A dark blue vertical bar runs down the left side of the page. A blue arrow-shaped graphic points to the right from the bar, containing the date.

4/12/2020

# Pacific Beach Presbyterian Church

Mission Study Report

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Mission Study Committee  
PBPC

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## Foreword

Pacific Beach Presbyterian Church (PBPC) received our Interim Pastor, the Rev. Dr. Steven Locke in August of 2018. This was the first step in the orderly and time-honored process that the denomination and its churches go through to call a new pastor to a church when the position is open.

Before Pastor Steve, we had the privilege of calling the Rev. Dr. Alan Deuel, our pastor for over a decade of faithful ministry and service to PBPC. We were blessed by his presence and valued the time that he was our pastor until his retirement

As the first part of the process of calling a new pastor, a Mission Study Committee was called and was formed by Session for the express purpose of producing a Mission Study Report, which in our case answered three questions – “Who are we?”, “Who is our neighbor?” and “What is our Mission and Vision?”

PBPC had last completed a Mission Study in the early 2000’s prior to Pastor Debbie Rundlett being called to PBPC. During that almost 20-year period, there have been varying amounts of change in many areas of the church. There has also been a tremendous amount of change in our communities driven by culture and a whole host of factors that we needed to study and understand to the best of our ability in order to write our report.

To obtain the best data and information, the committee asked for, and received, input from our congregation and community through survey and interview to discern and define goal and focus areas which are important to PBPC today and into the future. We combined this input with the best demographic data available from local government and community organizations which we then interpreted and used without bias or manipulation in creating our report.

This report will be used by the Church’s Pastor Nominating Committee to create its Pastor Information Form. That document will describe our church, the surrounding communities and advise what we are looking for in our next pastor. From that point, moving forward in the process, God’s will and discernment will drive the process leading to the calling of our next pastor.

We have undertaken this work on behalf of the congregation of PBPC with truth and transparency in our minds and love for God, our congregation and our communities in our hearts. It is our hope that the following report reflects those thoughts and values and that this report has hit the mark for its intended purpose.

## PART I

### What type of Neighborhood is Pacific Beach?

Pacific Beach is a relaxed neighborhood by the beach, popular with sunbathers and surfers. Trendy hotel bars and casual cafes line the boardwalk, while Mission Boulevard and the surrounding streets are dotted with women's clothing boutiques, yoga studios and casual drinking spots that draw a young, bar-hopping crowd.

- Average Age 32 years
- 86% White
- Male/Female Ratio 54%/46%
- 71% Single
- 90% No Children in Household



### Pacific Beach Neighborhood Challenges

- Too many bars
- Homelessness
- Parking
- Crime/Safety
- Traffic Control
- Scooters

### How does PBPC compare to our Neighborhood?

It's important to note how our congregation differs from our surrounding neighborhood. This should be something to keep in mind when considering growth opportunities for PBPC. Our congregation is much older than the surrounding neighborhood, and although we have many singles, most of them are older (widowed).

- 75% Congregation over 56 years old
- 87% White
- Male/Female Ratio 34%/66%
- 61% Single
- 41% Live in Pacific Beach

### Who is PBPC? What makes us who we are?

The mission study committee asked for and received input from our congregation through survey and interview to discern and define goal and focus areas which are important to PBPC today and into the future. The following is a list of bullet points that highlight the main points that arose through our process.

## Location

- Location, music, denomination, worship style bring in people
- Parking lot is a big asset
- Most travel by personal vehicle
- Most members live in Pacific Beach or Clairemont
- We are a suburban church



## Community Connections

- Homelessness is a polarizing issue. We like homeless programs but there are vocal supporters on either end of the spectrum (on-campus vs. off campus assistance). Some congregants are surprised by the conflict with homeless outreach
- We do so much; and, for a small church, we accomplish a lot
- Congregation is encouraged to find and use gifts
- Rich history of service to community
- We currently don't interact with other churches

