

Get Some Sleep! And other insights from a survey of customers and friends.

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A Church Extension Plan Resource | cepnet.com



Church Extension Plan

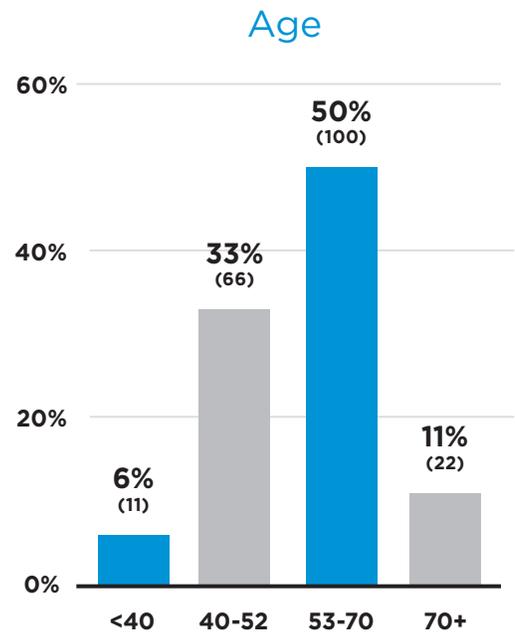
PARTNERS *in* MINISTRY®

In the summer of 2020, about 5 months into the COVID-19 pandemic, CEP surveyed our loan customers and friends. The purpose of this survey was twofold: to gauge how churches and their leaders were responding in these tumultuous times and gain insight into how CEP may best serve these churches now and in the future.

A total of 228 church leaders responded with 82 responses coming from Spanish churches. Their responses give us a glimpse into the realities church leaders are facing as they seek to serve their churches and communities. (38% said they were more tired than usual!) Here's what else they had to say:

Who Did We Hear From?

- Pastors and church leaders responded from numerous Assemblies of God Districts and entities.
- Half the pastors came from the baby-boomer age group (53 to 74) with the balance of those who participated scattered across other age groups (Millennials, Gen X, and Builders).



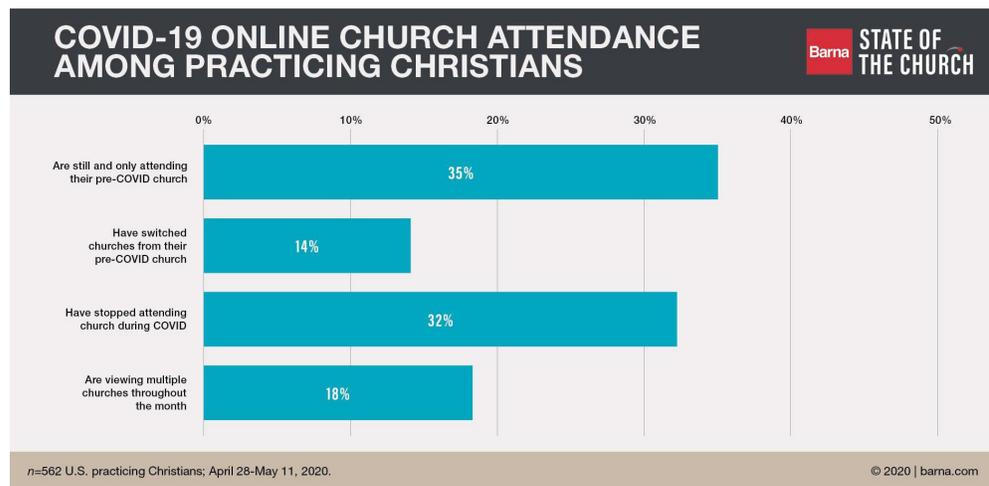
What Has Been COVID-19's Impact on Overall Attendance?

Across the country there was a wide range of restrictions on when churches could meet in person, how many could attend, how many were attending on-line, etc. This impacted our ability to give accurate numbers on attendance. Still, here are two key noteworthy changes in attendance:

