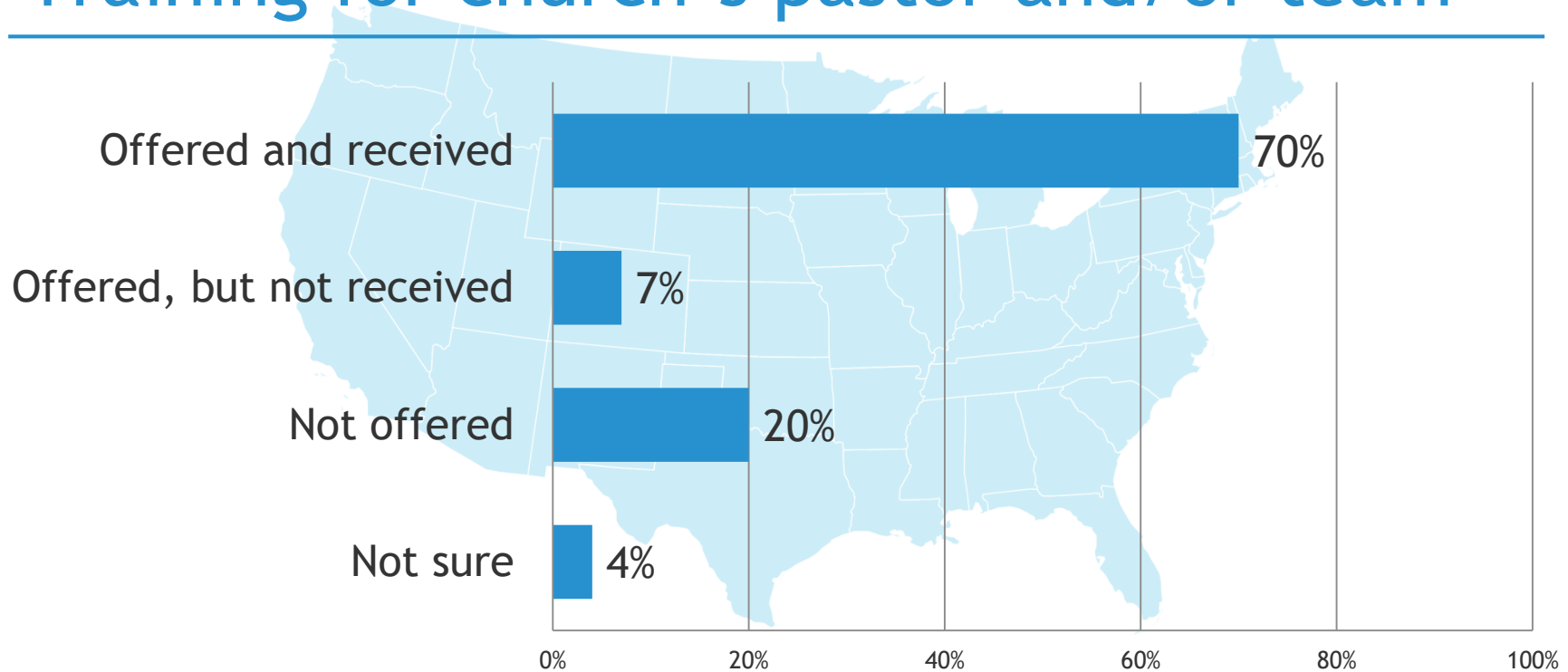
Offered and received — 70%

Offered, but not received — 7%

Not offered — 20%

Not sure — 4%

0% 20% 40% 60% 80% 100%

Q: "For each of the following other forms of support please indicate whether the resource was offered to the church and/or received from a denomination or network. (Select one response for each statement)"

LifeWay
RESEARCH
Biblical Solutions for Life

Church planter assessment program
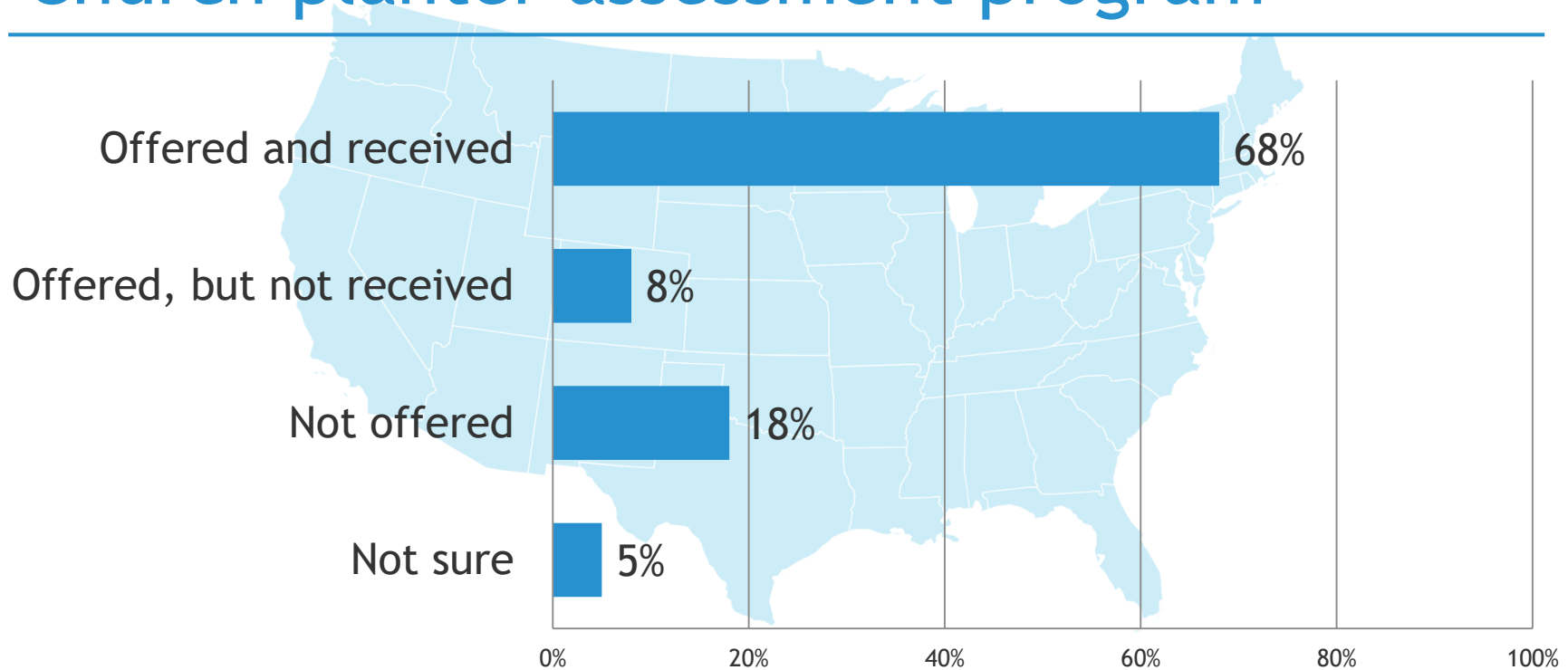
Offered and received — 68%

Offered, but not received — 8%

Not offered — 18%

Not sure — 5%

0%   20%   40%   60%   80%   100%

Q: "For each of the following other forms of support please indicate whether the resource was offered to the church and/or received from a denomination or network. (Select one response for each statement)"

LifeWay RESEARCH
Biblical Solutions for Life

Accounting or bookkeeping
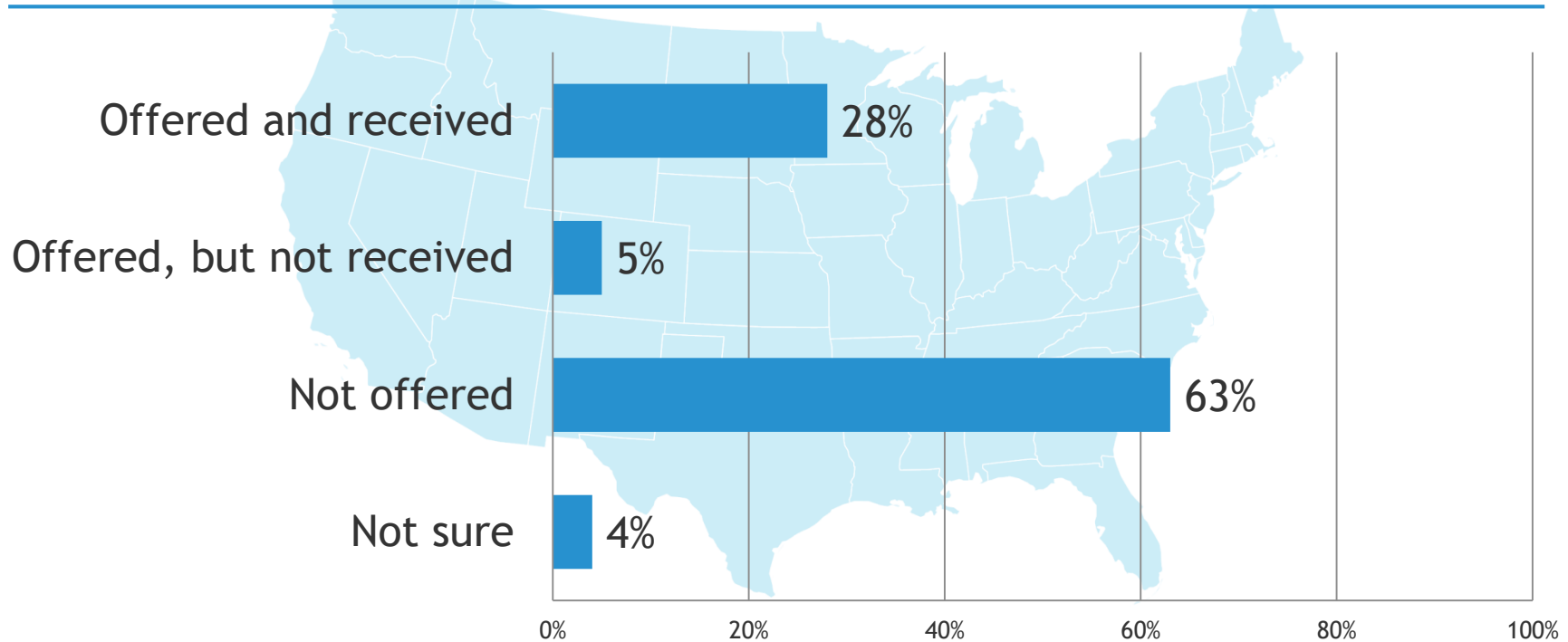
Offered and received — 28%

Offered, but not received — 5%

Not offered — 63%

Not sure — 4%

Q: "For each of the following other forms of support please indicate whether the resource was offered to the church and/or received from a denomination or network. (Select one response for each statement)"

LifeWay RESEARCH
Biblical Solutions for Life

Legal work or counsel

Offered and received — 24%

Offered, but not received — 8%

Not offered — 61%

Not sure — 7%

0%   20%   40%   60%   80%   100%
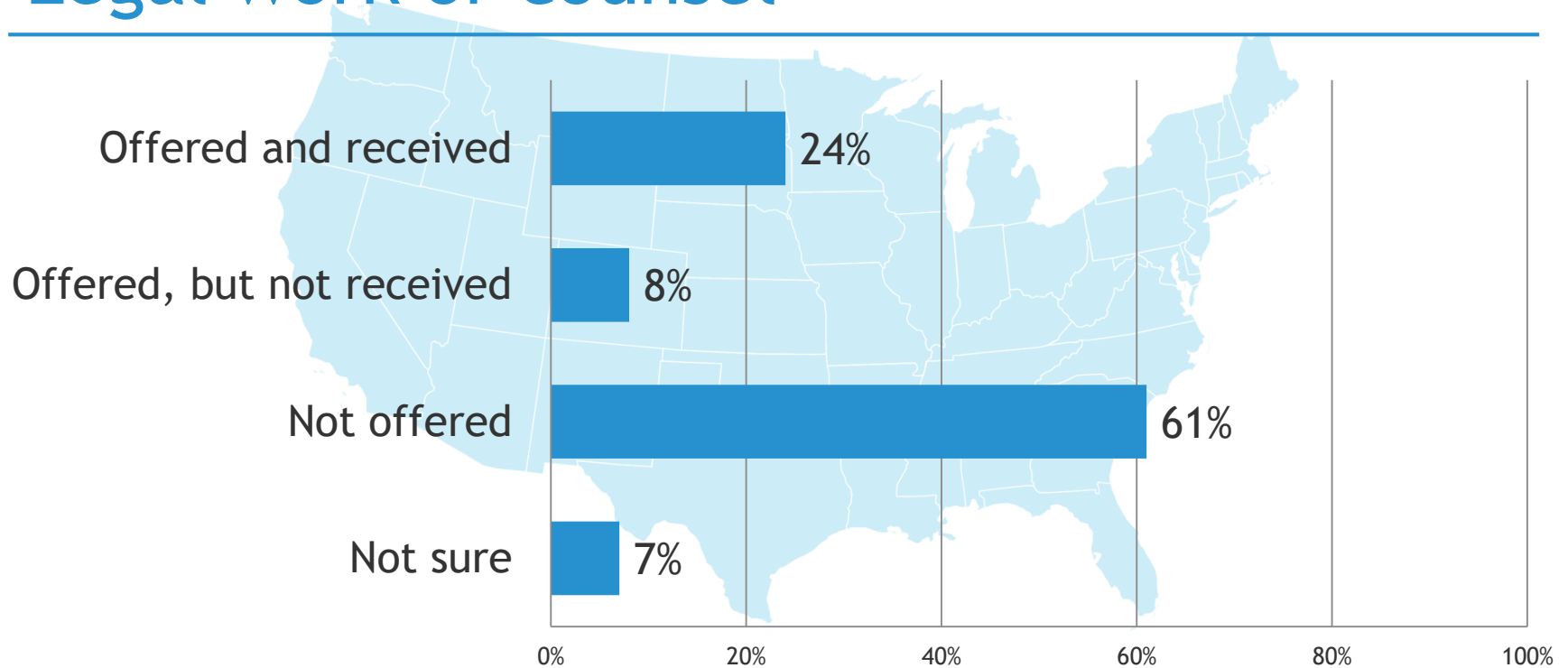
Q: "For each of the following other forms of support please indicate whether the resource was offered to the church and/or received from a denomination or network. (Select one response for each statement)"

SPONSOR CHURCH SUPPORT

63% have a sponsoring church
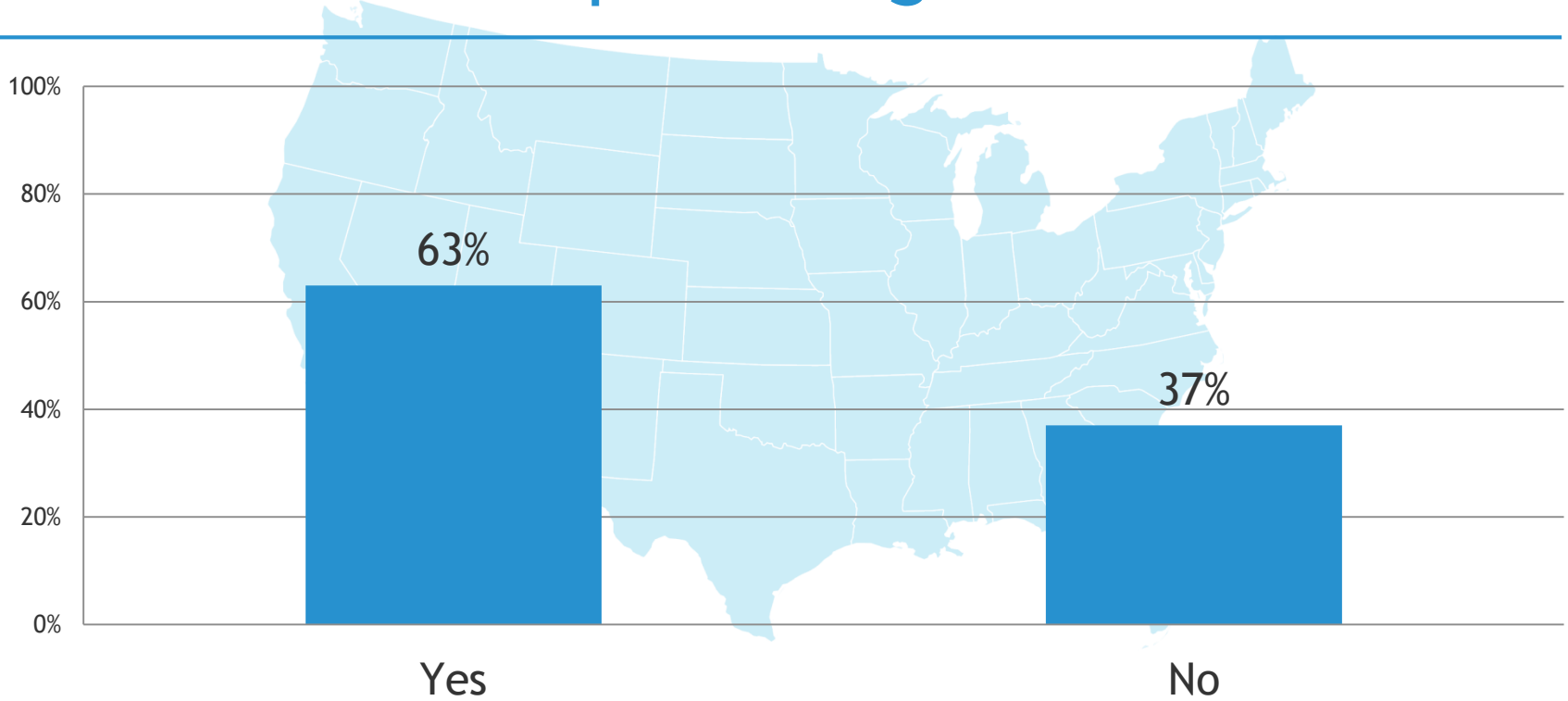
Q: "Did the new church work have a sponsoring/partnering/mother church or churches?"

LifeWay
RESEARCH
Biblical Solutions for Life

The following slides represent those new church works who indicated they did have a sponsor church
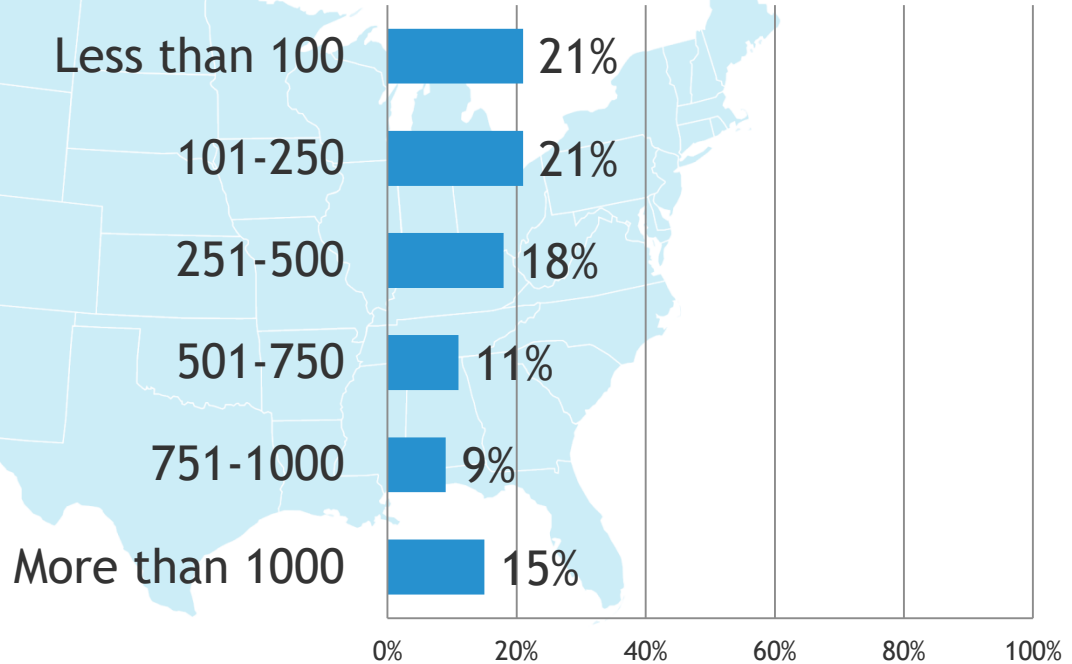
32%

receive "loaned" lay people for a specific time from the sponsor church
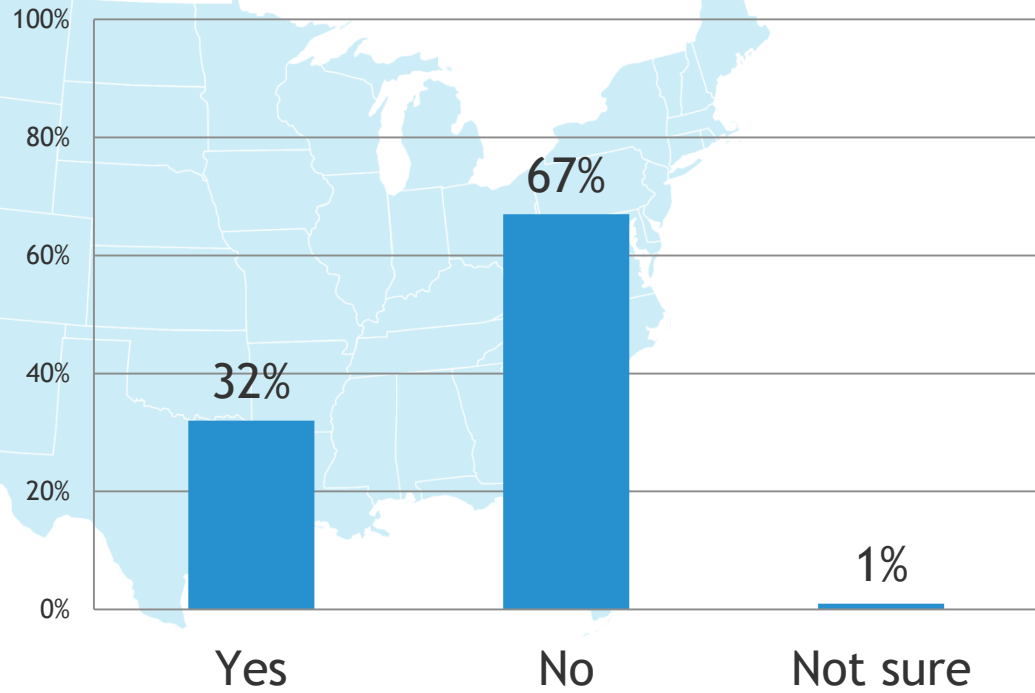
Q: "Please indicate whether the new church work received the following types of assistance from sponsoring church(es) during the first 5 years of existence. (Select one response for each activity): **Loaned lay people for specific time period"**

LifeWay
RESEARCH
Biblical Solutions for Life

Sponsoring church pastor preaches occasionally in

23% of

sponsored new works
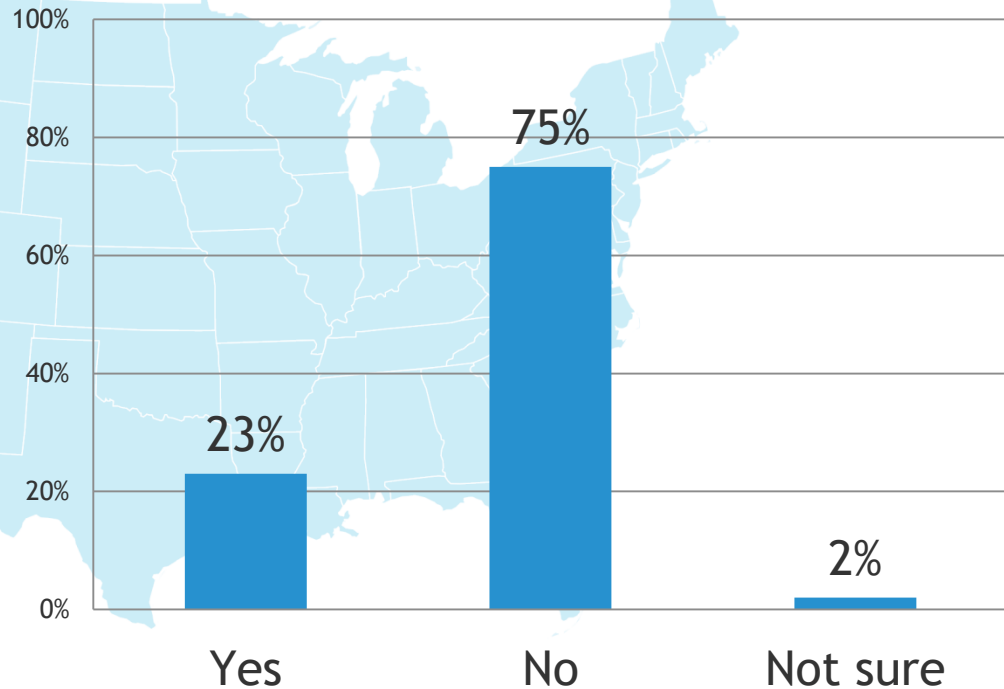
	Yes	No	Not sure
	23%	75%	2%

Q: "Please indicate whether the new church work received the following types of assistance from sponsoring church(es) during the first 5 years of existence. (Select one response for each activity): **The sponsoring church pastor preached occasionally at the new church work**"

LifeWay
RESEARCH
Biblical Solutions for Life

86% have
active prayer support from the sponsoring church
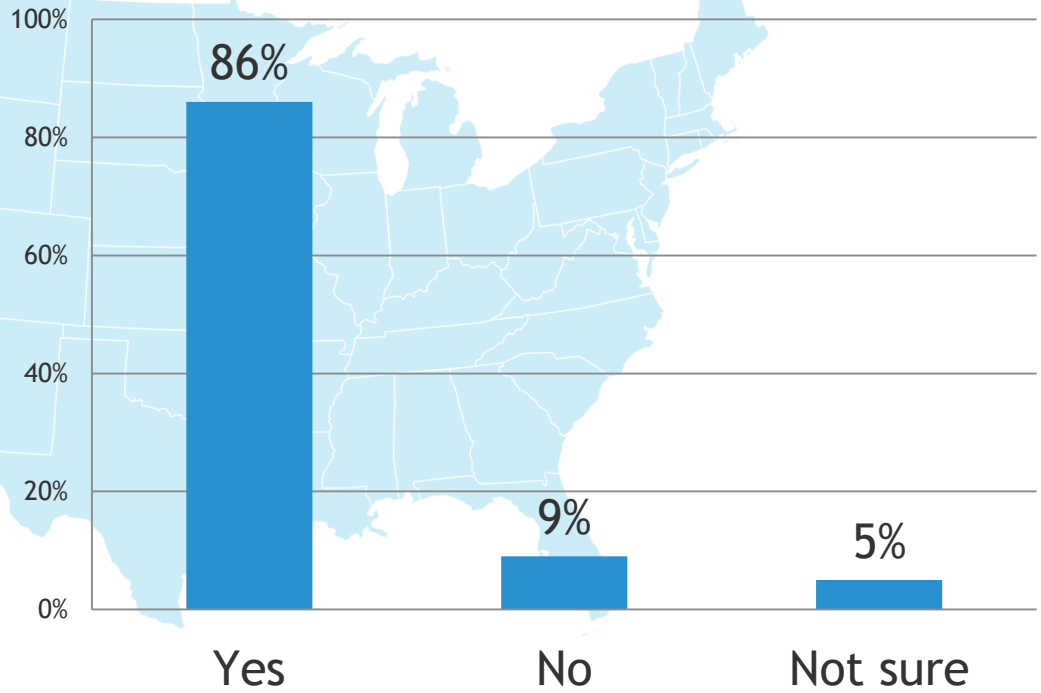
Q: "Please indicate whether the new church work received the following types of assistance from sponsoring church(es) during the first 5 years of existence. (Select one response for each activity): **Active prayer support**"

26% are permitted to meet in the sponsoring church's building
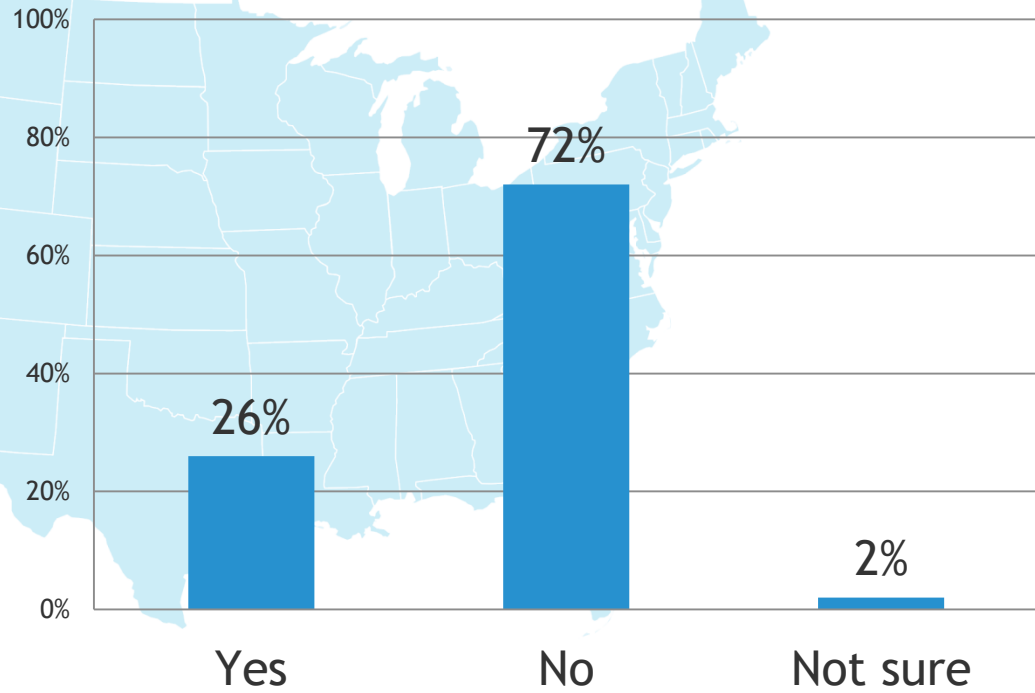
100%

80%

60%

40%

20%

0%

26%

72%

2%

Yes

No

Not sure

Q: "Please indicate whether the new church work received the following types of assistance from sponsoring church(es) during the first 5 years of existence. (Select one response for each activity): **Permitted the new church work to meet in the sponsoring church building**"

4% receive property and/or a facility to meet in from a sponsoring church
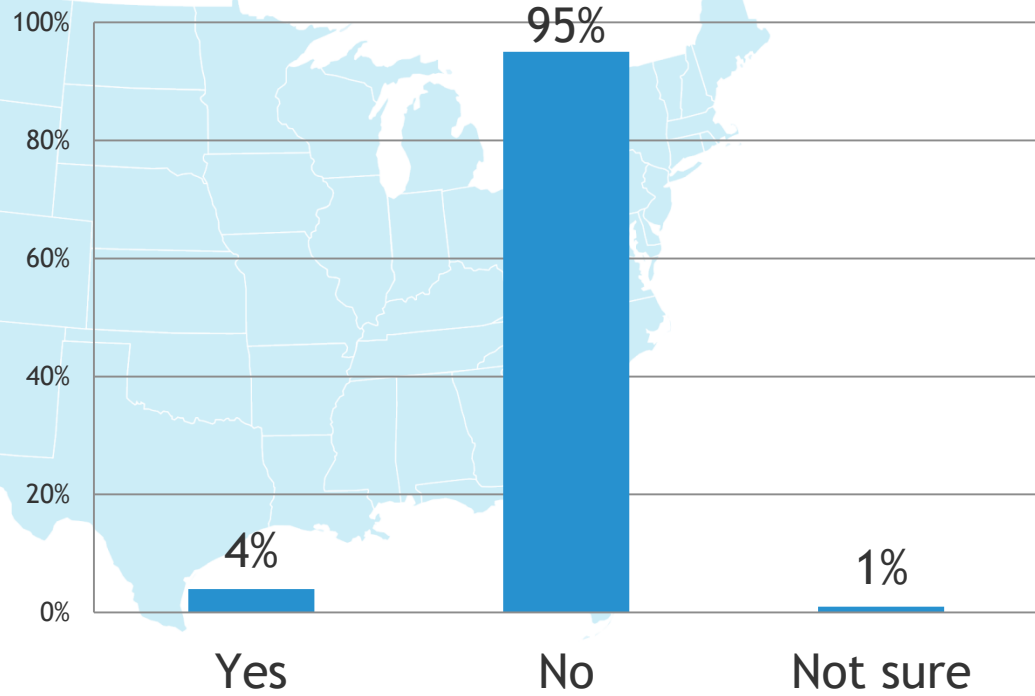
	Yes	No	Not sure
	4%	95%	1%

Q: "Please indicate whether the new church work received the following types of assistance from sponsoring church(es) during the first 5 years of existence. (Select one response for each activity): **Bought property and/or a facility for the new church work to meet in**"

LifeWay RESEARCH
Biblical Solutions for Life

59% are provided mentorship for church's pastor / church starting team
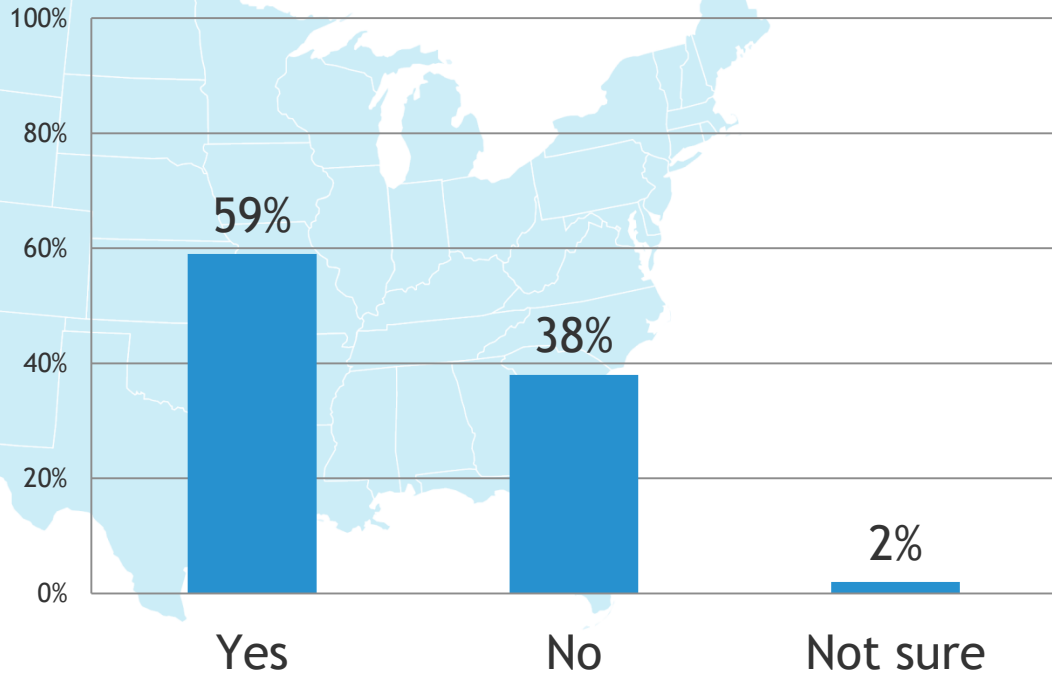
Q: "Please indicate whether the new church work received the following types of assistance from sponsoring church(es) during the first 5 years of existence. (Select one response for each activity): **Provided mentorship to the church's pastor or church starting team**"

55% are provided administrative support from the sponsoring church
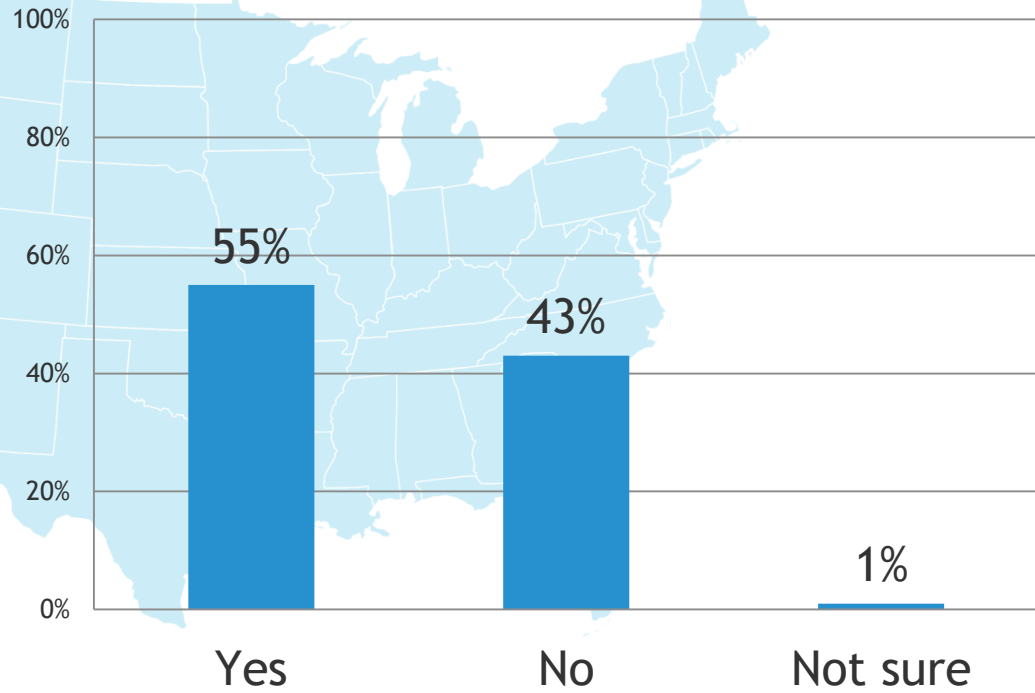
55%

43%

1%

Yes   No   Not sure

Q: "Please indicate whether the new church work received the following types of assistance from sponsoring church(es) during the first 5 years of existence. (Select one response for each activity): **Provided administrative support (could include clerical, accounting, written policies, etc.)** "

LifeWay RESEARCH
Biblical Solutions for Life

38% are provided training from the sponsoring church
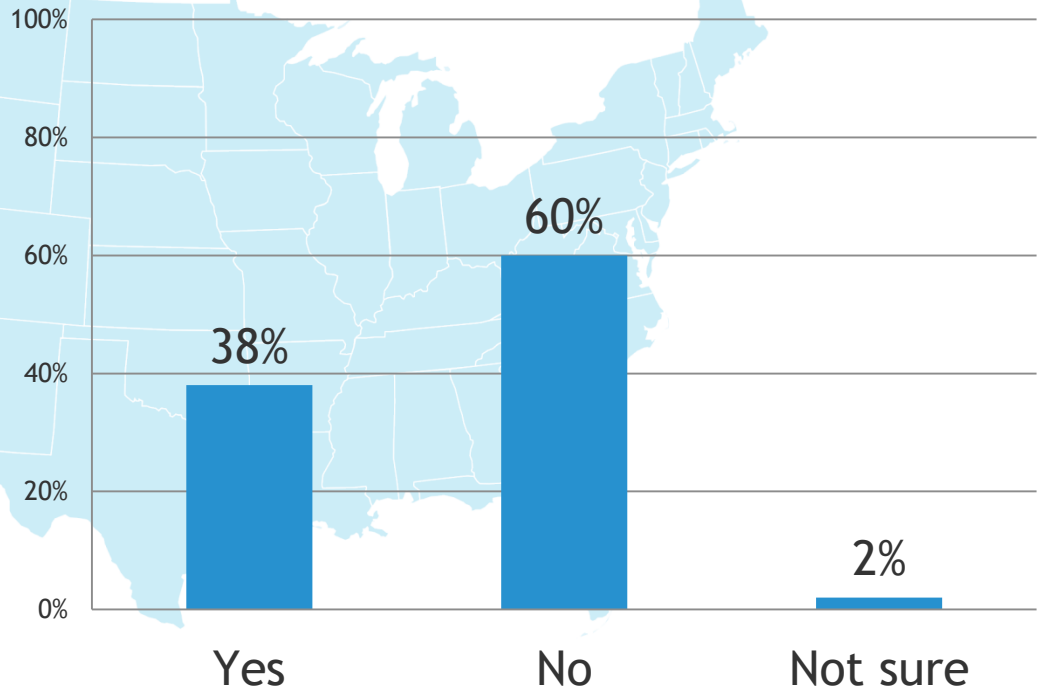
Yes — 38%
No — 60%
Not sure — 2%

Q: "Please indicate whether the new church work received the following types of assistance from sponsoring church(es) during the first 5 years of existence. (Select one response for each activity): **Provided training**"

LifeWay RESEARCH
Biblical Solutions for Life

44%
are provided financial oversight from a sponsoring church
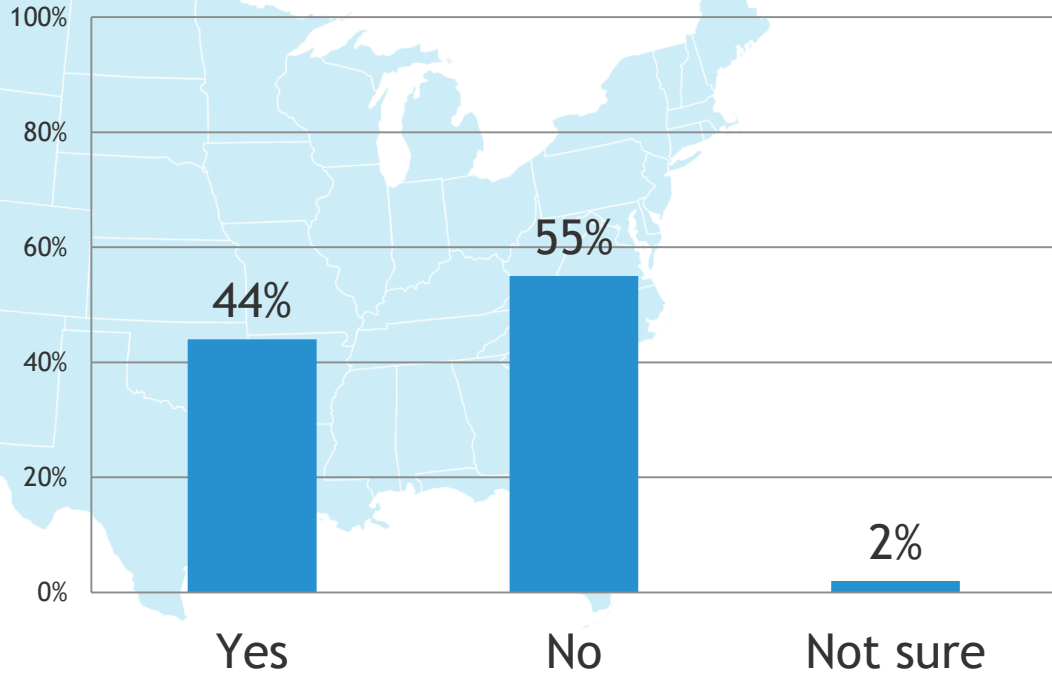
	Yes	No	Not sure
	44%	55%	2%

Q: "Please indicate whether the new church work received the following types of assistance from sponsoring church(es) during the first 5 years of existence. (Select one response for each activity): **Provided financial oversight**"

LifeWay RESEARCH
Biblical Solutions for Life

21% of the sponsoring churches have an average attendance of less than 100

Not sure 4%

Attendance	Percentage
Less than 100	21%
101-250	21%
251-500	18%
501-750	11%
751-1000	9%
More than 1000	15%

Q: "What was the average attendance of the primary sponsoring church's weekly worship service(s) at the time your new church work launched? (Select one)"

LifeWay RESEARCH
Biblical Solutions for Life

NEW CHURCH STAFF

47%
have paid staff funded by outside sources
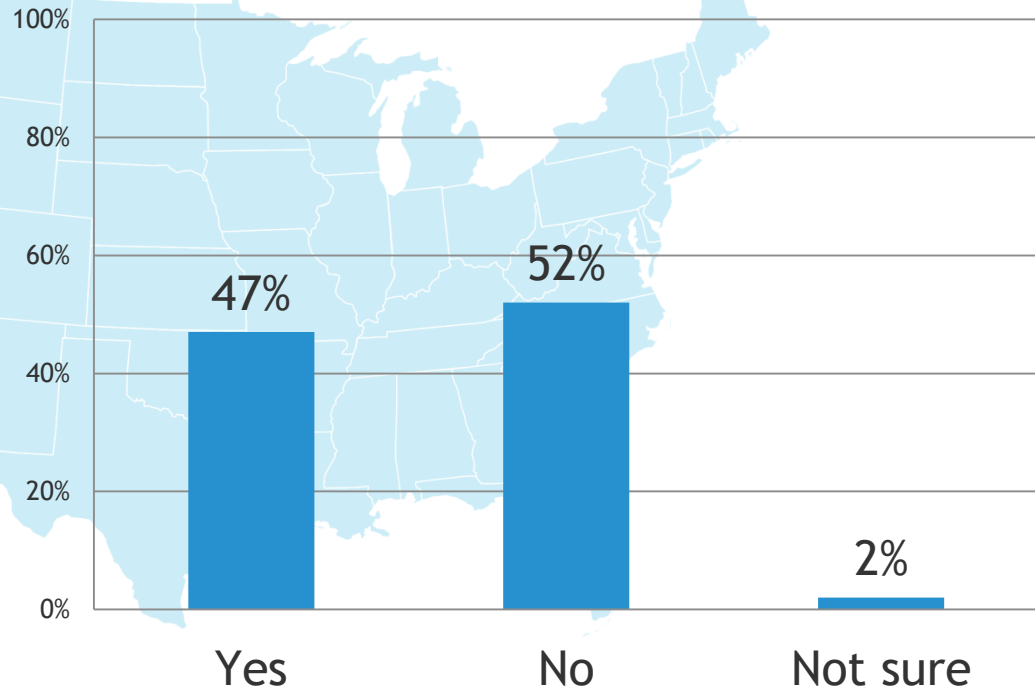
Q: "Did the new church work start with a paid church staff funded by outside sources (not funded by church members)?"