## Congregation's Personality

- There is a lot of love expressed for the church
- There is a strong sense of belonging to this church
- Friends, music, worship keep people here
- Lots of longtime members for ten years or more
- We have deep generational ties
- We are an aging congregation
- Over half of congregation is retired
- We were surprised how many silent generation (80+ Years) members we still have
- People stay due to stability
- The core group attends regularly
- Congregation has learned through conflict
- Congregation leadership is getting better at addressing issues within the congregation
- If this is your home, you have a family and get help
- Congregation has a plethora of opinions
- Congregation feels "Evangelism" is not their gift, but is comfortable sharing about the church with others
- Congregation not tied to the past
- Would like more racial diversity
- Congregation is "real," not pretentious



## Diversity of Theology

- We embrace everyone on their spiritual journey from new to mature faith. It's great!
- Survey results show the church has made a positive impact on individual's spiritual life
- We are diverse theologically and in core Biblical values
- We believe diversity in core Christian values is a plus
- We have a variety of opinions regarding evolution
- Most believe Bible is the inspired Word of God
- Committee was surprised by the assortment of opinions, since we seem outwardly homogenous
- Despite our diversity we are still a community and God focused Church
- We consider ourselves moderate to conservative on theology
- Scripture is important



## Worship Services and Music

- Biggest attendance drop was in 2011 when we went to a single blended service from two: one contemporary, and one traditional
- Congregation craves intergenerational worship
- Survey results were split over gender neutral language, spontaneous prayer, and music during prayer
- There is little spontaneity in service
- There is some frustration at worship
- Corporate prayer is important
- Lots of joy and God's presence
- Use of balance in service: contemporary & traditional is good
- Survey showed Bible studies are preferred on Sunday over other days of the week.
- Survey showed Sunday service *start time* preference anytime between 9:30 and 10:30
- Congregation is more comfortable with new, unfamiliar music than in the past
- The core congregation loves the music
- The age diversity in our choir is good
- Average attendance for AM service is 105; Average attendance for PM service is 9
- Our official church size is 143

## Communication and Technology

- Communication is important
- We lack sufficient publicity to the Community
- Technology is a challenge
- Must increase social media presence

## Children and Youth

- Weekly program for preschool and elementary school age children
- Weekly program for junior and senior high school students
- There is a desire to grow and enhance both programs and reach more children and youth
- We have a Sunday school program during Sunday worship

## Security

- Large homeless population in and around our church campus
- Security is a concern

## Financial

- Church not as fiscally conservative as in the past
- Finances of the church not a huge concern
- Most of the congregation gives 5 – 10% of income
- Incomes are evenly spread from high to low
- Congregation is receptive to spending reserves
- Maintaining the church campus is a higher priority than renovation

## Growth Concerns

The congregation wants to see growth in our numbers. We would like to see more people worshipping with us. However, there is a disconnect in what that growth would look like. There is a craving for the suburban Pacific Beach of the past that doesn't match the transient nature of Pacific Beach today. Where will our new congregants come from then?

- We are not attracting "locals"
- We seek more membership, especially young families
- Huge opportunity to reach unchurched across the board
- Disconnect between wanting new members and who is responsible for getting them
- Too much reliance on the Pastor for growth
- Encourage youth/seeker programs
- Church is struggling with its identity
- There is some concern that change may disenfranchise older congregants
- Few worshipers between 25 and 45 years old

## PART II

### Vision Statement

Equip all people for transformative growth in their Christian faith in relationship with God and community through Biblical guidance.

### Mission Statement

Embrace all people in the Spirit of God expanding Christ's call to love one another through living our faith journey.



## Goal Development

We believe that we have taken everyone's input and given that input "room to breathe" and be aspirational as we continue forward in the process with these goals and focus areas.

### Goals

#### Church Campus and Facilities

Ensure that PBPC offers a church campus that is warm, inviting, safe and secure for all staff, congregants, pre-school families and visitors.

