



**2000 ELCA YOUTH GATHERING EVALUATION**  
*Adult Participant Questionnaire*



*Frequencies*  
*n=573; 66.7% response rate*  
*November 2000*

**Thank you for helping us evaluate G2K! Your opinions and experiences will help Gathering organizers better plan and prepare for the next Gathering. Please answer the following questions based on your own personal experiences at the Gathering. Throughout this questionnaire, you will find space for brief comments on a specific topic -- if you run out of room, feel free to finish on the back page or attach additional pages as needed.**

**PLANNING FOR THE GATHERING**

*Last summer, all ELCA congregations received the youth ministry planning guide, 2000 Playbook, to use during the 1999-2000 school year. This guide had several resources that could be used in planning for the Gathering.*

- Did you use the *2000 Playbook* in any way to prepare for the Gathering?  
 70.9% Yes (*Please continue on to question 2*)  
 22.0 No (*Please skip to question 4*)  
 7.1 I don't know/ don't remember (*Please skip to question 4*)

**Of those 70.9% who used the 2000 Playbook:**

- Which of the following did you use from the *2000 Playbook* in preparation for the Gathering?  
 (*Mark all that apply from both columns*)

64.4%	Bible studies: Pilgrimage to the Cross Roads	29.4%	<i>Songs for the Road</i> sheet music
14.4	Roadside devotional assistance (preparing devotions for traveling)	13.4	Calling mentors to the journey (info on mentoring)
51.2	G2K CD: <i>Songs for the Road</i>	77.6	Living in covenant (establishing group covenants)
		51.2	Identifying gifts for vocation
		7.2	Other:

- In general, how helpful was the *2000 Playbook* as a planning tool for your congregation's youth ministry program?  

<b>Very</b>				<b>Not very</b>
<u>Likely</u>				<u>Likely</u>
1	2	3	4	5
16.4%	31.9	36.6	10.4	4.7

- Did you use the G2K promotional video to raise awareness of the Gathering in your congregation?  
 29.3% Yes (*Please answer part B*) →      b. How helpful was the video in promoting the Gathering?  
 62.1 No (*Please skip to question 5*)  
 8.6 I don't know (*Please skip to question 5*)  

<b>Very</b>		<b>Somewhat</b>		<b>Not Very</b>
<u>Helpful</u>		<u>Helpful</u>		<u>Helpful</u>
1	2	3	4	5
12.8%	22.4	50.0	9.0	5.8

- Did youth members from your congregation complete the spiritual gifts inventory (either on paper or on-line) prior to the Gathering?  
 52.0% Yes (*Please answer part B*) →      10.0 I don't know (*Please skip to question 6*)  
 38.1 No (*Please skip to question 6*)

Appendix 1: Frequencies of Adult Participants

- B. Did you use or refer to the spiritual gifts inventory when planning for events at the Gathering?  
 66.8% Yes  
 33.2 No

6. Did youth members from your congregation **intentionally** identify and build a relationship with a mentor as part of their preparation for the Gathering?

20.4% Yes (*Please answer part B*) → B. How valuable, in your opinion, was this mentoring relationship for the youth?  
 79.6 No (*Please skip to question 7*)

<u>Very Valuable</u>		<u>Somewhat Valuable</u>		<u>Not Very Valuable</u>
1	2	3	4	5
32.1%	28.6	30.4	6.3	2.7

7. Did you receive the pre-Gathering book *G2K Road Map*?

90.9% Yes (*Please answer part B*) → B. When you received *G2K Road Map*, how did you read it?

5.3 No (*Please skip to question 10*) (*Please mark one response*)

29.2% I read the entire booklet thoroughly.

