



**ECO Global Engagement
Survey Results
February 2015**

Number of Participants (excluding leaders): 178

Number of Survey Respondents: 82

Response rate: 46%

1. What is your role in the mission ministry of your church?

Full time senior or associate pastor	48.1%
Full time missions pastor	0.0%
Part time missions pastor (I spend less than 75% of my time on missions)	0.0%
Full time missions director	5.2%
Part time missions director (I spend less than 75% of my time on missions)	3.9%
Missions ministry chair	13.0%
Missions ministry member	13.0%
Interested member of the congregation	5.2%
Clerk of Session	11.7%

2. Please answer the following questions about your church:

Please indicate the approximate number of members in your church
Average: 718

Please indicate the approximate size of your church's annual budget
Average: \$1,245,872

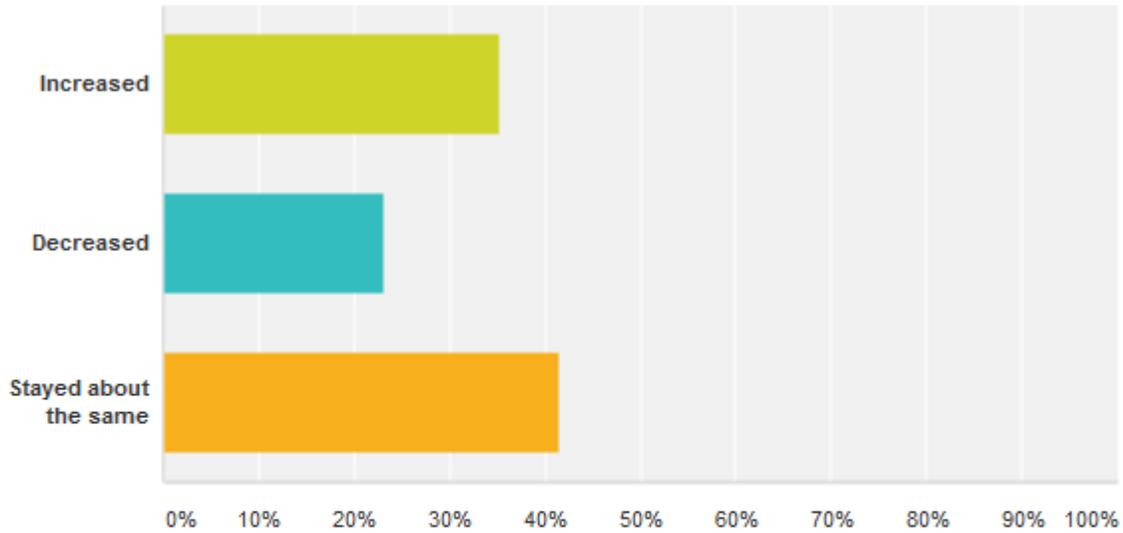
Please indicate the approximate size of your annual mission/benevolence budget
Average: \$152,216

Average percentage of annual mission/benevolence budget to overall church budget: 13.3%

3. Approximately what percent of your mission/benevolence budget is for global mission?

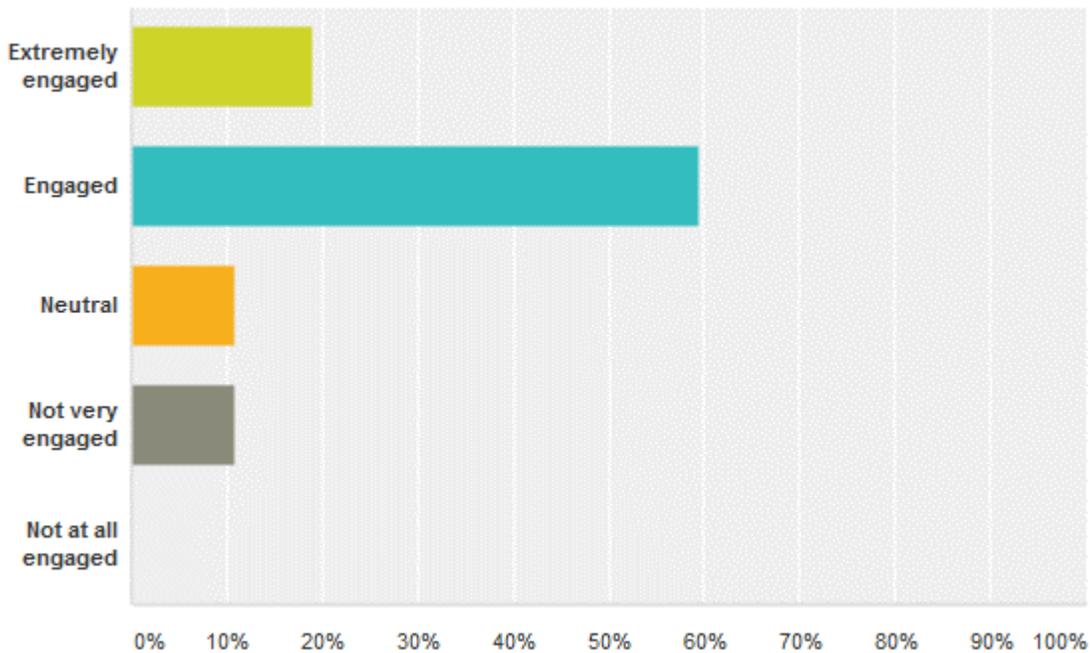
Average: 42%

4. Over the last three years, has your annual mission/benevolence budget:



Answer Choices	Responses
Increased	35.37% 29
Decreased	23.17% 19
Stayed about the same	41.46% 34