#### Focus Areas

- Preschool campus
- Homeless ministries
- Inviting to ALL
- Secure (safe and welcoming)
- Church campus/facilities



#### Worship and Ministries

Evaluate and transform our Worship, various Ministries, and Education programs to inspire biblical learning and personal growth for a closer walk with Jesus Christ.

#### Focus Areas

- Traditional Services
- Sunday Evening Young Adult Services ("Roots")
- Cross-pollination of Traditional and Roots Services
- Christian Education
- Youth Group
- Relationship of pre-school to church
- Family focus
- Bible studies
- Support mature Christian Community
- Congregational care
- Fellowship

## Technology and Communications

Evaluate and refresh church Information Technologies and mediums to more effectively communicate in all forms with our congregation, church friends, our community, and seekers at large.

### Focus Areas

- Publicity
- Website
- Social Media
- Marketing
- Video Recording/Live Stream services



## Community, Internal and External to the Church

Offer on-and off campus, community programs/events that provide evangelism, service and fellowship opportunities which have an ability to meet needs, inspire and uplift people.

### Focus Areas

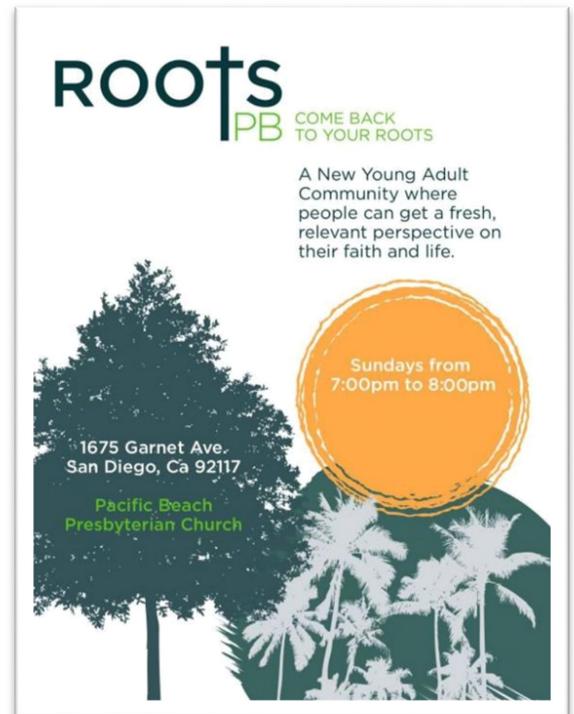
- Parade
- Visitors
- Preschool
- Family Focus
- Non-church related programs
- Non-technical publicity
- Link with another church

## Stretch Goals

With God-filled purpose, challenge traditional thinking, norms and conventional wisdom and in our attempt, find God's will for PBPC, so the church may continue evolving in meeting our community and seekers' worship and spiritual growth needs.

## Focus Areas

- Creating a gathering place
- Developing a plan to open a coffee shop
- Providing a visitor center



## Closing

The Mission Study Committee has prayerfully sought God's will for PBPC and has faithfully undertaken this body of work in service and love to our Lord, the congregation and community.

We pray that this work accurately reflects our congregation's views and desires as we sought to answer the questions of "Who is PBPC?", "Who is our Neighbor?" and "What is our Mission and Vision?".



## Committee Members

Tammy McEuen (Chair), Italia Avila, Pat Hom, Fiona Larmour, Betsy Martin, Ty Smith, John Teeling

## Appendix

Included in this appendix are the graphic results of some of the questions asked during the Congregational Survey.

