

2009 ELCA Youth Gathering Evaluation
Youth Responses: Pre- and Post-Youth Gathering

ELCA Research and Evaluation

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July 2010

Executive Summary

The 2009 ELCA Youth Gathering took place in New Orleans, LA, in July 2009. The Youth Gathering focused on the concepts of service and justice using the theme, *Jesus Justice Jazz*. This report focuses on the responses to the matched pre- and post-Youth Gathering questionnaire for 866 youth who attended the 2009 Youth Gathering.

Description of Respondents

A majority of respondents were female (63%), a majority were White (84%), and a majority were born between 1992 and 1994 (ages 15-17 in 2009) (75%). The highest percentage of respondents (40%) live in a small town/city community setting, while the other respondents live in a suburban setting (31%), a rural setting (21%), and an urban setting (7%).

Half of all respondents participate in congregations with an average weekly worship attendance of 151 to 350. Another 31 percent participate in congregations with an average weekly worship attendance of 1 to 150, while the others (19%) participate in congregations with an average weekly worship attendance of 351 or more.

A majority of respondents report spending more than five hours per week in school-related extracurricular activities (57%). Also, a majority of respondents report spending 1 to 5 hours per week in volunteer activities (66%). However, a majority of respondents spend zero hours per week working for pay (60%)¹.

Finally, over 60 percent of respondents participated in each of four Youth Gathering-specific preparation activities, completed before attending the 2009 Youth Gathering, had a 60 percent participation rate among respondents. The highest percentage of respondents (68%) had met with their youth group to learn about some of the specific situations existing in New Orleans since Hurricane Katrina. The lowest percentage of respondents (37%) had participated in a Bible study on the theme of *Jesus Justice Jazz*.

Participation at the Youth Gathering for 2003, 2006, and 2009

Youth participation rates for the 2009 Youth Gathering are higher than for comparable activities at the 2003 or 2006 Youth Gatherings. Overall, a high percentage of respondents (84%) described their experience at the 2009 Youth Gathering as 'positive'. However, those who participated in a 'Health and Wellness' project were less likely to describe their experience at the 2009 Youth Gathering as positive than those participating in the other ServantLife (day of service) interest areas.

¹ All of these references to activities per week most likely reflect how respondents spend their time during the academic school year.

Youth Identification with the ELCA

A total of 39 percent of respondents indicated it is ‘very important’ to them to identify with the ELCA. An additional 51 percent of respondents indicated this is ‘somewhat important’. A majority of respondents indicated the evening programs and the ServantLife project at the 2009 Youth Gathering had ‘a lot of influence’ with respect to their identifying with the ELCA (51% and 55%, respectively).

Faith Development and Discipleship

Respondents were influenced by the 2009 Youth Gathering in faith development and discipleship as evidenced by the increase in average ratings between the pre- and post-Youth Gathering questionnaires for 28 of the 30 statements related to faith development and discipleship. There were seven statements receiving the highest increases between the pre- and post-Youth Gathering questionnaires:

- [knowing] ‘Ways to engage in advocacy’;
- [knowing] ‘An understanding of the meaning of advocacy’;
- [experiencing] ‘Being drawn into a community with people I didn’t know through serving people undergoing hardship’;
- [participating] ‘As a leader in my congregation, synod, or other ministry’;
- [experiencing] ‘A life-changing discovery while serving with people undergoing hardship’;
- [experiencing] ‘My life choices being influenced by my baptismal call to “serve all people following the example of Jesus”’; and
- [knowing] ‘An understanding of how God calls me to serve others’.

Although the above seven statements showed the highest average rating increases, overall, it is possible specific groups of respondents, such as females, or those who are oldest, or those who live in an urban community setting, may have responded differently than other groups of respondents.

Identifying differences among groups of respondents helps to identify three types of respondents:

1. The groups who may not have been influenced by attending the 2009 Youth Gathering;
2. The groups who may have been influenced the most by attending the 2009 Youth Gathering; and
3. The groups who seem to have started out with stronger feelings or higher levels of experience, knowledge, or participation than others before attending the 2009 Youth Gathering.

To learn more about possible differences, respondent groups were created according to the following:

- Gender;
- Age;
- Race/Ethnicity;
- Community setting;
- Congregation size (based on average weekly worship attendance);
- Hours spent per week participating in volunteer activities; and
- The number of Youth Gathering-specific preparation activities completed prior to attending the 2009 Youth Gathering.

The data show some groups of respondents did respond differently than other groups to the seven statements with the highest increases between the pre- and post-Youth Gathering questionnaires. Based on the analysis of these differences, it seems those who volunteered more than five hours per week were not influenced in these areas of faith development and discipleship by the 2009 Youth Gathering. However, the analysis shows persons of color, those from an urban community setting, those from the smallest congregations, and those who participated in no volunteer activities per week were most influenced in these areas of faith development and discipleship. Finally, those who volunteered at least one hour per week and those who participated in four or more of the Youth Gathering-specific preparation activities were found to have some of the highest average ratings in these areas of faith development and discipleship before attending the 2009 Youth Gathering.

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Introduction

The 2009 ELCA Youth Gathering took place in New Orleans, LA, in July 2009. The 2009 Youth Gathering focused on the concepts of service and justice using the theme, *Jesus Justice Jazz*. Prior to the 2009 Youth Gathering, the 2009 Definitely-abled Youth Leadership Event (DAYLE) and the 2009 Multicultural Youth Leadership Event (MYLE) were also held in New Orleans. To help assess the impact of these three events, as well as the impact of the Youth Gathering ministry in general, ELCA Youth and Young Adult Ministries/Gathering staff collaborated with ELCA Research and Evaluation staff to develop an extensive evaluation strategy. Through a variety of questionnaires, feedback was solicited from synod coordinators, youth participants (from DAYLE, MYLE, and the Youth Gathering), adult participants (from DAYLE and MYLE), pastors of congregations with youth that attended the 2009 Youth Gathering, and synod bishops.

Some aspects of this evaluation strategy were implemented for the first time as part of the 2009 Youth Gathering, including a post-Youth Gathering questionnaire for pastors of congregations with youth who attended the Youth Gathering and a questionnaire for synod bishops. In addition, ELCA Youth and Young Adult Ministries/Gathering staff and ELCA Research and Evaluation staff collaborated with staff of Trinity Lutheran College in Everett, WA, to conduct research about the impact of service learning as experienced within the context of the 2009 Youth Gathering. Participation in this research project helped to shape new aspect of evaluation for the 2009 Youth Gathering: a matched pre- and post-questionnaire with a focus on faith development and discipleship of youth participants at the 2009 Youth Gathering.

To begin, a random, representative sample of approximately 6,000 youth was chosen from the over 27,500 youth registered to attend the 2009 Youth Gathering. A pre-Youth Gathering questionnaire was sent to these youth about four months prior to the 2009 Youth Gathering. Approximately 2,000 youth responded for a response rate near 33 percent. Nearly two months after the 2009 Youth Gathering, a post-Youth Gathering questionnaire was sent only to those youth who had responded to the pre-Youth Gathering questionnaire. For this questionnaire, 866 responses were received for a response rate of 43 percent. This report focuses on the 866 responses to the matched pre- and post-Youth Gathering questionnaires.² All responses for the pre- and post-Youth Gathering questionnaires are attached as Appendix 1 and Appendix 2.

Description of Respondents

As part of the pre-Youth Gathering questionnaire, respondents were asked a number of questions about themselves. Youth Gathering registration data was also used to learn more about respondents and their home congregation. As shown in Figures 1 through 3, a majority of respondents are female

² Responses and analyses from the other questionnaires are included in other reports completed by Research and Evaluation, ELCA.

(63%), a majority are White (84%), and a majority were born between 1992 and 1994 (ages 15-17 in 2009) (75%).

Figure 1: Respondents by Gender

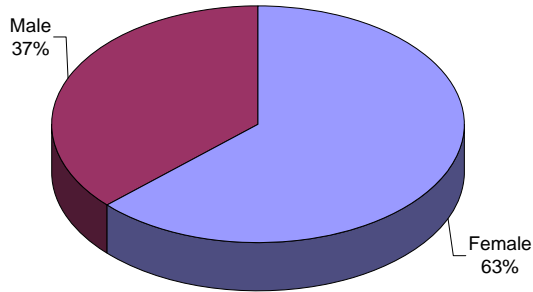


Figure 2: Respondents by Race/Ethnicity

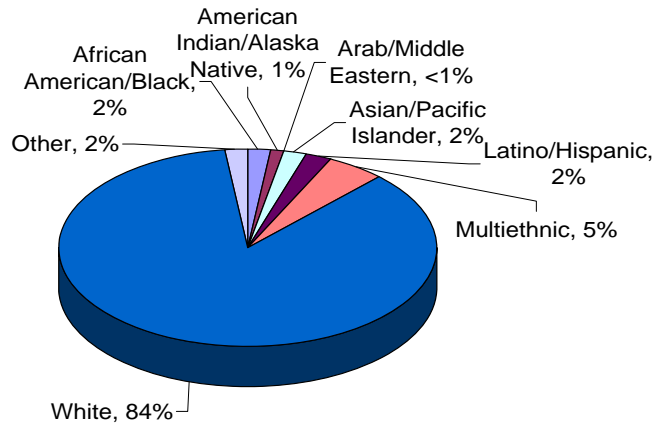
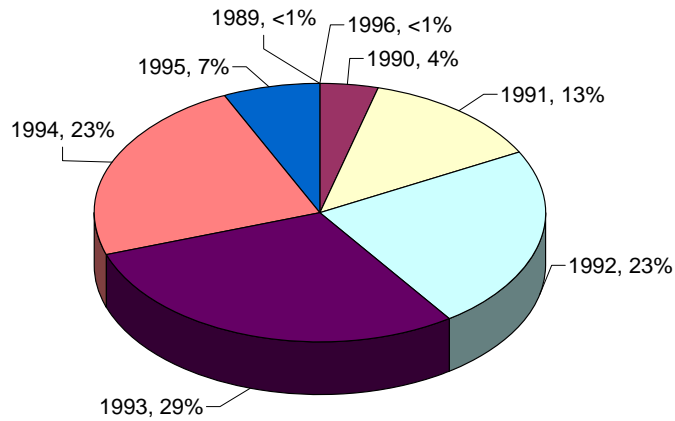


Figure 3: Respondents by Year of Birth



Most respondents report living with their mother (96%), with their father (85%), or with siblings (80%) in their home. The highest percentage of respondents (40%) live in a small town/city community setting, followed by 31 percent who live in a suburban setting. Just over 20 percent report living a rural community setting (21%), and seven percent report living in an urban setting.

A total of 52 percent of respondents indicated they are concerned about their personal safety in their neighborhood in at least specific instances and situations. Conversely, 43 percent of respondents indicated they never worry about their safety where they live. There are no differences in these responses based on the respondent’s community setting. However, differences do exist based on gender, age, and race/ethnicity.³ Females are more likely to be concerned about their safety (60%) than are males (45%). Younger respondents are more likely to be concerned about their safety than are older respondents: 60 percent of respondents born from 1994 through 1996, compared to 55 percent of respondents born from 1992 through 1993, and 43 percent of respondents born from 1989 through 1991. Respondents who are persons of color are more likely to be concerned about their safety (68%) than are those who are white (52%).

A majority of respondents reported ‘There is money left over to spend [each month] after paying for basic necessities’ (71%). Fifteen percent of respondents indicated they were unsure of the financial condition of the household in which they live; 11 percent indicated, ‘There is only enough money to pay for basic necessities’; and, one percent reported, ‘There is not enough money to pay for the basic necessities’.

The highest percentage of respondents (77%) report they plan to go to a four-year college or university immediately after finishing high school. Another 9 percent plan to go to a community college or a vocational school. Two percent of respondents plan to join the military; one percent plan to get a permanent job; and, less than one percent plan to join a full-time volunteer program.

As shown in Table 1, half of all respondents participate in congregations with an average weekly worship attendance of 151 to 350 people. In terms of participation in congregational activities, nearly all respondents report participating in worship at least once a month (94%). A majority of respondents participate at least once per month in Sunday School (58%), and a majority participate once per month in congregation youth ministry (54%). A smaller percentage of respondents report assisting during worship (42%) or participating in Bible study (22%) at least once a month.

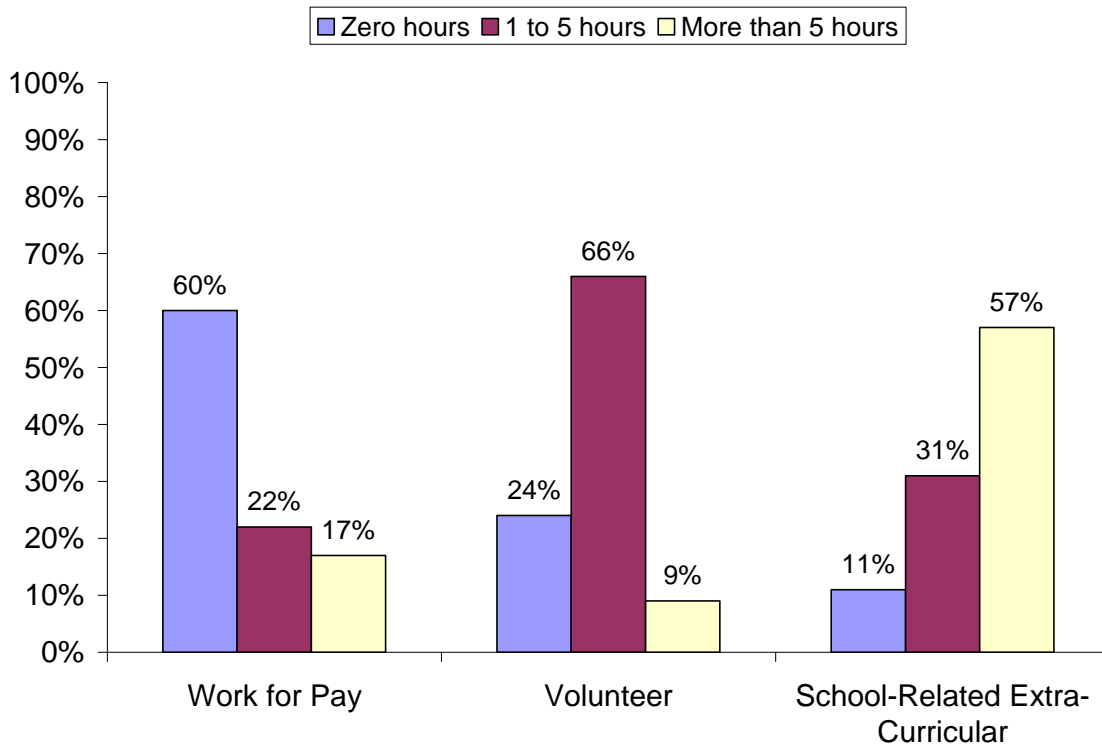
Table 1: Average Weekly Worship Attendance at Respondent Congregations

Average Weekly Worship Attendance	Percent of Respondents
1 – 150	31%
151 – 350	50%
351 or more	19%

³ All reported differences are significant at the .05 level.

