

Appendix E: Frequencies of Adult Participants

2003 ELCA YOUTH GATHERING EVALUATION

Adult Participant Questionnaire

August, 2003

N=482

Thank you for helping us evaluate The Atlanta Gathering (TAG). 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. If you need more space for comments, attach additional pages as needed.

Planning for the Gathering

Last summer, all ELCA congregations received the youth ministry planning guide, 2003 Playbook, to use during the 2002-2003 school year. This guide had several resources that could be used in planning for the Gathering.

1. Did you use the 2003 Playbook in any way to prepare for the Gathering?

- 68.6% Yes (Please go to question 2)
- 26.1 No (Please skip to question 4)
- 5.3 I don't know/ don't remember (Please skip to question 4)

2. In what settings did you use the 2003 Playbook? (indicate all that apply)

- 17.0 in our overall youth ministry program (inclusive of youth who attended the Gathering as well as other youth)
- 49.4 only with youth that attended the Gathering
- 4.6 other: (specify) _____

3. Which of the following did you use from the 2003 Playbook in preparation for the Gathering? (indicate all that apply from both columns)

- | | | | |
|------|--|------|---|
| 41.9 | Introductory essay on the theology of Ubuntu | 44.8 | Bible studies |
| 25.3 | Essays on the daily theme | 12.0 | Articles about <i>Stand with Africa</i> |
| 12.2 | <i>The Well</i> – faith stories of youth | 24.5 | Youth ministry ideas section |

4. Did you use the promotional video to raise awareness of the Gathering in your congregation?

- | | | | | | | |
|------|--|--|-----|------------------|------|--------------|
| 56.2 | Yes (Please answer part b) → | b. How helpful was the video in promoting the Gathering? | | | | |
| 37.9 | No (Please skip to question 5) | Not Very Helpful | | Somewhat Helpful | | Very Helpful |
| | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 6.0 | I don't know or don't remember (Please skip to question 5) | 4.2 | 8.9 | 39.0 | 31.7 | 16.2 |

5. Did you receive the *Getting Ready* materials last spring, prior to the Gathering?

- | | | | |
|------|--|--|---|
| 91.3 | Yes (Please go to part b) → | b. Did you use the <i>Getting Ready</i> materials? (choose one answer) | |
| 5.3 | No (Please skip to question 6) | 94.4 | Yes, I used some or all of the <i>Getting Ready</i> materials (Please go to part c) |
| 3.4 | I don't know (Please skip to question 6) | 3.1 | No, I didn't have time to look over the materials (Please skip to question 6) |
| | | 2.5 | No, I read the materials but didn't find them useful (Please skip to question 6) |

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c. Please indicate on the left which of the following <i>Getting Ready</i> materials you used and rate on the right how helpful the corresponding materials were.		Not Very Helpful		Somewhat Helpful		Very Helpful
		1	2	3	4	5
Used						
29.3	Bible studies	2.3	9.4	32.2	38.3	17.8
37.6	Theme information	0.6	2.2	24.0	42.3	30.9
33.8	Music CD	6.5	8.6	25.8	24.9	34.1
12.2	Printed music	17.7	13.2	22.3	19.5	27.3
21.4	Offering/benevolence brochure	5.6	7.5	32.8	32.5	21.6
19.9	Servant Event brochure	10.6	10.6	30.3	33.3	15.5
35.3	Program details	0.6	3.4	13.8	45.2	37.0
16.8	CEO (tourist trips) brochure	11.0	13.9	23.2	34.6	17.3
34.0	On-site registration procedures	2.4	2.4	16.0	35.2	44.1

INITIAL GATHERING REGISTRATION

In order to attend TAG, all congregations submitted their registration materials on-line or through the mail starting in October of 2002.

6. If you registered by **postal mail**, please answer this question. *(If you registered on-line please skip to question 7)*
 Will you consider registering for the Gathering on-line for the Gathering in **2006**? *(choose one answer)*

- 49.4 Yes, our congregational unit will definitely consider on-line registration in 2006.
- 16.2 No, we will not be registering on-line for the Gathering in 2006, but intend to register via mail.
- 0.0 No, our congregation will definitely not be attending the Gathering in 2006.
- 34.4 We are unsure if we will prefer registering on-line in 2006.

7. Please consider the following statements on the initial registration process and rate your degree of agreement with each statement.

