Period of church membership
## Frequency of church attendance

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FREQUENCY</th>
<th>PERCENTAGE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A few times a year or less</td>
<td>4.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Once every month or two</td>
<td>5.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two or three times a month</td>
<td>15.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>About once a week</td>
<td>58.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More than once a week</td>
<td>15.8%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Assess your involvement in your local church

- I do not participate at all in church activities: 4.80%
- I consider myself an observer: 5.30%
- I consider myself a casual participant: 23.30%
- I consider myself an active participant: 43.50%
How satisfied are you with your local church?

- Very satisfied: 52.70%
- Satisfied: 21.70%
- Neutral: 14.70%
- Dissatisfied: 7.80%
- Very dissatisfied: 3.20%
Attitudes towards local church (i)

- I look forward to going to programmes at my church
- The leaders in my church care about me
- I can be myself at my church
- The leaders in my church are warm and friendly
- Programmes at my church make me think
- Programmes at my church are interesting

Legend:
- Never
- Sometimes
- Often
- Almost always
Attitudes towards local church (ii)

There is no significant difference in attitudes based on gender, age, or ethnic group
Pastors’ perception: How Serious an Issue is Retention?

- Not too serious--most stay (51%)
- Fairly serious problem (40%)
- Very serious problem--many lost (9%)
Pastors’ Perception: What Age Groups is Most Likely to Leave the Church?

- Young adults: 64%
- Teenagers: 25%
- Middle-aged members: 11%
Pastors’ Perception: What Three Types of People are Most Likely to Leave the Church?

- **Recent converts**
  - Type n. 1: 16%
  - Type n. 2: 10%
  - Type n. 3: 19%

- **Young adults without families**
  - Type n. 1: 36%
  - Type n. 2: 19%
  - Type n. 3: 19%

- **Young adults with families**
  - Type n. 1: 15%
  - Type n. 2: 15%
  - Type n. 3: 11%

- **People with SDA higher Education**
  - Type n. 1: 2%
  - Type n. 2: 1%
  - Type n. 3: 9%

- **People without SDA higher Education**
  - Type n. 1: 2%
  - Type n. 2: 2%
  - Type n. 3: 7%

- **Converts from public evangelism**
  - Type n. 1: 24%
  - Type n. 2: 22%
  - Type n. 3: 17%

- **Converts from media ministries**
  - Type n. 1: 12%
  - Type n. 2: 18%
  - Type n. 3: 14%

- **Converts from relational evangelism**
  - Type n. 1: 2%
  - Type n. 2: 5%
  - Type n. 3: 5%

- **Converts from personal evangelism**
  - Type n. 1: 1%
  - Type n. 2: 5%
  - Type n. 3: 3%
Pastors’ Perceptions: Most Important Reason People Leave the Church

- Lack of friends: 29%
- High level of conflict in local church: 26%
- Personal conflict with church member: 14%
- Marital difficulties: 12%
- Perceived hypocrisy of other church-members: 6%
- Family or personal tragedy: 3%
- Disagreement with Adventist doctrines: 4%
- Personal conflict with pastor: 2%
- Moved to a new city/church: 2%
- Decision taken by higher leaders: 2%
- Dislike of worship styles in local church: 0%
Church-members’ spiritual-life practices

- Read the Bible
  - Never
  - Less than once a month
  - About once a week
  - More than once a week
  - At least once a day

- Engage in personal devotions

- Read the writings of Ellen G. White
Attitudes towards Ellen White

- I don't know who Ellen G. White is
- Ellen G. White was a person who created stories of supernatural guidance in order to explain the mysteries of life. Her writings contain a great deal of wisdom about the human experience
- Ellen G. White's writings contain no more truth or wisdom than do the religious works written by leaders of other denominations
- Ellen G. White copied what God told her word for word, and wrote without being influenced by her own place and time
- Ellen G. White was inspired by God and presented God's message in terms of her own place and time
Personal spirituality