5. How engaged would you say your church is in global mission?



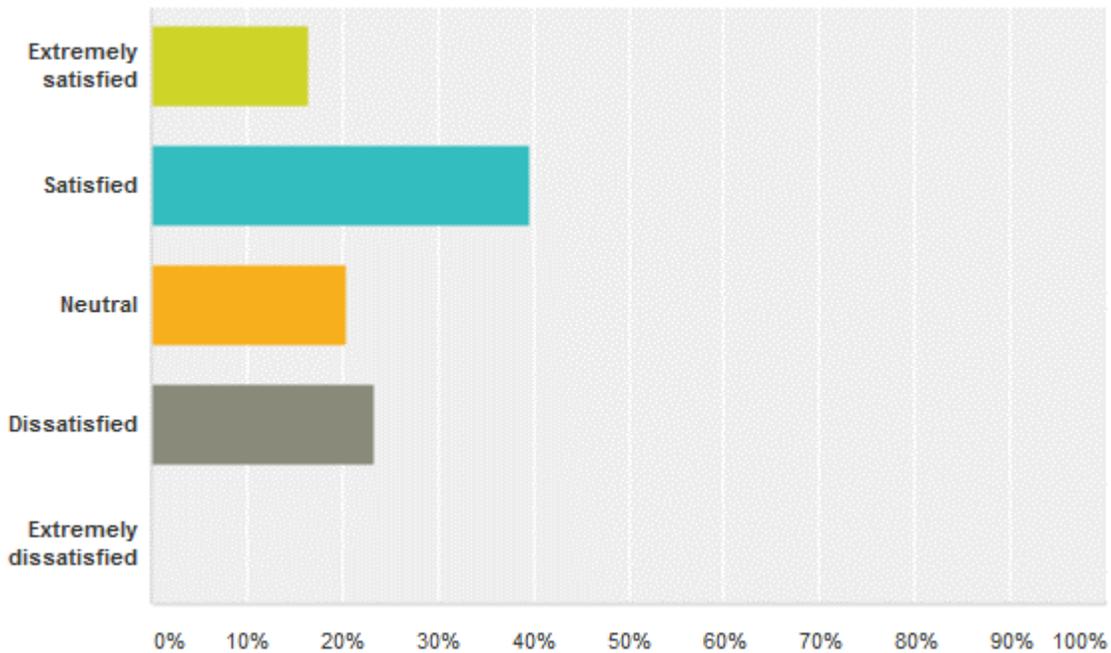
Answer Choices	Responses	
Extremely engaged	18.92%	14
Engaged	59.46%	44
Neutral	10.81%	8
Not very engaged	10.81%	8
Not at all engaged	0.00%	0

Comments:

- Part of the church is very engaged, others less to much less so
- Church leadership is extremely engaged but the membership appears to be less engaged.
- We support a lot of local mission work as well as the international missions.
- We have built churches and orphanages in Peru and are engaged internationally in several other locations. We are also engage locally in a variety of ways.
- We support 4 missionary couples from our congregation, short term missions in Mexico Ethiopia, Kenya, and Haiti.
- I need a "very engaged" category. "Extremely" is way too much to agree with. We go on missions and support missionaries. But we are not yet to "extreme".
- Those who are engaged are engaged very well, however the vast majority of the congregation is not engaged. We have difficulty, for example, seeing a lot of people attend our annual missions conference weekend.
- We have partnered with World Vision, adopting an ADP with the hopes of planting the Gospel among an unreached people group, in Mali, Africa. We also actively support with informed and engaged members our many missionaries in the field.
- We lead three continuing international ministry teams per year.
- Mission giving and community engagement is a hallmark of OPC, this is how our strongest members share their convictions. Our Covenant Partners are passionate about their corporate giving and ministry support. We have opportunities to serve through our local congregation, but many go out individually and provide support both domestic and abroad.
- We have supported a members spouses trip to Kenya with varying amounts the last several years. We have a member going to Nicaragua this year
- The mission committee is very engaged in global mission, but many in the church want to spend only on very local (i.e., our neighborhood only) mission.

