

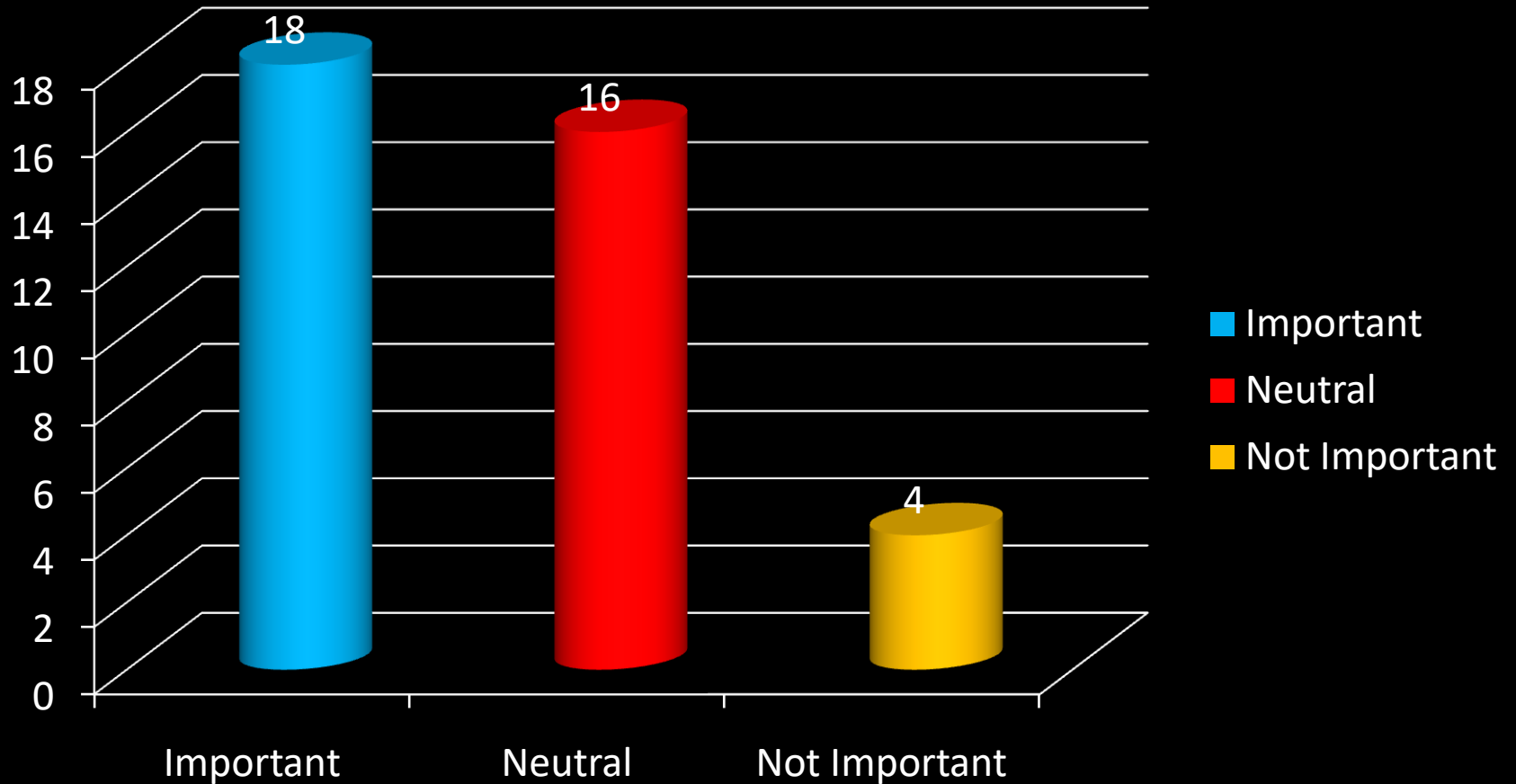
# Sunday Morning Experience

## 37 responses

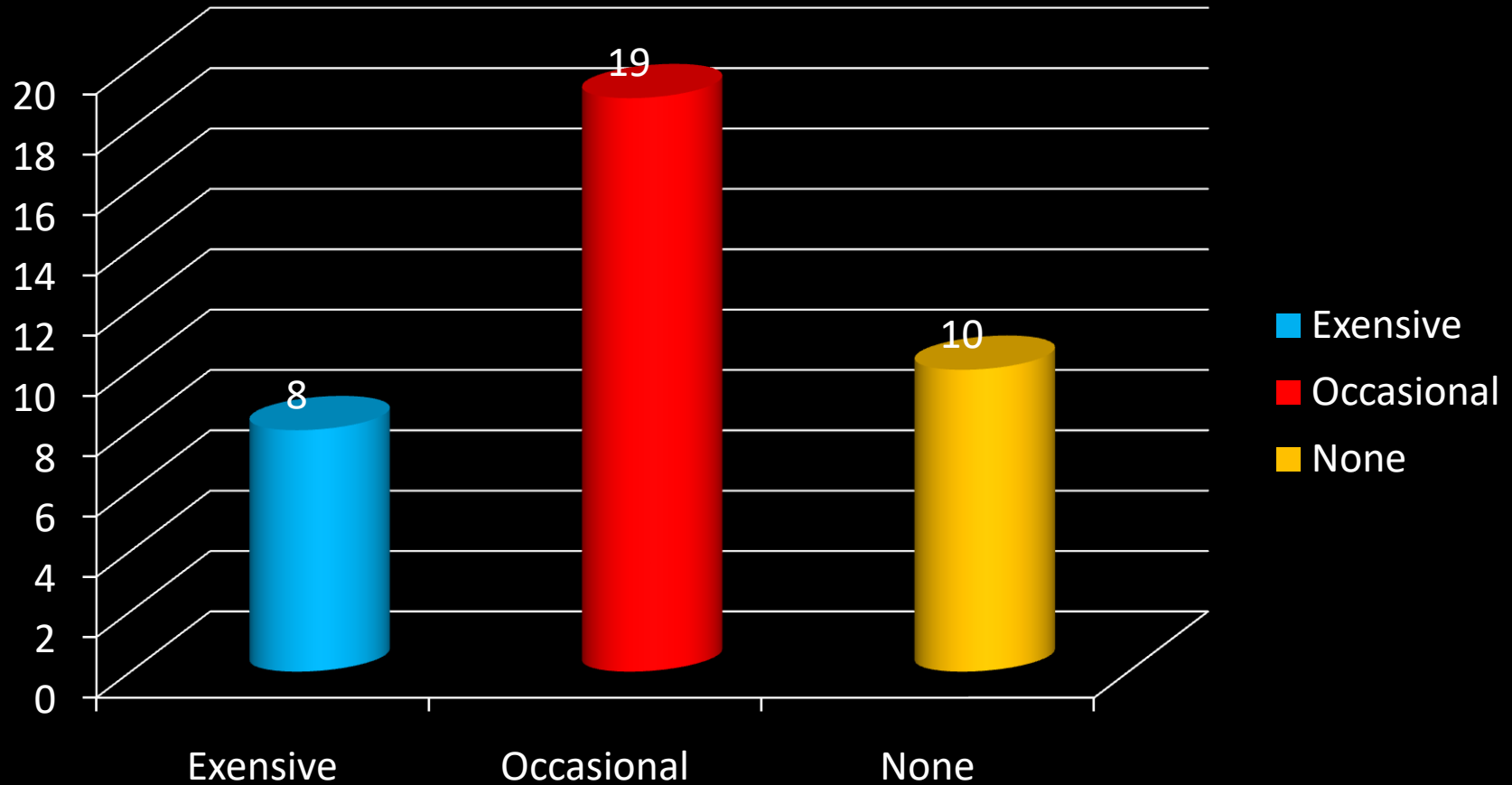
October 2017

Survey by Committee on Ministry

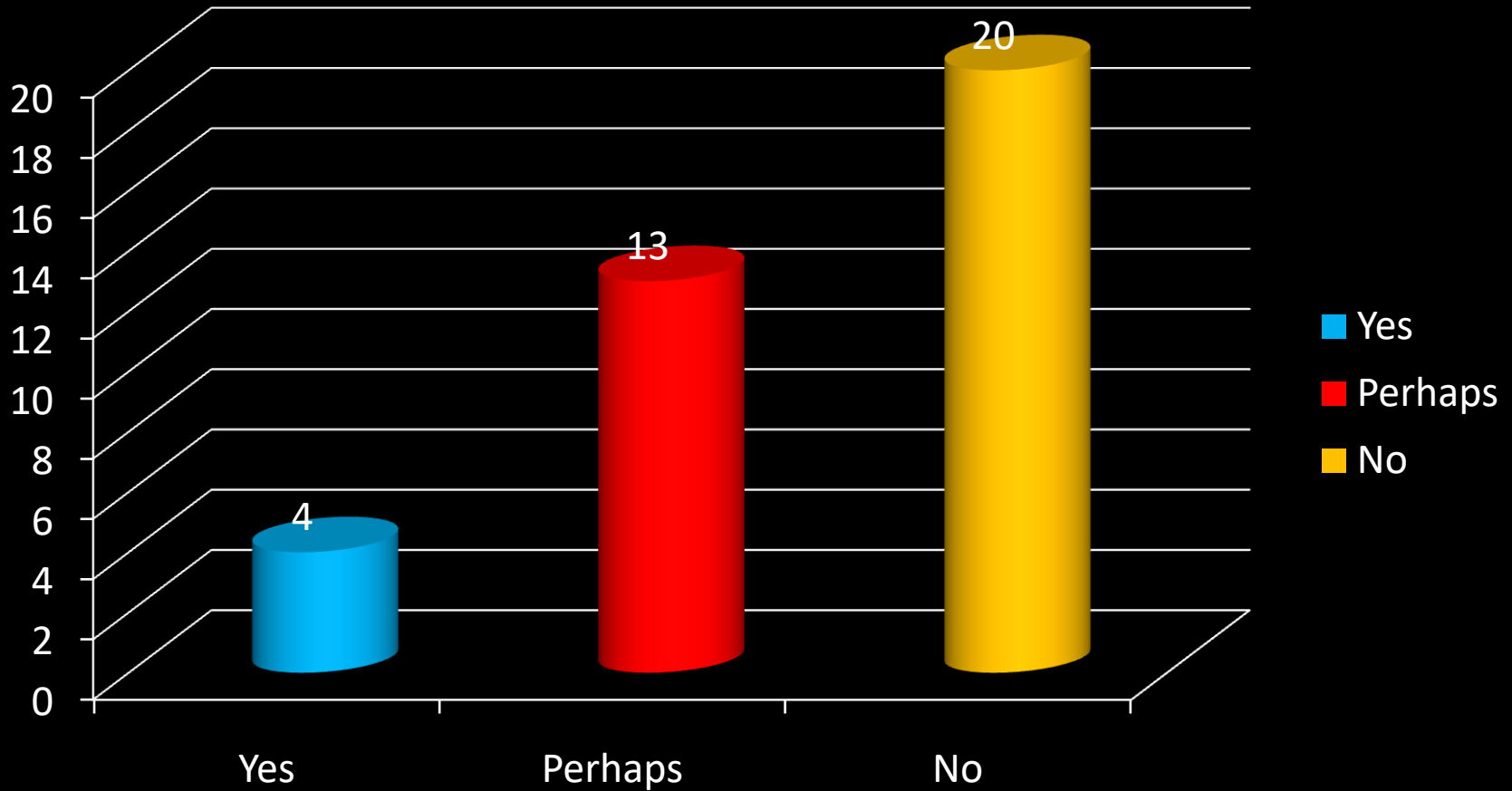
# How important is meditation for spiritual growth?