		Disagree Strongly		Neutral		Agree Strongly
		1	2	3	4	5
a.	The instructions for registration in the "Registration" booklet were clear	1.9	6.8	15.4	48.4	27.5
b.	I had all the information I needed from the Gathering "Registration" booklet in order to submit my registration.	1.8	6.4	14.4	42.1	35.3
c.	The notice of our Gathering registration confirmation from Gathering organizers was timely.	11.1	17.4	20.5	27.7	23.3
d.	Additional comments on the "Registration" booklet or process:					

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8. Did you have any direct contact (e.g. via telephone, e-mail, mail, getting ready events, in-person) with your Gathering synod coordinator? (*choose one answer*)

55.8 Yes, I had direct contact with my synod coordinator (*Please go to part b*).

32.7 No, I did not have any direct contact with our synod coordinator, but was aware of how to contact this person (*please skip to number 9*).

11.5 No, I was unsure of who our synod coordinator is or how to contact our synod coordinator (*please skip to number 9*).

b. Please indicate how many times you had direct contact with your synod coordinator regarding Gathering information. →

81.5 1-5 times

13.5 6-10 times

1.9 11-15 times

3.1 16 or more times

c. How helpful was the information provided by the synod coordinator?

Not Very Helpful		Neutral		Very Helpful	
1	2	3	4	5	
5.3	5.7	19.1	29.8	40.1	

d. Were there other ways in which the Gathering synod coordinator role could have supported your congregation that would have been helpful in your preparation for the Gathering?

18.7 Yes, please describe here:

56.2 No, the synod coordinator role is just fine as it is

25.1 I'm unsure

9. Did you participate in your synod's Counselor Training Program?

34.9 Yes (*please go to letter b*) →

65.1 No (*please skip to number 10*)

b. How helpful was the information provided at the training?

Not Very Helpful		Somewhat Helpful		Very Helpful	
1	2	3	4	5	
5.4	3.0	27.7	26.6	37.3	

10. Approximately, how many times did you call the 1-800 Gathering number prior to the Gathering?

41.3 0 times, I didn't use the 1-800 number (*please skip to number 11*)

47.2 1-5 times →

10.0 6-10 times →

1.3 11-15 times →

0.2 16 or more times →

b. How helpful was the information provided by calling the 1-800 number?

Not Very Helpful		Somewhat Helpful		Very Helpful	
1	2	3	4	5	
10.5	12.0	27.7	28.1	21.7	

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- c. Please list examples or types of questions/concerns you had for the Youth Gathering staff when you called the 1-800 Gathering number.

HOTEL RESERVATIONS

11. Did your congregational unit intentionally request Gathering housing with other congregational units from your local area or synod?
- 27.5 Yes, we chose housing with congregations from our local area or synod (*please answer question b*).
- 72.5 No, we did not choose housing with other congregations from our local area or synod intentionally (*please skip to question 12*).
- b. Please indicate why you intentionally chose housing with other congregations from your local area or synod? (*indicate all that apply*)
- Of those than answered yes to question 11:**
- 78.9 transportation logistics
- 73.4 friendship/community building
- 37.5 financial savings
- 13.3 other: _____

12. Were there parts of the Gathering’s initial registration process (prior to arriving in Atlanta) that were unclear or difficult to follow?

- 80.8 No, the process for registering for the Gathering was clear. I had no problems with the process.
- 19.2 Yes, I had difficulty with parts of the process. Please list your difficulties here:

ON-SITE REGISTRATION

When you and your group arrived in Atlanta, you probably registered for the Gathering at the GWCC and registered your group at your hotel (although not necessarily in that order).

	Very Difficult to Manage		Somewhat Difficult		Not at all Difficult to Manage
	1	2	3	4	5
13. Please rate the “Gathering registration” process.	5.2	4.3	15.0	23.9	51.6
14. Please rate the “hotel registration” process.	14.3	9.1	16.2	19.5	40.9
15. Additional comments regarding on-site registration:					

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AT THE GATHERING: HOTEL LIFE

16. 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.

Hotel Event	I participated	Not Very		Somewhat		Very
		Valuable		Valuable		Valuable
		1	2	3	4	5
a. Counselor Orientation (at the hotel)	50.8	8.7	6.5	30.4	27.0	27.4
b. Breakfast Club	20.7	13.3	1.7	26.7	26.7	31.7
c. Word in the Word	14.7	3.6	4.8	27.4	31.0	33.3
d. Music and the meal	13.1	1.3	6.4	14.1	32.1	46.2
e. Health club	6.8	10.6	6.4	25.5	29.8	27.7
f. Club Live	36.3	3.1	4.6	23.2	35.6	33.5
g. Dance clubs	57.1	7.9	9.6	22.7	31.3	28.5
h. Fun clubs	29.7	1.9	5.0	18.1	43.8	31.3
i. Open mic	12.9	10.3	3.8	23.1	30.8	32.1
j. Campfires	22.4	5.0	5.0	19.0	31.4	39.7
k. The Lounge.	18.7	8.9	6.9	29.7	34.7	19.8
l. The Final 15	64.3	2.7	3.3	12.0	25.5	56.5

