

# General Conference 2019 Survey

---

ST. STEPHEN'S UMC

MAY 8, 2019

# Why a survey?

---

GC2019 adopts traditionalist plan and rejects one church plan

Structural change in the larger church likely

Members of SSUMC looking for a response from the church

Survey is first step in conversation around these views

- Gives a snapshot of where we are as church
- Allows all a voice

# How was it developed

---

Reviewed surveys done by other local churches

- Annandale, Messiah, Del Ray, Aldersgate

Presented draft survey to church council on March 27

Consulted with survey experts in congregation

Revised to reflect comments received

Focused on opinions around human sexuality and the decision of General Conference, not about possible steps in the future

# Timing

---

Approved by Church Council on March 27 (12-0 with 4 abstentions)

Waited until after the holy season

Decided to conduct the survey over one weekend

- What other churches had done
- A desire to complete project before new pastors arrive
- A concern that holding it open too long might undermine credibility
- Historic attendance on the week after Easter did not seem low

Advertised in bulletin on Palm Sunday and Easter and in 4/12 weekly email

# How it was administered

---

Electronic form set up on Survey Monkey

Link emailed at 4:15 pm on Friday April 26, 2019

Email sent to everyone who receives a regular email from SSUMC except those who only get emails about Grace Ministries (851 people)

Paper surveys were available in the gathering space and welcome center between services on Sunday April 28, 2019

Availability of paper surveys announced from the pulpit

Reminder email sent Monday April 29, 2019 at 9:21 am

Survey closed at midnight April 29, 2019

# Responses

---

Received 399 responses. Of those 94 were paper, 305 were electronic

Only a few reports of difficulty responding:

- One person was going to be out of town who was not on the email list; we emailed the link
- One person said they did not get the link; we emailed it directly
- Three people said they did not see the email until after the survey closed.
  - One of these notified us on 5/1, and their response could be included
  - Other two did not notify us until late in the day on 5/2, and the bulletin had been printed, but they were given the option to submit paper surveys to be considered

No reports of difficulty using the electronic survey

# Paper surveys

---

Results were inputted by hand into the Survey Monkey database

Each paper survey was numbered, and the number was included in the response to Q10 when being inputted.

A few had stray comments written on them; these were included in the responses to either Q7 or Q10 with a note about which question the comment seemed to be responding to.

# Issues considered

---

Wanted the survey to be anonymous, so disabled email tracking

Decided to allow more than one response per IP address, since many might answer from home

- Most from any one IP address (other than the church's) is 5, but not identical responses

Small number of duplicate comment responses

- 5 sets of 2 and 1 set of 3 had identical responses to Q7 and Q10
- 1 set of 2 had identical responses to Q7 but non identical response to Q 10.
- Left duplicates in, because didn't affect results, could not easily exclude them without deleting them forever, and some chance they represent joint responses from individuals



# Issues

---

## Census study vs. sample study

This survey best considered a census of the members and active participants in the congregation

- Allows everyone to participate in the study
- Most concerned with nonparticipation bias

## Responses (399) compare to:

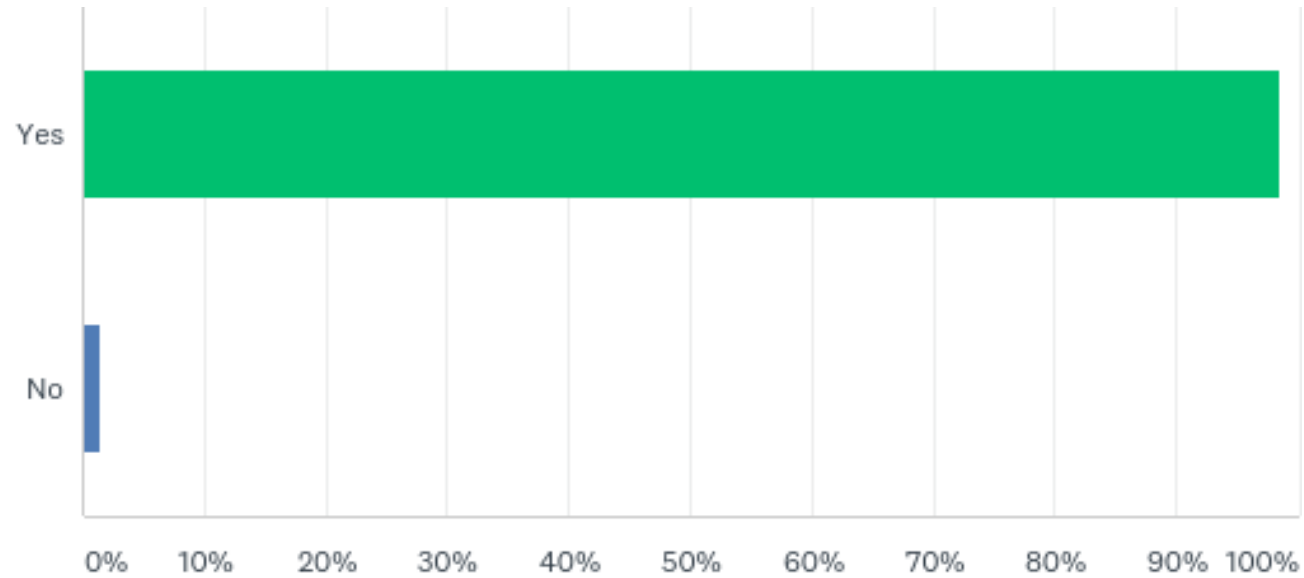
- 1136 members (include folks who no longer live in the area or attend)
- 851 email list (include folks no longer in the area; parents who may not attend; might also undercount those with joint addresses)
- 446 average weekly attendance (not including nursery) (per count by ushers)
- 146 members, 47 regular attendees, 32 children/youth (weekly average per Connect Cards)