# Characterize your experience with meditation



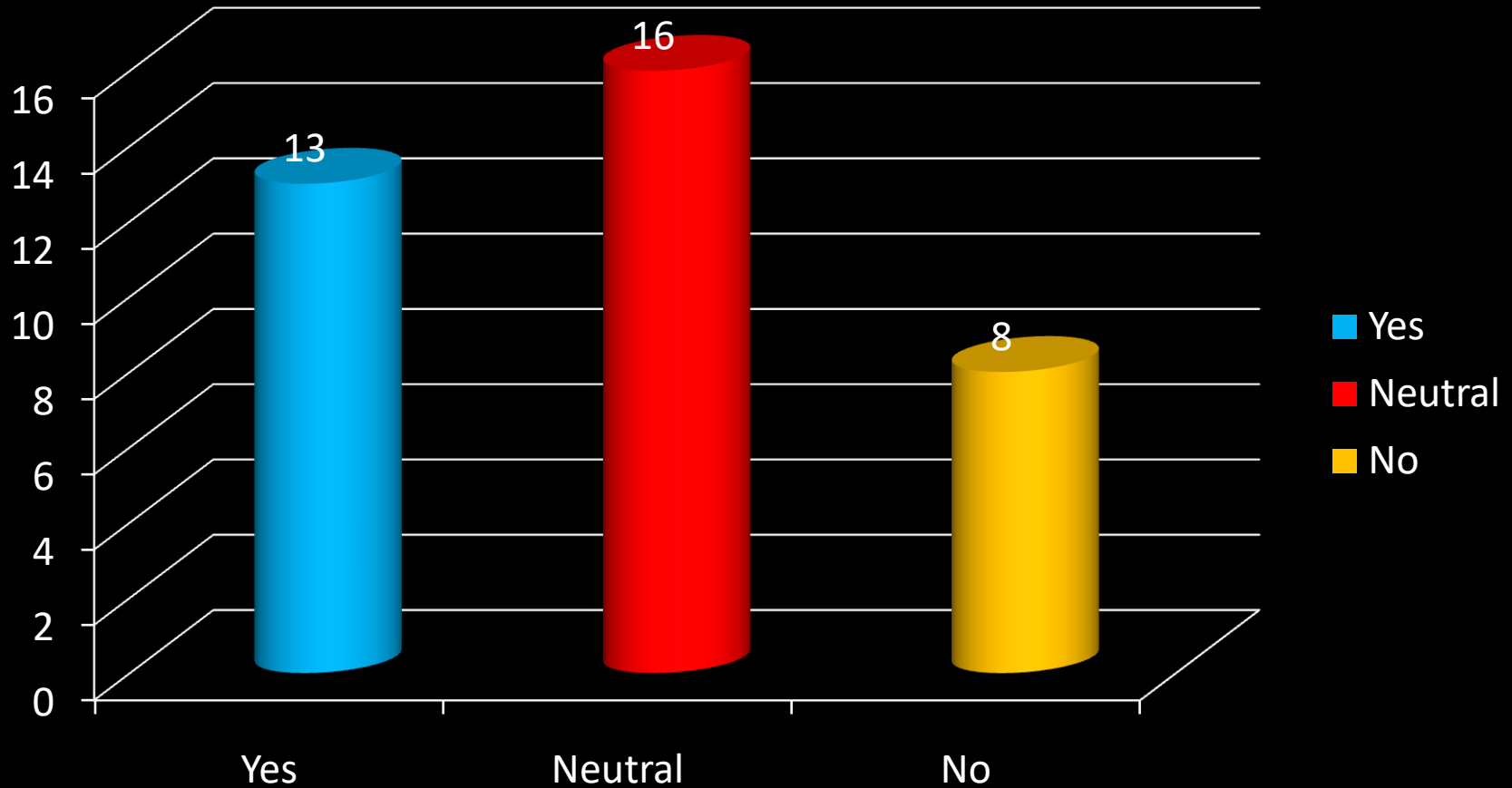
# Interested in Thursday evening meditation group



# Meditation Comments

- Some tutorial on meditation would be welcome.
- I have VERY limited experience with the meditation group. I'm not really interested.
- I could not at this time, as I seem to be spending all my gas money driving to Dallas to doctors.
- It will depend upon my schedule, but I anticipate I'll attend some weeks.
- I'm glad we offer meditation weekly. It is IMHO yet another way for people to be part of the church.
- Do it in the park

# Adult Forum discussion is valuable to me



# Adult Forum Comments pg 1

- Relying way to much on videos
- When Gil led the group I loved it enough to never miss it, even though there are a few people who need to just shut up. Their need to tell long boring stories makes me want to scream.
- I never get up early enough on Sundays to attend.
- Participants need to be able to have input on topics. As it is they are chosen for us. It should also be a starting point for social justice. Don't just study injustice in a detached sense. Do something about it!
- I get a lot from it.

# Adult Forum Comments pg 2

- These are actually classes, not the usual discussion of a forum. I started attending because I thought it was an adult forum and didn't realize that was a misnomer. As I have not joined to rock anyone's boat or upset anyone's routine, I have bowed out rather than worry others about the one sentence which is supposed to fall on deaf ears rule for speaking. The first time I heard a member say something which was important and eventful they'd experienced that week and I witnessed everyone simply not respond to the member, it was horribly sad. I'm too brain damaged to be that unkind. I do think the classes are interesting subjects, but I decided it was kinder to stop to set them free of me.
- Highly educational. Helps develop much-needed critical thinking .
- I can't imagine not having adult forum
- Depends on topic



# What might get me to attend Adult Forum pg 1

- Probably nothing. I participate in my interests in blocks of time & right now it's a non-participating block.
- I have been working diligently to regain my health enough to be able to participate in the morning activities.
- Easier access for physically challenged
- Since there's no way to control the monologues, I don't know of any way. Too bad because it was once my favorite part of every Sunday.
- Make it AFTER the gathering in the chapel.
- Crucial conversations about current social issues i.e. current UUA study questions or programs like OWL or becoming a Welcoming congregation

# What might get me to attend Adult Forum pg 2

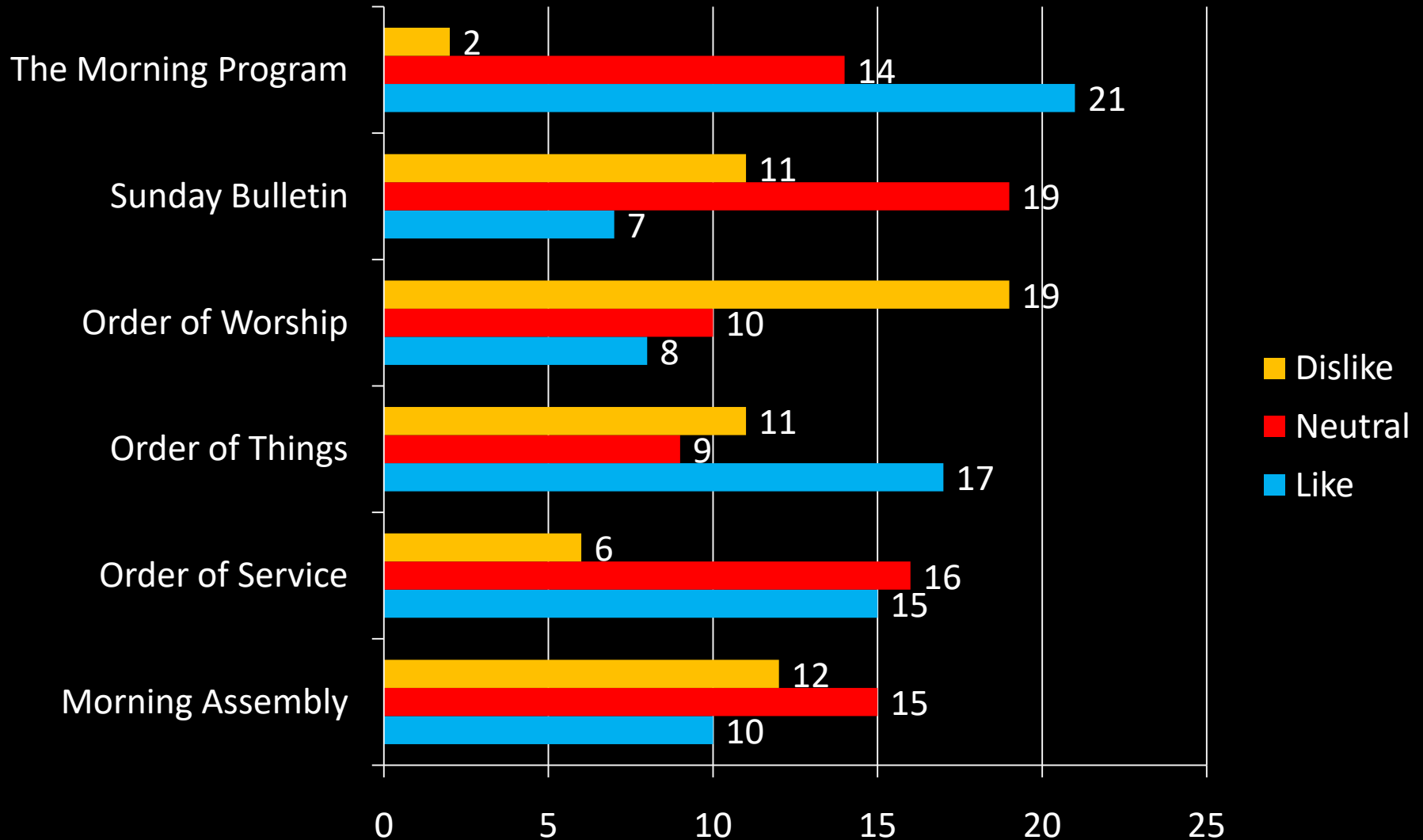
- Participatory democracy.
- I will no longer subject them to my opinions, and have no desire to try to change the rigidity.
- finding ted talks
- At present I have a difficult time factor for this. Maybe in the future.
- probably not
- I attend on a regular basis for the intellectual stimulation.