LifeWay RESEARCH
Biblical Solutions for Life

OUTSIDE FUNDED STAFF

The following questions were only asked of church planters who indicated the new church work started with a paid church staff funded by outside sources

LifeWay RESEARCH
Biblical Solutions for Life

66% have only one staff member when the new church work begins

66%
23%
5%
2%
3%
0%

1   2   3   4   5+   Not sure
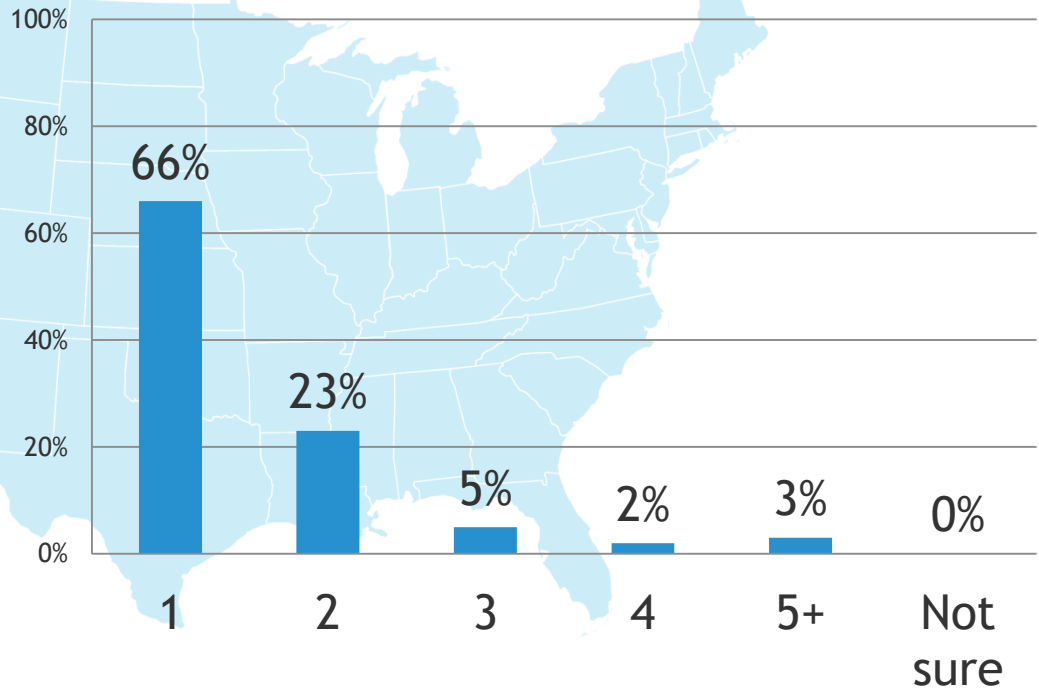
Q: "How many people were on the staffed church team when the new church work began? (Select one)"

LifeWay
RESEARCH
Biblical Solutions for Life

70% have a full-time paid lead or senior pastor
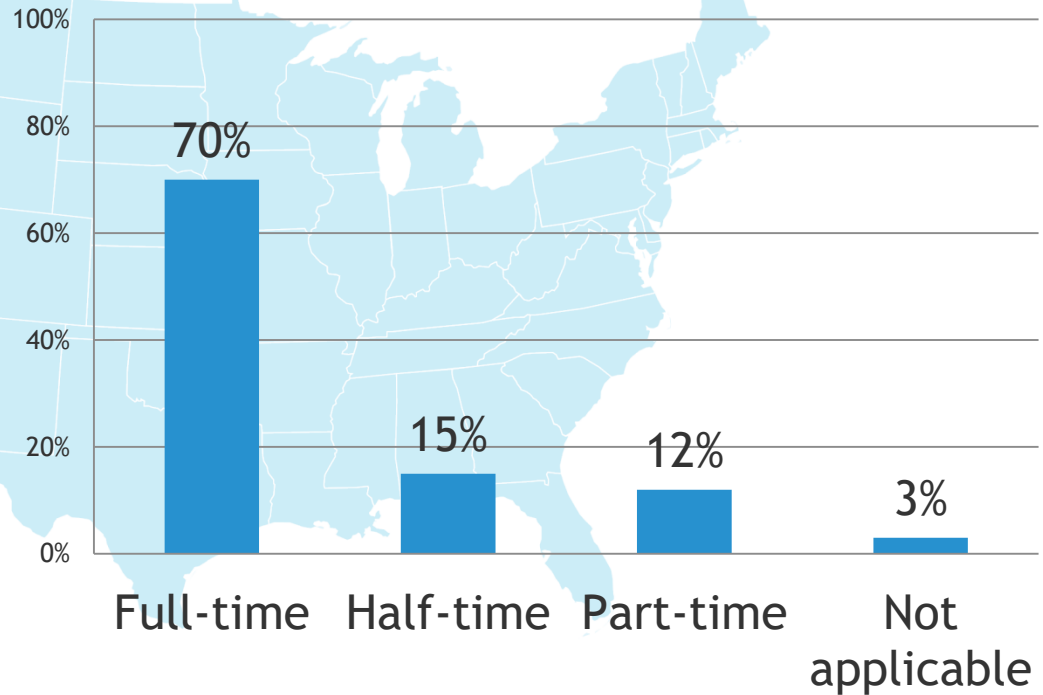
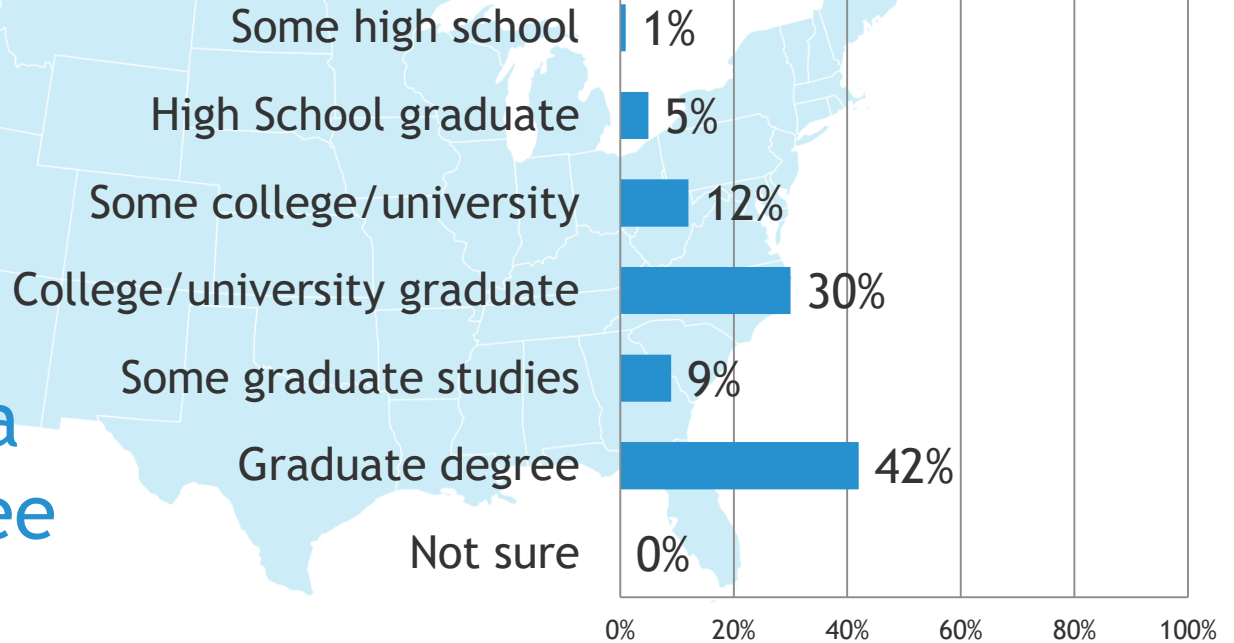|	
Full-time	70%
Half-time	15%
Part-time	12%
Not applicable	3%

Q: "Please indicate whether leadership roles in the INITIAL church starting team were paid positions, whether it be full-time (40 hours a week or more), half-time (20-39 hours a week) or part-time (less than 20 hours a week)."

Teaching pastor
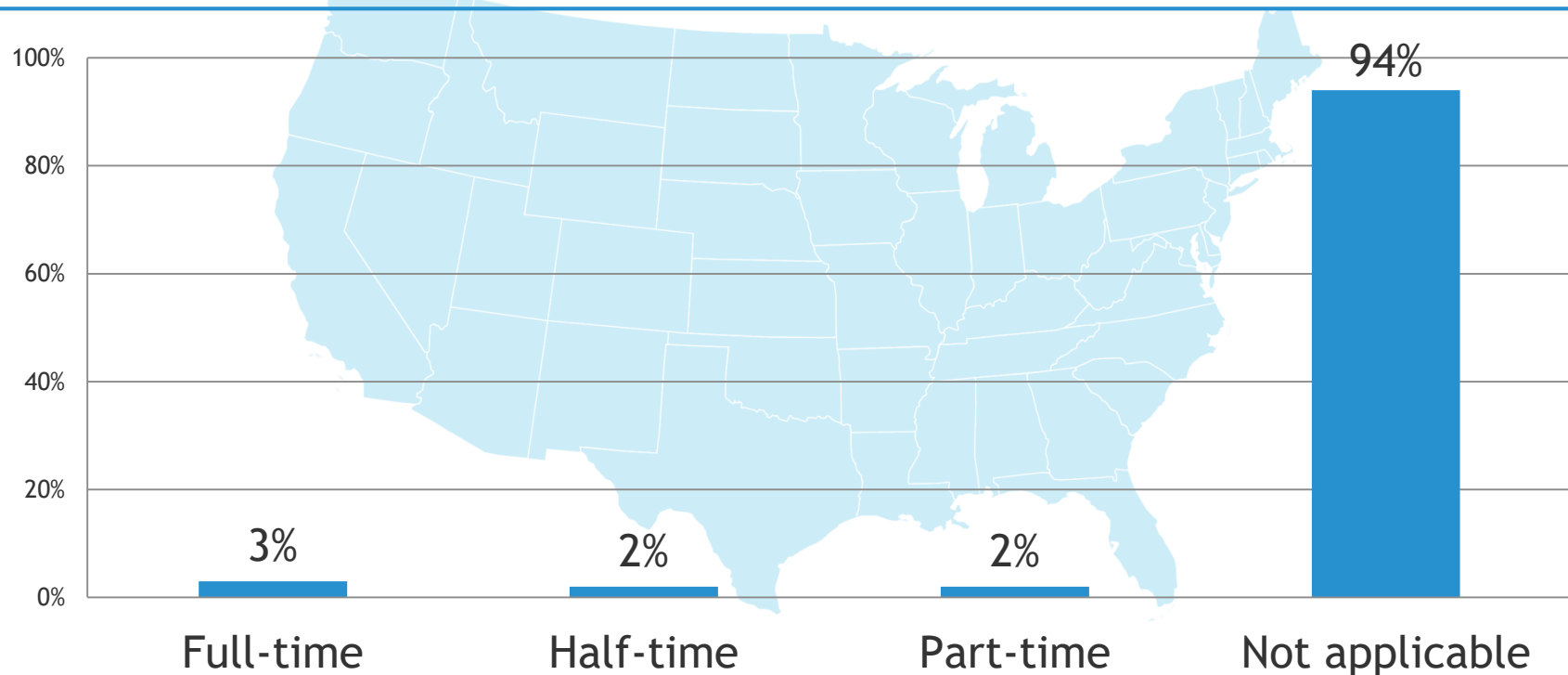
Full-time 3%
Half-time 2%
Part-time 2%
Not applicable 94%

Q: "Please indicate whether leadership roles in the INITIAL church starting team were paid positions, whether it be full-time (40 hours a week or more), half-time (20-39 hours a week) or part-time (less than 20 hours a week)."
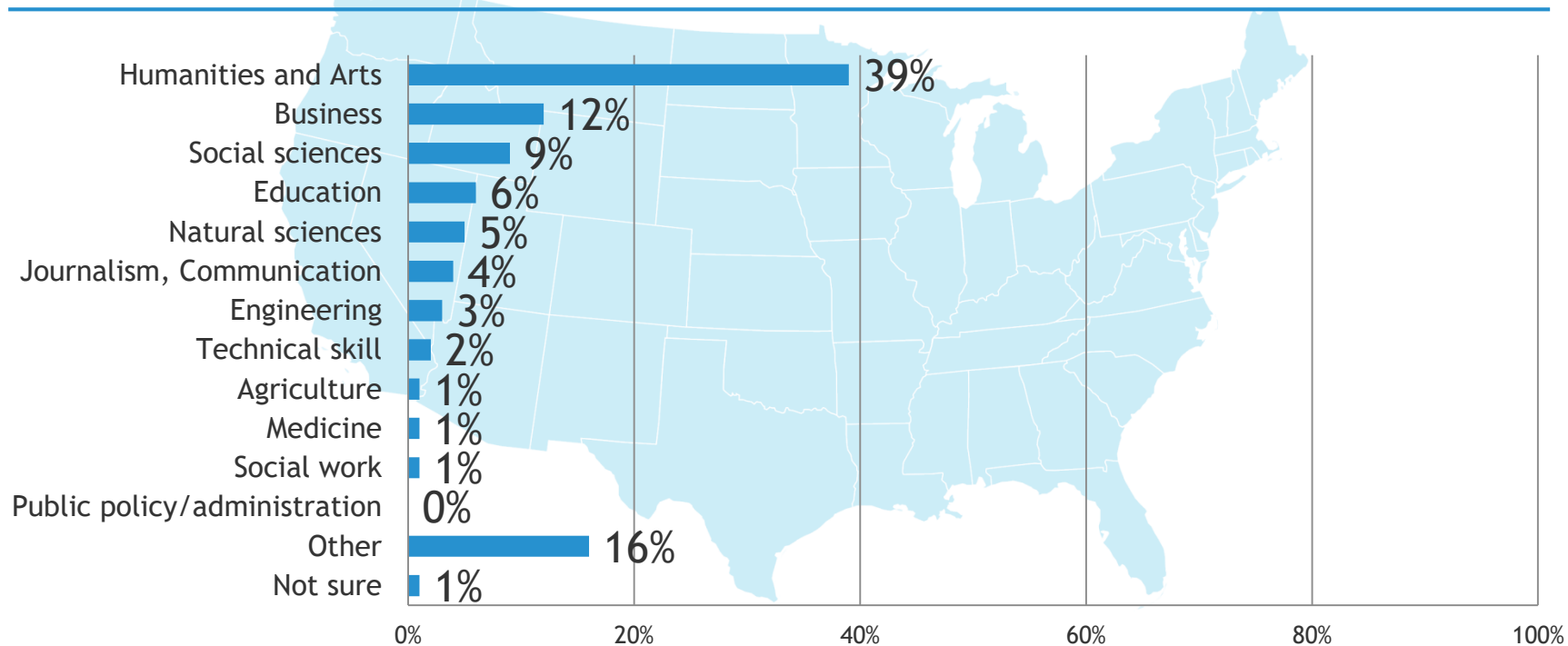
LifeWay RESEARCH
Biblical Solutions for Life

Associate or assistant pastor, co-pastor
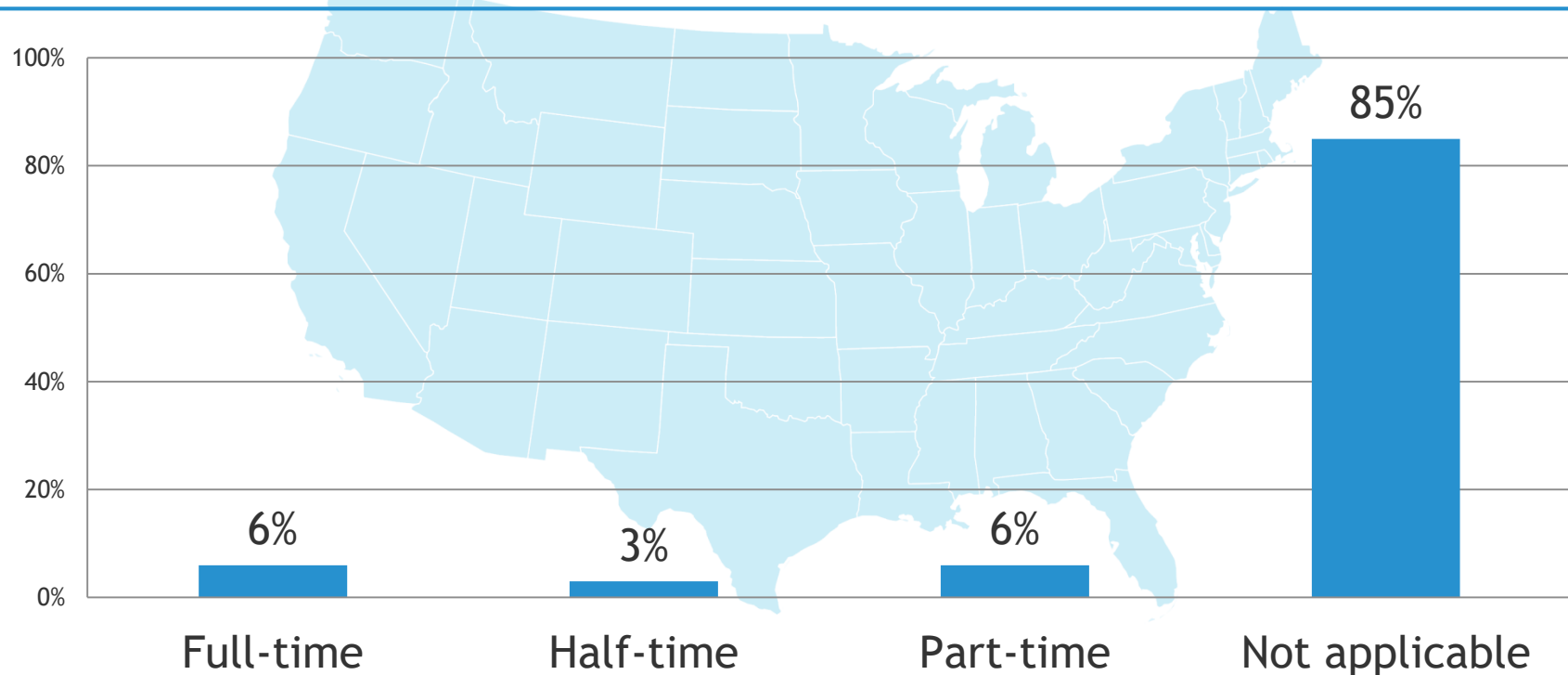
Full-time: 6%
Half-time: 3%
Part-time: 6%
Not applicable: 85%

Q: "Please indicate whether leadership roles in the INITIAL church starting team were paid positions, whether it be full-time (40 hours a week or more), half-time (20-39 hours a week) or part-time (less than 20 hours a week)."

LifeWay RESEARCH
Biblical Solutions for Life

Children's ministry leader
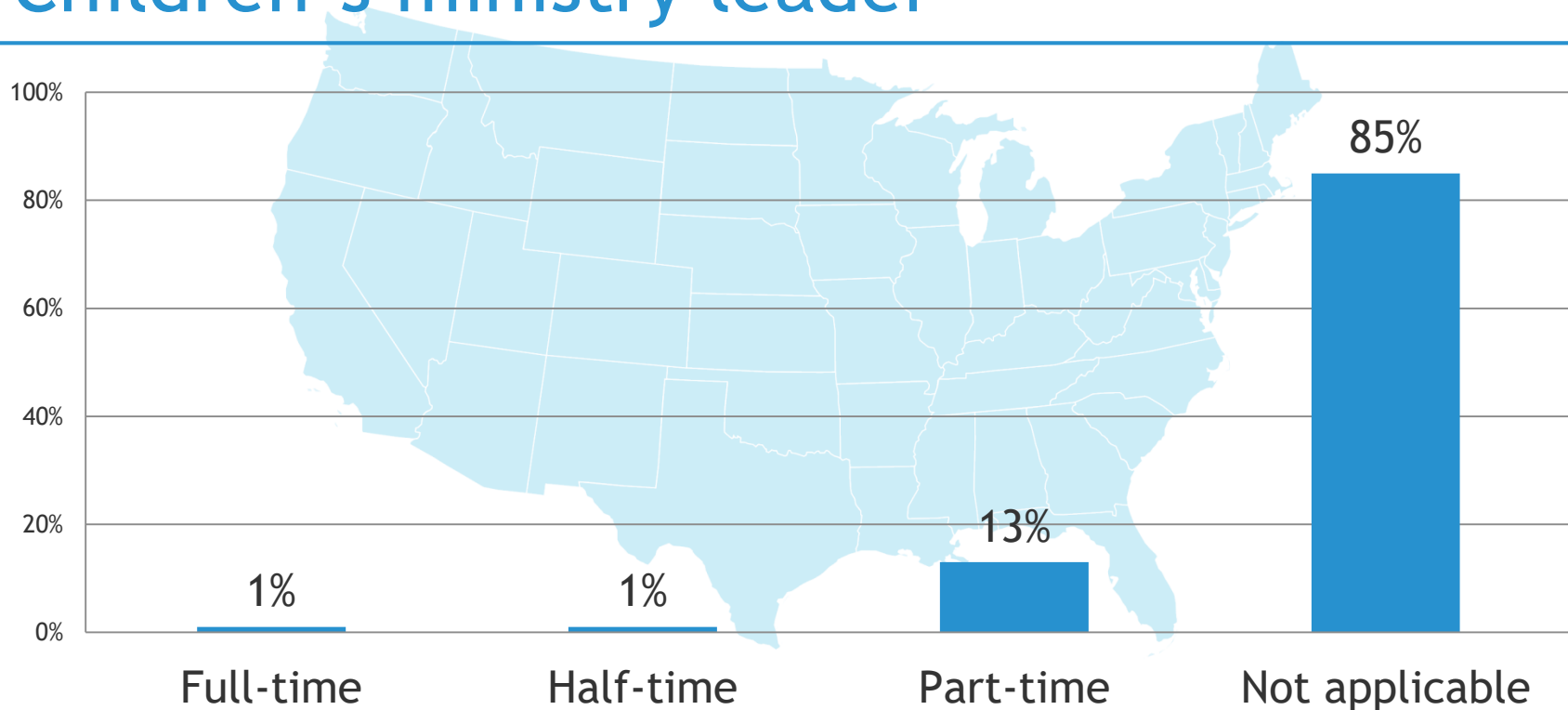
Chart showing percentages:
- Full-time: 1%
- Half-time: 1%
- Part-time: 13%
- Not applicable: 85%

Q: "Please indicate whether leadership roles in the INITIAL church starting team were paid positions, whether it be full-time (40 hours a week or more), half-time (20-39 hours a week) or part-time (less than 20 hours a week)."

Worship ministry leader
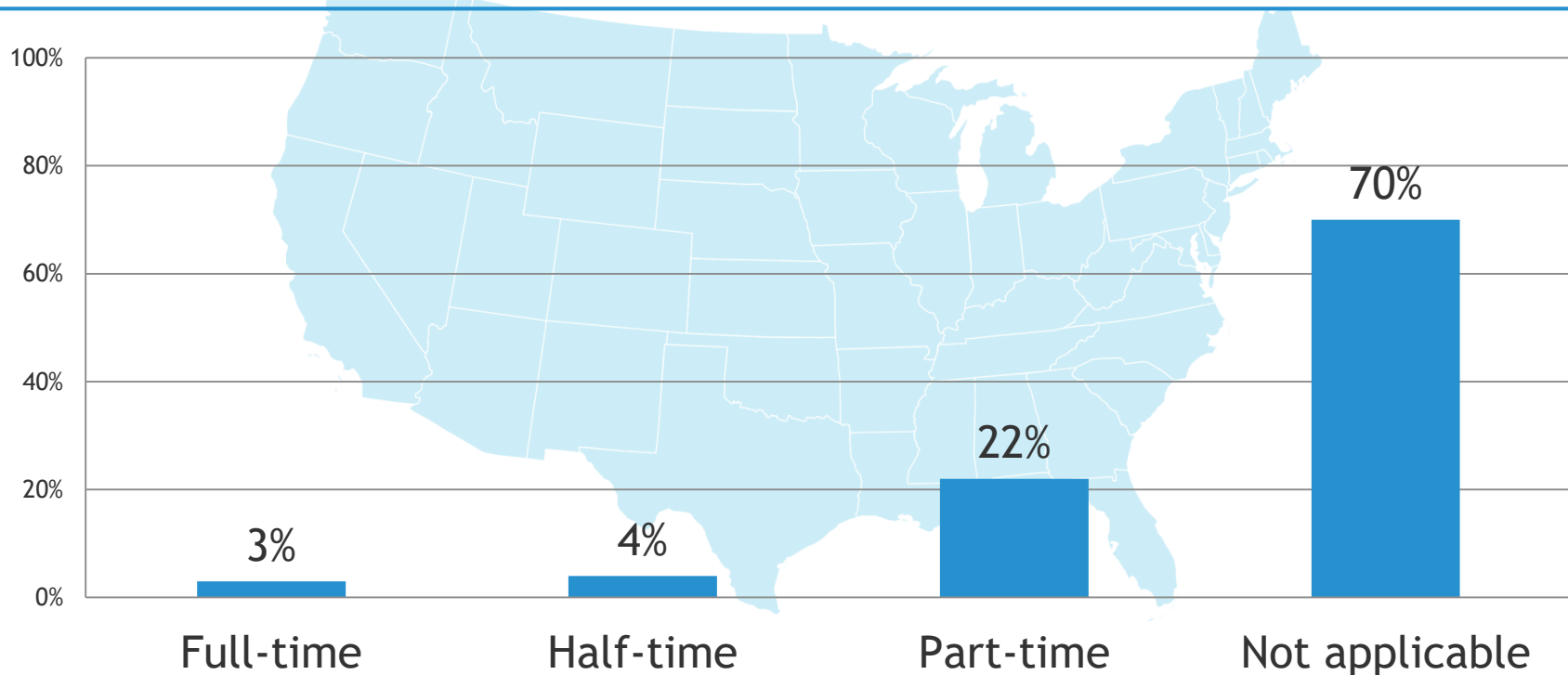
Q: "Please indicate whether leadership roles in the INITIAL church starting team were paid positions, whether it be full-time (40 hours a week or more), half-time (20-39 hours a week) or part-time (less than 20 hours a week)."

Discipleship ministry leader
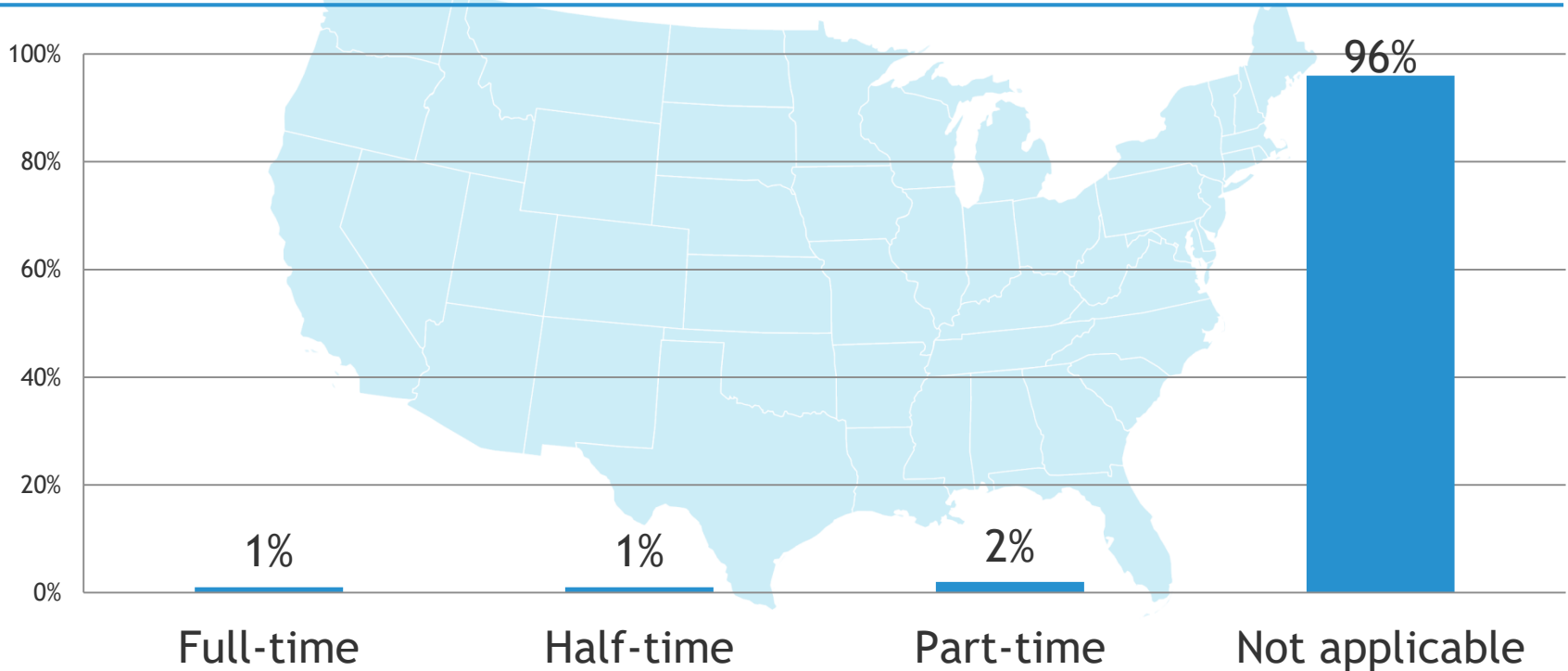
Q: "Please indicate whether leadership roles in the INITIAL church starting team were paid positions, whether it be full-time (40 hours a week or more), half-time (20-39 hours a week) or part-time (less than 20 hours a week)."

Evangelism/outreach/missions ministry leader
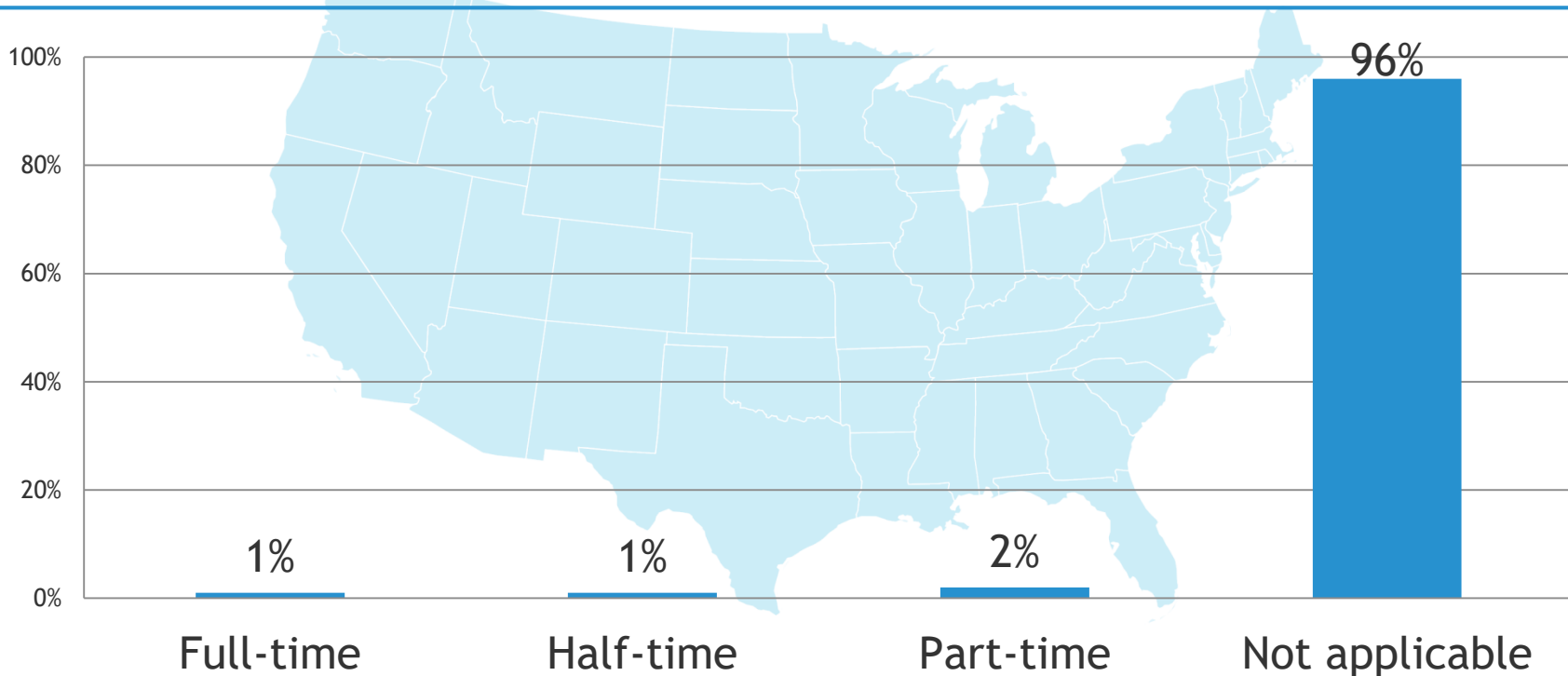
1%	1%	2%	96%
Full-time	Half-time	Part-time	Not applicable

Q: "Please indicate whether leadership roles in the INITIAL church starting team were paid positions, whether it be full-time (40 hours a week or more), half-time (20-39 hours a week) or part-time (less than 20 hours a week)."

LifeWay RESEARCH
Biblical Solutions for Life

Student/youth ministry leader
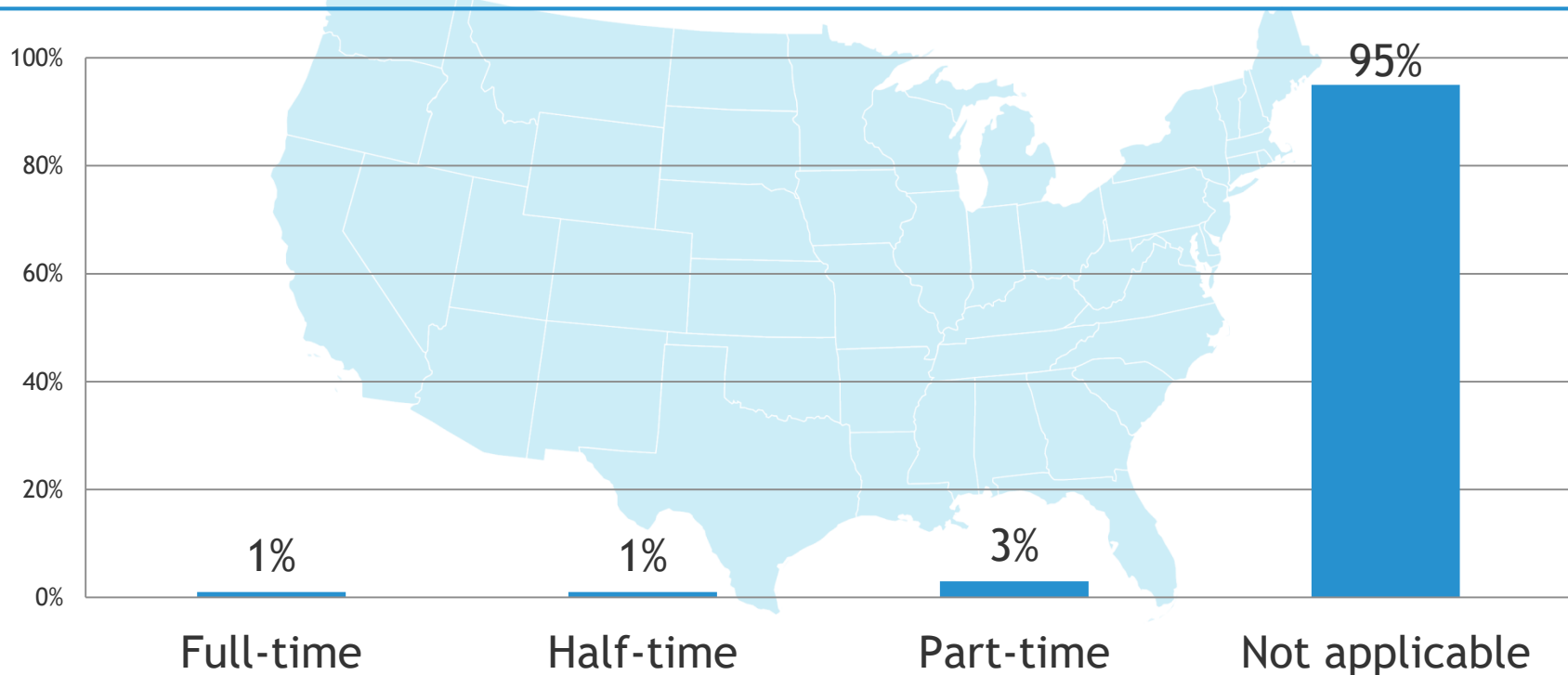
Q: "Please indicate whether leadership roles in the INITIAL church starting team were paid positions, whether it be full-time (40 hours a week or more), half-time (20-39 hours a week) or part-time (less than 20 hours a week)."

Administrative assistant
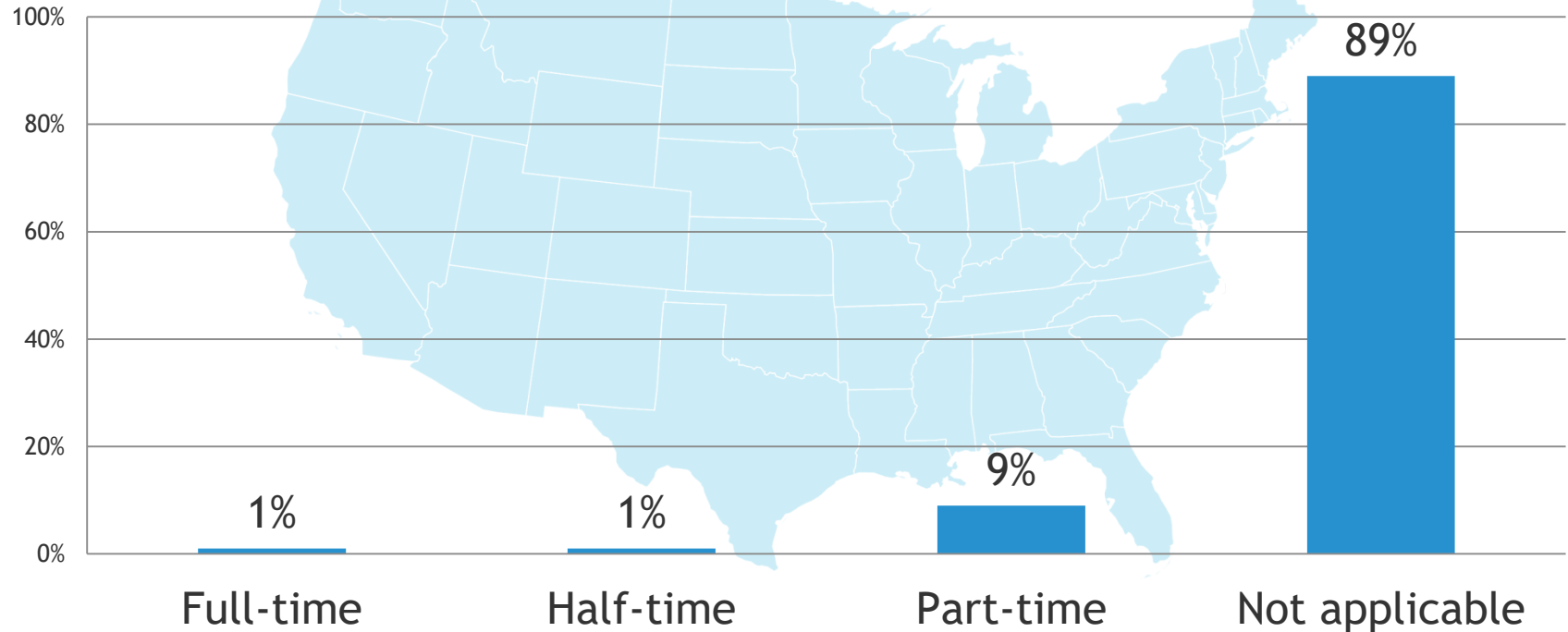
1%	1%	9%	89%
Full-time	Half-time	Part-time	Not applicable

Q: "Please indicate whether leadership roles in the INITIAL church starting team were paid positions, whether it be full-time (40 hours a week or more), half-time (20-39 hours a week) or part-time (less than 20 hours a week)."

LifeWay RESEARCH
Biblical Solutions for Life

Financial secretary/treasurer
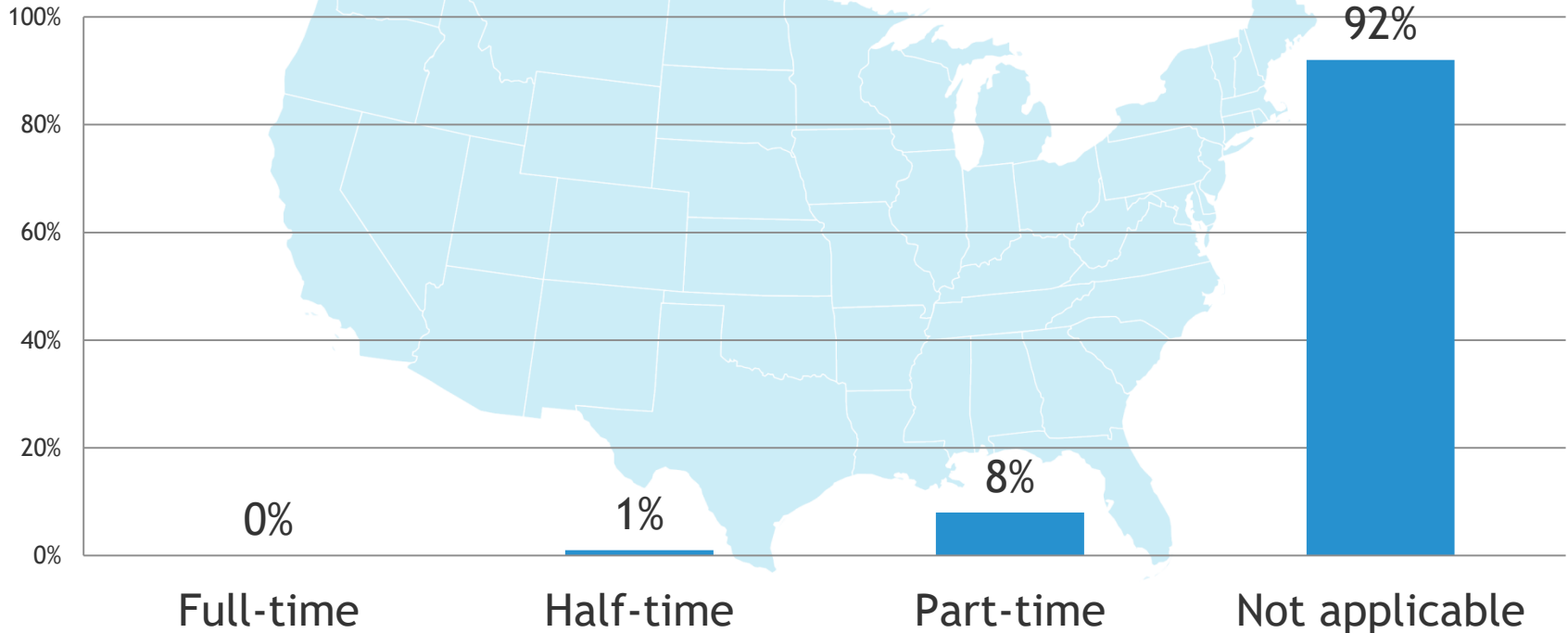
Q: "Please indicate whether leadership roles in the INITIAL church starting team were paid positions, whether it be full-time (40 hours a week or more), half-time (20-39 hours a week) or part-time (less than 20 hours a week)."

