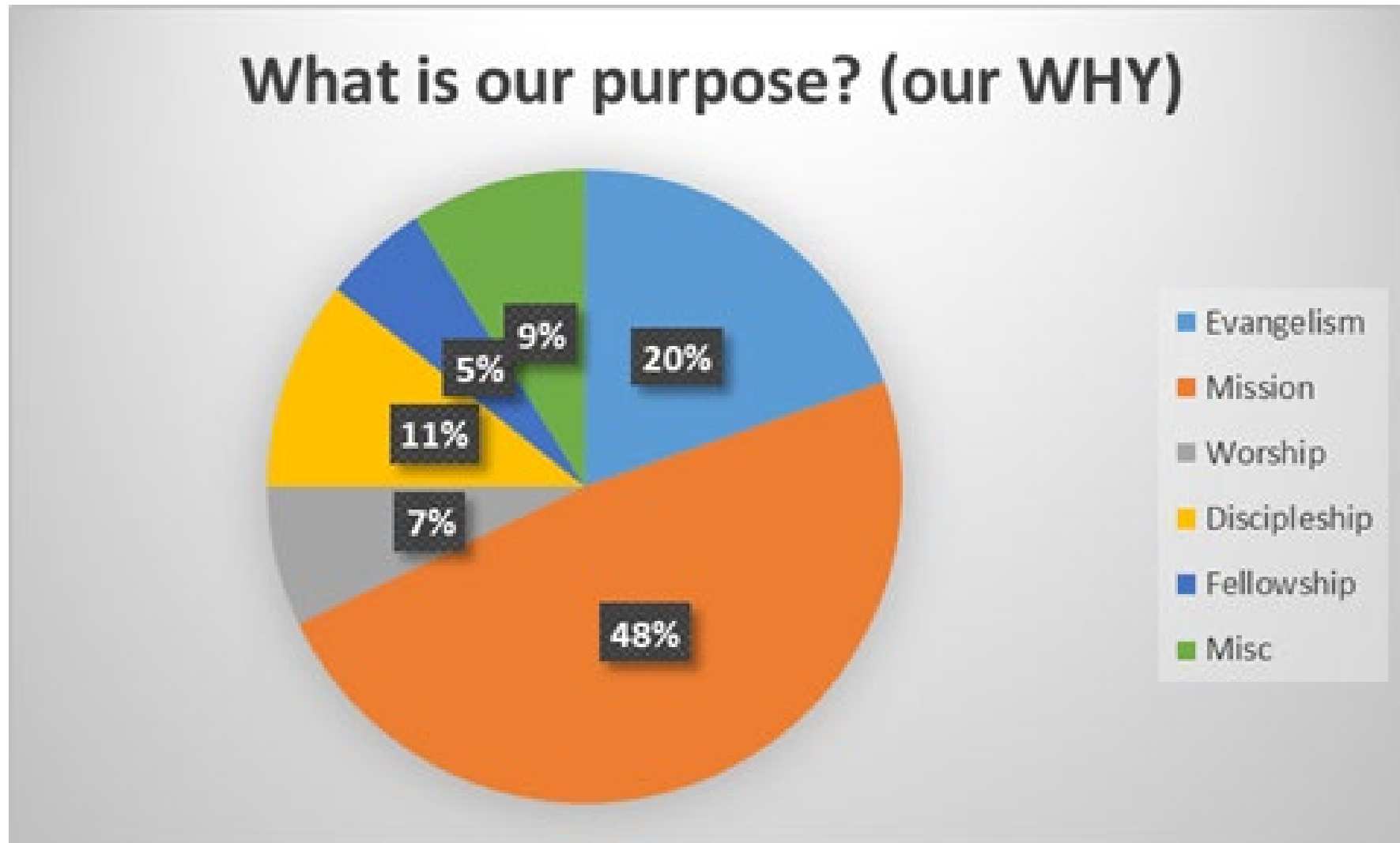


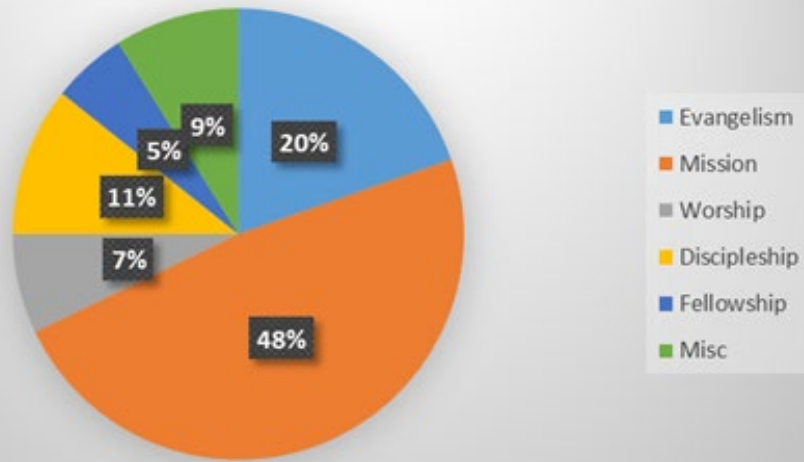
Sifted Feedback from the Gatherings

- 17 churches were represented (3 absent)
- 67 attendances plus staff – this may include people who went to more than one event
- This is sifted into categories as seemed appropriate and as they naturally suggested themselves
- Some events mentioned more than once may be the same church
- Accurate data about church activities needs to be sought elsewhere
- This does contain the thoughts, attitudes and inclination of those present

Purpose: What is the purpose/calling of the Methodist Church in our bit of Yorkshire? (What's our 'Why'?)