# What might get me to attend

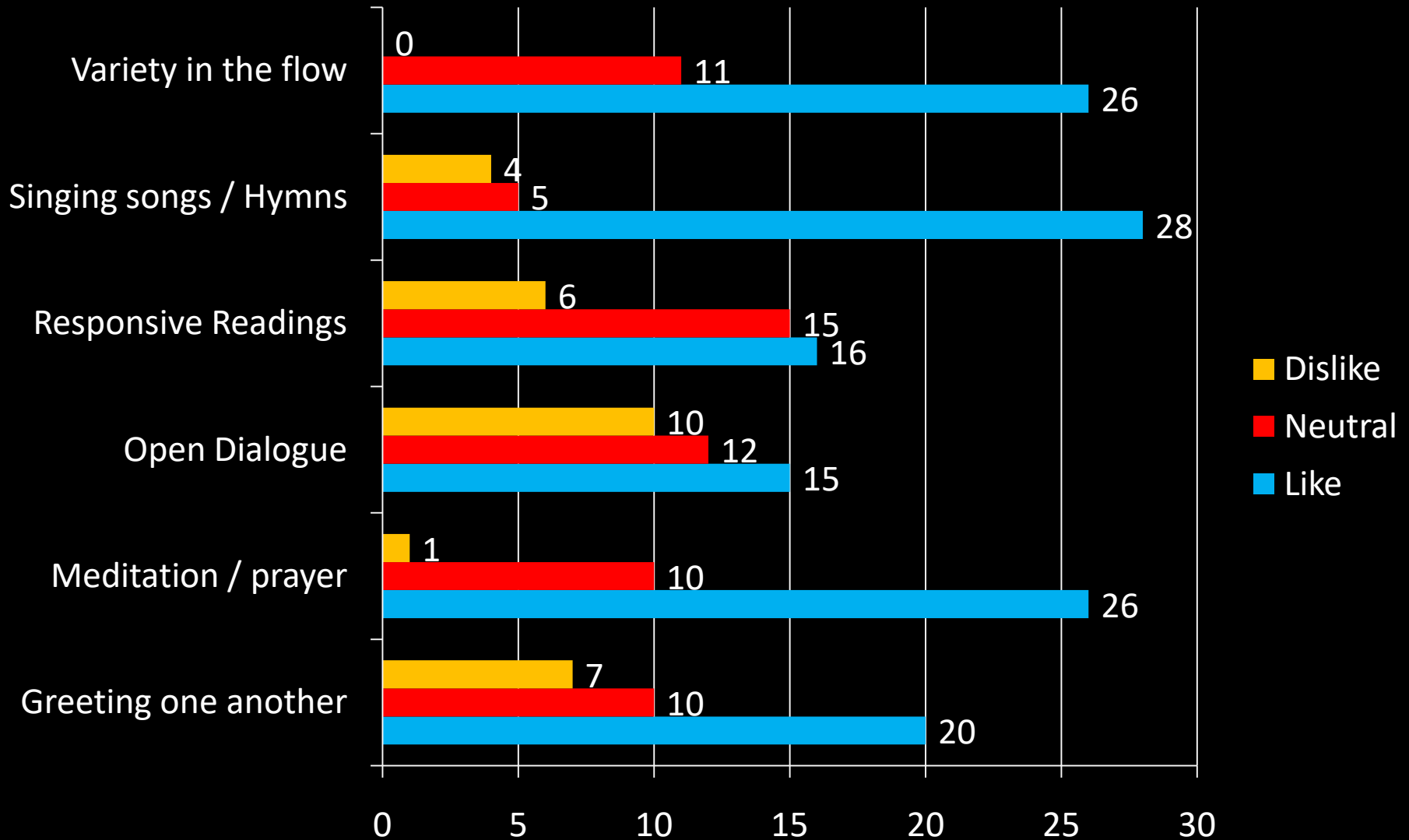
## Adult Forum – pg 3

- Maybe having visiting speakers each week with topics advertised in advance. I'd enjoy coming to hear different speakers talk on a topic that has passion for them followed by a discussion. This is a style other UU churches use. The same weekly topic for six months is too much for me.
- The topics.
- I always attend
- Less videos - more discussion
- I like studying UU history, various religions, social issues (all of which Forum has done.)
- Current affairs

# Printed Notice each Sunday



# Elements of Worship Experience



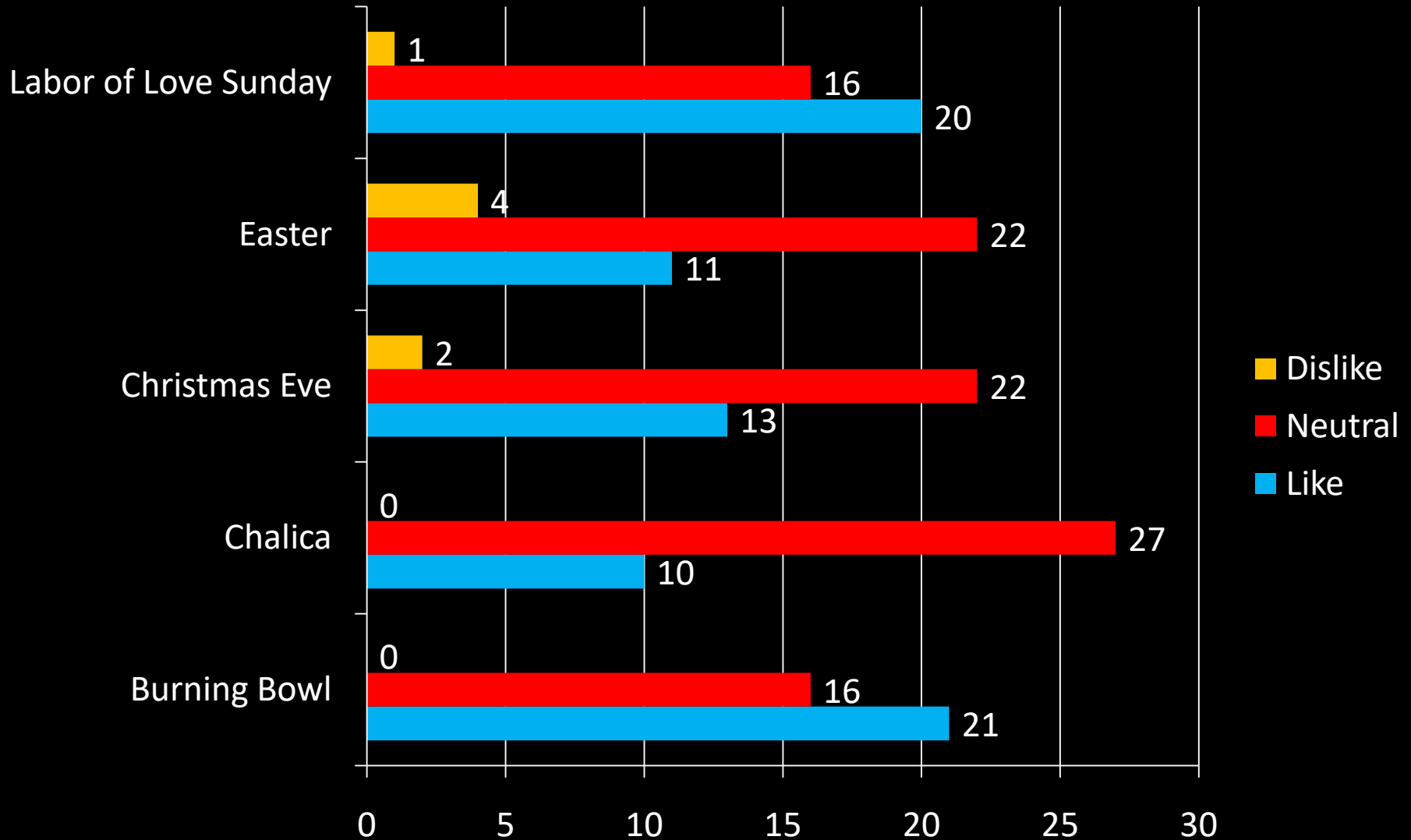
# Element Comments – pg 1

- The very brief time for meditation is not sufficient to get into a meditative state.
- If greeting one another happened almost first or close to last then I would like it <http://thomrainer.com/2015/08/seven-steps-churches-are-taking-to-replace-the-stand-and-greet-time/> maybe we could have people smile and wave or use sign language to say hello instead of everyone walking around except the introverts who just gnash their teeth. or we could have a saying of the day each week or month "Live long and prosper" "Never hunger never thirst" "peace be with you" so those who don't know what to say during the meet and greet have a fall back saying and so extroverts don't start planning their trip next summer....
- In addition, drama - on occasion an entire musical performance
- I like knowing what to expect. Continuity

# Element Comments – pg 2

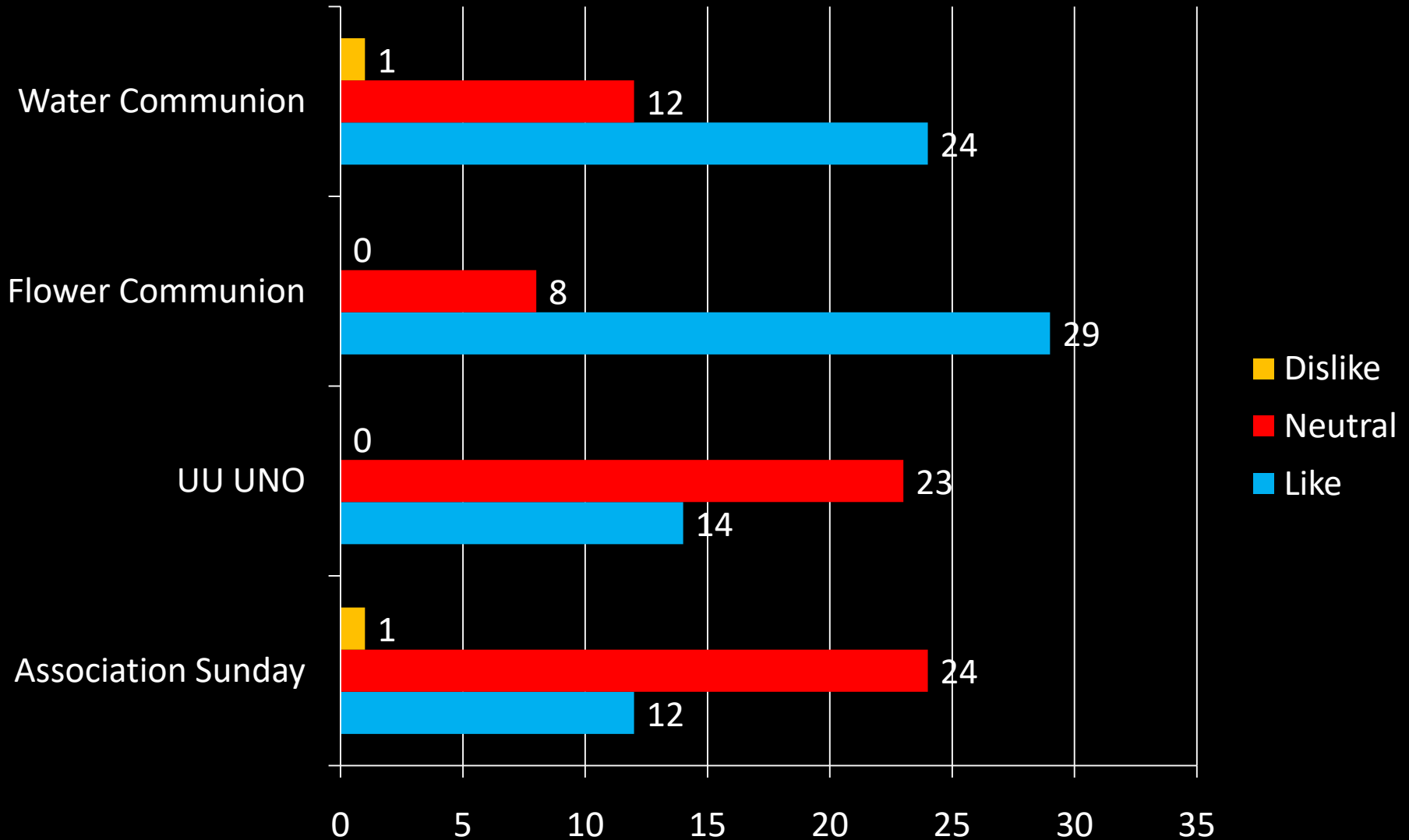
- Greeting can and does easily happen before and after service. It seems silly during service. It doesn't help me meet people. It's just this awkward thing I'm forced to do. Lectures should never be one-way; some expert comes in and fills our feeble minds with wisdom while we sit in reverential silence. We should ALWAYS be allowed to dialogue.
- I think all those involved in producing each service are miracle workers! It's a difficult and constant job.
- The greeting others feels awkward, but I do feel it helps break the ice for new visitors.
- I get something out of each service I attend. Good stuff.
- I think the current program is fine