Administration/executive pastor
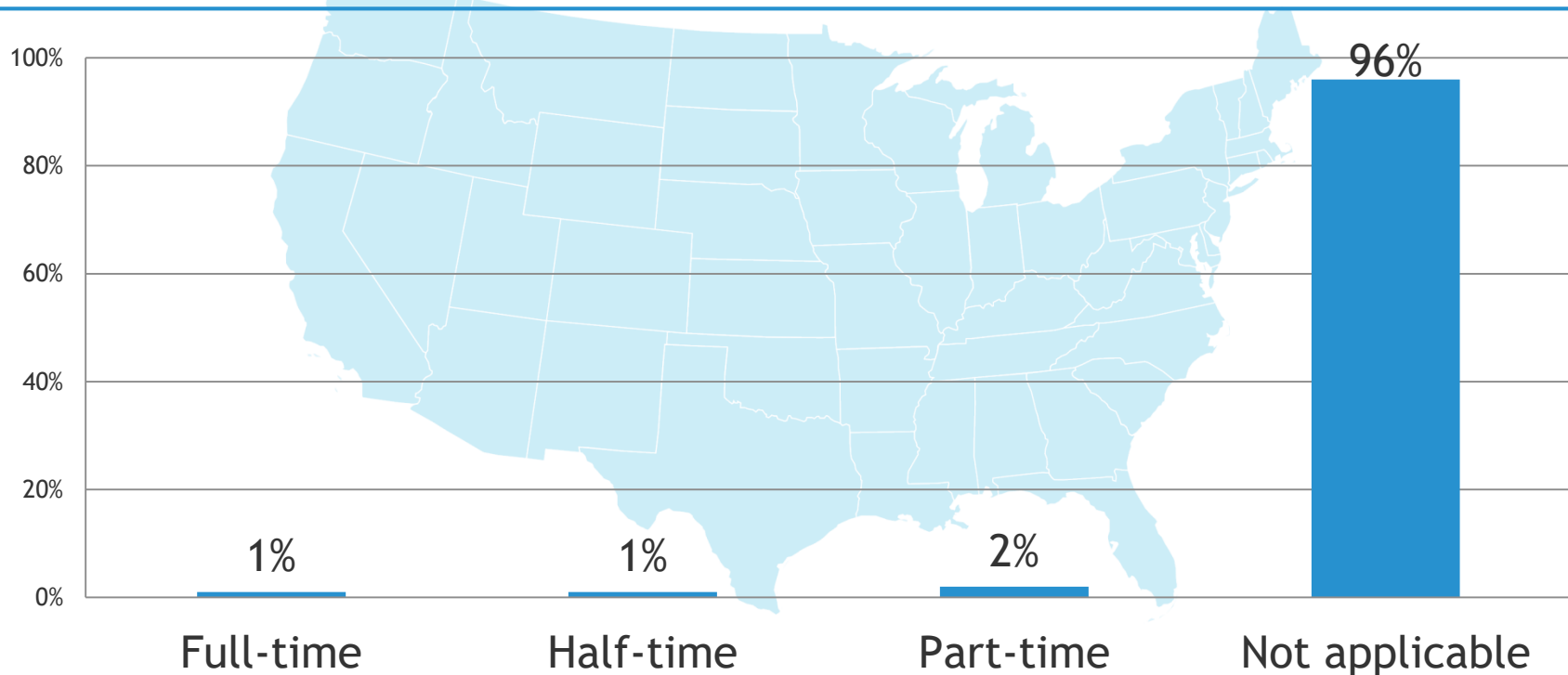
Q: "Please indicate whether leadership roles in the INITIAL church starting team were paid positions, whether it be full-time (40 hours a week or more), half-time (20-39 hours a week) or part-time (less than 20 hours a week)."

EDUCATION & TRAINING

42% of planters have a graduate degree
(not including formal theological training)

Education Level	Percentage
Some high school	1%
High School graduate	5%
Some college/university	12%
College/university graduate	30%
Some graduate studies	9%
Graduate degree	42%
Not sure	0%

Q: "What is your highest level of education? Do not include formal theological education. (Select one)"

LifeWay RESEARCH
Biblical Solutions for Life

Primary area of study

Primary area of study	Percentage
Humanities and Arts	39%
Business	12%
Social sciences	9%
Education	6%
Natural sciences	5%
Journalism, Communication	4%
Engineering	3%
Technical skill	2%
Agriculture	1%
Medicine	1%
Social work	1%
Public policy/administration	0%
Other	16%
Not sure	1%

Q: "What was your primary area of study? (Select one)"

46% have completed a theological Master's degree

Some theological coursework — 22%

Bachelor's degree — 18%

Master's degree — 46%

Doctor of Ministry — 6%

Ph.D. — 2%

No formal theological education — 6%

0% 20% 40% 60% 80% 100%
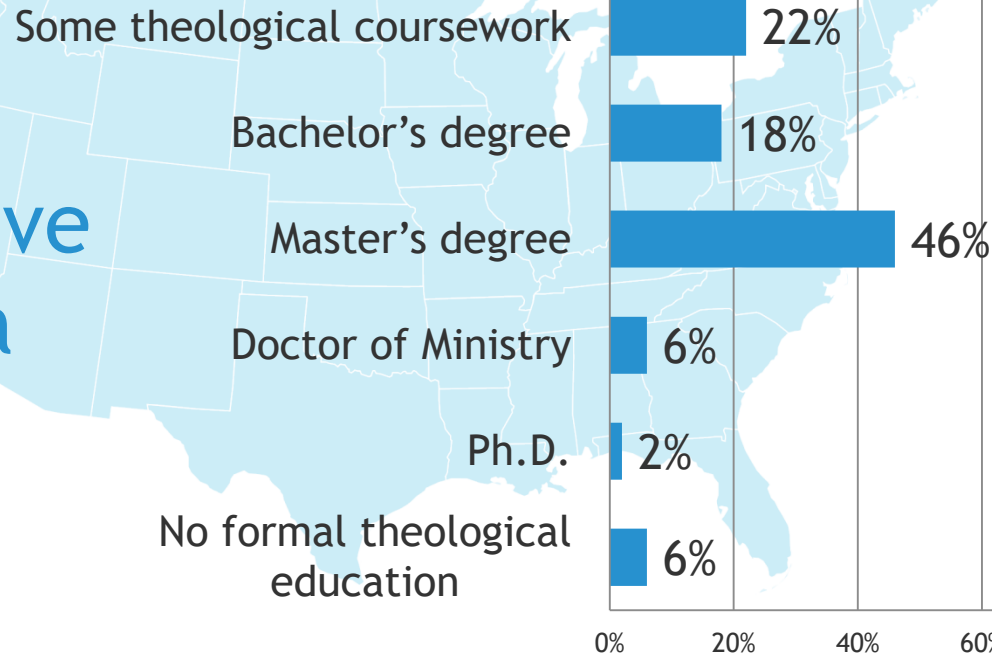
Q: "What is your highest level of completed theological education? (Select one)"

LifeWay RESEARCH
Biblical Solutions for Life

"Which of the following types of church starting training had you taken prior to the new church work?"

23%	27%	44%	49%	51%
Ongoing training course or academy provided by the denomination, network and/or sponsoring church	Bible College course(s)	Seminary course(s)	Week long Boot Camp or Basic Training provided by the denomination and/or sponsoring church	Conferences on starting new church works

Q: "Which of the following types of church starting training had you taken prior to the new church work? (Select all that apply)"

LifeWay
RESEARCH
Biblical Solutions for Life

"Which of the following types of church starting training had you taken prior to the new church work?"

	Training courses provided by a non-denominational or para church organization	Several month internship provided by the denomination, network and/or sponsoring church	Month long training course provided by the denomination, network and/or sponsoring church	Other	Not sure
	19%	12%	4%	15%	3%

Q: "Which of the following types of church starting training had you taken prior to the new church work? (Select all that apply)"

LifeWay RESEARCH
Biblical Solutions for Life
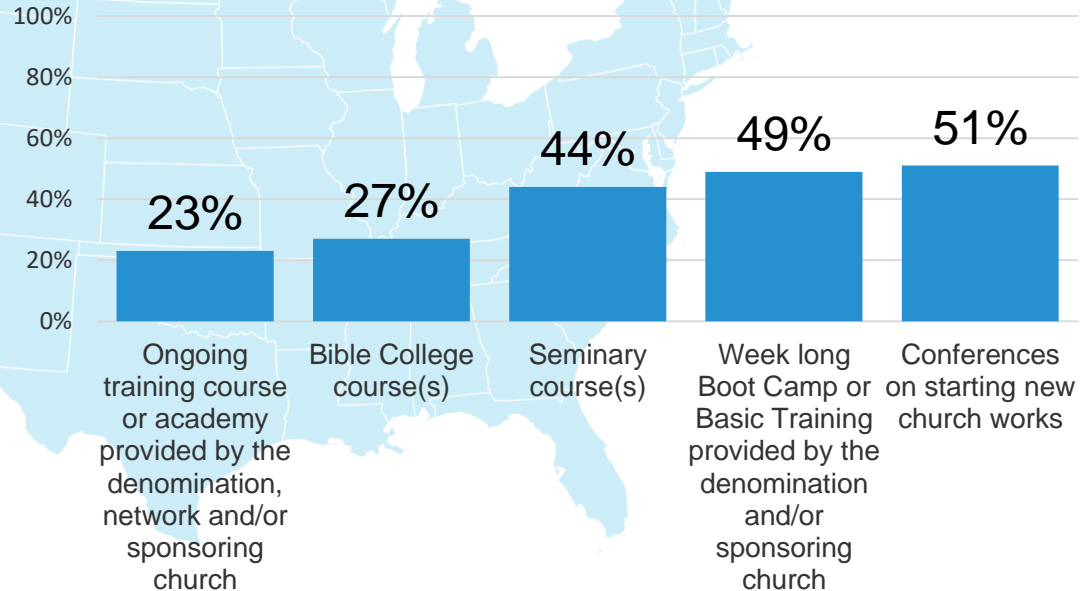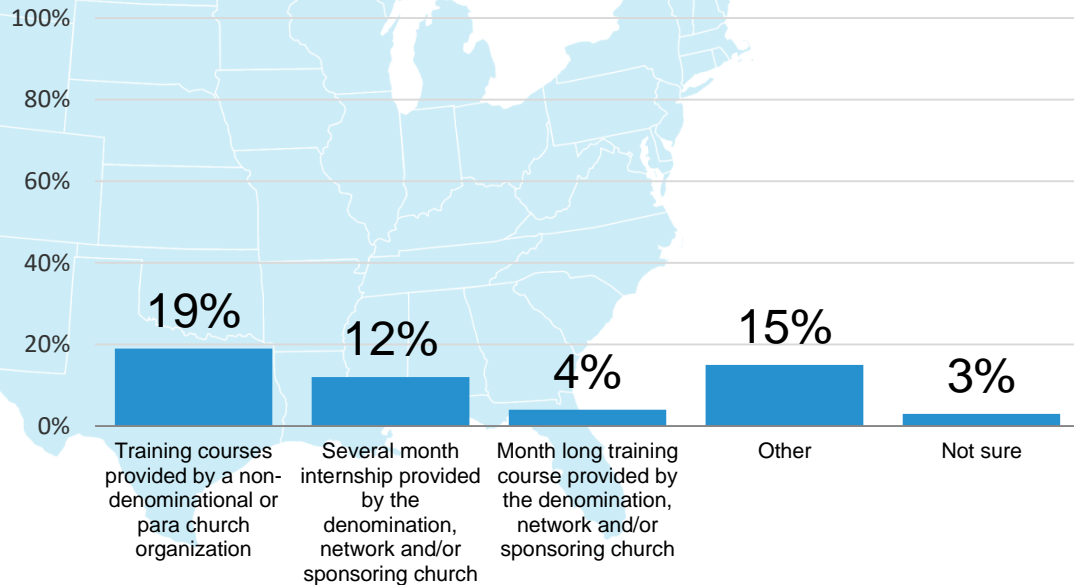
CHURCH PLANTER

75% work 40 hours or more (per week) for the church plant

33% — Worked 60 hours a week or more

41% — Worked 40 to 59 hours a week

17% — Worked 20 to 39 hours a week

7% — Worked less than 20 hours a week

1% — Not sure
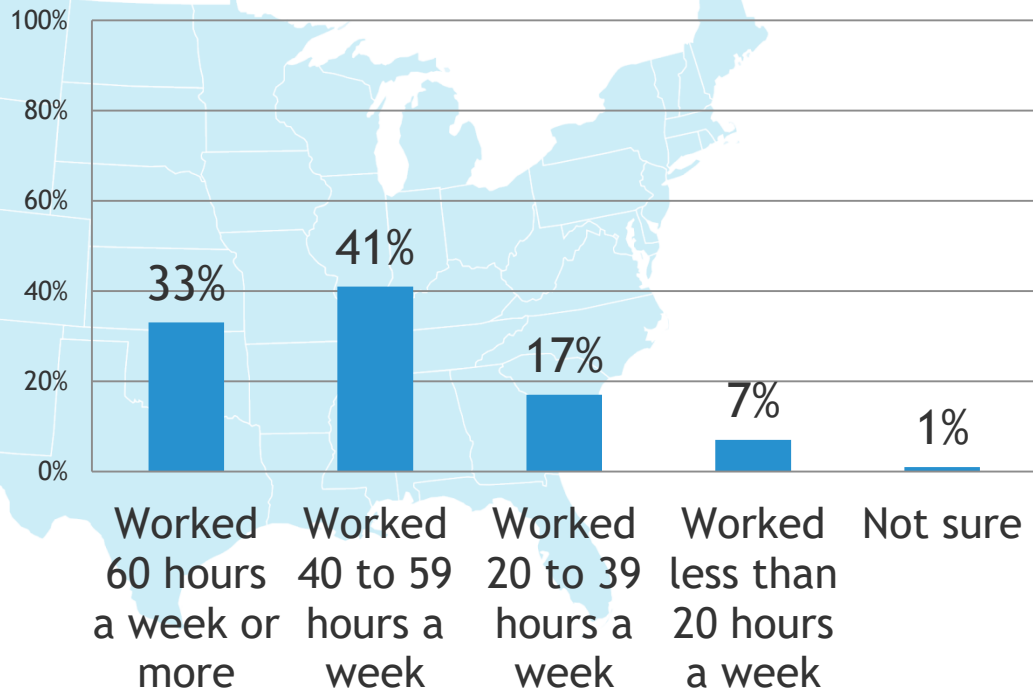
Q: "What level of involvement did you contribute to the church in the first 5 years? (Select one)"

LifeWay RESEARCH
Biblical Solutions for Life

18%

receive no financial compensation in the first 5 years

81% — Yes
18% — No
1% — Not sure

(Chart axis: 0%, 20%, 40%, 60%, 80%, 100%)
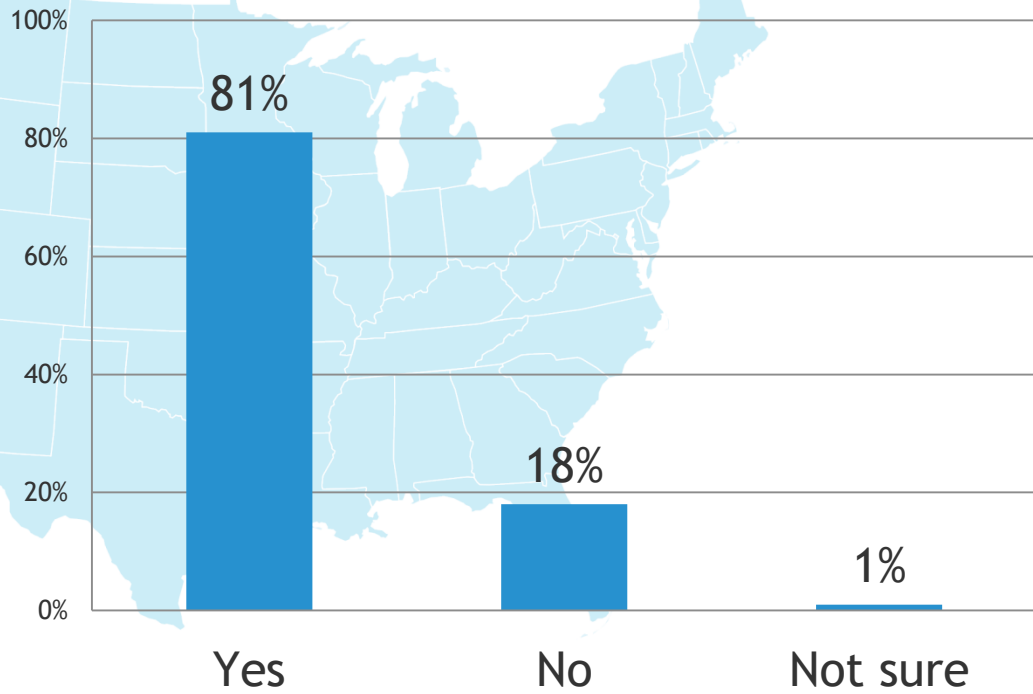
Q: "Did you receive any financial compensation for your work in the church in the first five years?"

LifeWay RESEARCH
Biblical Solutions for Life

56% feel their compensation was adequate to meet their family's basic needs
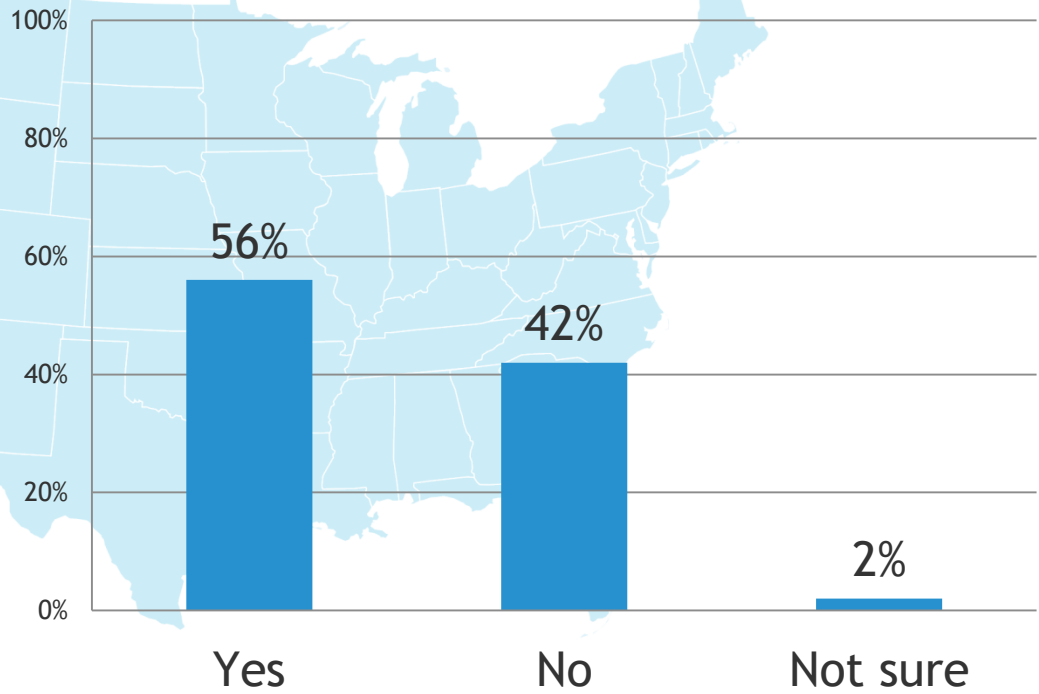
Q: "In your opinion, was the financial compensation received adequate to meet you and your family's basic needs in the new church work's location?"

LifeWay RESEARCH
Biblical Solutions for Life

57% work an outside job in addition to the church plant

Yes, less than one year — 8%

Yes, 1 to 3 years — 21%

Yes, 3 years or longer — 28%

No, I did not work an outside job — 42%

Not sure — 1%

0% 20% 40% 60% 80% 100%

Q: "Did you work at a job outside of the church at any time since the new church work began? If so, how many years?"

LifeWay RESEARCH
Biblical Solutions for Life

39% of those working an outside job, work more than 40 hours at their outside job

More than 40 hours	39%
Between 20 to 39 hours	38%
Less than 20 hours	22%
I didn't work an outside job	1%
Not sure	0%
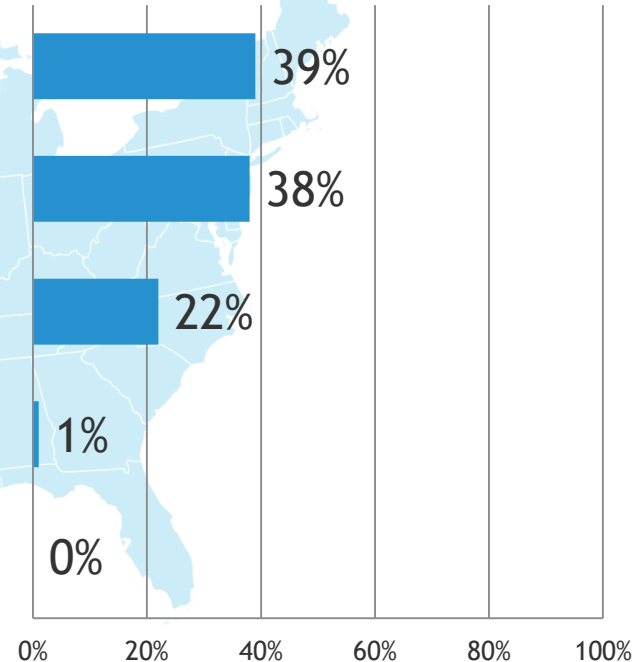
Q: "How many hours did you on average work at an outside job each week in addition to working as a pastor? (Select one)"

LifeWay RESEARCH
Biblical Solutions for Life

87% of those working an outside job did so out of financial necessity
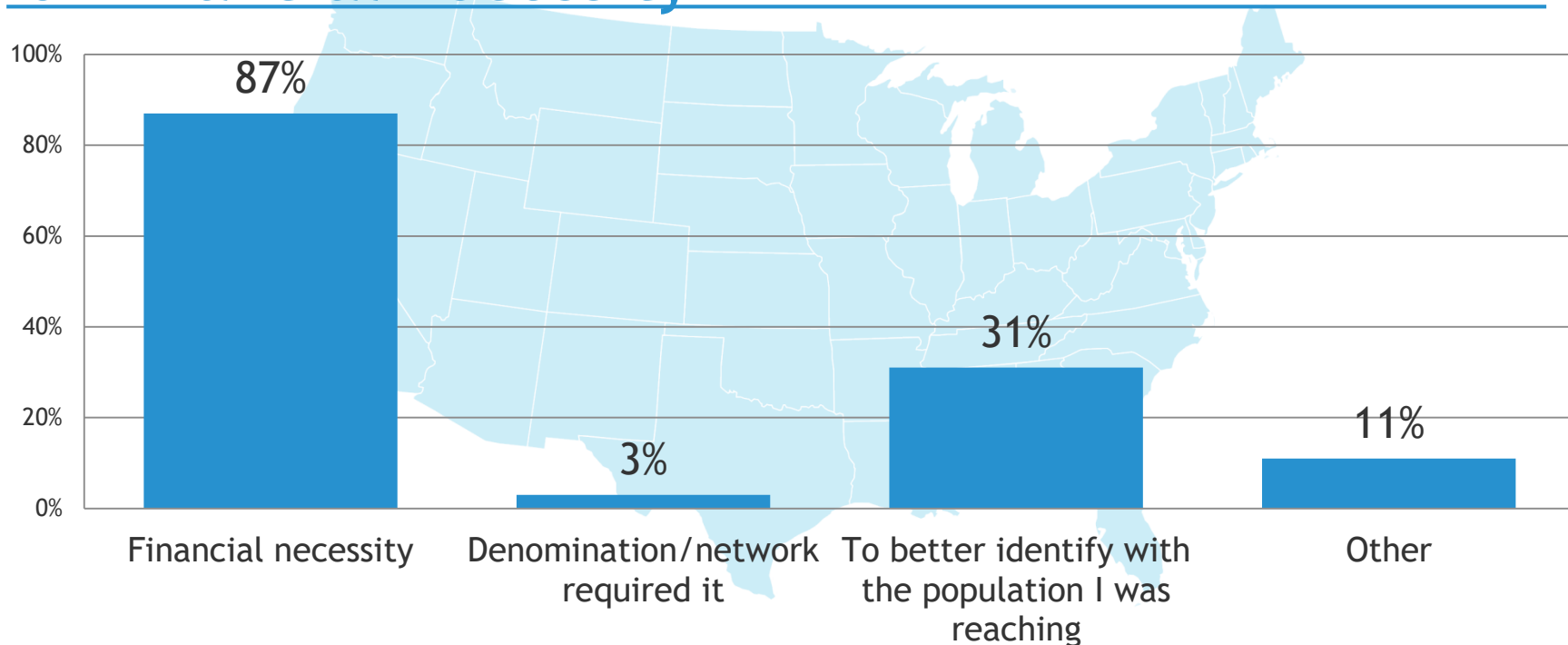
Q: "What was/were the reason(s) for working an outside job in addition to working as a pastor? (Select all that apply)"

63%
spend 1 to 5 hours using social media per week

0 hours 9%

1 to 5 hours 63%

6 to 10 hours 20%

10 hours or more 6%

Not sure 1%

0% 20% 40% 60% 80% 100%
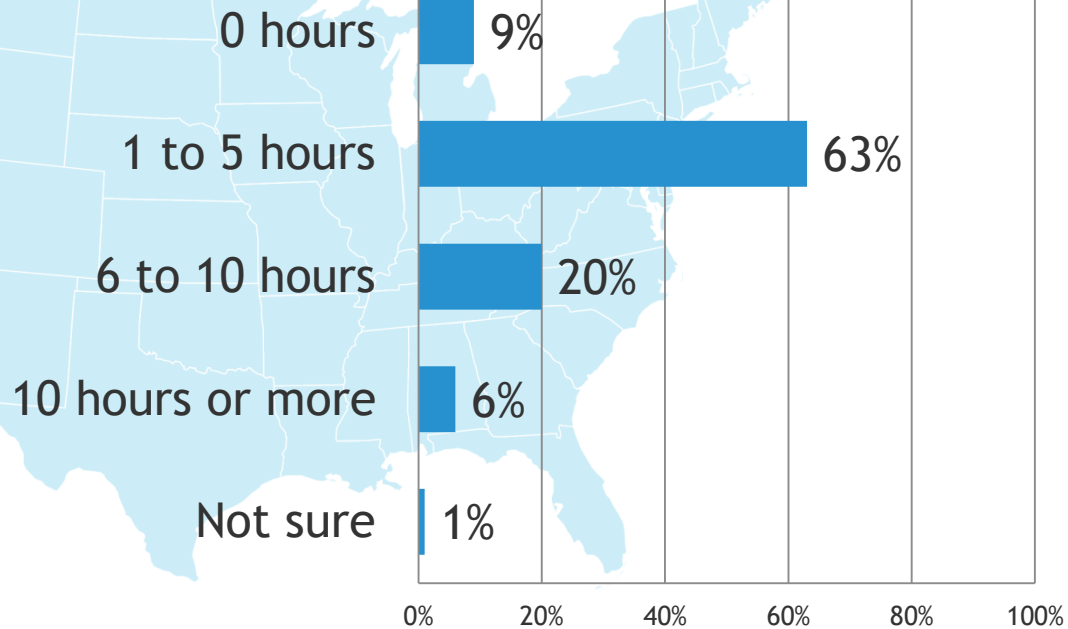
Q: "How many hours per week on average do you spend using social media, such as Facebook, Twitter and Tumblr? (Select one)"

LifeWay RESEARCH
Biblical Solutions for Life

89% have previous ministry experience as a pastor or church staff prior to starting the new church work
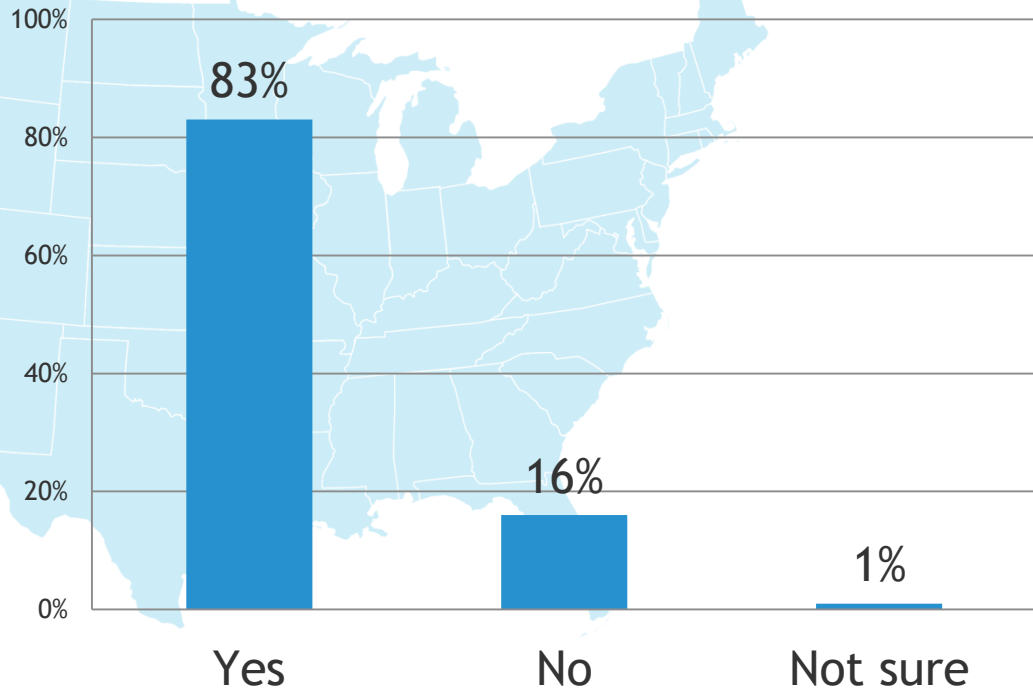

89% — Yes
11% — No
0% — Not sure

Q: "For each of the following items, please indicate if it was true for your situation. (Select one response for each statement): **I had previous ministry experience as a pastor or church staff prior to starting the new church work**"

LifeWay RESEARCH
Biblical Solutions for Life

52% have previous ministry experience as a bi-vocational church leader
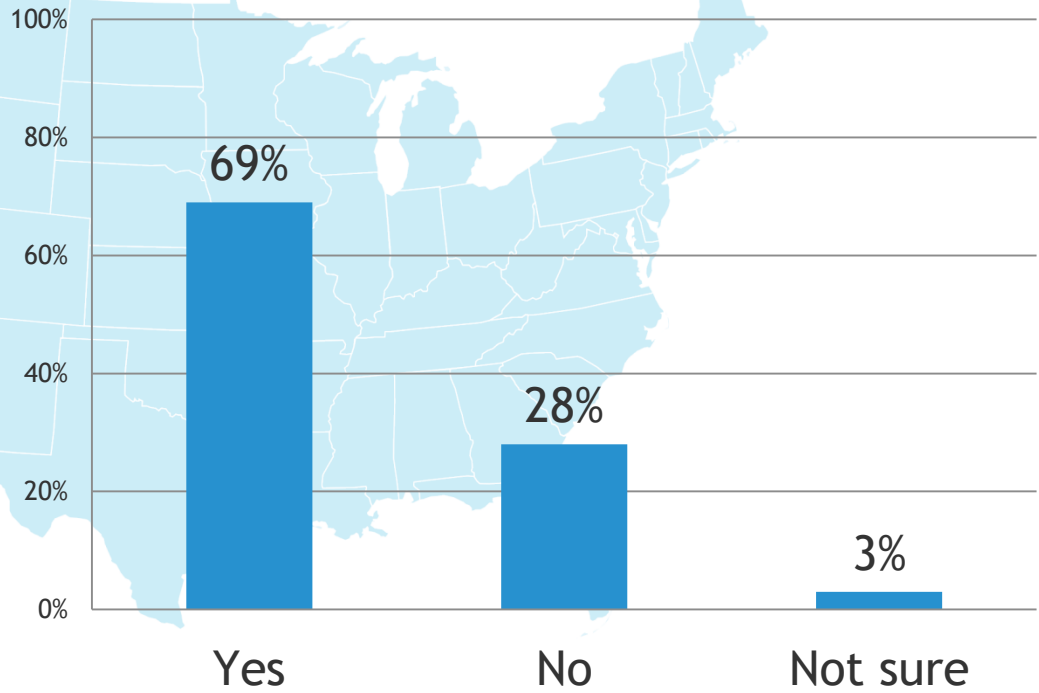

	Yes	No	Not sure
	52%	47%	1%

Q: "For each of the following items, please indicate if it was true for your situation. (Select one response for each statement): I had previous ministry experience as a bi-vocational church leader"

LifeWay RESEARCH
Biblical Solutions for Life

34% have previous church starting experience as part of a church starting team
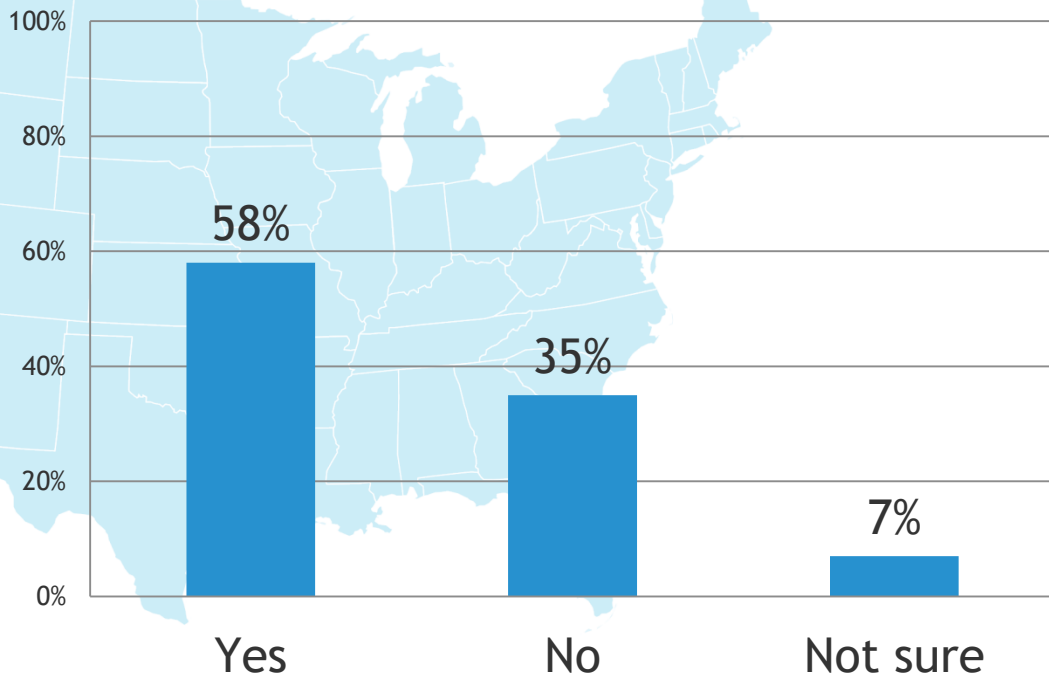

Yes — 34%
No — 65%
Not sure — 1%

Q: "For each of the following items, please indicate if it was true for your situation. (Select one response for each statement): **I had previous church starting experience as part of a church starting team**"

LifeWay
RESEARCH
Biblical Solutions for Life

22% have previous church starting experience as a lead church starting pastor
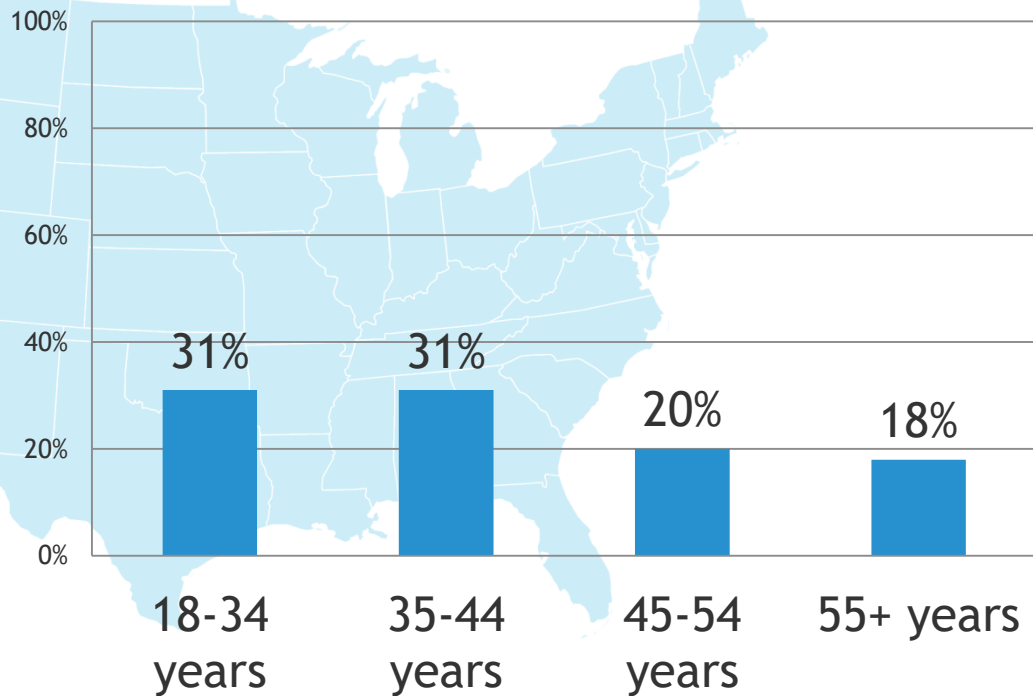

Bar chart:
- Yes: 22%
- No: 77%
- Not sure: 1%

Q: "For each of the following items, please indicate if it was true for your situation. (Select one response for each statement): **I had previous church starting experience as a lead church starting pastor**"

LifeWay RESEARCH
Biblical Solutions for Life

84% have a definite calling from the Lord to the geographic location of the new church work

84% Yes

13% No

3% Not sure
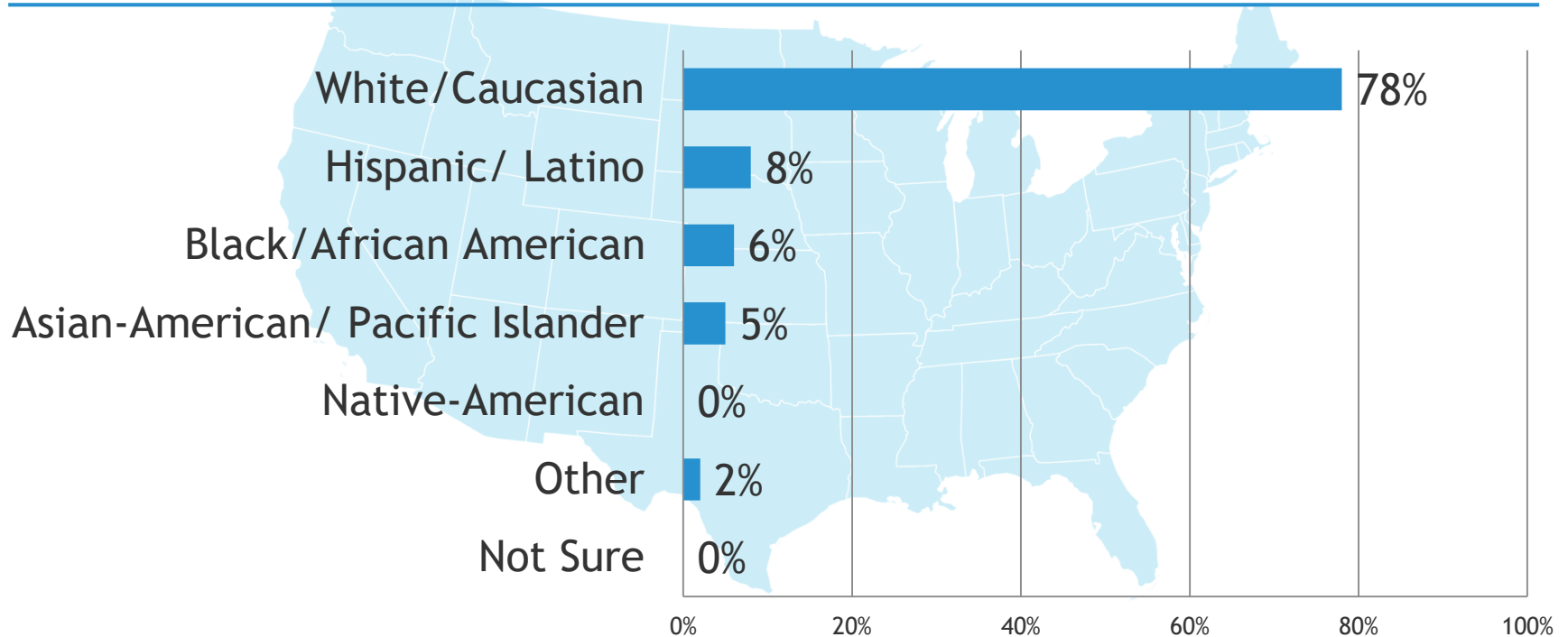
Q: "For each of the following items, please indicate if it was true for your situation. (Select one response for each statement): **I had a definite calling from the Lord to the geographic location of the new church work**"

LifeWay
RESEARCH
Biblical Solutions for Life

63% have a definite calling from the Lord to a specific people for the new church work

Q: "For each of the following items, please indicate if it was true for your situation. (Select one response for each statement): **I had a definite calling from the Lord to a specific people for the new church work**"

