



New Hymnal Research 2007-2008



Survey #6 – Worship, Music, Hymnal Use

Survey #6 was open to all United Methodists and brought the largest number of responses – 11,501. This summary reports on all responses received. Breakdowns by other age categories are available in the complete statistics elsewhere on this website.

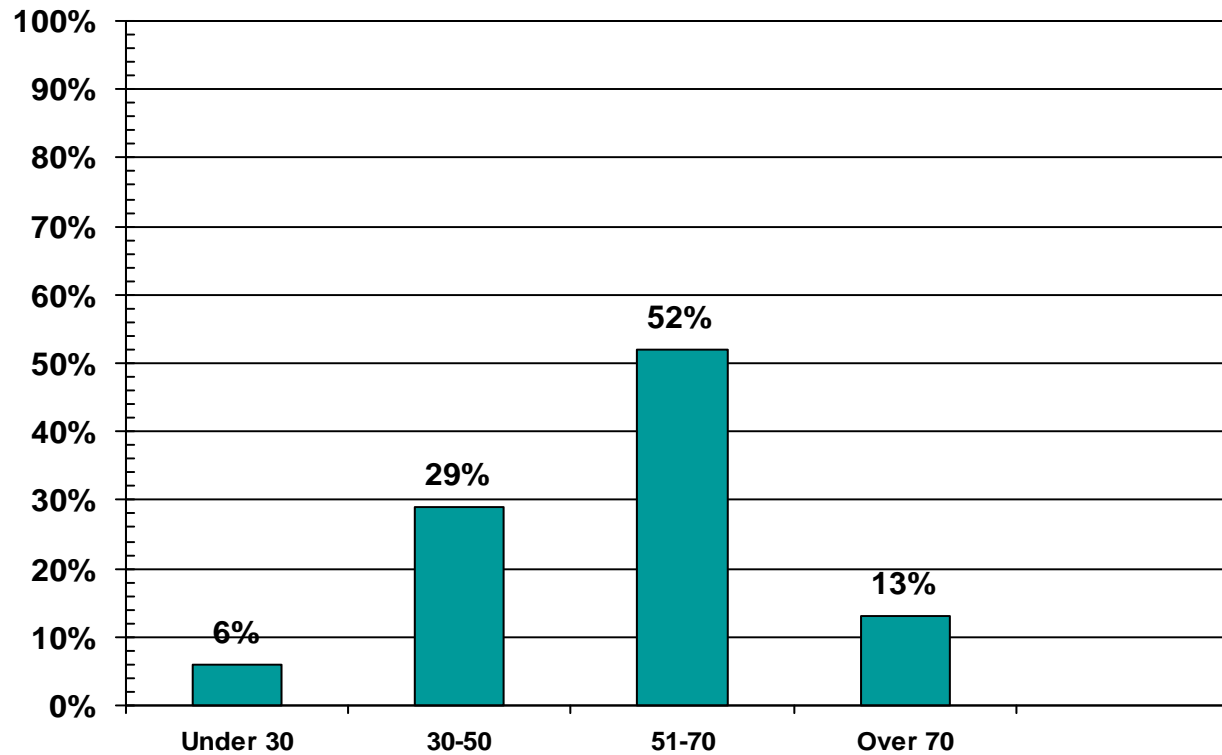
The survey presented a series of 36 statements related to one's experience or preference in congregational worship, congregational singing and music, and use of *The United Methodist Hymnal* (1989). Participants registered their response to each statement with a numerical range of 1-5 as possible responses, with 1 being strongest agreement, 5 being strongest disagreement, and 3 being neutral, don't know, or no opinion.

In this summary, each question is reported on a separate page showing the number of responses by bar graphs and percentages of the totals. Percentages may not total 100 because of fractional rounding up or down to the nearest percent.