# Rituals & Special Celebrations – pg 1

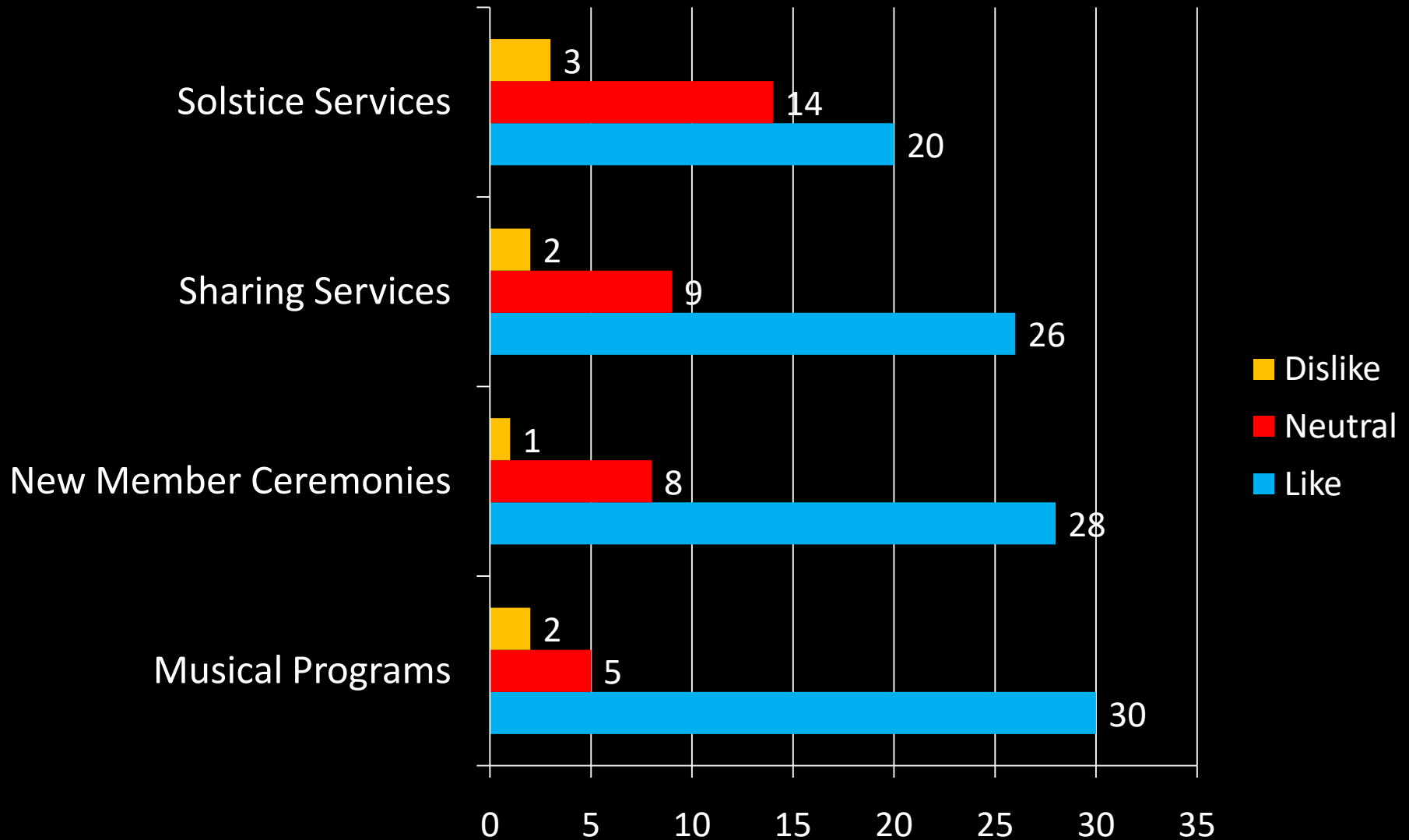




# Rituals & Special Celebrations – pg 2



# Rituals & Special Celebrations – pg 3

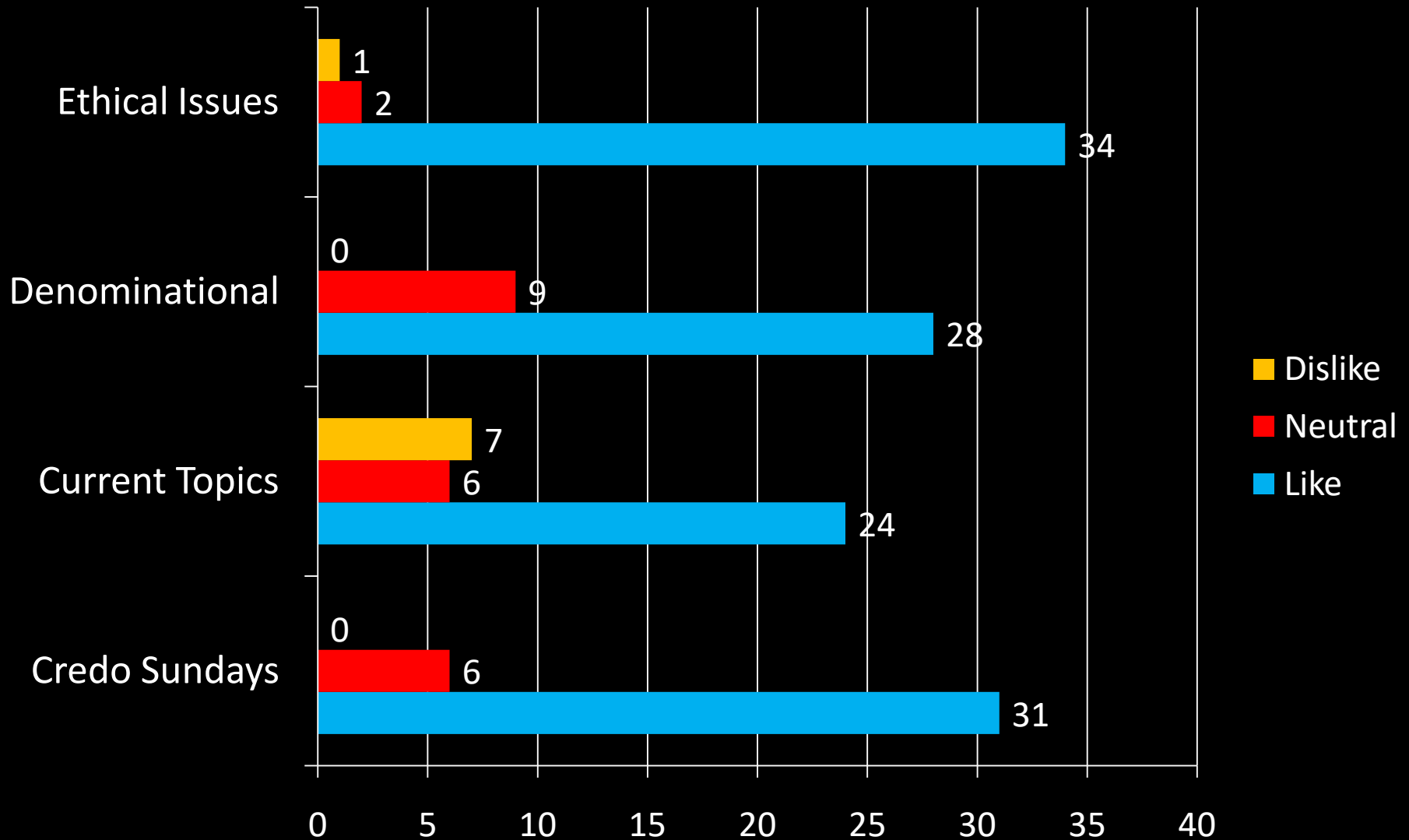


# Rituals & Special Celebrations

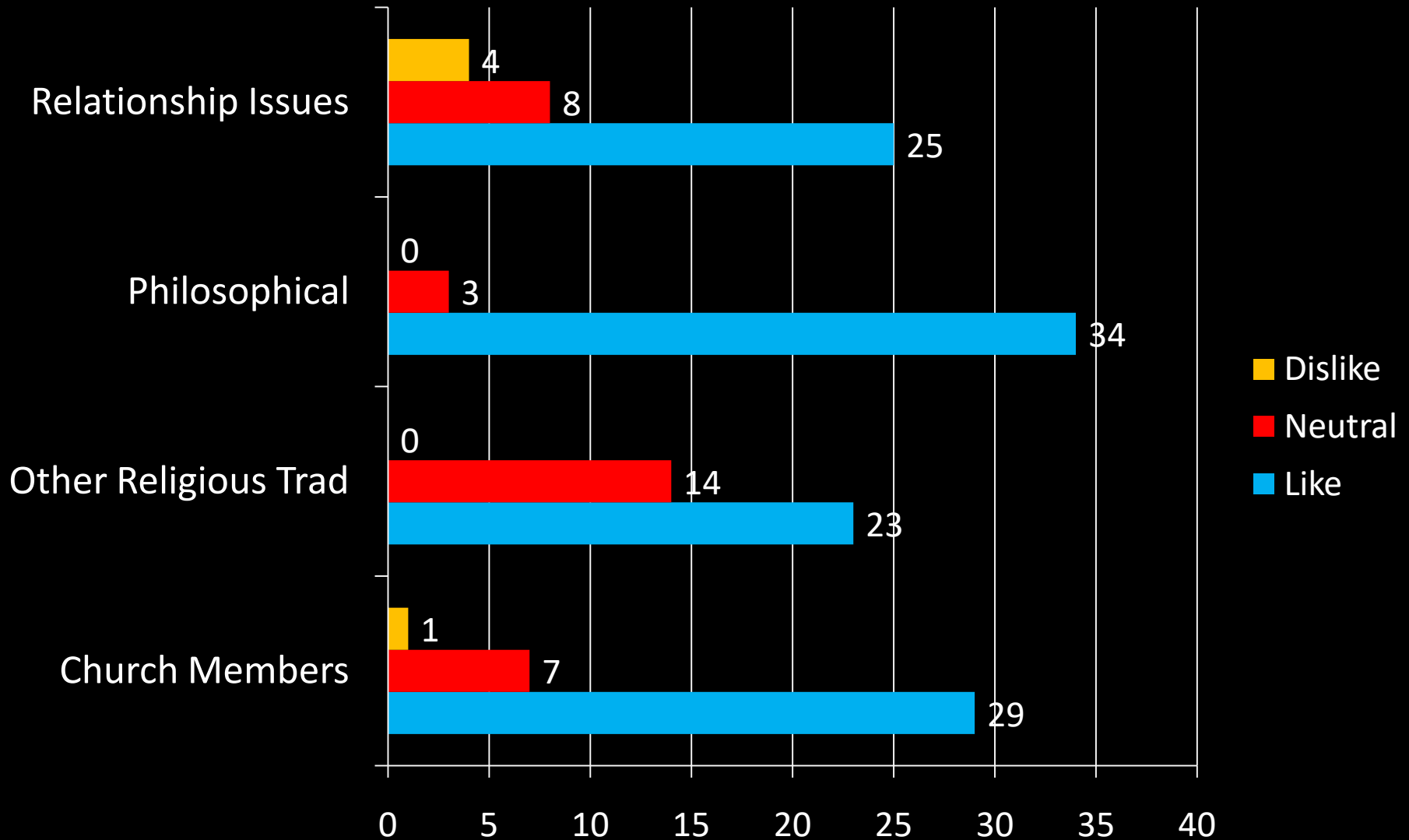
## Comments

- I like to be in concert with what UUA is doing
- I put neutral on ones I am unfamiliar with.
- I do not know enough about the UU functions.
- I would like to see at least one pagan service if not two in a year
- Haven't witnessed many of these