What is our purpose? (our WHY)



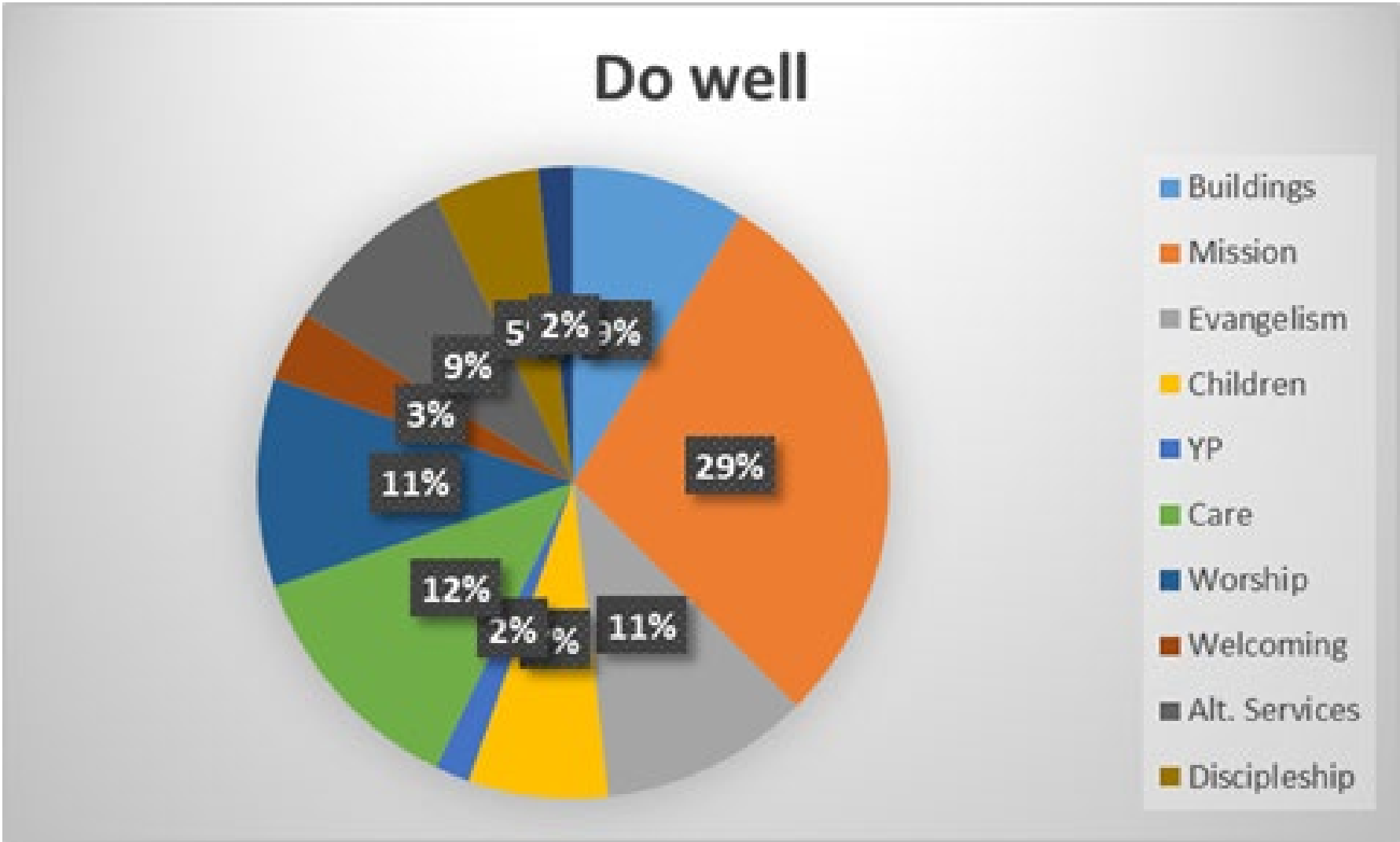
Mission is clearly regarded as a key aspect of our purpose. This included Be a light, being heard, service to others, establishing a presence, social fellowship, listening and responding to others and welcoming.