- With personal friends in YWAM in Jordan and the Philippines.
- Once "Extremely Engaged", but about 10 years ago changes in mission leadership ultimately led to significant downturn in congregational involvement. Now under new leadership missions is receiving attention it deserves and program is in growth mode.
- Our church has always been a strong participation in local and global missions.
- We have personal relationships with many missionaries and host them when in Columbus.
- very engaged in local missions; youth mission trip outside US is every 3 years
- International partners whom we know on a first-name basis in Mongolia, India, Cuba and Egypt
- There is a significant group interested in global mission but a relatively small group that directs the expenditures.
- An ongoing relationship with a mission partner in Haiti has dissolved over the last 18 months, and we're looking for new ways to engage globally.
- Pequea Presbyterian Church leadership discerned a call to support Kwezeke International Ministry after meeting the founder and her family who are from Malawi. She had a vision from God of a certain place in Mozambique where land was purchased for the Bible School training center our church has begun building. This is an amazing story and an amazing ministry. I have witnessed it and one of our elders has been there and ECO pastors David and Jody Tauaolofai have ministered there. Our hope is that more ECO churches will be called to support this building. In 2014 we have sent over \$100,000.00. This is an actual campus of seven buildings. We believe the main purpose is to train pastors to take the gospel to the nations. Many young men have been raised up to pastor village churches through this ministry but they need to be trained. There is so much more to share and we would love to do that.
- Attention is roused when we have mission trips or an exciting project
- However, the percentage of the congregation that is engaged is not very big.
- We are currently sponsoring a refugee/asylee from Congo. He lives with us, and we helped him get asylum. We are now working on bringing his wife and son to the US.
- My feeling is that it's less engaged than the congregation thinks it is.

6. How satisfied are you with the level of involvement of your church in global mission?



Answer Choices	Responses
Extremely satisfied	16.44% 12
Satisfied	39.73% 29
Neutral	20.55% 15
Dissatisfied	23.29% 17
Extremely dissatisfied	0.00% 0

Comments:

- We used to have a much higher level of engagement and a missionary-in-training program. We want to restart some ways to identify and raise up potential missionaries.
- Missions still feels somewhat like a specific arm of the church and not embraced from the center.
- Still it would be good to see us 1) focused together on one geographical area and 2) involve more people in direct mission work
- But there is always more we can do!
- But, I would like to see us do more
- See above.
- we have the world literally at our doorsteps so that global mission happens here in many ways

- Our giving supports a broad portfolio of missions, which is involvement through financial support - it is necessary, but easy. We want to get our people involved in living out their calling no matter what this might look like, for this may be different for each individual.
- I want to see us sending our own people on more Mission Trips not just supporting missionaries.
- We are a combined ECO-Methodist congregation and the ECO presses went through a 2 1/2 year battle with PCUSA to leave--no money left. Just rebuilding
- See above.
- Consider adopting some of our missions (moringa tree -ECHO) rather than creating new ones.
- working especially on congregational growth ministry and in local missional activities
- Excited about those involved but we long for deeper connections and wider involvement
- I would never be satisfied with any church's involvement until 100% of the congregation was locally involved with persons of another ethnicity and/or class, praying regularly and knowledgeably for missions, giving sacrificially and going on mission when they could.
- We are actually doing more than the budget since we sponsor through our church 1,000 Compassion children and have other mission efforts outside the Mission Budget.
- Again, interest is only peaked at certain times of the year

7. How important are the following issues related to your mission ministry?

	Extremely important	Important	Neutral	Not very important	Not at all important
Establishing a global mission ministry plan for your church	37.8%	39.2%	18.9%	2.7%	1.4%
Establishing global mission priorities for your church	37.8%	37.8%	20.3%	4.1%	0.0%
Knowing how to evaluate current and/or future missionary and project opportunities	32.9%	60.3%	4.1%	2.7%	0.0%
Having fair and equitable funding guidelines for missionaries and projects	37.0%	45.2%	11.0%	6.8%	0.0%
Engaging senior leadership in global mission ministry	33.3%	43.1%	15.3%	6.9%	1.4%
Engaging your congregation in global mission ministry	44.6%	43.2%	9.5%	2.7%	0.0%
Conducting meaningful short term mission trips	43.8%	37.0%	11.0%	5.5%	2.7%

Comments:

- there are plenty of places close to home that can benefit without the big expense of traveling.

- I think you can see by the figures in question 4 that our church is very mission minded. One of our goals for 2015 is to involve our church in mission trip(s).
- No issue with senior leadership being involved.
- have been in a global partnership in Mexico City for 15 years; started another partnership in Haiti 3 years ago.
- We have done a lot of hard work in the last two years in establishing mission priorities, evaluating mission opportunities, and fair and equitable funding guidelines. We've made remarkable progress in these areas and now we need to maintain this momentum.
- These are all areas that we have already addressed. We have been instrumental in hosting the Perspectives on World Missions Course in Eastern Washington and have had more than 50 people from our church take the course. This has led to priorities and initiatives described above being worked out in our support of missions.
- We are a small elderly congregation with limited assets.
- Rather than short term mission trips, I as chair, would like to see our funding support national missionaries in their own countries. "Religious tourism" is not a good idea.
- We have a strong Missions Committee who oversees our global mission emphasis
- One elder is already involved in short term trips but others may not be able.
- What we have in place right now for our size congregation has worked well for many years. Our congregation is very mission minded and generous in their giving.
- Missions Ministry is alive and well and growing. We send mission teams and skype for cong.
- We are currently working in each of these areas.
- Sorry, but I don't know how to downgrade any of those things....
- What are meaningful short term mission trips?
- We are decreasing our interest in global missions and increasing our interest in local missional work.
- Some of these we have already done, and are satisfied with them, though they remain of importance.
- We are connected and informed, and do not need any further help.