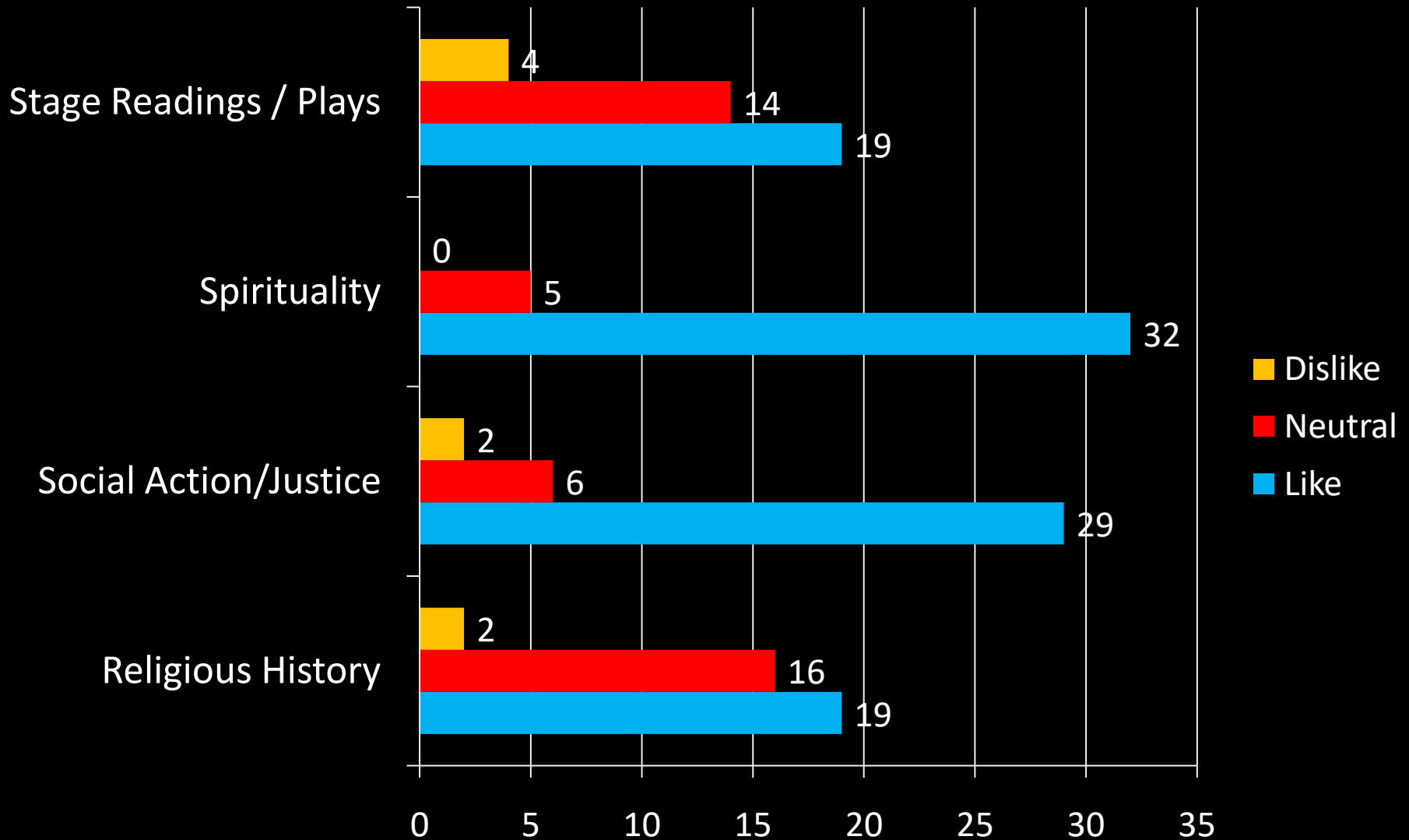
# Sermons / Remarks Topics – pg 1



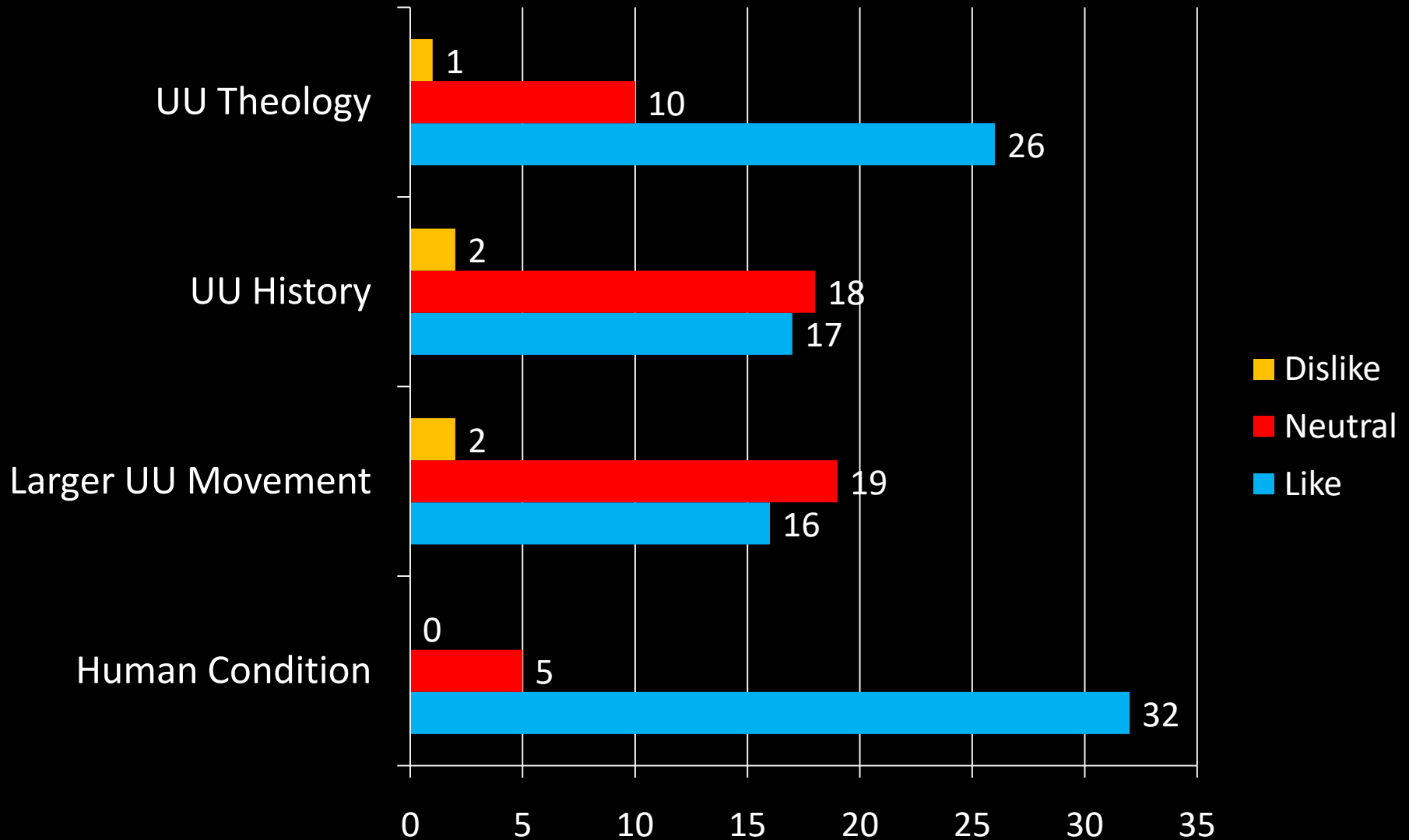
# Sermons / Remarks Topics – pg 2



# Sermons / Remarks Topics – pg 3



# Sermons / Remarks Topics – pg 4



# Other Topics – Comments pg 1

- History of world religions
- Limit delivery by videos
- Social actions and justice are becoming the most important as I (and many others) think we are now experiencing aspects of social and environmental collapse. We shouldn't just sit back and be yet another example of mass apathy and the flight from moral responsibility. We can't treat important issues as simply a form of Sunday entertainment.