LifeWay
RESEARCH
Biblical Solutions for Life
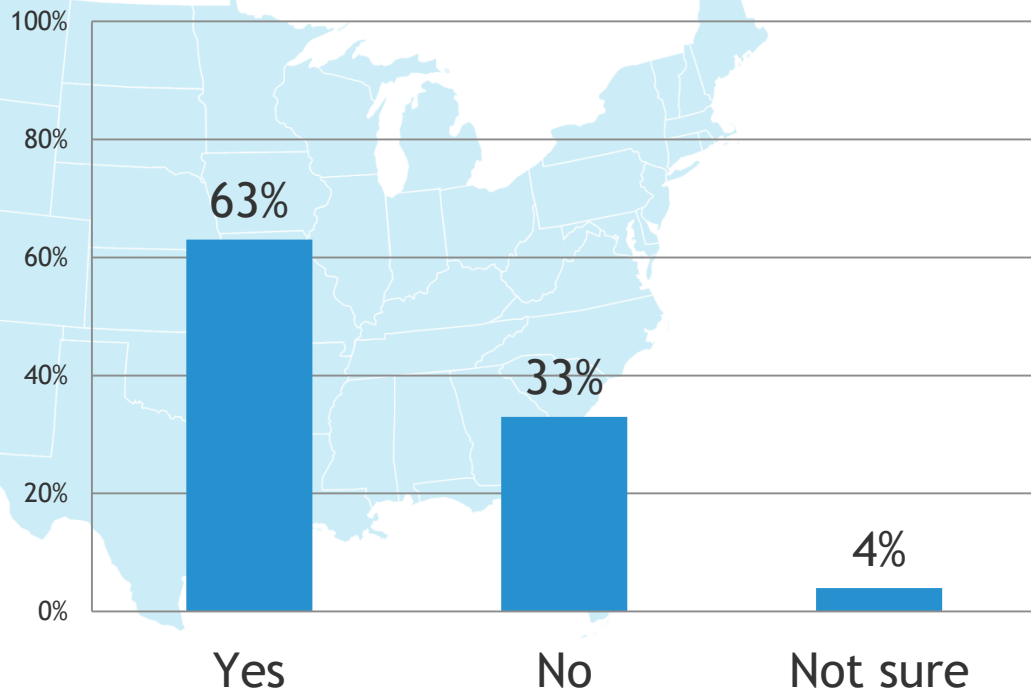
79% have a cultural background that matches the new church work's setting
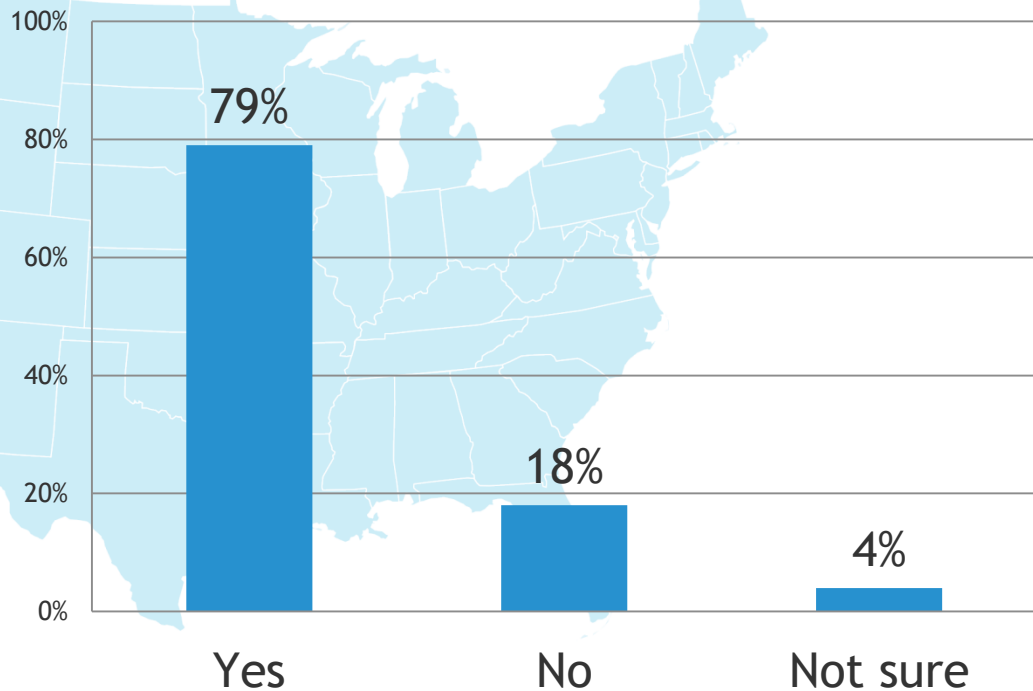
79%

18%

4%

Yes

No

Not sure

Q: "For each of the following items, please indicate if it was true for your situation. (Select one response for each statement): **My cultural background matched the new church work's setting**"

LifeWay RESEARCH
Biblical Solutions for Life

59% have geographic roots relatively nearby the new church work's setting
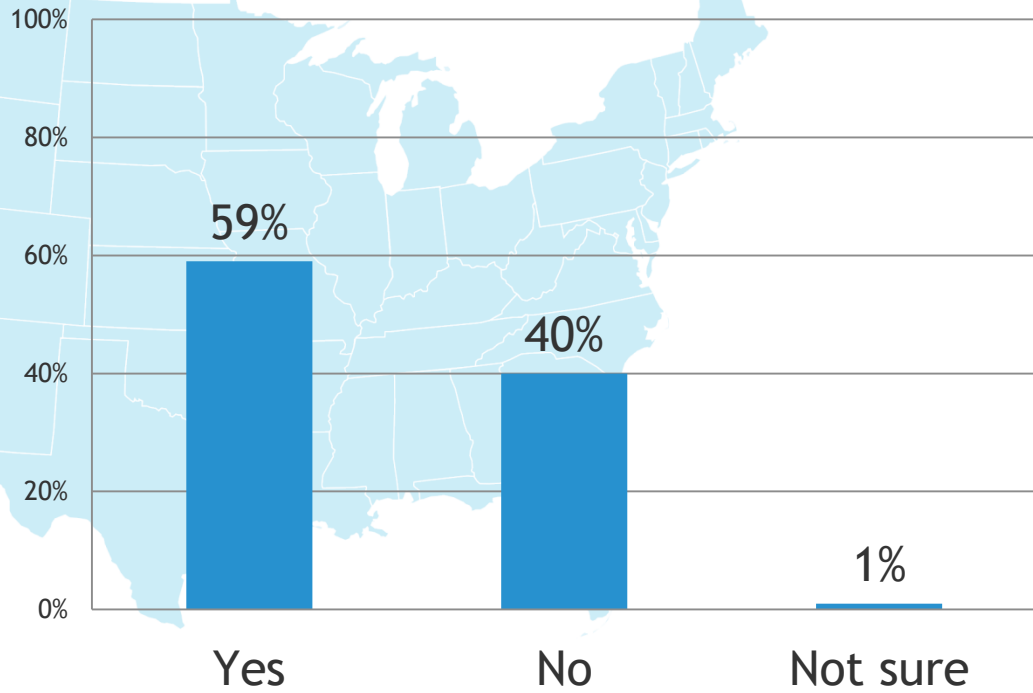
Q: "For each of the following items, please indicate if it was true for your situation. (Select one response for each statement): **My geographic roots are relatively nearby the new church work's setting**"

73%

participate in a church planter's assessment prior to starting the church
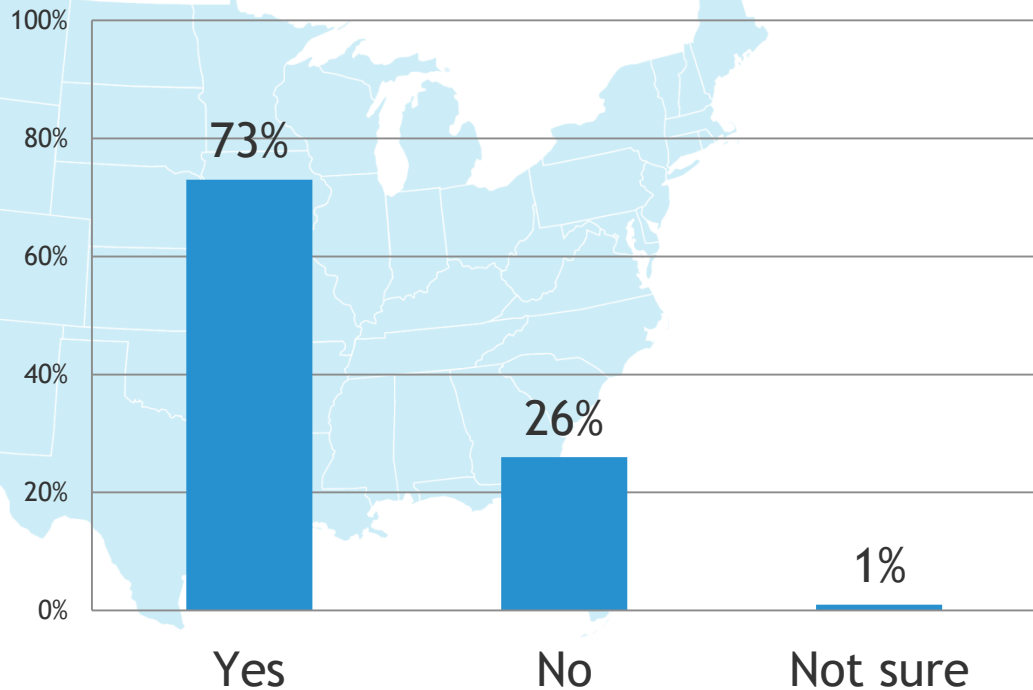
Q: "For each of the following items, please indicate if it was true for your situation. (Select one response for each statement): **I participated in a church planter's assessment by a denomination, network, or sponsoring church prior to starting the church**"
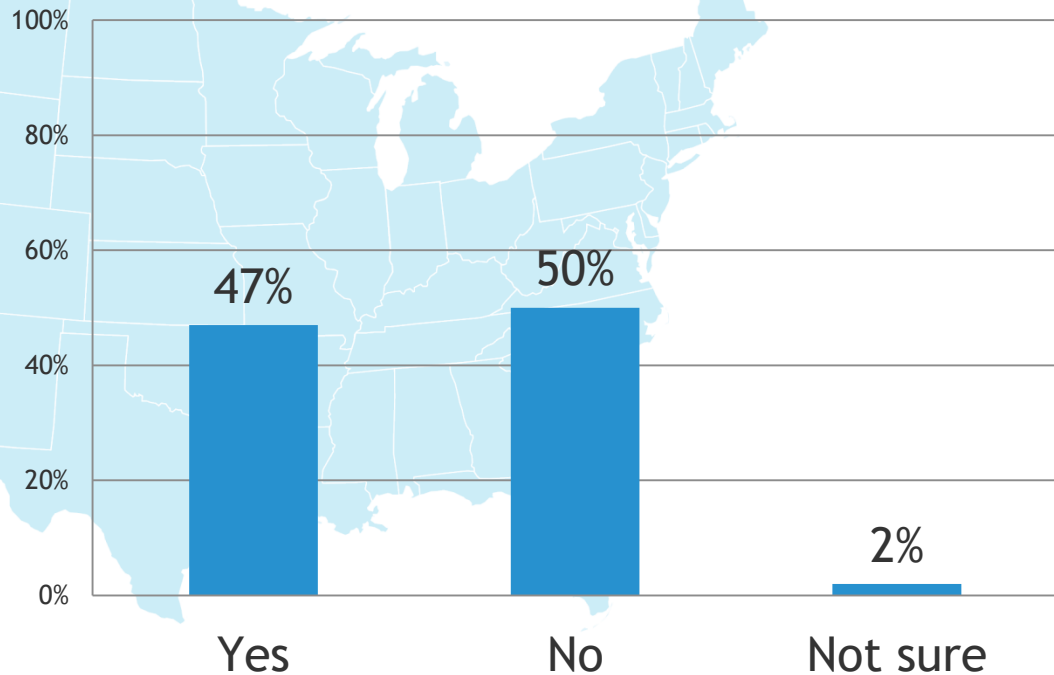
LifeWay RESEARCH
Biblical Solutions for Life

47%

meet at least monthly with a supervisor

	Yes	No	Not sure
	47%	50%	2%

Q: "For each of the following items, please indicate if it was true for your situation. (Select one response for each statement): **I met at least monthly with a supervisor who guided me in starting the new church work**"
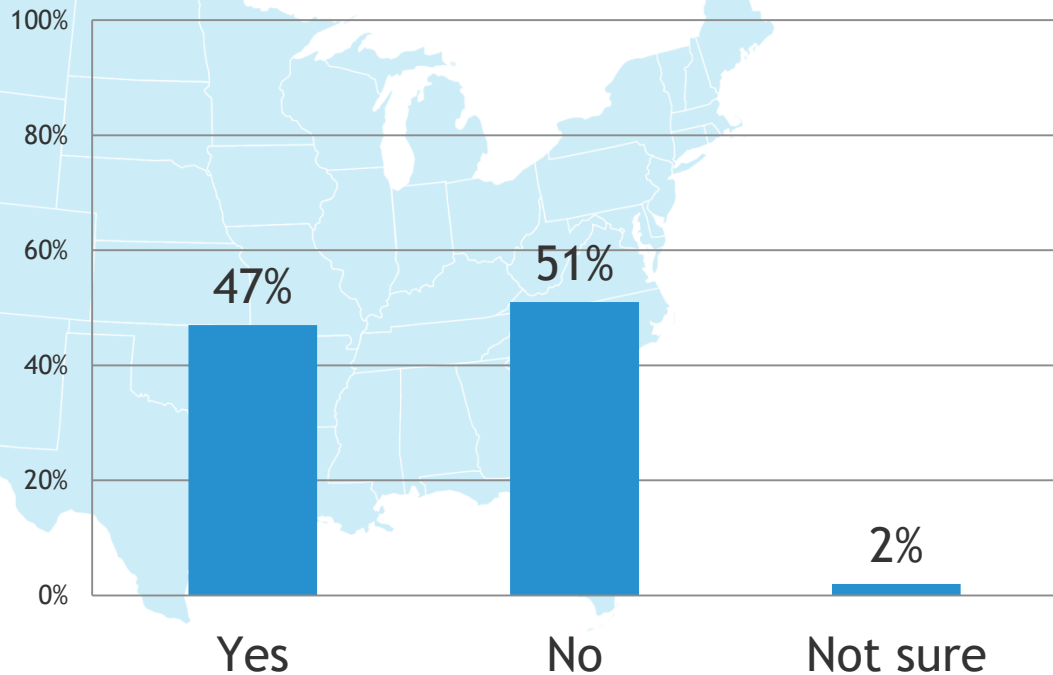
LifeWay RESEARCH
Biblical Solutions for Life

47%

meet at least monthly with a church starting mentor

	47%	51%	2%
	Yes	No	Not sure

Q: "For each of the following items, please indicate if it was true for your situation. (Select one response for each statement): **I met at least monthly with a church starting mentor who guided me both in the church starting work and my own personal spiritual formation**"
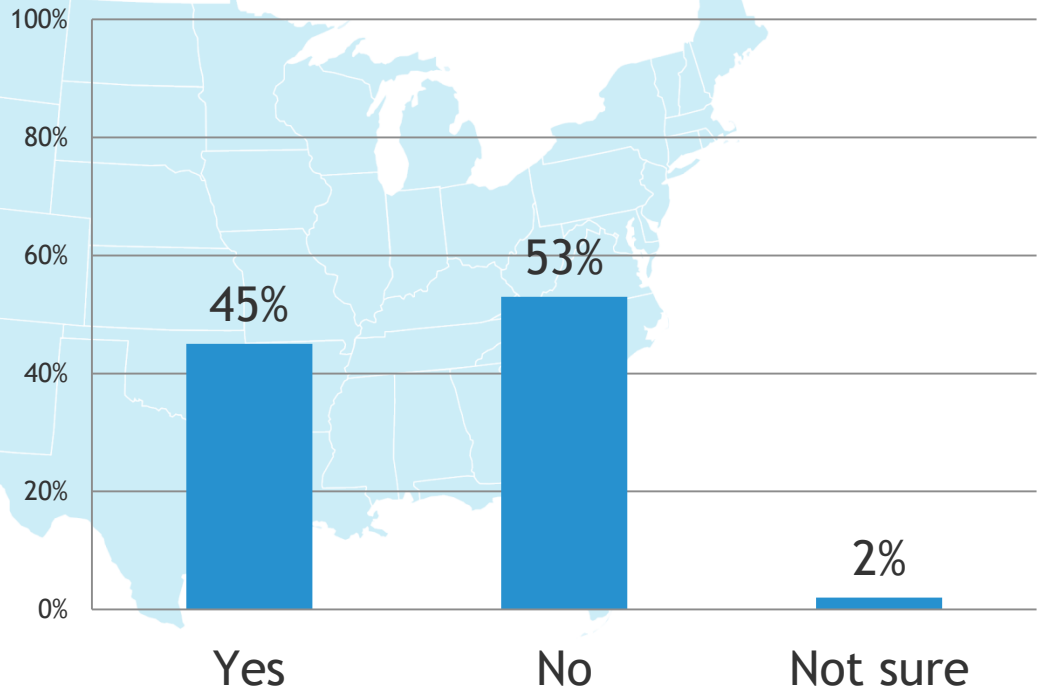
LifeWay RESEARCH
Biblical Solutions for Life

45%
meet at least monthly with church starting peers

Bar chart:
- Yes: 45%
- No: 53%
- Not sure: 2%

Q: "For each of the following items, please indicate if it was true for your situation. (Select one response for each statement): **I met at least monthly with church starting peers for accountability and support**"

LifeWay RESEARCH
Biblical Solutions for Life

83%
enlist several personal prayer partners prior to starting the new work

83%
80%
100%
60%
40%
20%
0%

16%

1%

Yes   No   Not sure

Q: "For each of the following items, please indicate if it was true for your situation. (Select one response for each statement): **I enlisted several personal prayer partners prior to starting the new work and continued to engage their prayer support during the first few years of the new church work**"

LifeWay
RESEARCH
Biblical Solutions for Life

69%
are actively engaged in a plan of personal spiritual formation

Q: "For each of the following items, please indicate if it was true for your situation. (Select one response for each statement): I was actively engaged in a plan of personal spiritual formation during the duration of the new church work"

LifeWay RESEARCH
Biblical Solutions for Life

58% say expectations met the reality of the church starting experience

Q: "For each of the following items, please indicate if it was true for your situation. (Select one response for each statement): **My expectations of the new church work met the reality of the church starting experience**"

LifeWay
RESEARCH
Biblical Solutions for Life

Nearly a third start the new church work before age 35

Q: "How old were you when you started the new church work?"

Age	Percentage
18-34 years	31%
35-44 years	31%
45-54 years	20%
55+ years	18%

LifeWay RESEARCH
Biblical Solutions for Life

Ethnic background (U.S.)

White/Caucasian	78%
Hispanic/ Latino	8%
Black/African American	6%
Asian-American/ Pacific Islander	5%
Native-American	0%
Other	2%
Not Sure	0%

Q: "What is your racial or ethnic background?"

LifeWay
RESEARCH
Biblical Solutions for Life

Nearly 3 in 10 had never lived in the town/city in which the new church work was started

29%	26%	15%	14%	16%
0 years before start	1-4 years before start	5-9 years before start	10-19 years before start	20+ years before start
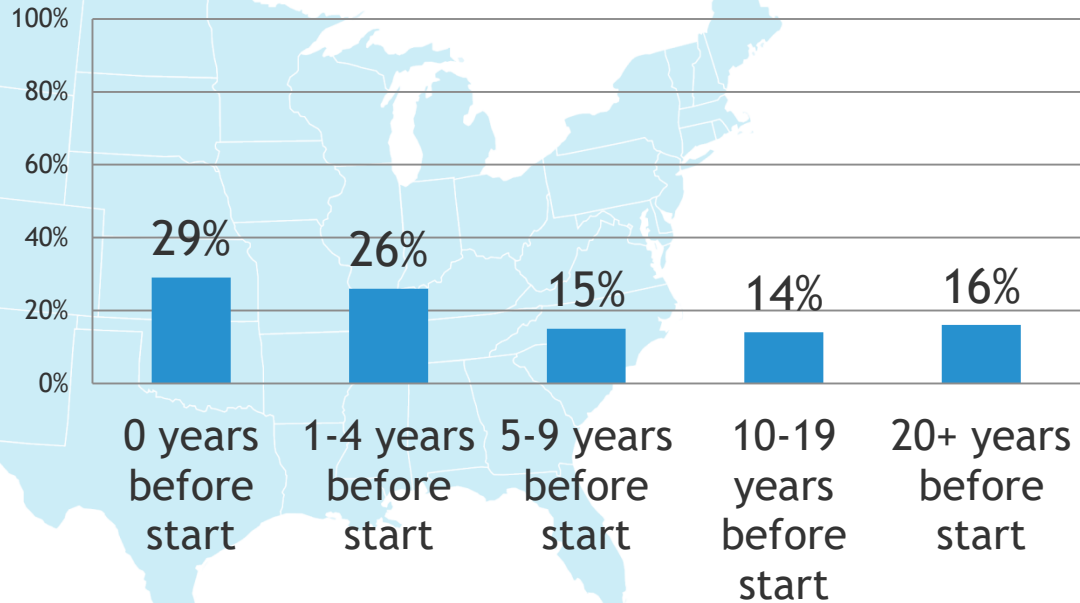
Q: "How many years had you lived in this town/city before you started the new church work? (Skip if you can't remember)"

LifeWay RESEARCH
Biblical Solutions for Life

PERSONAL

11% are not married during the first 5 years of the new church work

89% Yes
11% No
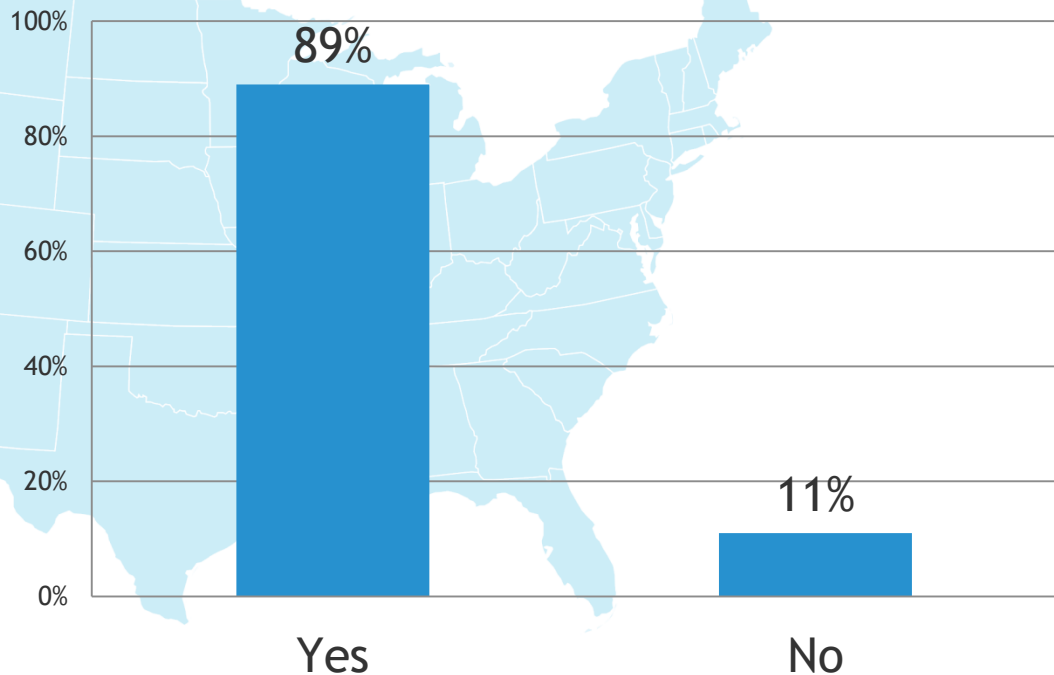
Q: "Were you married at any time during the first 5 years of the new church work? (Select one)"

LifeWay RESEARCH
Biblical Solutions for Life

87% say their spouse is very supportive
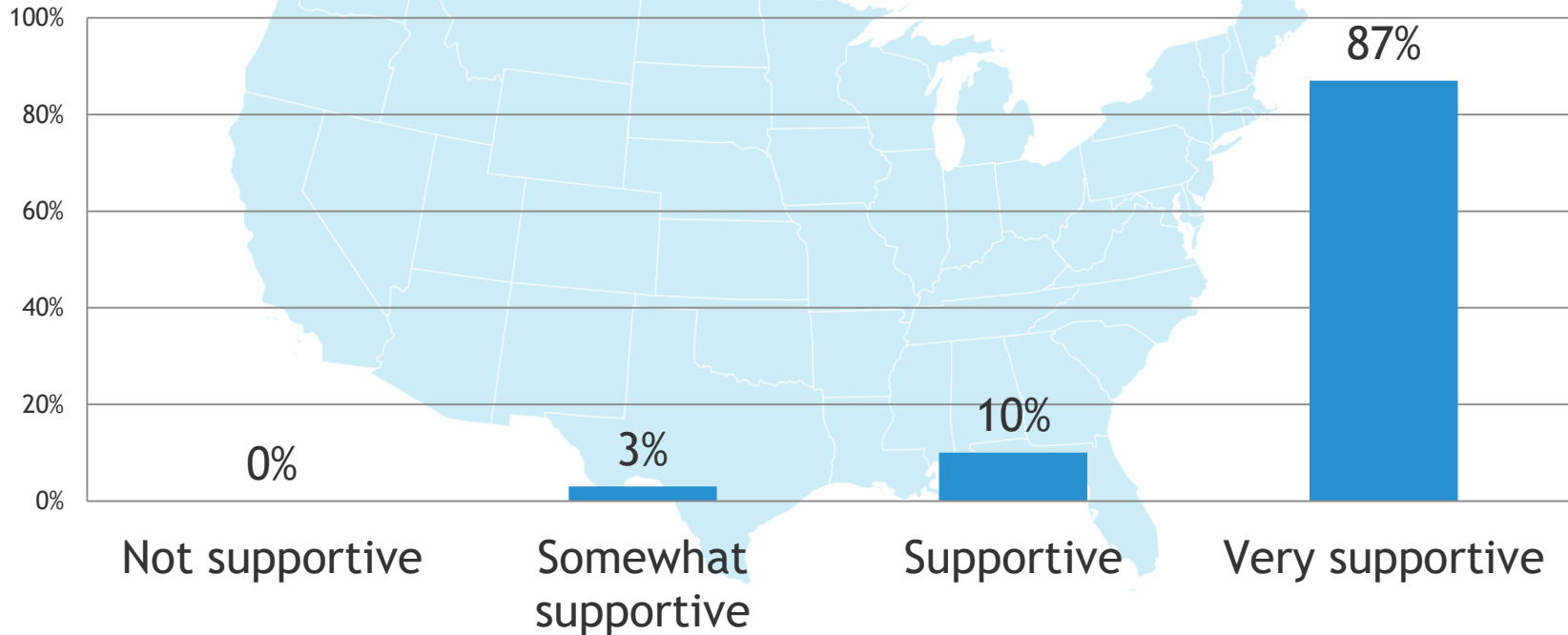
Q: "Please describe your spouse's support for you in the new church work. Your spouse's support may not always have a direct correlation to the number of hours your spouse worked in the new church work. (Select one)

Spouse's involvement in new church work

Devoted his/her work to a particular church ministry within the church start — **42%**

Assisted wherever necessary, working almost as many hours as me — **32%**

Served as a staff member on the church starting team — **18%**

Had no active involvement in the new church work — **6%**

Not sure 3%
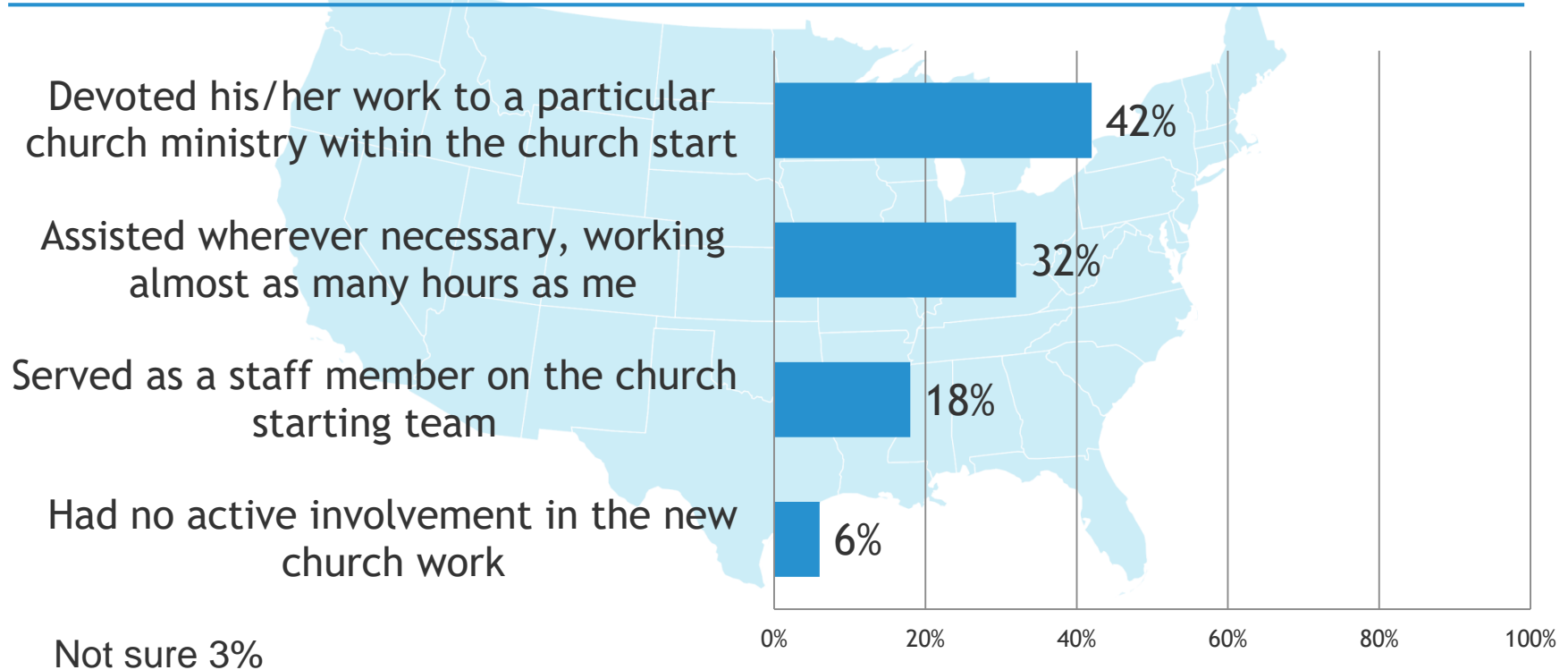
Q: "Please select the best description of the level of involvement for your spouse in the new church work. (Select one)"

LifeWay RESEARCH
Biblical Solutions for Life

57%

devote 10 or more hours per week to personal family activities

20 hours a week or more — 22%

10-19 hours a week — 36%

5-10 hours a week — 32%

Less than 5 hours a week — 8%

Not sure — 3%

0% 20% 40% 60% 80% 100%
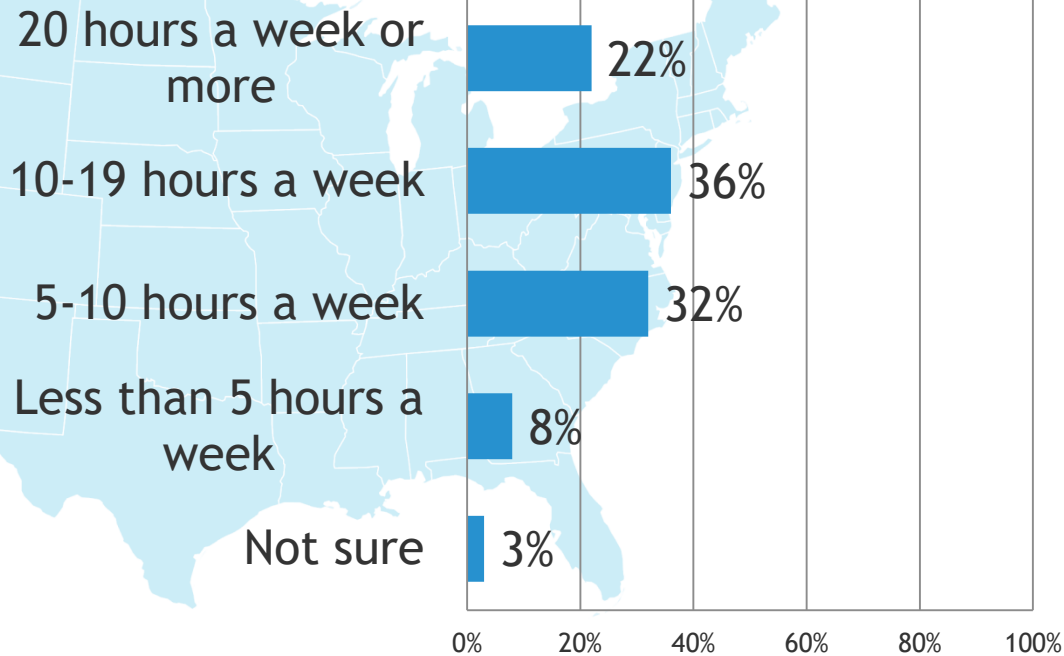
Q: "What was the average number of hours per week that you devoted to personal family activities during the first 5 years of the new church work? (Select one)"

LifeWay
RESEARCH
Biblical Solutions for Life

48%

have a parent or in-law living more than 300 miles from the church

Yes — 48%

No — 46%

Neither me or my spouse have living parents — 5%

Not sure — 0%

0%   20%   40%   60%   80%   100%

Q: "Did your parents or your spouse's parents live more than 300 miles from the church's location at any time during the first 5 years of the new church work? (Select one)"

LifeWay
RESEARCH
Biblical Solutions for Life

38% have health insurance through the new church work
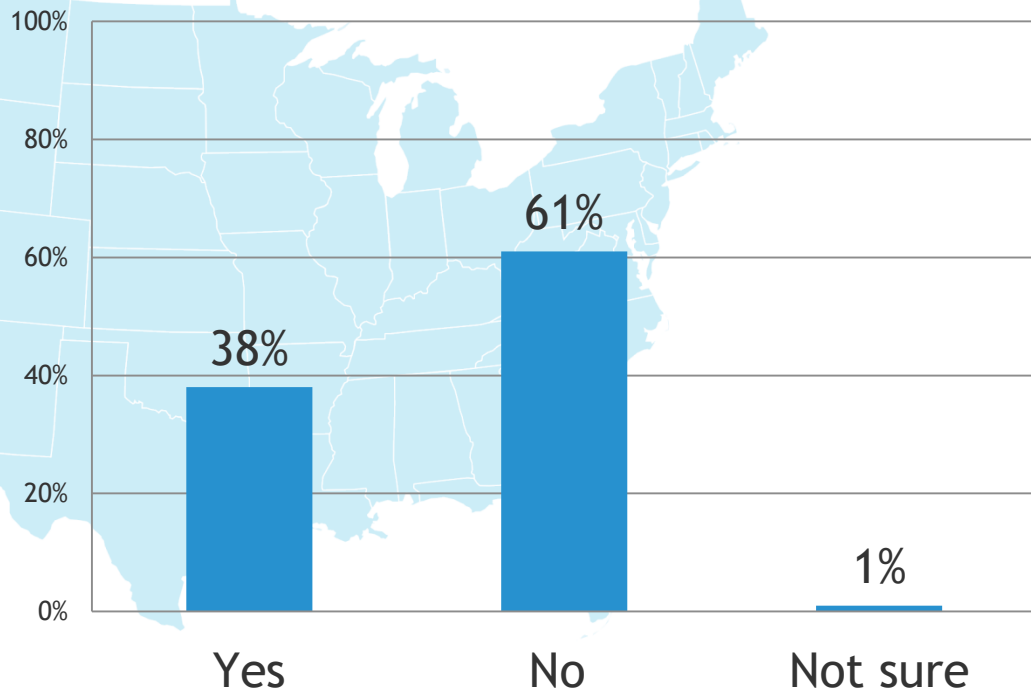
Q: "Did you and your family (if married) have health insurance where the majority of the premiums were paid for by the church, the sponsoring church, the denomination or a church starting network? (Select one)"

LifeWay
RESEARCH
Biblical Solutions for Life

Appendix

Significant* factors in relation to attendance, new commitments, whether or not a plant had half or more unchurched, being self-sufficient, and having planted a daughter church within five years.

*Significance determined by multivariate regression analysis, controlling for church organization, state, basic church composition (education, race and ethnicity composition, age breakdown, urban/rural location, immigrant composition) and pastor characteristics (education, race and ethnicity, age, marital status).

LifeWay RESEARCH
Biblical Solutions for Life

Worship Attendance

Significant factors for higher worship attendance

- All values shown are average attendance numbers for each factor level

Congregation using a school

Congregation using an industrial or warehouse space

Chart:

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4
Industrial	90	130	170	238
No Industrial	48	69	87	111

Legend:
- Industrial
- No Industrial

LifeWay RESEARCH
Biblical Solutions for Life

Congregation using mailers

Chart: Average attendance comparison by year, Mailers vs No Mailers.

- Year 1: Mailers 69, No Mailers 46
- Year 2: Mailers 97, No Mailers 68
- Year 3: Mailers 129, No Mailers 86
- Year 4: Mailers 173, No Mailers 110

Congregation starting at least one daughter church in three years

Daughter Church

No daughter church

Year 1 Year 2 Year 3 Year 4

78 46 123 65 172 81 247 98

Congregation starting at least one daughter church in five years

Chart: Average Attendance

- Year 1: Daughter Church 75, No daughter church 46
- Year 2: Daughter Church 113, No daughter church 66
- Year 3: Daughter Church 148, No daughter church 82
- Year 4: Daughter Church 204, No daughter church 98

Legend:
- ■ Daughter Church
- ■ No daughter church

Congregation partnering with another organization to plant new churches
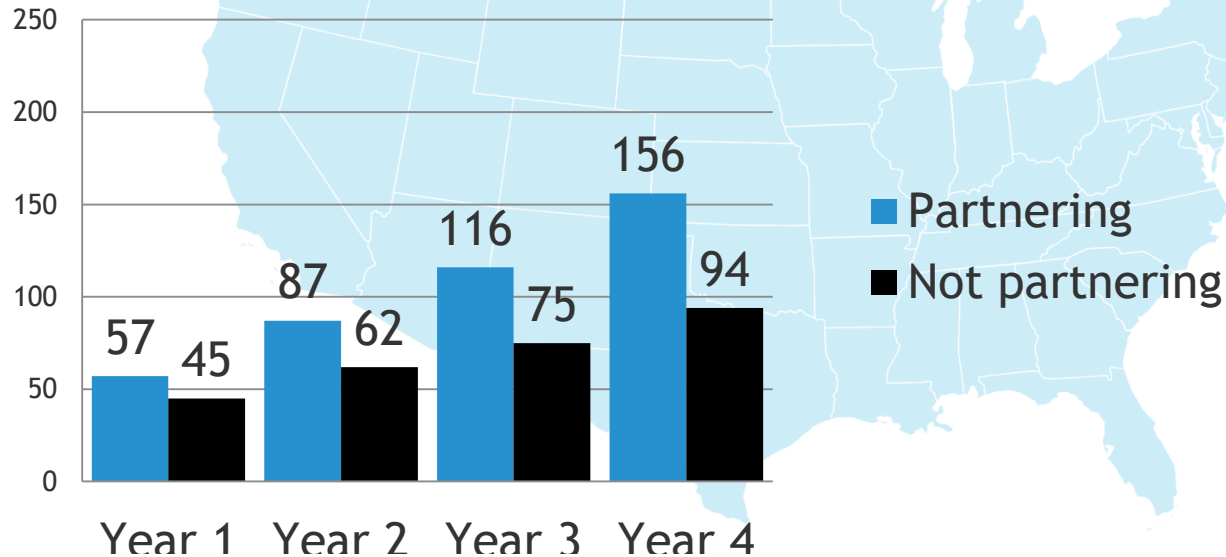
Congregation financially contributing to other church plants

Bar chart comparing "Contributes" (blue) and "Does not contribute" (black):

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4
Contributes	59	87	117	150
Does not contribute	40	55	62	80
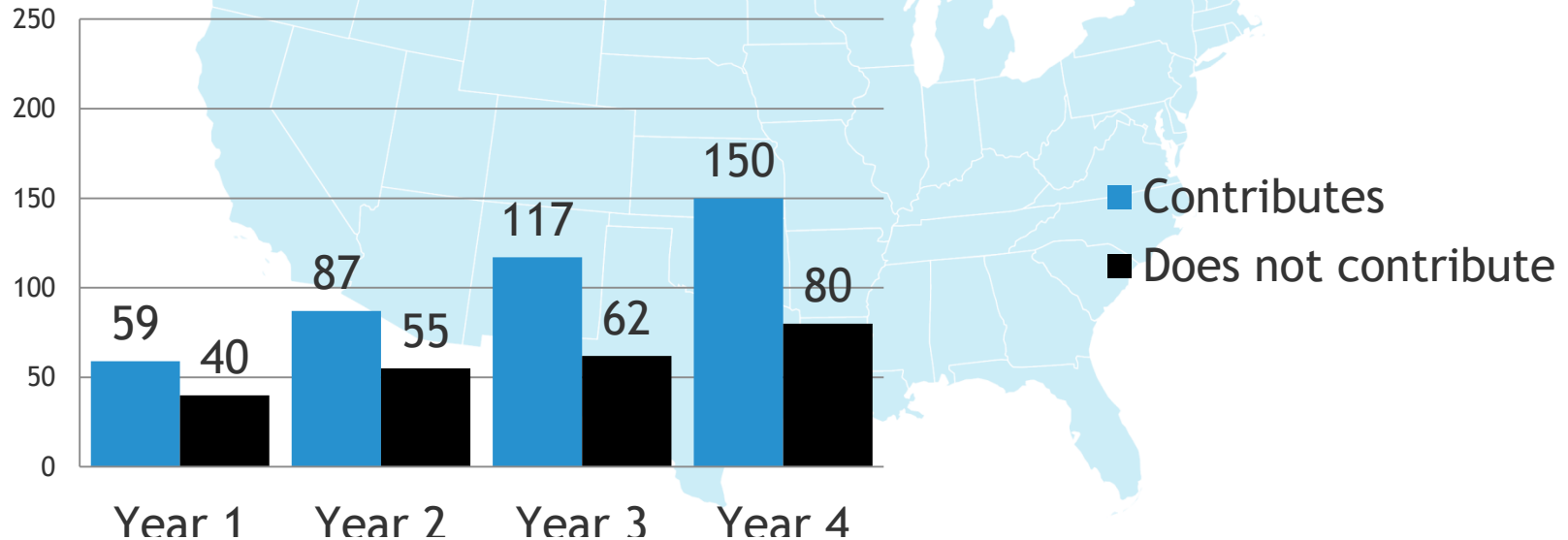
Staff investing in new or potential planters
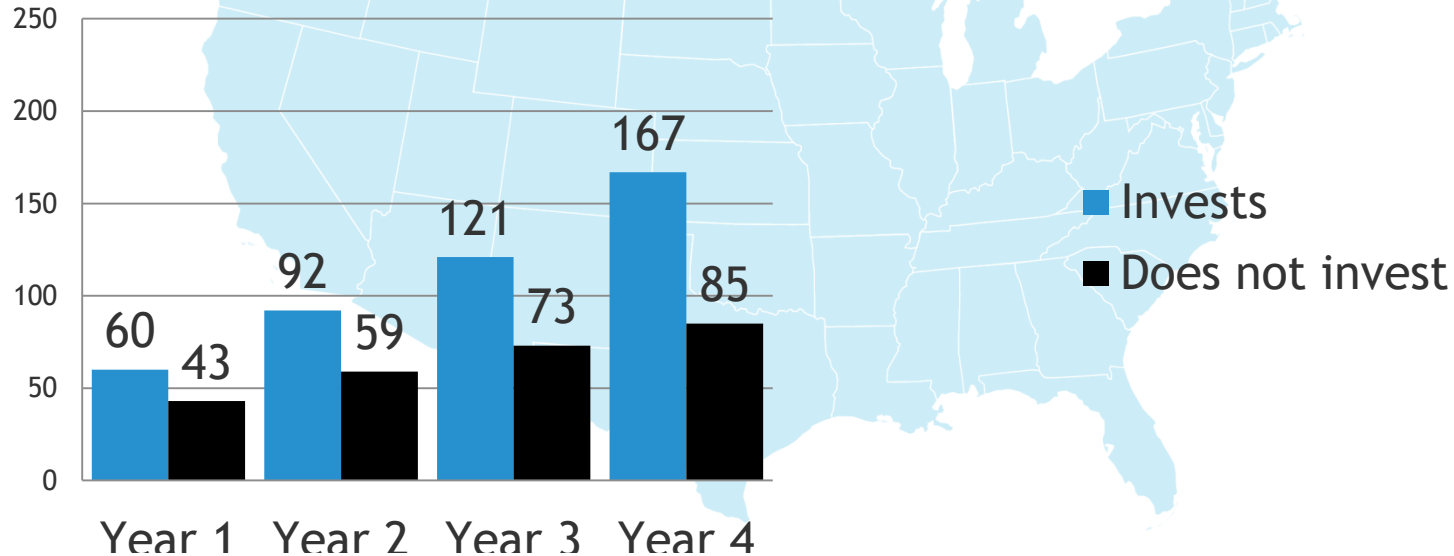
Planter receiving financial compensation in first 5 years
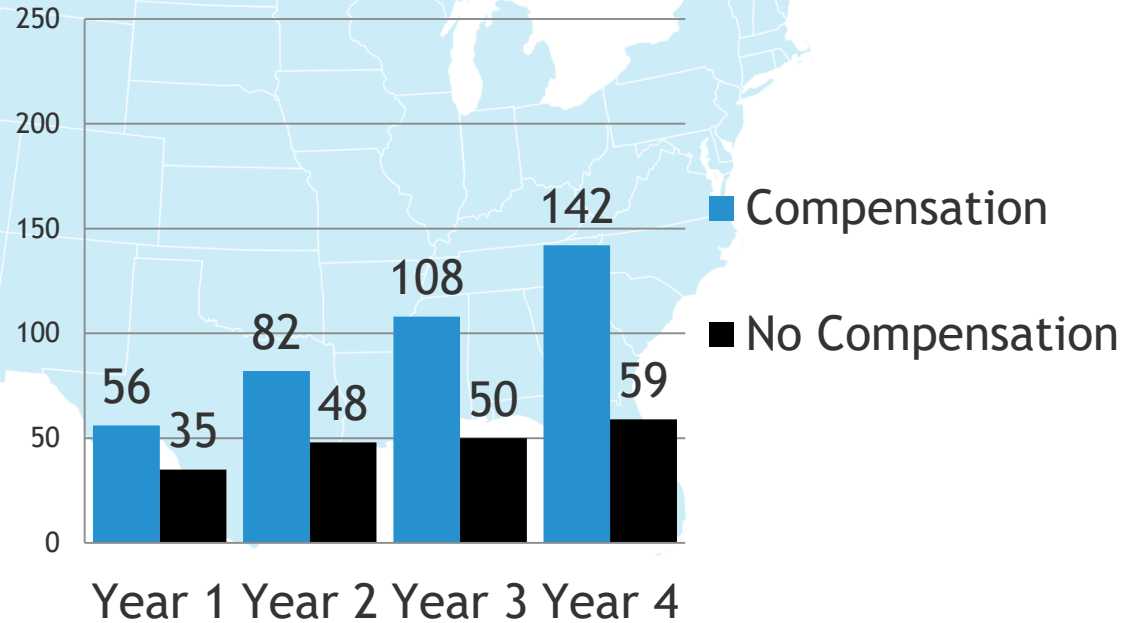
Planter receiving compensation they deemed adequate to meet basic needs