As shown in Figure 4, a majority of respondents spend zero hours per week working for pay (60%), a majority spend one to five hours per week in volunteer activities (66%), and a majority spend more than five hours per week in school-related extra-curricular activities (57%)⁴.

Figure 4: Number of Hours Spent per Week Participating in Activities



For each of these three activities, there are no differences in responses based on gender or race/ethnicity. However, for all three activities, those who are youngest (born from 1994 to 1996, ages 13 through 15 in 2009) are more likely to report zero hours.

As part of the pre-Youth Gathering questionnaire, youth were also asked whether they had completed certain preparation activities. Seven of the activities listed on the questionnaire were related to something other than fundraising, such as studying about the effects of Hurricane Katrina or praying for the people of New Orleans and the Gulf Coast. As shown in Table 2, the highest percentage of respondents indicated they had ‘met with their youth group to learn about some of the specific situations that exist in New Orleans since Hurricane Katrina’ (68%). The lowest percentage of respondents had ‘participated in a Bible study on the theme of the 2009 Youth Gathering: *Jesus Justice Jazz*’ (38%).

⁴ All of these references to activities per week most likely reflect how respondents spend their time during the academic school year.

Table 2: Participation in Preparation Activities for the 2009 Youth Gathering

Preparation Activity	Percentage of Respondents
I have met with my youth group to learn about some of the specific situations that exist in New Orleans since Hurricane Katrina	68%
I have talked with members of my congregation about what we will be doing at the Gathering	66%
I have prayed for my youth group and the trip we will take to New Orleans	60%
I have prayed for the people of New Orleans and the Gulf Coast	60%
I have studied about some of the problems facing New Orleans and the Gulf Coast since Hurricane Katrina	49%
I have attended some group building activities with other youth attending the Gathering	39%
I have participated in a Bible study on the theme: <i>Jesus Justice Jazz</i>	38%

Participation at the Youth Gathering for 2003, 2006, and 2009

Overall, a high percentage of respondents (84%) described their experience at the 2009 Youth Gathering as ‘positive’. No respondents described their experience as ‘negative’, while 14 percent of respondents described their experience as ‘a mixture of positive and negative’. There are no differences in responses based on the gender, age, or race/ethnicity of respondents. In addition, there are no differences in responses based on the respondent’s community setting, size of congregation, the number of hours they volunteer in a week, or the number of preparation activities they completed before attending the 2009 Youth Gathering. A difference in responses does exist, however, based on the interest area in which their ServantLife project (day of service) was assigned. As shown in Table 3, those who participated in a ‘Health and Wellness’ project were less likely to describe their experience at the 2009 Youth Gathering as positive.

Table 3: Percentage of Respondents From Each ServantLife Interest Area Describing Their Overall Experience at the 2009 Youth Gathering as ‘Positive’

	Servant Life Interest Area					
	Environment	Arts and Culture	Housing	Literacy	Wealth and Poverty	Health and Wellness
Positive Experience	92%	88%	88%	87%	85%	76%

As part of the post-Youth Gathering questionnaire, respondents were asked about their participation at many of the activities offered at the 2009 Youth Gathering. A high percentage of respondents, 93 percent, indicated they participated in all of the assigned ServantLife project (day of service), with an additional six percent indicating they participated in a part of the ServantLife project. The activity with the next highest percentage of respondents who participated in all of the activity was the Sunday closing worship held in the Superdome (85%). Community Life Worship in the Morning had the

lowest participation percentage with 24 percent indicating they participated in all of the activity⁵ and another 35 percent indicating they participated in a part of the activity.

As shown in Table 4, youth participation rates for the 2009 Youth Gathering are higher than for comparable activities at the 2003 or 2006 Youth Gatherings. (Each of the percentages in Table 4 represent youth respondents who indicated they participated in at least part of the activity listed.)

Table 4: Youth Participation Rates for 2003, 2006, 2009

Activity	Percentage of Youth Participating in 2003	Percentage of Youth Participating in 2006	Percentage of Youth Participating in 2009
Evening Program	83%	91%	99%**
Service Project	37%	50%*	99%***
Interaction Center	92%	77%	99%
Learning Activities	34%	41%	92%
Final 15 Devotions	50%	44%	87%

*Includes ServantLife Opportunities and Way-of-Life projects

**There was no mass morning event to attend in 2009; there were mass morning events provided in 2003 and 2006

***All participants were assigned to a service project in 2009; this was not the case in 2003 or 2006

Participation in Service in the Local Community

A total of 57 percent of youth respondents from the 2009 Youth Gathering indicated they are ‘very likely’ to participate in a servant opportunity in their local community with their youth ministry group and/or their congregation sometime within the next 12 months. An additional 36 percent of youth respondents indicated they are ‘somewhat likely’ to do this. When asked in what way their experience at the 2009 Youth Gathering affected their desire to participate in a servant opportunity in their local community, 69 percent of youth respondents indicated they ‘have a greater desire to participate than they had before they attended the 2009 Youth Gathering’.

Youth Identification with the ELCA

As part of the post-Youth Gathering questionnaire, respondents were asked a couple of questions about their identity with the ELCA. A total of 39 percent of respondents indicated it is ‘very important’ to them to identify with the ELCA. An additional 51 percent of respondents indicated this is ‘somewhat important’. Conversely, six percent of respondents indicated it is ‘Not at all important’, and three percent indicated ‘I do not identify myself with the ELCA’.

When asked how much influence certain activities have with respect to their identifying with the ELCA, respondents rated two activities higher than the other three. As shown in Table 5, a majority of respondents indicated the evening programs and the ServantLife project at the 2009 Youth Gathering had ‘a lot of influence’ (‘5’ on a 5-point scale with ‘1’ representing ‘no influence’ and ‘5’

⁵ Given the early morning start times for many of the ServantLife projects, it would have been impossible for some participants to participate in all of the Community Life Worship in the Morning activities.

representing ‘a lot of influence’). Average ratings for these five activities ranged from a low of 3.6 to a high of 4.2.

Table 5: Activities with ‘A Lot of Influence’ with Respect to Youth Identifying with the ELCA

Activity – Participating in...	Percentage of Respondents Indicating ‘A Lot of Influence’	Average Rating*
...the ServantLife project at the Youth Gathering	53%	4.2
...the evening programs in the Superdome at the Youth Gathering	51%	4.2
...in events in and with my local congregation	37%	4.0
...in events in and with my synod	25%	3.6
...the learning and discoveries in the Interaction Center at the Youth Gathering	24%	3.6

*Based on a five-point scale with ‘1’ representing ‘no influence’ and ‘5’ representing ‘a lot of influence’

Defining Service and Justice

As part of both the pre- and post-Youth Gathering questionnaires respondents were asked to choose a definition of service and of justice that most closely matched their understanding. With respect to service, six definitions were provided to finish the sentence, ‘Serving others in ways that reflect Jesus’ example means...’. With respect to justice, six definitions were provided to finish the sentence, ‘Justice, as taught by Jesus, means...’.

As shown in Tables 6 and 7, most responses to the service question were distributed among four definitions while most responses to the justice question were distributed among three definitions. Also, as shown in these tables, there was not much variation in the percentage of responses between the pre- and post-Youth Gathering questionnaires. One exception to this is in Table 6: the increase from 19 percent to 23 percent is statistically significant for ‘expecting nothing in return’. A second exception is in Table 7: the increase from 15 percent to 19 percent is statistically significant for ‘equality of power for all’.

Table 6: Defining Service Both Pre- and Post-Youth Gathering

	Percentage of Respondents Pre-Youth Gathering	Percentage of Respondents Post-Youth Gathering
Serving others in ways that reflect Jesus' example means...		
understanding the suffering of others and doing something about it	34%	33%
expecting nothing in return	19%	23%*
fulfilling God's requirements of Christians to do good things for other people	19%	18%
making other people's lives better	20%	18%
voluntarily doing the job that no one else wants to do	4%	6%
gaining God's love and approval	1%	1%

*Shading represents a significant difference in the post- responses compared to the pre- responses.

Table 7: Defining Justice Both Pre- and Post-Youth Gathering

	Percentage of Respondents Pre-Youth Gathering	Percentage of Respondents Post-Youth Gathering
Justice, as taught by Jesus, means...		
someone stands up for people who are victims	47%	49%
equality of power for all	15%	19%*
people get treated the way they want to be treated	21%	18%
changing systems that keep some people silent	6%	7%
equality of wealth for all	4%	5%
punishment as a consequence for doing something bad	4%	4%

*Shading represents a significant difference in the post- responses compared to the pre- responses.

Faith Development and Discipleship of Youth Participants

One of the primary objectives of the 2009 Youth Gathering was to have an influence on youth in the areas of faith development and discipleship. Six specific dimensions of faith development and discipleship were explored⁶. The following is a list of the six dimensions together with the hoped-for outcomes for youth as they engage in service learning activities and experiences:

- Compassion – Desired Outcome: Youth will be called to be mature Christians who hold a deep and hopeful sense of compassion for the world and all God's people;
- Community – Desired Outcome: Youth will be drawn into community, including with those they serve and those with whom they serve;
- Advocacy – Desired Outcome: Youth will work for justice, becoming advocates for the urgent needs of the world;
- Lifelong Servanthood – Desired Outcome: Youth will become naturally and joyfully engaged in lifelong service to others;

⁶ Development of these six dimensions was based on work by faculty at Trinity Lutheran College, Everett, WA, in the area of Service Learning.

- Leadership – Desired Outcome: Youth will desire to engage in leadership of others and will use their gifts of leadership in service to others; and
- Exploration of Vocation – Desired Outcome: Youth will explore God’s call in their life and deepen their sense of vocation.

To measure the influence of the 2009 Youth Gathering, statements reflecting affective, behavioral, and cognitive aspects of the above desired outcomes were developed. Youth participants were provided with these statements as part of both the pre- and post-Youth Gathering questionnaires. They were asked to indicate the strength of their feelings, experiences, knowledge, or participation with respect to each of the statements. In total, 36 statements were developed to characterize these six dimensions, 30 of which were included in both the pre- and post-Youth Gathering questionnaires (five statements related to each of the six dimensions). Each of these 30 statements was measured using a 7-point scale with ‘1’ representing the low end and ‘7’ representing the high end of the scale.

For the statements on the pre-Youth Gathering questionnaire, the average ratings ranged from a low of 3.3 to a high of 5.4. Table 8 shows the statements receiving the highest average ratings and those receiving the lowest average ratings.

Table 8: Highest and Lowest Average Ratings from the Pre-Youth Gathering Questionnaire

Statement – Highest Average Rating	Dimension of Faith Development and Discipleship	Average Rating Pre-Youth Gathering
A desire to actively respond to the hardships of others	Compassion	5.4 ⁷
A desire to participate in a congregation or local ministry because of its focus on serving others	Community	5.2 ⁷
Statement – Lowest Average Rating		
An advocacy training event, workshop, or learning activity	Advocacy	3.3 ⁸
On-going service with the same individuals or groups who are undergoing hardship	Lifelong Servanthood	3.4 ⁸
Ways to engage in advocacy	Advocacy	3.4 ⁹
Being drawn into a community with people I didn’t know through serving people undergoing hardship	Community	3.4 ¹⁰

Although many factors likely shape youth responses to these statements, it was hypothesized a significant change¹¹ between the pre- and the post-Youth Gathering responses to these 30 statements would indicate the 2009 Youth Gathering experience had an influence on these six dimensions of faith development and discipleship for the youth participants. To compare responses from the pre- and post-Youth Gathering questionnaires, the average rating for each statement was calculated and

⁷ Using a 7-point scale with ‘1’ representing ‘I do not feel this’ and ‘7’ representing ‘I feel this very strongly’.

⁸ Using a 7-point scale with ‘1’ representing ‘I have never participated’ and ‘7’ representing ‘I participate on a regular basis’.

⁹ Using a 7-point scale with ‘1’ representing ‘I know little to nothing’ and ‘7’ representing ‘I know a great deal’.

¹⁰ Using a 7-point scale with ‘1’ representing ‘I never experience this’ and ‘7’ representing ‘I experience this regularly’.

¹¹ A change with a statistical significance at the .05 level.

then compared. For 28 of the 30 statements, the average rating after the 2009 Youth Gathering was higher than the average rating before the 2009 Youth Gathering¹². Each of these increases is statistically significant, leading to the conclusion the 2009 Youth Gathering did have an influence on strengthening these six dimensions of faith development and discipleship for youth participants.

Table 9 shows the statements with the highest increase in average rating between the pre- and post-Youth Gathering questionnaires. Four of these statements have direct connections to the 2009 Youth Gathering’s themes of service and justice as represented by the dimensions of Lifelong Servanthood and Advocacy.

**Table 9: Highest Increase in Average Rating
Between the Pre- and Post-Youth Gathering Questionnaire**

Statement	Dimension of Faith Development and Discipleship	Average Rating Pre-Youth Gathering	Average Rating Post-Youth Gathering	Gain from Pre- to Post-
Ways to engage in advocacy	Advocacy	3.4 ¹³	3.9 ¹³	.5
An understanding of the meaning of advocacy	Advocacy	3.6 ¹³	4.1 ¹³	.5
Being drawn into a community with people I didn’t know through serving people undergoing hardship	Community	3.4 ¹⁴	3.8 ¹⁴	.4
As a leader in my congregation, synod, or other ministry	Leadership	3.5 ¹⁵	3.9 ¹⁵	.4
A life-changing discovery while serving with people undergoing hardship	Lifelong Servanthood	3.8 ¹⁴	4.2 ¹⁴	.4
My life choices being influenced by my baptismal call to “serve all people following the example of Jesus”	Lifelong Servanthood	4.2 ¹⁴	4.6 ¹⁴	.4
An understanding of how God calls me to serve others	Exploration of Vocation	4.8 ¹³	5.2 ¹³	.4

Although the above seven statements showed the highest average rating increases, overall, it is possible specific groups of respondents, such as females, or those who are oldest, or those who live in an urban community setting, may have responded differently than other groups of respondents.