# Survey Results

---

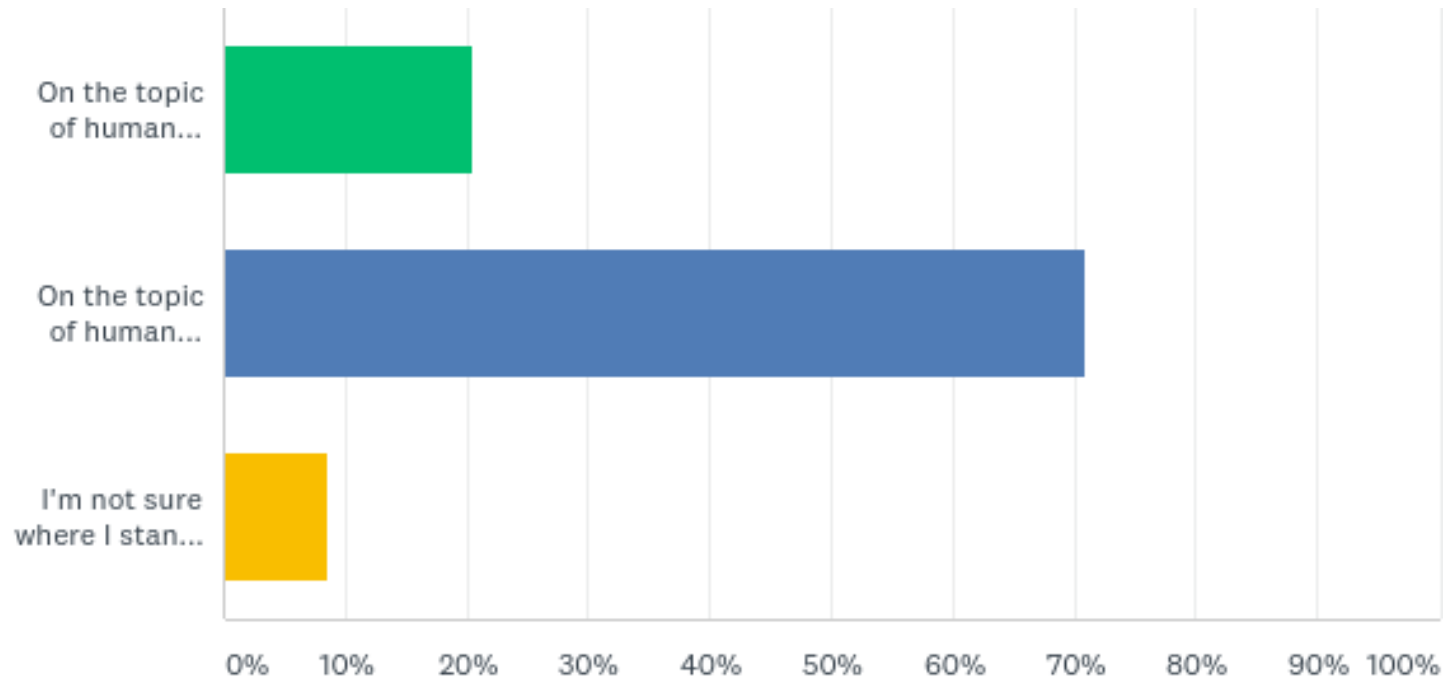
# Q1: I want to take this survey:

Answered: 396 Skipped: 3



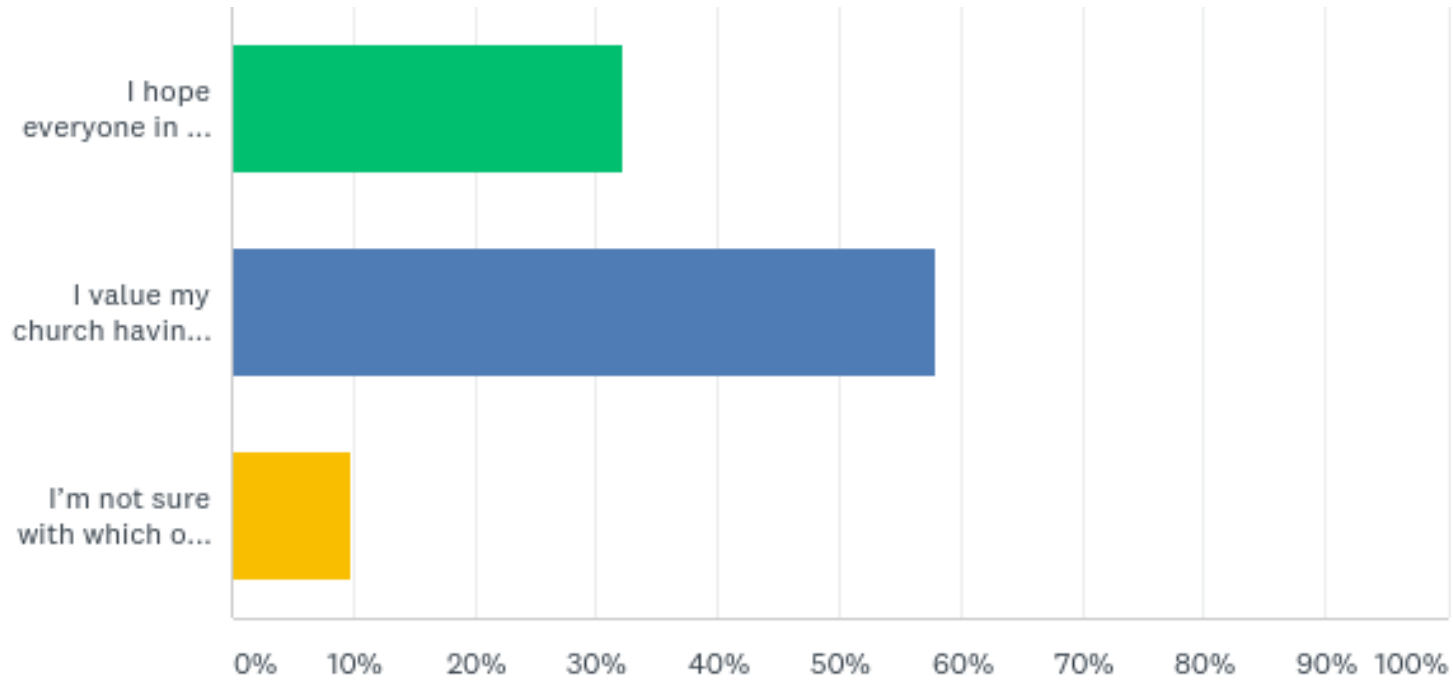
Q2: For this question, the traditional viewpoint means the view that the practice of homosexuality is incompatible with Christian teaching. The progressive viewpoint means the view that the practice of homosexuality is acceptable within Christian teaching. Which of the following do you agree with most?