Met Needs | **Did Not Meet Needs**

- Year 1: 64 / 41
- Year 2: 96 / 58
- Year 3: 129 / 70
- Year 4: 162 / 93
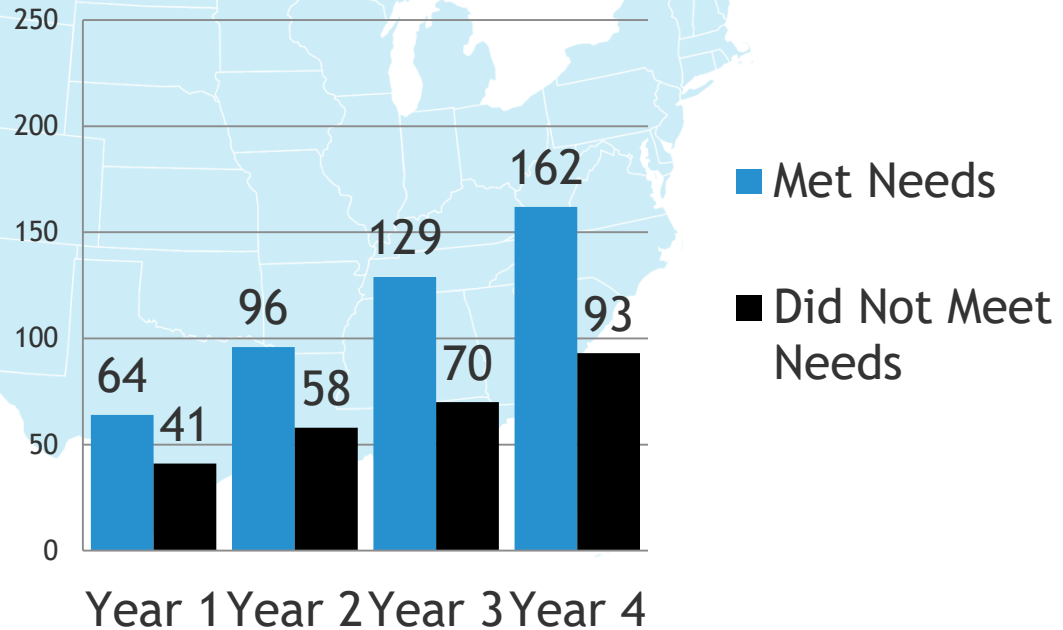
Planter's expectations of new church work meet the reality

	Met Reality	Did Not Meet Reality
Year 1	57	43
Year 2	86	61
Year 3	114	76
Year 4	146	102

LifeWay RESEARCH
Biblical Solutions for Life
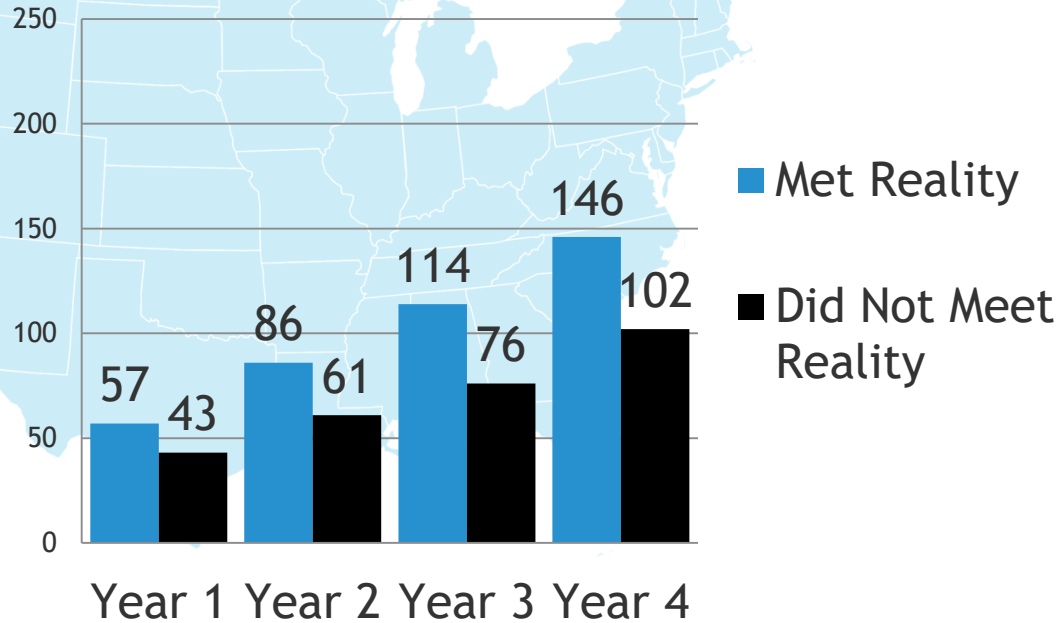
Planter having health insurance
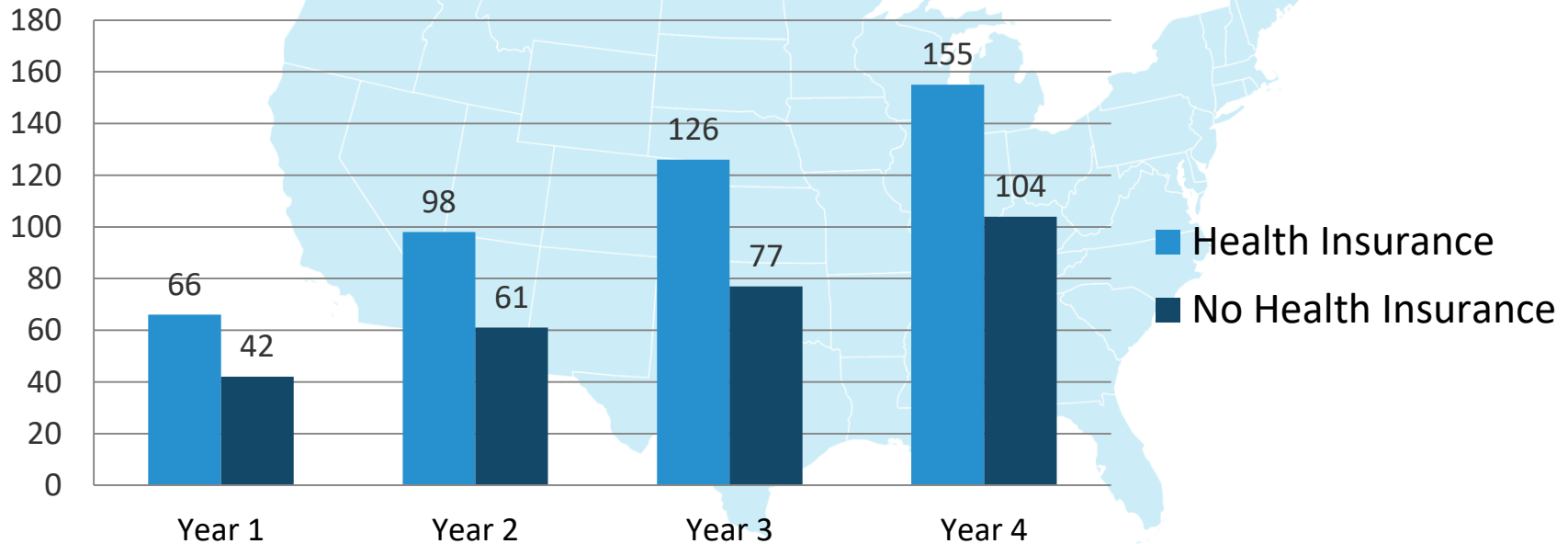
Church having a new member class
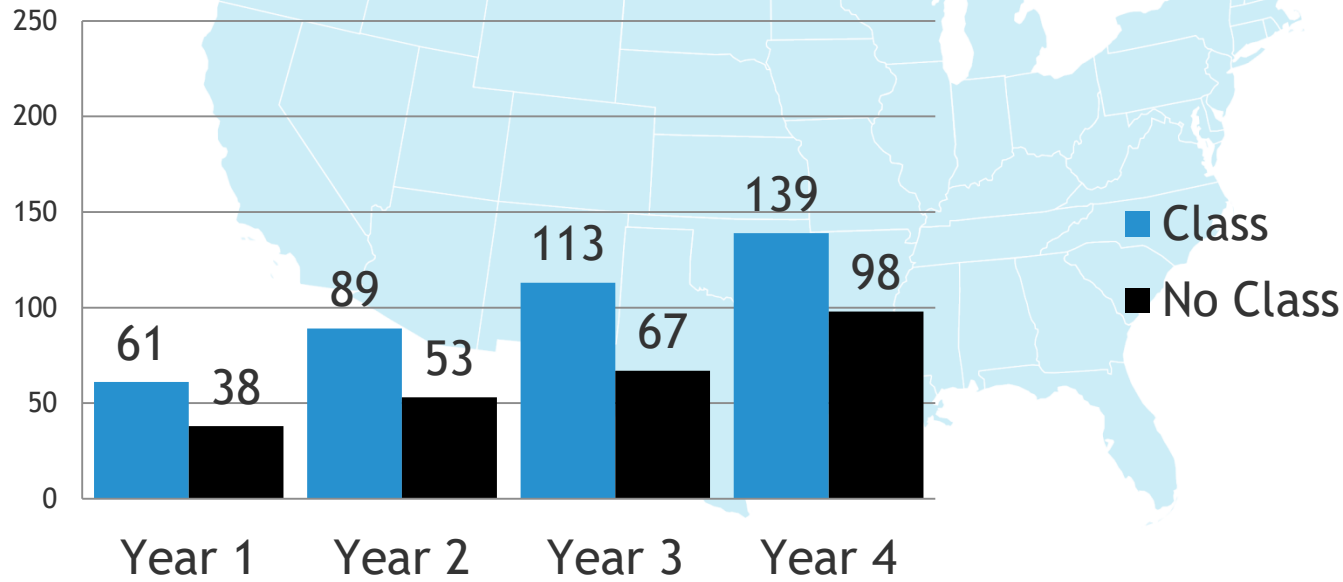
Church becoming self-sufficient
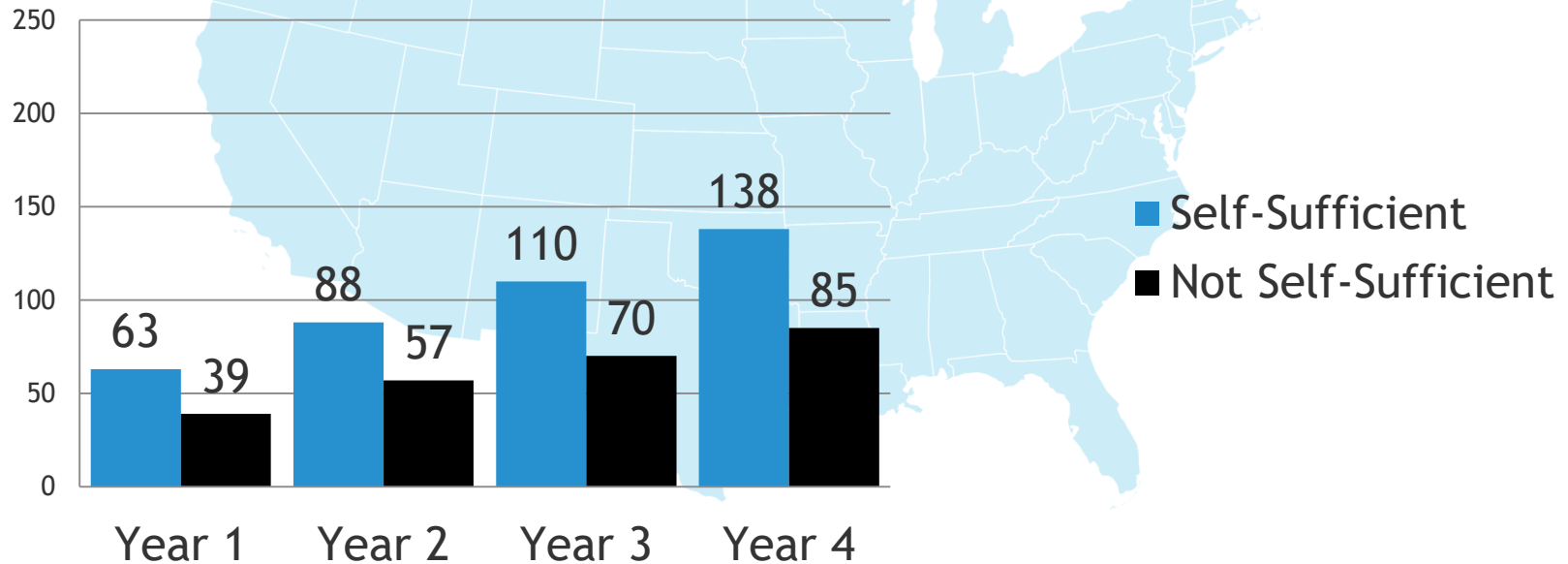
Commitments

☐ Significant factors for higher number of new, first time commitments to Jesus Christ through new church work

▪ All values shown are mean number of commitments for each factor level
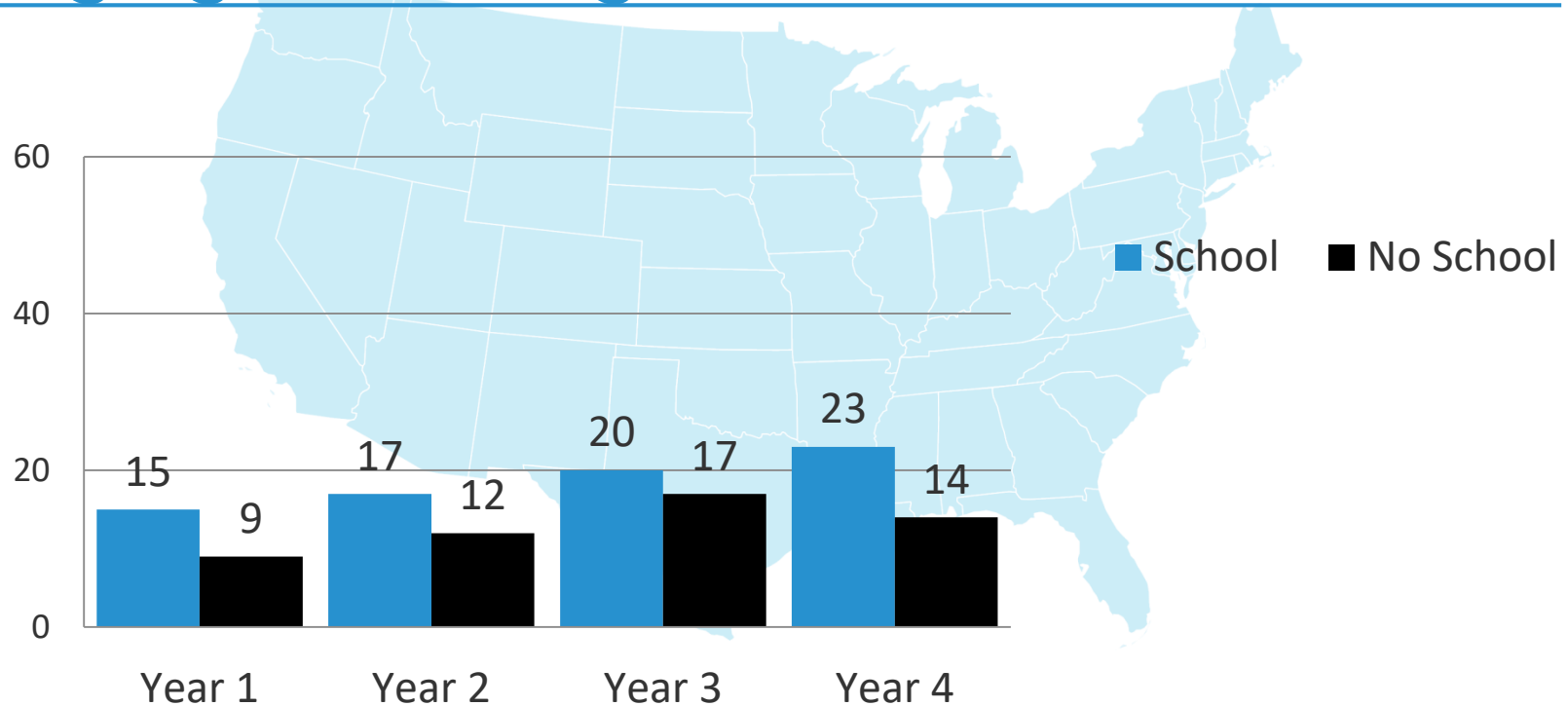
Congregation using a school

Chart legend: ■ School ■ No School

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4
School	15	17	20	23
No School	9	12	17	14

Congregation using an industrial or warehouse space

Industrial

No Industrial

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4
Industrial	18	25	56	33
No Industrial	10	13	14	15

Congregation using mailers

Bar chart titled "Congregation using mailers" showing Average New Commitments comparing Mailers (blue) and No Mailers (black):

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4
Mailers	21	22	25	28
No Mailers	8	11	16	14

LifeWay RESEARCH
Biblical Solutions for Life
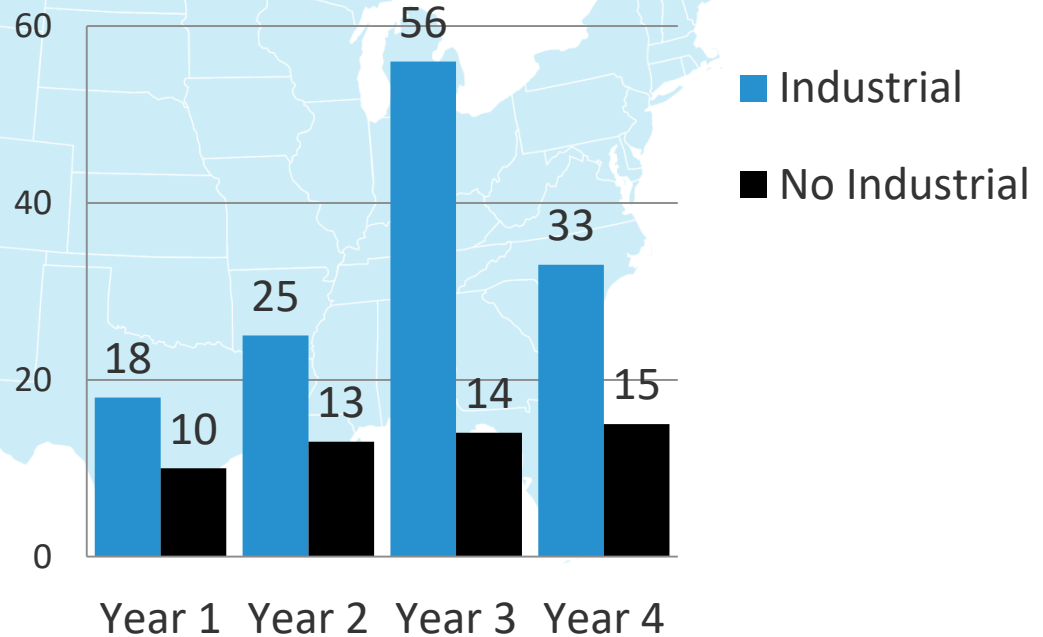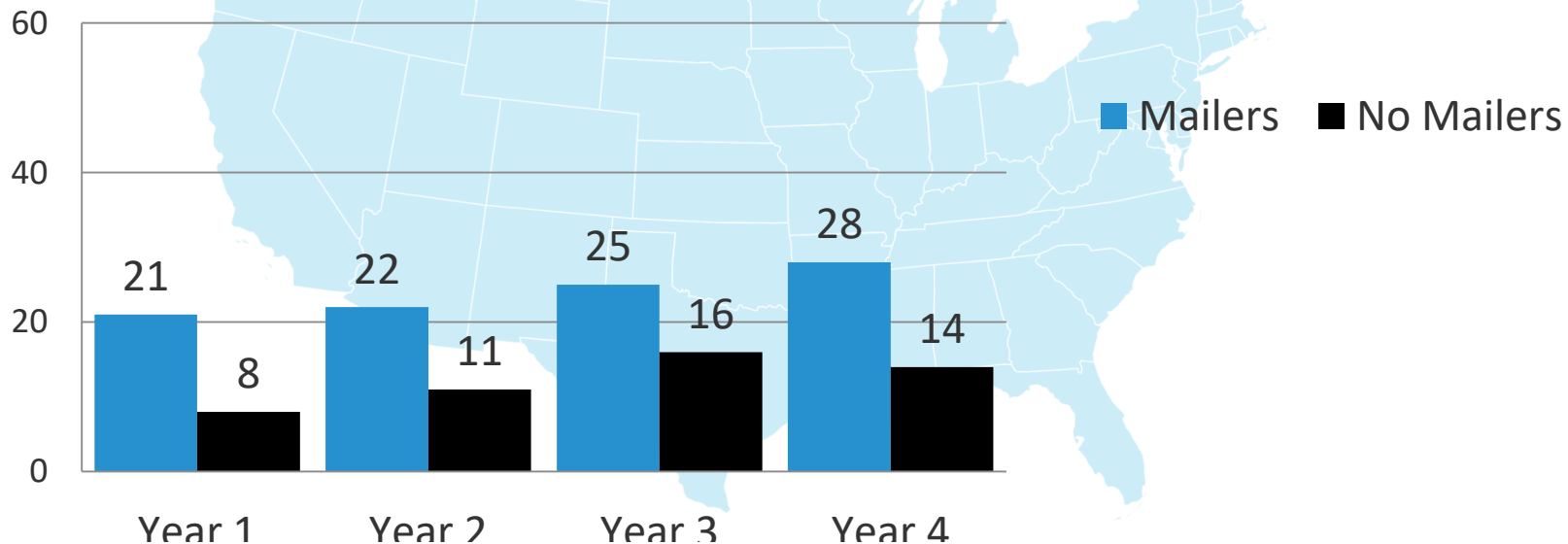
Congregation using Contact Management System

Chart: Average New Commitments by year, CMS vs No CMS

- CMS (blue) / No CMS (black)
- Year 1: CMS 18, No CMS 10
- Year 2: CMS 23, No CMS 12
- Year 3: CMS 25, No CMS 17
- Year 4: CMS 24, No CMS 16

LifeWay RESEARCH
Biblical Solutions for Life
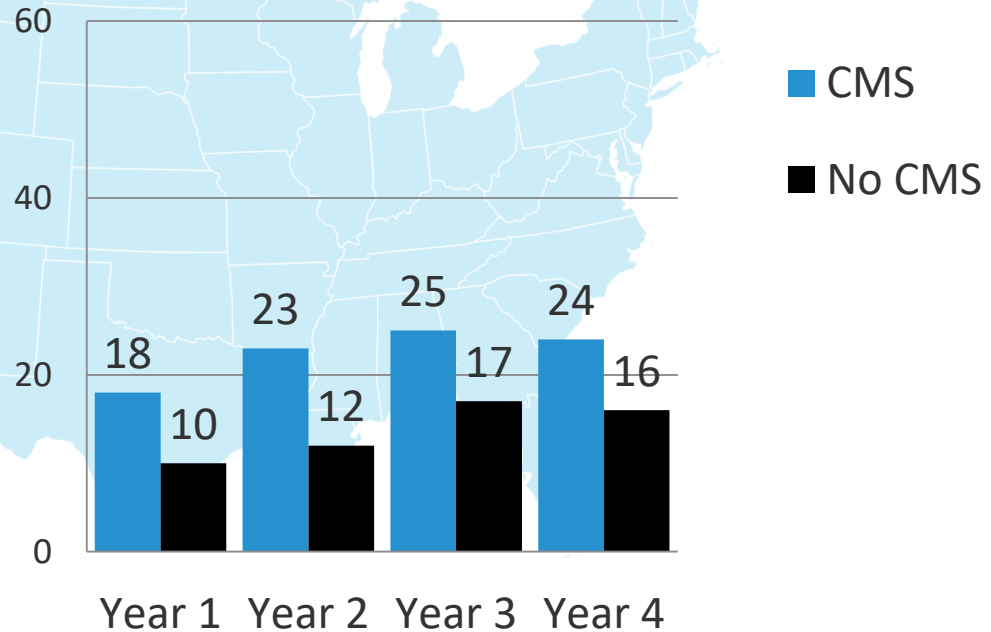
Congregation using Podcasts
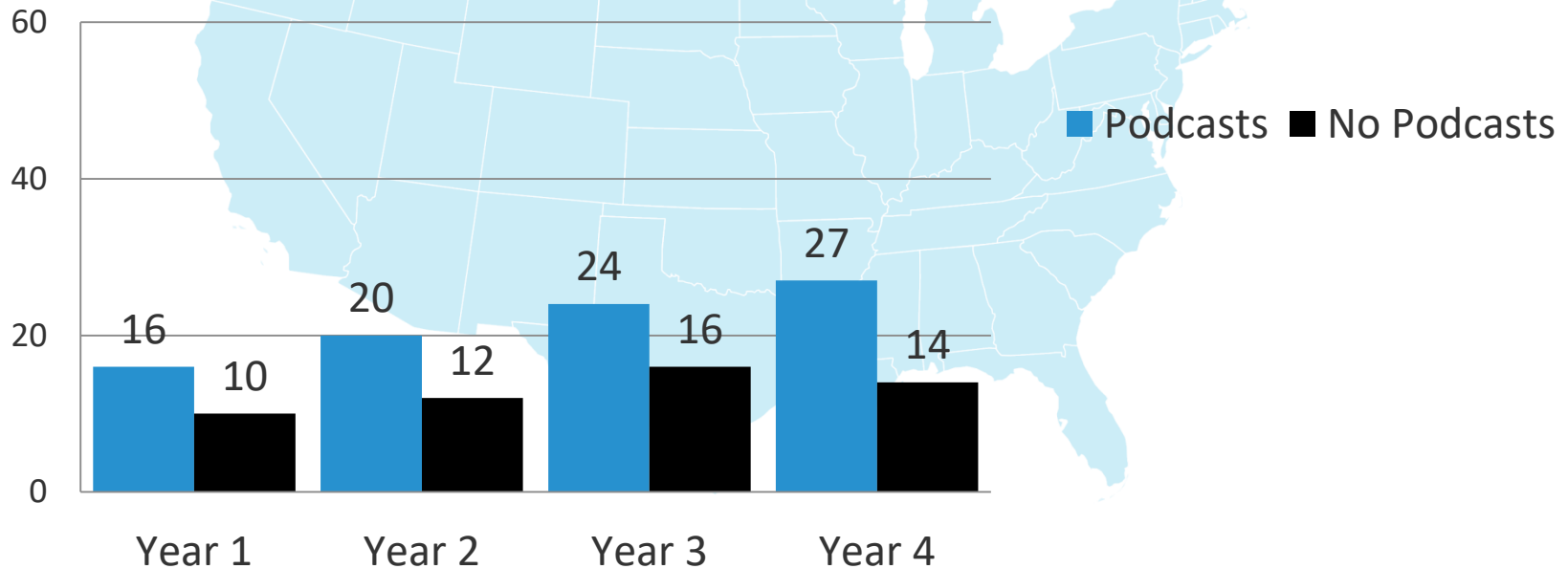
Congregation continuing to use revival meetings

Meetings
No meetings

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4
Meetings	15	18	16	15
No meetings	10	13	18	17
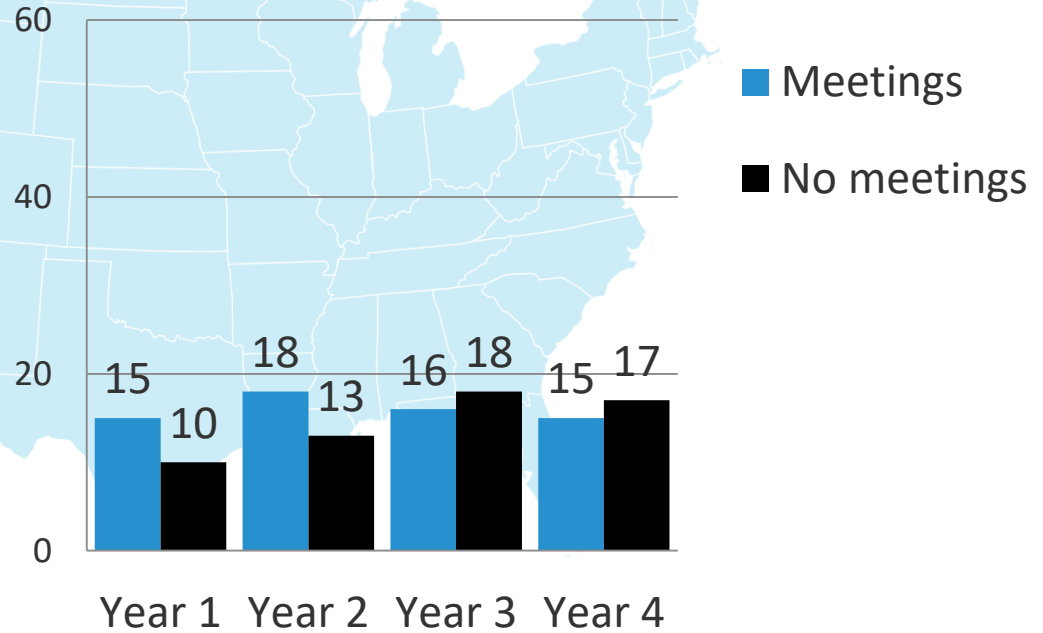
Congregation continuing to mail invitations
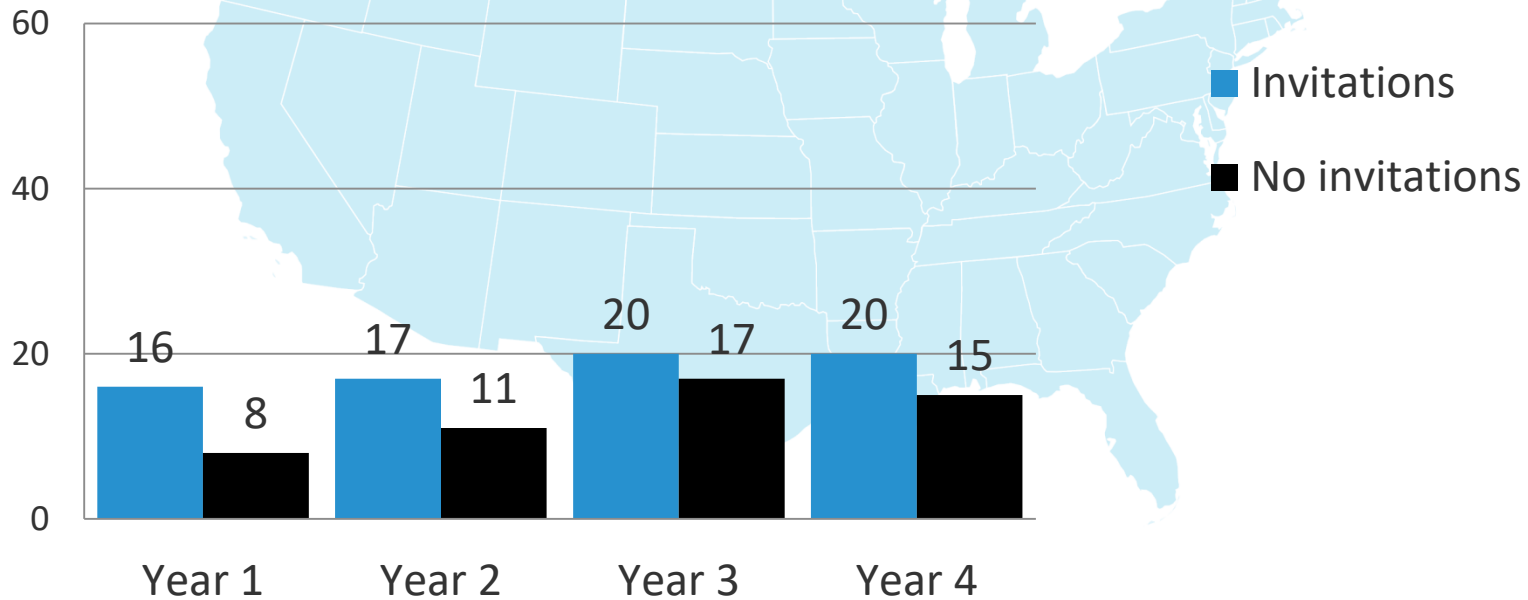
Congregation continuing to offer a community sports league
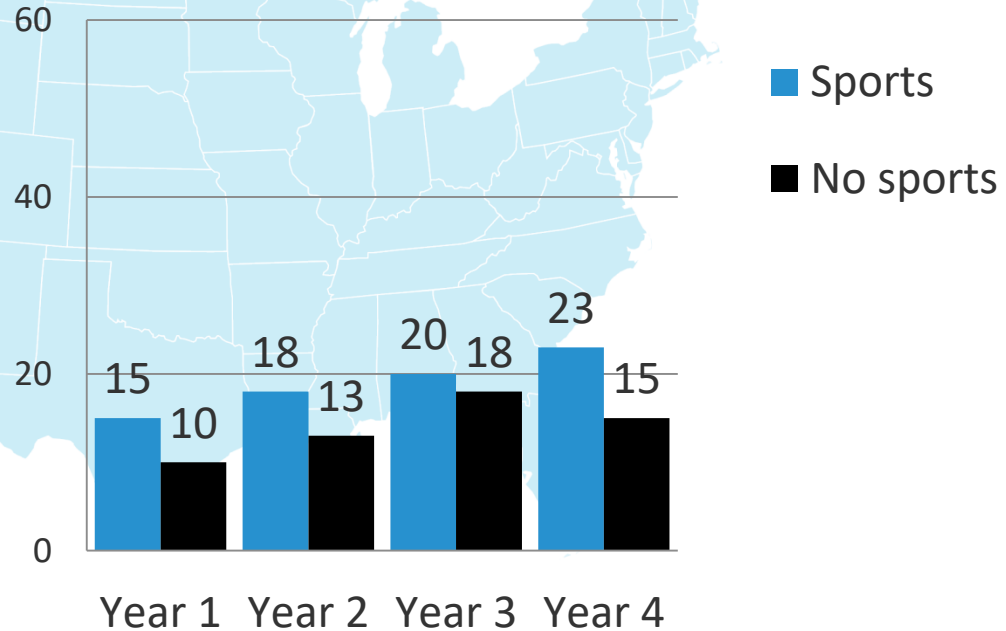
Average New Commitments

- Sports (blue)
- No sports (black)

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4
Sports	15	18	20	23
No sports	10	13	18	15

LifeWay RESEARCH
Biblical Solutions for Life

Congregation starting at least one daughter church in three years

Bar chart — Daughter Church (blue) vs. No daughter church (black):

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4
Daughter Church	16	25	48	36
No daughter church	10	12	12	12
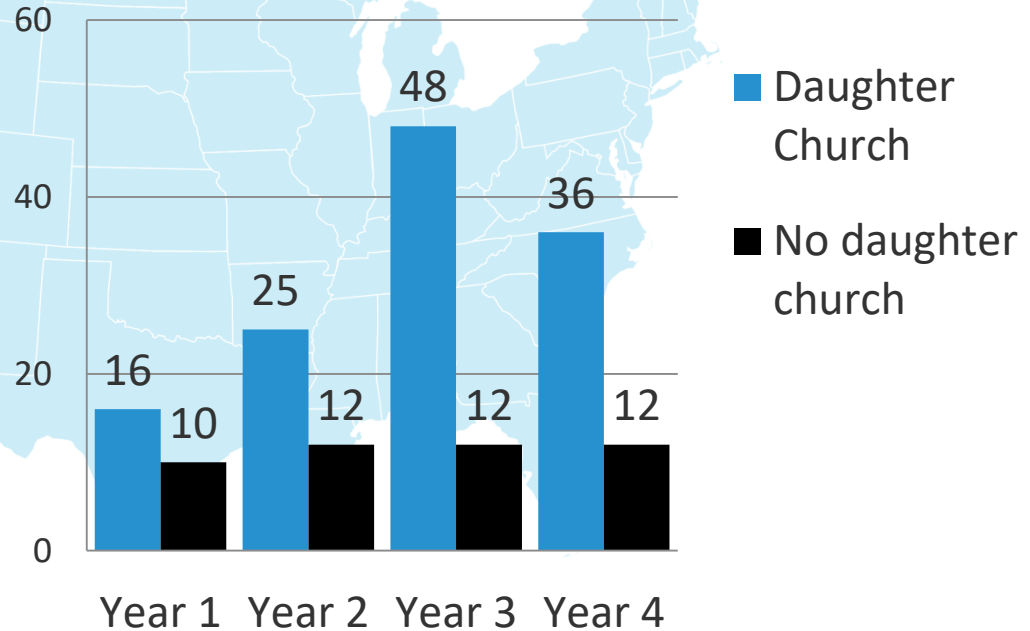
Congregation starting at least one daughter church in five years
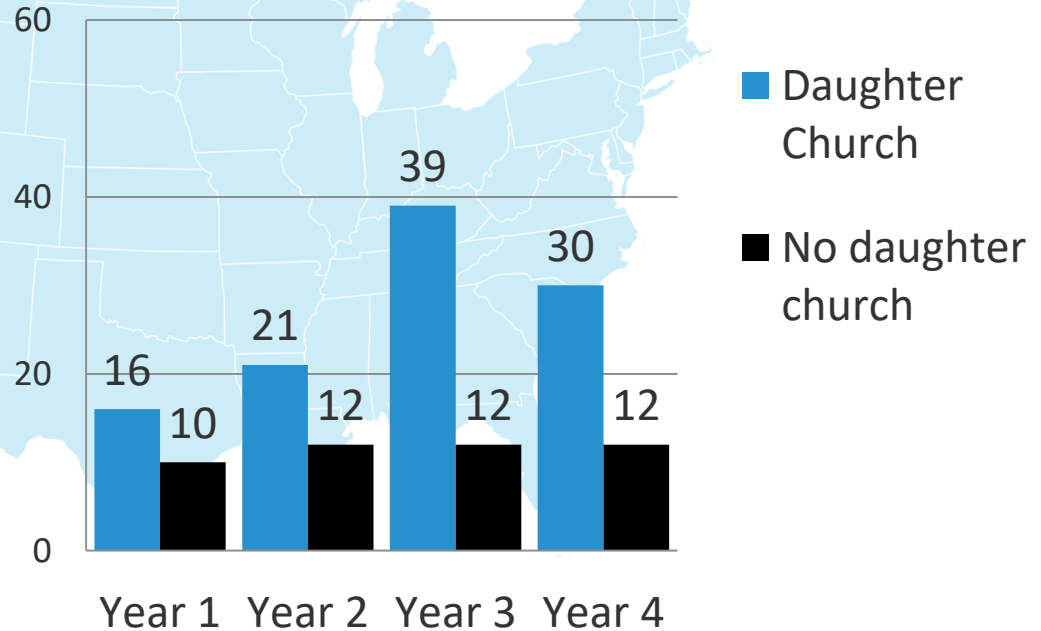
Congregation having a stewardship development plan

Plan

No plan

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4
Plan	12	15	17	20
No plan	9	12	20	12

LifeWay RESEARCH
Biblical Solutions for Life
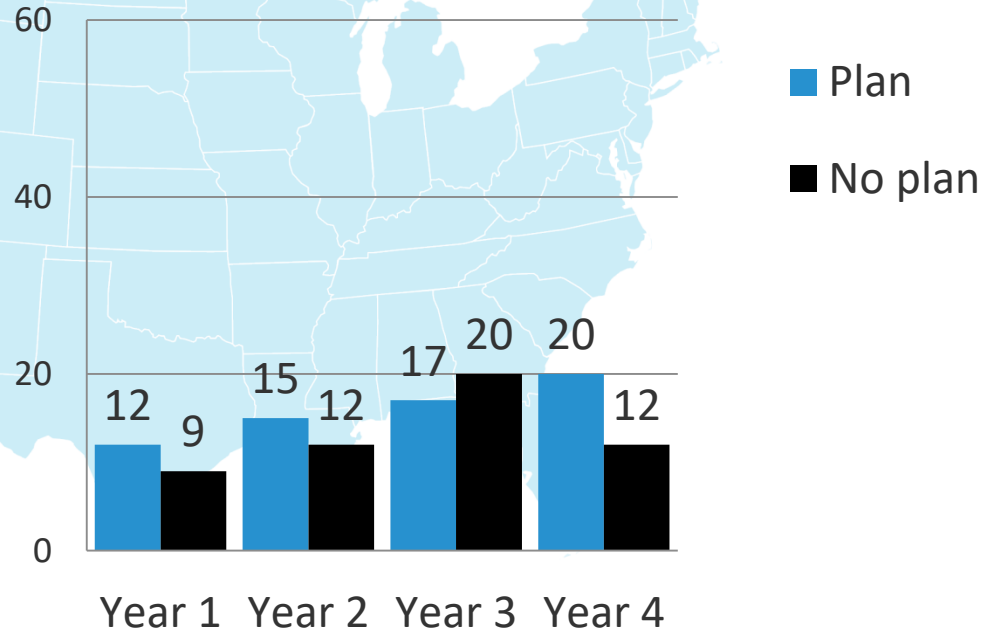
Congregation having leadership training for new members
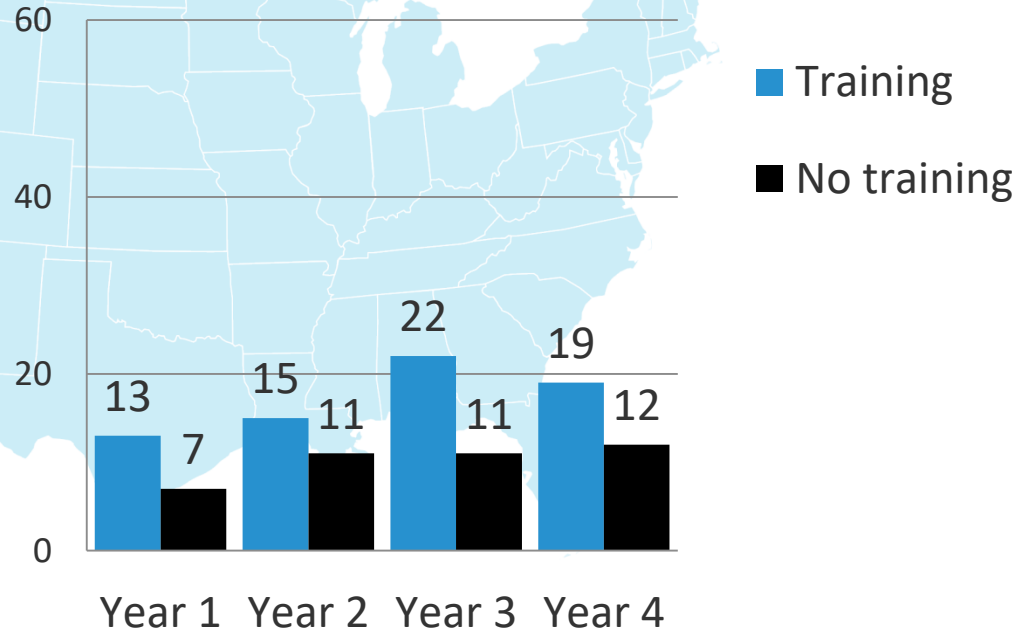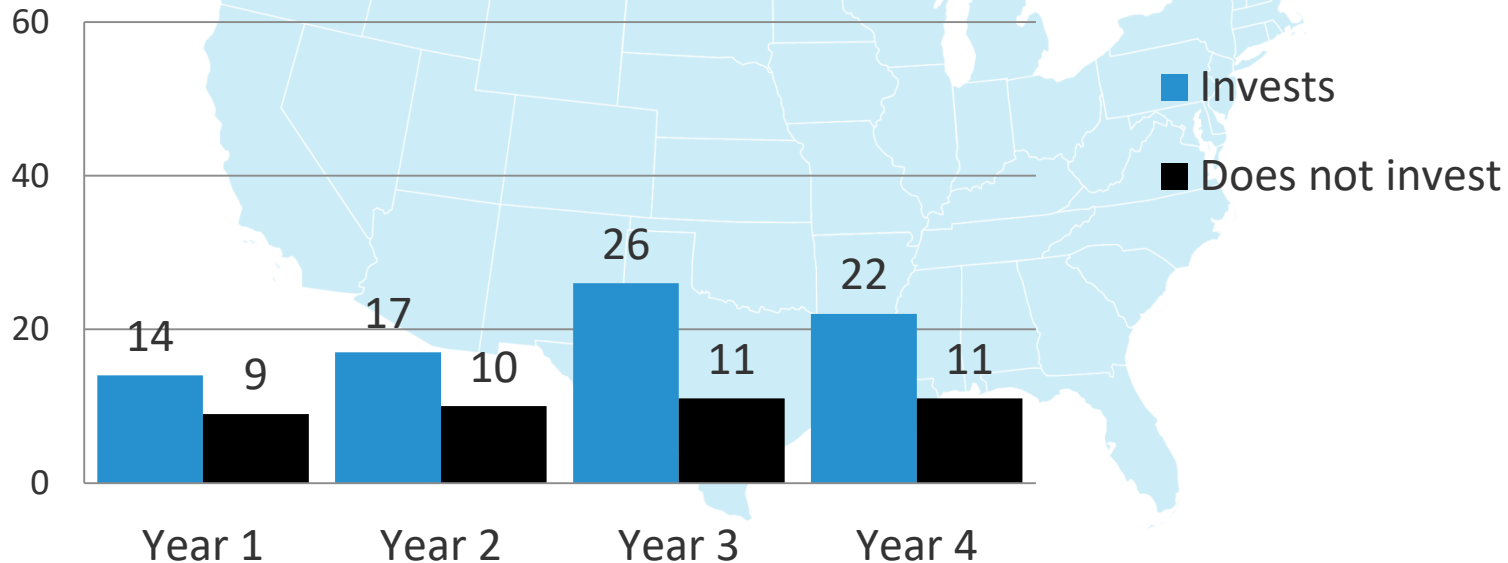
Training