¹² For two of the 30 statements, there was no change between the pre- and post-Youth Gathering responses.

¹³ Using a 7-point scale with ‘1’ representing ‘I know little to nothing’ and ‘7’ representing ‘I know a great deal’.

¹⁴ Using a 7-point scale with ‘1’ representing ‘I never experience this’ and ‘7’ representing ‘I experience this regularly’.

¹⁵ Using a 7-point scale with ‘1’ representing ‘I have never participated’ and ‘7’ representing ‘I participate on a regular basis’.

Identifying differences among groups of respondents helps to identify three categories of respondents:

1. The groups who may not have been influenced by attending the 2009 Youth Gathering;
2. The groups who may have been influenced the most by attending the 2009 Youth Gathering; and
3. The groups who seem to have started out with stronger feelings or higher levels of experience, knowledge, or participation than others before attending the 2009 Youth Gathering.

To learn more about possible differences, respondent groups were created according to the following:

- Gender;
- Age;
- Race/Ethnicity;
- Community Setting;
- Congregation Size (based on average weekly worship attendance);
- Hours spent per week participating in volunteer activities; and
- The number of Youth Gathering-specific preparation activities completed prior to attending the 2009 Youth Gathering.

What follows is a summary of the differences among respondents for each of the seven statements listed in Table 9.¹⁶

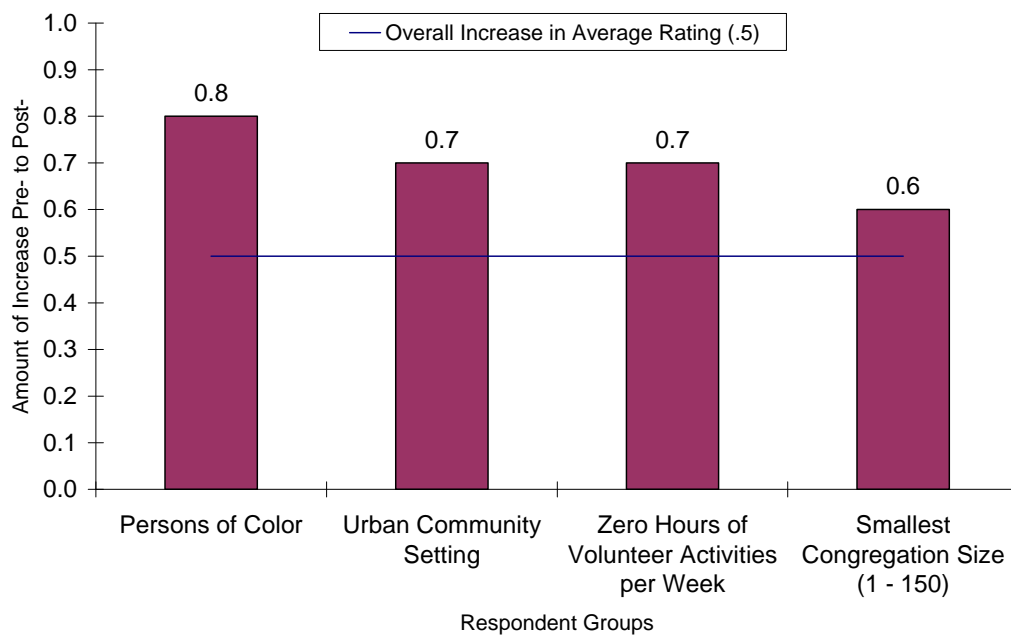
¹⁶See Appendix 3 for tables showing the complete set of responses (those with differences and those without differences) for each group of respondents for each of the seven statements.

'Ways to Engage in Advocacy'

For this statement, respondents were asked how much they know. Each respondent group showed a significant increase in their average knowledge rating between the pre- and post-Youth Gathering questionnaires. This suggests by attending the 2009 Youth Gathering, all groups of respondents increased their knowledge of ways to engage in advocacy.

As shown in Table 9 (p. 13), the overall increase in average rating for this statement was .5 (from 3.4 to 3.9 between the pre- and post-Youth Gathering questionnaires). Figure 5 shows the groups of respondents who may have been the most influenced, as evidenced by an increase of more than .5 between their pre- and post-Youth Gathering average ratings. These groups include persons of color, those living in an urban community setting, those who did not participate in volunteer activities on a weekly basis, and those from the smallest congregations.

Figure 5: Respondent Groups Who Seem Most Influenced in their Knowledge of Ways to Engage in Advocacy



Finally, Table 10 shows the respondent groups who reported higher average ratings than other groups within the same category on the pre-Youth Gathering questionnaire: those who are oldest, those who are White, those who volunteered at least one hour per week, and those who participated in a higher number of preparation activities. This suggests before attending the 2009 Youth Gathering something about the experiences of these respondent groups equipped them with more knowledge than other groups within the same category about ways to engage in advocacy.

Table 10: Respondent Groups Who Knew More About Ways to Engage in Advocacy Before Attending the 2009 Youth Gathering

Category	Average Rating Pre- Youth Gathering*
Age	
Born 1989-1991 (oldest)	3.8
Born 1992-1993	3.4
Born 1994-1996 (youngest)	3.3
Race/Ethnicity	
Persons of Color	3.1
White	3.5
Hours per Week Volunteering	
Zero hours	2.8
1 to 5 hours	3.5
More than 5 hours	4.2
Number of Youth Gathering-Specific Preparation Activities	
0 to 3 activities	3.1
4 to 7 activities	3.7

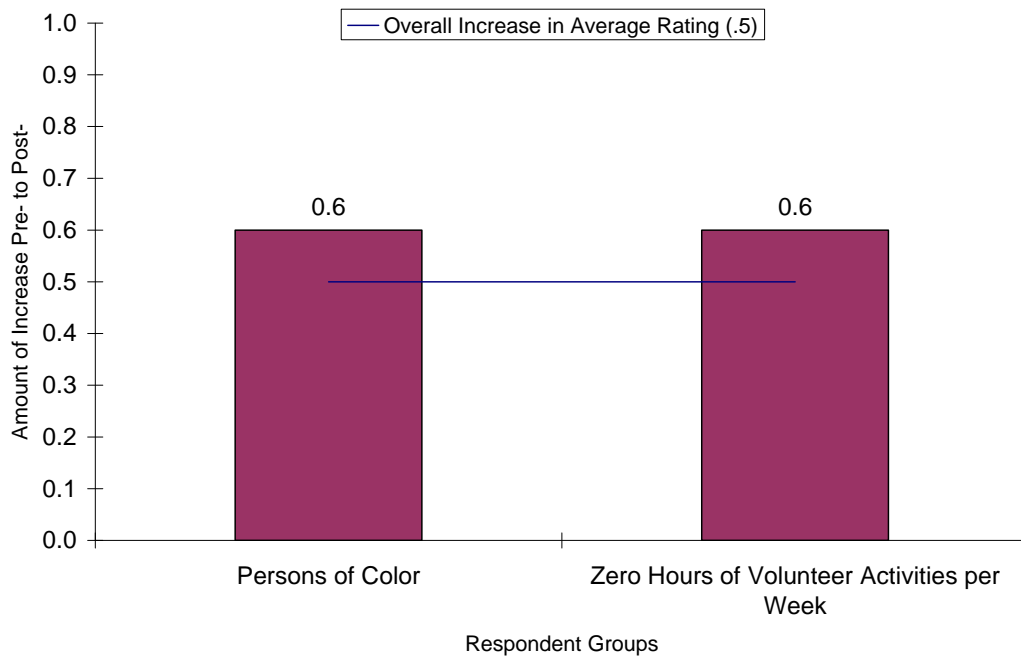
*Each shaded group average rating is significantly higher than at least one other group average rating within the same category of respondents.

‘An Understanding of the Meaning of Advocacy’

For this statement, respondents also were asked how much they know. Each respondent group, except for one, showed a significant increase in their average knowledge rating between the pre- and post-Youth Gathering questionnaires. The exception is those who come from an urban community setting. This suggests by attending the 2009 Youth Gathering all groups of respondents, except those from an urban community setting, increased in their knowledge of the meaning of advocacy.

As shown in Table 9 (p. 13), the overall increase in average rating for this statement was .5 (from 3.6 to 4.1 between the pre- and post-Youth Gathering questionnaires). Figure 6 shows the groups of respondents who may have been the most influenced, as evidenced by an increase of more than .5 between their pre- and post- Youth Gathering average ratings. These groups include persons of color and those who did not participate in volunteer activities on a weekly basis.

Figure 6: Respondent Groups Who Seem Most Influenced in their Knowledge of the Meaning of Advocacy



Finally, Table 11 shows the respondent groups who reported higher average ratings than other groups within the same category on the pre-Youth Gathering questionnaire: those who are oldest, those who volunteered at least one hour per week, and those who participated in a higher number of preparation activities. This suggests before attending the 2009 Youth Gathering something about the experiences of these respondent groups equipped them with more knowledge than other groups within the same category about the meaning of advocacy.

Table 11: Respondent Groups Who Knew More About the Meaning of Advocacy Before Attending the 2009 Youth Gathering

Category	Average Rating Pre- Youth Gathering*
Age	
Born 1989-1991	3.9
Born 1992-1993	3.6
Born 1994-1996	3.4
Hours per Week Volunteering	
Zero	3.2
1 to 5 hours	3.7
More than 5 hours	4.2
Number of Youth Gathering-Specific Preparation Activities	
0 to 3 activities	3.3
4 to 7 activities	3.9

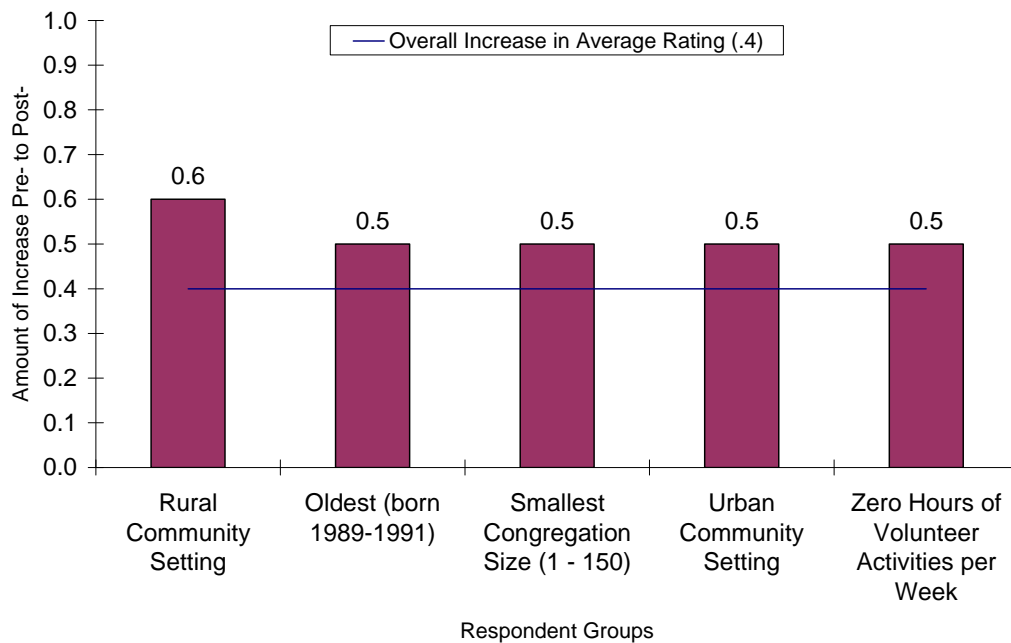
*Each shaded group average rating is significantly higher than at least one other group average rating within the same category of respondents.

‘Being Drawn into a Community with People I Didn’t Know through Serving People Undergoing Hardship’

For this statement, respondents were asked how frequently they experience this. All but two respondent groups showed a significant increase in their average rating for frequency between the pre- and post-Youth Gathering questionnaires. The exceptions are those who are youngest and those who volunteered more than five hours per week. This suggests by attending the 2009 Youth Gathering all groups of respondents, except the youngest and those who volunteered the most, increased how often they experience being drawn into a community with people they didn’t know through serving people undergoing hardship.

As shown in Table 9 (p. 13), the overall increase in average rating for this statement is .4 (from 3.4 to 3.8 between the pre- and post-Youth Gathering questionnaires). Figure 7 shows the groups of respondents who may have been the most influenced, as evidenced by an increase of more than .4 between their pre- and post-Youth Gathering average ratings. These groups include those from both a rural and an urban community setting, those who are oldest, those from the smallest congregations, and those who did not participate in volunteer activities on a weekly basis.

Figure 7: Respondent Groups Who Seem Most Influenced in Their Frequency of Experiencing Being Drawn into a Community with People They Didn't Know through Serving People Undergoing Hardship



Finally, Table 12 shows respondent groups reporting higher average ratings than other groups within the same category on the pre-Youth Gathering questionnaire: those in a small town/city or suburban or urban community setting, those from medium- or large-sized congregations, those who volunteered at least one hour per week, and those who participated in a higher number of preparation activities. This suggests before attending the 2009 Youth Gathering something about the experiences of these respondent groups equipped them with more experiences than other groups within the same category to be drawn into a community with people they didn't know through serving people undergoing hardship.

