

St. John the Apostle, Port Moody Survey

Reopening of Church Buildings for Worship - July 2021

Executive Summary

Thank you to everyone who responded to the survey.

When we carried out our original survey in July 2020, we said we would re-evaluate returning to the building for worship in September. How optimistic we were! It has been 16 months since we have gone from in-person to virtual (Zoom) worship. What we have learnt in this pandemic is how adaptable and resilient we are as a community. Worship attendance has been consistent, averaging 90 over both services. It is inspiring how we have embraced technology so quickly and willingly!

Our recent survey had 67 participants, a healthy sample size. Most of you attend virtual worship weekly and are comfortable with Zoom, with convenience & accessibility being the top factors. A large majority of you are open to coming back to in-person worship with each suggested safety protocol – required masking was particularly well-received, and not having Eucharist was less popular.

While Zoom allows us to worship together, not being able to fellowship and interact with each other are what is most missed. Investment/improvement in technology and Zoom etiquette are concerns raised.

The large majority of you are comfortable with technology and online registration. Pre-registration is necessary as our worship space is limited and we want to ensure that no one is turned away at the door.

As we experience the “new normal” - safety, vaccinations, resurgence of the virus and its variants, and the general unknown of the future are top concerns.

Below is an abridged report of the most recent survey results. Should you wish to view the full report of the data, please inquire with the Parish Office.

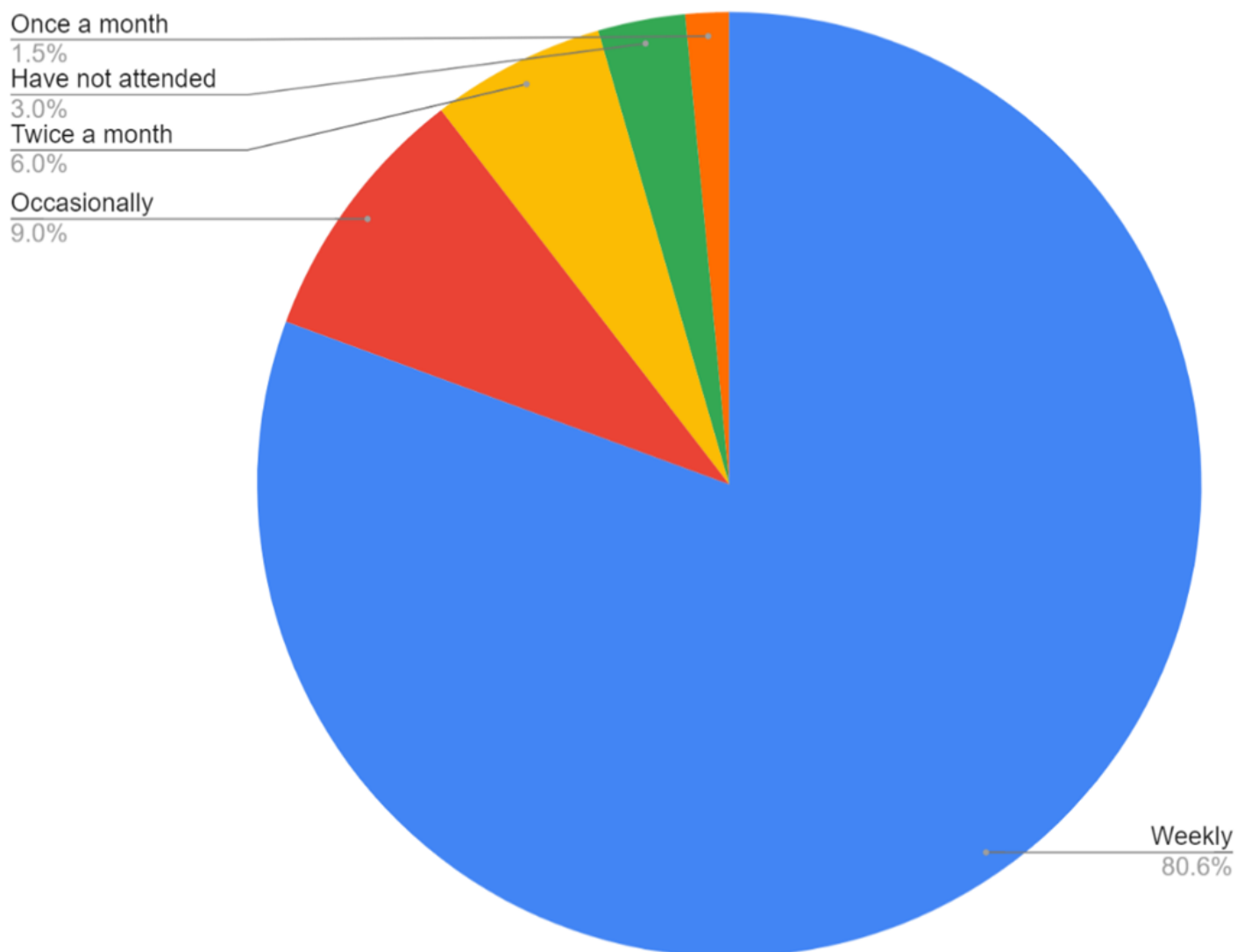
Based on the results of our survey and guidelines from local provincial government, health professionals and the Diocese*, **Council is aiming for a soft reopening on September 19.** We will be mindful of your concerns when we reopen. We are working on clearly-defined safety guidelines and procedures, and this will be communicated with as much notice as possible. We seek volunteers to assist in cleaning, sanitizing, ushering, and other tasks.