Evangelism includes being a witness and spreading the good news

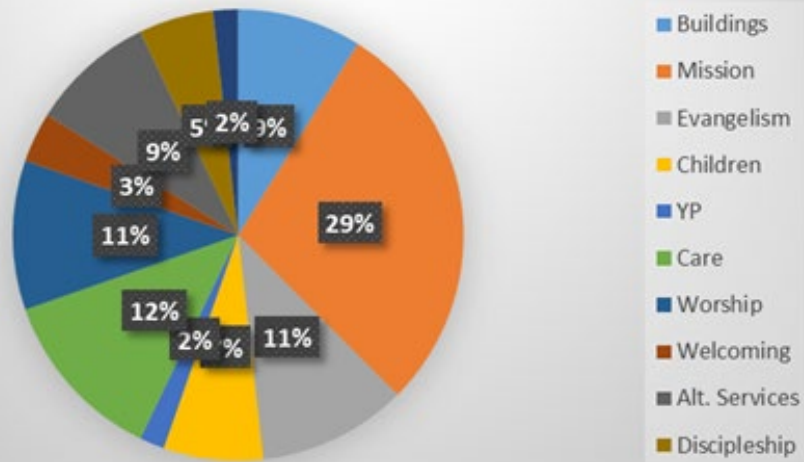
Discipleship and worship have a much lower profile as being of our purpose, yet in response to other questions they rise in emphasis

One-off responses included somewhere to go on Sunday, mission is not necessarily being a trustee, church is not seen as part of life - how do we change that? Shepherd and Fisherman, only church in village.

Doing well: What, currently, are we doing well as Church?