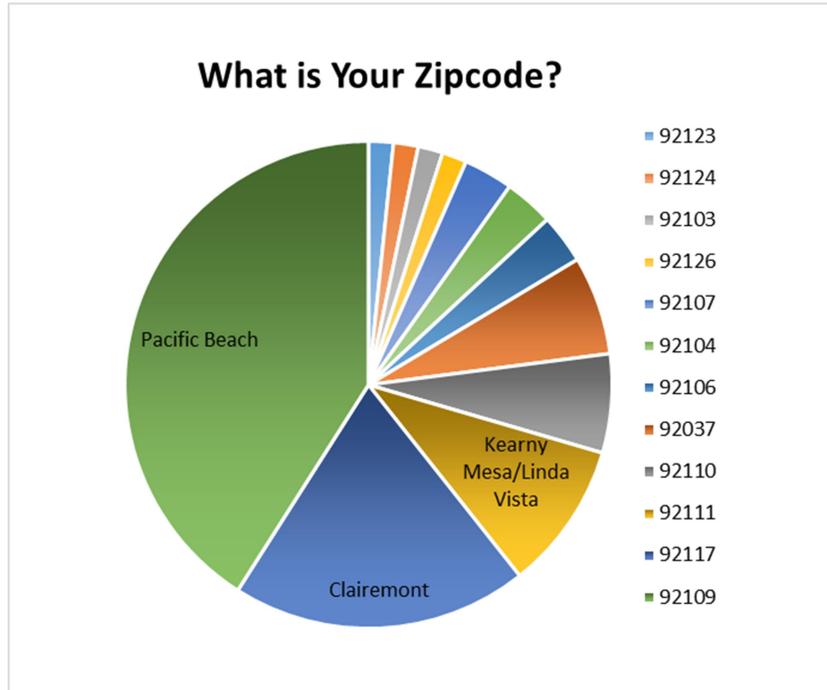


Figure 1: Congregation's Zip Codes

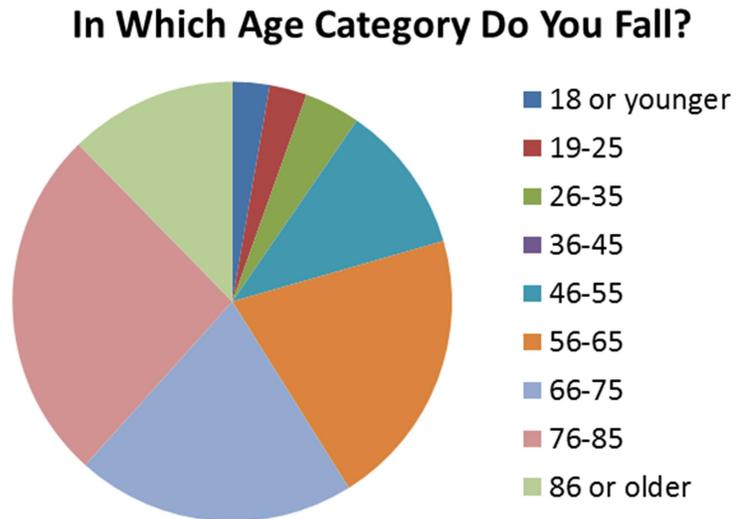


Figure 2: Congregational Ages

### What is Your Present Marital Status?