No training

Year 1: 13, 7
Year 2: 15, 11
Year 3: 22, 11
Year 4: 19, 12

Staff investing in new or potential planters

- Invests (blue)
- Does not invest (black)

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4
Invests	14	17	26	22
Does not invest	9	10	11	11

Planter receiving financial compensation in first 5 years

- Compensation
- No Compensation

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4
Compensation	11	14	20	18
No Compensation	9	11	11	12
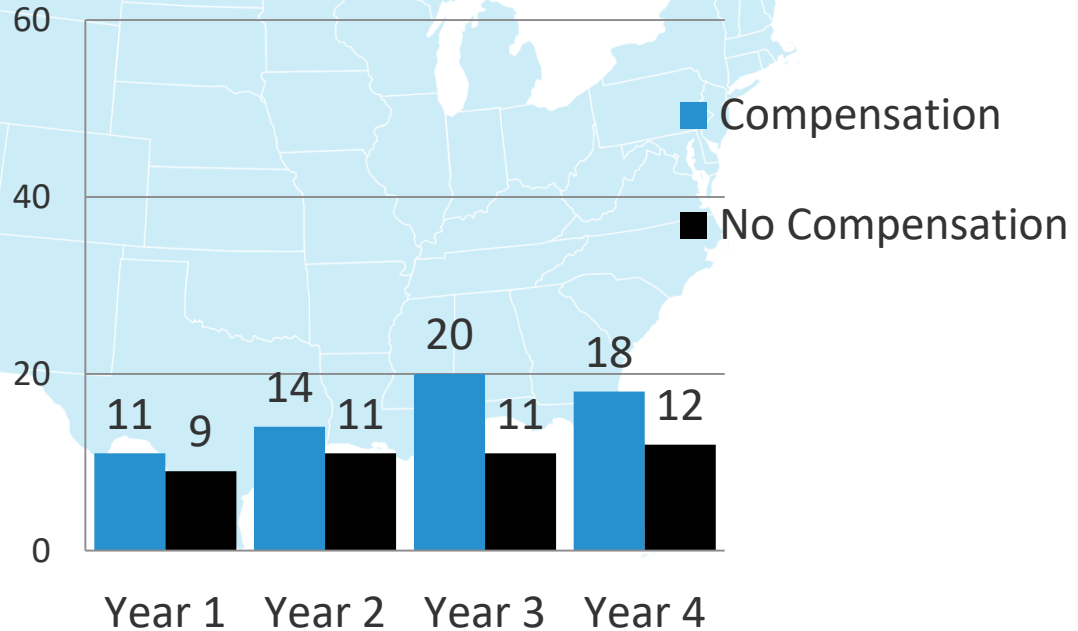
Church becoming self-sufficient
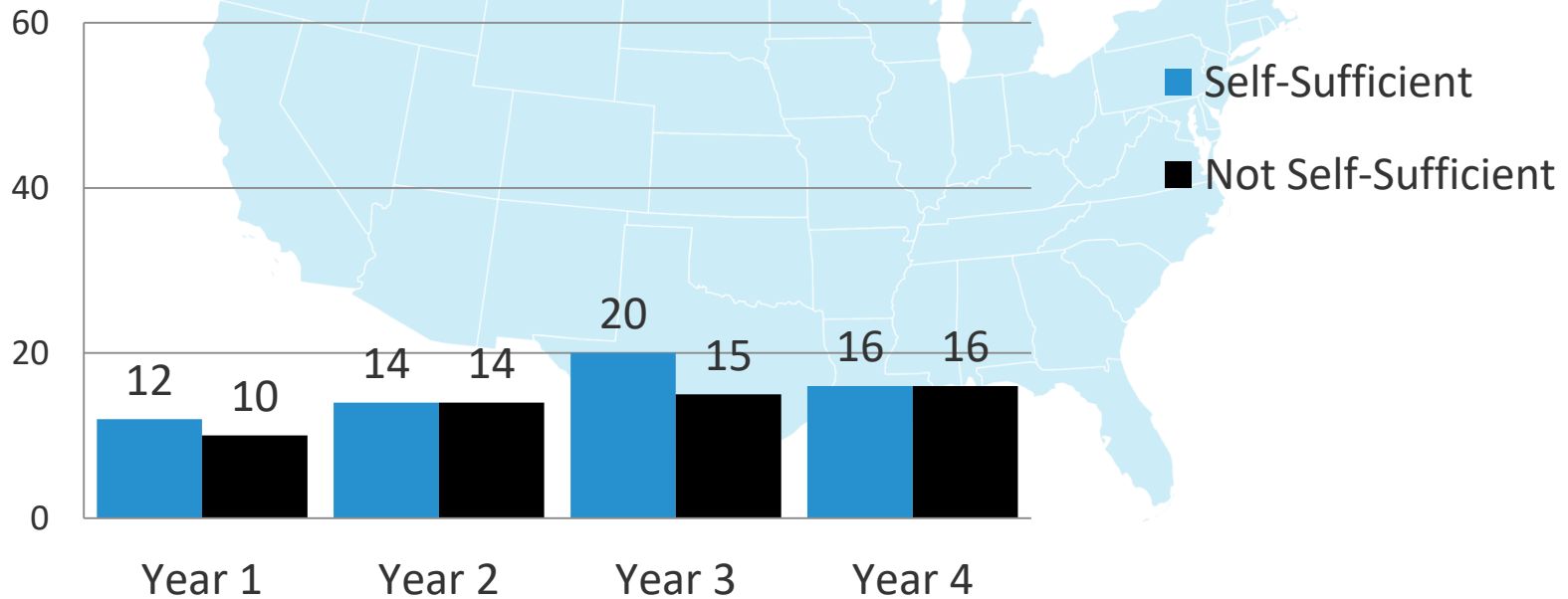
Majority Unchurched

- Significant factors for having a majority previously unchurched among people attending the new church work
  - All values shown are percentage of churches with more than half unchurched for each factor level
  - "Unchurched" includes the percent previously completely unchurched and the percent unchurched for many years among the people attending the new church work since it began

37%

of congregations using a community hall or recreation center are majority unchurched
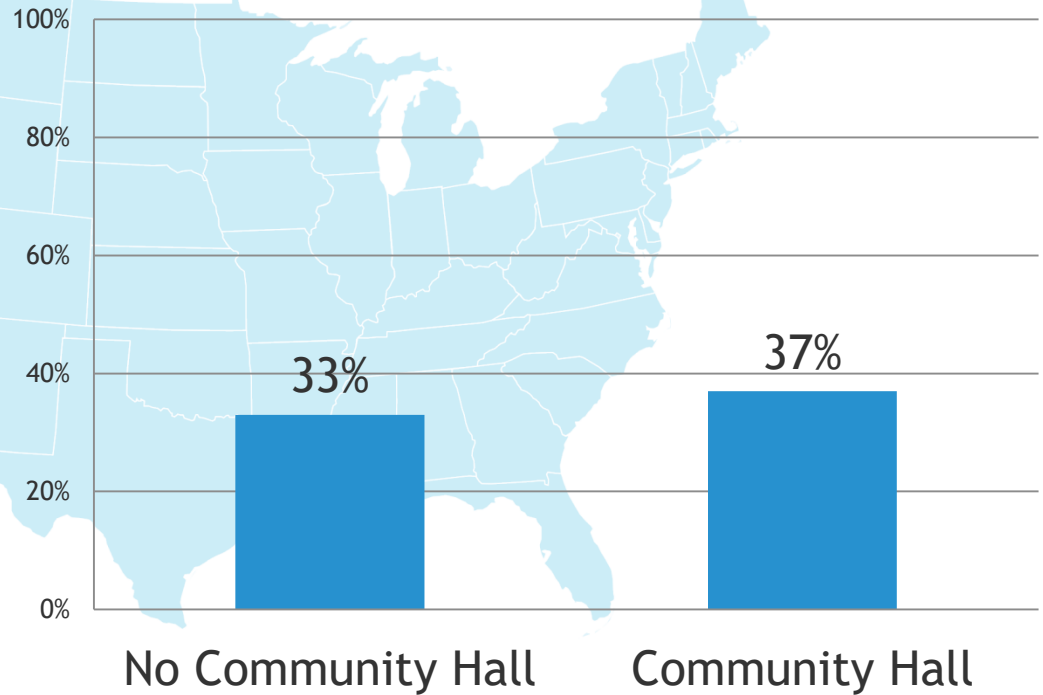
45% of congregations using door hangers or flyers are majority unchurched

No Door Hangers — 31%
Door Hangers — 45%

LifeWay RESEARCH
Biblical Solutions for Life
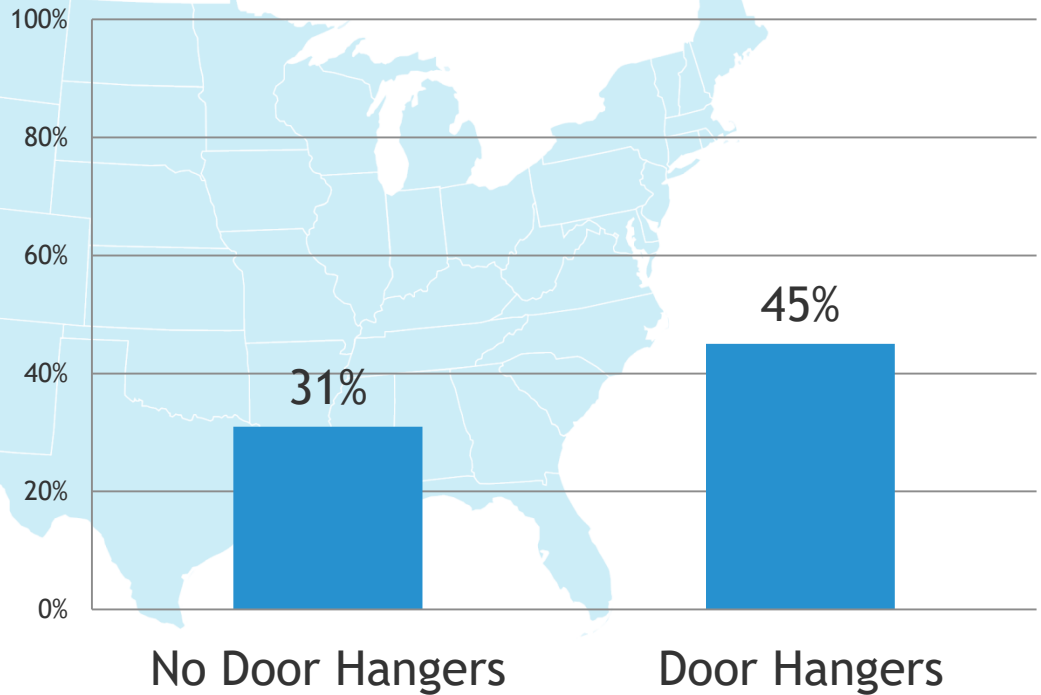
38% of congregations using Contact Management System are majority unchurched

	No CMS	CMS
	33%	38%

LifeWay RESEARCH
Biblical Solutions for Life
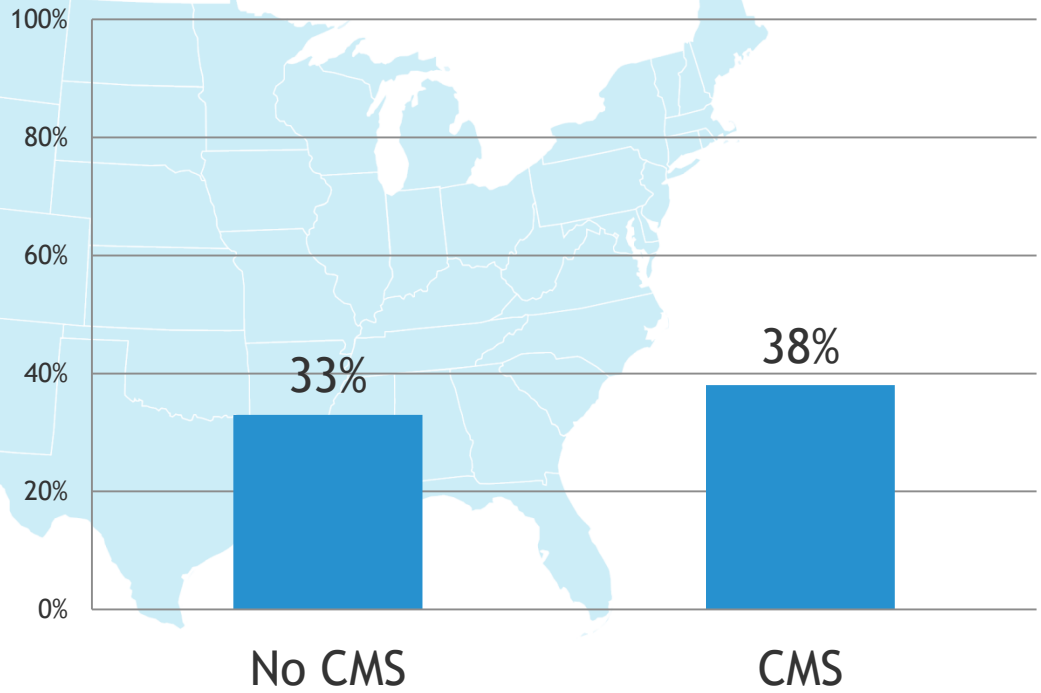
37% of congregations using Podcasts are majority unchurched

33% No Podcasts

37% Podcasts

LifeWay RESEARCH
Biblical Solutions for Life
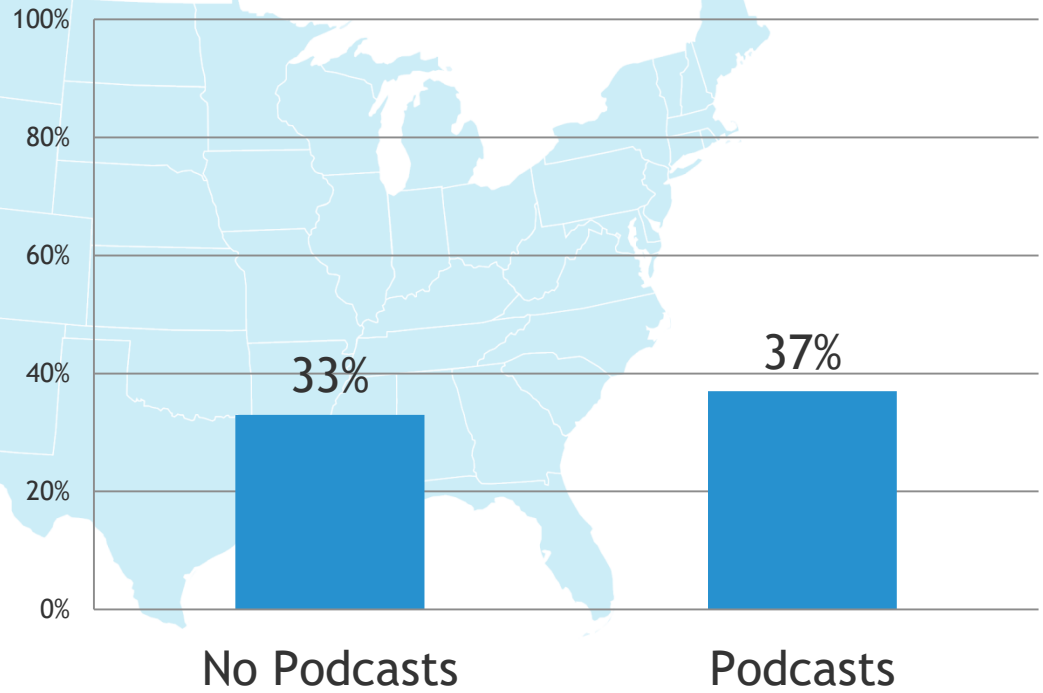
44% of congregations continuing to use revivals are majority unchurched

Bar chart comparing majority unchurched congregations:
- No Continued Revivals: 33%
- Continued Revivals: 44%

LifeWay RESEARCH
Biblical Solutions for Life
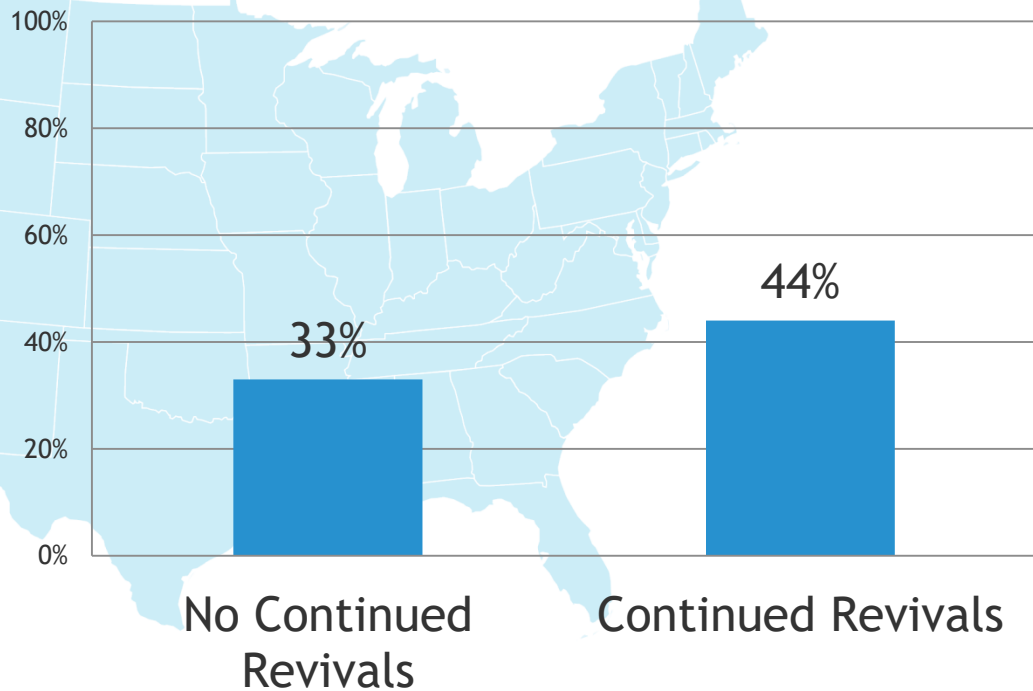
37% of congregations continuing to use children's special events are majority unchurched

Chart data:
- No Continued Kids Events: 30%
- Continued Kids Events: 37%
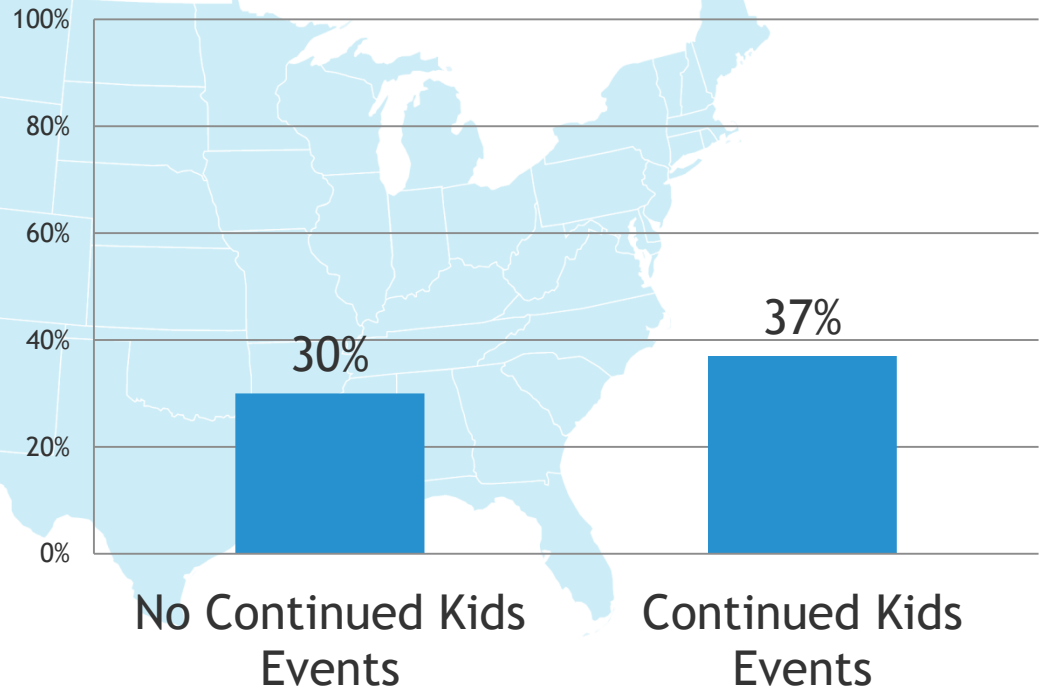
38% of congregations using prayer walking for the launch of the new church work are majority unchurched
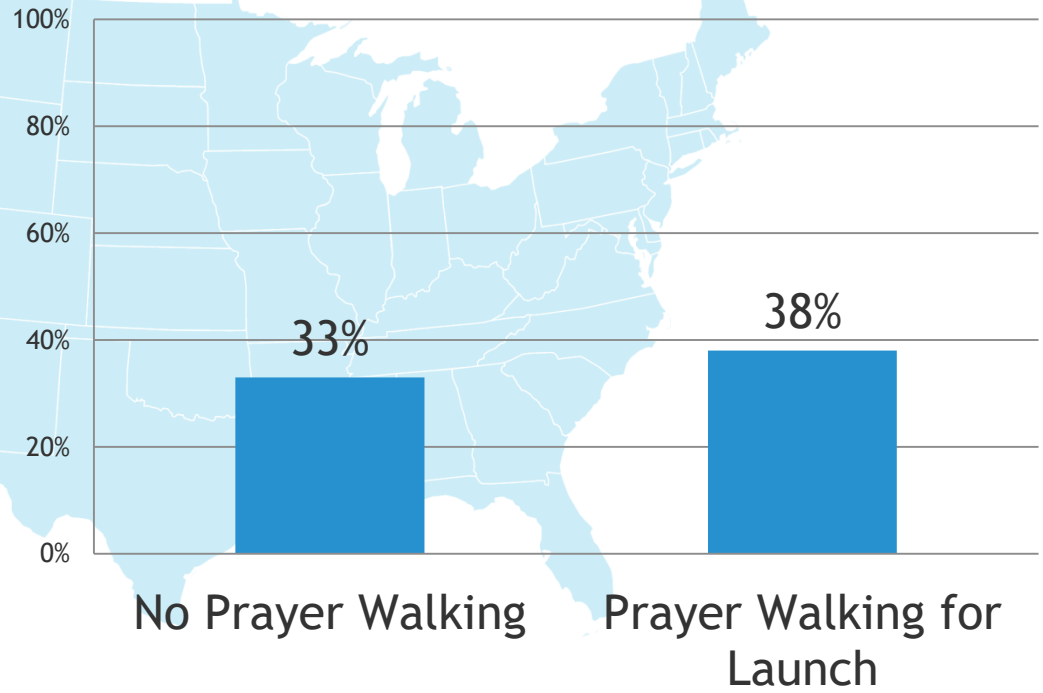
36% of congregations continuing to use ministry evangelism are majority unchurched
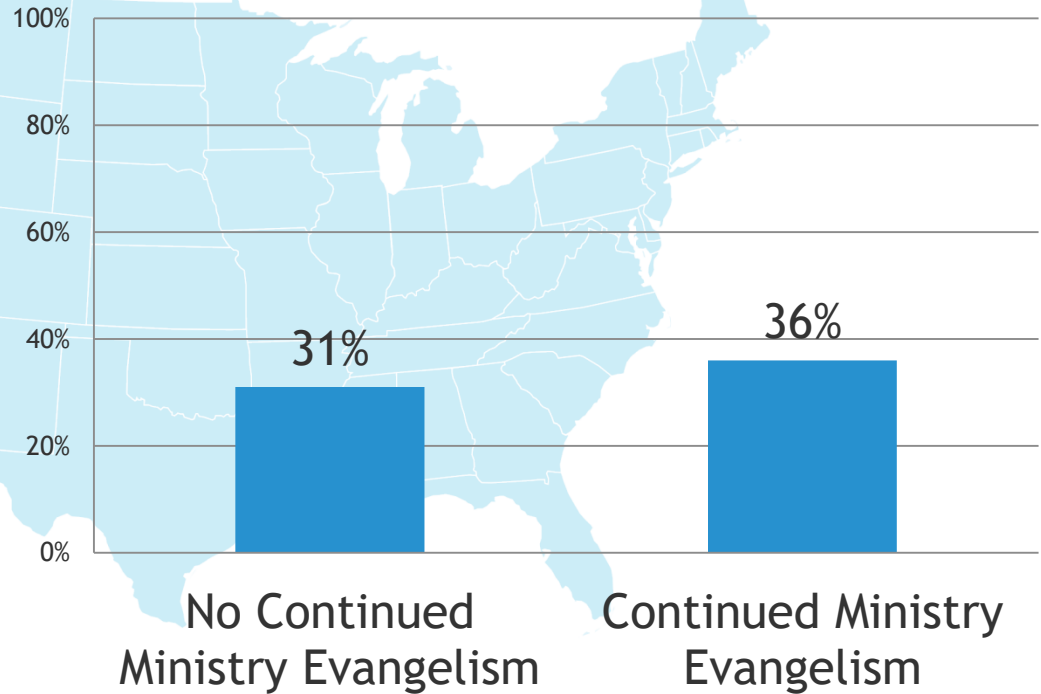
38% of congregations continuing to use Outreach Bible Studies are majority unchurched

30% — No Continued Outreach Bible Studies

38% — Continued Outreach Bible Studies

LifeWay RESEARCH
Biblical Solutions for Life
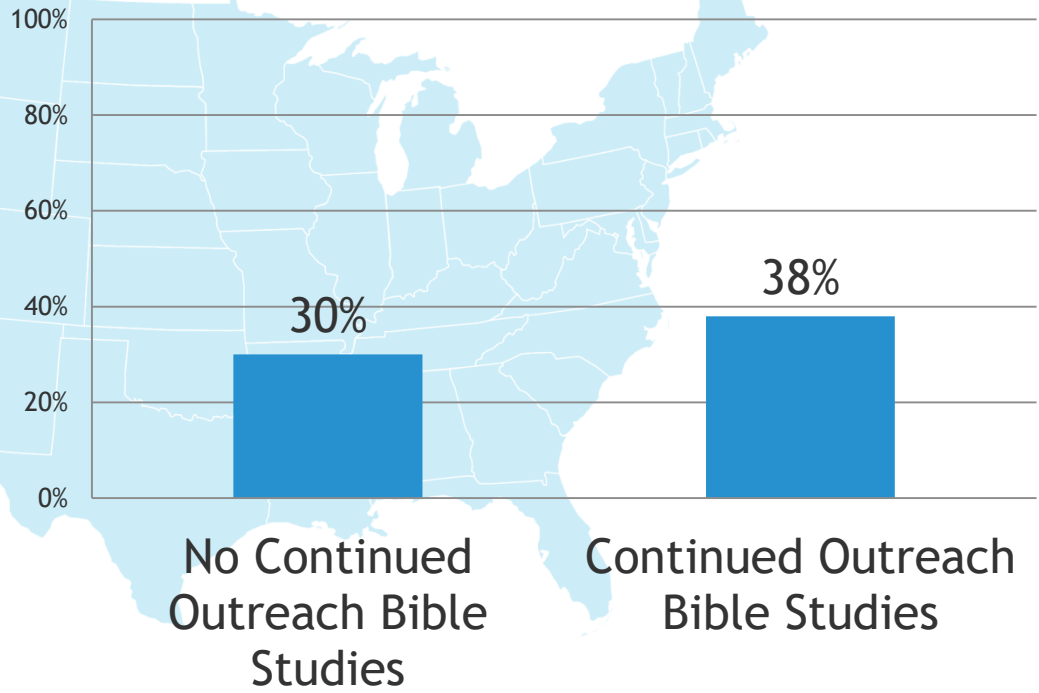
45% of congregations using door-to-door evangelism for the launch of the new church work are majority unchurched
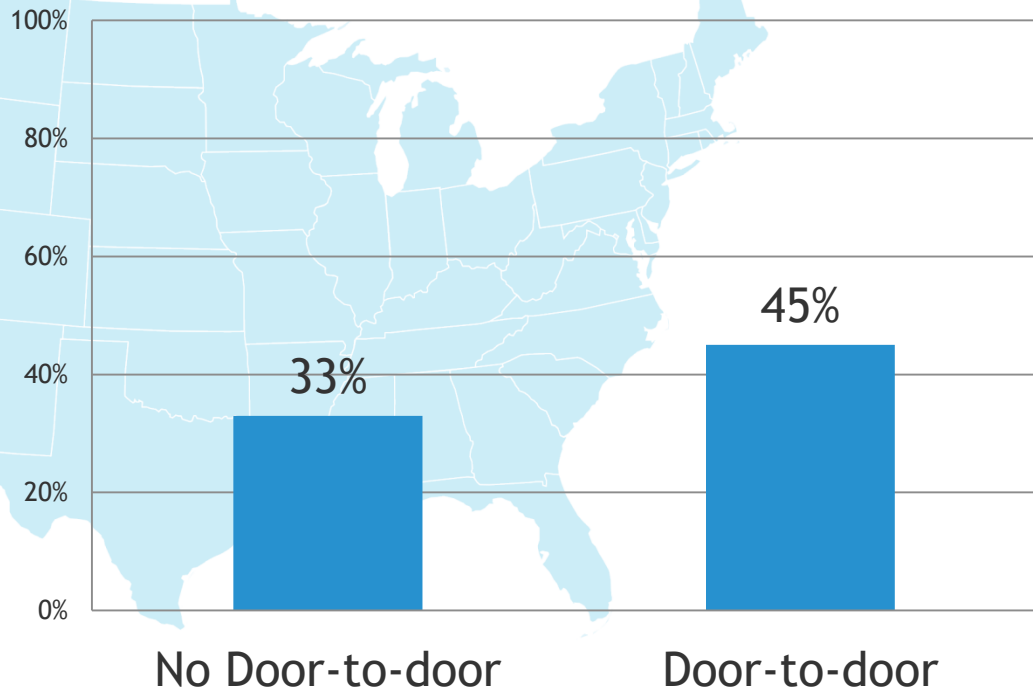
35% of congregations who continuing to use fun social events are majority unchurched

No social events — 30%
Social events — 35%

LifeWay RESEARCH
Biblical Solutions for Life
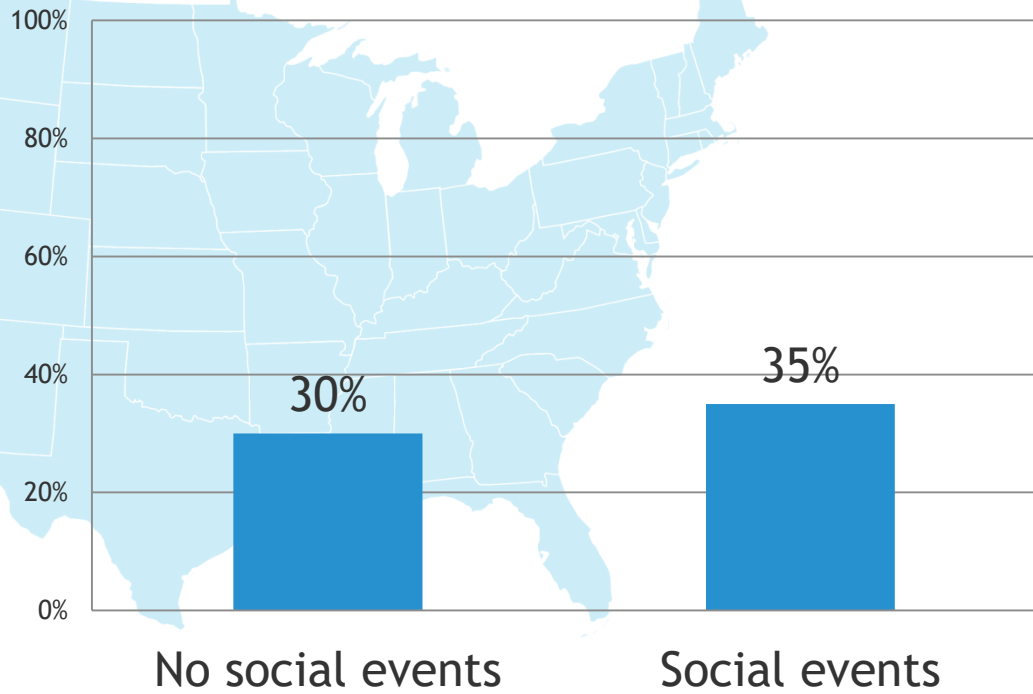
50% of congregations using social or affinity group meetings for the launch are majority unchurched

	No Affinity Groups	Affinity Groups
	33%	50%

LifeWay RESEARCH
Biblical Solutions for Life
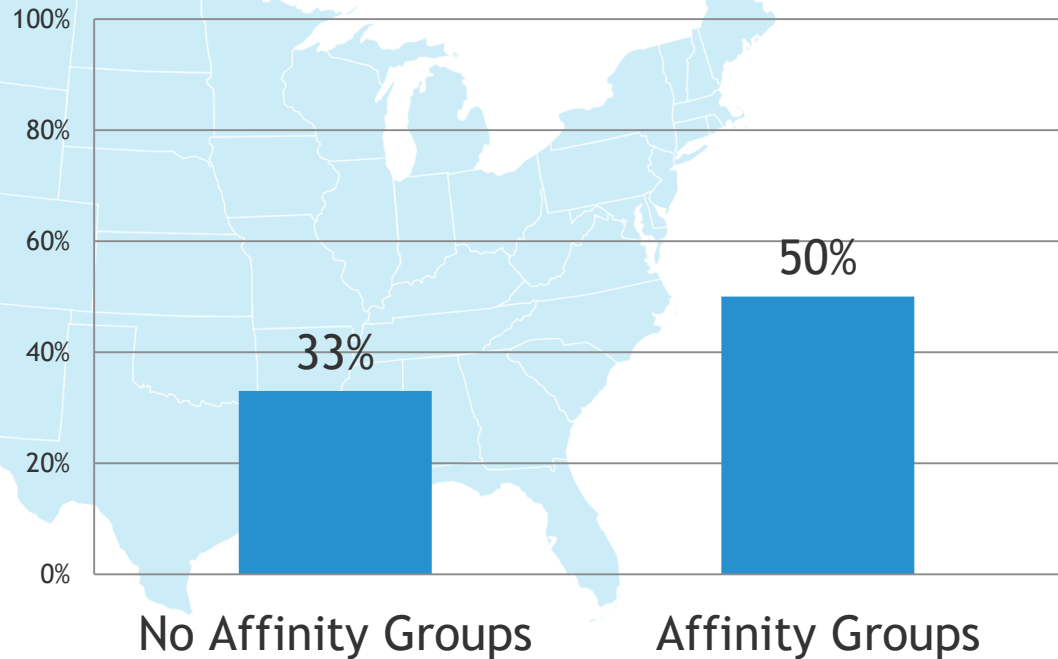
46% of congregations continuing to use sports leagues are majority unchurched
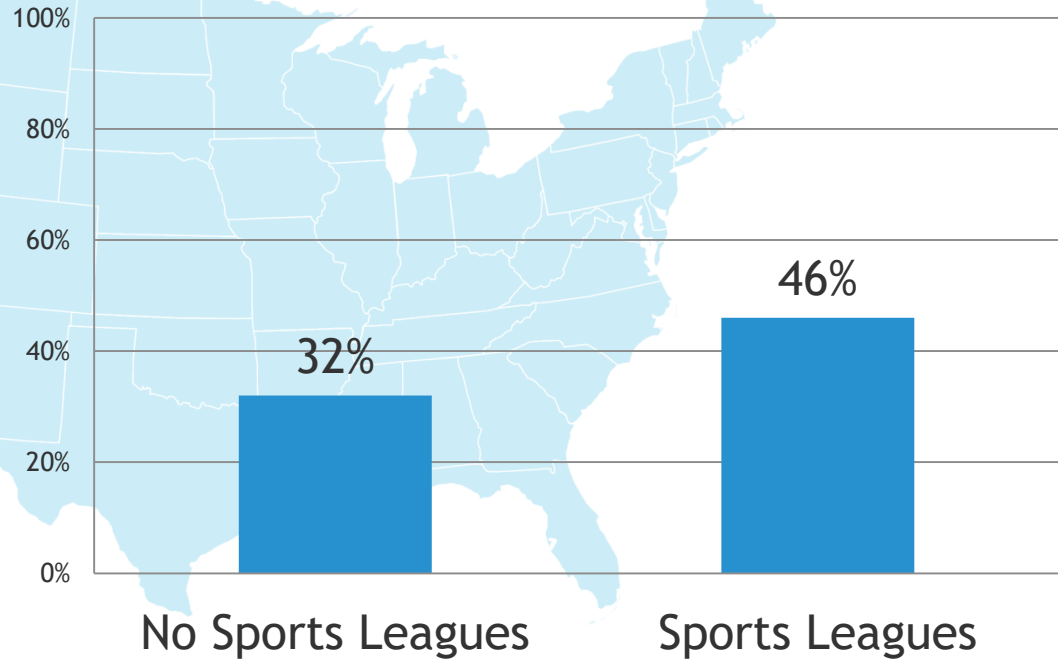
Self-Sufficiency

Significant factors for reaching financial self-sufficiency

- All values shown are percentage of churches who reached self-sufficiency among those who started prior to or during 2012

74% of congregations using a school

Chart: Churches reaching self-sufficiency

Category	Percentage
No school	60%
School	74%
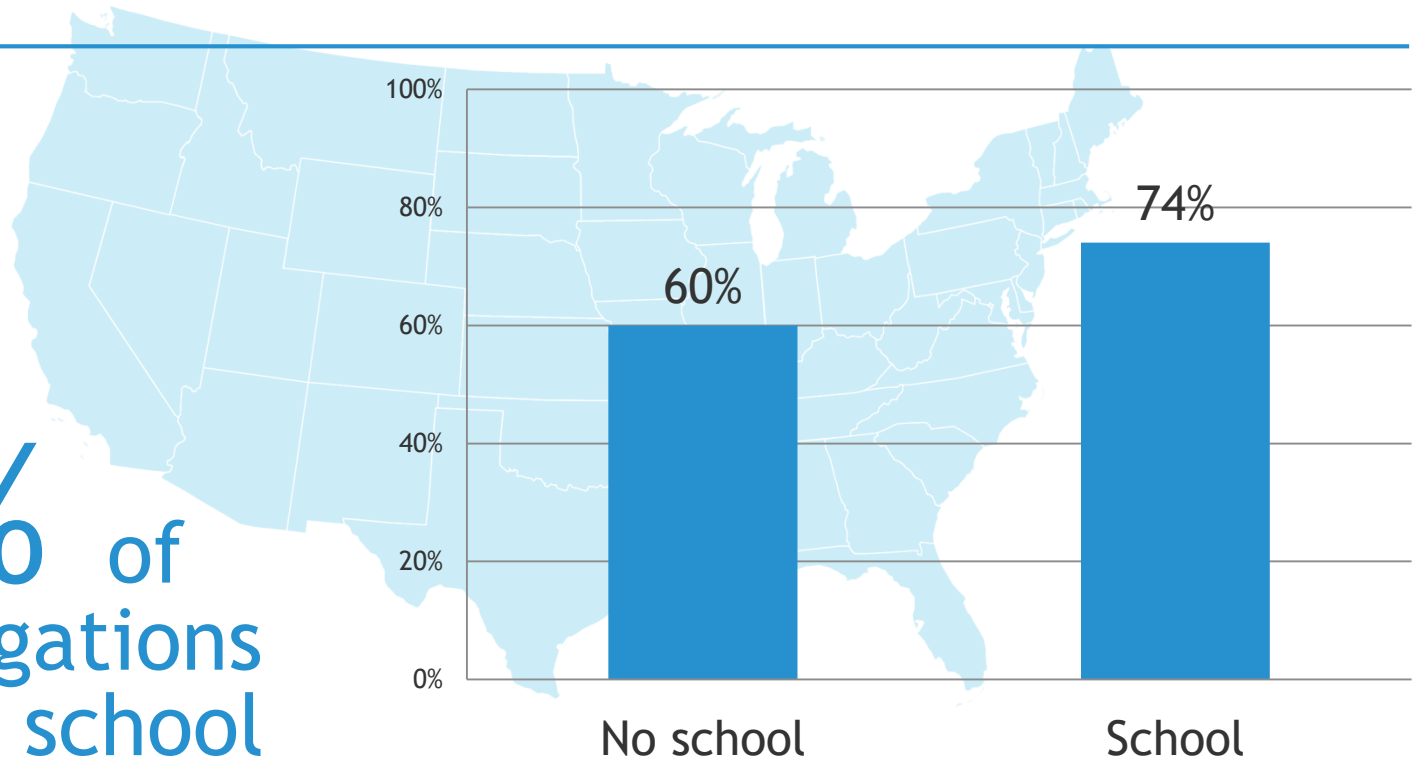
75% of congregations using newspaper or print ads
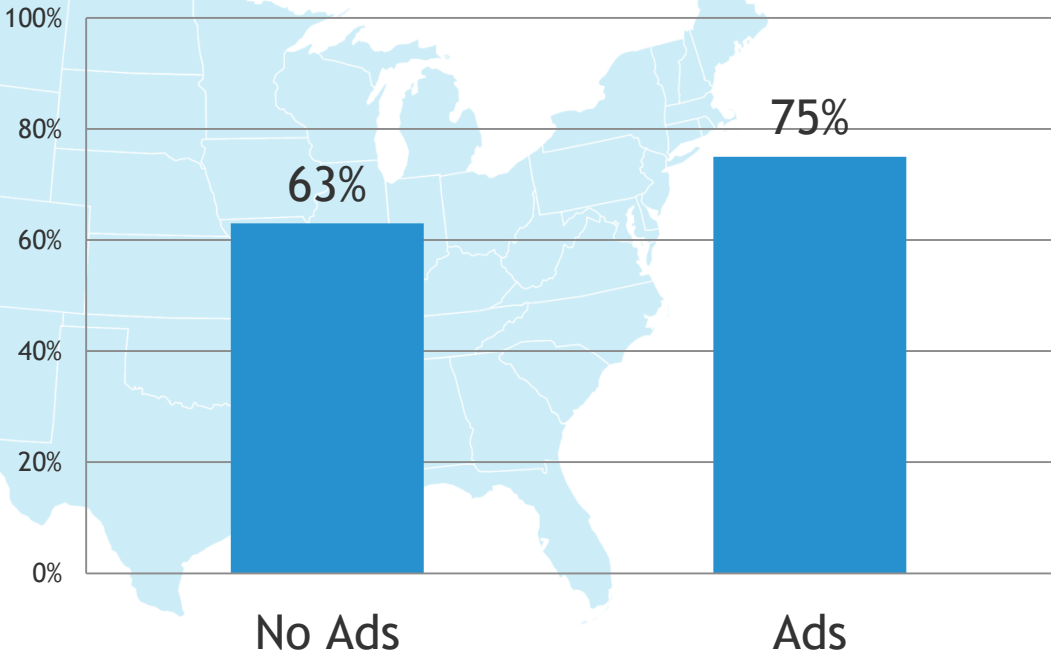
71% of congregations using online sermons for communication

