

2003 ELCA Youth Gathering Evaluation of Youth and Adult Participants

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Participant Evaluation Response Rates

From July 16 through July 27, 2003, over 39,000 ELCA youth and adults gathered in Atlanta, Georgia for the ELCA Youth Gathering, The Atlanta Gathering (TAG). In order to evaluate the experiences of youth and adult participants, the ELCA Department for Research and Evaluation (DRE) invited a sample of 1,185 youth and 1,087 adults to complete a questionnaire. The youth sample was representative of the youth attendance by age, region, and gender. The adult sample was representative of the adult attendance by region and gender. From the original youth mailing of 1,185 questionnaires, 500 were returned for a response rate of 42 percent. From the original adult mailing of 1,087 questionnaires, 482 were returned for a response rate of 44 percent.¹ This report addresses the quantitative data collected from the questionnaires. In an effort to better understand the long-term impact of attending Youth Gatherings, DRE invited adult leaders who attended at least two previous Youth Gatherings to participate in focus groups held during TAG. DRE facilitated 18 focus groups, with each group ranging in size from 6 to 16 participants. The focus groups provided an opportunity for participants to give feedback on Youth Gathering logistics, Youth Gathering content, and the long-term impact of attending Youth Gatherings.²

Participation of ELCA Congregations³

There are currently 10,699 ELCA congregations. Three thousand and five ELCA congregations participated in the ELCA Youth Gathering in 2000, while 2,852 ELCA congregations participated in the Youth Gathering in 2003 (See Figure 1). Appendices A and B of this report illustrate which ELCA congregations attended the Youth Gathering in 2000 and 2003, respectively.

Approximately 70 percent of all ELCA congregations have an average weekly worship attendance of 51 to 350 people. Approximately one-fourth of the ELCA congregations with average weekly worship attendance of 51 to 150 attended the ELCA Youth Gatherings in 2000 and 2003. Slightly less than half of the ELCA congregations with average weekly worship attendance of 151 to 350 people attended the ELCA Youth Gatherings in 2000 and 2003 (See Figure 2).

¹Questionnaires were mailed in August of 2003 and were collected through December of 2003. A second questionnaire was mailed to those who had not responded in October of 2003.

²For a complete list of focus group questions and summarized responses see Appendix C.

³Congregational data is taken from the 2002 Congregation Report Forms.

Figure 1: Congregation Participation by Region

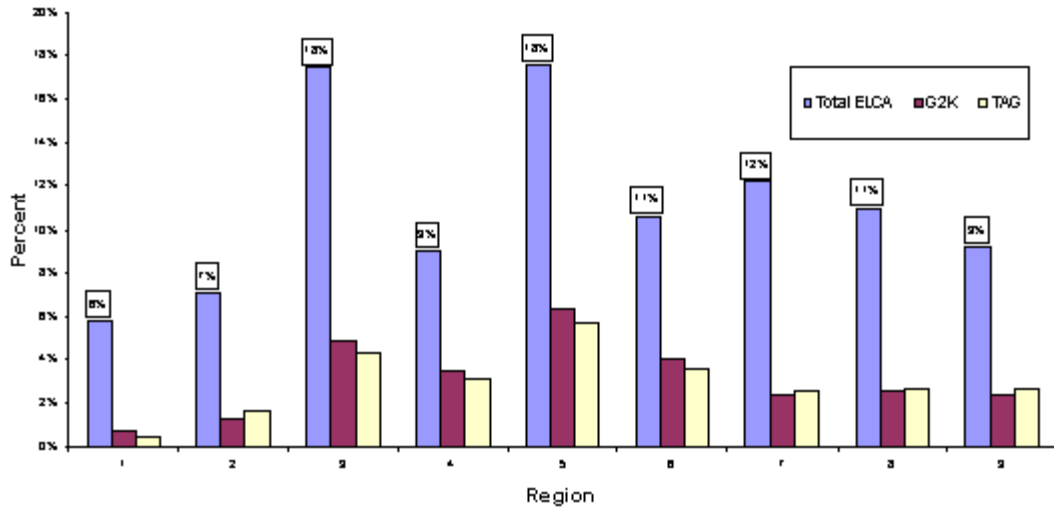
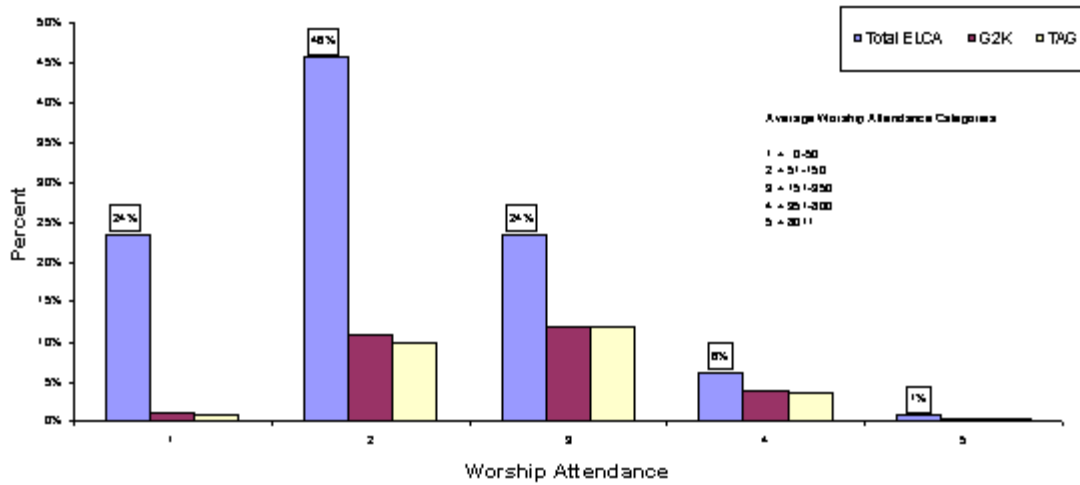


Figure 2: Congregation Participation by Average Worship Attendance



Findings⁴

Promotional Video, Website, and CD Use

A TAG promotional video was sent to all congregations prior to the Gathering. Fifty-six percent of the adult respondents reported using the promotional video to raise awareness of the Gathering. Thirty-six percent of the youth respondents indicated that they saw the video before deciding to attend the Gathering. This is an increase from 2000, in which 29 percent of youth respondents reported seeing the promotional video. Of the youth respondents who saw the promotional video in 2003, 90 percent indicated that the video was either somewhat or very helpful.⁵ This percentage also increased from 79 percent in 2000.

Thirty-two percent of youth respondents listened to the pre-gathering CD, and 50 percent of these respondents indicated that they liked the CD “a lot,” while an additional 40 percent indicated that the CD was “ok.”

Thirty percent of the youth visited the Gathering website prior to attending TAG. The majority of the Gathering website users (87%) visited the site fewer than 11 times. More than 90 percent of the focus group participants used the Gathering website. Several of the focus group participants commented on the improvements to the website for this Gathering, although information was slow being posted.

2003 Playbook

Sixty-nine percent of the adult respondents indicated that they used the 2003 Playbook to prepare for the Gathering. The Bible studies and introductory essay on the theology of Ubuntu were used by slightly less than half of the respondents. Articles about *Stand with Africa* and faith stories from *The Well* were least likely to be used. Thirty-one percent of the respondents did not use the *Playbook* at all or could not remember using it.

Getting Ready Materials

Ninety-two percent of the adult respondents reported receiving the *Getting Ready Materials*, and of those respondents, 95 percent indicated that they used some or all of the material provided. The most frequently used *Getting Ready Materials* included: theme information, program details and on-site registration procedures. Twenty-nine percent of adult respondents reported that they used the Bible study materials provided in the *Getting Ready Materials*, while slightly more than 50 percent of youth participants reported that they participated in Bible studies that focused on daily themes.

⁴For the complete list of questions and corresponding percentages, see Appendices D and E.

⁵In this context, helpfulness was measured on a five-point scale, with “1” representing not very helpful and “5” representing very helpful.

Focus group participants were asked what they found as helpful and not helpful about how the Youth Gathering planners communicated with them prior to the Gathering. The most frequently mentioned problem with the pre-Gathering materials was that it arrived late and not according to the deadlines set by the Gathering staff. Most focus group participants reported that they start their fundraising activities in the fall, so having the information books by the prior February would be most ideal. They also preferred the previous practice of receiving a book for each youth participant instead of one book per group.

Initial Gathering Registration

Slightly over one-third of the adult respondents strongly agreed that they had all the information they needed from the “Registration” booklet in order to submit their registration (indicated by a “5” on a five-point scale, with “1” representing strongly disagree and “5” representing strongly agree). An additional 42 percent rated this item as a “4” on a five-point scale. Over three-fourths of the respondents indicated that the Registration booklet was clear (indicated by a “4” or “5” on a five-point scale, with “1” representing strongly disagree and “5” representing strongly agree), while slightly over half of the respondents indicated that their confirmation of their registration arrived in a timely manner.

Of the congregations that chose to register by postal mail for TAG, 49 percent of their adult leaders reported that they will definitely consider on-line registration for the 2006 gathering. An additional 16 percent intend to register for the 2006 gathering via postal mail. Thirty-four percent of the adult leaders were unsure whether they would prefer registering on-line for the 2006 gathering. None of the adult leaders indicated that they would definitely NOT be attending the Gathering in 2006.

Eighty-one percent of the adult respondents indicated that the initial registration process prior to arriving in Atlanta was clear, and the respondents had no problems with the process.

Hotel Reservations

Almost one-third of the adult respondents indicated that they intentionally requested Gathering housing with other congregational units from their local areas. Seventy-nine percent of these respondents indicated that it had to do with transportation logistics.