Prayers I say when I am alone are as important to me as those I say in church

It is important to me to spend time in private thought and prayer

I have often had a strong sense of God's presence

Prayer is for peace and happiness

I pray mainly to gain relief and protection

I pray mainly because I have been taught to pray

Legend:
- Blue: I strongly disagree
- Red: I tend to disagree
- Green: I'm not sure
- Purple: I tend to agree
- Cyan: I strongly agree
Christian and Adventist Beliefs:
(1) strongly agree = 90%+

- The true Sabbath is the seventh day Saturday
- I believe that Jesus was born of a virgin
- I believe in a personal God who seeks a relationship with human beings
- When a person dies their body remains in the grave and their soul sleeps until the resurrection
- I believe God created the world
Christian and Adventist Beliefs: (2) moderate dissent (12-25%)

I am saved the moment I believe and accept what Jesus has done for me

I believe God created the world in exactly six days of 24 hours each in the relatively recent past

The SDA Church is God's true last-day church with a message to prepare the world for the Second Coming of Christ

Christianity is about Jesus giving me power to conquer sin in my life

The righteous will be rewarded by God and the rest will not

Legend:
- Strongly disagree
- Disagree more than agree
- Agree more than disagree
- Strongly Agree
Christian and Adventist Beliefs:
(3) strong dissent = 40%+

The SDA Church believes in "present truth" which means beliefs might change over time

A relationship with Jesus is important, but I will not get to heaven unless I obey God's law

There is no body of teaching, or set of scriptures, which is completely without error or contradiction

Of all the people on earth, one group has a special relationship with God

God loves everyone, and I should be all right in the end if I am a morally good person

If I have been baptised, I will make it to heaven if I remain a good person all my life

I expect the world as we know it to end within the next 20 years

If I am to be saved, I need to become a baptised member of the SDA Church
Distinctive Adventist Doctrines

- Jesus Christ is the Son of God
- SDA standards regarding healthful living
- Ellen G. White was an inspired messenger to the Seventh-day Adventist Church
- The Church's interpretation of end-time prophecies
- SDA teachings regarding modesty and simplicity in dress
- The Investigative or pre-Advent judgment began in 1844

Legend:
- I embrace it wholeheartedly
- I accept it because the church teaches it
- I have some questions about it
- I have major doubts about it
- I don't accept it
- This question is not important to me
Pastors’ Acceptance of Church Teachings

- Righteousness by faith alone: 97% embrace wholeheartedly, 2% have major doubts.
- Creation in six days: 86% embrace wholeheartedly, 4% accept because the church teaches it, 9% have some questions, 1% have major doubts.
- Investigative judgment since 1844: 67% embrace wholeheartedly, 16% accept because the church teaches it, 15% have some questions, 3% have major doubts.
- Christ soon coming: 96% embrace wholeheartedly, 3% have major doubts.
- E.G. White inspired messenger: 84% embrace wholeheartedly, 9% accept because the church teaches it, 6% have some questions, 1% have major doubts.
- Adventist standards: 57% embrace wholeheartedly, 19% accept because the church teaches it, 16% have some questions, 7% have major doubts.
- Interpretation of end-time prophecies: 67% embrace wholeheartedly, 16% accept because the church teaches it, 16% have some questions, 2% have major doubts.
- State of the dead: 95% embrace wholeheartedly, 5% have major doubts.
- Seventh-day Sabbath: 97% embrace wholeheartedly, 3% have major doubts.
- Only male ordination: 16% embrace wholeheartedly, 13% accept because the church teaches it, 29% have some questions, 42% have major doubts.
Role of the Pastor

- Care for spiritual needs: 14% Ideal Role, 40% Emphasis
- Both: 50% Ideal Role, 33% Emphasis
- Training for outreach: 36% Ideal Role, 26% Emphasis

Trans-European Division
Pastor's Use of Time

- Ministry to members: 60% ideal focus, 12% time spent
- Both: 37% ideal focus, 23% time spent
- Leading to outreach: 50% ideal focus, 18% time spent

Legend:
- Blue: Ideal focus for Pastor's time
- Red: Time spent in ministry

Trans-European Division
Page 21