8. How well would you say your church is doing with each of the previous issues?

	Extremely well	Well	Neutral	Not very well	Not at all well
Establishing a global mission ministry plan for your church	13.7%	39.7%	24.7%	20.5%	1.4%
Establishing global mission priorities for your church	16.7%	40.3%	26.4%	15.3%	1.4%
Knowing how to evaluate current and/or future missionary and project opportunities	16.7%	36.1%	22.2%	25.0%	0.0%
Having fair and equitable funding guidelines for missionaries and projects	15.1%	43.8%	20.5%	20.5%	0.0%
Engaging senior leadership in global mission ministry	16.7%	33.3%	33.3%	13.9%	2.8%
Engaging your congregation in global mission ministry	9.6%	35.6%	28.8%	24.7%	1.4%
Conducting meaningful short term mission trips	13.7%	37.0%	26.0%	19.2%	4.1%

Comments:

- We are a small older congregation. Members are always interested in learning about God's work in foreign countries.
- See comment on question 7.
- We do Mission well here but there is always more we could easily do if we made it a priority.
- See comments above.
- We understand this is important but are just able to get started on vision and planning
- Certain people like "religious tourism"; I have tried to discourage it, because these funds can better "advance the Kingdom" when used for national missionaries directly.
- Doing short term trips and having help planning them would be good for our church.
- Senior Idrsp. needs to select the right leadership for missions and provide guidance and support. The don't nec. need to be on mission frontier.
- I used to conduct short term trips (since Katrina), but have had to quit because of Lyme disease.
- adult mission activities have been discussed and some funds put aside.
- "Well" is a bit high for some of those, but we are working hard on it so it is more than "neutral." Right now senior leadership is distracted with selecting a new senior pastor, so it's a lot to expect them to also be deeply engaged in our global partnerships. But their hearts are there....
- We have some solid plans and evaluation processes, but getting people engaged is our biggest challenge

8a Gap Analysis: How well are the congregations doing on average compared to how important they think the issues are? A gap analysis provides insight on this measure. To do so, compare the importance of an issue with how they're doing on the same issue, then determine the gap between them.

	Importance	How well doing	Gap
Establishing a global mission ministry plan for your church	77.4	61.0	16.4
Establishing global mission priorities for your church	77.4	63.9	13.5
Knowing how to evaluate current and/or future missionary and project opportunities	80.8	61.1	19.7
Having fair and equitable funding guidelines for missionaries and projects	78.1	63.4	14.7
Engaging senior leadership in global mission ministry	75.0	61.8	13.2
Engaging your congregation in global mission ministry	82.4	56.8	25.6
Conducting meaningful short term mission trips	78.4	59.2	19.2

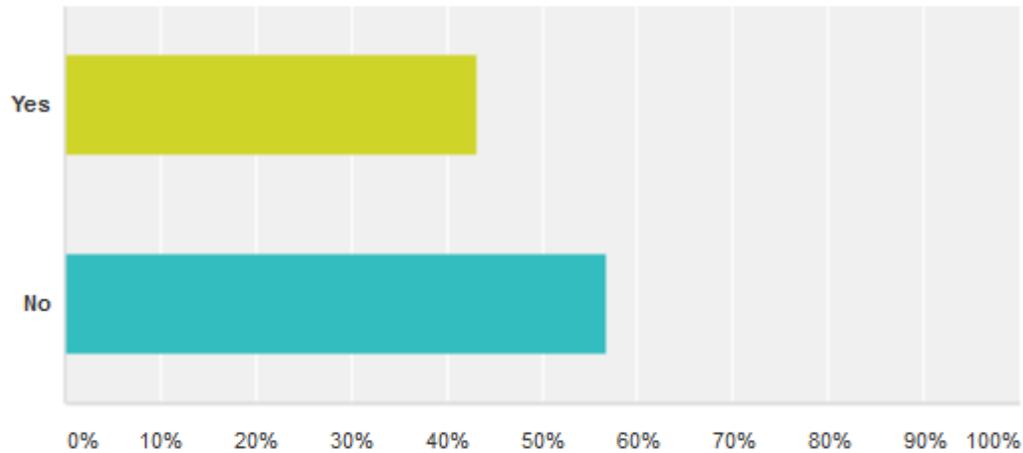
9. Besides additional funding and more time, what other resources do you need to have a stronger global mission focus in your church? If you're satisfied with your current focus, please indicate so.

- A plan to more consistently keep the subject in front of the congregation and to get people to understand that missions is a lifestyle, not a department
- Face time with missionaries. More times of intentional prayer for global mission.
- We need younger members to take up the work.
- I am satisfied
- satisfied with current focus
- More involvement by our membership
- Education
- I don't know.
- None needed at this time.
- Ok for now
- At this time we are pretty satisfied with our current focus
- Satisfied
- satisfied
- We would need global missions as a part of the church's DNA to all in for global missions to happen.