Synod Coordinator Role

Fifty-six percent of the adult respondents reported that they had direct contact (via telephone, e-mail, postal mail, getting ready events, in-person) with their synod coordinator. Of these respondents, 82 percent had direct contact fewer than six times prior to the Gathering. Adult respondents rated the helpfulness of the synod coordinator as a 3.9 average on a five-point scale (where “1” represented not very helpful and “5” represented very helpful). This is an increase from 2.6 in 2000. Nineteen percent of the respondents indicated that the synod coordinator role could have supported their congregation in other ways that would have been helpful with preparation for the Gathering.

Thirty-five percent of adult respondents reported participating in their synod's Counselor Training Program. Thirty-seven percent of these respondents indicated that the information provided at the Counselor Training Programs was very helpful (indicated by a "5" on a five-point scale, where "1" represented not very helpful and "5" represented very helpful). An additional 28 percent of the respondents indicated that the Counselor Training Programs were somewhat helpful (indicated by a "3" on a five-point scale).

On-site Registration

Overall, the on-site registration process went well. Seventy-six percent of the adult respondents indicated that the "Gathering Registration" was very easy to manage (indicated by a "4" or "5" on a five-point scale, where "1" represented very difficult to manage and "5" represented not at all difficult to manage). Sixty-one percent indicated that the "hotel registration" was easy to manage. This percentage was an increase from the "hotel registration" process rating from 2000, which was 52 percent.

Safety at the Gathering

Ensuring safety and security is a priority for Gathering organizers. Twenty percent of adult respondents reported that there was a specific time during the Gathering when they were particularly worried about an individual or group safety. This is a decrease from 26 percent of adults in 2000. Eleven percent of youth reported feeling unsafe at a particular time during the Gathering. This also was a decrease from 17 percent in 2000.

Hotel Life at the Gathering

The most frequently attended hotel life events by both youth and adult participants included The Dance Clubs and The Final 15. At least 50 percent of all respondents attended these events. Fifty-one percent of adult respondents attended a Counselor Orientation at the hotel. The least attended hotel life events included The Health Club and Word in the Word. Table 1 is a list of hotel life events with corresponding participation percentages and average means on a five-point scale, where "1" represented not very valuable and "5" represented very valuable (See Table 1). Adults and youth rated The Final 15 as most valuable, with average ratings of 4.3 and 4.2 respectively. Adults and youth rated The Lounge as least valuable, with an average rating of 3.5 from both groups.

Table 1: Hotel Life Activities

Activity	Adult Participation	Adult Mean	Youth Participation	Youth Mean
Counselor Orientation	50.8 %	3.6	Not applicable	N/A
Breakfast Club	20.7	3.6	15.4 %	3.5
Word in the Word	14.7	3.9	6.2	3.8
Music and the Meal	13.1	4.2	10.8	4.1
Health Club	6.8	3.6	6.0	3.6
Club Live	36.3	3.9	26.2	3.8
Dance Clubs	57.1	3.6	67.2	3.5
Fun Clubs	29.7	4.0	31.0	3.8
Open Mic	12.9	3.7	15.4	3.5
Campfires	22.4	4.0	16.0	3.7
The Lounge	18.7	3.5	26.8	3.5
The Final 15	64.3	4.3	50.3	4.2

At the Gathering: Events & Activities

Seventy-nine percent of adult respondents indicated that they scheduled daily small group time into their Gathering schedules. Of these respondents, 32 percent indicated that they used *Devozine* material for their small group time.

The most frequently attended Gathering activities included the Globe and Evening Mass Events. More than 80 percent of all respondents attended these activities. Fifty-five percent of adult respondents reported attending at least one Learning Village, which is an increase from 49 percent in 2000. Table 2 is a list of Gathering events with corresponding participation percentages and average means on a five-point scale, with “1” representing not very valuable and “5” representing very valuable (See Table 2). Adults and youth rated the Evening Mass Events as most valuable, with average ratings of 4.8 and 4.6 respectively. Adults and youth rated the Servant Events as least valuable, with average ratings of 3.5 and 3.9 respectively.

Table 2: Gathering Activities

Activity	Adult Participation	Adult Mean	Youth Participation	Youth Mean
Adult Academy	24.1 %	4.1	Not applicable	N/A
Servant Events	35.1	3.5	36.8 %	3.9
Continuing Ed Opportunities	23.4	4.1	30.0	3.9
Learning Villages	55.0	4.3	33.6	4.1
The Globe	91.7	4.4	91.8	4.2
Morning Bible Study	60.8	4.4	56.0	4.1
Evening Mass Events	80.9	4.8	83.1	4.6

Reflections After the Gathering

Since the end of July, youth have reflected on the Gathering in various ways. More than 60 percent of youth respondents have had informal conversations with congregation members about the Gathering and set up a display of pictures in their congregations. More than 50 percent of youth respondents gave a report on the Gathering during worship.

Impact of Theme

In preparation for TAG, 60 percent of adult respondents indicated that the theme, *Do Life! Ubuntu* was very meaningful to them. In addition, 83 percent of youth respondents reported that the theme was meaningful to them.

Fifty-percent of youth reported that they are doing things differently or they intend to do things differently because of what they have learned through the Gathering theme. Sixty-five percent of the adult respondents reported that they are integrating the theme into their daily lives.

Thirty-two percent of adult respondents and 18 percent of youth respondents indicated that the theme *Do Life! Ubuntu* resonated with them with regard to the current war in the world. Forty-percent of adult respondents and 38 percent of the youth respondents indicated that the theme of the Gathering did not have any impact on the ways in which they thought about war prior to the Gathering. Twenty-nine percent of adult respondents and 44 percent of the youth respondents chose not to respond to this question.

Youth who reported that they really liked the theme were more likely to see the Gathering promotional video and visit the Gathering website prior to attending the Gathering.⁶ They were also much more likely to report that they liked the pre-Gathering CD. These youth also reported that they had participated in Bible studies that focused on the daily theme prior to attending the Gathering. Youth who liked the theme were much more likely to have received a blessing or welcome back during worship at their home congregations. They were also more likely to participate in hotel life activities, such as Dance Clubs, Open Mics and the Final 15; and were also more likely to participate in Gathering activities, such as Servant Events, Learning Villages, and Morning Bible Study.

Likewise, youth who reported that they are doing things differently or intending to do things differently because of what they had learned from the theme, were also more likely to view the promotional video, visit the Gathering website prior to attending the Gathering and listen to the pre-Gathering CD. These youth were also more likely to participate in Bible studies focused on daily themes prior to attending the Gathering. They were also more likely to participate in hotel life activities such as Club Live, Dance Clubs and the Lounge; and were more likely to participate in Gathering activities, such as Learning Villages and Morning Bible Study.

Most of the focus group participants reported that this was a difficult theme to prepare for, and some of the material was too high-level and abstract for the youth to understand. Some of the focus group participants suggested having more interactive activities on the website related to the theme so that you could go there on their own as a homework assignment. Other suggestions included posting a list of ideas of what other congregations have done in the past to prepare for the theme.

About the Youth Who Attended the Gathering

In an effort to get a snapshot of the youth who attended the Gathering, several questions were asked about what they do and how they spend their free time.

Ninety-five percent of youth respondents live in the same household with their mother, and 87 percent live in the same house with their father. Eighty percent of the youth respondents live with siblings, while only eight percent live with step-parents.

Sixty-seven percent reported that they are “A” students. Slightly less than half of the youth (46%) read 1-5 leisure books per year. Ninety percent of the youth respondents plan to enroll in a four-year university or college after completing high school (See Figures 3, 4, and 5).

⁶Statistical differences were found at $p < 0.05$. This does not necessarily suggest a causal relationship. For e.g., it can not be assumed that the Gathering preparation materials caused the youth to like the theme more than those who did not use the materials. Other variables may be involved.