1. As expected, there was a major decline in attendance.

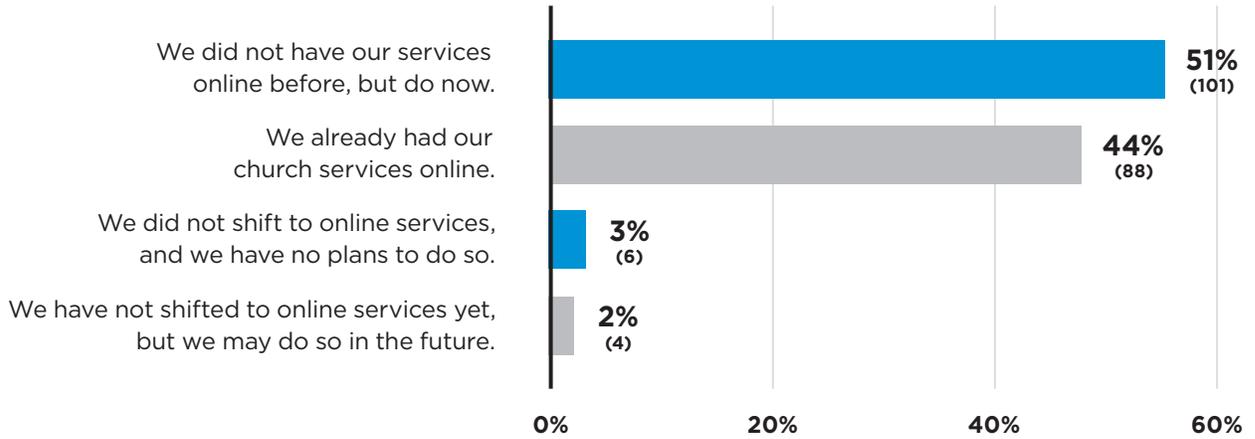
- Total attendance at the 228 participating churches prior to the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic: **41,306**
- Total attendance at the 228 participating churches in early summer when survey was taken: **25,855**
- This represents a decline of **15,451** in attendance or a drop of **37%**.
- Percentage Shift: A **37%** decline in attendance.

This chart shows how these churches compare with churches in a national study conducted by the Barna Group. (Graphic courtesy of Barna Group.)

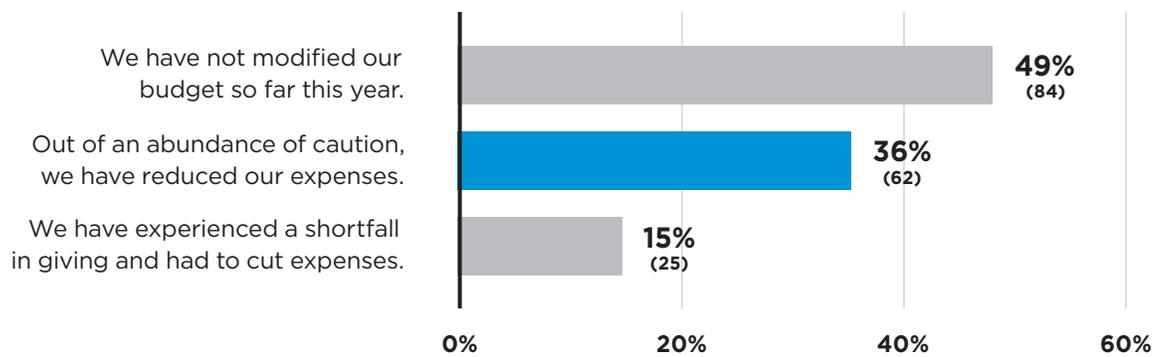


2. Churches moved to online services

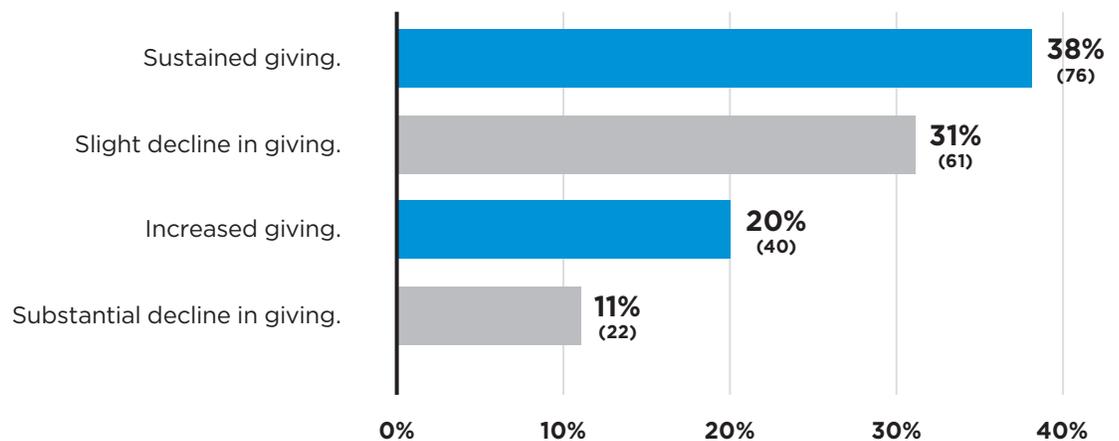
When the pandemic hit, what did you do about online church services?