Answered: 395 Skipped: 4



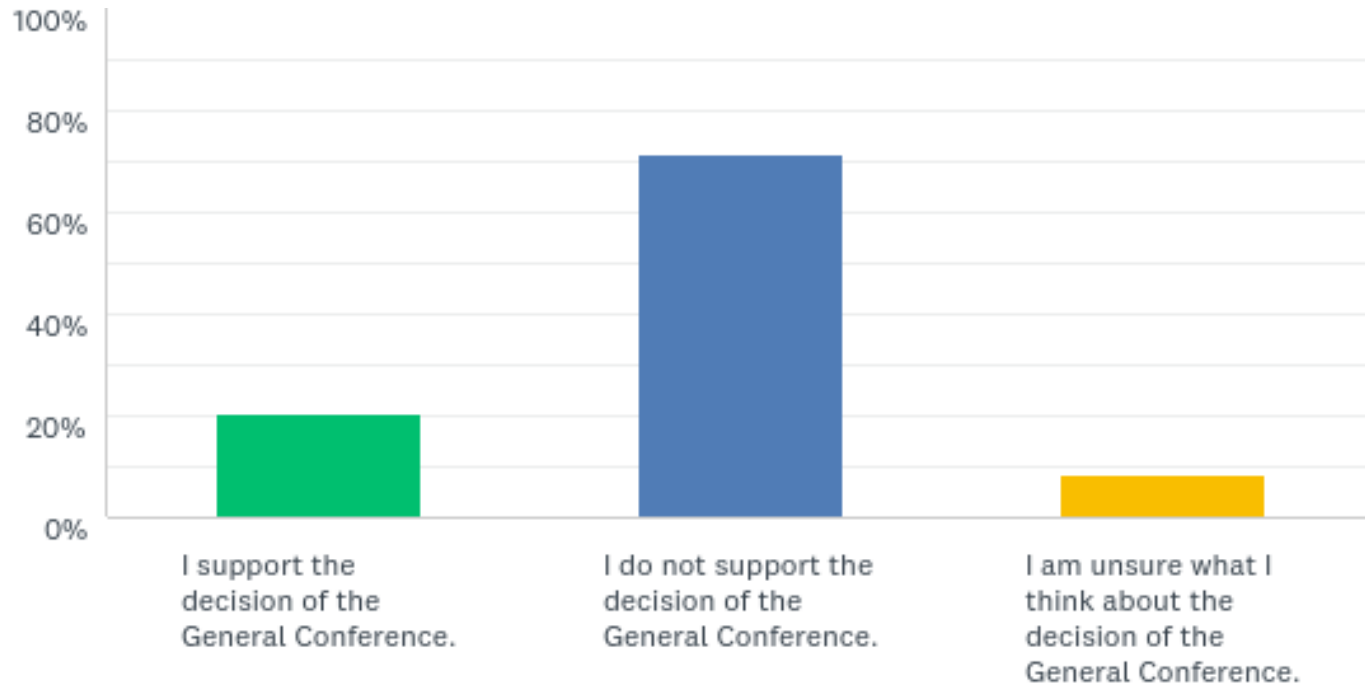
# Q3: Which of the following do you agree with most:

Answered: 394 Skipped: 5



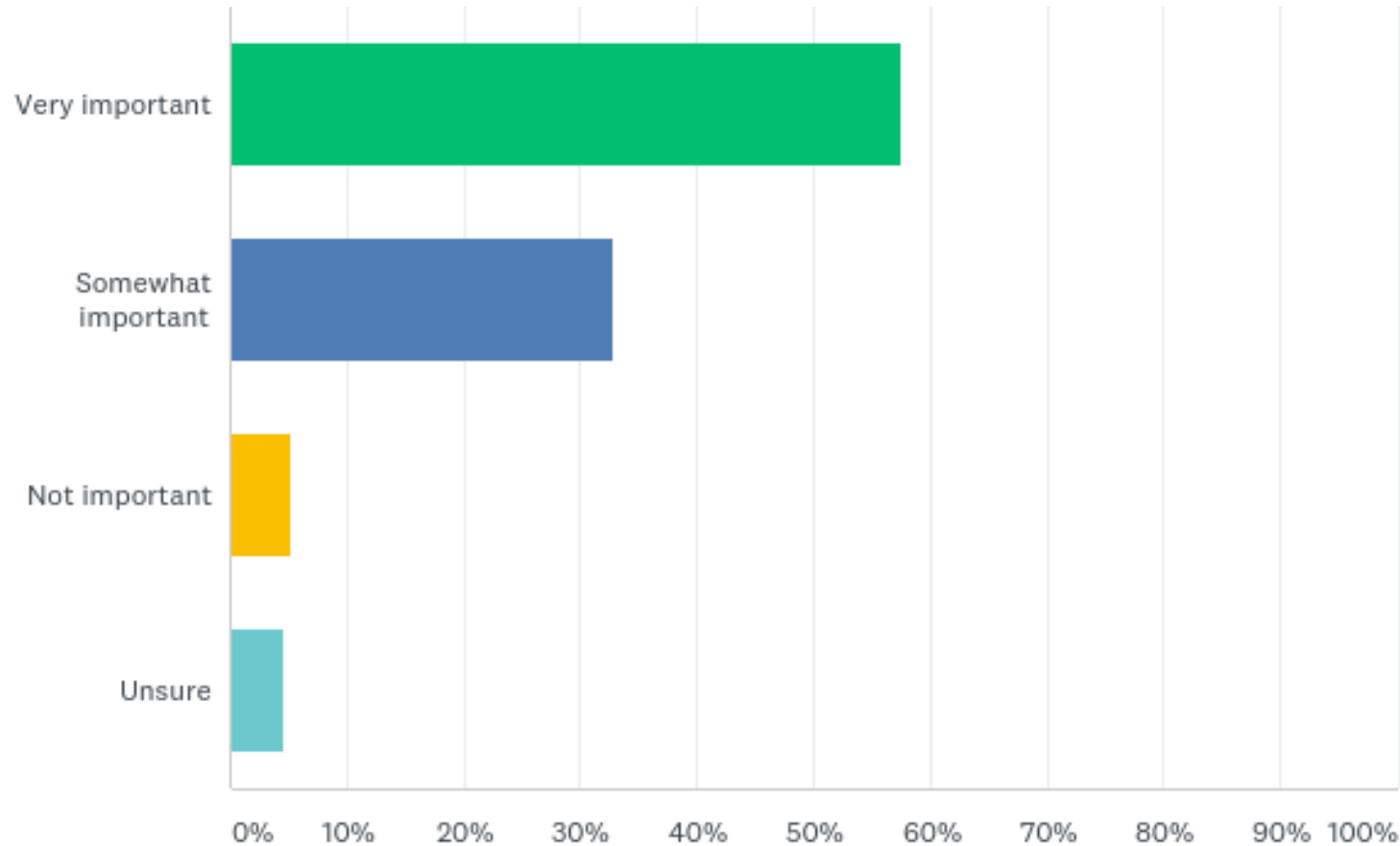
# Q4: Support/do not support/unsure about the decision of the 2019 General Conference