Table 12: Respondent Groups Who Had More Experiences Being Drawn into a Community with People They Didn't Know through Serving People Undergoing Hardship Before Attending the 2009 Youth Gathering

Category	Average Rating Pre- Youth Gathering*
Community Setting	
Rural	3.1
Small town/city	3.4
Suburban	3.6
Urban	3.6
Congregation Size	
1-150 avg. weekly attendance	3.2
151-350 avg. weekly attendance	3.4
351 or more avg. weekly attendance	3.6
Hours per Week Volunteering	
Zero	2.8
1 to 5 hours	3.5
More than 5 hours	4.0
Number of Youth Gathering-Specific Preparation Activities	
0 to 3 activities	3.3
4 to 7 activities	3.5

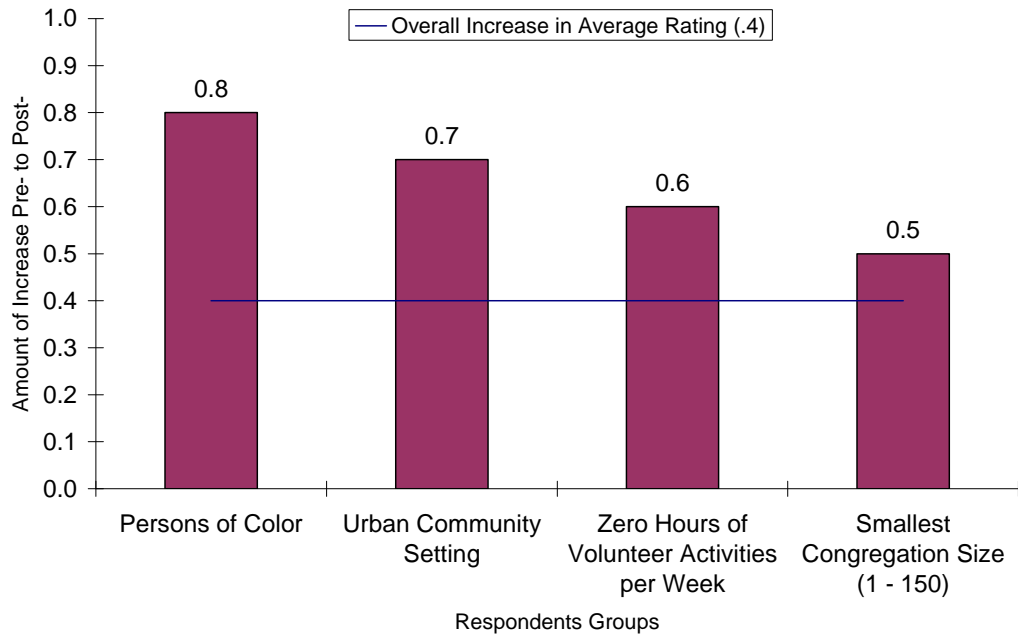
*Each shaded group average rating is significantly higher than at least one other group average rating within the same category of respondents.

'As a Leader in My Congregation, Synod, or Other Ministry'

For this statement, respondents were asked how frequently they participate in this. Most respondent groups showed a significant increase in their average rating for frequency between the pre- and post-Youth Gathering questionnaires. The four exceptions are those who are oldest, those who live in a rural community setting, those from the largest congregations, and those who volunteered more than five hours per week. This suggests by attending the 2009 Youth Gathering most groups of respondents, except those listed, increased how often they participate as a leader in their congregation, synod, or other ministry.

As shown in Table 9 (p. 13), the overall increase in average rating for this statement is .4 (from 3.5 to 3.9 between the pre- and post-Youth Gathering questionnaires). Figure 8 shows the groups of respondents who may have been the most influenced, as evidenced by an increase of more than .4 between their pre- and post-Youth Gathering average ratings. These groups include persons of color, those from an urban community setting, those who did not participate in volunteer activities on a weekly basis, and those from the smallest congregations.

Figure 8: Respondent Groups Who Seem the Most Influenced in Their Frequency of Participation as a Leader in their Congregation, Synod, or Other Ministry



Finally, Table 13 shows the respondent groups who reported higher average ratings than other groups within the same category on the pre-Youth Gathering questionnaire: those who are oldest, those from a rural or a suburban community setting, those who volunteered at least one hour per week, and those who participated in a higher number of Youth Gathering-specific preparation activities prior to attending the 2009 Youth Gathering. This suggests before attending the 2009 Youth Gathering something about the experiences of these respondent groups led them to participate more than other groups within the same category as leaders in their congregation, synod, or other ministry.

Table 13: Respondent Groups Who Had More Experiences as a Leader in Their Congregation, Synod, or Other Ministry Before Attending the 2009 Youth Gathering

Category	Average Rating Pre-Youth Gathering
Age	
Born 1989-1991	4.3
Born 1992-1993	3.5
Born 1994-1996	3.3
Community Setting	
Rural	3.6
Small town/city	3.4
Suburban	3.7
Urban	3.7
Hours per Week Volunteering	
Zero	2.8
1 to 5 hours	3.7
More than 5 hours	4.6
Number of Youth Gathering-Specific Preparation Activities	
0 to 3 activities	3.2
4 to 7 activities	3.8

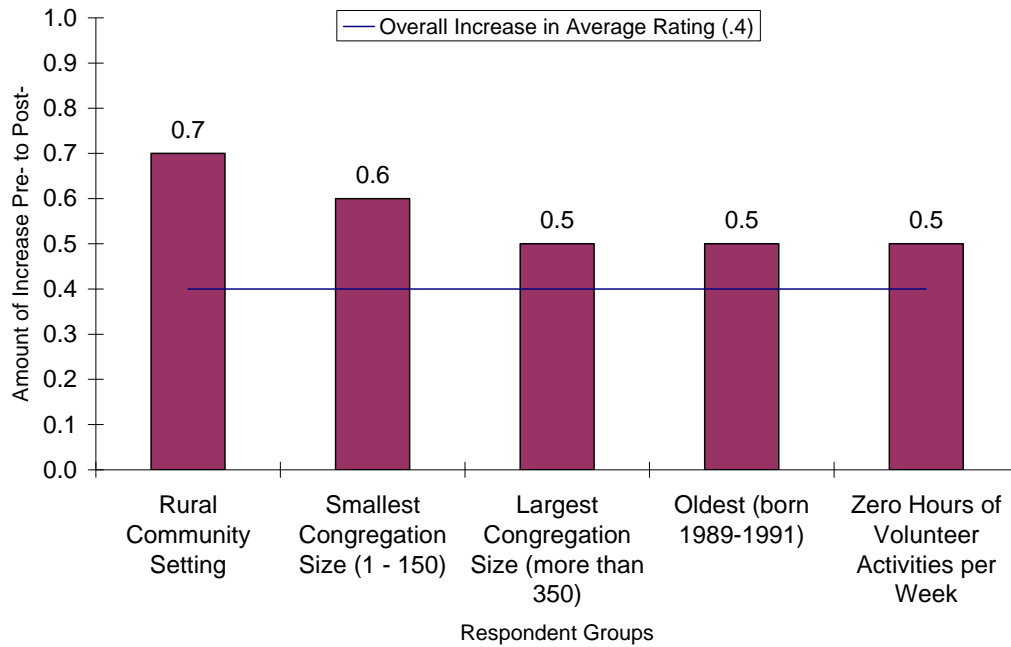
*Each shaded group average rating is significantly higher than at least one other group average rating within the same category of respondents.

‘A Life-changing Discovery While Serving with People Undergoing Hardship’

For this statement, respondents were asked how often they experience this. Most respondent groups showed a significant increase in their average rating for frequency between the pre- and post-Youth Gathering questionnaires. The three exceptions are person of color, those who live in an urban community setting, and those who volunteered more than five hours per week. This suggests by attending the 2009 Youth Gathering most groups of respondents, except those listed, increased how often they experience a life-changing discovery while serving with people undergoing hardship.

As shown in Table 9 (p. 13), the overall increase in average rating for this statement is .4 (from 3.8 to 4.2 between the pre- and post-Youth Gathering questionnaires). Figure 9 shows the groups of respondents who may have been the most influenced, as evidenced by an increase of more than .4 between their pre- and post-Youth Gathering average ratings. These groups include those from a rural community setting, those from the smallest or the largest congregations, those who are oldest, and those who did not participate in volunteer activities on a weekly basis.

Figure 9: Respondent Groups Who Seem Most Influenced in their Frequency of Experiencing A Life-changing Discovery While Serving with People Undergoing Hardship



Finally, Table 14 shows the respondent groups who reported higher average ratings than other groups within the same category on the pre-Youth Gathering questionnaire: females, those born between 1992 and 1993, those from a small town/city or a suburban or an urban community setting, those from the largest congregations, those who volunteered at least one hour per week, and those who participated in a higher number of Youth Gathering-specific preparation activities prior to attending the 2009 Youth Gathering. This suggests before attending the 2009 Youth Gathering something about the experiences of these respondent groups equipped them with more experiences than other groups within the same category of a life-changing discovery while serving with people undergoing hardship.

Table 14: Respondent Groups Who Had More Experiences Having a Life-Changing Discovery While Serving with People Undergoing Hardship Before Attending the 2009 Youth Gathering

Category	Average Rating Pre-Youth Gathering
Gender	
Female	3.9
Male	3.7
Age	
Born 1989-1991	3.8
Born 1992-1993	3.9
Born 1994-1996	3.7
Community Setting	
Rural	3.5
Small town/city	3.9
Suburban	3.9
Urban	4.1
Congregation Size	
1-150 avg. weekly attendance	3.6
151-350 avg. weekly attendance	3.9
351 or more avg. weekly attendance	3.9
Hours per Week Volunteering	
Zero	3.3
1 to 5 hours	3.9
More than 5 hours	4.4
Number of Youth Gathering-Specific Preparation Activities	
0 to 3 activities	3.6
4 to 7 activities	4.0

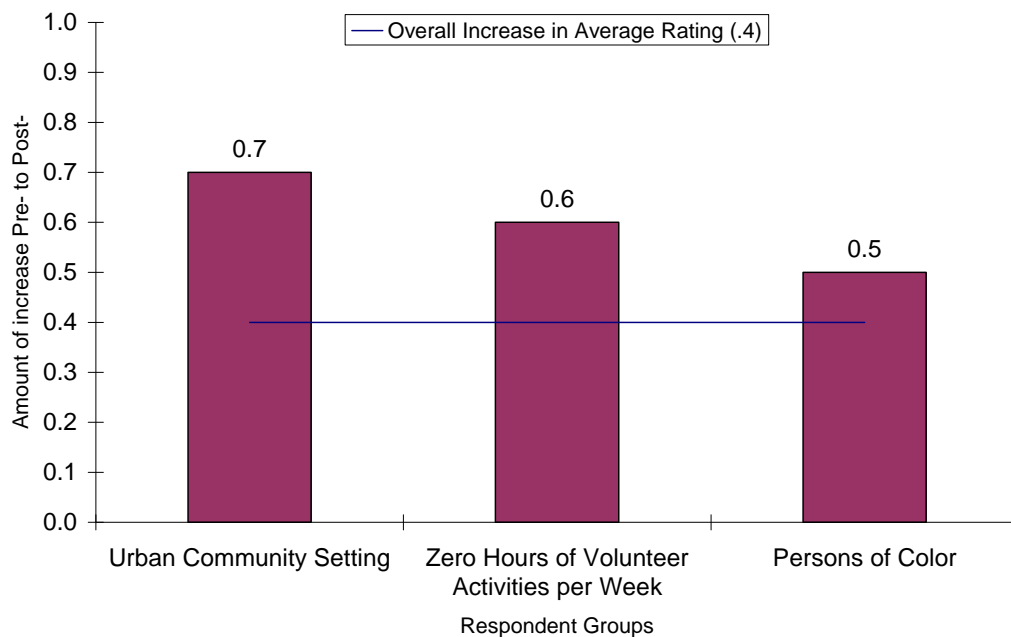
*Each shaded group average rating is significantly higher than at least one other group average rating within the same category of respondents

‘My Life Choices Being Influenced By My Baptismal Call to “Serve all People Following the Example of Jesus”’

For this statement, respondents were asked how often they experience this. Each respondent group, except for one, showed a significant increase in their average frequency rating between the pre- and post-Youth Gathering questionnaires. The exception is those who volunteered more than five hours per week. This suggests by attending the 2009 Youth Gathering all groups of respondents, except those volunteering more than five hours per week, increased their experiences of their life choices being influenced by their baptismal call to “serve all people following the example of Jesus”.

As shown in Table 9 (p. 13), the overall increase in average rating for this statement is .4 (from 4.2 to 4.6 between the pre- and post-Youth Gathering questionnaires). Figure 10 shows the groups of respondents who may have been the most influenced, as evidenced by an increase of more than .4 between their pre- and post-Youth Gathering average ratings. These groups include those from an urban community setting, those who did not participate in volunteer activities on a weekly basis, and persons of color.

Figure 10: Respondent Groups Who Seem Most Influenced in Their Frequency of Experiencing Their Life Choices being Influenced by Their Baptismal Call to “Serve All People Following the Example of Jesus”



Finally, Table 15 shows the respondent groups who report higher average ratings than other groups within the same category on the pre-Youth Gathering questionnaire: those who volunteered at least one hour per week, and those who participated in a higher number of Youth Gathering-specific preparation activities prior to attending the 2009 Youth Gathering. This suggests before attending the 2009 Youth Gathering something about the experiences of these respondent groups equipped them with more experiences than other groups within the same category of their life choices being influenced by their baptismal call to “serve all people following the example of Jesus”.

Table 15: Respondent Groups Who Had More Experiences of Their Life Choices Being Influenced by Their Baptismal Call to “Serve All People Following the Example of Jesus” Before Attending the 2009 Youth Gathering

Category	Average Rating Pre-Youth Gathering
Hours per Week Volunteering	
Zero	3.6
1 to 5 hours	4.4
More than 5 hours	5.1
Number of Youth Gathering-Specific Preparation Activities	
0 to 3 activities	4.0
4 to 7 activities	4.4

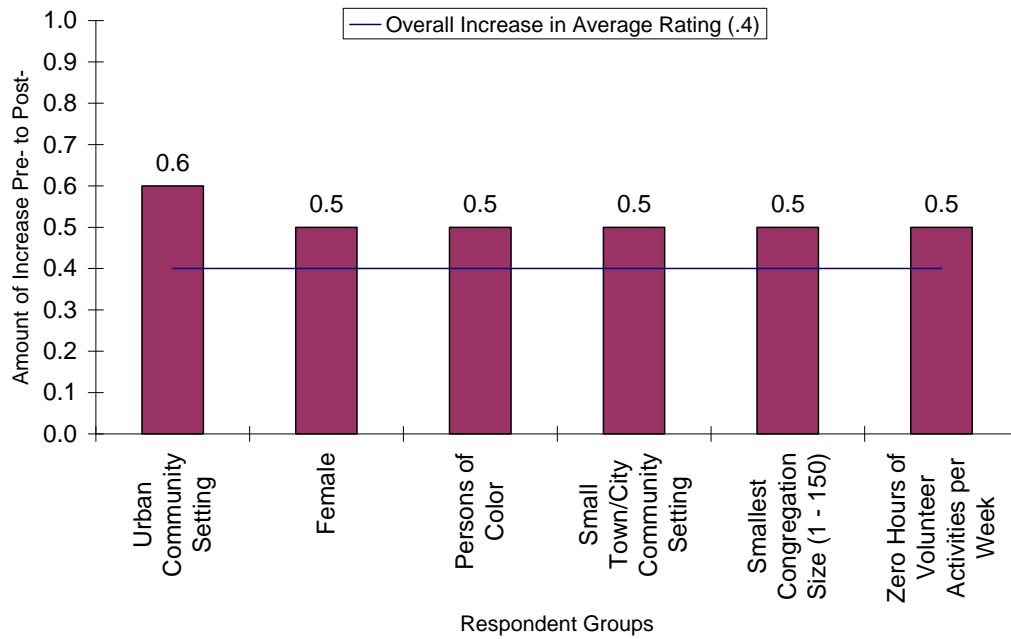
*Each shaded group average rating is significantly higher than at least one other group average rating within the same category of respondents

‘An Understanding of How God Calls Me to Serve Others’

For this statement, respondents were asked how much they know. Each respondent group, except for one, showed a significant increase in their average knowledge rating between the pre- and post-Youth Gathering questionnaires. The exception is those who volunteered more than five hours per week. This suggests by attending the 2009 Youth Gathering all groups of respondents, except those volunteering more than five hours per week, increased their knowledge of how God calls them to serve others.