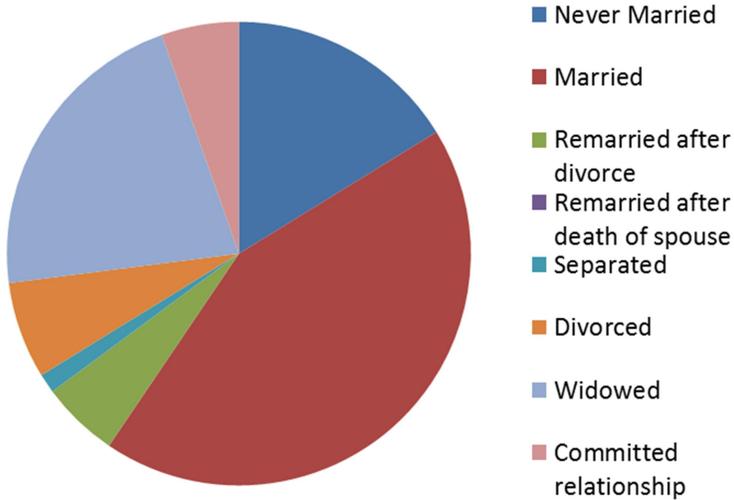


Figure 3: Marital Status

### Which Statement Best Describes the People Who Currently Live in Your Household?

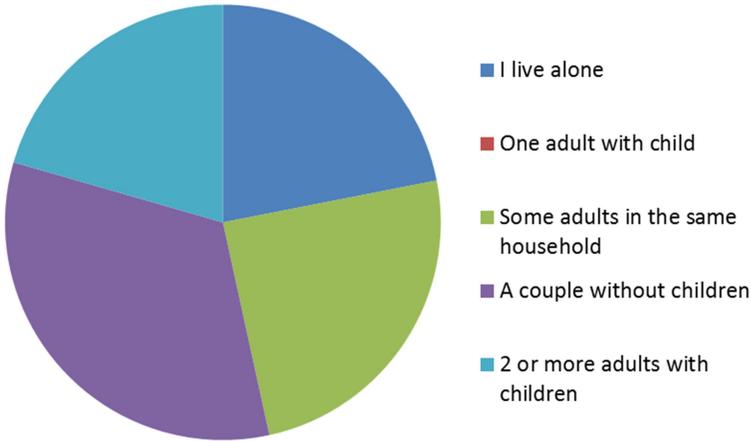