- We need to clarify our ministry focus and define priorities for global missions
- A stronger desire from the congregation to engage.
- Finding global mission that is funded by evangelical organizations
- Satisfied
- Examples of other church's journeys to get a strong global mission focus. How to balance this with a congregation that has a very strong local mission focus. Mission manuals and policies that make sense and are Biblically grounded
- Better individual/family engagement
- A more accessible mission partner.
- Satisfied at moment
- We have divided our mission activities into 3 areas, Local, National and International. We currently spend about 1/3 on global missions. But would like to learn more on effective and efficient use of the resources - both money and people. So more of increasing depth, rather than adding more width.
- Small Church with limited finances and aging congregation. Mission focus in more local than Global.
- We are excited about how God has led us in leading and equipping the church to be engaged in world missions.
- Fresh ideas for global mission that resonate with our church. Also, MAGs focused on mission.
- We're satisfied with our current level of focus of global mission, but want to continue to develop an awareness of new opportunities and evaluation of current mission support so as to maximize each dollar for kingdom impact.
- We need additional leadership/followership to build a committed and engaged community of mission focused covenant partners. It's "all good", but we scratch the surface when it comes to living in mission. Life is busy and competing priorities make it difficult to consistently provide opportunities that inspire action.
- We are always looking for ways to involve more people in global missions
- High quality information about need, deeper theological perspective, vision building message
- Young people
- Having one organization like Word Renew is very helpful!
- Not satisfied with current focus which is centered on our church and immediate neighborhood. I am hoping that (ECO) presbytery leadership can help me locate an "engaging" mission conference speaker who will help the congregation become focused on global mission.
- We can always do better
- Our focus is fine, but we're eager to have it broadened through partnership with ECO.

- More information on ECO sponsored missionaries
- Need better information of global missions made available and help or recommendation to the local church as to what missions are available
- More congregational involvement in Missions. More communications to our congregation about our vast involvement in local & foreign missions, i.e., highlight different partners in monthly newsletters, specific prayer requests from partners, when they are on furlough in the states, when they will be in town and available to visit with groups, etc., etc.
- Very satisfied with our current plan.
- The congregation has long made missions a priority as demon. by \$ and time and connections.
- More successful stories. It's communication, that's the challenge.
- Information for the congregation.
- We need leadership for engaging the congregation more fully and broader congregational leadership
- While Missions has remained a strong focus in the past three years we have also been through the process of leaving the PCUS, conducted a capital campaign and are in the midst of some staff turnover. All things considered I think we have maintained a strong focus on missions and the congregation has been very responsive to missions events we have promoted.
- Greater embracing of missions by the entire congregation
- other than getting the congregation more involved we are satisfied with our emphasis on global missions.
- Consistent, disciplined, persevering, Spirit-engendered prayer
- To develop a stronger focus I think it will take intentional time from the pulpit with mission sermons, reports, updates, challenges.
- mission conference to help focus or mission group at denominational level to help work together and focus.
- Need to find a way to get senior leadership and the congregation more involved. They feel it is up to the mission committee to handle all.
- We are currently satisfied with our mission focus.
- More interested to focusing on local missional work.
- We are waiting for the Spirit's leading to a new global focus.
- We need lay leaders.
- More focus in our worship services
- Maybe a webinar, conference or the like that focuses on developing our mission team, as well as a resource to help our Sr. leadership understand their role in encouraging global mission.
- We're good. We'd love to partner.
- help in defining "mission", so we can direct our funding better; help in evaluating which opportunities are the best in keeping with our priorities; help in being "deeper", not "wider"
- Satisfied