Figure 3: Grade Point Averages

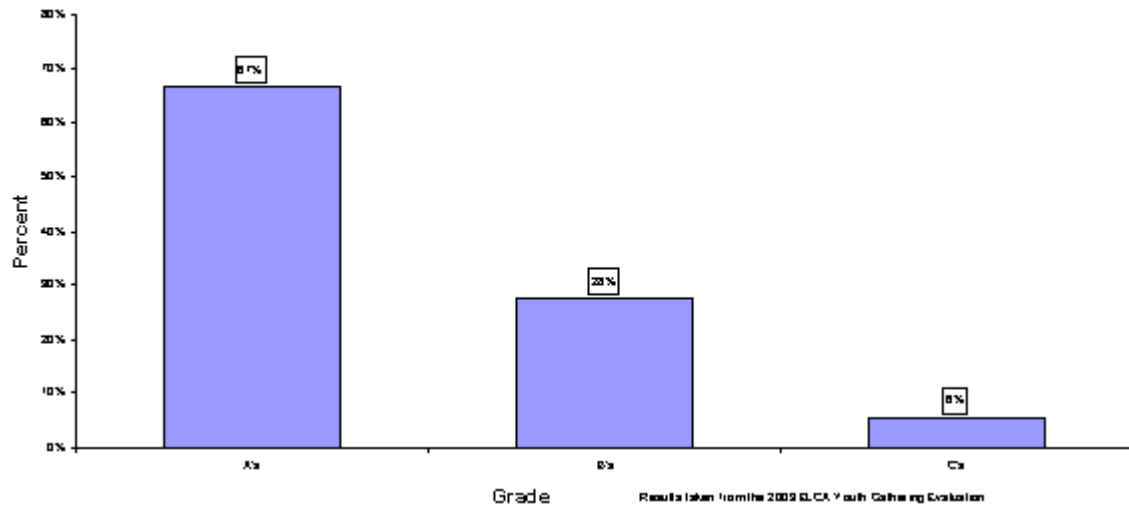


Figure 4: Annual Leisure Book Reading

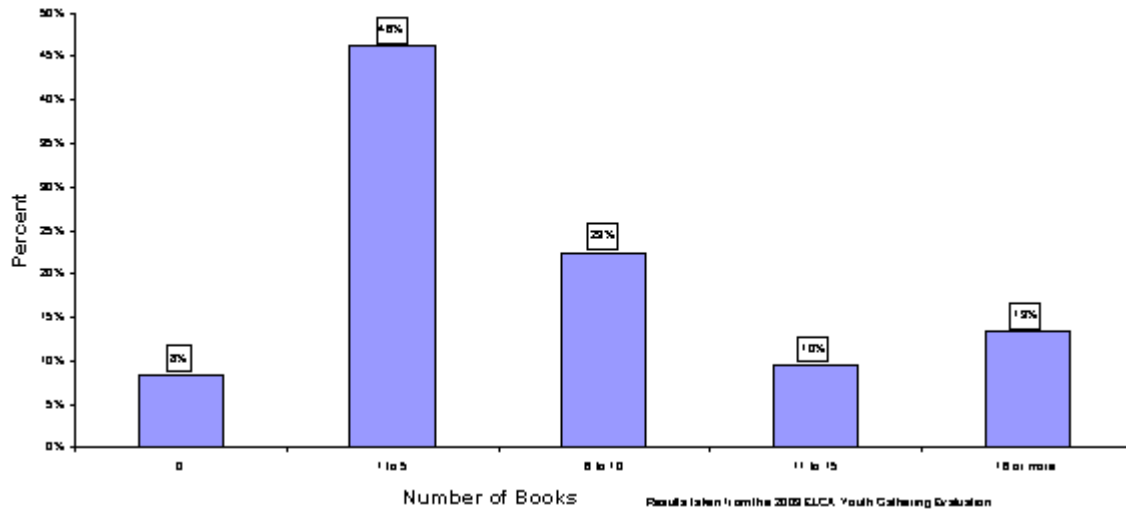
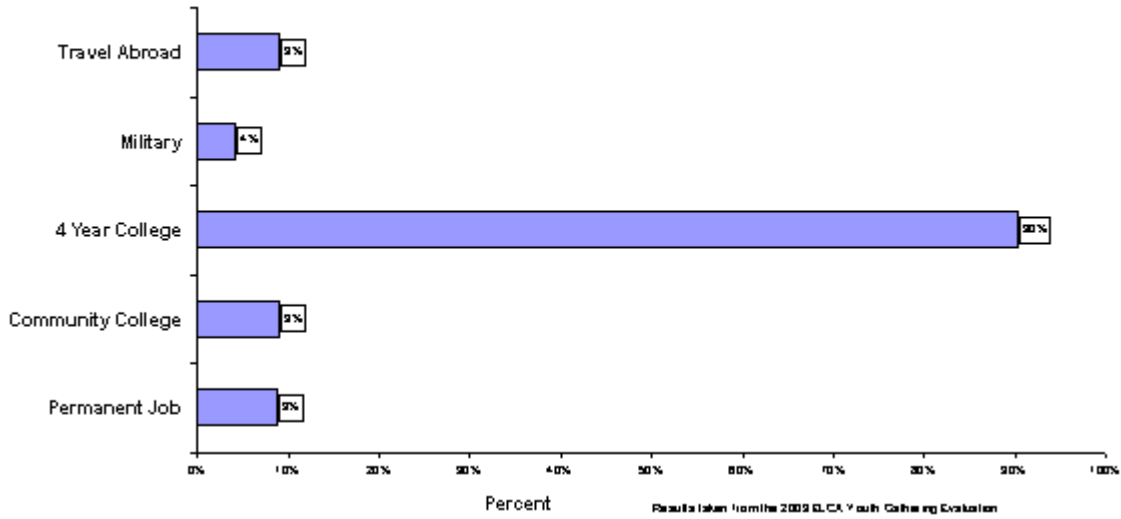


Figure 5: Plans After High School



Sixty-one percent attend weekly worship regularly, while an additional 29 percent attend worship at least twice per month (See Figure 6). The youth who attended the Youth Gathering are active members in their church youth groups. Eighty-seven percent attend church youth group activities at least once per month (See Figure 7). Fifty-two percent of youth respondents reported that they are leaders outside of church-related organizations.

Figure 6: Sunday Worship Attendance

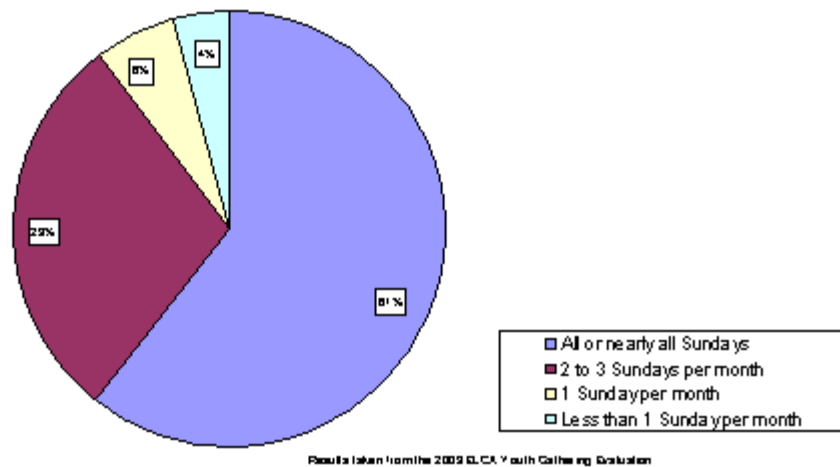
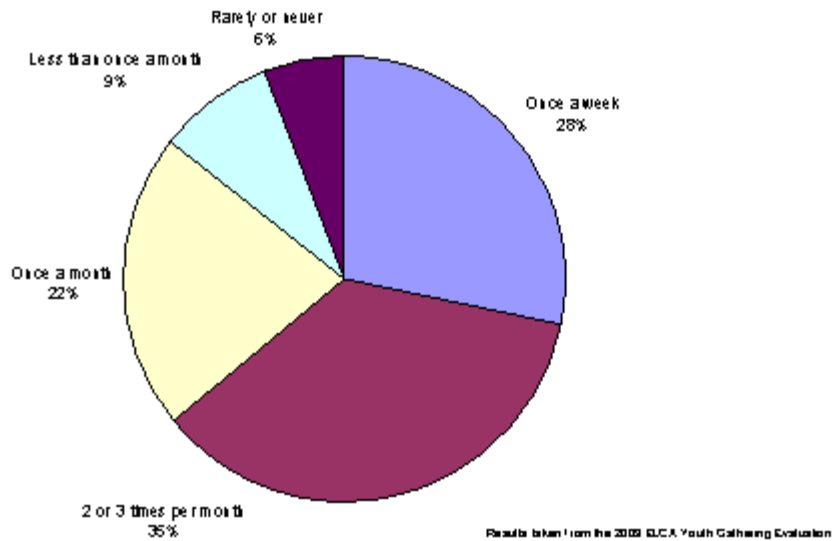
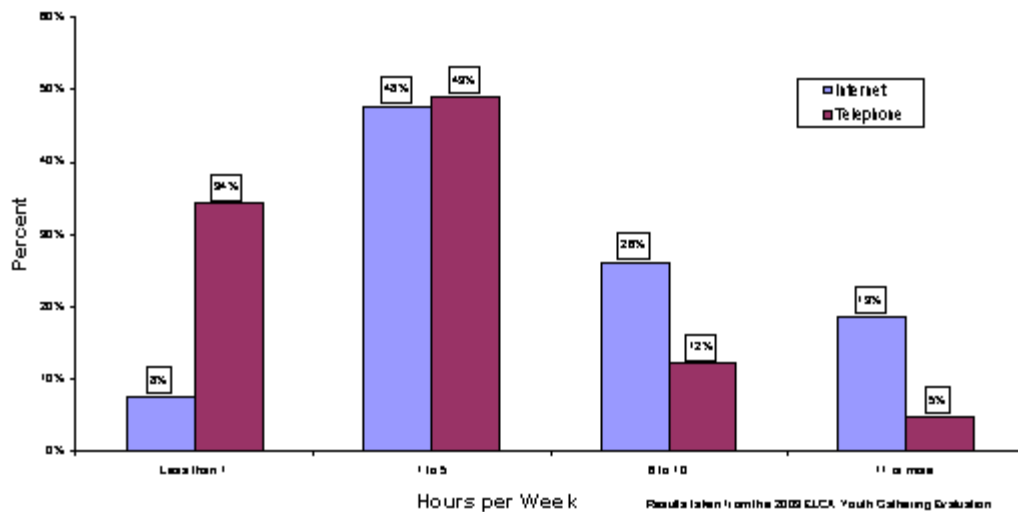


Figure 7: Church Youth Group Participation



Almost half of the youth respondents spend one to five hours on the telephone and internet every week. Slightly over one-third of the youth respondents talk on the telephone less than one hour per week (See Figure 8).

Figure 8: Time Spent on the Internet and Telephone



Youth respondents who reported that they really liked the theme of the Gathering were more likely to indicate that they would attend a four-year university or college after high school. These youth were also more likely to attend worship on a weekly basis.

Youth respondents who reported that they were doing things differently or intend to do things differently because of what they learned through the Gathering theme were also more likely to attend worship on a weekly basis, and plan to attend a four-year university or college after completing high school. These youth were also more likely to be “A” students.

Youth respondents who reported that the Gathering’s theme resonated with them in regard to the current war in the world were more likely to attend worship on a weekly basis and planned on attending a four-year university or college after completing high school.

Impact of Attending Youth Gatherings

Focus group participants were asked how they would characterize the impact or effect that attending a Youth Gathering has on the youth from their congregations. The overwhelming response to this question was that the Youth Gathering has a “life-changing, immeasurable, faith-shaping, memorable” impact. The impact may be delayed and it may vary for different individuals, but all the focus group participants agreed that this was a very powerful event that would stay with their youth for a long time.