# Other Topics – Comments pg 2

\* Congregational Justice  
Programs

Disability & Accessibility

Economic Justice

Environmental Justice

Immigration

International Justice

LGBTQ Welcome &  
Equality

Multicultural Leadership

& Inclusion

Racial Justice

Religious & Civil Liberties

Reproductive Justice

Pagan holidays

theme based months

all the holidays listed

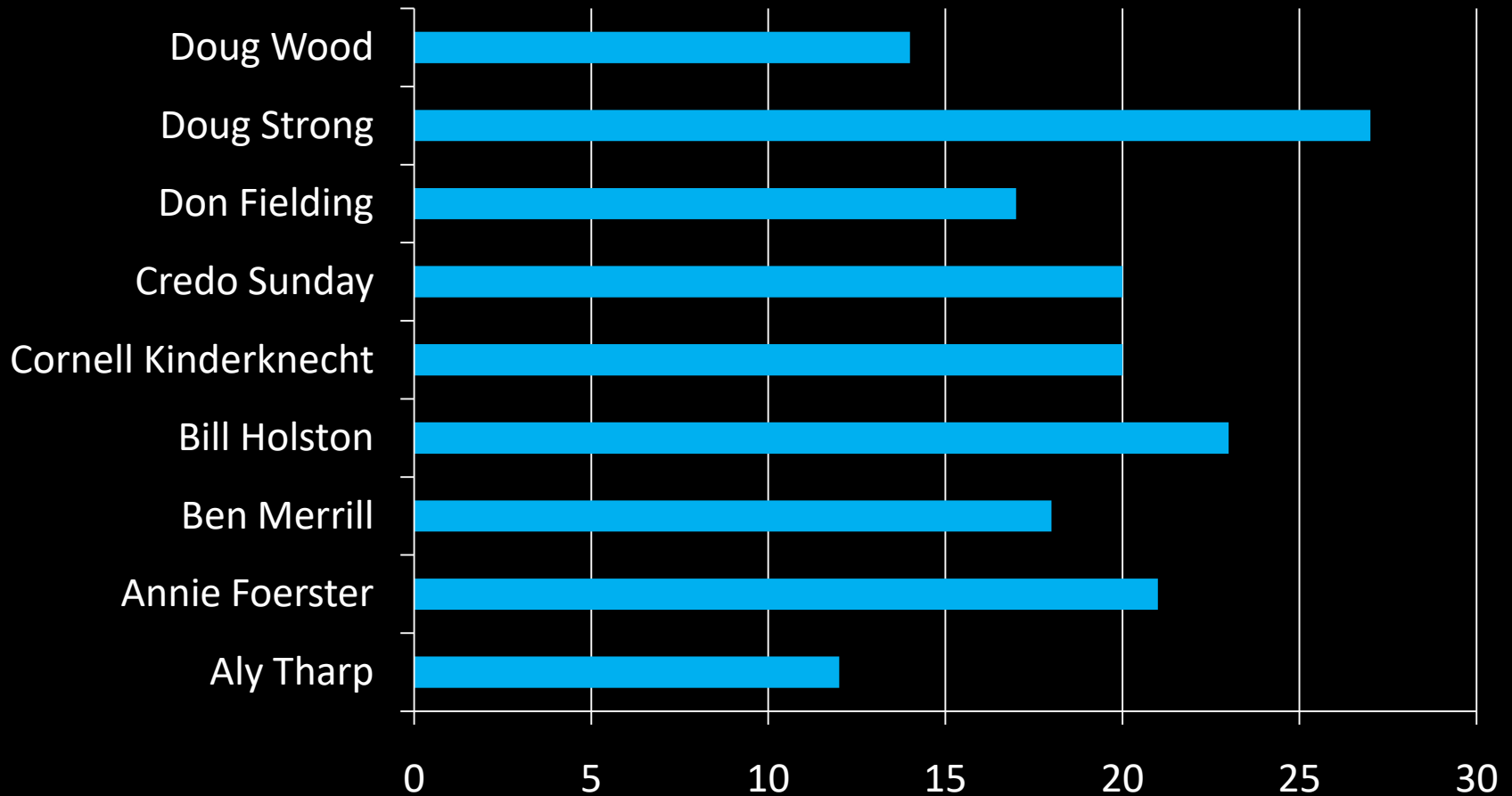
<https://www.uua.org/worship/holidays>

(this was one comment)

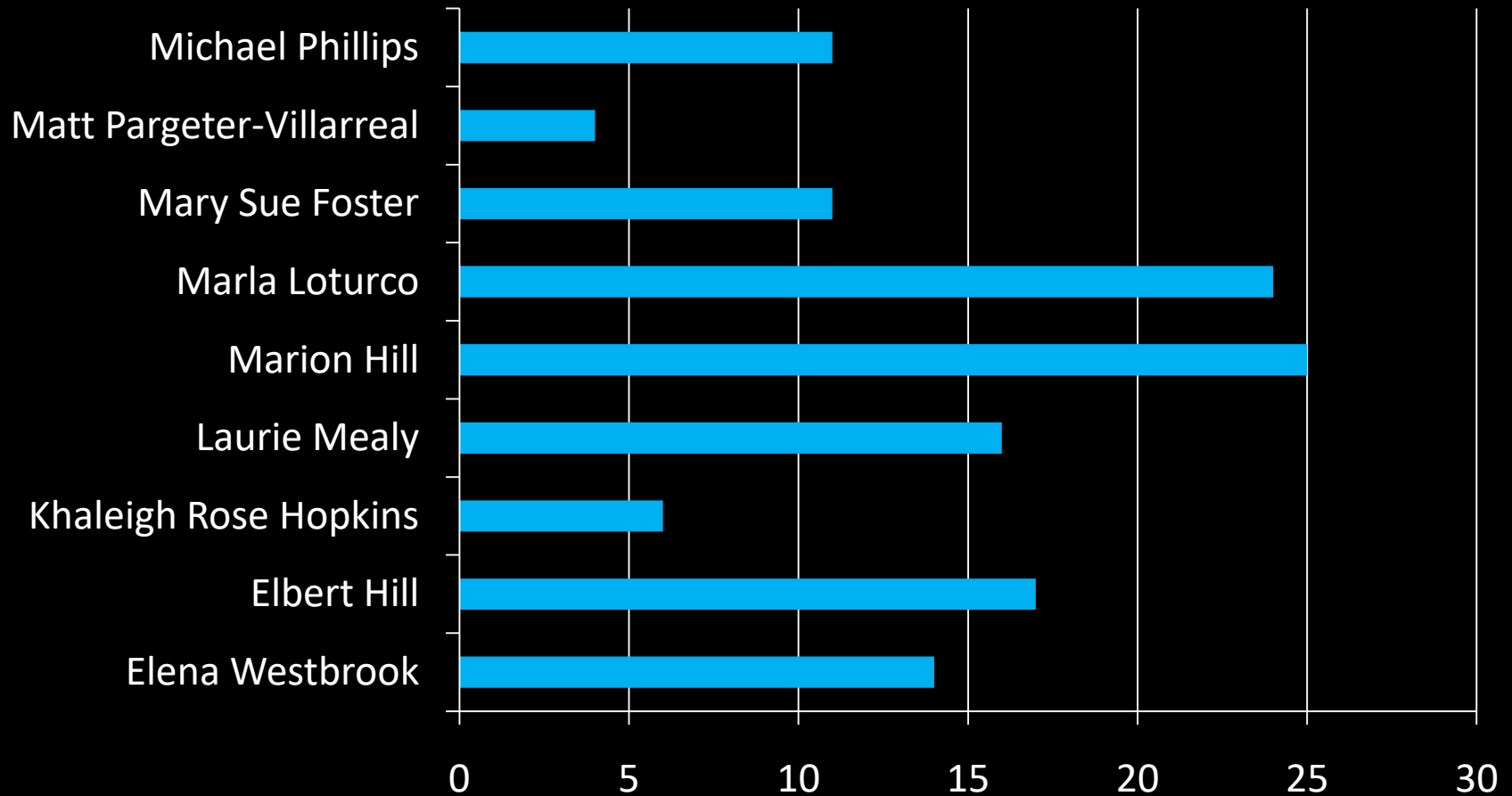
# Other Topics – Comments pg 3

- Not everyone is open to allowing others to have opinions different from themselves, which is an all-too-common human trait, so I cannot think what more can be done.
- I like to see a workshop designed to help people in the church who would like to speak, know how to develop a 20 minute service
- I think the above covers the waterfront. However, I would support and participate in the idea being discussed of allowing 3 designated regular sermon attendees to be licensed to be secretly armed with handguns in case of deadly force invading the sanctuary. I do realize this is controversial.