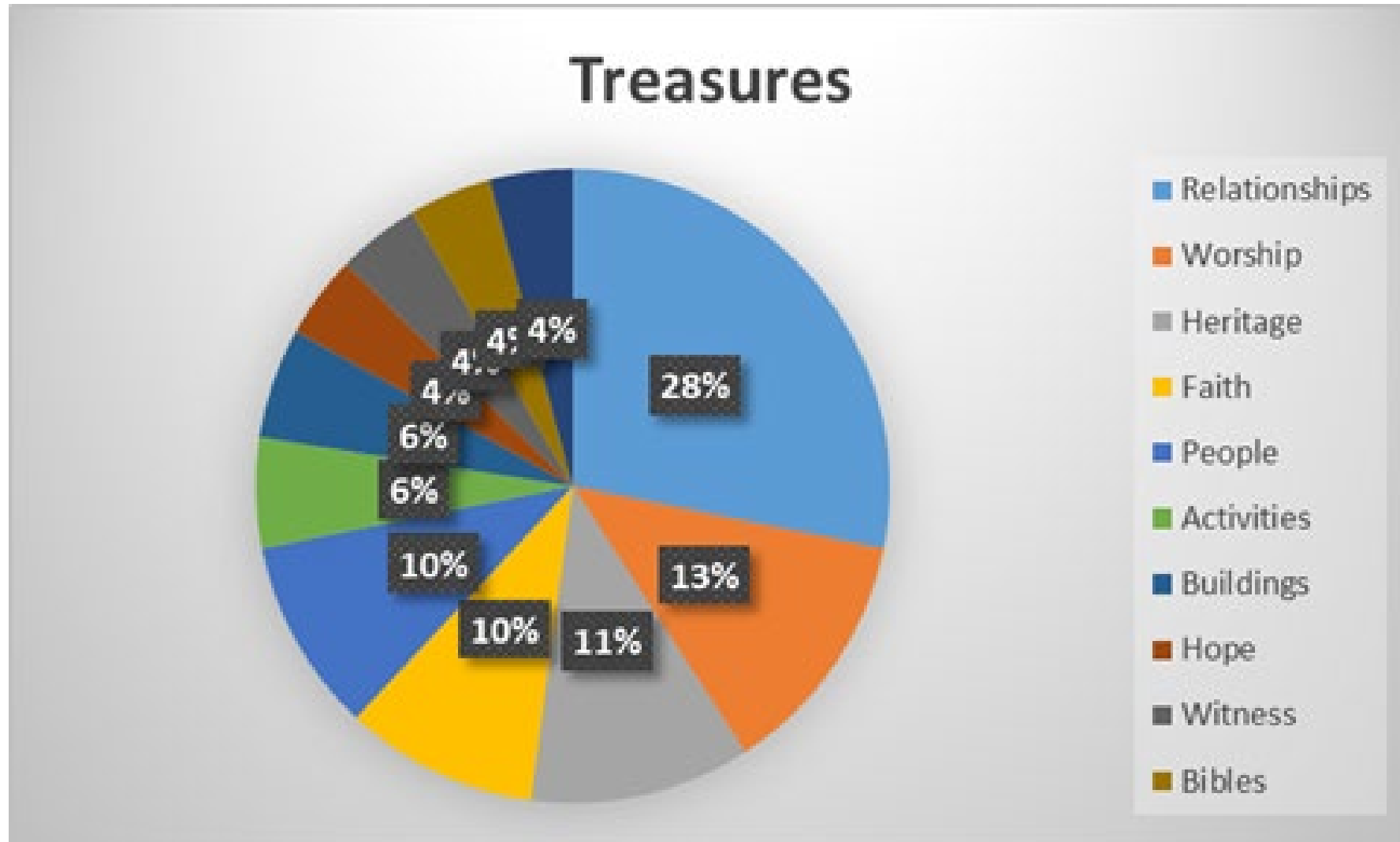
Do well

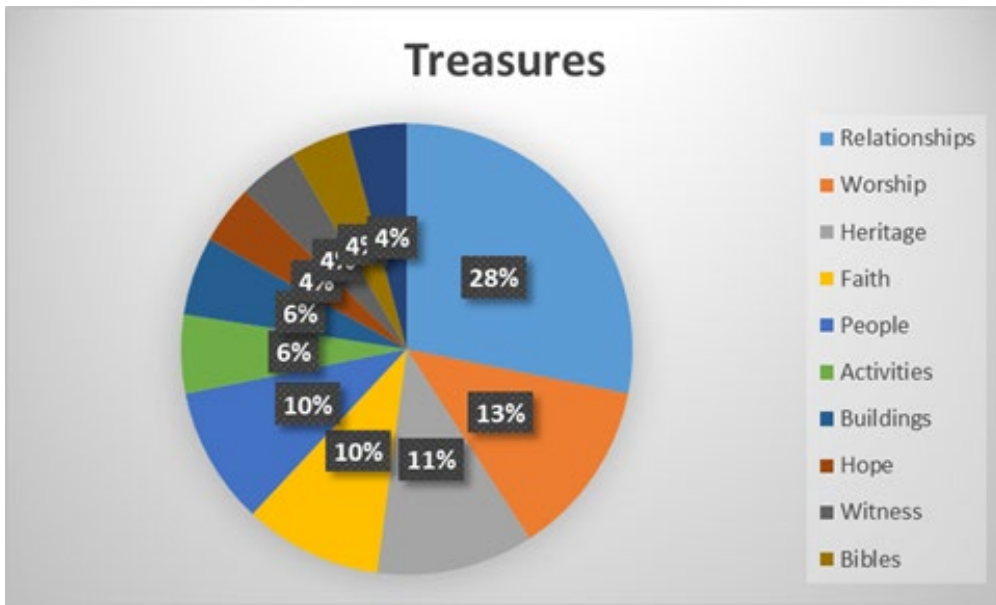


Mission, in line with a sense of purpose is seen to be done well, but there were multiple answers from the same church. Activities mentioned included social action, welcome, coffee, teapot, nursing homes, inviting community, concerts, 'Looking out' 'Charity Coffee gets people into building'

Evangelism and **Worship** are not given the same prominence. **Worship** includes variety, junior church, good L.A.s, and joint services with other small churches. **Evangelism** included at least four mentions of 'Open the Book'. **One-off** responses included leaving legacy to future generations, trying our best, Superficial connections, Circuit has range of ministry, maintenance, Same thing over and over, Looking in - different people who stay and come back, surviving (just), trying different ways of carrying on, keeping open

Treasures: What are our treasures?





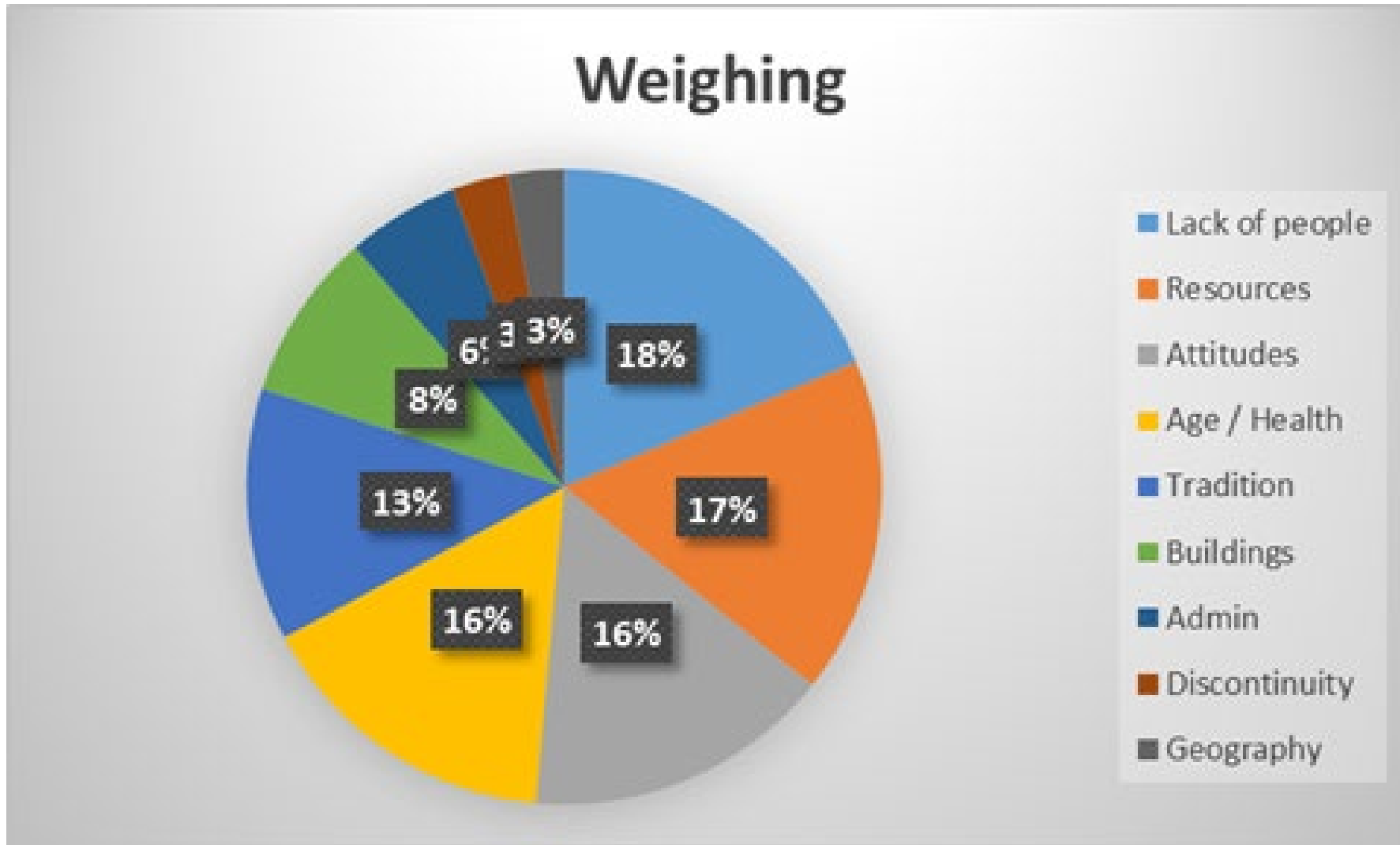
Relationships are clearly valued and includes inclusivity, love, and pastoral care.

