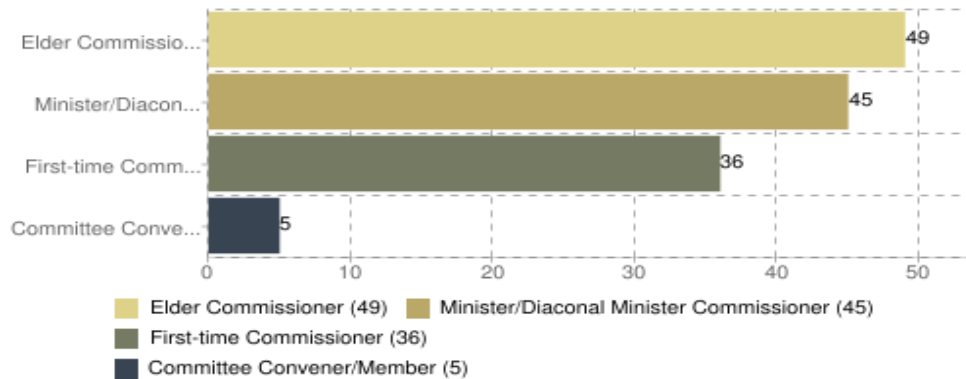


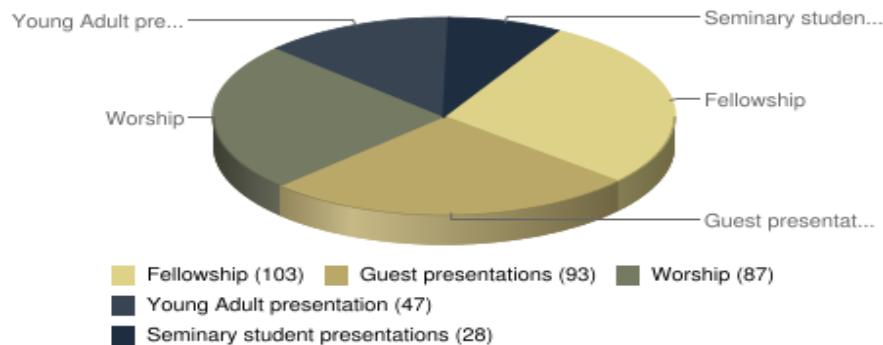
General Assembly 2017 Evaluation Summary

Within the Presbytery of Kingston, the church gathered for its annual General Assembly. The opening worship and the first sederunt were held in beautiful and historical St. Andrew's Church in downtown Kingston. The remainder of the meetings took place on the campus of Queen's University. Together we sought to discern the will of God for our denomination.

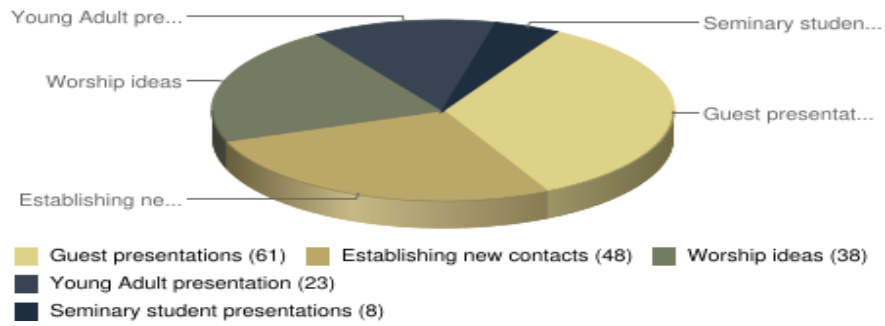
Following the Assembly, commissioners, and others who attended, were invited to complete an evaluation form. Here is a summary of the information gathered from the 131 people who responded.



The top five most important events to take place during the Assembly.

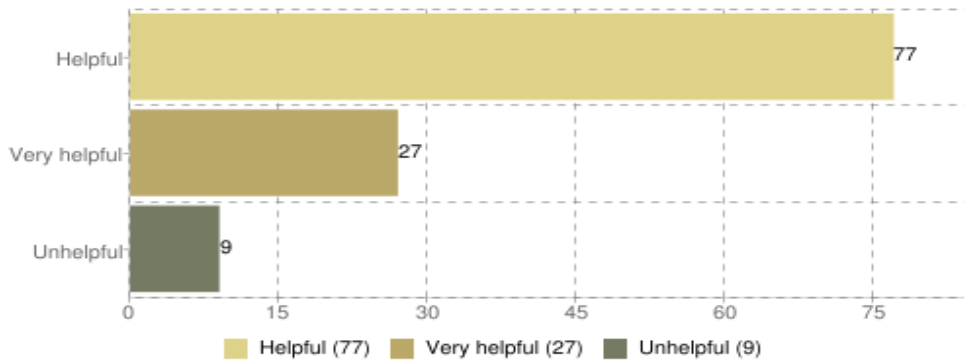


The top five experiences that will help attendees and congregations fulfill God's mission in the world.