Most focus group participants felt that the Youth Gathering had a significant impact on them personally. Some felt they developed more confidence in themselves and more patience after attending the Gathering. Others reported that they were called to seminary after attending their first Gathering as a youth. Many focus group participants from small congregations felt this connected them to the wider church and got them out of their small-town “shell.”

Summary

Historically, between 25 and 35 percent of ELCA congregations participate in the Youth Gathering. The greatest room for increasing the number of congregations that participate in the ELCA Youth Gathering includes Regions 3 and 5 of the ELCA. In addition, congregations with average worship attendance between 51 and 150 people are least likely to attend the Youth Gathering.

The materials sent out prior to the Gathering were read or used by more participants in comparison to the pre-gathering materials sent out for the 2000 Gathering. The percentage of youth who viewed the Gathering promotional video doubled. The *Getting Ready* materials were also read and used by more adult leaders in comparison to the adult leaders in 2000.

Overall, the initial Gathering registration went well. The majority of adult leaders who were responsible for initial registration found the booklet easy to understand and helpful with the process. Approximately half of the congregations that registered via postal mail will definitely consider registering on-line for the Gathering in 2006. The on-site registration also went well. The hotel registration was much improved in comparison to 2000.

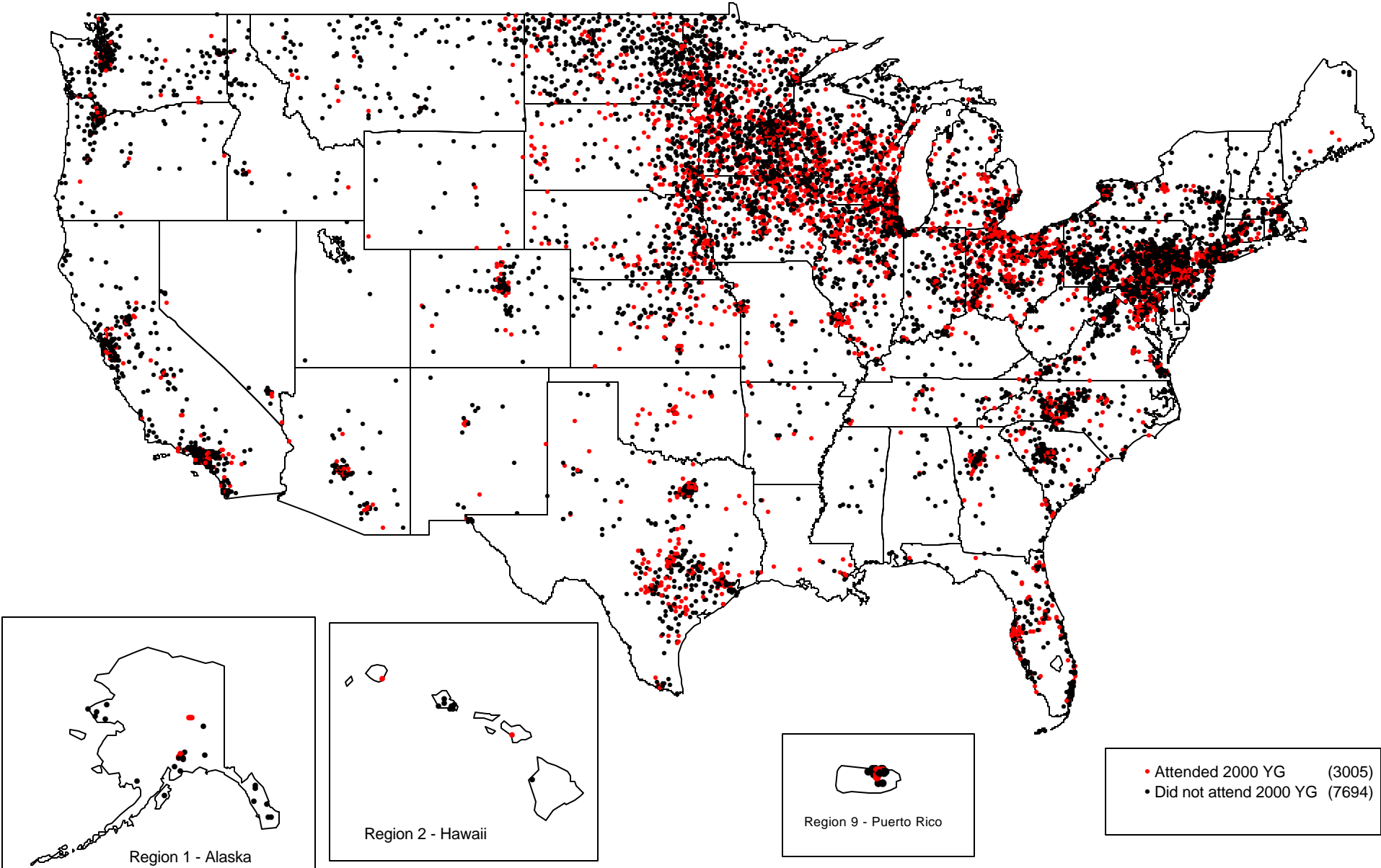
Slightly over half of the adult leaders had some contact with their synod coordinator. These adults rated the helpfulness of their synod coordinator higher than the adult rating in 2000.

The Counselor orientation participation decreased by one-fourth from 2000 to 2003. Slightly over half of the adult leaders who attended rated the orientation as very valuable. The participation at the various hotel life activities and 2003 Gathering events were consistent with 2000 attendance.

The youth who stated that they really liked the Gathering's theme and who reported that they were doing things differently because of what they had learned at the Gathering, came to the Gathering more prepared than those who did not feel an impact from the theme. The youth prepared for the Gathering by participating in Bible studies focused on the theme, visiting the Gathering website, etc. At the Gathering itself, the youth who were impacted by the theme were also more likely to participate in the Gathering activities and events, such as the Learning Villages and Morning Bible Study.

Overall, the majority of youth who attended the Youth Gathering are intelligent and ambitious. Ninety percent plan to go to college after high school. Over half self-report that they are "A" students. The youth who attended the Youth Gathering are active members of their congregations and youth groups. About half of the youth consider themselves leaders outside of their congregations or other church-related organizations.

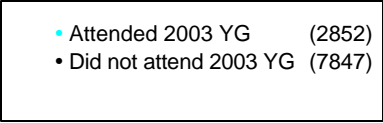
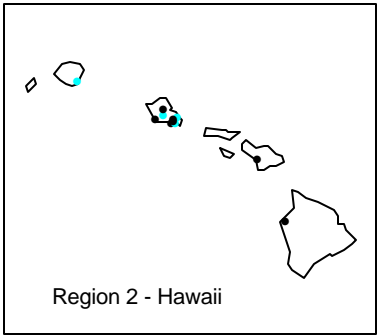
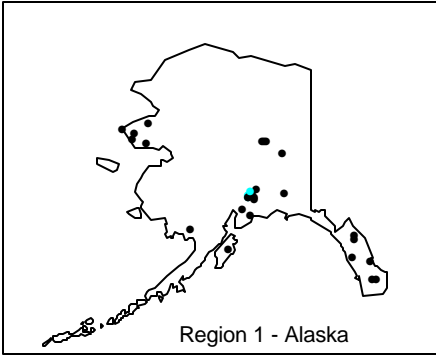
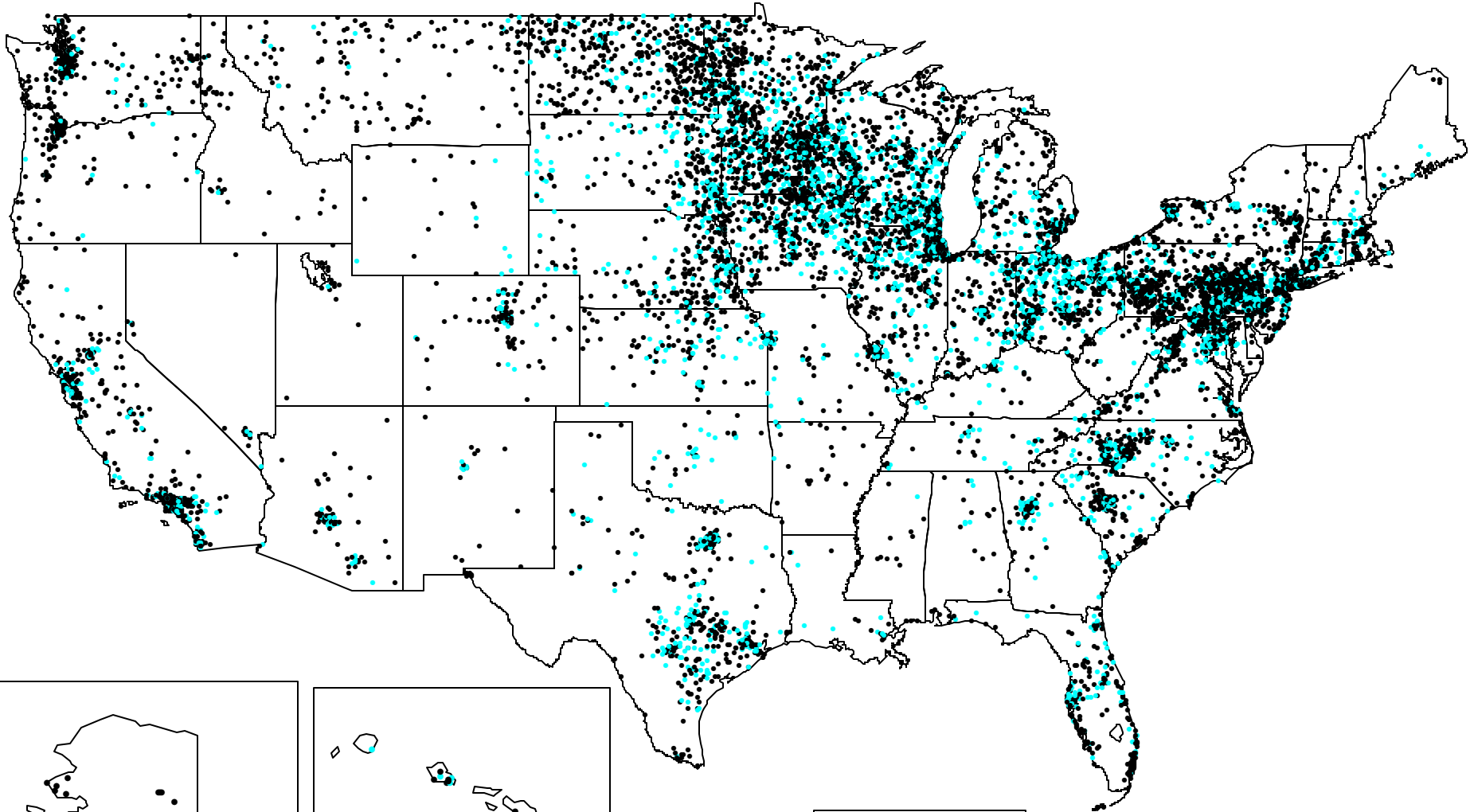
Appendix A: ELCA Congregations Attendance at the 2000 Youth Gathering