Worship is treasured with music, singing, those who lead and the freedom to worship receiving mention

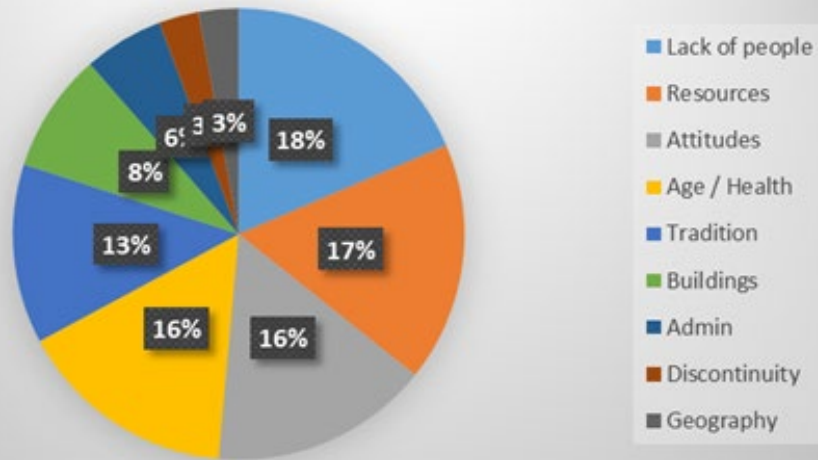
Heritage included Methodist heritage, history, memories, tradition and Connexion (gives rules)

There was then a fairly wide spread of things including faith, people (for what they do), church activities, buildings, hope, witness, Bible, informality, homes, donations, and prayer group

Weighing: What is weighing us down, holding us back, slowing us down as Church?