We plan to begin experimenting with live-streaming and incorporating Zoom during in-person worship. We hope in these ways to enable those who cannot join our community physically in this season, to continue to be with us virtually. We know that everyone will work together, as we have throughout the pandemic, to nurture our St. John's community in the transition into this next stage of reopening.

**For your reference, a July 5, 2021 letter from Bishop John Stephens on in-person worship and other guidelines may be viewed at <https://www.vancouver.anglican.ca/news/bishops-pastoral-letter-on-re-opening-july-5-2021>. Parishes have been asked to determine the policies that work best for their context, using these diocesan guidelines (along with provincial guidelines) as a framework.*

1. ZOOM Worship Attendance

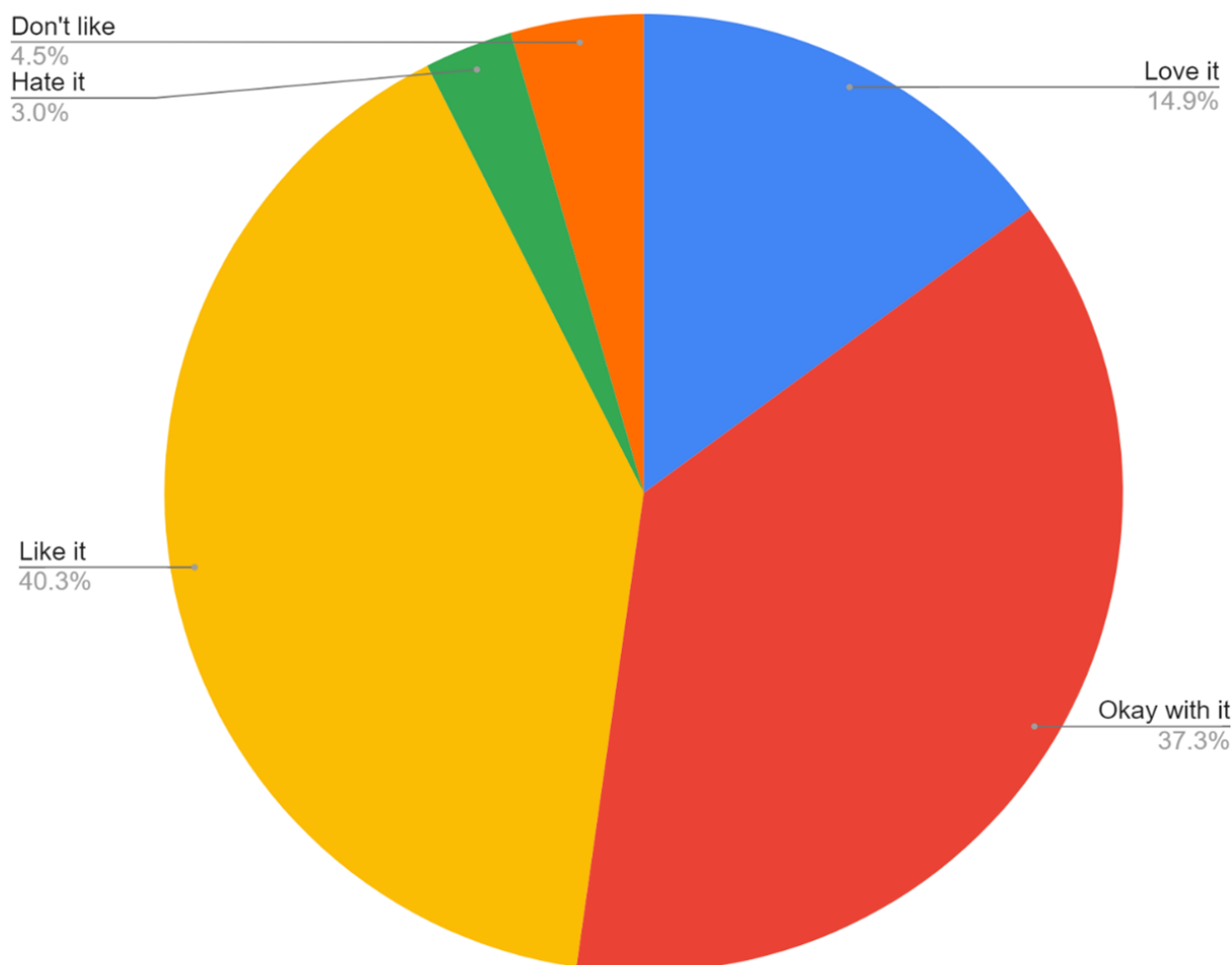
1. How often do you attend ZOOM worship?