Prepared by ELCA Department for Research and Evaluation, 12/03
Sources: 2002 ELCA Congregation Report Forms, U.S. Census, Claritas

**NOTE: Congregations in the Bahamas and Virgin Islands are not shown.
Congregation locations are approximate.**

Appendix B: ELCA Congregations Attendance at the 2003 Youth Gathering



Prepared by ELCA Department for Research and Evaluation, 12/03
Sources: 2002 ELCA Congregation Report Forms, U.S. Census, Claritas

**NOTE: Congregations in the Bahamas and Virgin Islands are not shown.
Congregation locations are approximate.**

2003 Youth Gathering Focus Groups with Adult Leaders

*ELCA Department for Research and Evaluation
January, 2004*

The ELCA Department for Research and Evaluation (DRE) facilitated 18 focus groups during the 2003 Youth Gathering in Atlanta, Georgia. Three staff members¹ facilitated the focus groups. Adult leaders who attended at least two prior national Youth Gatherings were randomly invited to participate in one forty-five minute focus group. The size of each group ranged from six to 16. One-hundred and fifty-nine people participated in the focus groups. The focus groups provided an opportunity for participants to give feedback on Youth Gathering logistics, Youth Gathering content, and the long-term impact of attending Youth Gatherings.²

Each question that was asked during the focus groups is listed below in bold. A summary of responses follows each question.

How was the Atlanta Gathering communicated in your congregation?

There were many different ways that the Gathering was communicated in congregations, but almost all groups mentioned word-of-mouth or “just knowing” as the most common methods. Youth who attended the previous Gathering would tell others in the congregation, especially friends and siblings, so the Gathering evolved into a tradition. The majority of leaders also anticipated and expected the Youth Gathering informational mailing to be sent to the congregation.

Leaders also reported more formal ways of communicating, such as: sending letters to all eligible youth in the congregation, using newsletters/bulletins, information sessions, announcements in worship, using the pre-gathering video, and home visits. Fund-raising efforts with education were also used to let people in the congregation know about the upcoming Gathering.

¹Victoria Flood, Rebecca Sims and Jennifer Esser facilitated the 2003 Youth Gathering Focus groups.

²Due to time constraints, every question was not necessarily addressed by all 18 focus groups. However, at least 15 groups had an opportunity to respond to each question.

Appendix C: Youth Gathering Focus Group Questions and Responses

How did you find out about the Gathering? How did youth find out about the Gathering?

Since most of the leaders had attended several previous Gatherings, they typically find out about the next Gathering at the previous one and start planning for three years in advance. Many reported ELCA mailings and the website as good sources of information, and some found out about the Gathering from their synod coordinator.

Who are the “gatekeepers” in your congregation regarding attendance at the Gathering? Who decides who or how many youth may attend from your congregation?

Most of the leaders found this to be an odd question in that anyone who wanted to go was allowed to attend the Gathering. Generally, participants indicated that the Gathering was open to members of their congregation who expressed an interest in going, and at times, friends of members were invited to attend if they were active in the congregations’ youth groups. Many participants agreed that those who wanted to go were required to make a one year commitment and were required to meet certain attendance requirements for meetings, fundraisers, and sometimes for involvement in worship or Sunday School.

Money was sometimes an issue, but most leaders said that they were able to raise enough money so that all of the interested youth could attend. Some members obtained scholarships or received special donations from congregation members so that youth with financial difficulties were not excluded.

What did you find helpful and not helpful about how the Youth Gathering planners communicated with you prior to the Gathering?

This question prompted a myriad of complaints about the preparation for the Gathering and the Gathering itself. The most frequently mentioned problem with the materials was that they came late and not according to the deadlines set by the Gathering staff. Participants were very clear in stating the need for details such as hotel assignments much earlier and were repeatedly promised forthcoming information that never came in the mail or were never made available on the Gathering website. Participants also requested that they be given Gathering schedules and lists of bands early, so they can “sell” the event to the youth. This is specifically true because there are so many other summer events that vie for the attention of youth and getting them to commit early is difficult.

Some of the adult leaders reported that it was difficult for them to contact staff in the Gathering office because Gathering staff were only available during regular business hours. Several of the adults who were volunteer youth leaders, and not working for the church full-time, were not available during the day to make or receive phone calls during the day.

There were also many problems with the servant events in terms of logistics and organization. The information that was received was often repetitive (multiple mailings of the same thing) or conflicting information with what had been previously received.

Appendix C: Youth Gathering Focus Group Questions and Responses

What would have been helpful to know, and when would it have been helpful?

Leaders felt that the earlier they could have information, the better. Many acknowledged that the time line set out by the Gathering staff was fine if it had been followed. Most leaders start fundraising and meeting with youth in the fall, so having the information books by the prior February would be ideal. They also liked the past practice of receiving a book for each participant instead of one book per group. Some leaders suggested that there was too much information, so streamlining it into one book may be more effective than having three books with conflicting information. They also liked the once-a-month Bible studies that were included in previous years' books.

What did your youth group do to prepare for the theme of the Gathering?

Congregations did a variety of things to prepare for the theme, although some were more indirect. A large majority held meetings, some weekly or monthly, some only a few times, to discuss the theme. They often used material from the preparation books or their own materials. One congregation had an international guest visit the congregation, while some used fund-raising and volunteer activities as a way of introducing the theme. Others watched video tapes of Bishop Tutu, while some youth groups invited professors of African American studies to lead Youth Gathering preparation discussions. Many agreed that this was a difficult theme to prepare for, and some of the material was too high-level and abstract for the youth to understand. A small minority of participants thought that this theme was too internationally focused.

Some leaders tied the theme in through VBS material by Augsburg Fortress that had a similar theme and involved the younger kids in the preparation for the gathering.

How can Gathering organizers help you and your group better prepare for the theme?

Most leaders agreed that the information in the preparation books (once they got them) was helpful. Some suggested having more interactive activities on the website related to the theme so that youth could go there on their own as a homework assignment. Other suggestions were to include a video and CDs for the youth, or a list of ideas of what congregations have done in the past to prepare for the theme. They liked the idea of each youth receiving a Bible at the Gathering, but they would like to have them in advance so they could take more advantage of all the resources offered.

How was your congregation involved with preparing your youth to attend the Gathering?

Congregations were involved in a variety of ways, but by far the most common was fund-raising. Many leaders reported different types of fund-raisers that the congregation was invited to, from coffee hours to Easter breakfasts. Congregations also got involved in collecting quarters, and many reported this was a great way for older members to connect to the theme. Some participants discussed "shareholding" in which members of the congregation were invited to "invest" in the youth. Many used pictures of the youth and information about those participating to help the congregational members connect with youth. One smaller congregation decided not

Appendix C: Youth Gathering Focus Group Questions and Responses

to do traditional fundraising and asked for anonymous pledges, and the youth attending the Gathering also contributed their own money to this fund.

Almost all of the congregations had a blessing or commissioning service before leaving for the Gathering, and most congregations prayed for the youth while they were gone. Some did a youth service before and after the Gathering with several youth speaking or doing the sermon. When they returned, most of the youth will do a presentation of some kind to the congregation, either during worship or at a special meeting. Some congregations formed prayer partners with their youth who were attending the Gathering, while others created mentoring programs.

What resources did you utilize to prepare for the Gathering? For example, how many of you called the Gathering office with questions?

Roughly three-fourths of the participants called the 800-Gathering number at least once prior to attending the Gathering. Many participants said that they left a message and never got a return call or they were on hold and transferred from one place to another trying to get an answer. Some reported that they got better results calling the ELCA's 1-800 number than the Gathering's number. Many suggested that it would be helpful to have a directory of phone numbers and email addresses for who to call or email regarding specific questions. This would reduce the time spent trying to track down the correct person. Those with effective synod coordinators did not feel the need to contact the churchwide office.

How many of you used the Gathering website for information?

Almost all of the participants (more than 90 percent) used the Gathering website. Several commented on the improvements to the website for this Gathering, although information was slow being posted.

Participants used the website primarily to download information about hotels, speakers, and servant events. A couple participants felt that the bulletin board was more helpful than the website itself. Some of the specific suggestions for future Gathering websites include:

1. Direct e-mail addresses of staff for specific concerns, such as housing
2. Creating a place for Frequently Asked Questions about things that could go wrong (for e.g., what to do when hotel reservations are not accurate)
3. Provide more details to go along with the daily schedules that are posted

How would you characterize the impact or effect that attending a Youth Gathering has on the youth from your church?