Weighing

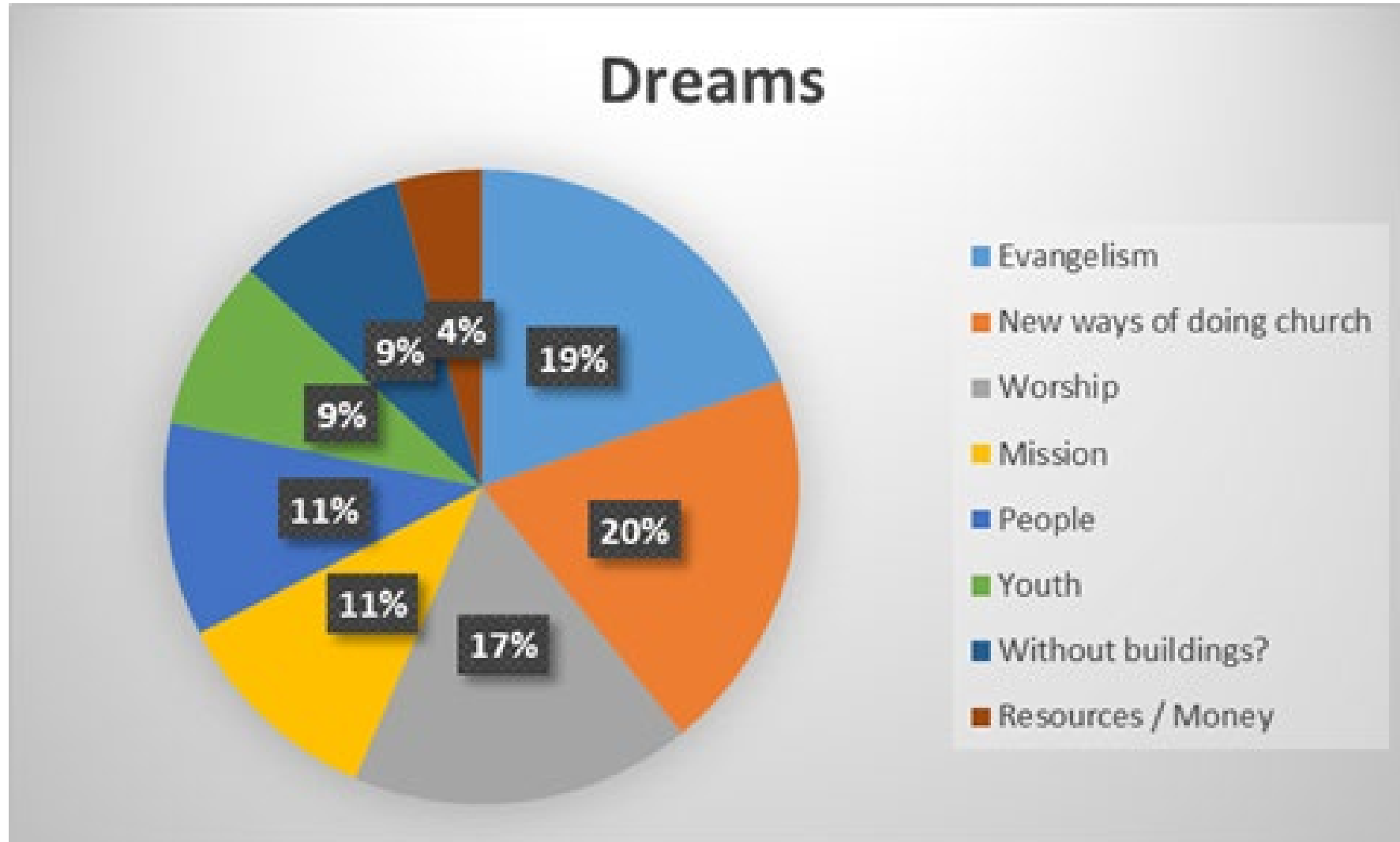


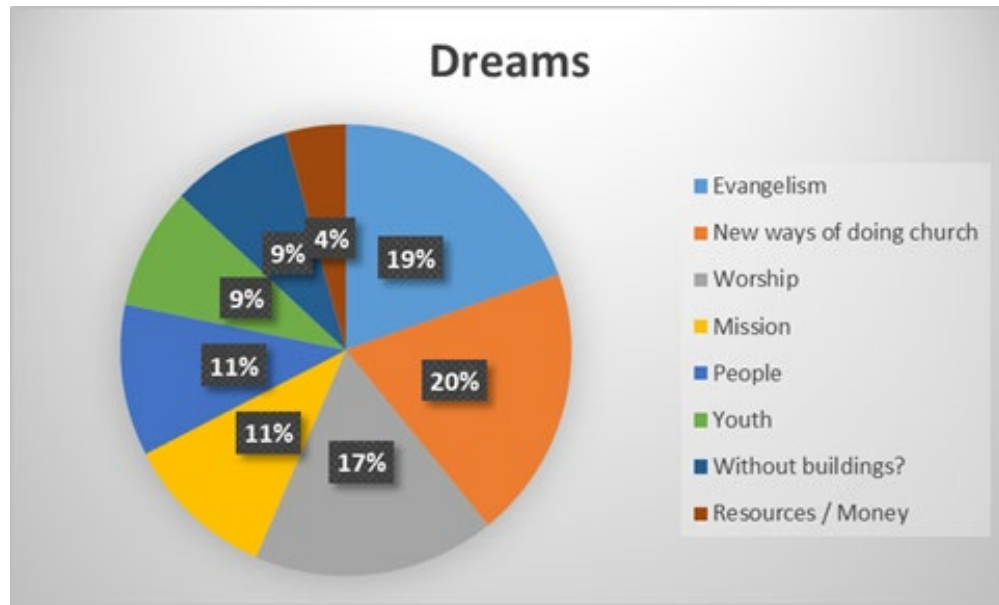
Lack of people and resources, negative attitudes, age and health, and tradition are clearly seen as incumbrances.

There was then a fairly wide spread of things including tradition, buildings, admin, discontinuity of ministry, tensions between churches and circuit.

One-off responses included trying to keep churches afloat, watered down message, lack of green shoots, other attractions, inability to share faith, change is difficult, need to do one thing well rather than lots badly, not reconfiguring when things no longer work, lack of fellowship groups outside the church, responsibility, society negative towards Christianity, variety of worship.

Dreams: What new opportunities do you wish/dream/sense we could explore?





The prominence of **evangelism** and **new ways of being church** may indicate a desire to be creative and more engaging in sharing the gospel. This is a reversal of that expressed in response to what our purpose is.