10. Is your church involved with other churches in a global mission ministry or focus?



Answer Choices	Responses
Yes	43.24% 32
No	56.76% 42

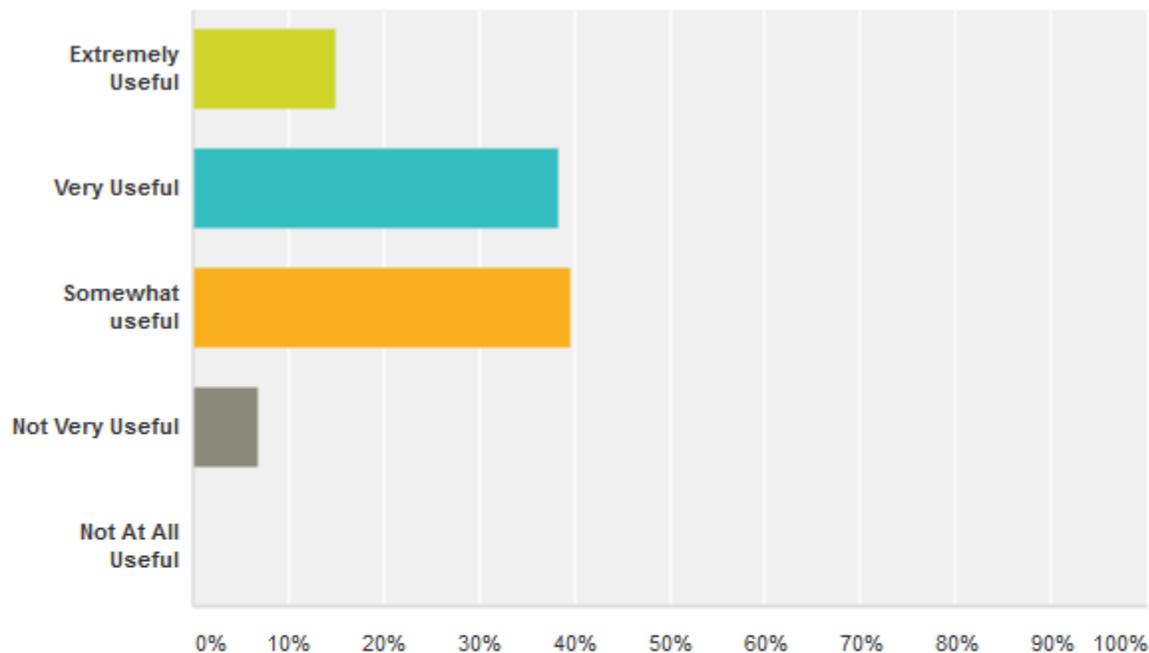
Comments:

- Several members of our congregation have joined with Christians who attend other churches in a mission project under the leadership of a mutual friend from Bulgaria. Small groups have gone the past 10 years.
- Sudan ministry
- West African Medical Mission
- We partner with churches globally--in four areas of the world.
- Partnership in ministry to the Wolof people in Senegal
- We have church partners in mission locally and internationally - the exact number is probably between 10 and 15.
- I believe so - at least in the past Kenya trips have been with other churches.
- We partner with other churches with our projects in Kenya and Ethiopia.
- Multi-church mission trips - many times up to 10 churches are represented on our mission trips; Multi-church project in San Cosme, Mexico (medical clinic); Have partnered with TOF, MBF and PFF for years on global projects/relationships
- Through Outreach Foundation, and Kenya Connection Kids
- There is a tiny involvement with a small church in our area with the short term missions trips we take to the Dominican Republic, and we've sent two people to Malawi with Peachtree PC. Beyond that there is no involvement.

- in years past as part of the PCUSA we have been
- We have networked with churches in providing the Perspectives on World Missions course; We have also networked with other churches through our involvement with World Vision.
- We partner with other churches in on international ministry teams.
- We engage communities locally and abroad in various ways. Our portfolio of ministries includes churches in Turkey, Afghanistan and China, as well as domestic ministries in San Diego, San Luis Obispo and Santa Maria. Our budget is distributed across 12 ministries that reach out from our local community to every corner of the globe. We serve a variety of needs from orphanages, to translations, from clean water to substance abuse and teen pregnancy. We mirror the heart of our congregation in the areas that they are called to support.
- Not sure I understand the question. We partner with mission agencies in the US and abroad, but not other US churches.
- Our church congregation is currently a joint ministry of First Union Presbyterian Church and Luling United Methodist Church
- The Shekkacho Partnership (people group in SW Ethiopia): Original coalition of 7 N. California churches is now down to 2, due to splits and misunderstandings arising from Discernment. The current group is one ECO church and one EPC church. A third church is marginally involved -- not by giving to the Partnership projects, but by an overly high level of giving personal gifts to family members of Ethiopian staff. Having just studied "When Helping Hurts", we are trying to discourage this kind of giving as it is having very negative consequences among Ethiopian staff.
- We've been partnered with three other churches in Kazakhstan for 15 years, doing mostly orphan ministry. Now we're exploring other avenues, as orphanages are closing in Kaz in favor of foster care.
- 3 Egyptian churches, a Mongolian church, a Cuban church, an Indian (Nepalese) church
- An EPC church in our county in a Kenta mission
- We send money and mission teams to Total Health's medical missions in Central America. There are several churches (not PCUSA/ECO) that support this. Also, as a part of our Gracious Separation we continue to contribute to several International projects related to PCUSA as we have long supported the missions/missionaries. As an aside, Total Health, directed by Dr. Jay Martin is worth ECO's attention. We have sent several members to work at the mission.
- Through Outreach Foundation. We are currently working on a presbytery project in Egypt which will expand our partnership opportunities.
- We are involved with other churches but all joint efforts are local.