The overwhelming response to this question was that the Youth Gathering has a "life-changing, immeasurable, faith-shaping, memorable" impact on the youth. The impact may be delayed and it may vary for different individuals, but all the leaders agreed that this was a very powerful event that would stay with their youth for a long time. Many youth return as volunteers or adult leaders, and several of the leaders in the groups got involved by first attending a Gathering as a

Appendix C: Youth Gathering Focus Group Questions and Responses

youth. Even those participants who had relatively negative comments about the Gathering in response to other questions, agreed with the comments about how important and valuable this event is in the lives of youth from their congregations. Many also felt that this was a good bonding experience for the youth, and a chance for them to see that it's "cool" to be Christian. The youth are able to get a sense of the wider church, and the life experience for some youth who have never been to a big city or flown on an airplane is life-altering. Some mentioned the impact on the congregation and the energy they bring back after the Gathering, which is important to follow-up on so they don't feel a huge let-down after such a high.

Many agreed that the Youth Gathering is an empowering event for youth to hear the messages, "I matter" and "I can make a difference." Some had stories of youth going into leadership roles such as Lutheran Student Movement, campus ministry, Lutheran Youth Organization, or seminary.

What do you think about planning a family event as an alternative to a high school Youth Gathering?

The overwhelming response to this question was "Don't mess with the youth gathering!" Everyone agreed that the youth needed something to call their own, and they probably wouldn't come if their parents were there. In fact, many went to the Youth Gathering in part to get away from their parents. Several suggested that teenagers needed a place where they can be independent from their families and yet also be in a safe environment and that is what the Gathering accomplishes.

Many participants indicated that a family event would be too costly and difficult to organize, and they felt that the Global Mission events were a good place for that. Some agreed that it might be an idea for something in addition to the Youth Gathering, but not to replace it.

Since the majority of you have attended at least 2 other national Youth Gatherings, have the Youth Gatherings had any impact on your sense of call to vocation? If so, please describe that impact.

Most participants felt that the Youth Gathering had a significant impact on them personally. Most of them reported feeling rejuvenated and some stay in youth ministry because they look forward to the Gatherings every three years. Some felt they developed more confidence in themselves and more patience. Others reported that they were called to seminary after attending Youth Gatherings. Some participants reported they get more out of the Gatherings as an adult. Many leaders from small congregations felt this connected them to the wider church and got them out of their small-town "shell." They also reported a sense of community, specifically with this year's theme.

Appendix D: Frequencies of Youth Participants

2003 ELCA YOUTH GATHERING EVALUATION

Youth Participant Questionnaire

August, 2003

N=500

Thank you for helping us evaluate The Atlanta Gathering (TAG). This is an opportunity to help planners and organizers prepare for the next Gathering. Please answer the following questions based on your own personal experiences at the Gathering. If you need more space for comments, attach additional pages as needed.

PLANNING FOR THE GATHERING

We're interested in what you and your counselor unit did to prepare for the Gathering. Your own congregation might have used some of these activities and resources before the Gathering, or maybe none at all. If you don't know anything about a particular resource or activity, just mark the "don't know" response, and go on to the next question.

1. Did you see the Gathering promotional video before deciding to come to the Gathering?

35.8%	Yes (<i>Please go to letter b</i>) →	b. How helpful was the video in helping you decide to come to the Gathering?				
51.2	No (<i>Please skip to question 2</i>)					
13.0	I don't know or don't remember (<i>Please skip to question 2</i>)	—	Not Very Helpful	Somewhat Helpful	Very Helpful	
			1	2	3	4
			2.8	7.4	42.9	33.9
					5	13.0

2. Did you visit the Gathering website prior to attending TAG?

29.7	Yes (<i>Please go to letter b</i>) →	b. Approximately how many times did you visit the Gathering website? (<i>choose one answer</i>)		
68.2	No (<i>Please skip to question 3</i>)			
2.1	I don't know or don't remember (<i>Please skip to question 3</i>)		86.8	1-10 times
			11.9	11-30 times
			0.7	31-50 times
			0.6	51 or more times

c. Please list what parts of the Gathering website were interesting or most helpful to you:

3. Did you listen to the pre-Gathering CD? CD?

31.7	Yes (<i>Please go to letter b</i>) →	Not Very Well at All	It Was Ok	I Liked it A lot
61.8	No (<i>Please skip to number 4</i>)	1	2	3
6.5	I don't know or don't remember (<i>Please skip to number 4</i>)	4.5	7.1	39.4
				33.5
				15.5

b. How well did you like the pre-Gathering

Appendix D: Frequencies of Youth Participants

4. Did you participate in Bible studies focused on the daily themes of the Gathering in preparation for TAG?

52.3 Yes (Please go to letter b) →

38.9 No (Please skip to number 5)

8.8 I don't know or don't remember (Please skip to number 5)

b. How helpful were the Bible studies in preparing for the daily themes of the Gathering?

	Not Very Helpful		Somewhat Helpful		Very Helpful
	1	2	3	4	5
	3.1	8.6	35.0	40.1	13.2

5. Did your congregation bless you when you left for the Gathering or welcome you back from the Gathering? (choose one that best describes your situation)

78.3 Yes, we were blessed or welcomed back during worship.

11.2 Yes, we were welcomed back informally by some members of our congregation.

7.8 Yes, we were welcomed back during a presentation to the church council or some other group within our congregation.

2.7 No, we were neither blessed when we left for the Gathering nor welcomed back by our congregation formally or informally.

**AT THE GATHERING: HOTEL LIFE
AT THE GEORGIA WORLD CONGRESS CENTER AND HOTELS**

6. Think back on the events and activities that occurred during hotel life at the Georgia World Congress Center and the hotels. First, mark those hotel life activities in which you personally attended and/or participated at least once. Next, please rate how valuable those experiences (only those in which you participated) were for you personally.

Hotel Life Event	I participated	Not Very Valuable		Somewhat Valuable		Very Valuable
		1	2	3	4	5
a. Breakfast Club	15.4	6.2	8.6	33.3	28.4	23.5
b. Word in the Word	6.2	3.0	9.2	24.2	30.3	33.3
c. Music and the meal	10.8	3.6	1.8	16.1	41.1	37.4
d. Health club	6.0	13.5	2.7	16.2	43.2	24.2
e. Club Live	26.2	2.9	8.6	24.5	36.7	27.3
f. Dance clubs	67.2	10.1	11.5	24.3	22.8	31.4
g. Fun clubs	31.0	4.4	6.9	25.8	32.7	30.2
h. Open mic	15.4	9.7	7.2	24.2	37.3	21.7
i. Campfires	16.0	3.6	8.4	34.9	20.5	32.6
j. The Lounge	26.8	7.5	8.3	36.8	26.3	21.1
k. The Final 15	50.3	2.8	4.8	15.1	27.1	50.2

Appendix D: Frequencies of Youth Participants

AT THE GATHERING: EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

7. Please think back on the events and activities that occurred at the Gathering. First, mark those activities in which you personally attended and/or participated at least once. Next, please rate how valuable those experiences (*only* those in which you participated) were for you personally. A “Very Valuable” experience would be one that had a lasting impact on you.

Event	I participated	Not Very Valuable		Somewhat Valuable		Very Valuable
		1	2	3	4	5
a. Servant Events	36.8	6.6	8.8	18.8	23.8	42.0
b. Continuing Ed Opportunities (tourist trips)	30.0	2.0	4.7	25.5	33.6	34.2
c. Learning Villages	33.6	2.2	2.2	18.9	35.6	41.1
d. The Globe (interaction center)	91.8	1.7	3.5	17.6	29.4	47.8
e. Morning Bible Study	56.0	1.8	8.0	15.8	31.2	43.2
f. Evening Mass Events	83.1	1.2	1.7	7.4	20.8	69.0

8. What did you think of the Gathering theme “Do Life! Ubuntu: I am because we are. We are because Christ is.”

- 47.9 I *really* liked it; it was very meaningful to me.
- 35.8 I liked it; it was kind of meaningful to me.
- 11.5 I’m neutral about it; it was OK.
- 2.6 I didn’t like it; it didn’t really mean much to me.
- 2.2 I *really* didn’t like it; it wasn’t meaningful for me at all.

9. Was there a speaker, emcee, Bible study leader, presenter in the Learning Village, musician, or band that was particularly important to you, or that you felt made a connection with you? If so, who was that person/people or band(s)? (*If you can’t remember someone’s name, try to describe when/where you heard this person or what s/he talked about.*)

10. **Other than** spending time in the Globe (interaction center) or participating in servant events or CEO tourist trips, please briefly describe what else you did during the *afternoons* at the Gathering (*on Thursday, Friday and Saturday*).

Appendix D: Frequencies of Youth Participants

11. Ensuring participant safety and security is always a priority for Gathering organizers. Was there any time during the Gathering when you were especially concerned or worried about your individual or group safety?

88.6 No

11.4 Yes → *Please describe that particular experience(s):*

REFLECTIONS AFTER THE GATHERING

12. What have you done, or what will you do to share your Gathering experiences with your congregation?
(*indicate all the responses that apply from both columns*)

64.8	Informal conversations with congregation members	8.0	A report or presentation to the congregation council
51.6	A report or presentation during a worship service	13.6	A report or presentation at a youth group meeting
23.8	A meeting or dinner specifically intended for talking about the Gathering	62.4	A display of pictures, programs, and/or other souvenirs
26.2	A letter or article written for your congregation's newsletter or bulletin	3.8	Creating a webpage
11.2	A report or presentation at Sunday School or an Adult Forum	13.6	Other: _____

13. Will you do anything differently because of what you've learned through the Gathering theme?

49.4 Yes, I am doing some things differently or I intend to make some changes in my daily life
(*Please answer question b*)

12.4 No, I doubt I will do anything differently in my daily life because of the theme (*Please skip to question 15*)

34.1 I'm not sure how I would do anything differently (*Please skip to question 15*)

4.1 I'm not sure if I want to change anything in my daily life (*Please skip to question 15*)

b. Please write a sentence or more on how you've made changes in your daily life since the Gathering. In what ways have your behaviors prior to the Gathering changed or will they change?

c. Did the theme *Do Life! Ubuntu* resonate with you in regard to the current war in the world?