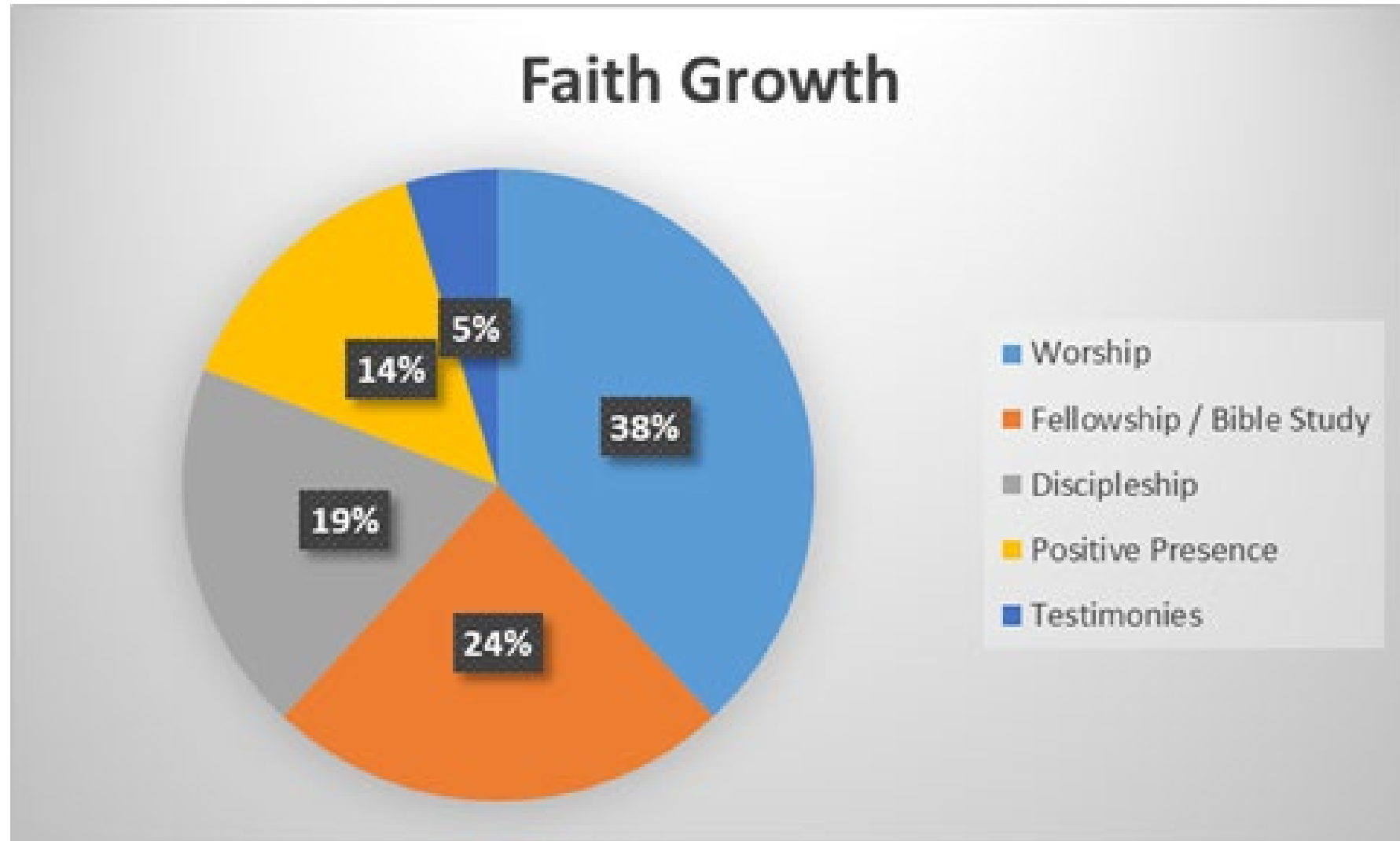
Worship includes celebration, choir, and a travelling worship group.

Youth may only have received 4 mentions, but it might seem an important area for us to consider.

Buildings were to be placed in perspective as the church is people.

One-off responses included meeting together as a circuit, use of 5th Sundays, 2 churches as focal points, ecumenical possibilities, development of MWiB,

Faith Growth: What would you love Church to do to help you move forward in your faith journey?