- Have members who are leaders with World Horizons, International Cooperating Ministries, Outreach Foundation and have teamed with local congregations in short term mission trips
- We continue to fund two PCUSA missionaries; we work with several other churches in local ministries- For example: a Jobs for Life, a Christmas Ministry, Weekly Breakfast for Homeless Friends, Room in the Inn (we host homeless men overnight one evening a week)
- Joint short term mission trip planned
- Not really sure how to answer this, because in a way, we are doing these partnerships pretty much on our own. But we work with PFF and TOF. All of our missionaries and mission projects have multiple sources of funding; i.e. we are not the sole support of any one.
- We are involved with churches in other parts of the world - partnerships where we both have input into mission goals and tactics to accomplish them. We involve other churches here in the states in a feed my hungry children venture.
- We regularly include individuals from other churches to join our mission trips.
- We are quite involved with Operation Christmas Child by Samaritan's Purse.
- We would desire this, however.
- The other churches we work with are through the Medical Benevolence Foundation and Glad Tidings India
- We have partnerships with specific churches in Cuba, India and Egypt. We typically collaborate with a couple of other U.S. churches as we serve in Mongolia.
- Church planting in Berlin, Lima, Several in Cuba and West Palm Beach

11. ECO has appointed a Director of Global Engagement. The Director's purpose is to help maintain a priority on international, cross-cultural mission that is rooted in local ECO churches rather than a denominational structure. The Director is also helping ECO develop ways to relate to international partners and serve as a resource to presbyteries and congregations. How useful do you think this will be for your congregation?



Answer Choices	Responses
Extremely Useful	15.07% 11
Very Useful	38.36% 28
Somewhat useful	39.73% 29
Not Very Useful	6.85% 5
Not At All Useful	0.00% 0

Comments:

- Our global mission support is nearly 100% for people who have gone out from our congregation in the past. They are with a variety of mission agencies.
- It may give us new ideas or areas that we could focus on.
- I do not know.
- Short term not so much, a year or so much more so.

- Sounds great! We have lots of changes going on (paperwork, etc) and are just barely beginning to engage with ECO's national vision for mission and ministry. I think Global Engagement is a wonderful and meaningful venture - absolutely essential - but it's going to take time before we get there.
- We are very supportive of this appointment, because we believe that the local church should be engaged in the support of world missions. We have a lot of experience and training in this area, so for our congregation we imagine it will compliment what we are already doing.
- We need resources to foster collaboration across the boundaries that by nature exist between diverse congregations and individuals. We envision a mission catalog, or marketplace, that helps communities understand ministry needs locally and abroad, how these needs can/are being met and how individuals fit into the larger plan to share the Gospel. This would include mechanisms for the evaluation, selection and fostering of strong ties to the ministries we live in, and support.
- The proof is in the pudding. Wait and see.
- Third was so involved in Missions for so many years, that other churches in the POJ looked to us for training and advice. Always helpful to have other resources to check out.
- Honestly, I would not select an all new focus without looking at what is working now like ECHO and Total Health.
- our activities are all home grown;
- All new - so hope to have this impression increased!
- We are pretty stretched now and would not expand our global outreach but do want to have better understanding of how it all goes together.
- Bill Young has been very helpful to us in all of his positions and he is well fitted for this initial position in ECO as we all seek God's design for our structure.
- Could be depending on what is done through this position.
- We are so small that we most likely won't be a place of focus.
- What we have accomplished thus far is amazing, but, we need help now.
- We have strong international partnerships and feel we do a decent job of establishing and maintaining them.

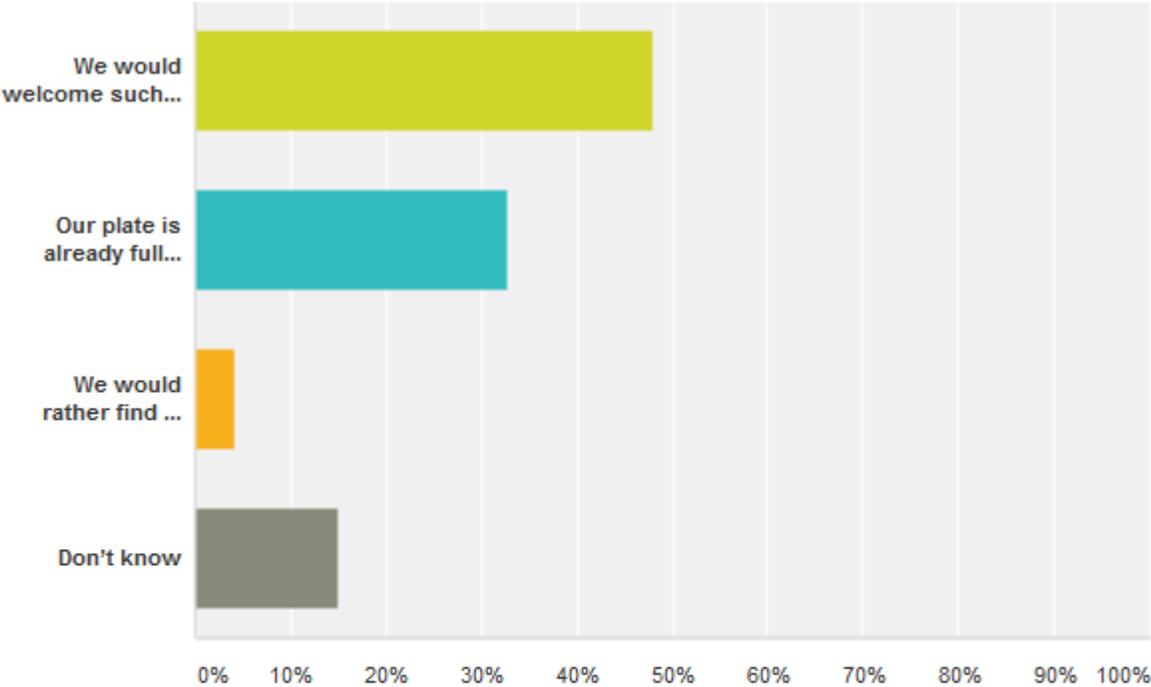
12. If global mission topics of interest were offered through ECO, how likely would you be to participate in the following?