AT THE GATHERING: EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

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

78.8 Yes (*Please answer part b*)
 21.2 No (*Please skip to question 18*)

b. Did you use the material in *Devozine* for your small group time?
 31.8 Yes
 68.2 No

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18. 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. A “Very Valuable” experience would be one that had a lasting impact on you.

Event	I participated	Not Very	Somewhat		Very	
		Valuable	Valuable	Valuable	Valuable	Valuable
		1	2	3	4	5
a. Servant Events	35.1	15.1	8.7	22.1	16.9	37.2
b. Continuing Ed Opportunities (tourist trips)	23.4	3.4	1.7	20.7	32.8	41.4
c. Learning Villages	55.0	0.4	2.5	14.9	36.3	45.9
d. The Globe (interaction center)	91.7	0.2	1.8	9.6	33.4	55.0
e. Adult Academy	24.1	3.8	2.3	21.4	29.8	42.7
f. Morning Bible Study	60.8	0.0	2.6	11.8	24.3	61.3
g. Evening Mass Events	80.9	0.0	1.0	3.5	15.5	80.0

19. Other than hanging out in the Globe (interaction center) or participating in servant events, please briefly describe what else you did during the *afternoons* at the Gathering (*on Thursday, Friday and Saturday*).

	Not Very	Somewhat		Very	
	Meaningful	Meaningful	Meaningful	Meaningful	Meaningful
	1	2	3	4	5
20. In your preparation for TAG, how meaningful was the theme, <i>Do Life! Ubuntu</i> for you personally?	7.0	8.2	24.5	30.2	30.0

21. Ensuring participant safety and security 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?

- 80.5 No
- 19.5 Yes → Please describe the particular experience(s):

AT THE GATHERING: GROUP FINANCES

The following information will help us to assist congregations in planning for the 2006 Gathering in San Antonio.

- 22. Please estimate the cost per person for your group’s travel to the 2003 Youth Gathering: \$ _____
This amount per person does not include food, hotel or Gathering registration fees.
- 23. Please estimate how much you, personally, spent on food per day while at the Gathering? \$ _____

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24. Additional comments on affordability and other financial issues at the Gathering:

25. Please list 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:

26. If the Gathering went back to one week, rather than two weeks, please indicate all that would apply to your congregation:

77.6 Our congregation would register for the 2006 Gathering regardless of how many weeks are offered.

12.9 I am unsure if our congregation would register for the 2006 Gathering.

1.7 Our congregation would be willing to commute up to 90 minutes from our assigned hotel to participate in the 2006 Gathering.

51.5 Our congregation would only participate in the Gathering if we had a central location to/from the mass events of the 2006 Gathering.

69.3 Our congregation would prefer to have a hotel centrally located, regardless of cost.

2.1 Our congregation would choose a hotel site that is more affordable, even if we had to commute up to 90 minutes to participate in the 2006 Gathering.

REFLECTIONS AFTER THE GATHERING

27. 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.

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28. Do you intend to integrate the theme into your daily life? (*choose one that best describes your intentions*)

63.6 Yes, I am integrating the theme or I intend to integrate the theme into my daily life. (*Please answer question b*)

7.5 No, I doubt I will integrate the theme into my daily life. (*Please skip to question 29*)

27.1 I'm not sure how I would integrate the theme into my daily life. (*Please skip to question 29*)

1.8 I'm not sure if I want to integrate the theme into my daily life. (*Please skip to question 29*)

b. Please write a sentence or more on how you intend to integrate the theme into your daily life. In what ways have your behaviors prior to the Gathering changed or will they change?

c. Did the theme *Do Life! Ubuntu* resonate with you in regard to current war in the world?

31.3 Yes– Please explain here:

39.4 No– the theme did not make me think of war in any different ways than prior to the Gathering.

29.3 Chose not to answer this question

29. Please list five ways in which you plan to practice Ubuntu in your life? (*if you don't plan to practice Ubuntu, skip to the next question*)

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

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30. If your faith practices (such as prayer life, stewardship, worship attendance, Bible study, volunteer service, etc) have changed in any ways since the Gathering, please briefly describe in this space.

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

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