Answered: 395 Skipped: 4



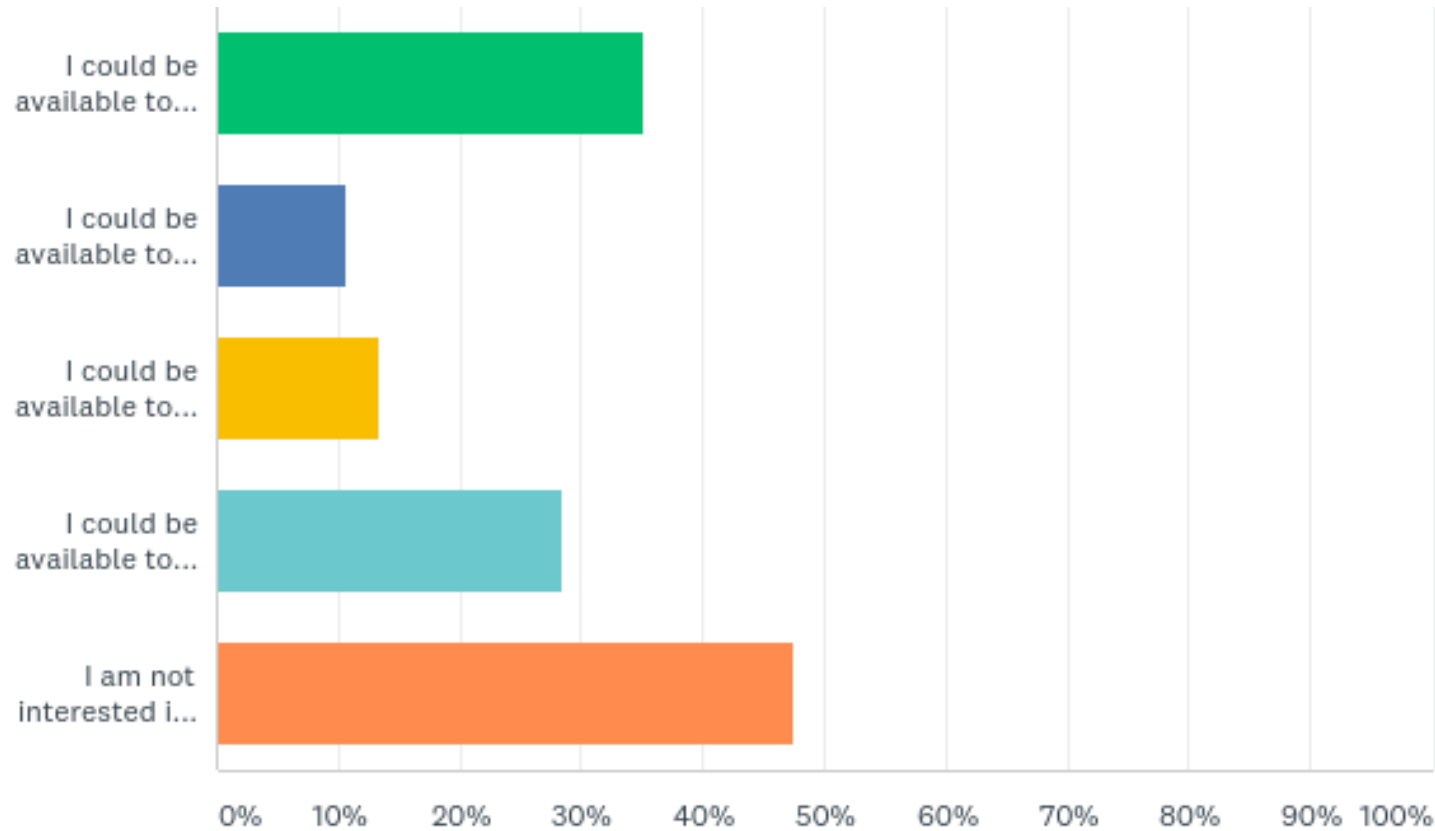
# Q5: How important to you is it that St. Stephen's embrace your position on this particular issue?

Answered: 397 Skipped: 2



## Q6: Are you interested in attending a facilitated small group, to explore these topics further? (check all that apply)