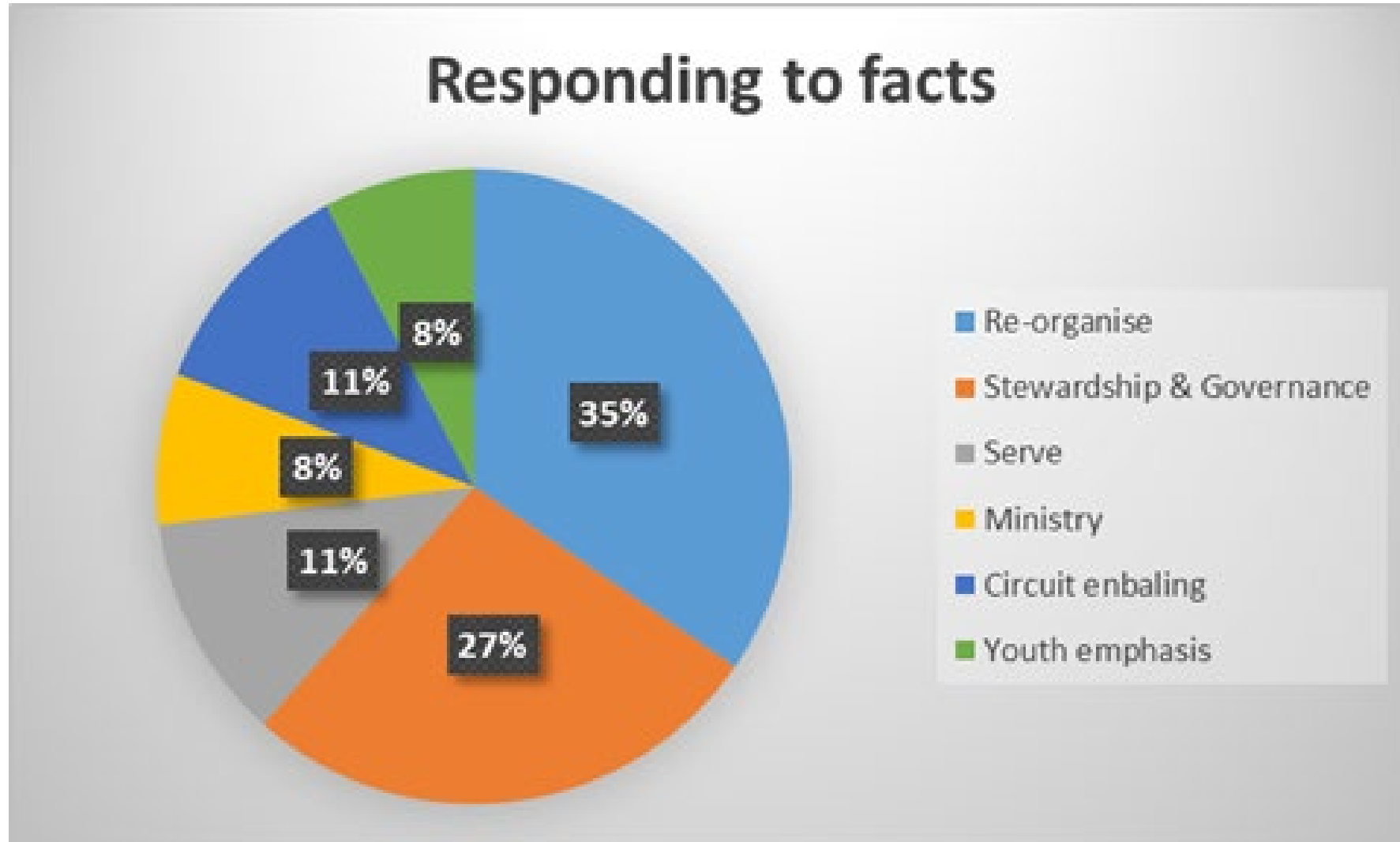
Worship is clearly important and with it a desire for new, and more creative and informal ways of worship with teaching and inspiring preaching.

Prayer and Bible study in groups is also desired with the potential of relating it to themes of Sunday ministry.

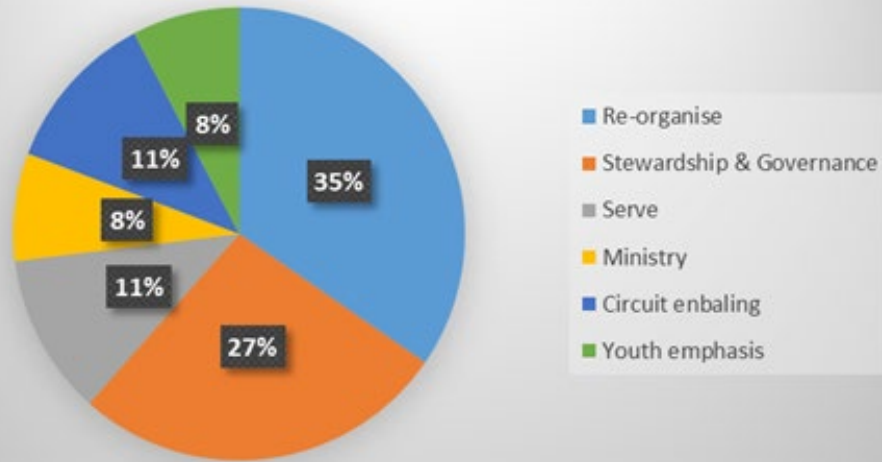
Discipleship includes encouragement, spiritual guidance and greater openness about faith.

One-off responses included less admin, explanation, looser in boundaries of faith, listening to members, drafting of preachers together, more direct contact with people, modernise, more local flexibility, reduce jobs, and social.

Responding to facts:



Responding to facts



Re-organising and issues of **Stewardship and Governance** may be seen to indicate a willingness to engage in challenging decisions including starting again, amalgamating churches, having 2 or 3 churches, developing a mission statement and strategy, seeking other denominational partners, balancing the books, and selling unoccupied manses.

Service and Ministry shows a desire to release others into service, but also to have more ministers, preachers and lay pastors.

One-off responses included expect revival, take responsibility and not blame others, it's God's will, acceptance of people, consult others in similar situ, panic, drastic action, keep churches open to facilitate mission, transport people to churches.