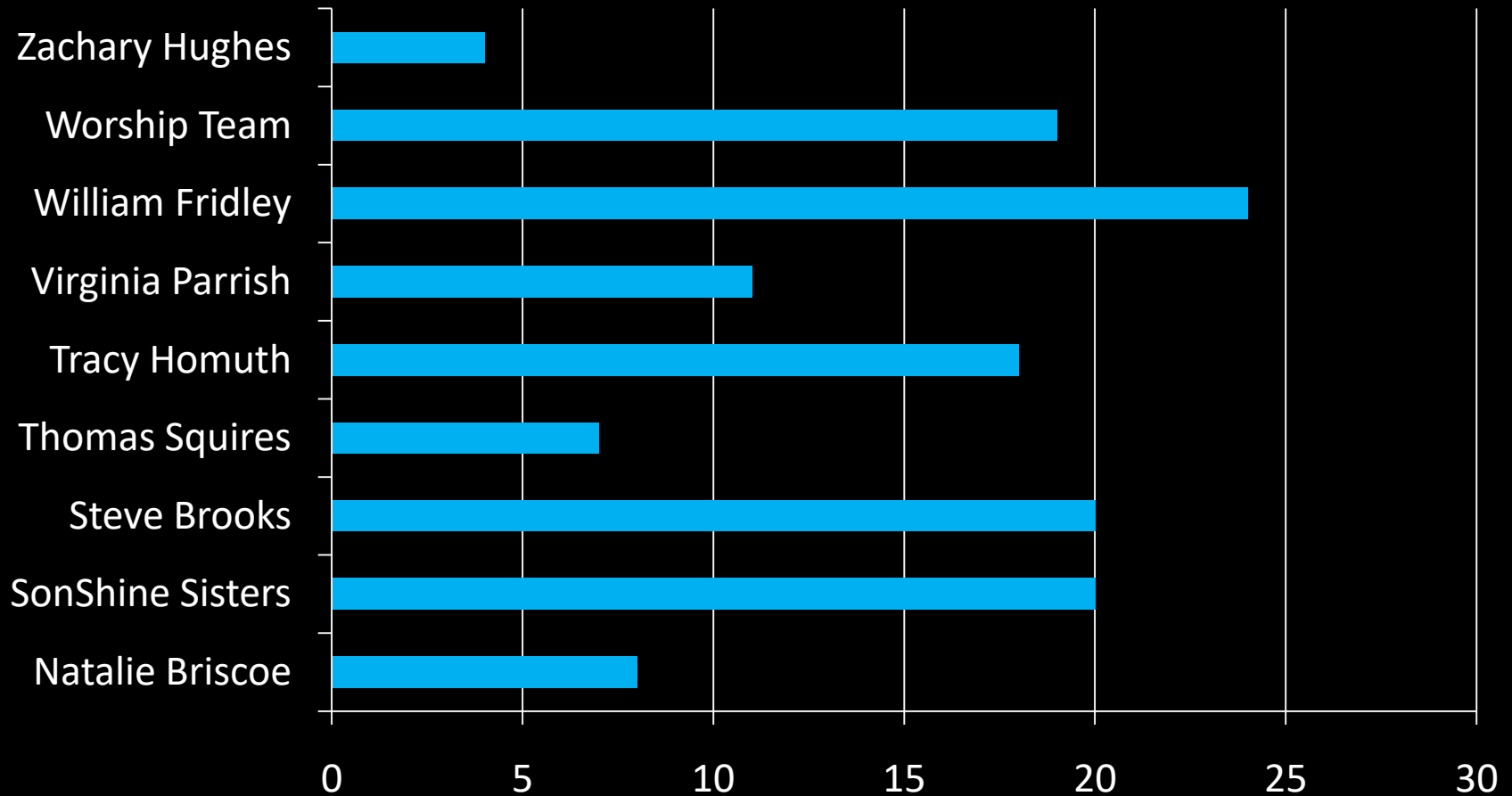
# Guest Speakers (Lay & Ministers) pg 1



# Guest Speakers (Lay & Ministers) pg 2



# Guest Speakers (Lay & Ministers) pg 3



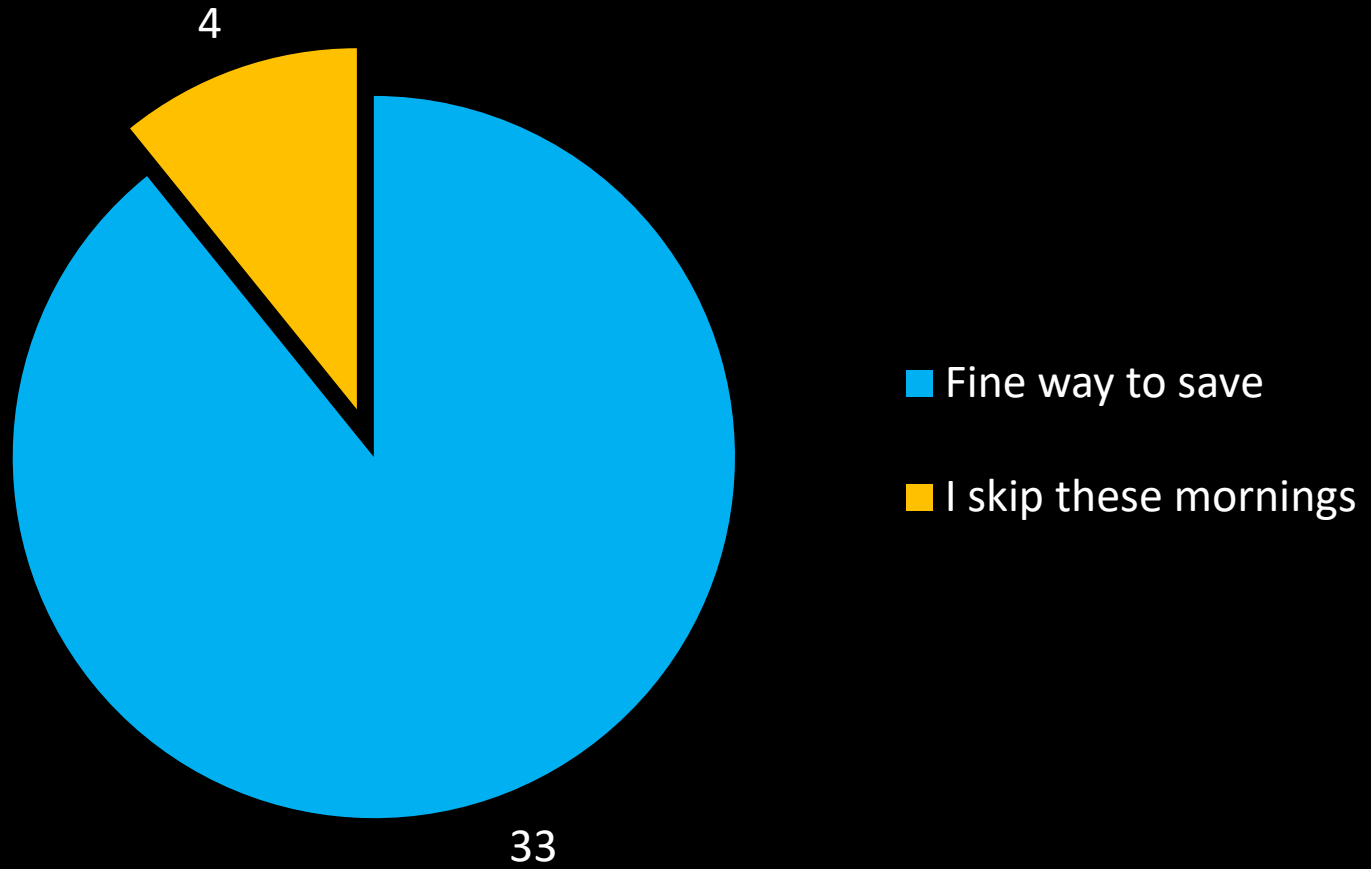
# Speakers – Comments – pg 1

- Leonard Cohen was good, Steve Brooks with other topics, not so much.
- Can't come up with anyone right now but given an opportunity & avenue for suggestions—maybe.
- sara Taylor on her recent Facebook oppression [https://www.facebook.com/Sara.JT2?fref=gs&dti=633225546746576&hc\\_location=group](https://www.facebook.com/Sara.JT2?fref=gs&dti=633225546746576&hc_location=group)
- Rene Adelle on her recent development in yoga <https://www.facebook.com/renee.countryman>.
- Dan Pucell on Grayson Democrat Party and Indivisible <https://www.facebook.com/dan.pucul>

# Speakers – Comments – pg 2

- Activists and organizers.
- I have not heard all those listed above, so I didn't mark them. I do not know of speakers because Red River is the first place I've attended in over 45 years.
- I leave this to brighter bulbs
- Mostly can't remember. Check out what other UU speakers do, ie. Bend, Oregon

# Videos





# Videos – Comments – pg 1

- If I was in a block of time when I was coming regularly, I'd probably come for videos.
- We have such rich resources among us. I think videos are a lack of inspiration/imagination.
- I like how videos are being used. Yes, we do have technical difficulties rather frequently, but I see that as more like a case of hiccups than as a major issue for the health of service.
- I used to skip the videos, thinking they were a poor excuse for a speaker. After I tried a couple - I was wrong. The videos seem to be chosen carefully and I've liked every one I've seen.

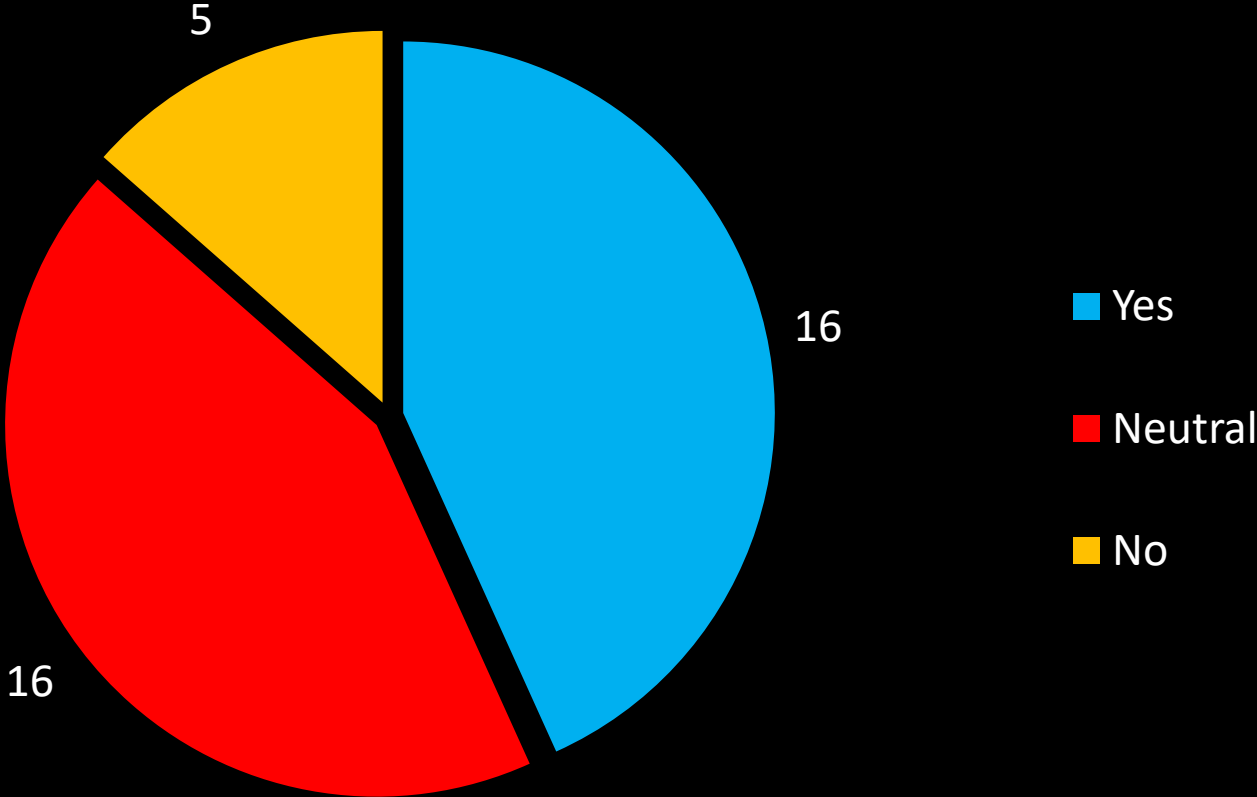
# Videos – Comments – pg 2

- Maybe always have talk backs or facilitated discussions after these? or do we already (new to church)
- A lot more could be done on accessing the collective wisdom of the congregation. Speakers should initiate a dialogue on what people already know and think.
- I think these are a great way to have exposure to great outside speakers without the cost. I often enjoy these a lot.
- Most of the videos are good

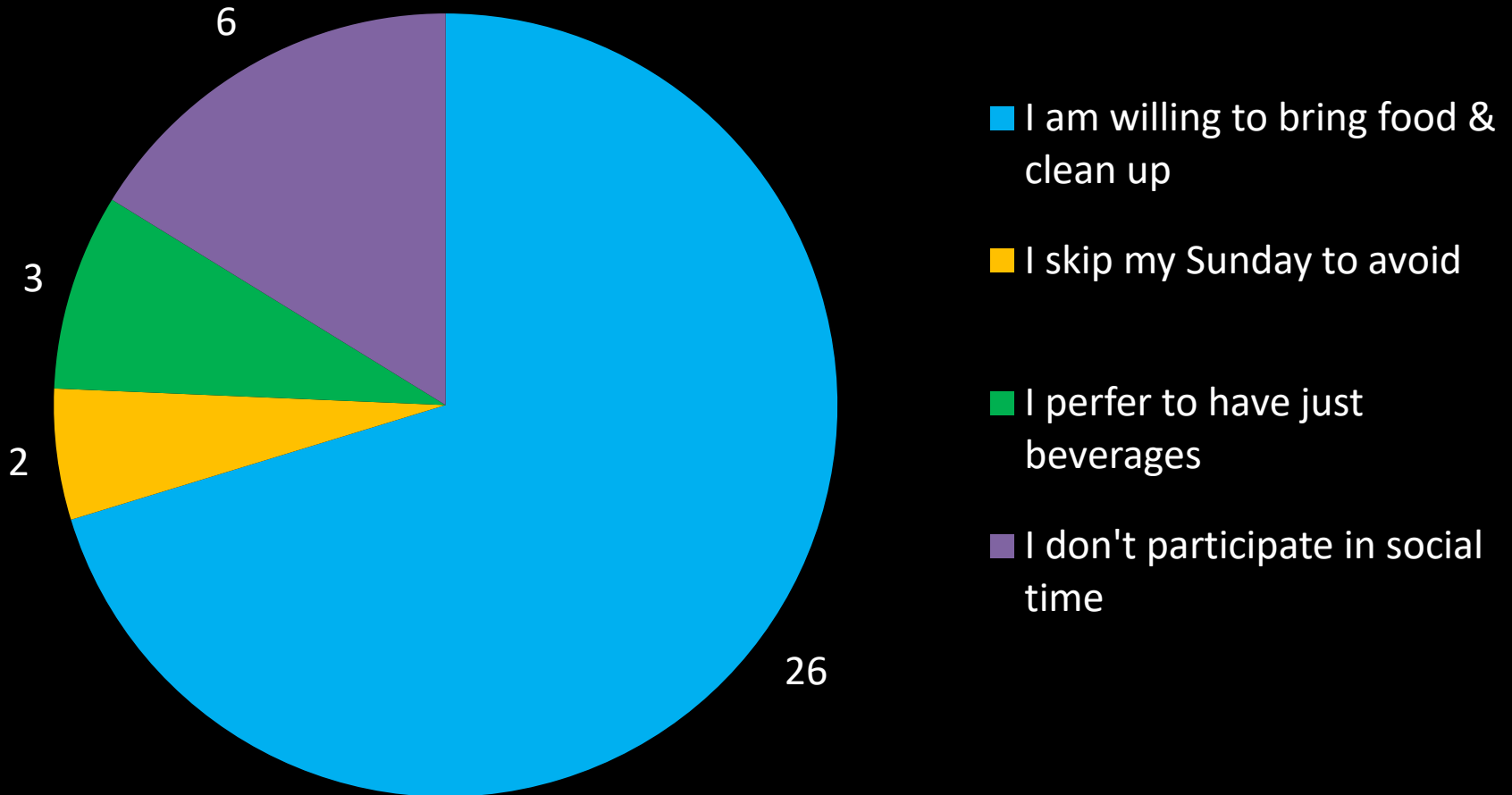
# Videos – Comments – pg 3

- The video selections are excellent. I haven't been disappointed.
- Video sermons - YES! We get to hear quality Unitarian ministers speak, something churches with a minister can't do. Videos lets us be more connected to the denomination.
- Videos have been informative, inspiring.
- Live speakers are quite a bit better but videos are a good substitute
- Video speakers tend to be wonderful messages.