The large majority of respondents (80.6%) are regular weekly attenders on Zoom.

2. Feelings about ZOOM Worship

2. How do you feel about ZOOM worship?

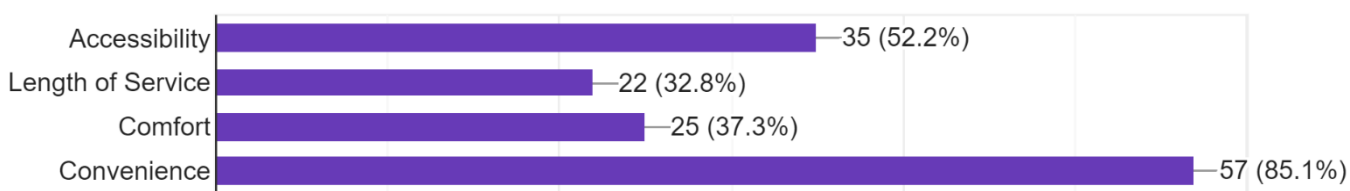


Roughly 55% of respondents “Love” or “Like” Zoom worship, with an additional 37% “OK with it”. The remaining 8% of people “Don't Like” or “Hate” Zoom worship.

3. Virtual Worship Positives

3. Tell us what do you LIKE about Virtual Worship?

67 responses



Convenience and accessibility are the top reasons for liking virtual worship. The safety of virtual worship was also cited.

4. Virtual Worship Negatives

4. Tell us what you DON'T LIKE about Virtual Worship?

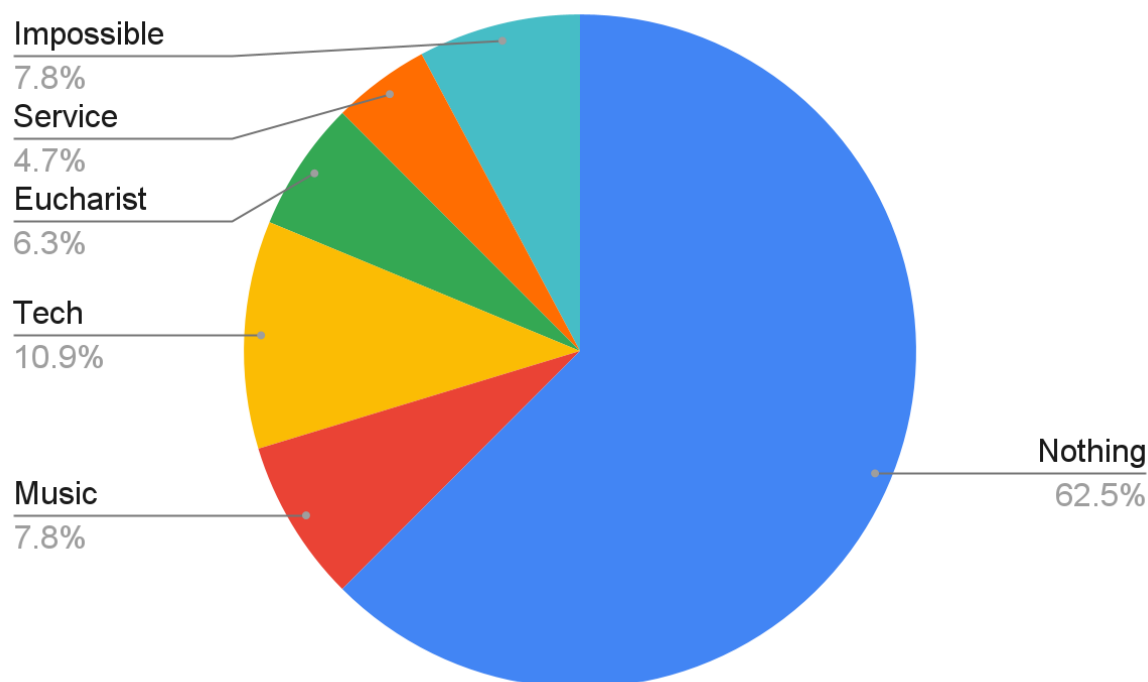
67 responses



Under "Other", not being able to have in-person fellowship and interact with each other are most missed.