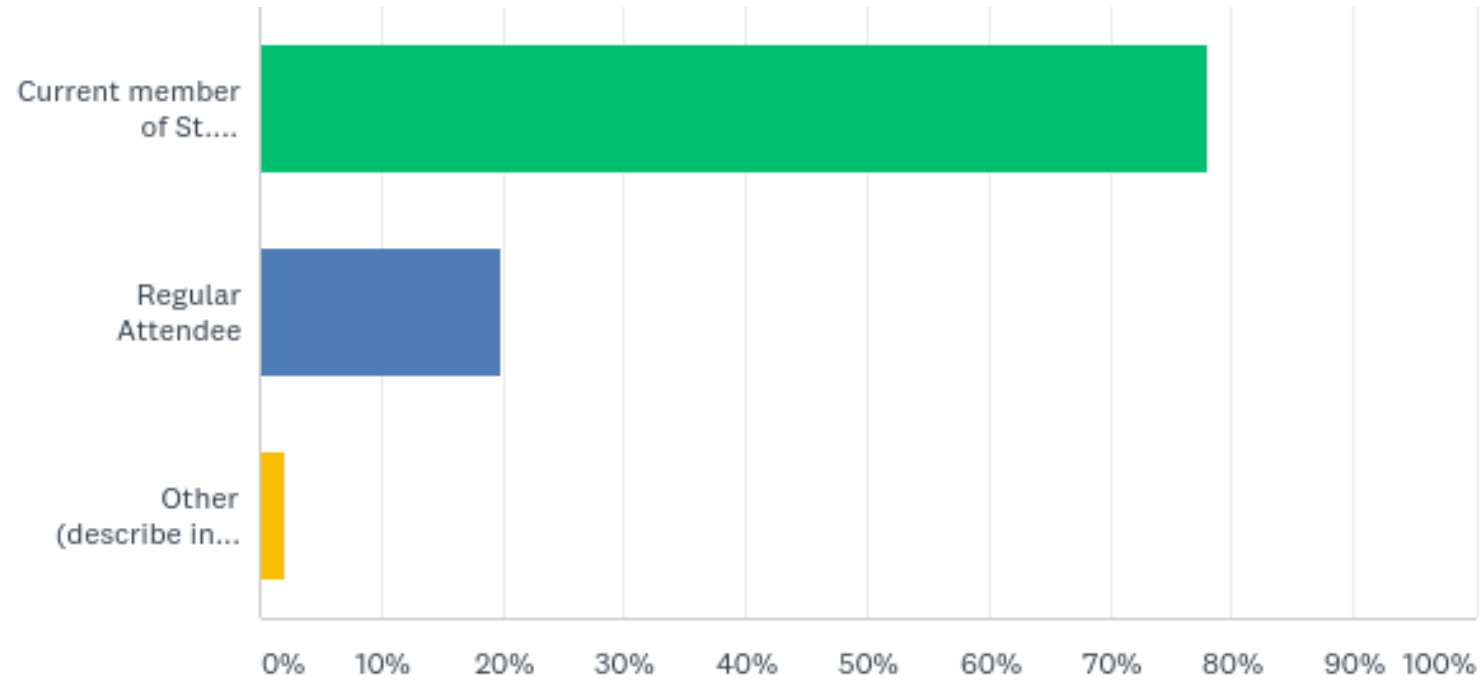
Answered: 387 Skipped: 12





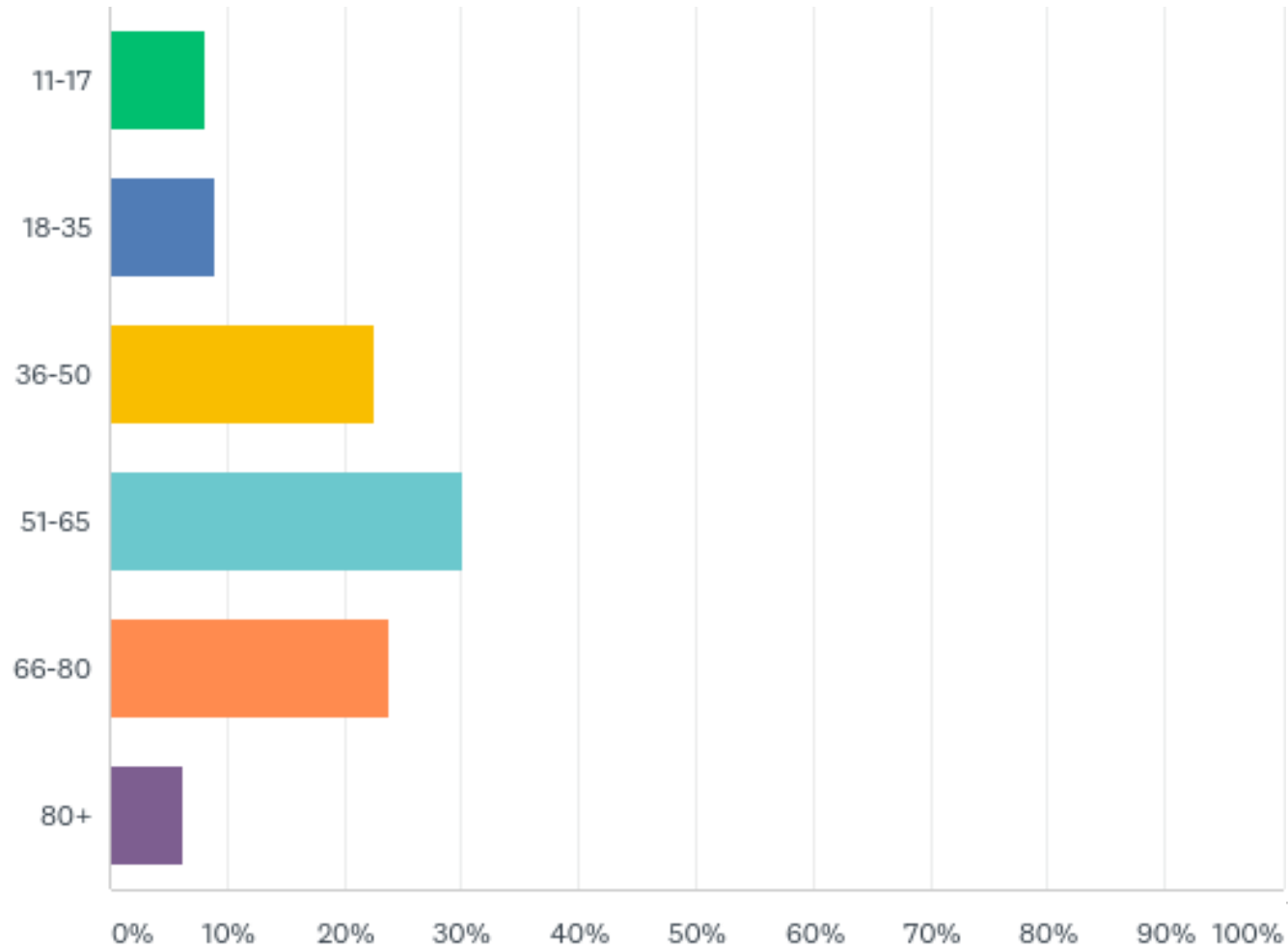
## Q8: I am a... (choose one):