18.0 Yes– Please explain here:

37.6 No– the theme did not make me think of war in any different ways than prior to the Gathering.

44.4 Chose not to answer this question

Appendix D: Frequencies of Youth Participants

14. Please list five ways in which you plan to practice Ubuntu in your life? (*if you don't plan to practice Ubuntu, skip to the next question*)

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

15. If your faith practices (such as prayer life, stewardship, worship attendance, Bible study, volunteer service, etc) have changed in any ways since the Gathering, please briefly describe in this space.

16. Please share with us a TAG experience or experiences that had a significant impact on you, either positively or negatively, such as an activity or speaker in the Learning Village, a Servant Event, a Hotel Life experience, a particular mass gathering, the Gathering's theme, a particular speaker, etc.

PLEASE TELL US ABOUT YOURSELF ...

17. On average, how many books do you read for fun per year? (this *does not* include assigned reading from school)

- | | |
|------|-----------------------------------|
| 8.4 | 0 leisure books per year |
| 46.2 | 1-5 leisure books per year |
| 22.5 | 6-10 leisure books per year |
| 9.5 | 11-15 leisure books per year |
| 13.4 | 16 or more leisure books per year |

18. How frequently do you attend worship on Sundays?

- | | |
|------|------------------------------|
| 60.5 | All or nearly all Sundays |
| 29.3 | 2 or 3 Sundays per month |
| 6.1 | 1 Sunday per month |
| 2.9 | Less than 1 Sunday per month |
| 1.2 | Rarely or never |

Appendix D: Frequencies of Youth Participants

19. What was your grade-point average this past year?
- 66.8 Mostly A's (3.50 or better)
 - 27.7 Mostly B's (3.00)
 - 5.5 Mostly C's (2.75)
 - 0.0 Mostly D's (Less than 2.75)
20. How many hours per week do you spend on the internet?
- 7.6 0 hours per week
 - 47.7 1-5 hours per week
 - 26.1 6-10 hours per week
 - 12.1 11-20 hours per week
 - 3.9 21-30 hours per week
 - 2.6 31 or more hours per week
21. How often do you go to the movies?
- 5.3 Once or more per week
 - 27.9 Twice a month
 - 27.3 Once a month
 - 29.8 Less than once a month
 - 9.7 Rarely or never
22. How many hours per week do you talk on the telephone?
- 34.1 Less than 1 hour per week
 - 48.9 1-5 hours per week
 - 12.2 6-10 hours per week
 - 4.8 10 or more hours per week
23. Please indicate which of the following people **live with you in your home?** (*indicate all that apply*)
- 95.0 Mother
 - 86.4 Father
 - 8.0 Step-parent
 - 79.8 Sibling(s)
 - 2.8 Step-sibling(s)
 - 0.8 Grandparent(s)
 - 0.8 Aunt(s) or Uncle(s)
 - 0.0 cousin(s)
 - 4.4 Other: _____
24. What do you plan to do in the academic year after you finish high school? (*indicate all that apply*)
- 8.8 Get a permanent job
 - 1.8 Go to a vocational school
 - 9.0 Go to a community college
 - 90.2 Go to a 4-year college/university
 - 4.2 Join the military
 - 9.0 Travel abroad
 - 0.8 Join a full-time volunteer program
 - 5.0 Other: _____

Appendix D: Frequencies of Youth Participants

25. How frequently do you attend church youth group activities? (*choose one that best applies*)
- 28.3 At least once a week or more
 - 35.6 2 or 3 times per month
 - 21.7 1 time a month
 - 8.5 Less than 1 time per month
 - 5.9 Rarely or never
26. Are you a leader outside of your congregation or other church-related organizations?
- 51.6 Yes
 - 26.2 No
 - 22.2 I'm not sure
27. When using the web, please indicate which of the following you typically do: (*indicate all that apply*)
- 10.4 participate in chat rooms
 - 85.2 e-mail
 - 80.4 instant messenger
 - 56.6 down-load music, games, etc.
 - 33.0 participate in on-line games
 - 61.4 browse/surf
 - 24.0 purchase
 - 74.8 research for academic purposes
 - 14.4 research faith-based material
 - 35.4 research recreational/leisure activities
 - 16.6 other
 - 0.6 none of the above
28. What are your three top priorities *personally* for the upcoming five years of your life?
- 1.
 - 2.
 - 3.

Appendix D: Frequencies of Youth Participants

29. What are your three top concerns for *the world* in the upcoming five years?

1.

2.

3.

Thank you for your time!

Please return this questionnaire in the envelope provided, or to:

ELCA Department for Research and Evaluation, 8765 W. Higgins Rd., Chicago, IL 60631-4193

Appendix E: Frequencies of Adult Participants

2003 ELCA YOUTH GATHERING EVALUATION

Adult Participant Questionnaire

August, 2003

N=482

Thank you for helping us evaluate The Atlanta Gathering (TAG). Your opinions and experiences will help Gathering organizers better plan and prepare for the next Gathering. Please answer the following questions based on your own personal experiences at the Gathering. If you need more space for comments, attach additional pages as needed.

Planning for the Gathering

Last summer, all ELCA congregations received the youth ministry planning guide, 2003 Playbook, to use during the 2002-2003 school year. This guide had several resources that could be used in planning for the Gathering.

1. Did you use the 2003 Playbook in any way to prepare for the Gathering?

- 68.6% Yes (Please go to question 2)
- 26.1 No (Please skip to question 4)
- 5.3 I don't know/ don't remember (Please skip to question 4)

2. In what settings did you use the 2003 Playbook? (indicate all that apply)

- 17.0 in our overall youth ministry program (inclusive of youth who attended the Gathering as well as other youth)
- 49.4 only with youth that attended the Gathering
- 4.6 other: (specify) _____

3. Which of the following did you use from the 2003 Playbook in preparation for the Gathering? (indicate all that apply from both columns)

- | | | | |
|------|--|------|---|
| 41.9 | Introductory essay on the theology of Ubuntu | 44.8 | Bible studies |
| 25.3 | Essays on the daily theme | 12.0 | Articles about <i>Stand with Africa</i> |
| 12.2 | <i>The Well</i> – faith stories of youth | 24.5 | Youth ministry ideas section |

4. Did you use the promotional video to raise awareness of the Gathering in your congregation?

- | | | | | | | |
|------|--|--|-----|------------------|------|--------------|
| 56.2 | Yes (Please answer part b) → | b. How helpful was the video in promoting the Gathering? | | | | |
| 37.9 | No (Please skip to question 5) | Not Very Helpful | | Somewhat Helpful | | Very Helpful |
| | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 6.0 | I don't know or don't remember (Please skip to question 5) | 4.2 | 8.9 | 39.0 | 31.7 | 16.2 |

5. Did you receive the *Getting Ready* materials last spring, prior to the Gathering?

- | | | | |
|------|--|--|---|
| 91.3 | Yes (Please go to part b) → | b. Did you use the <i>Getting Ready</i> materials? (choose one answer) | |
| 5.3 | No (Please skip to question 6) | 94.4 | Yes, I used some or all of the <i>Getting Ready</i> materials (Please go to part c) |
| 3.4 | I don't know (Please skip to question 6) | 3.1 | No, I didn't have time to look over the materials (Please skip to question 6) |
| | | 2.5 | No, I read the materials but didn't find them useful (Please skip to question 6) |

Appendix E: Frequencies of Adult Participants

c. Please indicate on the left which of the following <i>Getting Ready</i> materials you used and rate on the right how helpful the corresponding materials were.		Not Very Helpful		Somewhat Helpful		Very Helpful
		1	2	3	4	5
Used						
29.3	Bible studies	2.3	9.4	32.2	38.3	17.8
37.6	Theme information	0.6	2.2	24.0	42.3	30.9
33.8	Music CD	6.5	8.6	25.8	24.9	34.1
12.2	Printed music	17.7	13.2	22.3	19.5	27.3
21.4	Offering/benevolence brochure	5.6	7.5	32.8	32.5	21.6
19.9	Servant Event brochure	10.6	10.6	30.3	33.3	15.5
35.3	Program details	0.6	3.4	13.8	45.2	37.0
16.8	CEO (tourist trips) brochure	11.0	13.9	23.2	34.6	17.3
34.0	On-site registration procedures	2.4	2.4	16.0	35.2	44.1

INITIAL GATHERING REGISTRATION

In order to attend TAG, all congregations submitted their registration materials on-line or through the mail starting in October of 2002.

6. If you registered by **postal mail**, please answer this question. (*If you registered on-line please skip to question 7*) Will you consider registering for the Gathering on-line for the Gathering in **2006**? (*choose one answer*)

- 49.4 Yes, our congregational unit will definitely consider on-line registration in 2006.
- 16.2 No, we will not be registering on-line for the Gathering in 2006, but intend to register via mail.
- 0.0 No, our congregation will definitely not be attending the Gathering in 2006.
- 34.4 We are unsure if we will prefer registering on-line in 2006.

7. Please consider the following statements on the initial registration process and rate your degree of agreement with each statement.

		Disagree Strongly		Neutral		Agree Strongly
		1	2	3	4	5
a.	The instructions for registration in the "Registration" booklet were clear	1.9	6.8	15.4	48.4	27.5
b.	I had all the information I needed from the Gathering "Registration" booklet in order to submit my registration. .	1.8	6.4	14.4	42.1	35.3
c.	The notice of our Gathering registration confirmation from Gathering organizers was timely.	11.1	17.4	20.5	27.7	23.3
d.	Additional comments on the "Registration" booklet or process:					

Appendix E: Frequencies of Adult Participants

8. Did you have any direct contact (e.g. via telephone, e-mail, mail, getting ready events, in-person) with your Gathering synod coordinator? (*choose one answer*)

55.8 Yes, I had direct contact with my synod coordinator (*Please go to part b*).

32.7 No, I did not have any direct contact with our synod coordinator, but was aware of how to contact this person (*please skip to number 9*).

