

# Analysis of Adult Formation Survey

August-September 2023

Greg Rampinelli

# General

A total of 17 surveys were received over a period of about 4 weeks, starting with the church picnic on August 27, 2023 and finishing September 24, 2023.

Regarding categories: If someone marked a component of a category, I also marked the category, whether they marked it or not.

Regarding the preferred days, one survey did not include any, and two surveys were ambiguous, so we only had 14 valid surveys for days/times.

# Formats

**Mini-courses** were the most popular (15) followed by **adult forums** (10)

- 15 **Mini-courses:** meet once a week for about 2-3 weeks for 1-2 hours
- 10 **Adult forums:** after coffee hour on Sundays for about an hour
- 9 **Courses:** held over a longer period, meeting weekly or biweekly for 1-2 hours
- 8 **Weekend Retreats:** spiritual retreats from Friday evening to Sunday morning
- 8 **Book discussion group:** format like a course
- 7 **One-day seminars:** 3-4 hours in the afternoon or 6-8 hours all day on Saturdays
- 8 **Bible study:** a seminar or a course (possibly even as an adult forum).
- 1 (2 **MAYBE**) **ChurchNext** videos. I probably shouldn't have included this here, since they're not a stand-alone format. If they fit a course, we should use them!

# Categories

**“Adult confirmation”** was the most popular (16) followed by **Apologetics** (13) and **Spirituality** (12)

**16 “Adult confirmation” – discussing the fundamentals of our faith**

**13 Apologetics / defending the faith**

**12 Spirituality / Christian meditation**

**11 Current controversies in churches and society**

**9 Living the Christian life**

**6 Bible study** (+1 no survey, but interest indicated)

**6 Other suggestions:** Christianity and other religions; liturgy; religious art – historical excursions; Christian art and literature; Fiction with Christian themes; marriage

# Specific Topics

**Being a light to the world** and **Compatibility of religion and science** were the most popular (9) followed by **What is the Bible** and **Moral problems in the Bible** (8)

9 Being a light to the world

9 Compatibility of religion and science

8 What is the Bible: Inspired? Infallible? Inerrant?

8 Moral problems in the Bible (e.g. imprecatory Psalms, Canaan, plagues of Egypt)

7 Christian mystics, such as St. John of the Cross & Teresa Avila

7 Racial justice

7 Social justice

# Specific Topics (continued)

- 6 Anglican history and liturgy
- 6 Why does God permit evil/suffering (theodicy)
- 6 Political issues (e.g Republican vs. Democrat)
- 6 Modern-day slavery in Europe
- 5 Fundamentals of Christianity
- 6 Loving my enemy
- 5 Christian meditation
- 5 Refugees in Europe and North America
- 4 The canon of scripture
- 4 Forgiving others
- 4 Miracles: Do they occur?



# Specific Topics (continued)

- 1 “A People Called Episcopalians” \$6.95
- 1 “Adult confirmation” Other: Narnia
- 1 Living the Christian life Other: The value and art of prayer
- 1 Apologetics Other: Philosophy-theology
- 1 Bible study Other: Full Bible study (entire)
- 1 Spirituality Other: Edith Stein
- 1 Spirituality Other: How not to lose hope in the world as it is
- 1 Current controversies Other: How to be politically active without being a jerk
- 1 Current controversies Other: Rechtspopulismus or Christian socialism, local issues/elections



# Specific Topics (continued)

- 1 Other categories: Christianity and other religions
- 1 Other categories: liturgy
- 1 Other categories: religious art – historical excursions
- 1 Other categories: Christian art and literature
- 1 Other categories: Fiction with Christian themes
- 1 Other categories: marriage
  
- 0 “Your Faith, Your Life: An Invitation to the Episcopal Church“ \$22.95

# Times

**Monday and Tuesday evenings** are most popular **(10)** followed by Thursday evenings (9) then Sunday after church (8)

10 Monday evening

10 Tuesday evening

9 Thursday evening

8 Sunday after church (adult forum)

7 Friday evening

6 Wednesday evening

3 Tuesday morning

3 Saturday morning

3 Saturday evening

# Times

- 2 Monday morning
- 2 Tuesday afternoon
- 2 Wednesday morning
- 2 Saturday afternoon
- 1 Wednesday afternoon
- 1 Friday morning
- 0 Monday morning, Thursday morning, Thursday afternoon, Friday afternoon

1 survey did not address times at all. Another marked adult forum and drew a line through all others (probably rejecting them, but unclear). A third said, "If I'm in town, I'm available". Hence, only 14 surveys were evaluated.

# Next Steps

I (Greg Rampinelli) have promised to lead book discussion groups on:

- C.S. Lewis' *The Magician's Nephew* (Chronicles of Narnia) on Sundays after coffee hour (2-week cycle)

And

- C.S. Lewis' *The Screwtape Letters* (weekday evenings, specifics to be announced)

I could also do mini-courses or adult forums on apologetics topics and possibly "Adult confirmation" topics. I might also be able to lead a Bible study group. But my time is limited.

**We need teachers to cover some of the other popular topics!**