Answered: 393 Skipped: 6



# Q9: What is your age?

Answered: 393 Skipped: 6

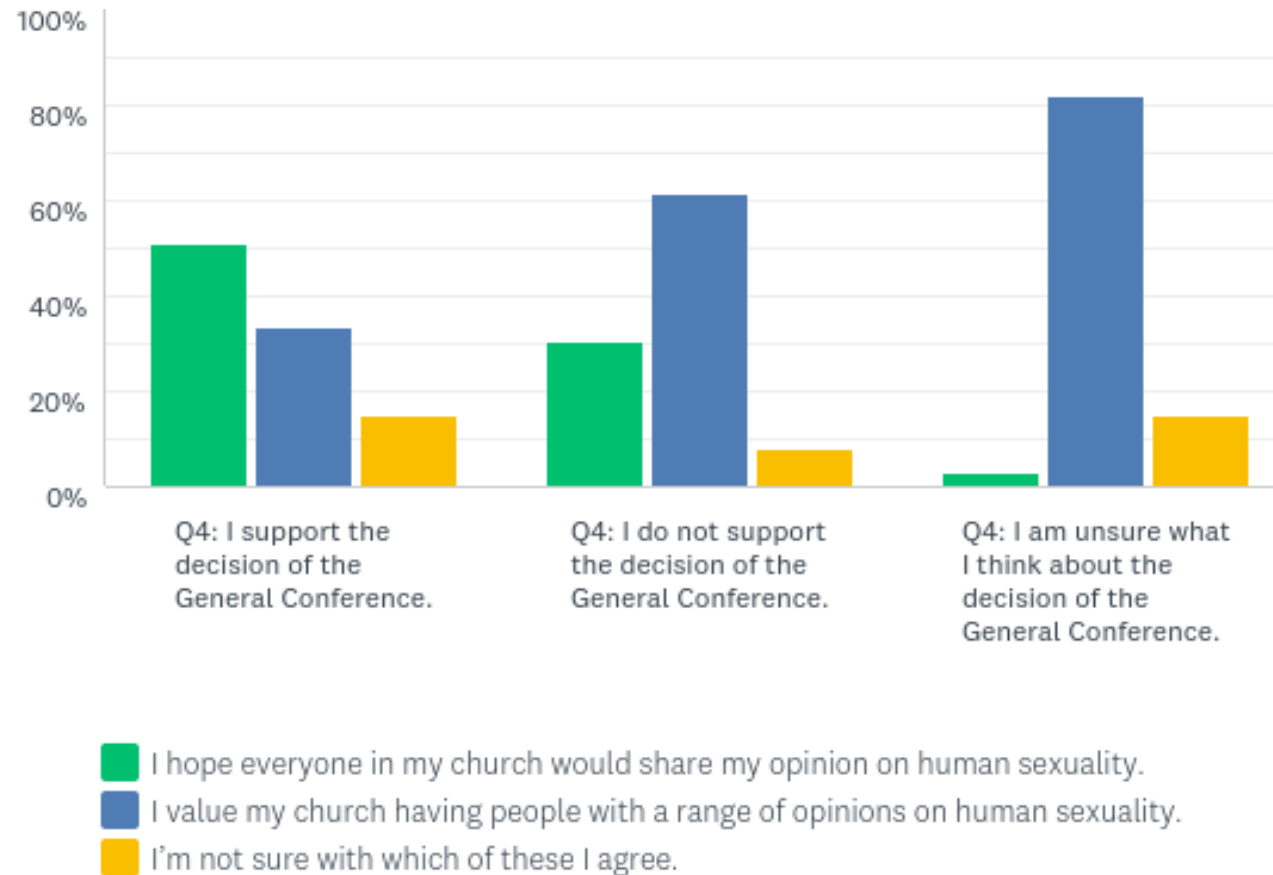


# Analysis

---

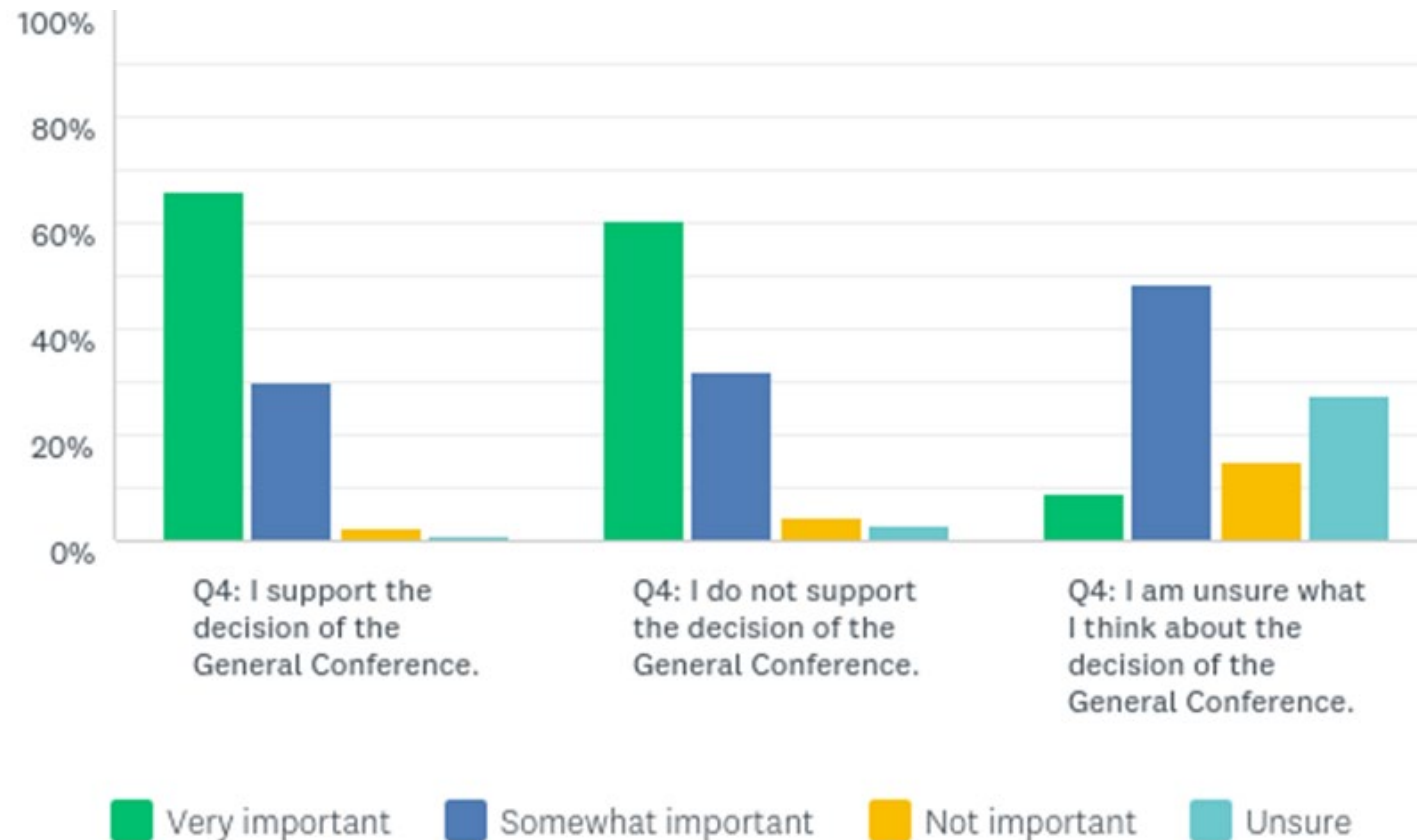
# Those who disagree with GC2019 or are unsure more likely to value diversity of opinion (Q3)