11.5 No, I was unsure of who our synod coordinator is or how to contact our synod coordinator (*please skip to number 9*).

b. Please indicate how many times you had direct contact with your synod coordinator regarding Gathering information. →

81.5 1-5 times

13.5 6-10 times

1.9 11-15 times

3.1 16 or more times

c. How helpful was the information provided by the synod coordinator?

Not Very Helpful		Neutral		Very Helpful	
1	2	3	4	5	
5.3	5.7	19.1	29.8	40.1	

d. Were there other ways in which the Gathering synod coordinator role could have supported your congregation that would have been helpful in your preparation for the Gathering?

18.7 Yes, please describe here:

56.2 No, the synod coordinator role is just fine as it is

25.1 I'm unsure

9. Did you participate in your synod's Counselor Training Program?

34.9 Yes (*please go to letter b*) →

65.1 No (*please skip to number 10*)

b. How helpful was the information provided at the training?

Not Very Helpful		Somewhat Helpful		Very Helpful	
1	2	3	4	5	
5.4	3.0	27.7	26.6	37.3	

10. Approximately, how many times did you call the 1-800 Gathering number prior to the Gathering?

41.3 0 times, I didn't use the 1-800 number (*please skip to number 11*)

47.2 1-5 times →

10.0 6-10 times →

1.3 11-15 times →

0.2 16 or more times →

b. How helpful was the information provided by calling the 1-800 number?

Not Very Helpful		Somewhat Helpful		Very Helpful	
1	2	3	4	5	
10.5	12.0	27.7	28.1	21.7	

Appendix E: Frequencies of Adult Participants

- c. Please list examples or types of questions/concerns you had for the Youth Gathering staff when you called the 1-800 Gathering number.

HOTEL RESERVATIONS

11. Did your congregational unit intentionally request Gathering housing with other congregational units from your local area or synod?
- 27.5 Yes, we chose housing with congregations from our local area or synod (*please answer question b*).
- 72.5 No, we did not choose housing with other congregations from our local area or synod intentionally (*please skip to question 12*).
- b. Please indicate why you intentionally chose housing with other congregations from your local area or synod? (*indicate all that apply*)
- Of those than answered yes to question 11:**
- 78.9 transportation logistics
- 73.4 friendship/community building
- 37.5 financial savings
- 13.3 other: _____

12. Were there parts of the Gathering’s initial registration process (prior to arriving in Atlanta) that were unclear or difficult to follow?

- 80.8 No, the process for registering for the Gathering was clear. I had no problems with the process.
- 19.2 Yes, I had difficulty with parts of the process. Please list your difficulties here:

ON-SITE REGISTRATION

When you and your group arrived in Atlanta, you probably registered for the Gathering at the GWCC and registered your group at your hotel (although not necessarily in that order).

	Very Difficult to Manage		Somewhat Difficult		Not at all Difficult to Manage
	1	2	3	4	5
13. Please rate the “Gathering registration” process.	5.2	4.3	15.0	23.9	51.6
14. Please rate the “hotel registration” process.	14.3	9.1	16.2	19.5	40.9
15. Additional comments regarding on-site registration:					

Appendix E: Frequencies of Adult Participants

AT THE GATHERING: HOTEL LIFE

16. Please think back on the events and activities occurring at the Gathering hotels. First, mark those hotel life activities in which you personally attended and/or participated at least once. Next, please rate how valuable those experiences (*only* those in which you participated) were for you personally.

Hotel Event	I participated	Not Very		Somewhat		Very
		Valuable		Valuable		Valuable
		1	2	3	4	5
a. Counselor Orientation (at the hotel)	50.8	8.7	6.5	30.4	27.0	27.4
b. Breakfast Club	20.7	13.3	1.7	26.7	26.7	31.7
c. Word in the Word	14.7	3.6	4.8	27.4	31.0	33.3
d. Music and the meal	13.1	1.3	6.4	14.1	32.1	46.2
e. Health club	6.8	10.6	6.4	25.5	29.8	27.7
f. Club Live	36.3	3.1	4.6	23.2	35.6	33.5
g. Dance clubs	57.1	7.9	9.6	22.7	31.3	28.5
h. Fun clubs	29.7	1.9	5.0	18.1	43.8	31.3
i. Open mic	12.9	10.3	3.8	23.1	30.8	32.1
j. Campfires	22.4	5.0	5.0	19.0	31.4	39.7
k. The Lounge.	18.7	8.9	6.9	29.7	34.7	19.8
l. The Final 15	64.3	2.7	3.3	12.0	25.5	56.5

AT THE GATHERING: EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

17. Did your counselor unit intentionally schedule daily small group time into your planned activities at the Gathering?

78.8 Yes (*Please answer part b*)
 21.2 No (*Please skip to question 18*)

b. Did you use the material in *Devozine* for your small group time?
 31.8 Yes
 68.2 No

Appendix E: Frequencies of Adult Participants

18. Please think back on the events and activities occurring at the Gathering hotels. First, mark those hotel life activities in which you personally attended and/or participated at least once. Next, please rate how valuable those experiences (only those in which you participated) were for you personally. A “Very Valuable” experience would be one that had a lasting impact on you.

Event	I participated	Not Very	Somewhat		Very	
		Valuable	Valuable	Valuable	Valuable	Valuable
		1	2	3	4	5
a. Servant Events	35.1	15.1	8.7	22.1	16.9	37.2
b. Continuing Ed Opportunities (tourist trips)	23.4	3.4	1.7	20.7	32.8	41.4
c. Learning Villages	55.0	0.4	2.5	14.9	36.3	45.9
d. The Globe (interaction center)	91.7	0.2	1.8	9.6	33.4	55.0
e. Adult Academy	24.1	3.8	2.3	21.4	29.8	42.7
f. Morning Bible Study	60.8	0.0	2.6	11.8	24.3	61.3
g. Evening Mass Events	80.9	0.0	1.0	3.5	15.5	80.0

19. Other than hanging out in the Globe (interaction center) or participating in servant events, please briefly describe what else you did during the *afternoons* at the Gathering (*on Thursday, Friday and Saturday*).

	Not Very	Somewhat		Very	
	Meaningful	Meaningful	Meaningful	Meaningful	Meaningful
	1	2	3	4	5
20. In your preparation for TAG, how meaningful was the theme, <i>Do Life! Ubuntu</i> for you personally?	7.0	8.2	24.5	30.2	30.0

21. Ensuring participant safety and security is always a priority for Gathering organizers. Was there any time during the Gathering when you were especially concerned or worried about your individual or group safety?

- 80.5 No
- 19.5 Yes → Please describe the particular experience(s):

AT THE GATHERING: GROUP FINANCES

The following information will help us to assist congregations in planning for the 2006 Gathering in San Antonio.

- 22. Please estimate the cost per person for your group’s travel to the 2003 Youth Gathering: \$ _____
This amount per person does not include food, hotel or Gathering registration fees.
- 23. Please estimate how much you, personally, spent on food per day while at the Gathering? \$ _____

Appendix E: Frequencies of Adult Participants

24. Additional comments on affordability and other financial issues at the Gathering:

25. Please list any suggestions on how Gathering organizers can improve the ways they help congregations prepare for, and plan for their active participation in the Youth Gathering:

26. If the Gathering went back to one week, rather than two weeks, please indicate all that would apply to your congregation:

77.6 Our congregation would register for the 2006 Gathering regardless of how many weeks are offered.

12.9 I am unsure if our congregation would register for the 2006 Gathering.

1.7 Our congregation would be willing to commute up to 90 minutes from our assigned hotel to participate in the 2006 Gathering.

51.5 Our congregation would only participate in the Gathering if we had a central location to/from the mass events of the 2006 Gathering.

69.3 Our congregation would prefer to have a hotel centrally located, regardless of cost.

2.1 Our congregation would choose a hotel site that is more affordable, even if we had to commute up to 90 minutes to participate in the 2006 Gathering.

REFLECTIONS AFTER THE GATHERING

27. Please share with us an experience or experiences at the Gathering that had a significant impact on you, either positively or negatively, such as a particular mass gathering, the Gathering theme, a particular speaker, etc.

Appendix E: Frequencies of Adult Participants

28. Do you intend to integrate the theme into your daily life? (*choose one that best describes your intentions*)

63.6 Yes, I am integrating the theme or I intend to integrate the theme into my daily life. (*Please answer question b*)

7.5 No, I doubt I will integrate the theme into my daily life. (*Please skip to question 29*)

27.1 I'm not sure how I would integrate the theme into my daily life. (*Please skip to question 29*)

1.8 I'm not sure if I want to integrate the theme into my daily life. (*Please skip to question 29*)

b. Please write a sentence or more on how you intend to integrate the theme into your daily life. In what ways have your behaviors prior to the Gathering changed or will they change?

c. Did the theme *Do Life! Ubuntu* resonate with you in regard to current war in the world?

31.3 Yes– Please explain here:

39.4 No– the theme did not make me think of war in any different ways than prior to the Gathering.

29.3 Chose not to answer this question

29. Please list five ways in which you plan to practice Ubuntu in your life? (*if you don't plan to practice Ubuntu, skip to the next question*)

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

Appendix E: Frequencies of Adult Participants

30. If your faith practices (such as prayer life, stewardship, worship attendance, Bible study, volunteer service, etc) have changed in any ways since the Gathering, please briefly describe in this space.

31. Please share with us a TAG experience or experiences that had a significant impact on you, either positively or negatively, such as a particular mass gathering, the Gathering's theme, a particular speaker, etc.

Thank you for your time!

Please return this questionnaire in the envelope provided, or to:

ELCA Department for Research and Evaluation, 8765 W. Higgins Rd., Chicago, IL 60631-4193