As shown in Table 9 (p. 13), the overall increase in average rating for this statement is .4 (4.8 to 5.2 between the pre- and post-Youth Gathering questionnaires). Figure 11 shows the groups of respondents who may have been the most influenced, as evidenced by an increase of more than .4 between their pre- and post-Youth Gathering average ratings. These groups include females, persons of color, those from a small town/city or an urban community setting, those from the smallest congregations, and those who did not participate in volunteer activities on a weekly basis

Figure 11: Respondent Groups Who Seem Most Influenced in their Knowledge of How God Calls Them to Serve



Finally, Table 16 shows the respondent groups who reported higher average ratings than other groups within the same category on the pre-Youth Gathering questionnaire: females, those from the largest congregations, those who volunteered at least one hour per week, and those who participated in a higher number of Youth Gathering-specific preparation activities prior to attending the 2009 Youth Gathering. This suggests before attending the 2009 Youth Gathering something about the experiences of these respondent groups equipped them with more knowledge than other groups within the same category of how God calls them to serve others.

Table 16: Respondent Groups Who Knew More About How God Calls Them to Serve Others Before Attending the 2009 Youth Gathering

Category	Average Rating Pre-Youth Gathering
Gender	
Female	4.8
Male	4.6
Congregation Size	
1-150 avg. weekly attendance	4.7
151-350 avg. weekly attendance	4.7
351 or more avg. weekly attendance	4.9
Hours per Week Volunteering	
Zero	4.3
1 to 5 hours	4.8
More than 5 hours	5.6
Number of Youth Gathering-Specific Preparation Activities	
0 to 3 activities	4.5
4 to 7 activities	5.0

*Each shaded group average rating is significantly higher than at least one other group average rating within the same category of respondents

There are similarities across these seven statements. For example, for the activities in five of the seven statements, those who volunteered more than five hours per week did not seem to be influenced by the 2009 Youth Gathering, as evidenced by no significant increase between their pre- and post-Youth Gathering average rating. Conversely, persons of color, those from an urban community setting, and those from the smallest congregations were found to have been influenced the most with respect to the activities in five of the seven statements. Those who participated in no volunteer activities per week were found to have been influenced the most in all seven of the statements. Finally, those who volunteered at least one hour per week, and those who participated in four to seven Youth Gathering-specific preparation activities prior to attending the 2009 Youth Gathering were found to have started out with a higher average rating for the activities in all seven of the statements. It seems whether respondents had experience volunteering on a weekly basis was a key factor in whether they went to the 2009 Youth Gathering with higher average ratings for these seven statements and how much they were influenced.

Conclusions

Responses to both the pre- and post-Youth Gathering questionnaires tell us about the participants at the 2009 Youth Gathering, the activities in which they participated, how much they were influenced with respect to faith development and discipleship, and what factors may play a key role in shaping that influence.

A majority of respondents were female (63%), a majority were White (84%), and a majority were born between 1992 and 1994 (ages 15-17 in 2009) (75%). The highest percentage of respondents (40%) live in a small town/city community setting, with the remaining living in a suburban setting (31%), a rural setting (21%), and an urban setting (7%).

Half of all respondents participate in congregations with an average weekly worship attendance of 151 to 350. Another 31 percent participate in congregations with an average weekly worship attendance of 1 to 150, while the others (19%) participate in congregations with an average weekly worship attendance of 351 or more.

Nearly one-quarter of respondents (24%) did not participate in any volunteer activities on a weekly basis. However, 66 percent participated in one to five hours of volunteer activities on a weekly basis and nine percent participated in more than five hours.

Finally, over 60 percent of respondents participated in each of four Youth Gathering-specific preparation activities, completed before attending the 2009 Youth Gathering, had a 60 percent participation rate among respondents. The highest percentage of respondents (68%) had met with their youth group to learn about some of the specific situations existing in New Orleans since Hurricane Katrina. The lowest percentage of respondents (37%) had participated in a Bible study on the theme of *Jesus Justice Jazz*.

Nearly all respondents (93%) participated in all of their assigned ServantLife project (day of service). A high percentage of respondents from each of the six ServantLife interest areas reported an overall positive experience at the 2009 Youth Gathering. However, those from the Health and Wellness interest area were less likely to report having a positive experience (76 percent compared to percentages ranging from 85 to 92 percent). A majority of respondents (53%) indicated the ServantLife project had 'a lot of influence' on their identifying with the ELCA.

Respondents were influenced by the 2009 Youth Gathering in the areas of faith development and discipleship as evidenced by the increase in average ratings between the pre- and post-Youth Gathering questionnaires for 28 of the 30 statements related to faith development and discipleship. There were seven statements receiving the highest increases between the pre- and post-Youth Gathering questionnaires:

- [knowing] ‘Ways to engage in advocacy’;
- [knowing] ‘An understanding of the meaning of advocacy’;
- [experiencing] ‘Being drawn into a community with people I didn’t know through serving people undergoing hardship’;
- [participating] ‘As a leader in my congregation, synod, or other ministry’;
- [experiencing] ‘A life-changing discovery while serving with people undergoing hardship’;
- [experiencing] ‘My life choices being influenced by my baptismal call to “serve all people following the example of Jesus”’; and
- [knowing] ‘An understanding of how God calls me to serve others’.

Some groups of respondents responded differently than other groups to the above seven statements. Based on the analysis of these differences, it seems those who volunteered more than five hours per week were not influenced in these areas of faith development and discipleship by the 2009 Youth Gathering. However, the analysis shows persons of color, those from an urban community setting, those from the smallest congregations, and those who participated in no volunteer activities per week were most influenced in these areas of faith development and discipleship. Finally, those who volunteered at least one hour per week and those who participated in four or more of the Youth Gathering-specific preparation activities were found to have some of the higher average ratings in these areas of faith development and discipleship before attending the 2009 Youth Gathering.

**Appendix 1: 2009 ELCA Youth Gathering
Youth Questionnaire - Spring 2009**

*Pre-Gathering Responses
Final Version - July 2010*

There were 1,976 responses out of a possible 6,314 responses, for a response rate of 31 percent. All percentages are based on the 1,976 responses, unless otherwise noted. In addition, a second set of percentages is based on the 866 that responded to both the pre- and post-Youth Gathering questionnaires. In cases where the percentages do not equal 100 percent, this is because one or more respondents skipped that question

For Questions 1, 2, 3, 4, each statement corresponds to one of six outcome statements. The number next to the statement in () represents the outcome statement to which it corresponds: 1-Compassion; 2-Community; 3-Advocacy; 4-Servanthood; 5-Leadership; 6-Exploration of Vocation

1. How intensely do you feel each of the following?

	<u>I do not feel this</u>						<u>I feel this very strongly</u>		<u>Mean</u>
	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>7</u>		
a. A concern for people undergoing hardship (1)	<1%	1%	3%	10%	25%	31%	28%	5.7	
Responses for the 866	<1%	1%	3%	10%	27%	33%	27%	5.7	
b. Strengthened as a Christian when I take part in ministry with others (2)	1%	2%	6%	13%	21%	30%	27%	5.5	
Responses for the 866	1%	2%	5%	13%	22%	31%	26%	5.5	
c. Inspired when I am in the presence of people who seek changes in attitudes or structures that hurt others (3) .	4%	2%	5%	14%	23%	28%	23%	5.3	
Responses for the 866	3%	1%	5%	13%	25%	31%	20%	5.3	
d. A desire for serving others to be at the center of my daily life (4)	1%	5%	12%	24%	25%	20%	12%	4.8	
Responses for the 866	1%	5%	12%	24%	24%	21%	12%	4.8	
e. A desire to serve God by finding ways to use my gifts and talents to serve God's people (6)	1%	3%	6%	14%	21%	26%	29%	5.5	
Responses for the 866	1%	3%	6%	14%	23%	26%	29%	5.5	
f. A desire to actively respond to the hardships of others (1)	1%	1%	5%	14%	26%	30%	22%	5.4	
Responses for the 866	1%	1%	5%	15%	27%	30%	20%	5.4	
g. Connected with the people and places where hardship exists (2)	2%	4%	10%	19%	26%	22%	16%	5.0	
Responses for the 866	2%	5%	9%	20%	27%	22%	14%	4.9	
h. Joy when engaged in service with people undergoing hardship (4)	1%	2%	4%	14%	21%	28%	30%	5.6	
Responses for the 866	1%	1%	3%	14%	23%	28%	28%	5.6	
i. A desire to participate in a congregation or local ministry because of its focus on serving others (2) . . .	1%	3%	8%	17%	23%	25%	22%	5.2	
Responses for the 866	1%	2%	8%	17%	24%	27%	21%	5.2	

2. How often have you experienced each of the following?

	<u>I have never experienced this</u>					<u>I experience this regularly</u>		<u>Mean</u>
	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>7</u>	
a. An opportunity to share in the circumstances or situations of people undergoing hardship (1)	3%	14%	23%	26%	20%	9%	4%	3.9
Responses for the 866	4%	14%	25%	27%	18%	9%	3%	3.8
b. Being drawn into a community with people I didn't know through serving people undergoing hardship (2)	10%	19%	23%	23%	14%	8%	3%	3.5
Responses for the 866	10%	19%	24%	24%	13%	7%	2%	3.4
c. A sense of blessing when standing up for those who are experiencing suffering or discrimination (3)	3%	6%	12%	20%	26%	20%	14%	4.8
Responses for the 866	2%	7%	12%	21%	27%	18%	12%	4.7
d. A life-changing discovery while serving with people undergoing hardship (4)	9%	14%	16%	21%	19%	13%	7%	3.9
Responses for the 866	9%	16%	16%	21%	21%	11%	5%	3.8
e. Leading in a way that brings out gifts and powers of others (5)	5%	10%	15%	21%	23%	17%	8%	4.3
Responses for the 866	6%	9%	16%	22%	24%	15%	7%	4.2
f. A sense of God's purpose for my life when serving people undergoing hardship (6)	4%	8%	13%	19%	21%	20%	14%	4.6
Responses for the 866	4%	9%	13%	20%	21%	20%	12%	4.6
g. My life choices being influenced by my baptismal call to "serve all people following the example of Jesus" (4) .	5%	10%	16%	23%	21%	16%	9%	4.3
Responses for the 866	6%	10%	16%	23%	22%	16%	7%	4.2
h. My gifts and talents making a difference in the lives of people undergoing hardship (5)	3%	8%	14%	21%	23%	19%	12%	4.6
Responses for the 866	3%	7%	13%	23%	25%	19%	10%	4.6

3. How much do you know about each of the following?

	<u>I know little to nothing</u>					<u>I know a great deal</u>		<u>Mean</u>
	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>7</u>	
a. Practical ways of how to respond to people undergoing hardship (1)	3%	7%	16%	26%	24%	16%	8%	4.4
Responses for the 866	4%	9%	16%	27%	25%	14%	6%	4.3
b. What the Bible teaches about service and community (2)	3%	9%	18%	23%	26%	14%	7%	4.3
Responses for the 866	4%	9%	17%	24%	27%	12%	6%	4.2
c. An understanding of the meaning of advocacy (3) . . .	15%	14%	18%	20%	15%	10%	6%	3.6
Responses for the 866	15%	14%	17%	20%	16%	11%	6%	3.6
d. Specific gifts that I have for leadership (5)	3%	6%	11%	17%	21%	23%	17%	4.9
Responses for the 866	4%	6%	10%	16%	24%	25%	15%	4.9
e. What the Bible says about calling and vocation (6) . .	8%	13%	18%	23%	20%	12%	5%	3.9
Responses for the 866	7%	13%	19%	22%	20%	14%	4%	3.9
f. Resources that are available to help me learn about the specific situations of people undergoing hardship (1)	5%	10%	17%	21%	21%	16%	8%	4.3
Responses for the 866	5%	12%	16%	22%	22%	15%	7%	4.2

	<u>I know little to nothing</u>					<u>I know a great deal</u>		<u>Mean</u>
	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>7</u>	
g. Ways to engage in advocacy (3)	15%	14%	20%	21%	14%	9%	4%	3.5
Responses for the 866	16%	14%	21%	21%	14%	9%	3%	3.4
h. Specific Bible stories or examples that describe living a life of service that reflects Jesus' example (4)	5%	10%	15%	20%	21%	17%	10%	4.3
Responses for the 866	5%	10%	16%	19%	22%	17%	7%	4.3
i. Aspects of leadership as demonstrated in biblical stories or examples (5)	4%	9%	16%	22%	23%	17%	7%	4.3
Responses for the 866	5%	10%	16%	22%	25%	17%	7%	4.3
j. An understanding of how God calls me to serve others (6)	3%	7%	11%	19%	23%	22%	15%	4.8
Responses for the 866	3%	6%	11%	19%	23%	21%	14%	4.8

4. How frequently do you participate in the following activities or actions?

	<u>I have never participated</u>					<u>I participate on a regular basis</u>		<u>Mean</u>
	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>7</u>	
a. Planning specific commitments of my time, talent, and financial resources to respond to people undergoing hardship (1)	6%	15%	23%	22%	17%	9%	6%	3.8
Responses for the 866	5%	16%	25%	22%	17%	8%	6%	3.8
b. Service in my local community with individuals or groups undergoing hardship (2)	6%	15%	20%	20%	19%	12%	6%	3.9
Responses for the 866	6%	14%	21%	21%	19%	13%	5%	3.9
c. An activity with the goal to change attitudes or structures that hurt or hold down others (3)	9%	13%	19%	21%	18%	11%	6%	3.9
Responses for the 866	9%	14%	19%	18%	14%	8%	4%	3.8
d. On-going service with the same individuals or groups who are undergoing hardship (4)	13%	19%	19%	20%	15%	9%	5%	3.5
Responses for the 866	14%	20%	19%	18%	14%	8%	4%	3.4
e. Encouraging others to serve in ways that reflect Jesus' example (5)	7%	13%	18%	20%	20%	12%	8%	4.0
Responses for the 866	8%	14%	18%	21%	20%	11%	7%	4.0
f. Paying attention to the stories of other people when they speak about God's call in their lives (6) . . .	3%	7%	11%	19%	23%	21%	15%	4.8
Responses for the 866	2%	7%	12%	20%	22%	20%	15%	4.8
g. An advocacy training event, workshop, or learning activity (3)	18%	18%	18%	17%	14%	9%	4%	3.4
Responses for the 866	18%	19%	18%	17%	12%	9%	4%	3.3
h. As a leader in my congregation, synod, or other ministry (5)	19%	16%	14%	15%	13%	10%	11%	3.6
Responses for the 866	20%	16%	15%	15%	13%	8%	11%	3.5
i. Thinking about my sense of God's call when making major decisions in my life (6)	5%	9%	13%	19%	19%	19%	15%	4.6
Responses for the 866	5%	10%	14%	19%	19%	18%	15%	4.5

5. At the 2009 ELCA Youth Gathering in New Orleans, in which of the following interest areas is your congregation registered to serve? (N=1,801)(Responses for the 866 are in () and based on N=789.)