	Extremely likely	Likely	Neutral	Not likely	Not at all likely
Webinars	17.8%	42.5%	24.7%	11.0%	4.1%
Blogs	8.5%	35.2%	28.2%	22.5%	5.6%
Conference calls	11.3%	36.6%	29.6%	19.7%	2.8%
Website resource center	34.3%	57.1%	5.7%	2.9%	0.0%
Workshop sessions at presbytery meetings	25.0%	52.8%	13.9%	6.9%	1.4%
Workshop sessions at ECO synod meetings	18.1%	48.6%	16.7%	13.9%	2.8%

Comments:

- I follow several mission blogs and would follow one sponsored by ECO
- Depending where sessions would be held would factor in my attendance.
- I think something needs to be on the platform at the ECO Synod meeting--not an option, but something central to the conference.
- Best to communicate with our Associate Pastor for Missions and our Mission Chair per the opportunities in this question
- We need ways to communicate our priorities and opportunities so that the covenant partner can relate, see themselves in service, become engaged and work.
- Website downloadable resources preferred
- Emails
- I don't do webinars or blogs. However, I would guess that our Mission Team would be extremely interested in all of the above.
- we are interested in learning
- Again - all new so hope these options will prove to be more desirable as we proceed
- Would try to have a missions committee member participate if the chair could not
- Not just me personally, but Susan Buenger our staff person, or someone from the different task forces and committees on mission from our church.
- We would have to send additional people with mission responsibilities to the last two sets of meetings.
- As a non-pastor I am not invited to presbytery or ECO meetings. So an alternative would be much better.

13. ECO leaders are working with three mission organizations to develop a limited number of possible ministry opportunities that could serve as “ECO Foci”. It would give congregations a way to be involved in “ECO mission” without ECO setting up its own mission structure. The opportunities would be optional, yet be resources for churches and presbyteries. For example, one possibility is work in the Arabian Peninsula focusing on church planting, training, and business as mission. What would be your response to such opportunities?



Answer Choices	Responses
▼ We would welcome such suggestions and might engage in them	47.95% 35
▼ Our plate is already full, so we are not looking for more opportunities	32.88% 24
▼ We would rather find our own mission opportunities	4.11% 3
▼ Don't know	15.07% 11

Comments:

- As membership increases we would welcome suggestions and might engage in them.
- I think we would be energized by this focus, but have so few people are involved in global trips, it would be tough to recruit for another one. But, I think it's important to have this so that mission is central to ECO. It's an important model for us.
- Still interested in info

- This is not an area we are currently involved in but we could easily become part of that focus.
- Actually, our church has already to the three ECO Foci. We welcome this kind of direction.
- We will always listen to what is offered.
- Our plate is full and we strive to make an impact in the lives of the ministries that we have supported for decades, or just recently met. The harvest is ready, but the workers are few. Those that are called to serve do so. Living in mission is a lifestyle choice that is compelled by a strong faith, continuously fed by the Word and motivated by the commands given to us by our Lord.
- We are supporting two families in that region - United Arab Emirates, and Istanbul, Turkey.
- I can't speak for Third Church, but I am also an Elder of the Christian Arabic Church in Richmond. Their missions plate is rather full ... but I believe they would have great interest in possible work in the Arabian Peninsula.
- I know you want your own identity, but rather than that I would start a directory of proven missions and mission opportunities. I would think that a new foci will be too great an investment in time and money by ECO at this time. Not necessary to have separate foci. Gather folks who are mission-experienced and mission-successful to share and build mission-bank. We have our mission summaries in ACTS FACTS in each pew; pray for different mission each Sunday; hear from missionaries in newsletters and in person; and host them. The congregation is aware of their works and support them.
- But we can be enticed.....
- We desire to be engaged and have talked as Missions Committee as to how we might help lead Presbytery efforts to join together in global mission enterprise
- Don't know at this time if we would participate but would welcome the information. It could be very helpful. We would like to build relationships as we serve. Having ECO identify needs and missions opportunities could be a great service to a church like ours.
- We have talked a lot about BAM but never quite taken a step yet, so would welcome direction.
- Our plate is full but we need to be challenged and in turn challenge our congregation.
- When these organizations tap into our local church for funding, it sometimes has an impact on what congregants give toward church priorities. Having said this, we would always want to know what was available, and would support these organizations.