5. Improving Virtual Worship

5. How could we improve your Virtual Worship experience?

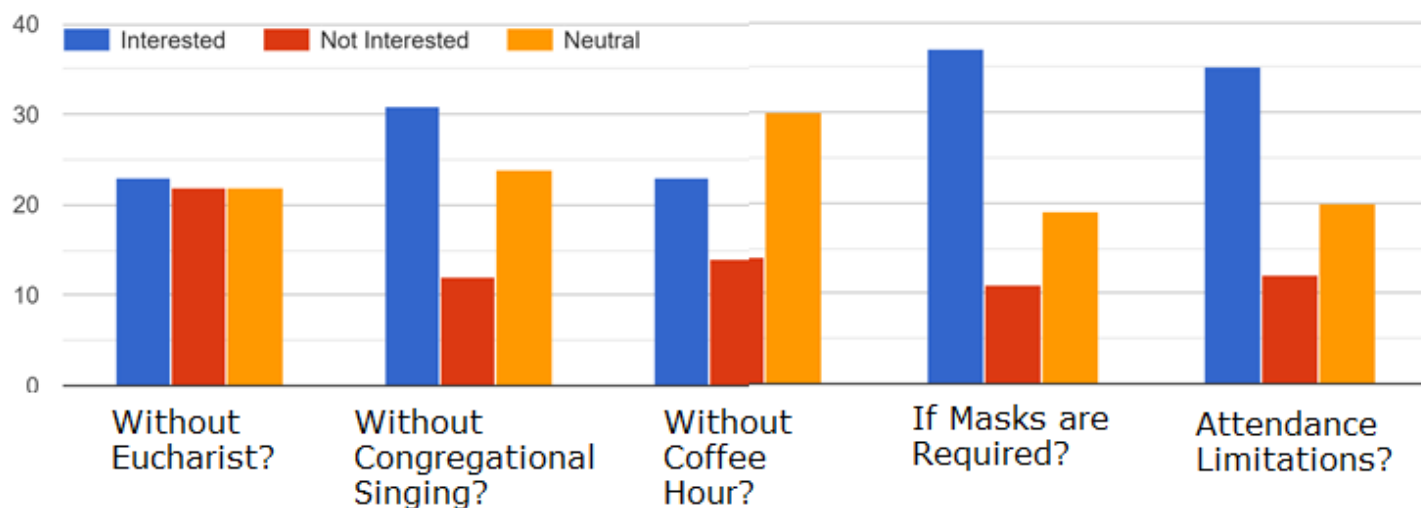


Suggestions fell into 4 categories: changes involving 1) the overall Service, 2) Eucharist, 3) Technology, and 4) Music. Improvements to Zoom technology so that we can sing and pray in unison, and Zoom "etiquette" were often cited. Spotlighting speakers and readers would be appreciated.

Close to two-thirds said that there was nothing else to suggest and they were generally satisfied ("Nothing"). A few said that it was impossible to improve the experience because they found it to be a negative experience overall ("Impossible").

6. Reopening Restrictions

6. Reopening at this time may include several restrictions. How interested would you be in attending in-person worship:

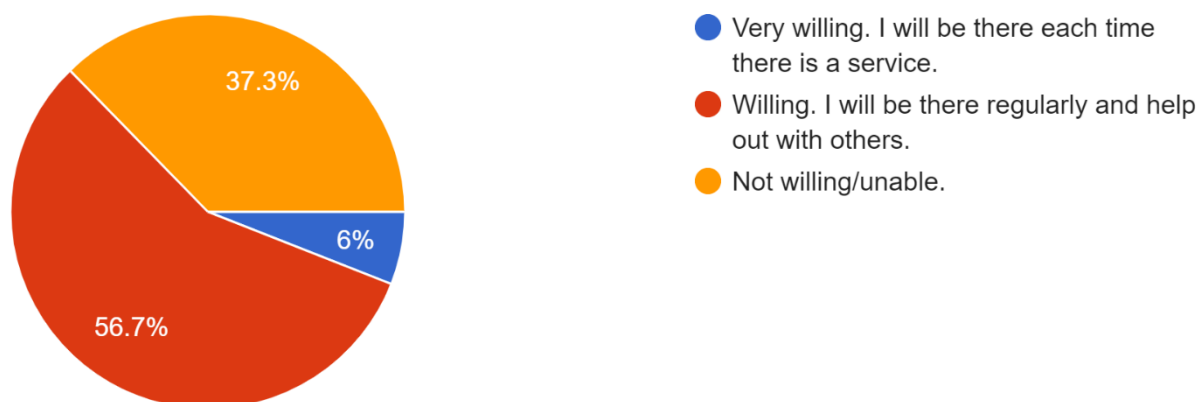


A large majority of people are open to coming back to in-person worship with safety protocols (79 - 83% “Interested” or “Neutral” in 4 out of 5 categories) – required masking was particularly well-received. Not having Eucharist was less popular (at 67% “Interested” or “Neutral”).