13% (13%) Arts and Culture 7% (7%) Health and Wellness 8% (8%) Housing
6% (8%) Literacy 8% (9%) The Environment 3% (3%) Wealth and Poverty
55% (53%) I am not sure

6. Which of the following servant experiences have you had in the past two years? (choose ALL that apply) (Responses for the 866 are in ().)

75% (75%) An opportunity, lasting no more than one day, to help by serving others
36% (35%) An opportunity, lasting no more than one day, to benefit from the service of others
60% (61%) An opportunity, lasting longer than one day, to help by serving others
27% (26%) An opportunity, lasting longer than one day, to benefit from the service of others
78% (79%) An opportunity to help by serving others in my local community
60% (60%) An opportunity to help by serving others outside of my local community
46% (46%) An opportunity in which those serving with me included people from a different cultural, economic, or ethnic background from my own
51% (55%) An opportunity in which those benefitting from the service that I offered included people from a different cultural, economic, or ethnic background from my own

7. At this time, which of the following statements describe the preparation you have done for the 2009 ELCA Youth Gathering in New Orleans? (choose ALL that apply) (Responses for the 866 are in ().)

1% (1%) I know I am registered to attend the Gathering, and that is all I have done to this point
68% (68%) I have met with my youth group to learn about some of the specific situations that exist in New Orleans since Hurricane Katrina
89% (91%) I have begun fund-raising to help pay for attending the Gathering
66% (66%) I have talked with members of my congregation about what we will be doing at the Gathering
37% (38%) I have participated in a Bible study on the theme: *Jesus Justice Jazz*
49% (49%) I have studied about some of the problems facing New Orleans and the Gulf Coast since Hurricane Katrina
39% (39%) I have attended some group building activities with other youth attending the Gathering
60% (60%) I have prayed for the people of New Orleans and the Gulf Coast
61% (60%) I have prayed for my youth group and the trip we will take to New Orleans

8. Complete the following statement with the response that most closely matches your understanding.

(choose *ONLY one*) (N=1,888) (Responses for the 866 are in () and based on N=866.)

Serving others in ways that reflect Jesus' example means...

22% (19%) fulfilling God's requirements of Christians to do good things for other people

21% (19%) expecting nothing in return

21% (20%) making other people's lives better

32% (34%) understanding the suffering of others and doing something about it

1% (1%) gaining God's love and approval

4% (4%) voluntarily doing the job that no one else wants to do

9. Complete the following statement with the response that most closely matches your understanding.

(choose *ONLY one*) (N=1,889) (Responses for the 866 are in () and based on N=866.)

Justice, as taught by Jesus, means...

5% (4%) equality of wealth for all

49% (47%) someone stands up for people who are victims

5% (4%) punishment as a consequence for doing something bad

16% (15%) equality of power for all

5% (6%) changing systems that keep some people silent

20% (21%) people get treated the way they want to be treated

Tell us a little more about yourself...

10. Please indicate which of the following people live with you in your home: (choose *ALL that apply*)

(Responses for the 866 are in ().)

95% (96%) Mother 81% (85%) Father 10% (8%) Step-parent 78% (80%) Sibling(s)

4% (3%) Step-sibling(s) 4% (4%) Grandparent(s) 2% (2%) Aunt(s) or Uncles(s) 1% (1%) Cousin(s)

5% (5%) Other (please describe):

11. In what type of community do you live? (Responses for the 866 are in ().)

18% (21%) Rural 41% (40%) Small town/city 8% (7%) Urban 30% (31%) Suburban

12. How concerned are you about your personal safety in the neighborhood where you live?

(Responses for the 866 are in ().)

4% (4%) I am always concerned about my safety 13% (14%) I am sometimes concerned about my safety

34% (34%) Specific instances and situations concern me 45% (43%) I never worry about my safety

3% (4%) I'm not sure

13. How would you describe the financial condition, over the last six months, of the household in which you live? (Responses for the 866 are in ().)

2% (1%) There is not enough money to pay for the basic necessities like food, clothing, shelter, and health care

13% (11%) There is only enough money to pay for basic necessities

68% (71%) There is money left over to spend after paying for basic necessities

15% (15%) I'm not sure about the financial condition of our household

14. Approximately how many hours in a week do you typically work for pay?

(Responses for the 866 are in ().)

57% (60%) Zero 22% (22%) 1 to 5 9% (8%) 6 to 10 9% (8%) 11 to 20 2% (1%) Over 20

15. Approximately how many hours in a week do you typically spend in volunteer activities?

(Responses for the 866 are in ().)

26% (24%) Zero 64% (66%) 1 to 5 7% (7%) 6 to 10 1% (1%) 11 to 20 1% (<1%) Over 20

16. Approximately how many hours in a week do you typically spend in school-related extra-curricular activities? (Responses for the 866 are in ().)

10% (11%) Zero 32% (31%) 1 to 5 25% (26%) 6 to 10 24% (24%) 11 to 20 8% (7%) Over 20

17. Please choose which of the following congregation activities you participate in at least once a month:

(choose ALL that apply) (Responses for the 866 are in ().)

92% (94%) Worship 40% (42%) Assistant during Worship 53% (54%) Congregation youth ministry

56% (58%) Sunday School 24% (24%) Bible Study 20% (22%) Other (please describe):

18. Please choose the response that BEST describes what you plan to do immediately after you finish high school: (choose ONE response) (Responses for the 866 are in ().)

1% (1%) Get a permanent job 2% (1%) Go to a vocational school

8% (8%) Go to a community college 78% (77%) Go to a 4-year college/university

2% (2%) Join the military 1% (1%) Travel abroad

<1% (<1%) Join a full-time volunteer program 4% (5%) I don't know 2% (2%) Other (please describe):

19. What is your gender? (Responses for the 866 are in ().)

61% (63%) Female 38% (37%) Male

20. Please choose the response that BEST describes your race/ethnicity:

3% (2%) African American/Black	1% (1%) American Indian/Alaska Native
<1% (<1%) Arab/Middle Eastern	2% (2%) Asian/Pacific Islander
4% (2%) Latino/Hispanic	4% (5%) Multiethnic
82% (84%) White	2% (2%) Other (please describe):

21. In what year were you born? (Responses for the 866 are in ().)

<1% (<1%) 1989	5% (4%) 1990	15% (13%) 1991	22% (23%) 1992	27% (29%) 1993
23% (23%) 1994	7% (7%) 1995	<1% (<1%) 1996	0% (0%) 1997	0% (0%) Other (please describe):

Thank you for completing this questionnaire!



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**Appendix 2: 2009 ELCA Youth Gathering
Youth Questionnaire - Fall 2009**

*Post-Gathering Responses
Final Version - July 2010*

There were 911 responses out of a possible 1,976 responses, for a response rate of 46 percent. Of these 911 responses, 15 indicated they did not attend the Gathering; and another 30 could not be identified because of incorrect ID numbers. Therefore, a total of 866 responses are included in the Post-Gathering analysis. All percentages are based on the 866 responses, unless otherwise noted.

In cases where the percentages do not equal 100 percent, this is because one or more respondents skipped that question.

1. Did you attend the 2009 ELCA Youth Gathering in New Orleans?

100% Yes, I attended 0% No, I was unable to attend

(If you did not attend, you may skip the rest of the questionnaire. Please return the questionnaire so no more follow-up questionnaires are sent to you.)

2. For each of the following activities, please indicate your level of participation:

(choose the response that best describes your participation)

<u>Activity</u>	<u>I did not participate at all</u>	<u>I participated in a part of the activity offered</u>	<u>I participated in all of the activity offered</u>
a. Evening programs held in the Superdome	1%	21%	78%
b. Assigned ServantLife project (service day)	1%	6%	93%
c. Krewes Learning (workshops and conversation) . . .	7%	49%	43%
d. Interaction Center	2%	47%	52%
e. Community Life worship in the morning	39%	35%	24%
f. Community Life activities in the evening	15%	43%	42%
g. Final 15 devotions	13%	25%	62%
h. Sunday closing worship held in the Superdome	10%	5%	85%

3. Overall, how would you describe your experience at the 2009 ELCA Youth Gathering in New Orleans?

84% Positive 14% A mixture of positive and negative 0% Negative

For Questions 4 and 5, each statement corresponds to one of six outcome statements. The number next to the statement in () represents the outcome statement to which it corresponds: 1-Compassion; 2-Community; 3-Advocacy; 4-Servanthood; 5-Leadership; 6-Exploration of Vocation

4. How intensely do you feel each of the following?

	<u>I do not feel this</u>					<u>I feel this very strongly</u>		<u>Mean</u>
	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>7</u>	
a. A desire for serving others to be at the center of my daily life (4)	1%	3%	8%	22%	29%	21%	17%	5.0
Pre-Gathering Responses for the 866:	1%	5%	12%	24%	24%	21%	12%	4.8
b. A desire to actively respond to the hardships of others (1)	1%	2%	5%	16%	28%	27%	21%	5.4
Pre-Gathering Responses for the 866:	1%	1%	5%	15%	27%	30%	20%	5.4

	I do not feel this					I feel this very strongly		Mean
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
c. Connected with the people and places where hardship exists (2)	1%	4%	9%	17%	25%	23%	21%	5.1
Pre-Gathering Responses for the 866:	2%	5%	9%	20%	27%	22%	14%	4.9
d. A desire to participate in a congregation or local ministry because of its focus on serving others (2) . . .	2%	3%	8%	17%	25%	23%	23%	5.2
Pre-Gathering Responses for the 866:	1%	2%	8%	17%	24%	27%	21%	5.2

5. How often do you experience each of the following?

	I never experience this					I experience this regularly		Mean
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
a. An opportunity to share in the circumstances or situations of people undergoing hardship (1)	2%	11%	24%	28%	19%	11%	4%	4.0
Pre-Gathering Responses for the 866:	4%	14%	25%	27%	18%	9%	3%	3.8
b. Being drawn into a community with people I didn't know through serving people undergoing hardship (2)	4%	18%	23%	25%	17%	8%	5%	3.8
Pre-Gathering Responses for the 866:	10%	19%	24%	24%	13%	7%	2%	3.4
c. A sense of blessing when standing up for those who are experiencing suffering or discrimination (3)	2%	5%	12%	22%	23%	21%	15%	4.8
Pre-Gathering Responses for the 866:	2%	7%	12%	21%	27%	18%	12%	4.7
d. A life-changing discovery while serving with people undergoing hardship (4)	5%	12%	18%	22%	18%	13%	10%	4.2
Pre-Gathering Responses for the 866:	9%	16%	16%	21%	21%	11%	5%	3.8
e. Leading in a way that brings out gifts and powers of others (5)	3%	8%	12%	24%	21%	19%	10%	4.5
Pre-Gathering Responses for the 866:	6%	9%	16%	22%	24%	15%	7%	4.2
f. A sense of God's purpose for my life when serving people undergoing hardship (6)	3%	6%	11%	20%	22%	20%	17%	4.8
Pre-Gathering Responses for the 866:	4%	9%	13%	20%	21%	20%	12%	4.6
g. My life choices being influenced by my baptismal call to "serve all people following the example of Jesus" (4) .	3%	7%	14%	23%	21%	18%	12%	4.6
Pre-Gathering Responses for the 866:	6%	10%	16%	23%	22%	16%	7%	4.2
h. My gifts and talents making a difference in the lives of people undergoing hardship (5)	1%	5%	14%	21%	25%	19%	13%	4.8
Pre-Gathering Responses for the 866:	3%	7%	13%	23%	25%	19%	10%	4.6

6. Complete the following statement with the response that most closely matches your understanding.
(choose ONLY one)

Serving others in ways that reflect Jesus' example means...