# Open Dialogue – After Service



# Conversations & Calories



# Conversations & Calories –

## Comments – pg 1

- Something simple, beverages & cookies, cheese & crackers (12 kinds isn't necessary), grapes, etc. (not a giant fruit plate)
- Seems to be a feast or famine situation during the course of the month.
- Actually, I do participate as much as I can. I bring food soooo many times each year. I just don't stay to eat it.
- I'm vegan, so it just gets too hard to do.
- Sometimes I can't come on the Sunday I am supposed to come.

# Conversations & Calories –

## Comments – pg 2

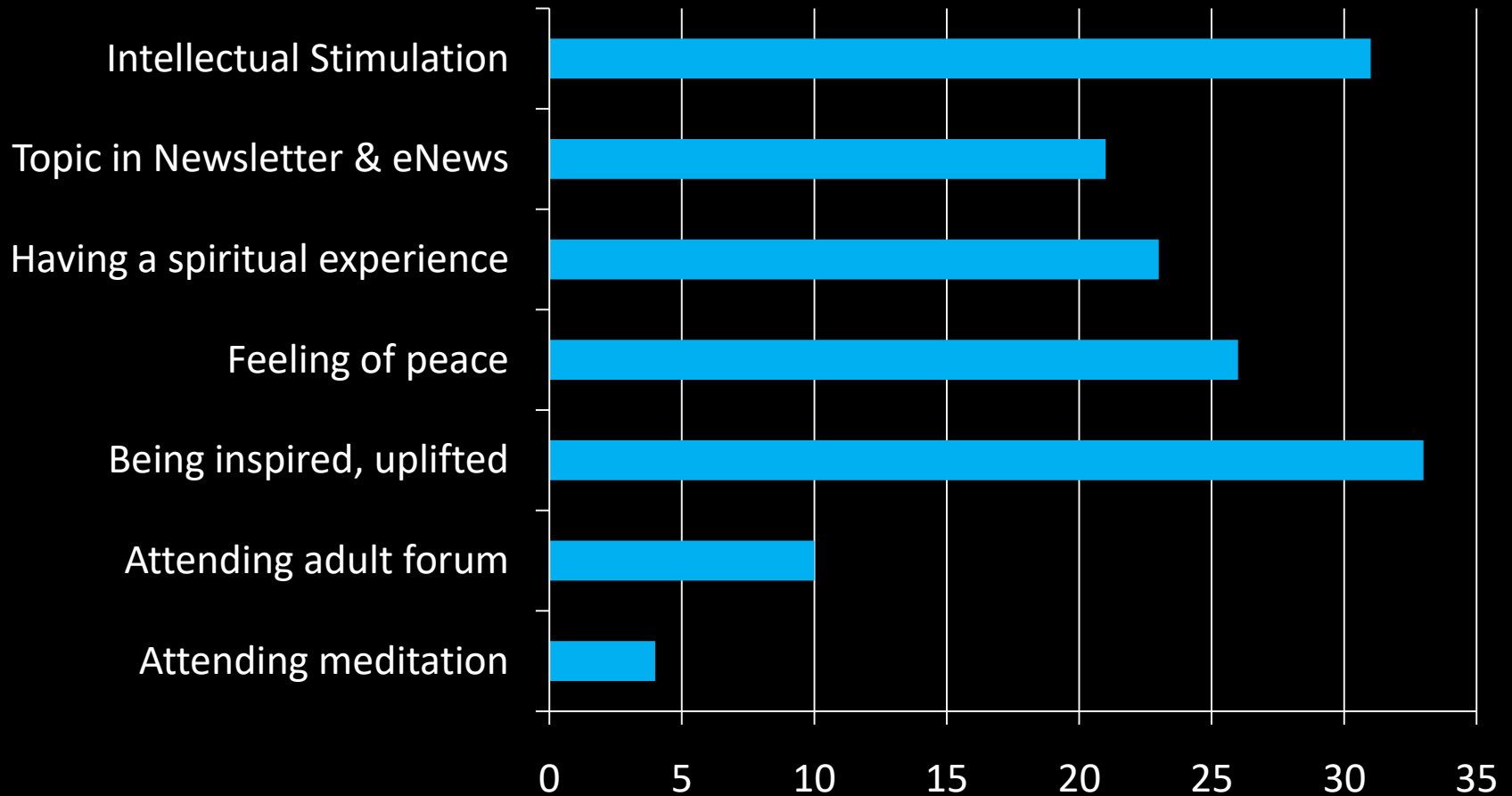
- I do think there should be reevaluation based on actual participation as opposed to the number of members and friends by place in the alphabet.
- I think coffee hour is an important way for people to get to know each other. OK, I like the food but can go without, if that is the will of everyone. If people are burnt out, maybe in those months we have the last Sunday potluck we could drop food the other 4 Sundays??
- I think morning food is important to most of the members.

# People to Contact if you said YES

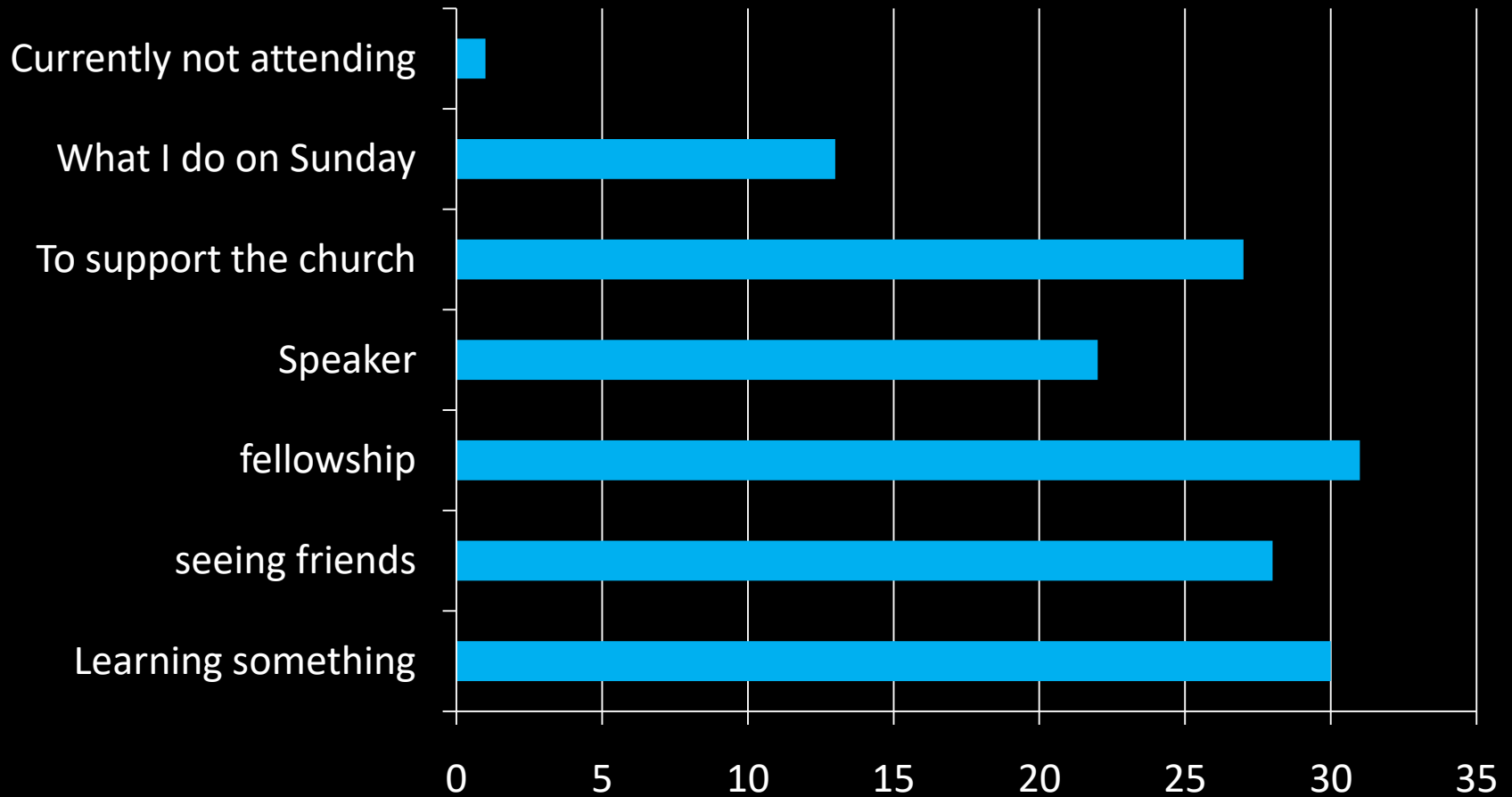
- Greeters – 14 yes – Linda Tracy
- Audio Visual – 4 yes – Marla Loturco
- Worship Associates – 7 yes –  
Robert Shelton
- Worship Team – 7 yes – Doug Strong
- Video Scouting – 5 yes – Marla Loturco



# Why you come – pg 1



# Why you come – pg 2



# Why you come – Comments – pg 1

- My main reasons are to learn something & to see people.
- Support my friends; meet new & interesting individuals; examine my faith; Extra curricular activities (Book Club-Moveable Feast)
- Fellowship is the most important to me.
- to be part of the liberal presence here in Texas
- To find a local left-leaning tribe I can relate to.

# Why you come – Comments – pg 2

- There is work to do and I feel needed.
- I don't always feel a spiritual connection and wish I did more frequently
- UU has the best program
- Husband comes so I come although I still don't feel completely "at home"

# Why you don't come - Comments

- Too much emphasis on food & cleaning. Politics isn't appropriate. There's enough stress as it is, without adding Sunday morning.
- I'm still settling in here
- I don't come often because it has become a time to spend with my spouse (a non member ) and adult children.
- With the emboldenment of hate groups and their violence, I do not feel safe during the service.
- I work almost every Sunday of the year.

# Anything Else to Share – pg 1

- Would like more spirituality could be another night
- Very concerned when members are absent a lot and there is no feedback. I understand respecting someone's privacy but don't want a member thinking RRUU doesn't care or relying on "word of mouth" as to someone's well being.
- Sunday mornings at RRUU occur for me as a surprise present that is just what I wanted for my birthday.

# Anything Else to Share – pg 2

- I discovered the church as part of my spiritual journey and strive to help others as essential to my development. I hope to learn more through my UU Membership.
- Moved here a year ago and was amazed to find such rad people! Love it!
- Why do we have the congregation walk over to the table twice? (light candle, offering) instead of "stand in body or spirit" I prefer "You may stand" could we have a quick hymn practice right before service starts? could we gong the chime at the end so it feels bookended?

# Anything Else to Share – pg 3

- Friendly place to enjoy like-minded friends who are diverse.
- I applaud the tremendous effort of all those involved in providing the services.
- Support and companionship
- Kudos for doing this survey. Looking forward to hearing the results.
- I like coming to RRUU on Sunday mornings
- Usually glad I came