7. Willing to Assist?

7. If you are interested in reopening, how willing are you to assist in the preparation, which will include setting up before worship, and sanitizing and clean-up after the service?

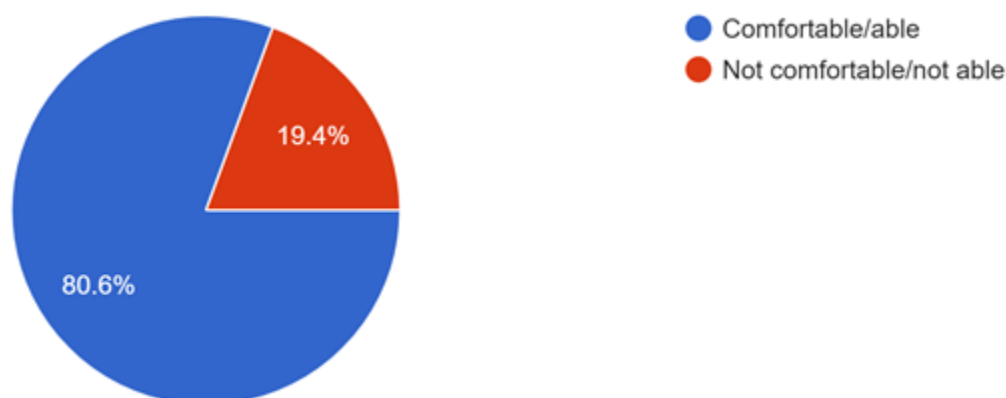
67 responses



A majority (roughly 63%) are “Willing” or “Very Willing” to assist, which will be a great help as we move forward with reopening.

8. On-line Reservation System

8. We are considering an “on-line reservation system” if numbers recommended by the province and diocese are limited, e.g. to 20 or 50. This would help us abide by provincial and diocesan recommendations, avoiding overcrowding of our worship space and allowing for safe seating. Are you comfortable with and able to register online?

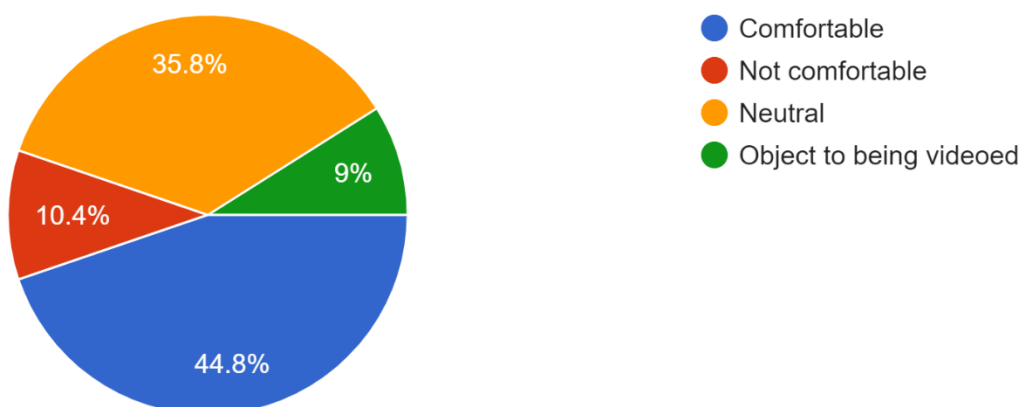


The large majority of respondents are “Comfortable / Able” to use an online registration system. We plan to offer assistance and/or other registration options for the remaining people.

9. Comfort with Being Videoed

9. We are working on Live Streaming in-person services. If worshipping in-person, how comfortable would you be with being videoed?

67 responses

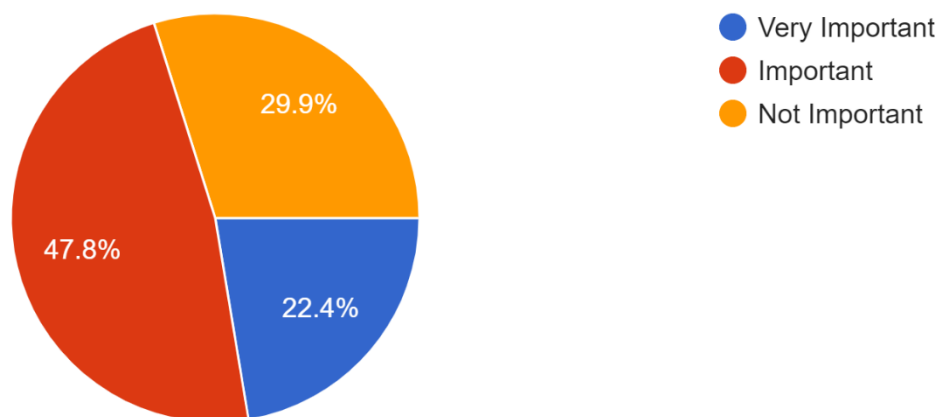


Roughly 80% are “Comfortable” or “Neutral” about being videoed, and 20% were “Uncomfortable” or “Object”. We will incorporate this feedback as we work out how we use cameras in the service.