Figure 4: Household

## Which of the Following Best Expresses Your View of the Bible?

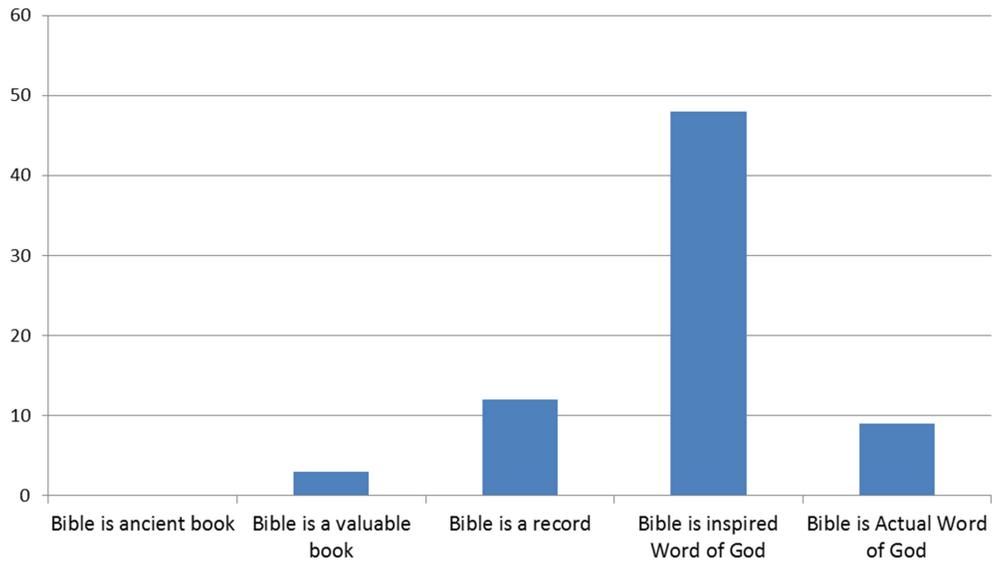


Figure 5: Views of the Bible

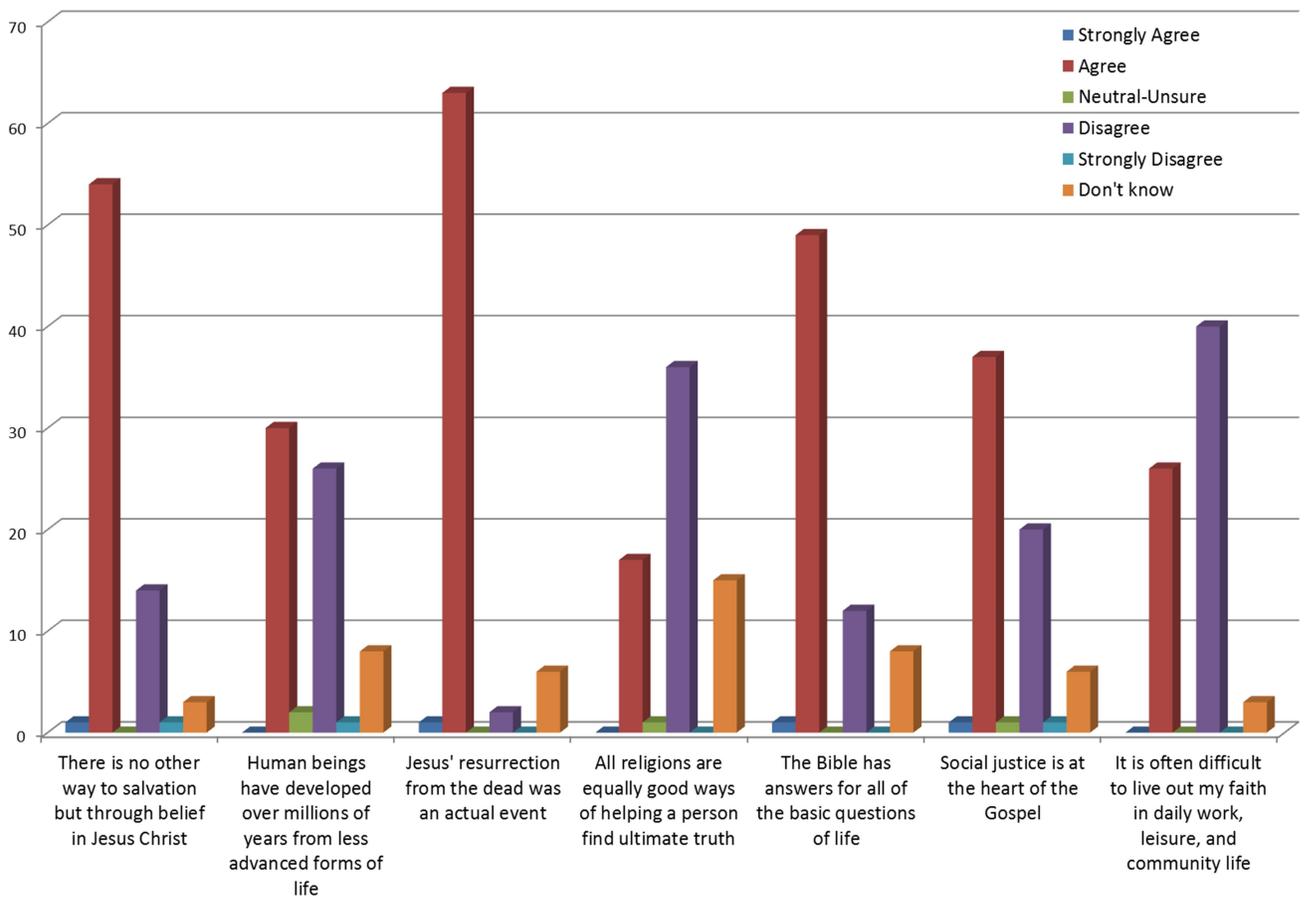