3.7 I can't remember (*Please skip to question 10*)

49.5 I read through it all quickly, and read more thoroughly only the parts that really interested me.

5.6 I skimmed through it all, but didn't read anything closely.

15.3 I *primarily* used it as a reference to look up specific answers to my questions.

0.4 I didn't really read it at all (*Please skip to question 10*)

8. Please rate the helpfulness of *G2K Road Map* on the following topics:

<b>Information on . . .</b>	<u>Very Helpful</u> 1	2	3	4	<u>Not very Helpful</u> 5	<u>Mean</u>
A. Individual and group covenants. . . . .	34.2%	37.6	20.8	5.9	1.5	2.03
B. On-site registration processes and other "logistics" . . . . .	37.2	34.1	18.1	7.0	3.7	2.06
C. "Dancing at the Crossroads" theme & vision . . . . .	34.2	39.2	20.7	4.2	1.6	2.00
D. Hotel Life. . . . .	18.9	29.9	27.3	12.9	11.0	2.67
E. Two-Step Service projects. . . . .	23.5	35.4	27.0	8.6	5.5	2.37
F. Hip Hoppin' around St. Louis trips. . . . .	24.4	34.1	29.1	7.5	4.8	2.34
G. G2K Learning Communities. . . . .	19.0	30.9	32.8	11.4	5.8	2.54
H. The Beat. . . . .	25.8	39.6	26.0	5.7	2.8	2.20
I. General info on the daily schedule. . . . .	32.9	37.8	21.7	5.0	2.6	2.07

9. Did you receive *G2K Road Map* at the appropriate time in your Gathering planning?

54.9% Yes, there was plenty of time  
 36.4 Yes, but earlier would have been better  
 8.7 No, there was not enough time.

10. Looking back, do you now feel you were adequately prepared for the Gathering?

58.7% Yes  
 41.3 No → Do you feel you needed: (*Please choose all that apply*)

Appendix 1: Frequencies of Adult Participants

- 38.0% More/better preparatory materials from the Gathering organizers.
- 70.7 More/better preparation within your own youth group.
- 39.3 More/better preparation on your own.

	<u>Very Meaningful</u>				<u>Not very Meaningful</u>	<u>Mean</u>
	1	2	3	4	5	
11. In your preparations for the Gathering, how meaningful was the theme, "Dancing at the Cross Roads" for you personally. . . . .	30.9%	31.2	21.4	10.2	6.4	2.30

**INITIAL GATHERING REGISTRATION**

*In order to attend this gathering, all congregations mailed, or submitted via the website their registration forms starting in October of 1999.*

12. Please consider the following statements on the initial registration process and rate your degree of agreement along this five-point scale by circling the appropriate number.

	<u>Agree Strongly</u>				<u>Disagree Strongly</u>	<u>Mean</u>
	1	2	3	4	5	
A. The instructions for registration in the "Registration" booklet were clear . . . . .	30.8%	45.8	18.2	4.8	0.4	1.98
B. I had all the information I needed from Gathering planners in order to submit my registration. . . . .	35.1	45.3	14.5	3.7	1.3	1.91
C. The notice of our Gathering registration confirmation from Gathering organizers was timely. . . . .	23.0	25.3	25.1	17.9	8.6	2.64

**[Note: Percentages in the "Part B" questions below represent the percentage of those who participated in the activity, not the total percentage of all respondents.]**

13. Did you submit your Gathering registration (not hotel) on the Gathering web site?						
25.3% Yes (Please answer part B) →						
74.7 No (Please skip to question 14)						
	<u>Very Easy</u>				<u>Very Difficult</u>	<u>Mean</u>
	1	2	3	4	5	
	36.0%	44.0	12.0	5.0	3.0	1.95

14. Did you have any contact with your Synod Youth Coordinator while planning for the Gathering?						
58.6% Yes (Please answer part B) →						
41.4 No (Please skip to question 15)						
	<u>Very Helpful</u>		<u>Somewhat Helpful</u>		<u>Not Very Helpful</u>	<u>Mean</u>
	1	2	3	4	5	
	31.1%	20.0	23.2	10.0	15.7	2.59

15. Did you participate in your synod's Counselor Training Program?						
32.6% Yes (Please answer part B) →						
67.4 No (Please skip to comments below and then question 16)						
	<u>Very Helpful</u>		<u>Somewhat Helpful</u>		<u>Not Very Helpful</u>	<u>Mean</u>
	1	2	3	4	5	
	23.8%	26.8	32.7	8.3	8.3	2.51

*Any additional comments on the Gathering registration process and procedures?*

15.3% of respondents commented in this section.