- 18% fulfilling God's requirements of Christians to do good things for other people
- 19% Pre-Gathering Responses for the 866

- 23% expecting nothing in return
- 19% Pre-Gathering Responses for the 866

- 18% making other people's lives better
- 20% Pre-Gathering Responses for the 866

- 33% understanding the suffering of others and doing something about it
- 34% Pre-Gathering Responses for the 866

- 1% gaining God's love and approval
- 1% Pre-Gathering Responses for the 866

- 6% voluntarily doing the job that no one else wants to do
- 4% Pre-Gathering Responses for the 866

For Questions 7 and 8, each statement corresponds to one of six outcome statements. The number next to the statement in () represents the outcome statement to which it corresponds: 1-Compassion; 2-Community; 3-Advocacy; 4-Servanthood; 5-Leadership; 6-Exploration of Vocation

7. How much do you know about each of the following?

	<u>I know little to nothing</u>					<u>I know a great deal</u>		<u>Mean</u>
	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>7</u>	
a. Practical ways of how to respond to people undergoing hardship (1)	2%	4%	16%	27%	28%	15%	8%	4.5
Pre-Gathering Responses for the 866:	4%	9%	16%	27%	25%	14%	6%	4.3
b. What the Bible teaches about service and community (2)	2%	8%	17%	23%	28%	15%	7%	4.4
Pre-Gathering Responses for the 866:	4%	9%	17%	24%	27%	12%	6%	4.2
c. An understanding of the meaning of advocacy (3) . . .	8%	11%	17%	23%	19%	14%	7%	4.1
Pre-Gathering Responses for the 866:	15%	14%	17%	20%	16%	11%	6%	3.6
d. What the Bible says about calling and vocation (6) . .	5%	10%	18%	25%	23%	14%	7%	4.2
Pre-Gathering Responses for the 866:	7%	13%	19%	22%	20%	14%	4%	3.9
e. Resources that are available to help me learn about the specific situations of people undergoing hardship (1)	3%	7%	15%	21%	25%	17%	10%	4.5
Pre-Gathering Responses for the 866:	5%	12%	16%	22%	22%	15%	7%	4.2
f. Ways to engage in advocacy (3)	9%	11%	19%	26%	18%	10%	6%	3.9
Pre-Gathering Responses for the 866:	16%	14%	21%	21%	14%	9%	3%	3.4
g. Specific Bible stories or examples that describe living a life of service that reflects Jesus' example (4)	3%	9%	13%	20%	22%	19%	13%	4.6
Pre-Gathering Responses for the 866:	5%	10%	16%	19%	22%	17%	7%	4.3
h. Aspects of leadership as demonstrated in biblical stories or examples (5)	2%	7%	13%	24%	25%	18%	10%	4.6
Pre-Gathering Responses for the 866:	5%	10%	16%	22%	25%	17%	7%	4.3

	<u>I know little to nothing</u>					<u>I know a great deal</u>		<u>Mean</u>
	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>7</u>	
j. An understanding of how God calls me to serve others (6)	2%	4%	9%	13%	29%	24%	21%	5.2
Pre-Gathering Responses for the 866:	3%	6%	11%	19%	23%	21%	14%	4.8

8. How frequently do you participate in the following activities or actions?

	<u>I have never participated</u>					<u>I participate on a regular basis</u>		<u>Mean</u>
	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>7</u>	
a. Planning specific commitments of my time, talent, and financial resources to respond to people undergoing hardship (1)	3%	14%	21%	26%	18%	10%	6%	4.0
Pre-Gathering Responses for the 866:	5%	16%	25%	22%	17%	8%	6%	3.8
b. Service in my local community with individuals or groups undergoing hardship (2)	3%	14%	18%	25%	21%	12%	6%	4.1
Pre-Gathering Responses for the 866:	6%	14%	21%	21%	19%	13%	5%	3.9
c. An activity with the goal to change attitudes or structures that hurt or hold down others (3)	5%	11%	20%	26%	21%	11%	5%	4.0
Pre-Gathering Responses for the 866:	9%	14%	19%	22%	19%	10%	5%	3.8
d. On-going service with the same individuals or groups who are undergoing hardship (4)	9%	18%	20%	23%	13%	10%	6%	3.7
Pre-Gathering Responses for the 866:	14%	20%	19%	18%	14%	8%	4%	3.4
e. Encouraging others to serve in ways that reflect Jesus' example (5)	5%	11%	17%	25%	22%	13%	7%	4.2
Pre-Gathering Responses for the 866:	8%	14%	18%	21%	20%	11%	7%	4.0
f. Paying attention to the stories of other people when they speak about God's call in their lives (6)	2%	6%	9%	20%	26%	20%	15%	4.9
Pre-Gathering Responses for the 866:	2%	7%	12%	20%	22%	20%	15%	4.8
g. An advocacy training event, workshop, or learning activity (3)	13%	20%	19%	22%	12%	9%	5%	3.5
Pre-Gathering Responses for the 866:	18%	19%	18%	17%	12%	9%	4%	3.3
h. As a leader in my congregation, synod, or other ministry (5)	14%	14%	16%	16%	15%	12%	12%	3.9
Pre-Gathering Responses for the 866:	20%	16%	15%	15%	13%	8%	11%	3.5
i. Thinking about my sense of God's call when making major decisions in my life (6)	3%	7%	11%	22%	20%	20%	15%	4.7
Pre-Gathering Responses for the 866:	5%	10%	14%	19%	19%	18%	15%	4.5

9. Complete the following statement with the response that most closely matches your understanding.
(choose ONLY one)

Justice, as taught by Jesus, means...

- 5% equality of wealth for all
4% Pre-Gathering Responses for the 866
- 49% someone stands up for people who are victims
47% Pre-Gathering Responses for the 866
- 3% punishment as a consequence for doing something bad
4% Pre-Gathering Responses for the 866
- 19% equality of power for all
15% Pre-Gathering Responses for the 866
- 7% changing systems that keep some people silent
6% Pre-Gathering Responses for the 866
- 18% people get treated the way they want to be treated
21% Pre-Gathering Responses for the 866

10. How important is it to you that you identify with the ELCA?

- 6% Not at all important 51% Somewhat important 39% Very important
- 3% I do not identify myself with the ELCA

11. How much influence do the following activities have with respect to your identifying with the ELCA?

	<u>No influence</u>		<u>A lot of influence</u>			<u>Not applicable</u>	<u>Mean</u>
	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>		
a. Participating in the evening programs in the Superdome at the Youth Gathering	4%	4%	12%	28%	51%	1%	4.2
b. Participating in the ServantLife project at the Youth Gathering	5%	6%	13%	22%	53%	2%	4.2
c. Participating in the learning and discoveries in the Interaction Center at the Youth Gathering	6%	12%	24%	31%	24%	2%	3.6
d. Participating in events in and with my local congregation	4%	6%	18%	34%	37%	1%	4.0
e. Participating in events in and with my synod	7%	10%	19%	28%	25%	11%	3.6

12. How likely are you to participate in a servant opportunity in your local community with your youth ministry group and/or your congregation sometime within the next 12 months ?

- 7% Not likely 36% Somewhat likely 57% Very likely

13. In what way does your experience at the 2009 Youth Gathering affect your desire to participate in a servant opportunity in your local community?

- 1% I have less desire to participate than I had before I attended the 2009 Youth Gathering
- 29% I have the same desire to participate that I had before I attended the 2009 Youth Gathering
- 69% I have a greater desire to participate than I had before I attended the 2009 Youth Gathering

Thank you for completing this questionnaire!



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Appendix 3: 2009 ELCA Youth Gathering Evaluation Youth Responses: Pre- and Post-Youth Gathering

Response Group Differences for Certain Faith Development and Discipleship Statements

Although many factors likely shape youth responses to the statements in the pre- and post-Youth Gathering questionnaires, it was hypothesized that a significant change¹ between the pre- and the post-Youth Gathering responses to the 30 statements would indicate that the 2009 Youth Gathering experience had influence on the six dimensions of faith development and discipleship for the youth participants. To compare responses from the pre- and post-Youth Gathering questionnaires, the average rating for each statement was calculated and then compared. For 28 of these 30 statements, the average rating after the 2009 Youth Gathering was higher than the average rating before the 2009 Youth Gathering². Each of these increases is statistically significant, leading to the conclusion that the 2009 Youth Gathering had influence on strengthening the six dimensions of faith development and discipleship for youth participants.

Table 1 shows the statements with the highest increase in average rating between the pre- and post-Youth Gathering questionnaire. Four of these statements have direct connections to the 2009 Youth Gathering's themes of service and justice as represented by the dimensions of Lifelong Servanthood and Advocacy.

¹ A change with a statistical significance at the .05 level.

² For two of the 30 statements, there was no change between the pre- and post-Youth Gathering responses.

**Table 1: Highest Increase in Average Rating
Between the Pre- and Post-Youth Gathering Questionnaire**

Statement	Dimension of Faith Development and Discipleship	Average Rating Pre-Youth Gathering	Average Rating Post-Youth Gathering	Gain from Pre- to Post-
Ways to engage in advocacy	Advocacy	3.4 ³	3.9 ³	.5
An understanding of the meaning of advocacy	Advocacy	3.6 ³	4.1 ³	.5
Being drawn into a community with people I didn't know through serving people undergoing hardship	Community	3.4 ⁴	3.8 ⁴	.4
As a leader in my congregation, synod, or other ministry	Leadership	3.5 ⁵	3.9 ⁵	.4
A life-changing discovery while serving with people undergoing hardship	Lifelong Servanthood	3.8 ⁴	4.2 ⁴	.4
My life choices being influenced by my baptismal call to "serve all people following the example of Jesus"	Lifelong Servanthood	4.2 ⁴	4.6 ⁴	.4
An understanding of how God calls me to serve others	Exploration of Vocation	4.8 ³	5.2 ³	.4

To learn more about possible differences, respondent groups were created according to the following:

- Gender;
- Age;
- Race/Ethnicity;
- Community Setting;
- Congregation Size (based on average weekly worship attendance);
- Hours spent per week participating in volunteer activities; and
- The number of Youth Gathering-specific preparation activities completed prior to attending the 2009 Youth Gathering.

³ Using a 7-point scale with '1' representing 'I know little to nothing' and '7' representing 'I know a great deal'.

⁴ Using a 7-point scale with '1' representing 'I never experience this' and '7' representing 'I experience this regularly'.

⁵ Using a 7-point scale with '1' representing 'I have never participated' and '7' representing 'I participate on a regular basis'.

The intent of the analysis was three-fold:

1. To determine if each group within a category reflected a significant increase in their average rating between the pre- and post-Youth Gathering questionnaire. For example, the overall responses show that the average rating increased for ‘Ways to engage in advocacy’ between the pre- and post-Youth Gathering questionnaires. For the response group of gender, therefore, the question is whether both the average rating for females and the average rating for males increased between the pre- and post-Youth Gathering questionnaires. Knowing this data helps to identify which groups may not have been influenced by attending the 2009 Youth Gathering with respect to the seven faith development and discipleship statements in Table 1.
2. To determine which response groups reported increases higher than the overall average rating increase between the pre- and post-Youth Gathering questionnaires. Knowing this data helps to identify which groups were likely to have been the most influenced by attending the 2009 Youth Gathering with respect to the seven development and discipleship statements in Table 1.
3. To determine if the average rating provided by the various response groups differed for the pre-Youth Gathering responses. For example, using the response group of gender, the question is whether the average rating on the pre-Youth Gathering questionnaire was similar or was higher for either females or for males. Knowing if an average rating was higher for a particular group helps to identify which groups may have started out with stronger feelings or higher levels of experience, knowledge, or participation than others before attending the 2009 Youth Gathering. A similar analysis was conducted for responses to the Post-Youth Gathering questionnaire.

In the following tables for each of the seven statements with the overall highest increase in average rating between the pre- and post-Youth Gathering questionnaire, the shading represents three specific results:⁶

1. The shading in the column, ‘Significant Increase Pre- to Post-’ indicates those response groups for whom there was no significant increase despite the average rating provided by all respondents showing one of the highest increases among all the faith development and discipleship statements.
2. The shading in the column, ‘Gain from Pre- to Post-’ shows which groups reported increases higher than the overall increase for the average rating between the pre- and post-Youth Gathering questionnaire.
3. The shading in the columns, ‘Average Rating Pre-Youth Gathering’ and ‘Average Rating Post-Youth Gathering’ show specific group average ratings that are significantly higher than at least one other group average rating within that category and within that column.

⁶ In some cases, there is no shading even though the differences appear to be significant. The reasons these differences are not significant are 1) the total number of respondents from a particular group is small; or 2) there is a lot of variation in the way respondents from a particular group answered a specific question.

'Ways to engage in advocacy'

Table 2 shows all groups within the seven categories of respondents had a significant increase between the pre- and post-Youth Gathering questionnaire as indicated by a 'yes' in the column, 'Significant Increase Pre- to Post-'. In addition, persons of color, those from an urban community setting, those who volunteered zero hours per week, and those from the smallest congregations reported the highest increases in average rating, indicating these groups may have been the most influenced with respect to knowing ways to engage in advocacy. Finally, those who reported higher average ratings, both on the pre- and on the post-Youth Gathering questionnaire, tend to be associated with those who are the oldest, those who volunteered at least one hour per week, and those who participated in a higher number of Youth Gathering-specific preparation activities prior to attending the 2009 Youth Gathering, indicating these groups may be expected to know more about ways to engage in advocacy.

Table 2: Respondent Groups Who Knew More About Ways to Engage in Advocacy Before Attending the 2009 Youth Gathering

Category	Average Rating Pre- Youth Gathering	Average Rating Post- Youth Gathering	Significant Increase Pre- to Post-	Gain from Pre- to Post-
Gender				
Female	3.4	3.9	Yes	.5
Male	3.5	3.9	Yes	.4
Age				
Born 1989-1991	3.8	4.2	Yes	.4
Born 1992-1993	3.4	3.9	Yes	.5
Born 1994-1996	3.3	3.7	Yes	.4
Race/Ethnicity				
Persons of Color	3.1	3.9	Yes	.8
White	3.5	3.9	Yes	.4
Community Setting				
Rural	3.4	3.7	Yes	.3
Small town/city	3.4	3.9	Yes	.5
Suburban	3.5	4.0	Yes	.5
Urban	3.4	4.1	Yes	.7
Congregation Size				
1-150 avg. weekly attendance	3.4	4.0	Yes	.6
151-350 avg. weekly attendance	3.4	3.8	Yes	.4
351 or more avg. weekly attendance	3.6	4.0	Yes	.4
Hours per Week Volunteering				
Zero	2.8	3.5	Yes	.7
1 to 5 hours	3.5	3.9	Yes	.4
More than 5 hours	4.2	4.6	Yes	.4
Number of Youth Gathering-Specific Preparation Activities				
0 to 3 activities	3.1	3.6	Yes	.5
4 to 7 activities	3.7	4.1	Yes	.4

'An Understanding of the Meaning of Advocacy'

Table 3 shows all groups within the seven categories of respondents, with one exception, had a significant increase between the pre- and post-Youth Gathering questionnaire as indicated by a 'yes' in the column, 'Significant Increase Pre- to Post-'. The exception is those who come from an urban community setting. In addition, persons of color and those who volunteered zero hours per week reported the highest increases in average rating, indicating these groups may have been the most influenced with respect to knowing about the meaning of advocacy. Finally, those who reported higher ratings, both on the pre- and on the post-Youth Gathering questionnaire, tend to be associated with those who are the oldest, those who volunteered at least one hour per week, and those who participated in a higher number of Youth Gathering-specific preparation activities prior to attending the 2009 Youth Gathering, indicating these groups may be expected to know more about the meaning of advocacy.