3. How has your budget changed this year?

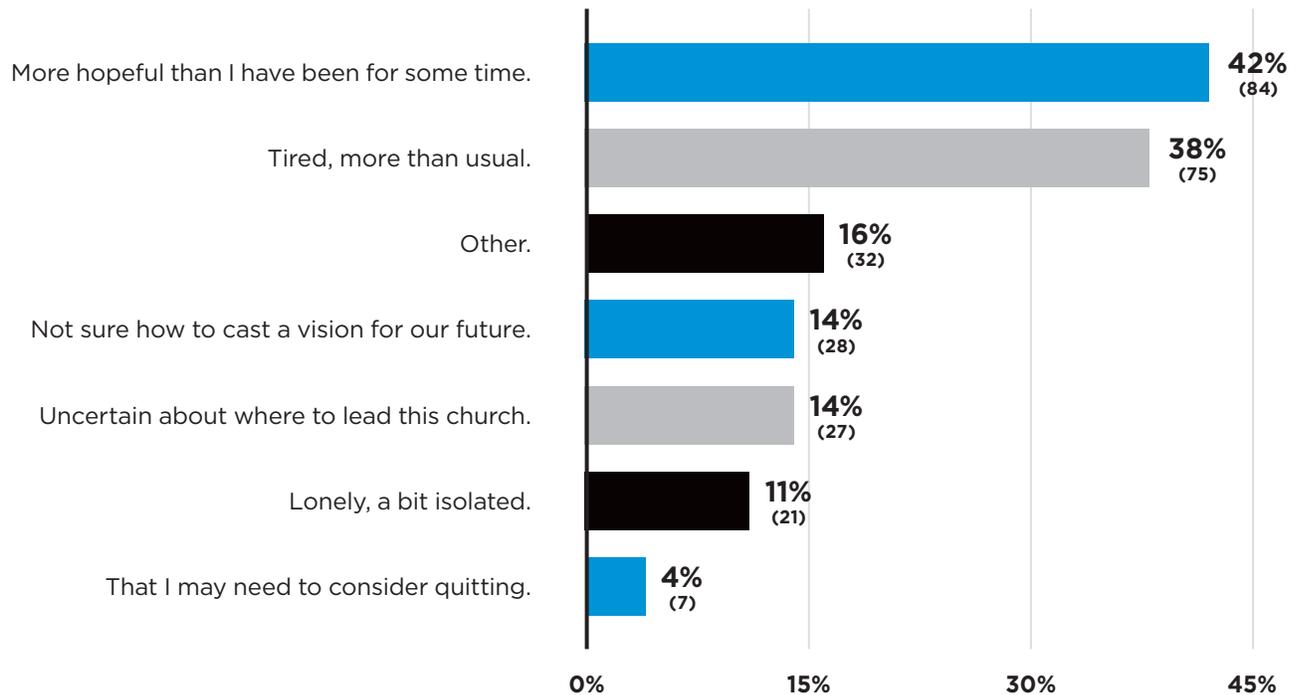


4. Which of the following BEST describes your church's current giving situation as this difficult season continues?



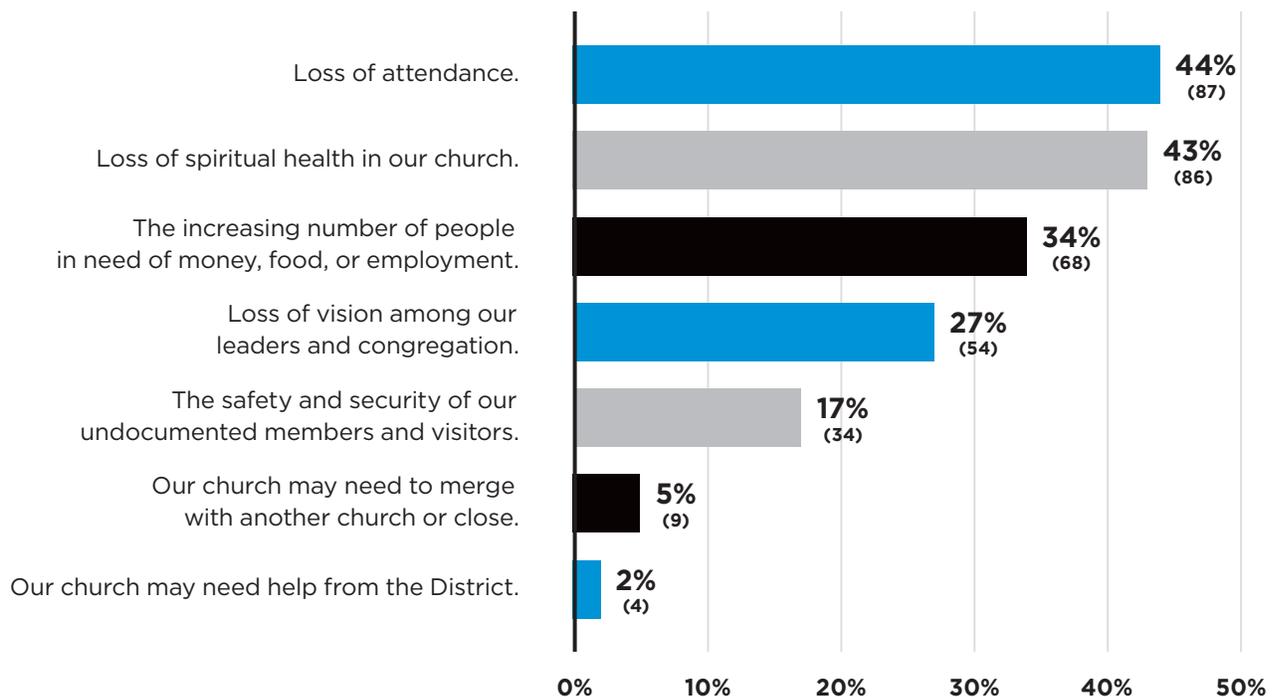
5. How Church Leaders are Doing Personally and Professionally