**HOTEL RESERVATIONS**

*Due to the decision to postpone reserving rooms at the Adams Mark Hotel until the resolution of a discrimination lawsuit against the hotel chain, several problems arose in the Gathering hotel reservation and confirmation process. While these problems stemmed from steps taken by the external housing company and were outside the control of ELCA staff, Gathering organizers are well aware of these situations and regret the*

16. Did you encounter any significant problems when making your hotel reservations?

50.3% Yes (Please answer part B) →  
 49.7 No (Please skip to question 17)

B. How serious was this housing reservation problem for you?

	<b>Very Serious</b>			
	<b>Not Very Serious</b>			
	<b>and Inconvenient</b>			
	<b>or Inconvenient</b>			
	1	2	3	45
	36.2%	30.0	22.3	8.8
	2.7			

Please briefly describe the nature of the problem(s) you encountered:

Of the respondents who indicated that they had a significant problem, 86.3 percent made a comment.

### On-Site Registration

When you and your group arrived in St. Louis, you probably registered for the Gathering at the America’s Center and registered your group at your hotel (although not necessarily in that order).

	<u>Very Easy to Manage</u>				<u>Very Difficult to Manage</u>	<u>Mean</u>
	1	2	3	4	5	
17. Please rate the “Gathering registration” process. . . . .	50.7%	31.0	9.8	5.4	3.2	1.80
18. Please rate the “hotel registration” process. . . . .	25.6%	26.1	16.3	11.9	20.1	2.75

### At the Gathering: Hotel Life

19. Please think back on the events and activities occurring at the Gathering hotels. First, mark those hotel life activities in which you personally attended and/or participated at least once. Next, please rate how valuable those experiences (only those in which you participated) were for you personally. [Note: Percentages in the “Valuable” columns represent the percentage of those who participated, not the total percentage.]

<u>Hotel Event</u>	<u>I participated</u>	<u>Very Valuable</u>				<u>Not Very Valuable</u>		<u>Mean</u>
		1	2	3	4	5		
A. Counselor Orientation (at the hotel) . . .	78.0%. . . . .	33.1%	29.8	19.2	9.1	8.2		2.29
B. Breakfast Clubs. . . . .	38.0 . . . . .	31.3	28.9	23.2	8.5	8.1		2.33
C. Morning Eucharist . . . . .	38.9 . . . . .	54.9	26.0	12.1	5.1	1.9		1.73
D. Morning exercise class . . . . .	2.6 . . . . .	53.8	15.4	15.4	7.7	7.7		2.00
E. Club G2K nightlife . . . . .	61.4 . . . . .		36.4	29.0	21.3	6.5	6.8	
	2.18							
F. Rest Stops . . . . .	17.8 . . . . .		32.0	27.0	25.0	10.0	6.0	2.31

Appendix 1: Frequencies of Adult Participants

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	<u>Excellent</u>				<u>Poor</u>	<u>Mean</u>
	1	2	3	4	5	
20. Please rate the overall quality of your hotel life . . . . .	19.9%	25.7	21.4	10.4	22.6	2.90

*Any additional comments on the hotel life at the Gathering?*

53.4% made a comment in this section.

**At The Gathering: Events & Activities**

21. Did your counselor unit intentionally schedule daily small group time into your planned activities at the Gathering?

78.0% Yes ( <i>Please answer part B</i> )	B. Did you use the material in <i>Devazine</i> for your small group time?
22.0 No ( <i>Please skip to question 23</i> )	23.7% Yes
	76.3 No

22. Did your counselor unit use the G2K Journal in the “Guidebook” (distributed to all participants) for your small group time?