10. Offering a Zoom Component

10. How important is it to you that we continue to offer a Zoom component to in-person services (with live interaction)?

67 responses

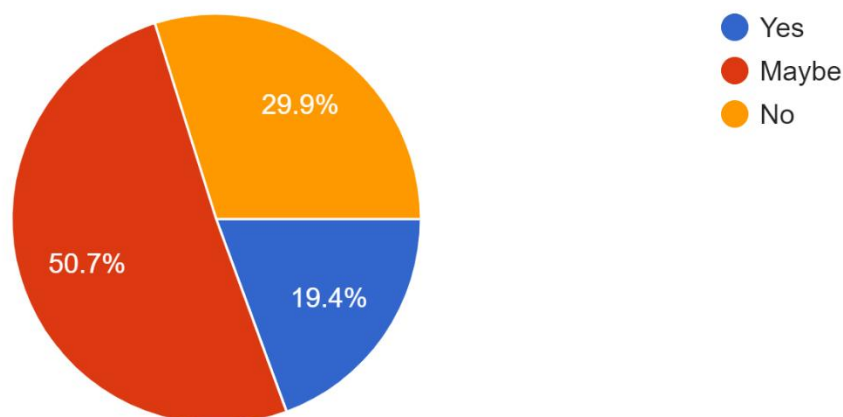


Roughly 70% feel it's "Important" or "Very Important" to include live interaction via Zoom in our in-person services.

11. Separate Zoom Service

11. Would you favour having a separate Zoom service (similar to current worship)?

67 responses

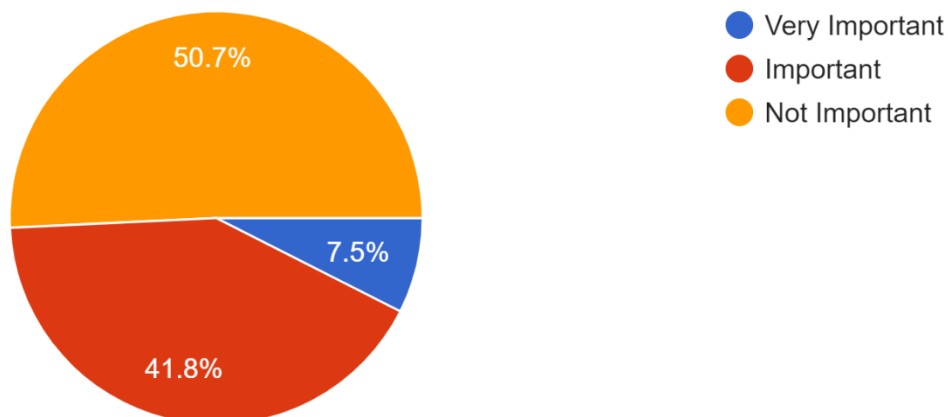


Offering a separate Zoom service seems a slightly less popular option: roughly 30% do not want it, 20% do want it, and the remaining 50% are "Maybe".

12. Livestreaming In-Person Worship

12. How important is it to you that we livestream our in-person worship (people can watch the service remotely as it's happening, but with no interaction).

67 responses

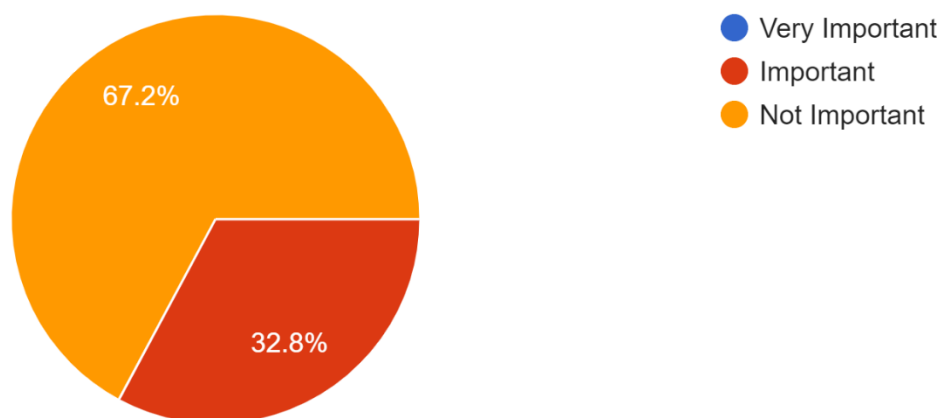


Respondents were evenly split on livestreaming - half thought that it is “Not Important”, half thought it is “Important” or “Very Important”.