We have heard the following statements from various church leaders:

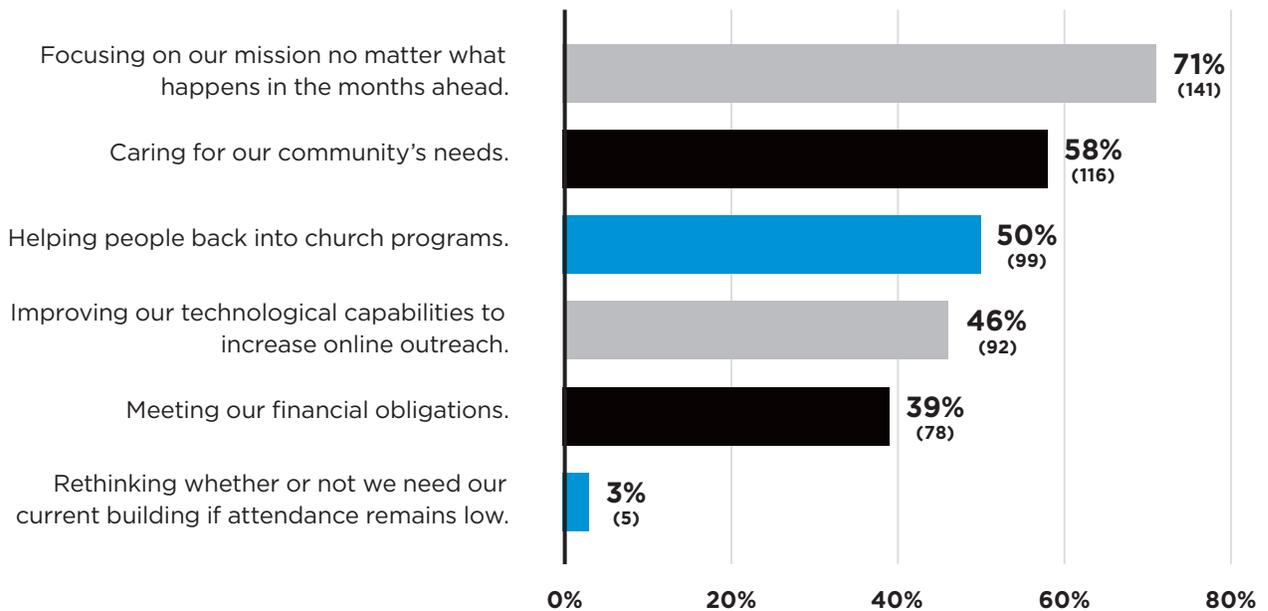


6. What Church Leaders are Anticipating As They Look Ahead

Please select the options you are concerned about, regarding your church's future:



Please select the options you would like to prioritize, regarding your church's future



What Lies Ahead

Hopefully, as you have read these results you see your church or yourself in some of the numbers. That tells you that you are not alone.

In time, COVID-19 will be in our rearview mirror and remembered as one of the most disruptive events to occur during our lifetimes. There will be months, if not years, of recovery from its impact on our churches. Perhaps the most encouraging data point comes from the above chart: 71% of the respondents said that “focusing on our mission no matter what in the months ahead” is the top priority.

Are you in that number?

In his book, *Experiencing God*, Henry Blackaby wrote, “Watch to see where God is working and join Him in His work.” God is preparing minds and hearts in the midst of COVID. Many in your church’s sphere of influence are in need of a life-giving connection to God.

Are you ready to join Him in reaching out to them?

Here at CEP we stand ready to partner with you in your efforts to focus on your mission now and in 2021. Our ministry consultants will discuss your vision with you and help establish a course of action. Please don’t hesitate to contact us.

In the meantime, get some sleep, stay rested and remain hopeful as we move into the Holiday season. God is for you and so are we. Good and even better days are ahead. ■