43.2% Yes
56.8 No

Appendix 1: Frequencies of Adult Participants

23. Please check the boxes to indicate in which of the following events you *personally* participated, at least once, at the Gathering. Next, please rate how valuable those experiences in which you personally participated were. A “Very Valuable” experience would be one which had a significant impact on you. [Note: Percentages in the “Valuable” columns represent the percentage of those who participated, not the total percentage.]

<u>Event</u>	<u>I participated</u>	<u>Very Valuable</u>				<u>Not Very Valuable</u>		<u>Mean</u>
A. Two Step Service. . . . .	35.6%	38.6%	25.9	10.7	9.1	15.7	2.38	
B. Hip Hoppin’ Around St. Louis . . . . .	38.6	23.1	37.5	22.2	12.0	5.1	2.38	
C. The Beat . . . . .	99.8	50.5	34.6	11.7	2.8	0.4	1.69	
D. House Party (Thursday night in the Dome)	79.8	16.3	15.4	21.5	17.2	29.5	3.28	
E. Gathering Academies (for adult leaders) . .	15.9	53.9	27.0	12.4	2.2	4.5	1.76	
F. Morning Bible Study (TWA Dome) . . . . .	78.0	69.3	22.7	4.8	3.2	--	1.42	
G. Evening mass gatherings (TWA Dome)						94.6	79.3	
	16.3	3.2	1.1	0.2	1.27			

24. Did you participate in one of the G2K Learning Community ‘Hoods at least once at the Gathering?  
 49.2% Yes (Please continue on to question 25, below)  
 50.8 No (Please skip to question 27)

[Note: Percentages in Q 25 represent the percentage of those who participated, not the total percentage.]

25. The structured learning opportunities at the Gathering were designed to teach youth about faith practices and spiritual gifts, and how youth might use their gifts in witness and service.

	<i>Faith practice &amp; Spiritual gifts were taught . . .</i>					<u>Mean</u>
	<u>Very Well</u> 1	2	3	4	<u>Not Very Well</u> 5	
How well did the learning session(s) you attended teach youth about faith practices and spiritual gifts? . . . . .	26.5	39.9	26.1	6.3	1.1	2.16

26. One new addition to the learning opportunities at G2K was the distinctions between Houses (traditional workshops), Parks (large group settings with music and/or speakers in which you could come and go), and Streets (interactive experiences). Which of these three types of learning opportunities most appealed to you?

9.1% Houses 15.7 Parks 6.6 Streets 66.9 All of them appealed to me 1.7 None of them appealed to me

Any additional comments on the G2K Learning Community?

27.6% made a comment in this section.

## Appendix 1: Frequencies of Adult Participants

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27. Ensuring participant safety is always a priority for Gathering organizers. Was there any time during the Gathering when you were especially concerned or worried about your individual or group safety?

74.1% No

25.7 Yes → *Please describe that particular experience(s):*

27.4% of all respondents wrote a comment on safety at the Gathering.

28. Gathering organizers strive to reflect and support the ELCA goals of racial, age, and disability inclusiveness and diversity in all Gathering events and activities. From your perspective, how well do you feel these goals were met?

38.4% To a very great extent

49.5 To a great extent

7.0 To some extent → *Please describe any experiences or observations where you feel these goals were not met:* 11.3% made a comment on inclusiveness or diversity at the gathering

0.9 Hardly at all

4.3 Don't know/can't remember

### At The Gathering: Group Finances

*The following information will help us help congregations plan for the 2003 Gathering in Atlanta.*

29. Please estimate the cost per person for your group's travel to the 2000 Youth Gathering:<sup>1</sup> (Round trip, not including extra costs for side trips while in St. Louis):

**Mean:** \$326 per person

**Median:** \$250

**Mode:** \$500

30. Please estimate how much you, personally, spent on food while you were in St. Louis:<sup>2</sup>

**Mean:** \$115

**Median:** \$100

**Mode:** \$100

31. Gathering organizers have different options for trying to keep housing costs affordable at Gatherings. Please consider your own congregation's preferences and your experiences at this Gathering to think about two possible housing choices. Out of each pair, please choose only **one** option that best reflects how you might make the decision.