Figure 6: Theology

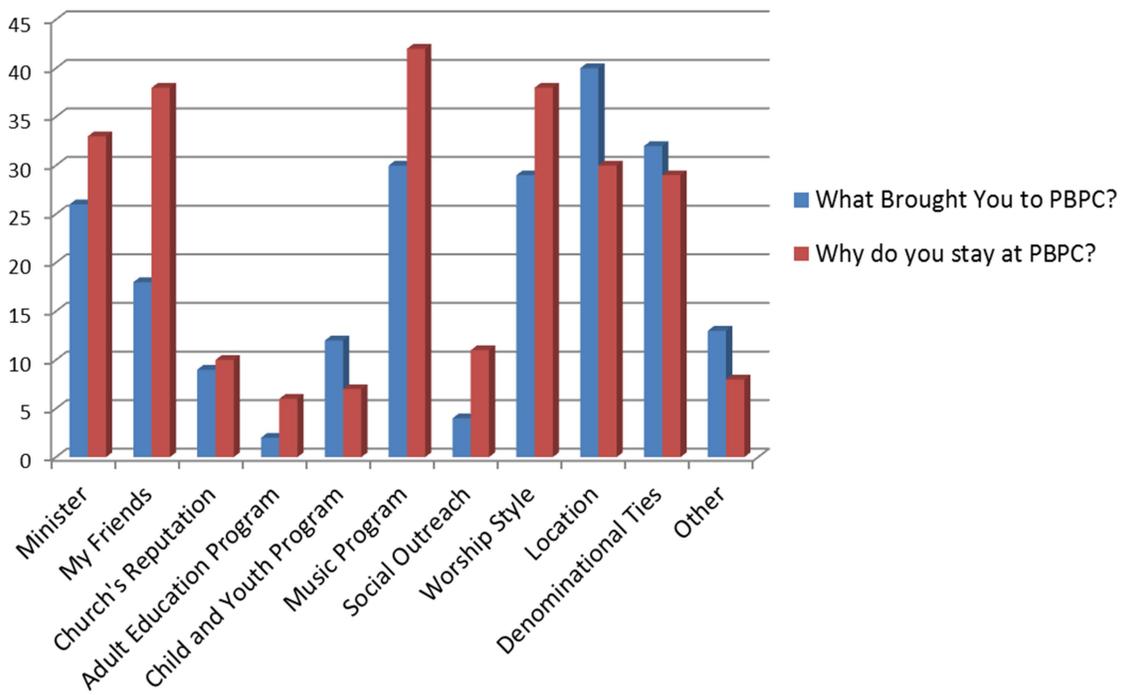


Figure 7: Why Come to PBPC? Why Stay at PBPC?

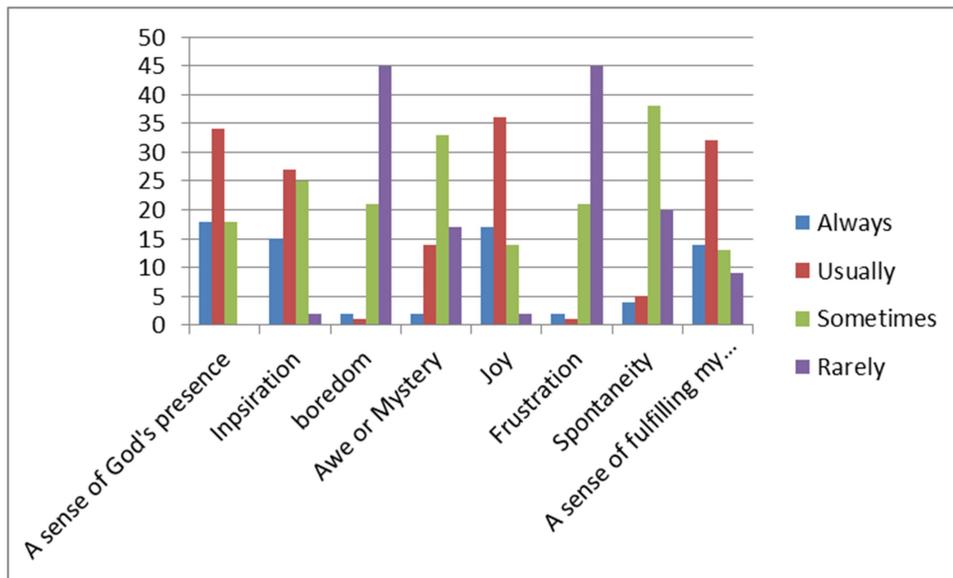


Figure 8: At Worship, I Experience....