Table 3: Respondent Groups Who Knew More About the Meaning of Advocacy Before Attending the 2009 Youth Gathering

Category	Average Rating Pre- Youth Gathering	Average Rating Post- Youth Gathering	Significant Increase Pre- to Post-	Gain from Pre- to Post-
Gender				
Female	3.6	4.1	Yes	.5
Male	3.7	4.0	Yes	.3
Age				
Born 1989-1991	3.9	4.4	Yes	.5
Born 1992-1993	3.6	4.1	Yes	.5
Born 1994-1996	3.4	3.8	Yes	.4
Race/Ethnicity				
Persons of Color	3.5	4.1	Yes	.6
White	3.6	4.0	Yes	.4
Community Setting				
Rural	3.6	4.0	Yes	.4
Small town/city	3.5	4.0	Yes	.5
Suburban	3.7	4.2	Yes	.5
Urban	3.8	4.1	No	.3
Congregation Size				
1-150 avg. weekly attendance	3.6	4.0	Yes	.4
151-350 avg. weekly attendance	3.6	4.0	Yes	.4
351 or more avg. weekly attendance	3.8	4.1	Yes	.3
Hours per Week Volunteering				
Zero	3.2	3.8	Yes	.6
1 to 5 hours	3.7	4.1	Yes	.4
More than 5 hours	4.2	4.7	Yes	.5
Number of Youth Gathering-Specific Preparation Activities				
0 to 3 activities	3.3	3.7	Yes	.4
4 to 7 activities	3.9	4.3	Yes	.4

'Being drawn into a community with people I didn't know through serving people undergoing hardship'

Table 4 shows all groups within the seven categories of respondents, with two exceptions, had a significant increase between the pre- and post-Youth Gathering questionnaire as indicated by a 'yes' in the column, 'Significant Increase Pre- to Post-'. The exceptions are those who are youngest and those who volunteered more than five hours per week. In addition, those from a rural and an urban community setting, those who are oldest, those from the smallest congregations, and those who volunteered zero hours per week reported the highest increases in average rating, indicating this group may have been the most influenced with respect to experiencing being drawn into a community with people they did not know through serving people undergoing hardship. Finally, those who reported higher ratings, both on the pre- and on the post-Youth Gathering questionnaire, tend to be associated with those from urban or suburban settings, those from the largest congregations, those who volunteered at least one hour per week, and those who participated in a higher number of Youth Gathering-specific preparation activities prior to attending the 2009 Youth Gathering, indicating these groups may be expected to have more experience with respect to being drawn into a community with people they did not know through serving people undergoing hardship.

Table 4: Respondent Groups Who Had More Experiences Being Drawn into a Community with People They Didn't Know through Serving People Undergoing Hardship Before Attending the 2009 Youth Gathering

Category	Average Rating Pre- Youth Gathering	Average Rating Post-Youth Gathering	Significant Increase Pre- to Post-	Gain from Pre- to Post-
Gender				
Female	3.4	3.8	Yes	.4
Male	3.4	3.8	Yes	.4
Age				
Born 1989-1991	3.5	4.0	Yes	.5
Born 1992-1993	3.4	3.8	Yes	.4
Born 1994-1996	3.4	3.7	No	.3
Race/Ethnicity				
Persons of Color	3.6	4.0	Yes	.4
White	3.4	3.7	Yes	.3
Community Setting				
Rural	3.1	3.7	Yes	.6
Small town/city	3.4	3.7	Yes	.3
Suburban	3.6	3.9	Yes	.3
Urban	3.6	4.1	Yes	.5
Congregation Size				
1-150 avg. weekly attendance	3.2	3.7	Yes	.5
151-350 avg. weekly attendance	3.4	3.7	Yes	.3
351 or more avg. weekly attendance	3.6	3.9	Yes	.3
Hours per Week Volunteering				
Zero	2.8	3.3	Yes	.5
1 to 5 hours	3.5	3.9	Yes	.4
More than 5 hours	4.0	4.4	No	.4
Number of Youth Gathering-Specific Preparation Activities				
0 to 3 activities	3.3	3.6	Yes	.3
4 to 7 activities	3.5	3.9	Yes	.4

‘As a leader in my congregation, synod, or other ministry’

Table 13 shows most groups within the seven categories of respondents had a significant increase between the pre- and post-Youth Gathering questionnaire as indicated by a ‘yes’ in the column, ‘Significant Increase Pre- to Post-’. Four exceptions exist, including those who are oldest, those who live in a rural community setting, those from the largest congregations, and those volunteering more than five hours per week. In addition, persons of color, those from a suburban community setting, those who volunteered zero hours per week, and those from the smallest congregations reported the highest increases in average rating, indicating these groups may have been the most influenced with respect to participating as a leader in their congregation, synod, or other ministry. Those who reported higher ratings, both on the pre- and on the post-Youth Gathering questionnaire, tend to be associated with those who are oldest, those from a suburban community setting, those who volunteered at least one hour per week, and those who participated in a higher number of Youth Gathering-specific preparation activities prior to attending the 2009 Youth Gathering, indicating these groups may have the highest levels of participation as a leader in their congregation, synod, or other ministry.

Table 5: Respondent Groups Who Had More Experiences as a Leader in Their Congregation, Synod, or Other Ministry Before Attending the 2009 Youth Gathering

Category	Average Rating Pre-Youth Gathering	Average Rating Post-Youth Gathering	Significant Increase Pre- to Post-	Gain From Pre- to Post-
Gender				
Female	3.5	3.9	Yes	.4
Male	3.5	3.8	Yes	.3
Age				
Born 1989-1991	4.3	4.1	No	-.2
Born 1992-1993	3.5	3.9	Yes	.4
Born 1994-1996	3.3	3.7	Yes	.4
Race/Ethnicity				
Persons of Color	3.3	4.1	Yes	.8
White	3.6	3.8	Yes	.2
Community Setting				
Rural	3.6	3.9	No	.3
Small town/city	3.4	3.6	Yes	.2
Suburban	3.7	4.1	Yes	.4
Urban	3.7	4.4	Yes	.7
Congregation Size				
1-150 avg. weekly attendance	3.5	4.0	Yes	.5
151-350 avg. weekly attendance	3.5	3.8	Yes	.3
351 or more avg. weekly attendance	3.6	3.8	No	.2
Hours per Week Volunteering				
Zero	2.8	3.4	Yes	.6
1 to 5 hours	3.7	3.9	Yes	.2
More than 5 hours	4.6	4.7	No	.1
Number of Youth Gathering-Specific Preparation Activities				
0 to 3 activities	3.2	3.6	Yes	.4
4 to 7 activities	3.8	4.1	Yes	.3

'A life-changing discovery while serving with people undergoing hardship'

Table 6 shows most groups within the categories of respondents had a significant increase between the pre- and post-Youth Gathering questionnaire as indicated by a 'yes' in the column, 'Significant Increase Pre- to Post-'. Three exceptions exist, including persons of color, those from an urban community setting, and those who volunteered more than five hours per week. In addition, those from a rural community setting, and those from the smallest and from the largest congregations, those who are oldest, and those who volunteered zero hours per week reported the highest increases in average rating, indicating these groups may have been the most influenced with respect to experiencing a life-changing discovery while serving with people undergoing hardship. Finally, those who reported higher ratings, both on the pre- and on the post-Youth Gathering questionnaire, tend to be associated with females, those from an urban community setting, those from the largest congregations, those who volunteered at least one hour per week, and those who participated in a higher number of Youth Gathering-specific preparation activities prior to attending the 2009 Youth Gathering, indicating these groups may be expected to have experienced more life-changing discoveries while serving with people undergoing hardship.

Table 6: Respondent Groups Who Had More Experiences Having a Life-Changing Discovery While Serving with People Undergoing Hardship Before Attending the 2009 Youth Gathering

Category	Average Rating Pre-Youth Gathering	Average Rating Post-Youth Gathering	Significant Increase Pre- to Post-	Gain From Pre- to Post-
Gender				
Female	3.9	4.3	Yes	.4
Male	3.7	4.0	Yes	.3
Age				
Born 1989-1991	3.8	4.3	Yes	.5
Born 1992-1993	3.9	4.2	Yes	.3
Born 1994-1996	3.7	4.1	Yes	.4
Race/Ethnicity				
Persons of Color	3.8	4.0	No	.2
White	3.8	4.2	Yes	.4
Community Setting				
Rural	3.5	4.2	Yes	.7
Small town/city	3.9	4.1	Yes	.2
Suburban	3.9	4.2	Yes	.3
Urban	4.1	4.5	No	.4
Congregation Size				
1-150 avg. weekly attendance	3.6	4.2	Yes	.6
151-350 avg. weekly attendance	3.9	4.1	Yes	.2
351 or more avg. weekly attendance	3.9	4.4	Yes	.5
Hours per Week Volunteering				
Zero	3.3	3.8	Yes	.5
1 to 5 hours	3.9	4.2	Yes	.3
More than 5 hours	4.4	4.7	No	.3
Number of Youth Gathering-Specific Preparation Activities				
0 to 3 activities	3.6	4.0	Yes	.4
4 to 7 activities	4.0	4.3	Yes	.3

‘My life choices being influenced by my baptismal call to “serve all people following the example of Jesus”’

Table 7 shows all groups within the categories of respondents, with one exception, had a significant increase between the pre- and post-Youth Gathering questionnaire as indicated by a ‘yes’ in the column, ‘Significant Increase Pre- to Post-’. The exception is those who volunteered more than five hours per week. In addition, those from an urban community setting, those who volunteered zero hours per week, and persons of color reported the highest increases in average rating, indicating these groups may have been the most influenced with respect to experiencing their life choices being influenced by their baptismal call to “serve all people following the example of Jesus”. Finally, those who report higher ratings, both on the pre- and on the post-Youth Gathering questionnaire, tend to be associated with those who volunteered at least one hour per week, and those who participated in a higher number of Youth Gathering-specific preparation activities prior to attending the 2009 Youth Gathering, indicating these groups may be expected to have had more experiences with their life choices being influenced by their baptismal call.

Table 7: Respondent Groups Who Had More Experiences of Their Life Choices Being Influenced by Their Baptismal Call to “Serve All People Following the Example of Jesus” Before Attending the 2009 Youth Gathering

Category	Average Rating Pre-Youth Gathering	Average Rating Post-Youth Gathering	Significant Increase Pre- to Post-	Gain From Pre- to Post-
Gender				
Female	4.3	4.7	Yes	.4
Male	4.2	4.5	Yes	.3
Age				
Born 1989-1991	4.4	4.8	Yes	.4
Born 1992-1993	4.2	4.6	Yes	.4
Born 1994-1996	4.3	4.5	Yes	.2
Race/Ethnicity				
Persons of Color	4.2	4.7	Yes	.5
White	4.3	4.6	Yes	.3
Community Setting				
Rural	4.2	4.6	Yes	.4
Small town/city	4.3	4.5	Yes	.2
Suburban	4.2	4.6	Yes	.4
Urban	4.2	4.9	Yes	.7
Congregation Size				
1-150 avg. weekly attendance	4.2	4.6	Yes	.4
151-350 avg. weekly attendance	4.2	4.5	Yes	.3
351 or more avg. weekly attendance	4.4	4.7	Yes	.3
Hours per Week Volunteering				
Zero	3.6	4.2	Yes	.6
1 to 5 hours	4.4	4.7	Yes	.3
More than 5 hours	5.1	4.8	No	-.3
Number of Youth Gathering-Specific Preparation Activities				
0 to 3 activities	4.0	4.4	Yes	.4
4 to 7 activities	4.4	4.7	Yes	.3

'An understanding of how God calls me to serve others'

Table 8 shows all groups within the categories of respondents, with one exception, had a significant increase between the pre- and post-Youth Gathering questionnaire as indicated by a 'yes' in the column, 'Significant Increase Pre- to Post-'. The exception is those who volunteered more than five hours per week. In addition, those from an urban or from a small town/city community setting, females, persons of color, those from the smallest congregations, and those who volunteered zero hours per week reported the highest increases in average rating, indicating these groups may have been the most influenced with respect to knowing how God calls them to serve others. Those who report higher ratings, both on the pre- and on the post-Youth Gathering questionnaire, tend to be associated with females, those who volunteered at least one hour per week, and those who participated in a higher number of Youth Gathering-specific preparation activities prior to attending the 2009 Youth Gathering, indicating these groups may be expected to know more about how God calls them to serve others.

Table 8: Respondent Groups Who Knew More About How God Calls Them to Serve Others Before Attending the 2009 Youth Gathering

Category	Average Rating Pre-Youth Gathering	Average Rating Post-Youth Gathering	Significant Increase Pre- to Post-	Gain From Pre- to Post-
Gender				
Female	4.8	5.3	Yes	.5
Male	4.6	5.0	Yes	.4
Age				
Born 1989-1991	4.9	5.2	Yes	.3
Born 1992-1993	4.7	5.1	Yes	.4
Born 1994-1996	4.8	5.2	Yes	.4
Race/Ethnicity				
Persons of Color	4.7	5.2	Yes	.5
White	4.8	5.2	Yes	.4
Community Setting				
Rural	4.8	5.2	Yes	.4
Small town/city	4.7	5.2	Yes	.5
Suburban	4.8	5.1	Yes	.3
Urban	4.7	5.3	Yes	.6
Congregation Size				
1-150 avg. weekly attendance	4.7	5.2	Yes	.5
151-350 avg. weekly attendance	4.7	5.1	Yes	.4
351 or more avg. weekly attendance	4.9	5.3	Yes	.4
Hours per Week Volunteering				
Zero	4.3	4.8	Yes	.5
1 to 5 hours	4.8	5.2	Yes	.4
More than 5 hours	5.6	5.5	No	-.1
Number of Youth Gathering-Specific Preparation Activities				
0 to 3 activities	4.5	4.9	Yes	.4
4 to 7 activities	5.0	5.3	Yes	.3