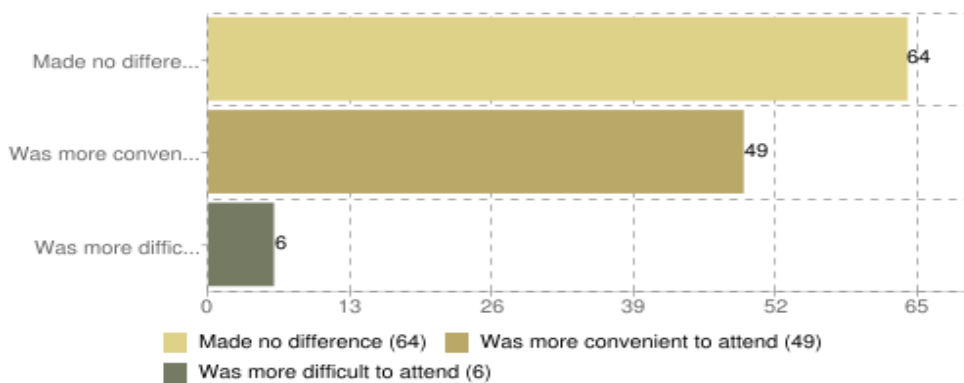
Briefing panels:

A brief overview of a number of reports were presented to commissioners to provide an opportunity for them to ask questions for clarification. Many commissioners found them helpful.



The start of Assembly:

After three years of beginning the Assembly on a Thursday or Friday evening, this Assembly began on a Sunday evening. Commissioners were asked to comment on whether the start day made a difference to them.



Comments

Book of Reports:

Commissioners had two ways of receiving the reports that were brought to the General Assembly. One was a printed paper version and the other was an electronic PDF version that was downloaded from the national website. When asked to comment on the version they used, commissioners offered comments like the following.

Paper version:

"I found the printed version easy to use. I like that I was able to make notes as I was studying the reports and during the Assembly."

"Pagination was well set up. Instructions were easy to find and helpful."

"It weighs a lot."

Electronic version:

"The indexes and tables made it easy to search and navigate from report to report."

"I was unfamiliar with Adobe Reader. Once I figured that out, the PDF version was very helpful."

"I was not sure how to write comments on the PDF reports." (Note: Adobe Reader makes it possible to add highlights and notes.)

"It helped to have PDF page numbers announced when reports were presented."

"Fewer trees felled."

A sampling of general comments:

"I always come away encouraged that our denomination still has a role in global Christianity."

"I am glad for the presence of Young Adult Representatives and their advisory votes. They bring a voice we need to hear."

"A few more breaks would have been good. Three hours is a long time to sit! I wish the sederunts were spread out more. I missed the 'after hours' opportunity to socialize and connect more with my fellow commissioners."

"Participating in the General Assembly increased my knowledge and understanding of the work of The Presbyterian Church in Canada. I have come to a much better understanding of how well the General Assembly keeps the church informed, viable and moving in a forward direction."

"I was impressed, encouraged and uplifted with the quiet reverence of the worship team."

"The distance between the residence, Assembly hall and cafeteria was challenging."

"The local arrangements committee are to be congratulated."

"The General Assembly was enlightening, educational and spiritually awakening."

"I was impressed with the passion and civility of commissioners."

First-time commissioners:

Roughly one-third of the commissioners, on any given year, are at their first General Assembly. Recognizing the format of the meetings, the wide range of topics to be considered and the volume of material to be read can be overwhelming, various forms of orientation and support are offered. Here are a few comments from some of the first-time commissioners.

"An online video prior to the Assembly that covered the way the Assembly works and maybe even an example of the livestream from a previous year would help us know what to expect."

"The reports and provided information helped me to understand the history, structure and the procedure of the Assembly more completely."

"Possibly pairing up with an experienced commissioner would have helped."

"The Moderator did a very good job explaining procedures to us throughout the Assembly."

"I felt we were well looked after and made to feel welcome."

"I left the General Assembly feeling encouraged, hopeful and faithful to the work of God. God's spirit was alive and well among us."

"The General Assembly was encouraging despite divisions within the denomination. In my life I have experienced the wider scope of the church and the many and varied people who love Jesus and are committed to sharing his love and truth with the world."