---



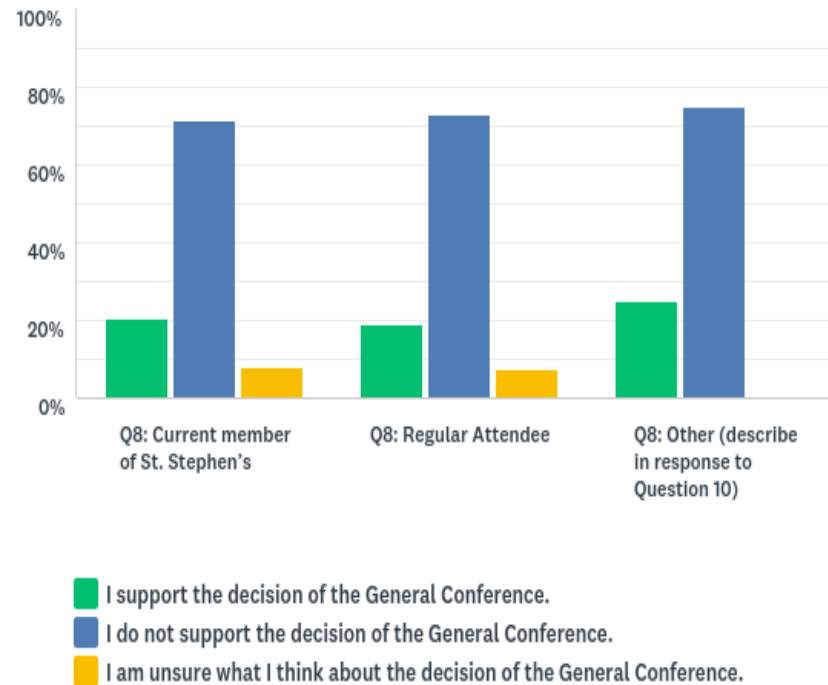
# Very important that church embrace own view for both those who agree and disagree with GC2019 (Q5)

---



# Results the same for members and regular attendees

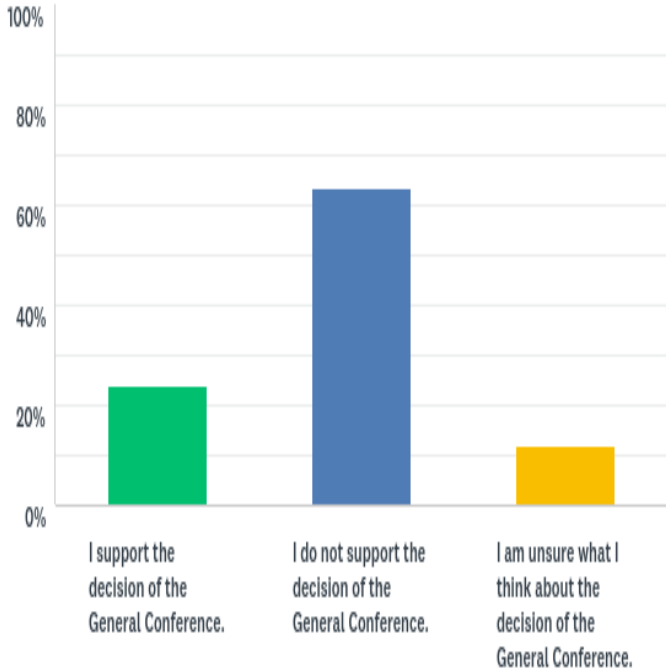
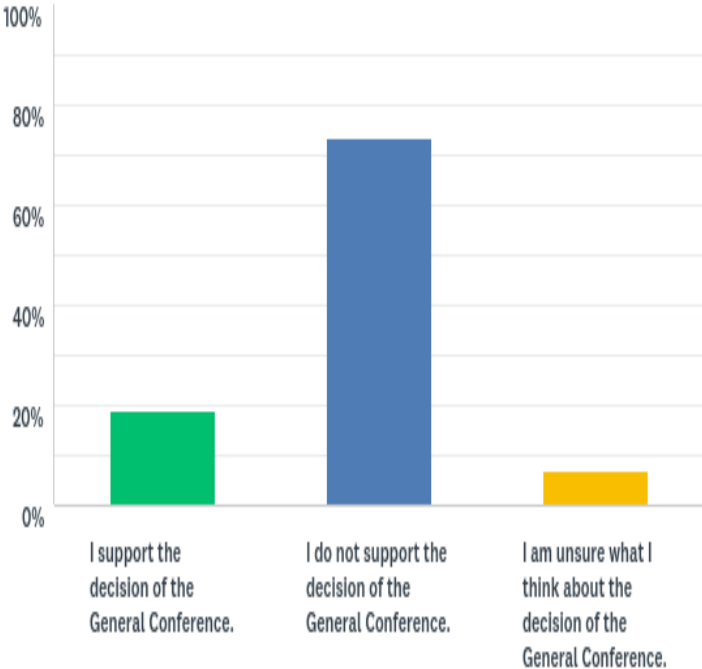
Q4 Q4: Support/do not support/unsure about the decision of the 2019 General Conference