100%

80%

60%

40%

20%

0%

57%   71%

No online sermons   Online sermons

LifeWay RESEARCH
Biblical Solutions for Life
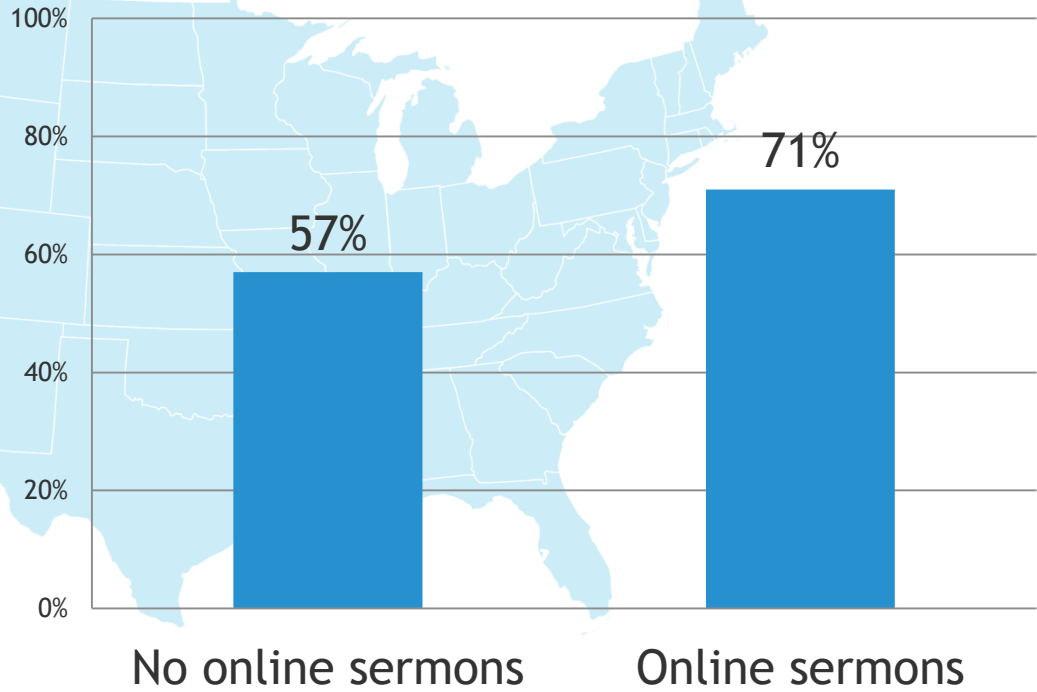
71% of congregations using new member classes
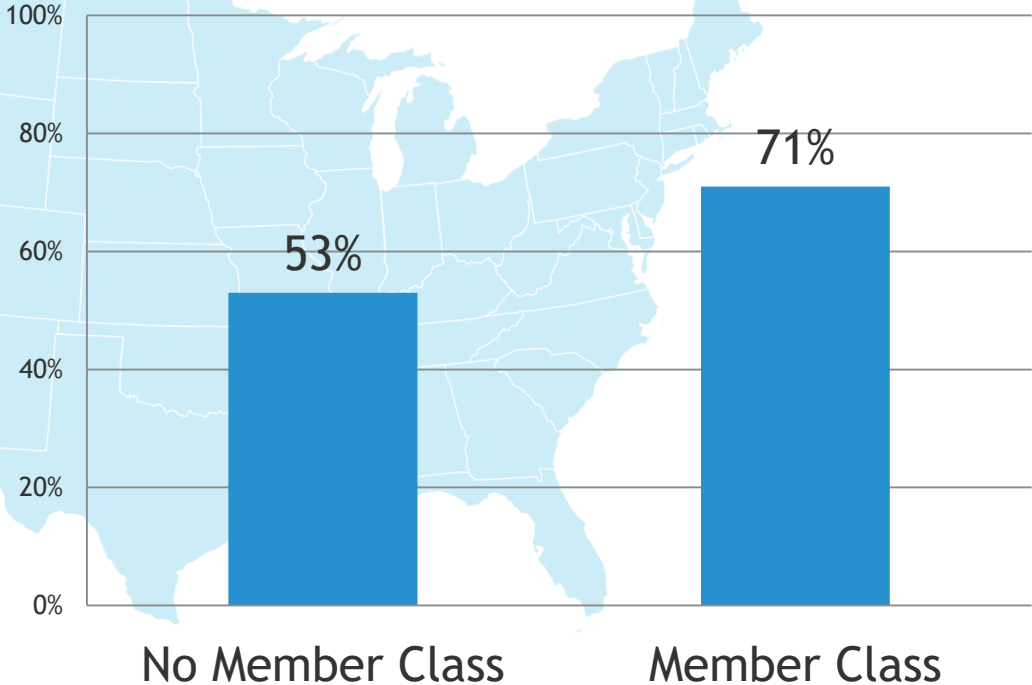
72% of congregations using a proactive stewardship development plan
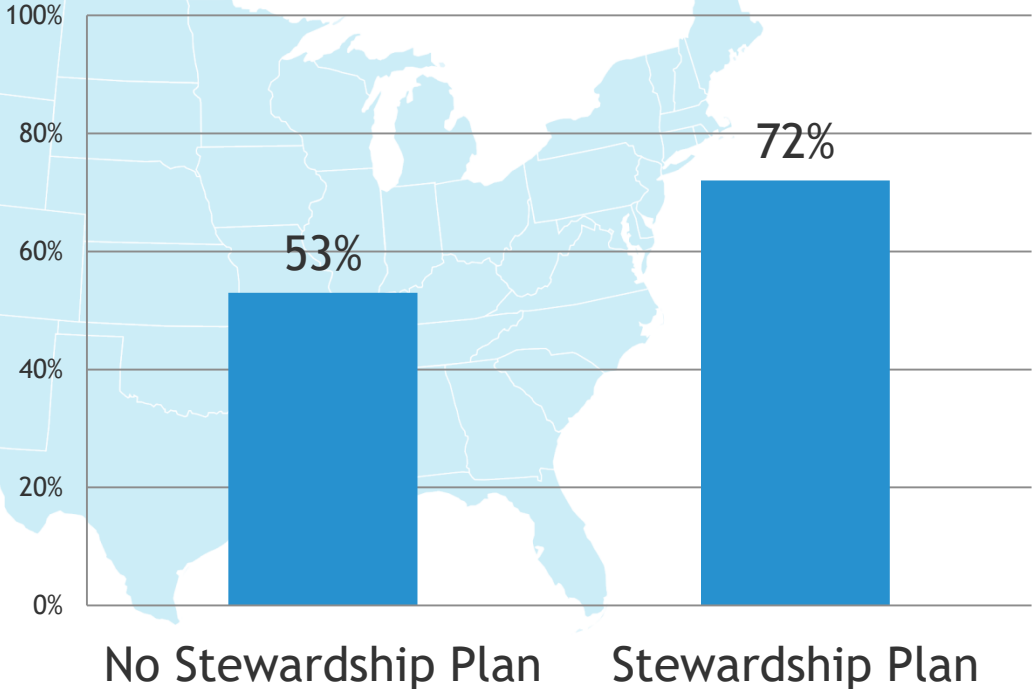
68% of congregations providing leadership training for new members
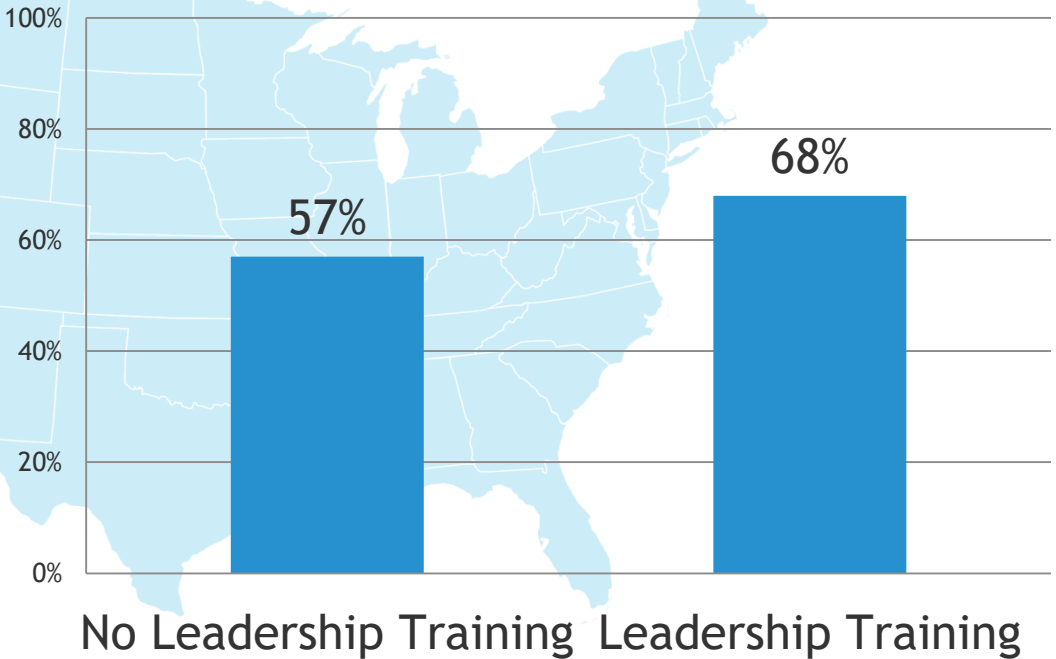
71% of congregations financially contributing to other church plants
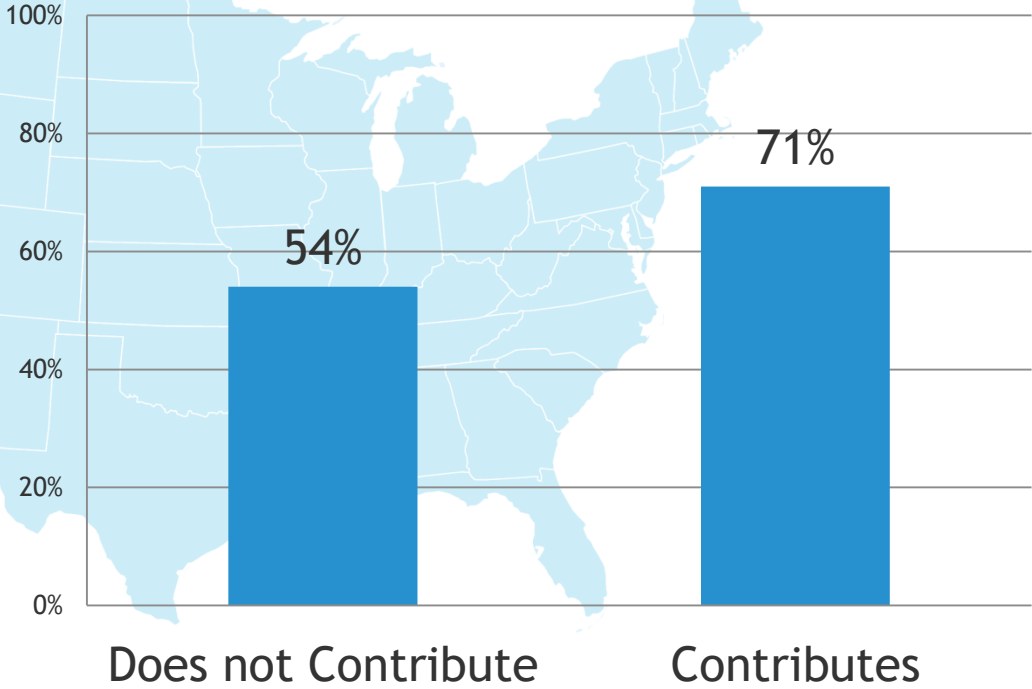
Does not Contribute — 54%

Contributes — 71%

71% of congregations starting a daughter church within 3 years

	No Daughter Church	Daughter Church
	63%	71%

72% of congregations starting a daughter church within 5 years

	No Daughter Church	Daughter Church
	62%	72%

LifeWay RESEARCH
Biblical Solutions for Life
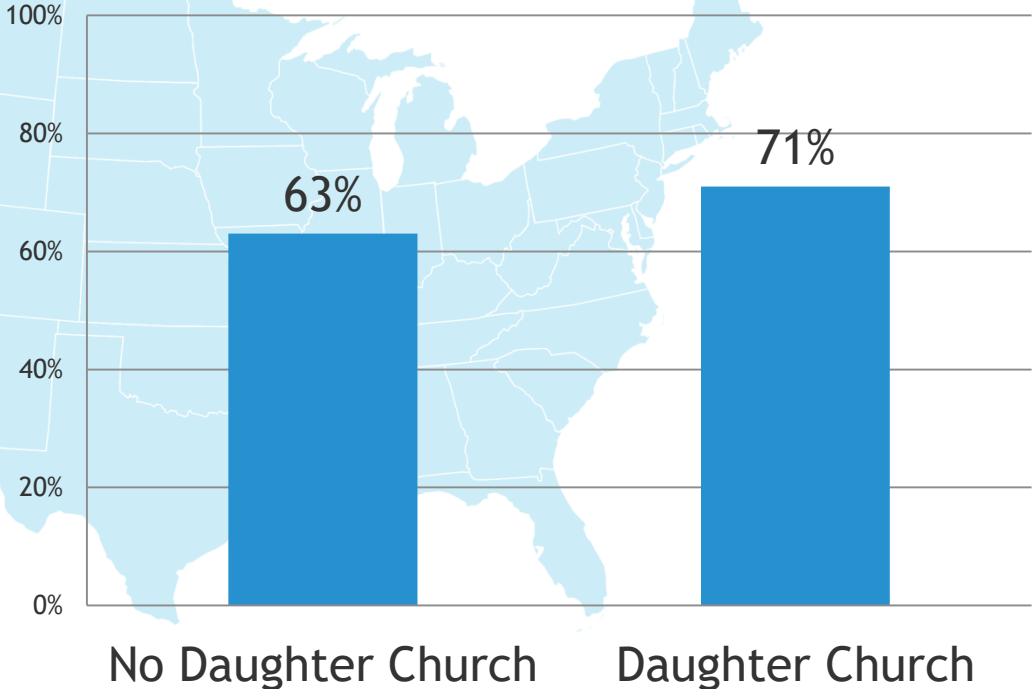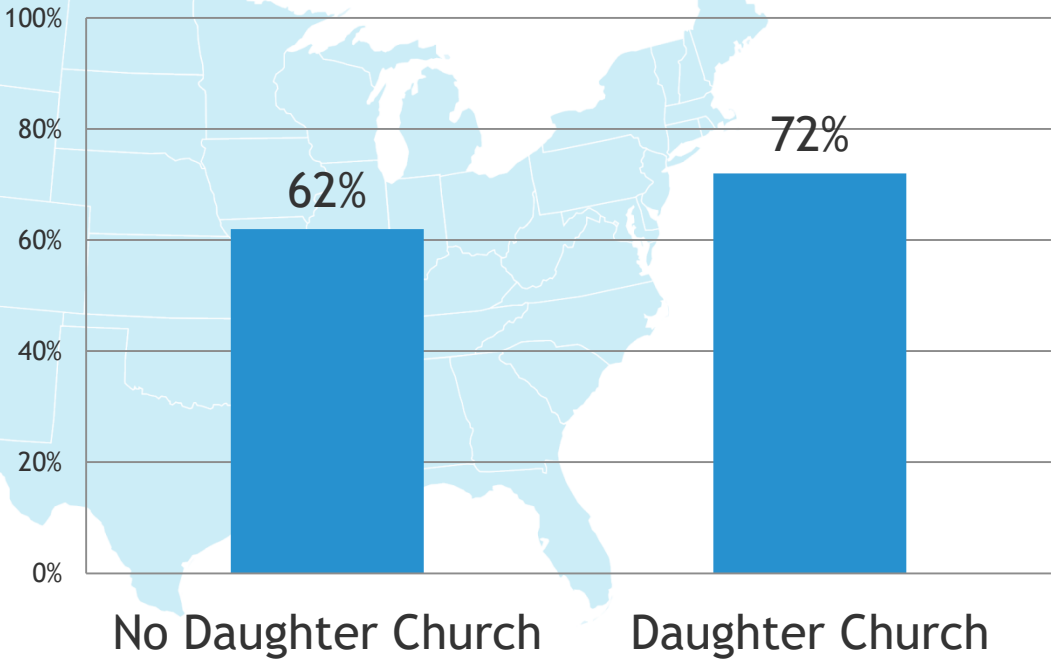
73% of congregations with planters who feel they received adequate compensation
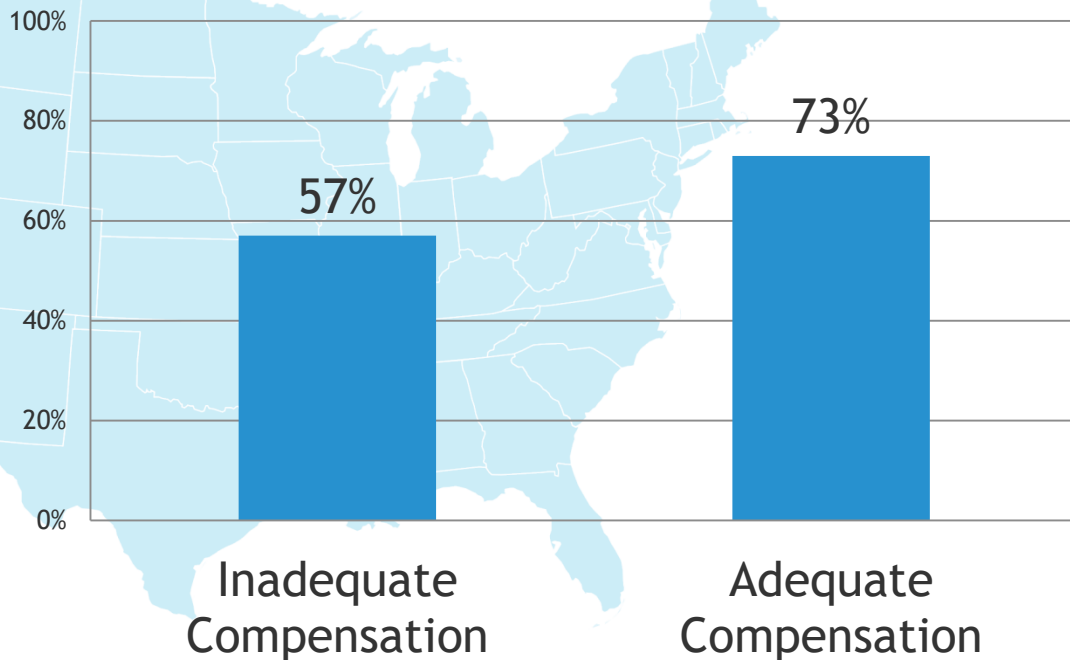
73% of congregations with planters receiving health insurance
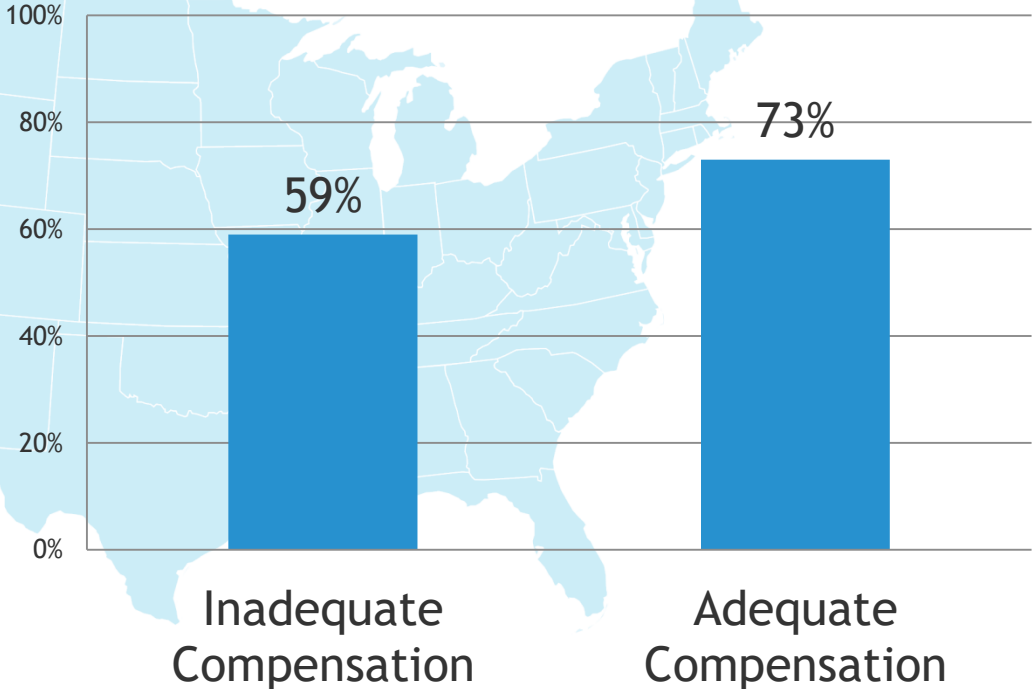
Multiplication

Significant factors for started a daughter church within 5 years

- All values shown are percentage of churches who started a daughter church within 5 years among those who started prior to or during 2012

27% of congregations using a church building

	No Church Building	Church Building
	17%	27%
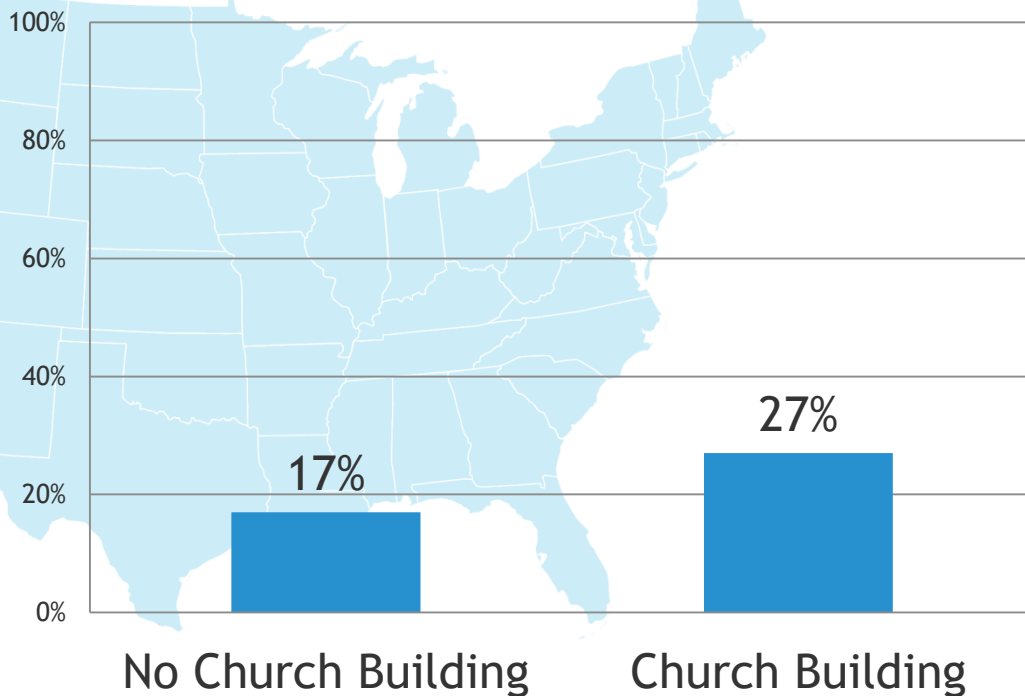
27% of congregations using an industrial space

	No Industrial Space	Industrial Space
	20%	27%
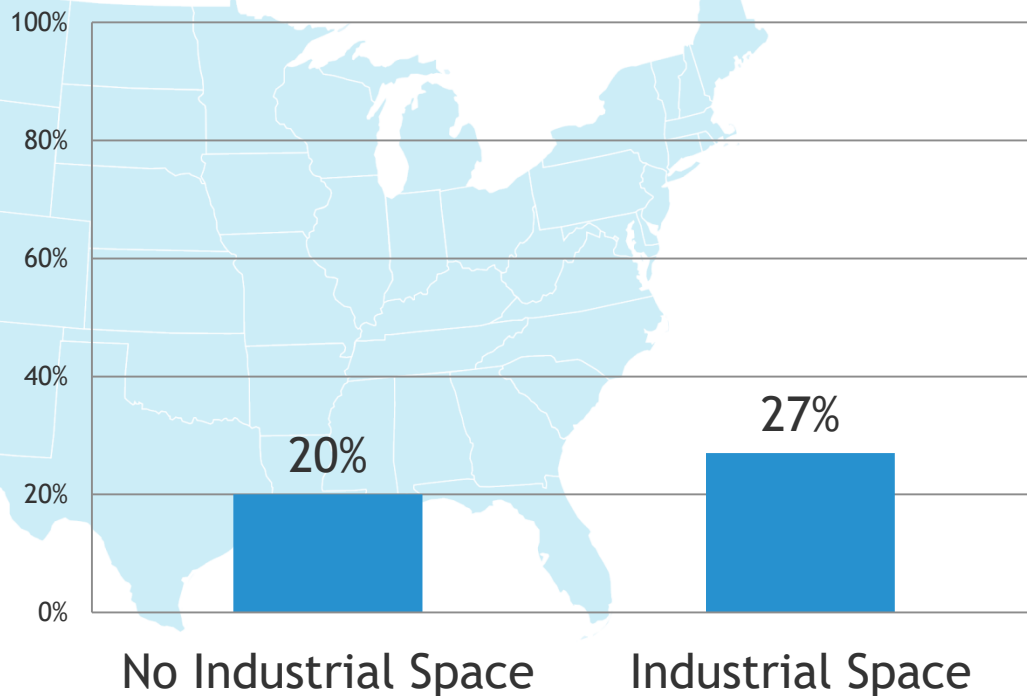
26% of congregations using mailers

	No Mailers	Mailers
	19%	26%
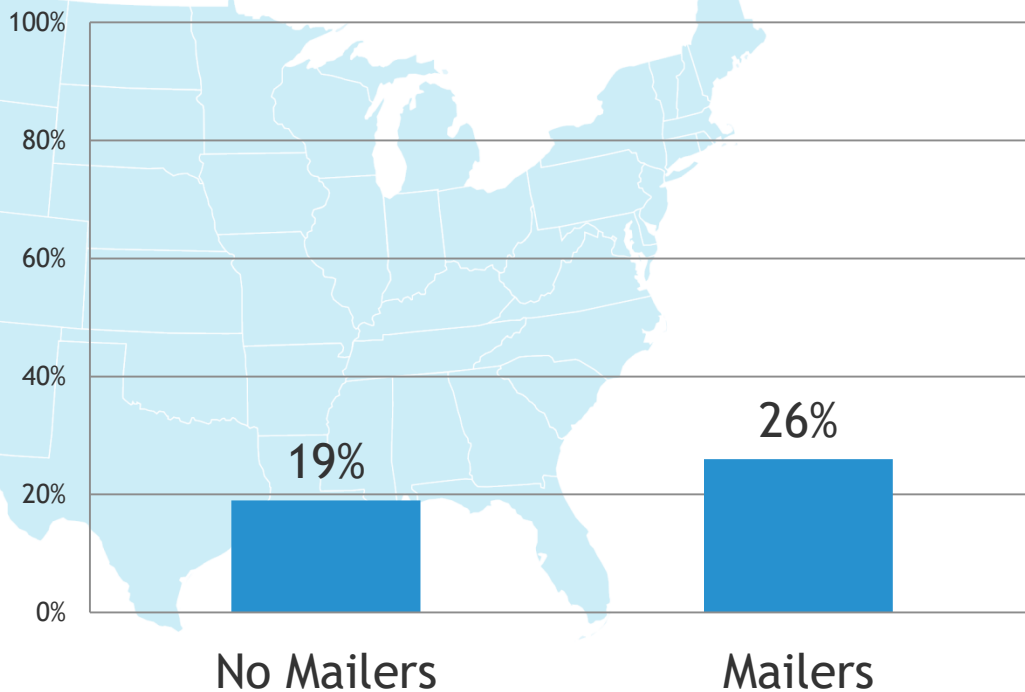
23% of congregations using internet communication

100%
80%
60%
40%
20%
0%

19%

23%

No Internet   Internet
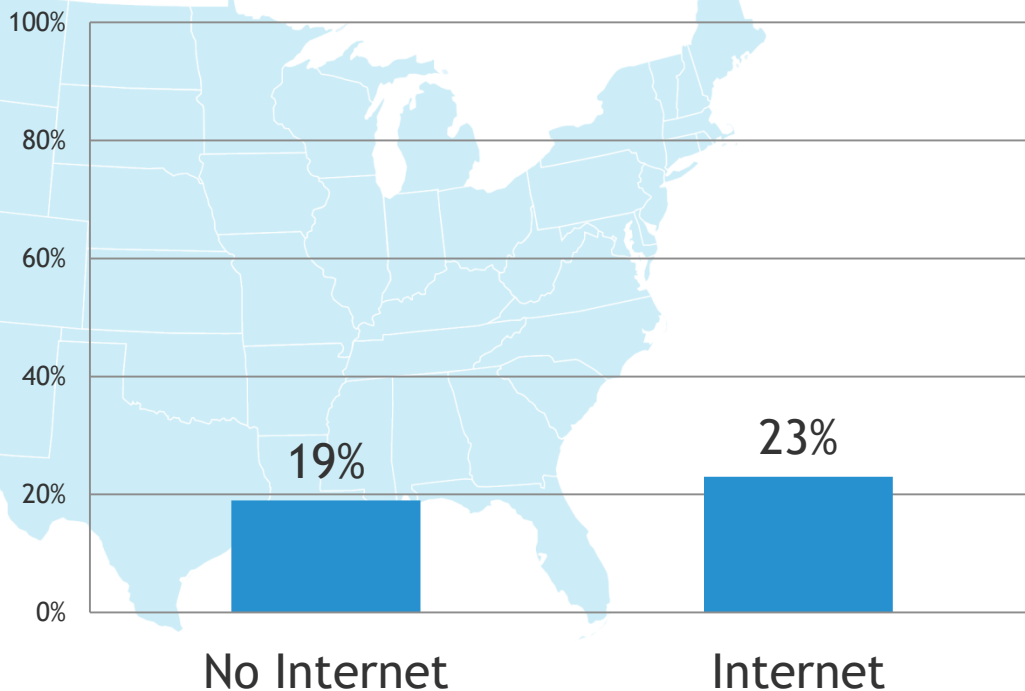
36% of congregations using a blog
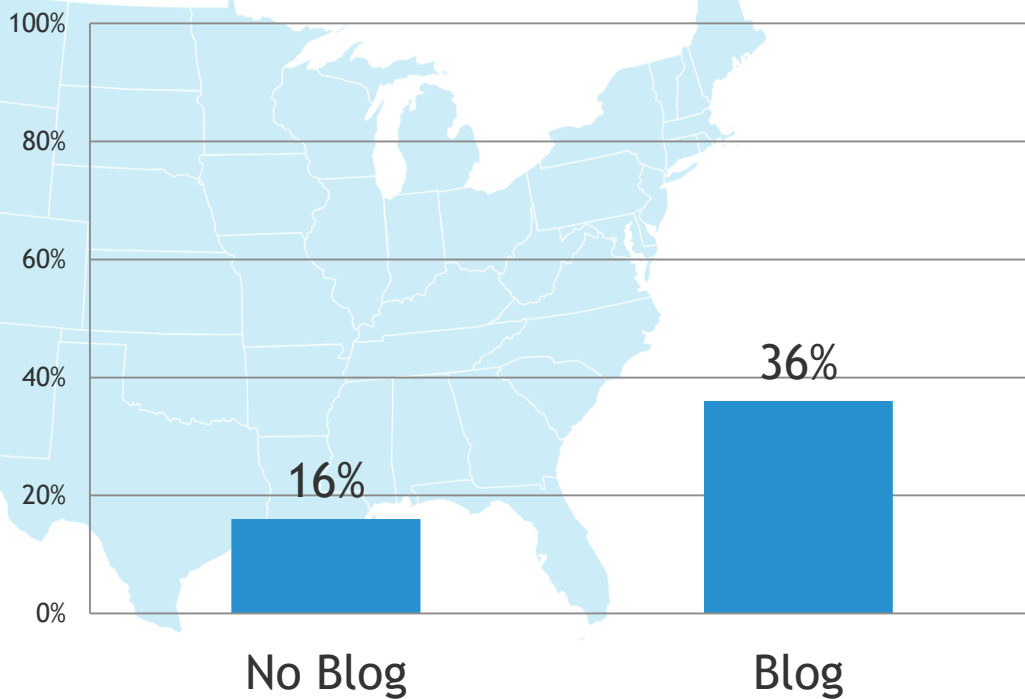
40% of congregations using a Contact Management System
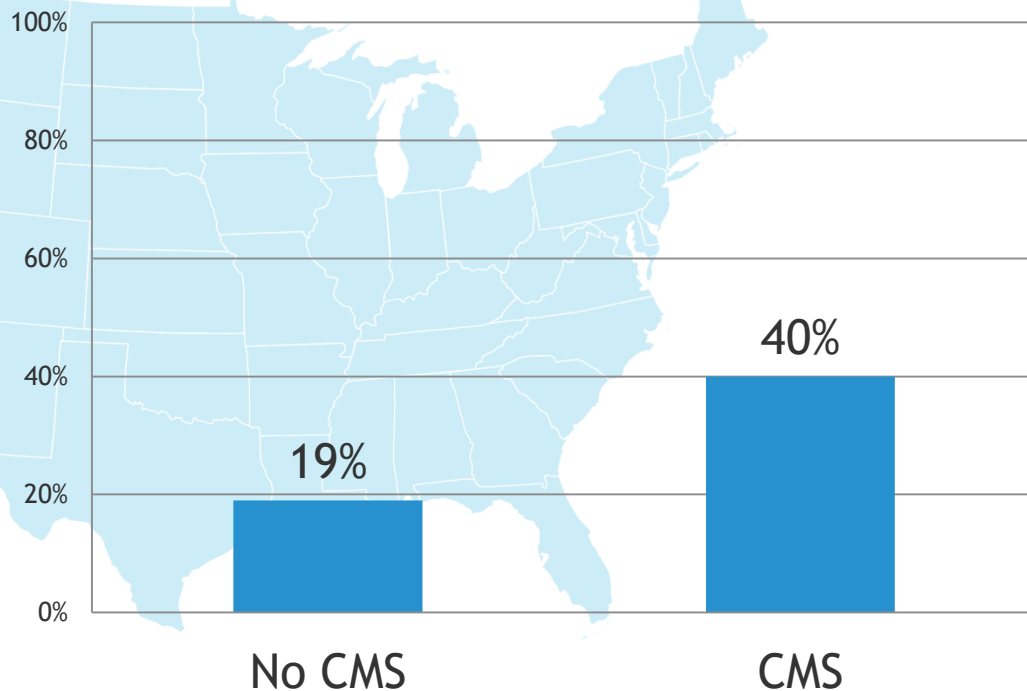
100%

80%

60%

40%   40%

19%

20%

0%

No CMS   CMS

40% of congregations using Podcasts

No Podcasts — 16%

Podcasts — 40%

25% of congregations using online sermons

100%

80%

60%

40% 25%

20% 17%

0%

No Online Sermons   Online Sermons

LifeWay RESEARCH
Biblical Solutions for Life
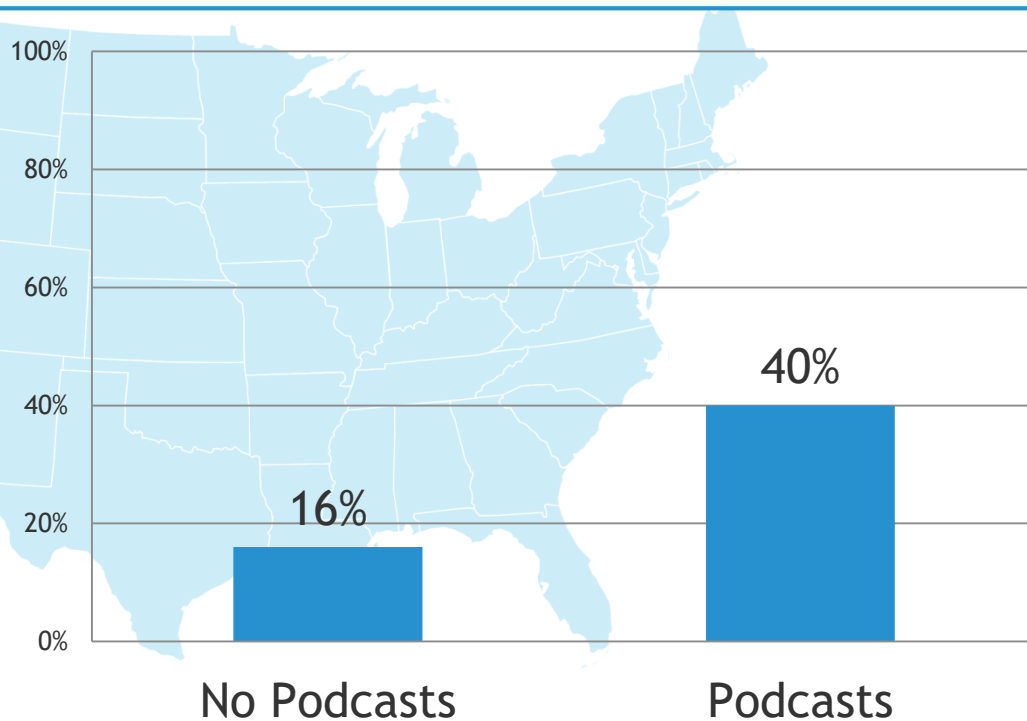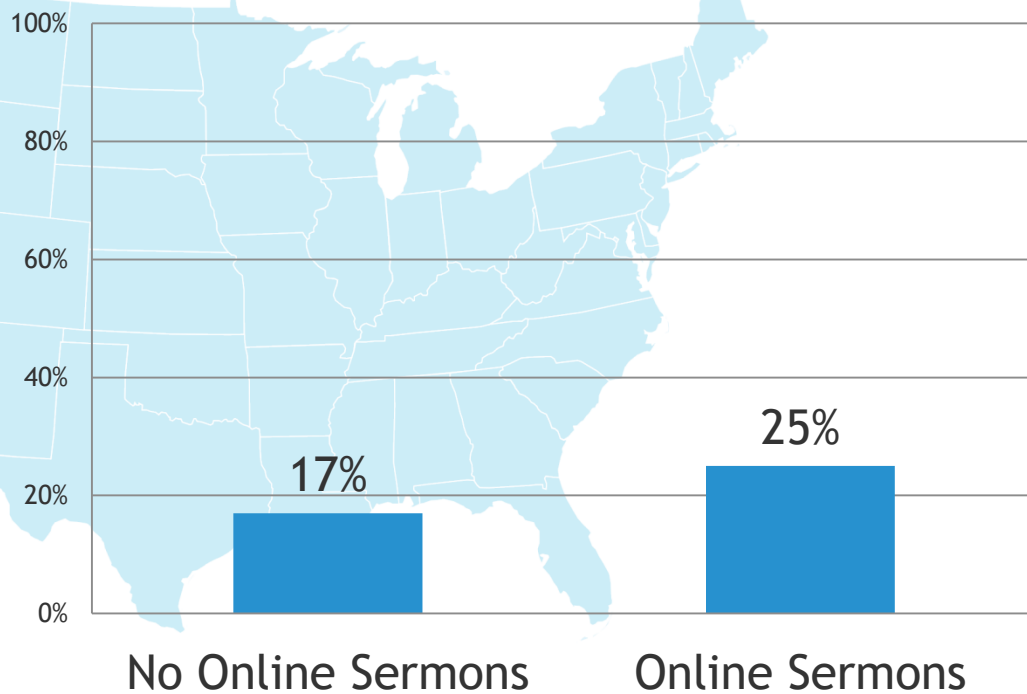
27% of congregations continuing to use revivals