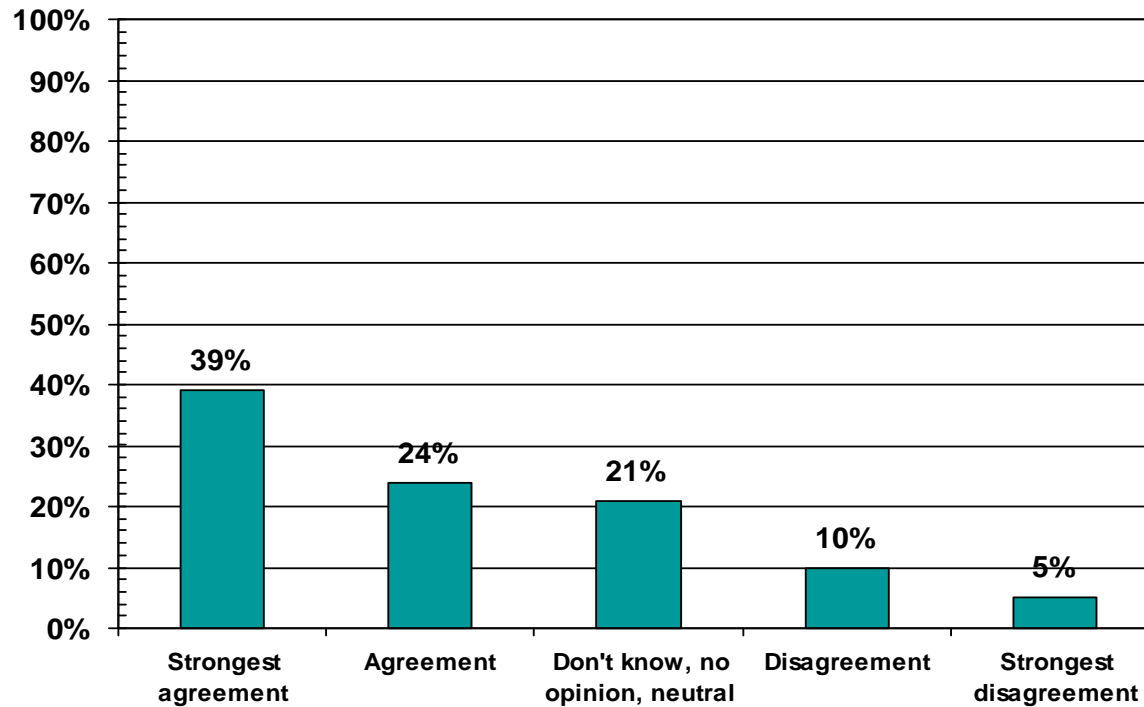
How To Interpret These Graphs

1. Pages showing graphs in a consistently **descending** pattern indicate a strong level of agreement. (ex.: slide #5)
2. Pages showing graphs in a consistently **ascending** pattern indicate a strong level of disagreement. (ex.: slide #7)
3. Pages showing graphs in a **rising then descending** pattern with the highest percentage in the middle graph and the lowest percentages at the edges indicate a high degree of uncertainty and a lack of strong feeling one way or the other. (ex.: slide #47)
4. Pages showing graphs in a fairly **level pattern across the page** indicate a lack of consensus that is not necessarily emotionally divisive. (ex.: slide #4)