# No significant difference between web and paper responses

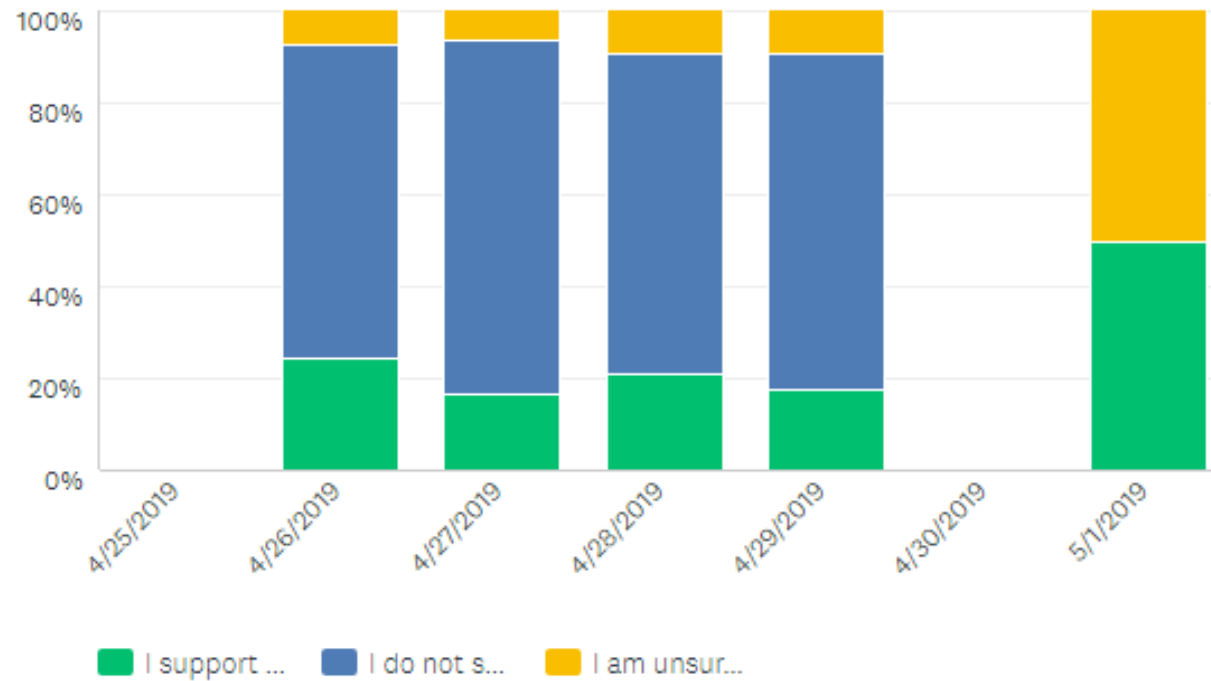
Q4 Q4: Support/do not support/unsure about the decision of the 2019 General Conference (Web))

Q4 Q4: Support/do not support/unsure about the decision of the 2019 General Conference (Paper)



# Results consistent across day of survey (Q4)

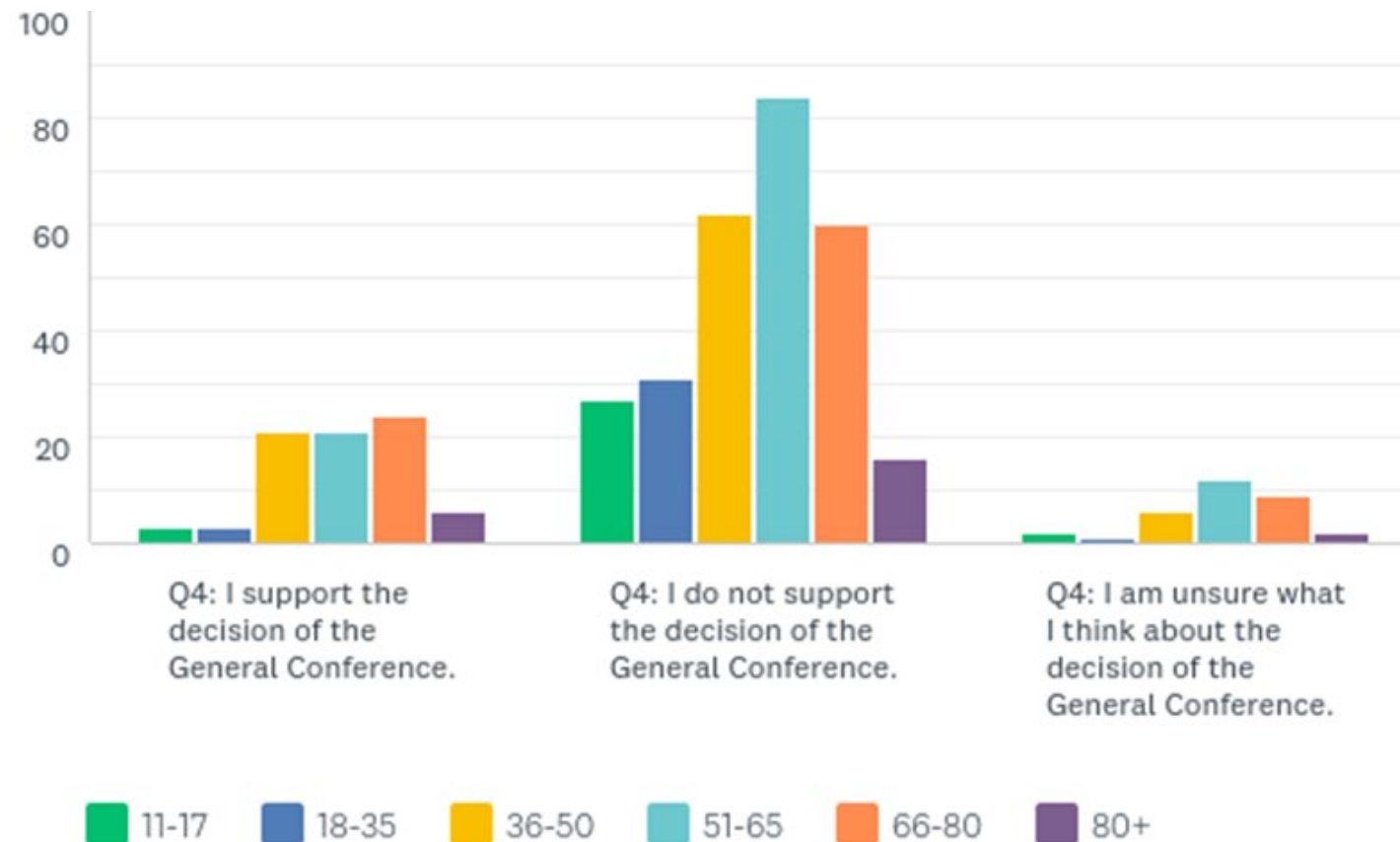
---





# Similar distribution across age ranges

---



# Next steps

---

Comment summaries

Small Groups

- Tu May 14 at 7:30
- Sat May 18 at 4:30
- Sun May 19 at 12, 1 or 2?
- Tu May 21 at 2
- Wed May 22 at 7:30

Drafting committee prepare statement of response to GC 2019 w/oppty for comment

- Members: Ed Baird, Gregg Snow, Lorac Lawton, Tim Anderson

Church council meeting June 12 to consider statement