13. Recording of Worship

13. How important is it to you that we have a recording of worship available for viewing after the service?

67 responses

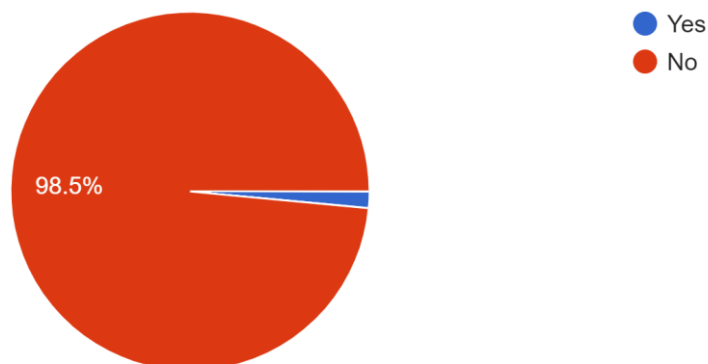


Roughly 2/3 of respondents thought having a recording of worship was “Not Important” (with no one selecting “Very Important”), perhaps because people intend to continue to participate in worship each Sunday. Recordings may therefore be more useful to others in our parish and wider community who cannot attend (either in-person or virtually) on Sunday mornings.

14. Screening Questions

14. We plan to ask you several screening questions before you enter for worship, e.g. "Have you had recent contact with someone who has had exposure to COVID-19"? Would you object to this?

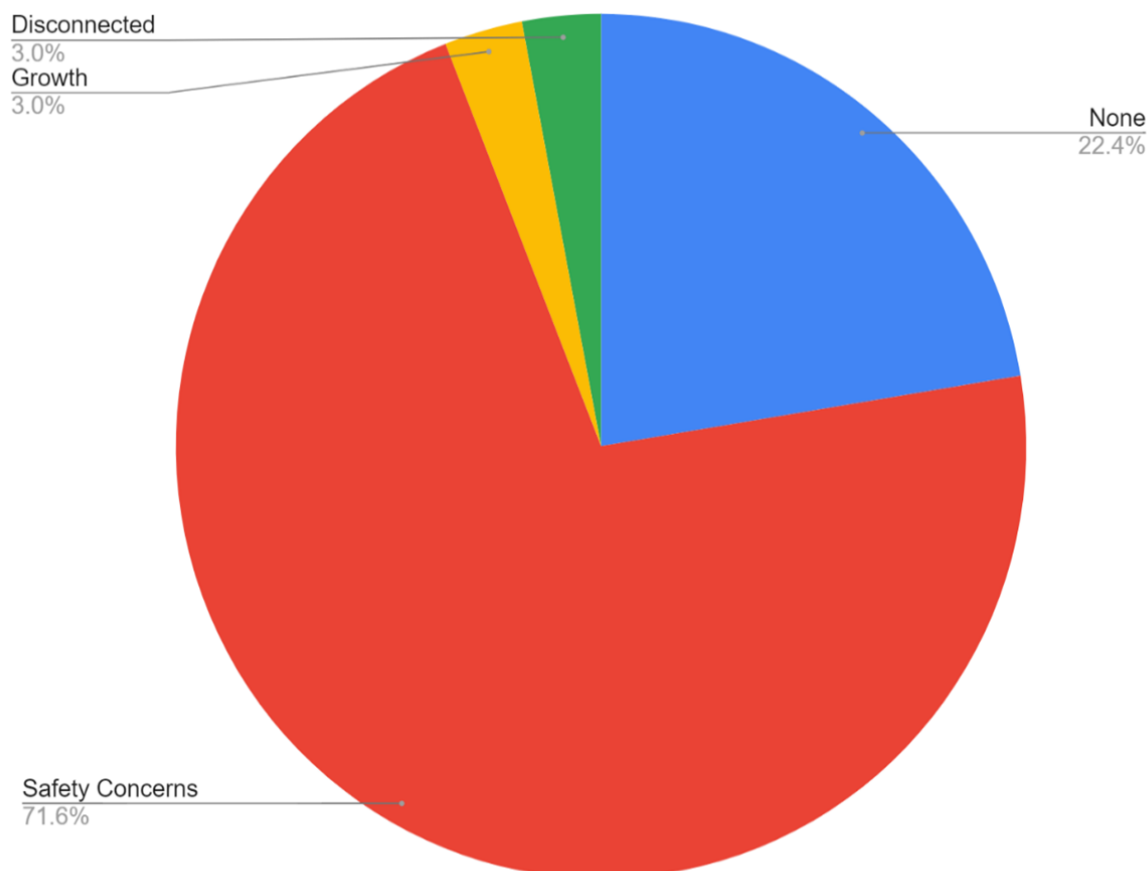
67 responses



There was overwhelming support for screening questions. A few comments were made around the importance of safety and vaccinations, and that common sense should prevail.