**Choose one response (from either the left or right column) that best reflects your opinion.**

#### A. Rooming Assignments

87.1% I would prefer that youth groups are kept together, even if that means paying more for a room that's not filled to capacity (i.e., paying the full price for a quad with only three people in it.)

**-OR-** 12.9% I would prefer to keep housing costs as low as possible, even if that means mixing youth groups in hotel rooms (i.e., filling a quad room with two youth from my congregation and two youth from another congregation selected by Gathering organizers.)

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<sup>1</sup> The costs here may be far less than accurate. Even though Q. 29 requested only transportation costs, it appeared that some respondents included such costs as hotels and the Gathering registration fee. Where they itemized what they included, the non-transportation costs were subtracted; when respondents just noted that they had included non-transportation costs in their final figure, the response was changed to a missing value.

<sup>2</sup> Some respondents appeared to estimate the food costs as a cost per day, not as the total cost (in retrospect, the question might be worded too ambiguously). In order to compensate, the amount noted was multiplied by 4 if the respondents said this was a per day cost OR if the cost noted was under \$40. The amounts listed above reflect those changes.

## Appendix 1: Frequencies of Adult Participants

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### B. Distance from Main Site

- 87.6% I would prefer that my counselor unit stays at a hotel that is within walking distance of the main Gathering site, even if that means paying a higher price for downtown luxury hotels. **-OR-** 12.4% I would prefer to choose a hotel for my counselor unit based primarily on its affordability, even if that means that we're not within walking distance of the main Gathering site.

*Any additional comments on affordability and other financial issues at the Gathering?*

27.2% made a comment in this section.

### Reflections After the Gathering

32. Please share with us an experience or experiences at the Gathering that had a significant impact on you, either positively or negatively, such as a particular mass gathering, the Gathering theme, a particular speaker, etc.

85.9% made a comment in this section.

33. Do you have any suggestions on how Gathering organizers can improve the ways they help congregations prepare for, and plan for their active participation in the Youth Gathering?

63.0% made a comment in this section.

### PLEASE TELL US ABOUT YOURSELF . . .

- |                                                                                |                                                                                                                                          |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 34. Did you attend the Gathering as a(n) . . .<br>(Pick all that apply to you) | 35. Was this your first ELCA Youth Gathering?<br>(as an adult or youth, but <b>not</b> including synodical or pre-ELCA youth gatherings) |
| 63.5% Adult lead counselor                                                     | 58.5% Yes                                                                                                                                |
| 27.6 Adult participant (but not lead counselor)                                | 41.5 No                                                                                                                                  |
| 15.5 Congregation Pastor                                                       |                                                                                                                                          |
| 15.4 Congregation Youth Director                                               |                                                                                                                                          |
| 0.3 DAYLE counselor/caregiver                                                  |                                                                                                                                          |
| 0.2 MYLE counselor                                                             | 36. Your age: 18.4% 21-30                                                                                                                |
| 1.2 Gathering volunteer                                                        | 52.3 31-45                                                                                                                               |
| 1.7 Synod Youth Committee member                                               | 29.3 46-65                                                                                                                               |
| 0.7 Synod Youth Coordinator                                                    |                                                                                                                                          |
| 0.3 ELCA Churchwide/Synod Staff member                                         |                                                                                                                                          |

### Thank you for your time!

*Please return this questionnaire in the envelope provided, or to:*

*ELCA Department for Research and Evaluation, 8765 W. Higgins Rd., Chicago, IL 60631-4193*

Please use the back of this page, or attach additional pages, to add any more comments about your experience at the Gathering that will help planners for the 2003 Youth Gathering.