34% of congregations continuing to use sports leagues

No Sports Leagues: 19%

Sports Leagues: 34%

LifeWay RESEARCH
Biblical Solutions for Life
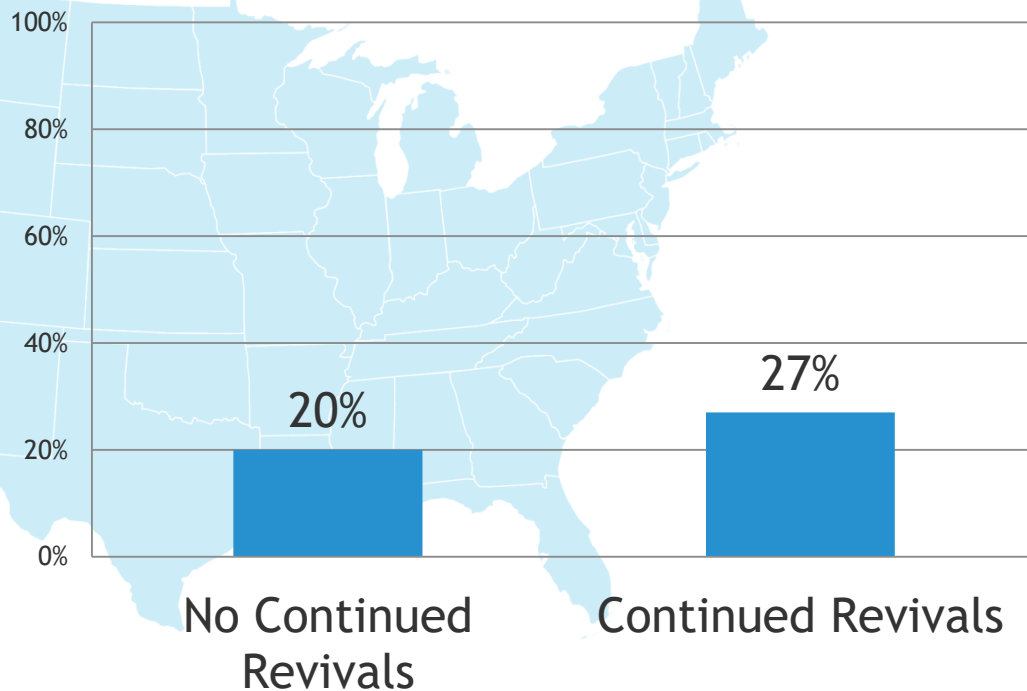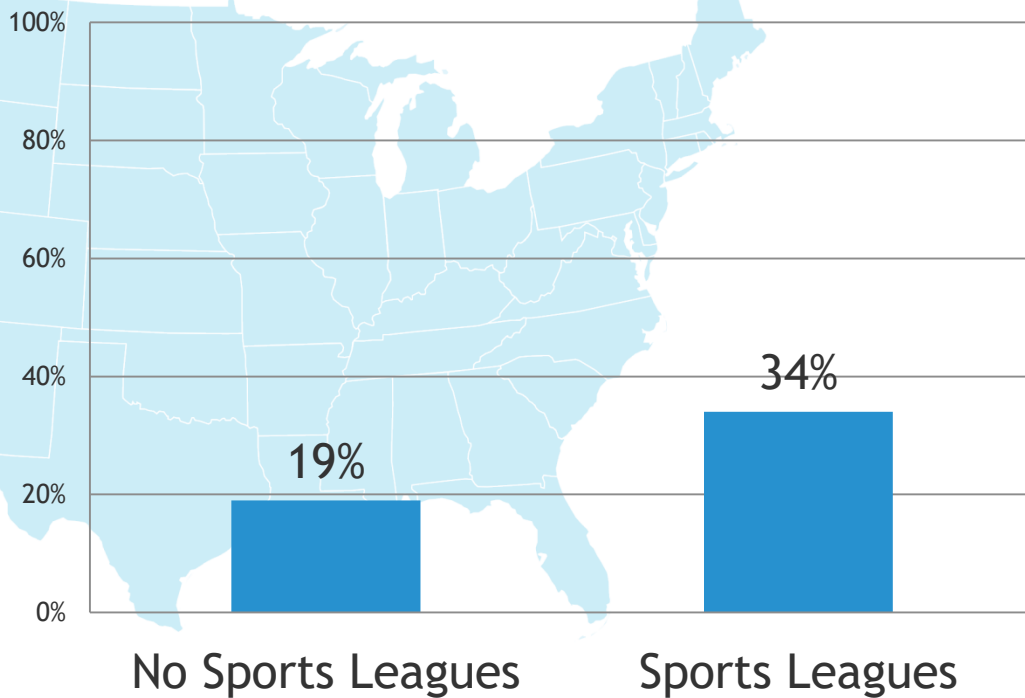
26% of congregations using one-on-one discipleship programs
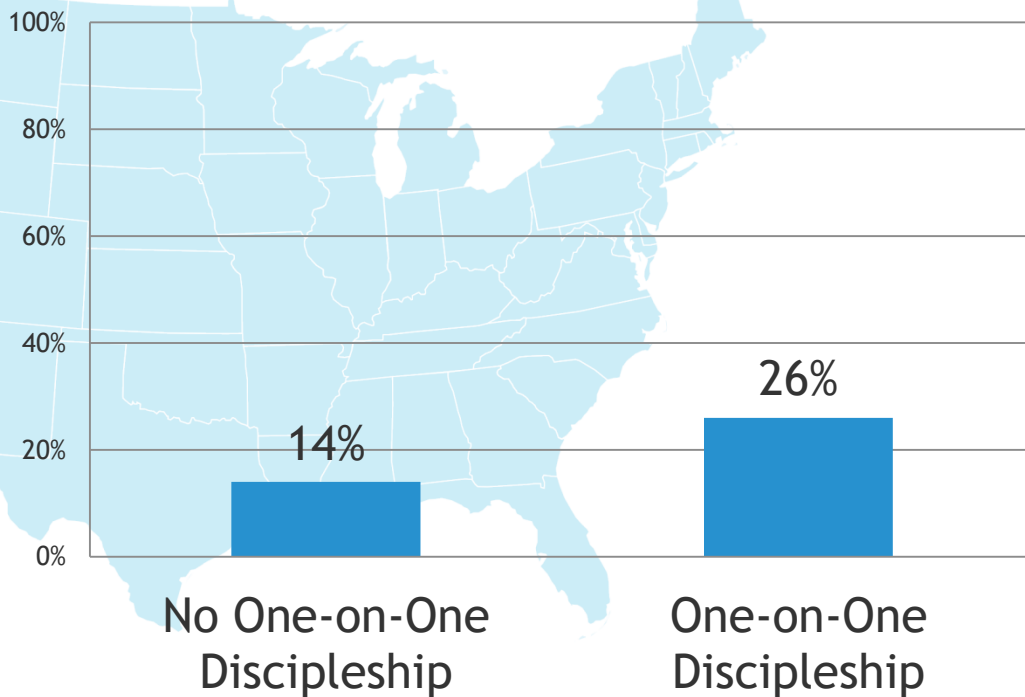
24% of congregations using a new member class

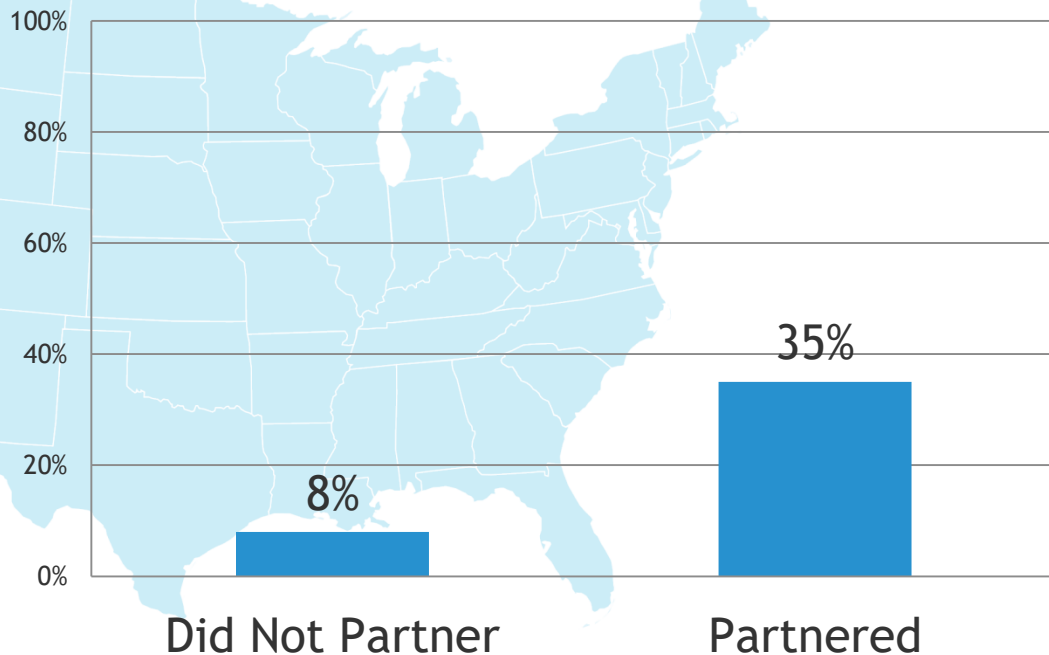Chart: Congregations starting daughter church within 5 yrs

No Member Class	Member Class
16%	24%
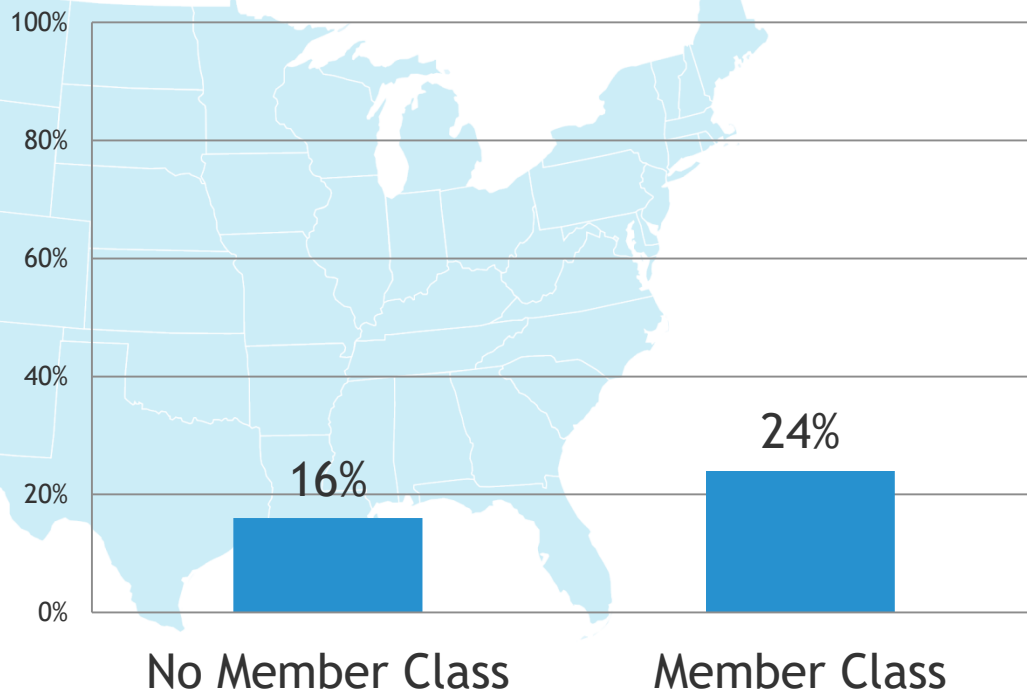
26% of congregations who using a church covenant

100%

80%

60%

40%

20%

0%

16%

26%

No Covenant   Covenant

LifeWay RESEARCH
Biblical Solutions for Life
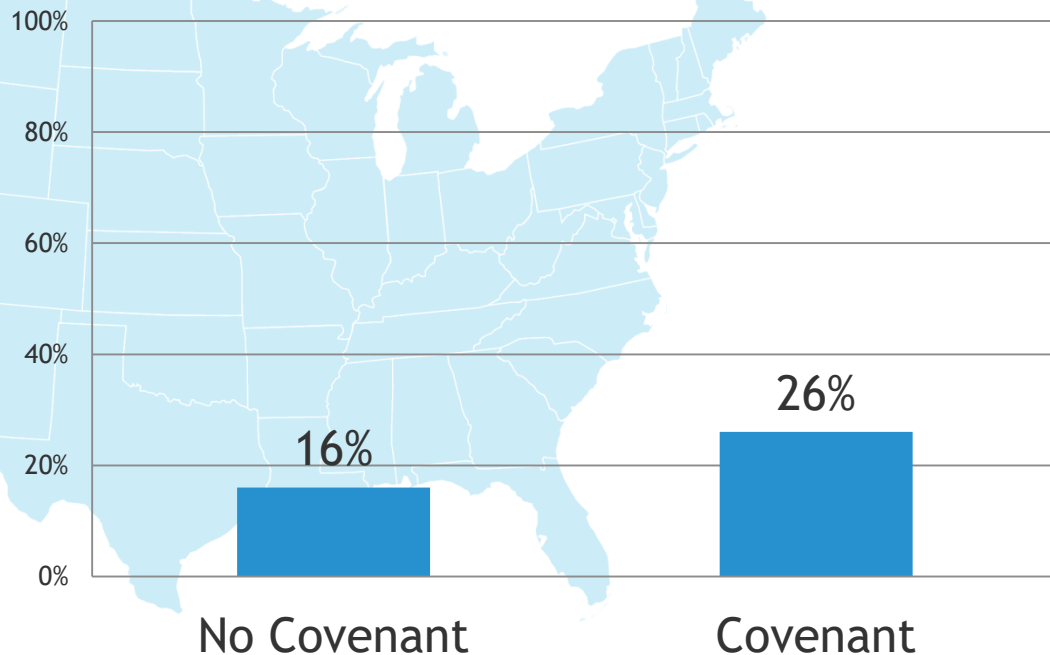
24% of congregations offering evangelistic training

100%

80%

60%

40%

20%

0%

18%

24%

No Training   Training
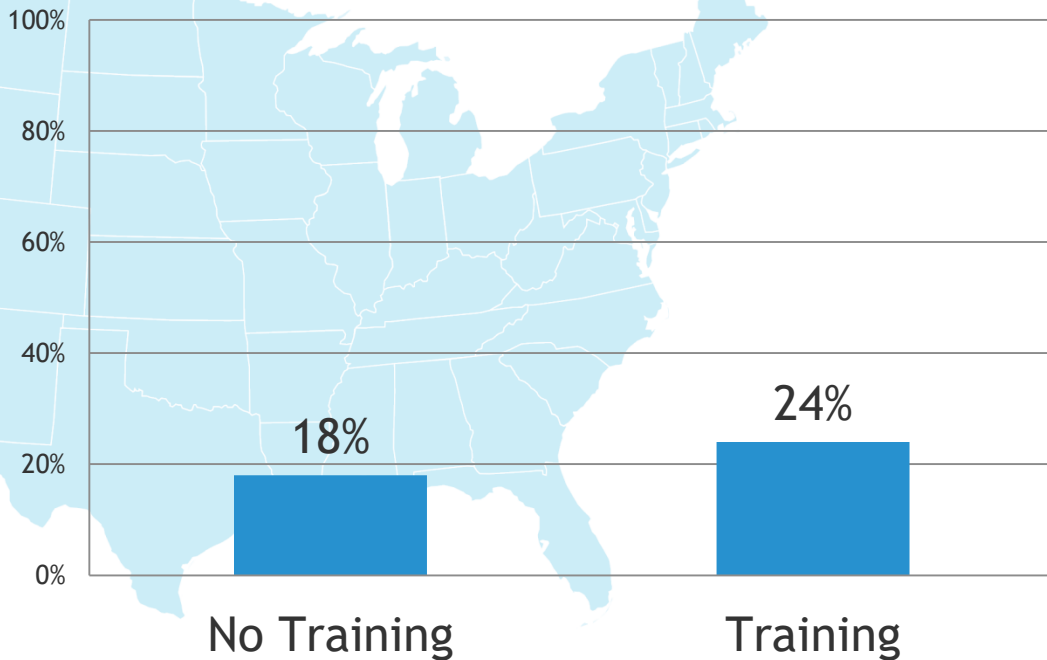
26% of congregations using a stewardship development plan

100%
80%
60%
40%
20%
0%

13%   26%

No Plan   Plan

LifeWay RESEARCH
Biblical Solutions for Life
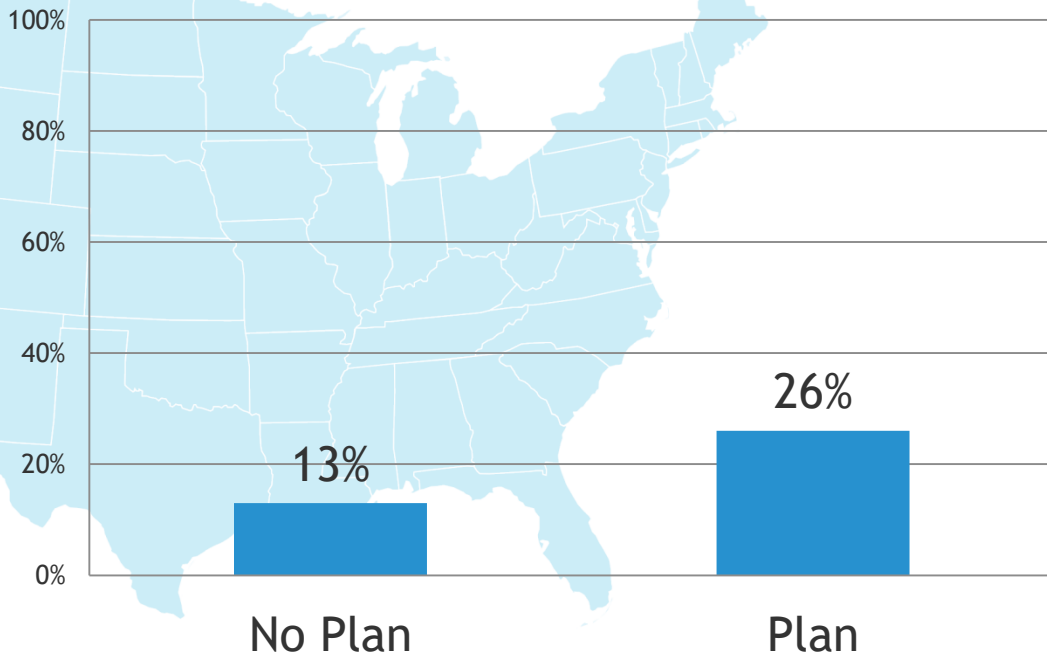
35% of congregations partnering with another organization to plant churches

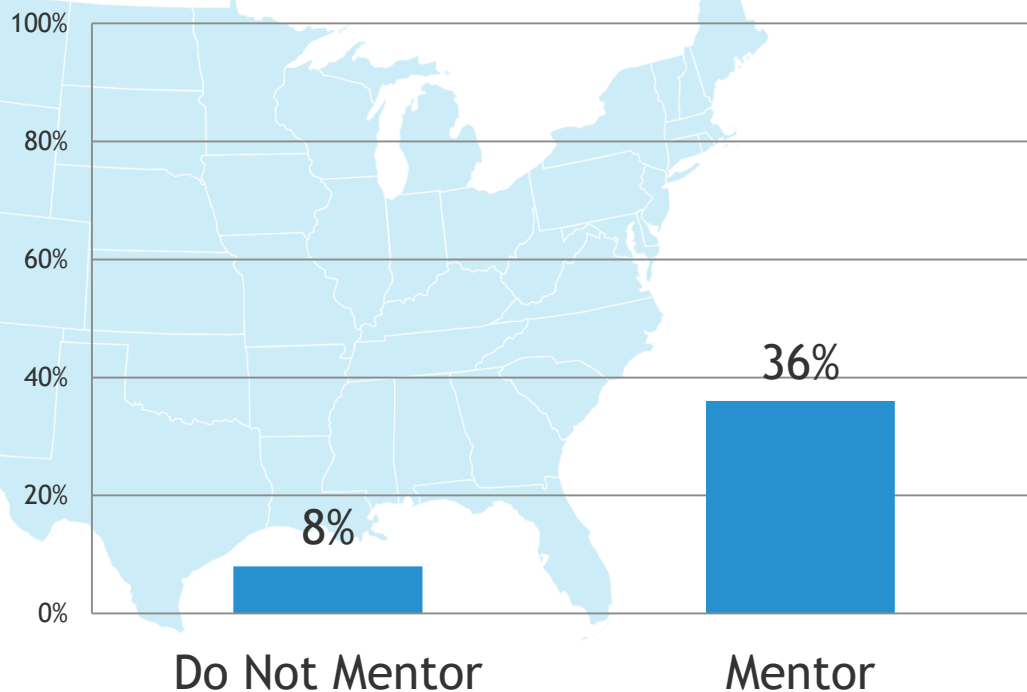|	Did Not Partner	Partnered
	8%	35%

31% of congregations financially contributing to other church plants
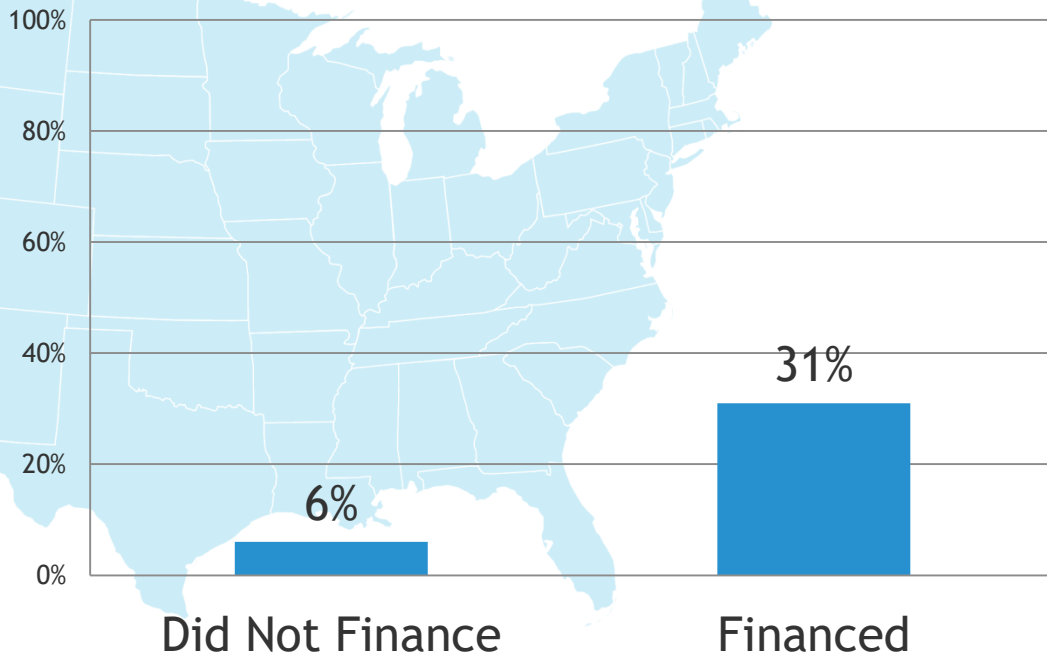
32% of congregations communicating a commitment to multiplication

100%
80%
60%
40%
20%
0%

11%

32%

Not Communicated   Communicated

LifeWay RESEARCH
Biblical Solutions for Life
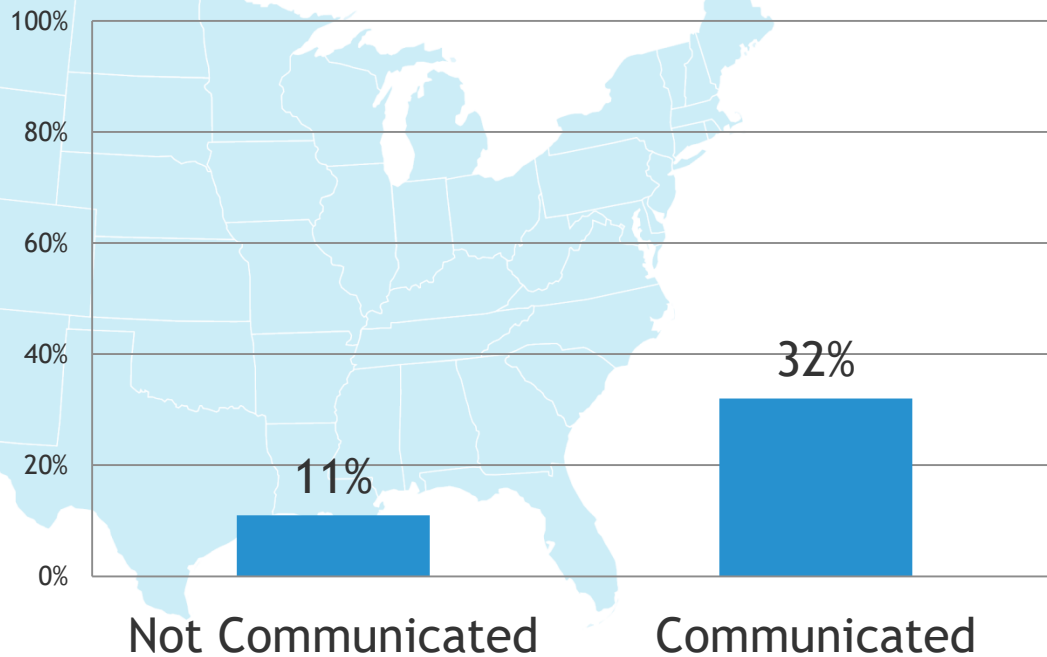
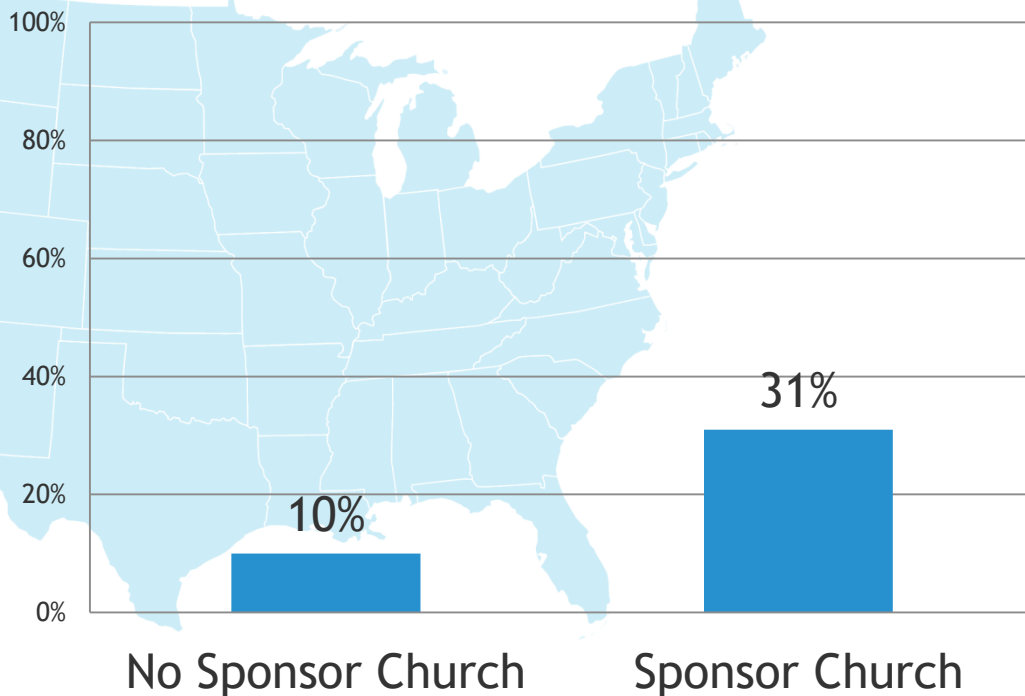# 36% of congregations with leadership investing in new / potential planters

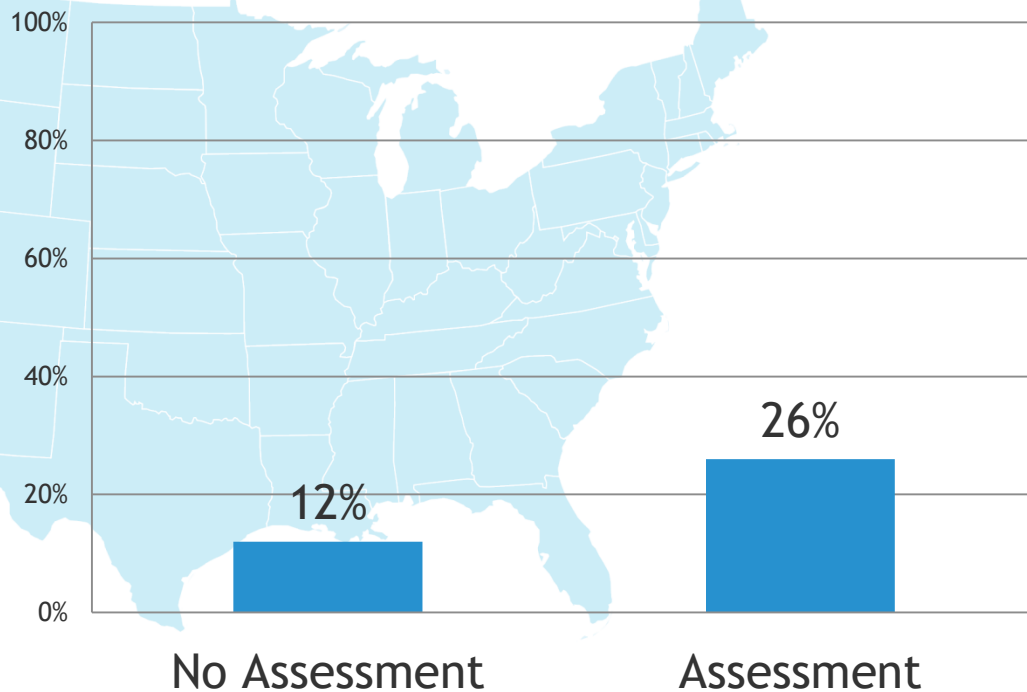# 25% of congregations receiving funding from an affiliated denomination

No Denominational Funding	Denominational Funding
12%	25%
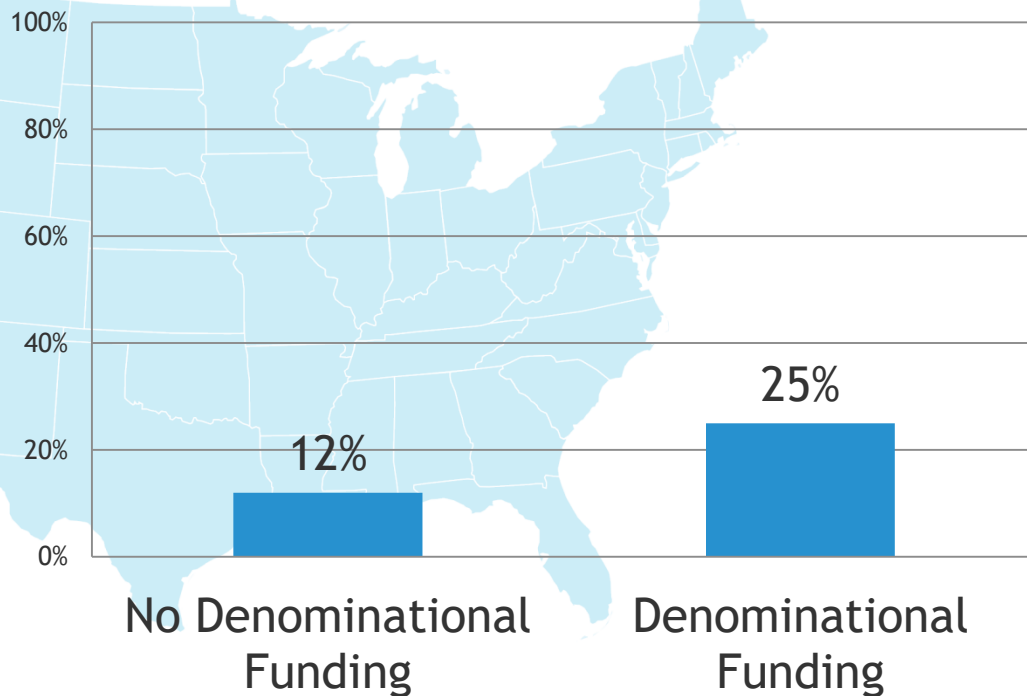
31% of congregations receiving funding from a sponsor church

100%

80%

60%

40%

31%

20%

10%

0%

No Sponsor Church   Sponsor Church

LifeWay RESEARCH
Biblical Solutions for Life

29% of congregations with planters attending conferences prior to planting

	No Conferences	Conferences
	15%	29%
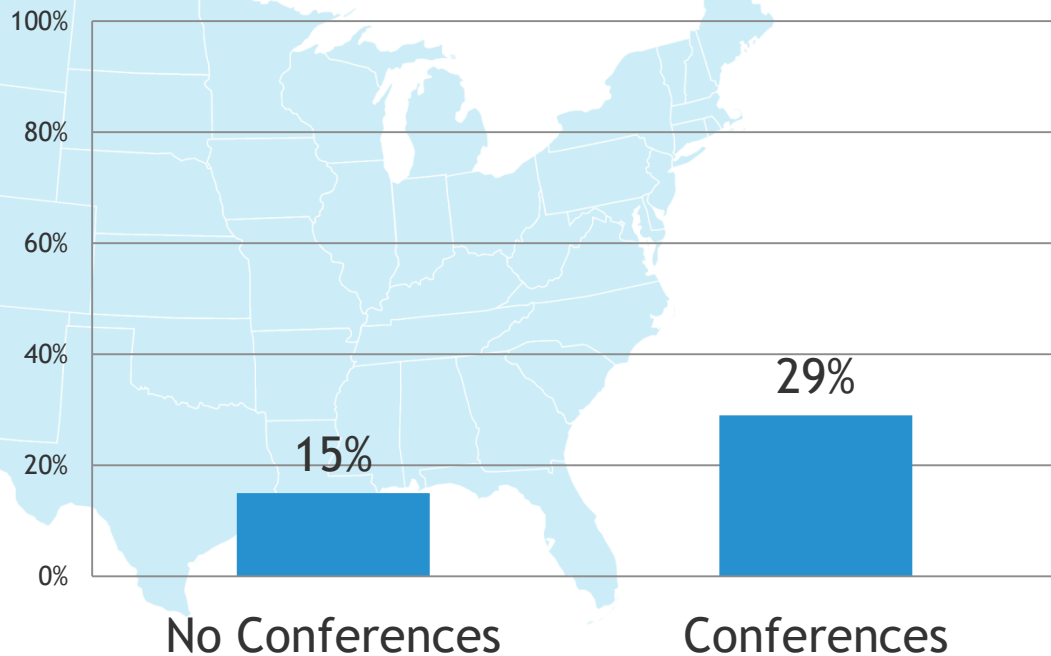
26% of congregations with planters participating in an assessment

100%

80%

60%

40%

20%

0%

12%

26%

No Assessment

Assessment

LifeWay
RESEARCH
Biblical Solutions for Life

26% of congregations whose planters have prayer partners

Chart showing: No Prayer Partners 9%, Prayer Partners 26%
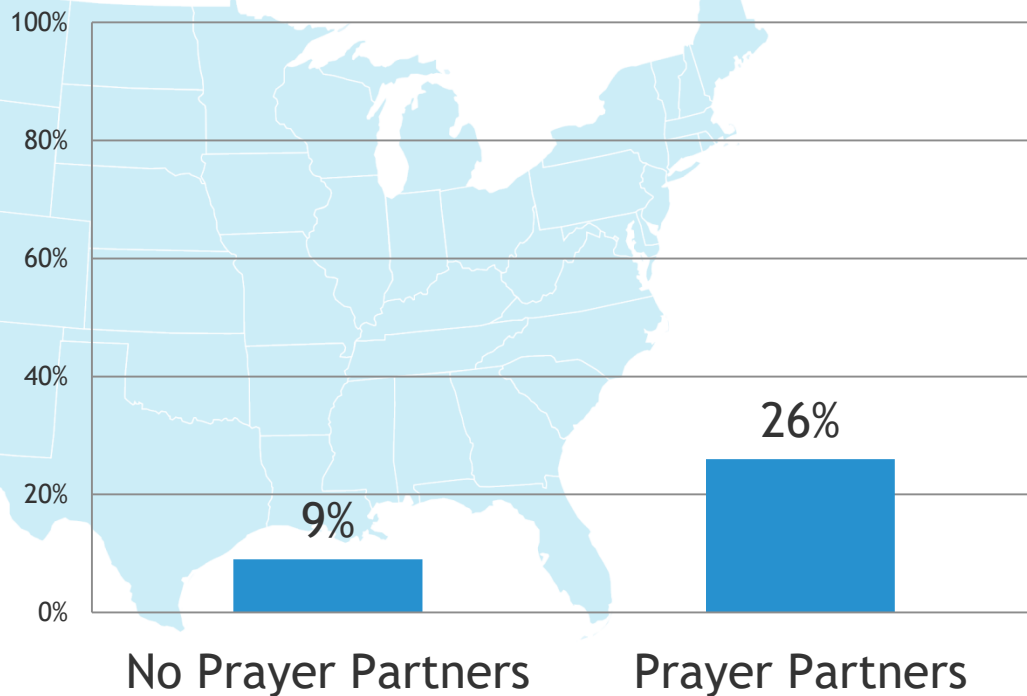
26% of congregations whose planters are engaging in a spiritual formation plan

	No Spiritual Formation Plan	Spiritual Formation Plan
	13%	26%

LifeWay RESEARCH
Biblical Solutions for Life
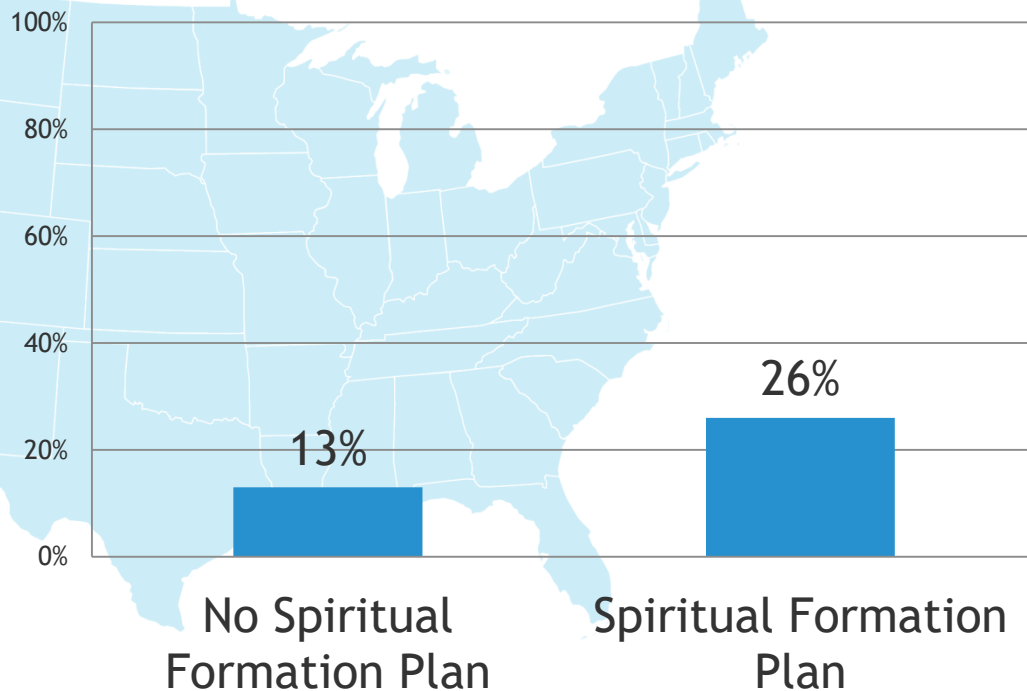
25% of congregations obtaining *demographic analysis and assessment* of the community

	No Demographic Analysis	Demographic analysis
	14%	25%

LifeWay RESEARCH
Biblical Solutions for Life
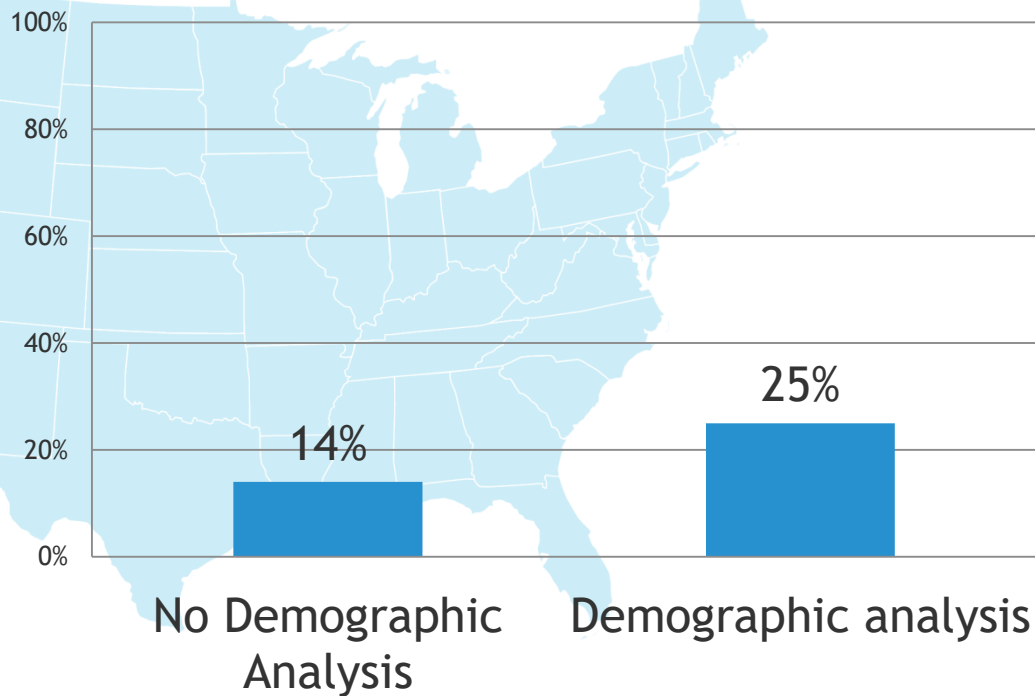
32% of congregations receiving demographic and/or *research expertise*

	100%
	80%
	60%
	40%
	20%
	0%

12%

32%

No Expertise   Expertise

LifeWay
RESEARCH
Biblical Solutions for Life
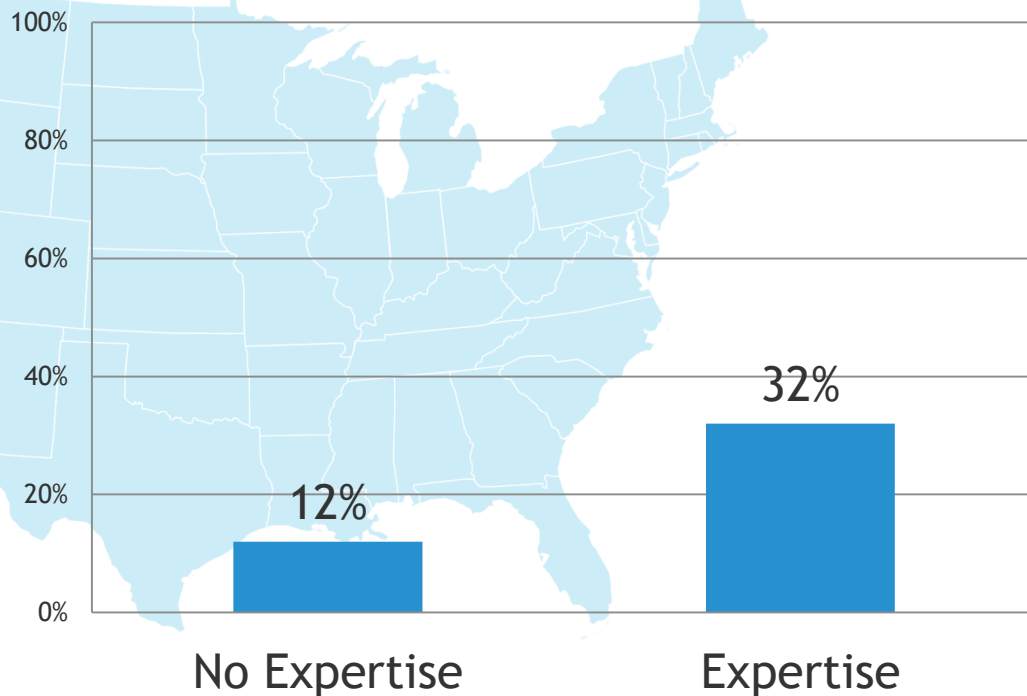
29% of congregations whose planter's expectations meet reality
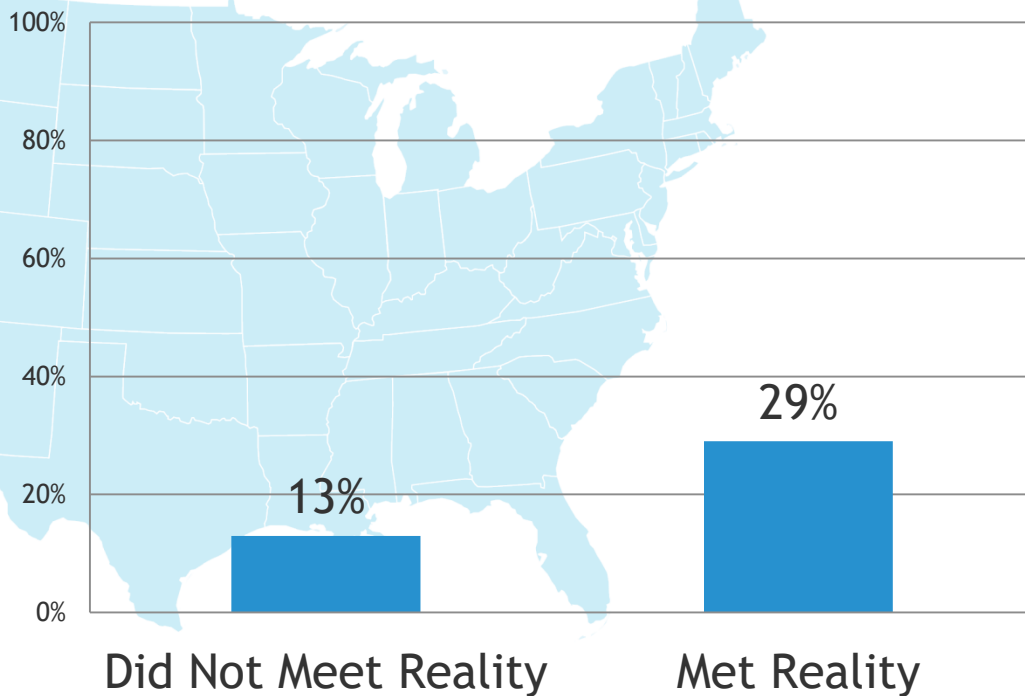
The Study was sponsored by:

- Baptist Missionary Association of America
- Center for US Missions
- Christian and Missionary Alliance
- Church Multiplication Network, Assemblies of God
- Converge Worldwide
- Evangelical Free Church of America
- Free Methodist Church USA

- International Pentecostal Holiness Church
- LCMS Texas District
- New Thing Network
- North American Mission Board, SBC
- Path1, UMC
- Southern Baptists of Texas
- Vineyard Church
- The Wesleyan Church.

LifeWay RESEARCH
Biblical Solutions for Life

Church Planting National Report

Survey of 843 Church Planters

2015