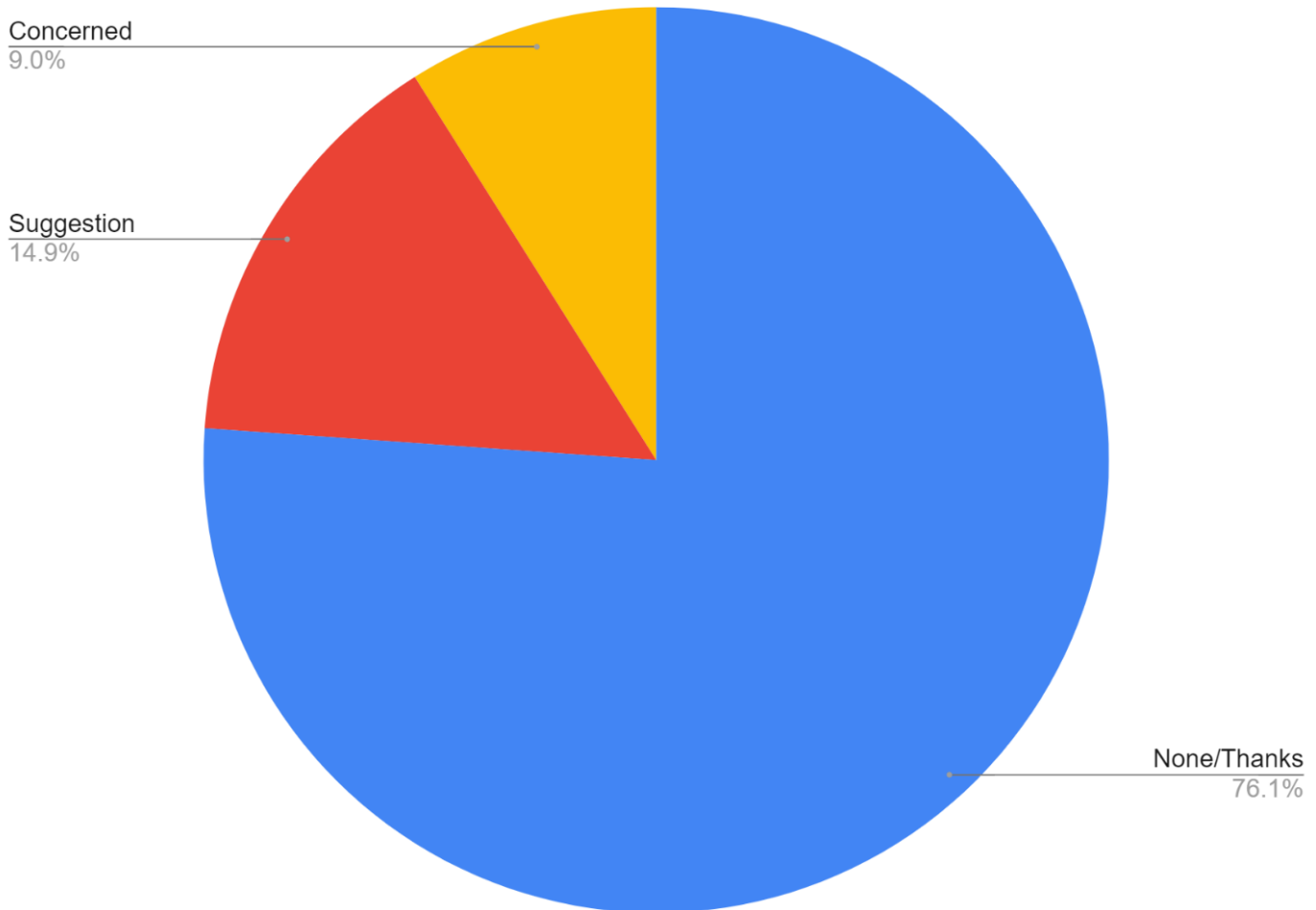
15. Concerns About The Future

15. What concerns do you have about the future as we experience the pandemic?



Safety concerns, especially around the resurgence of the virus (and variants), and the uncertainty of the future ranked highly. Additional concerns were around pandemic disconnection and the stalled growth of the church in this time.

16. Final Comments



Responses centred around:

- Concerns about safety, until the virus is eradicated.
- Ideas for additional worship services and ways to gather more safely.
- Support for meeting in-person.
- Thanks to leadership and congregation as a whole.