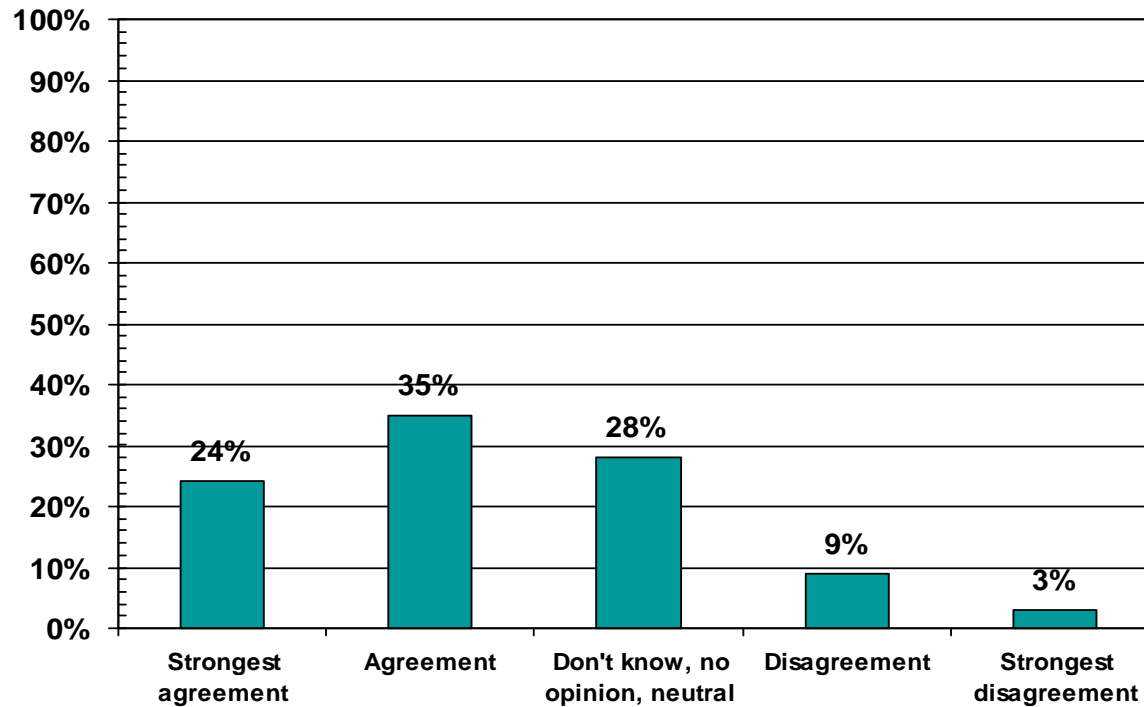
Breakdown of Survey #6 by Age of Respondents:



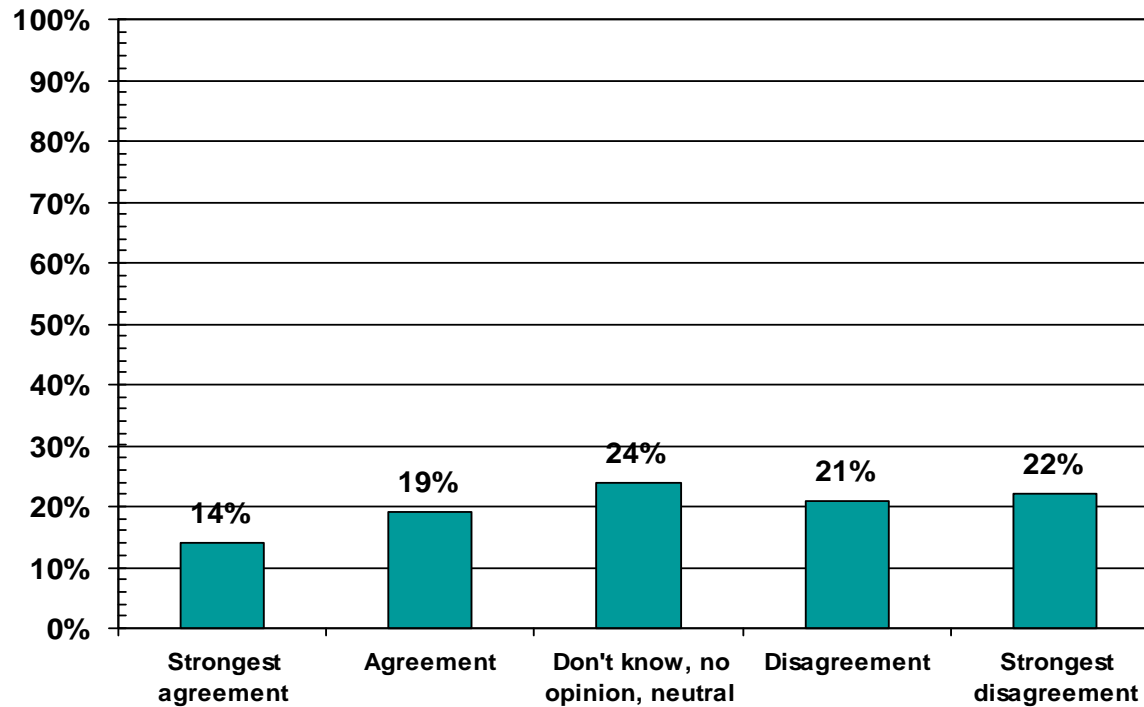
1. I prefer congregational singing to be accompanied by the organ.



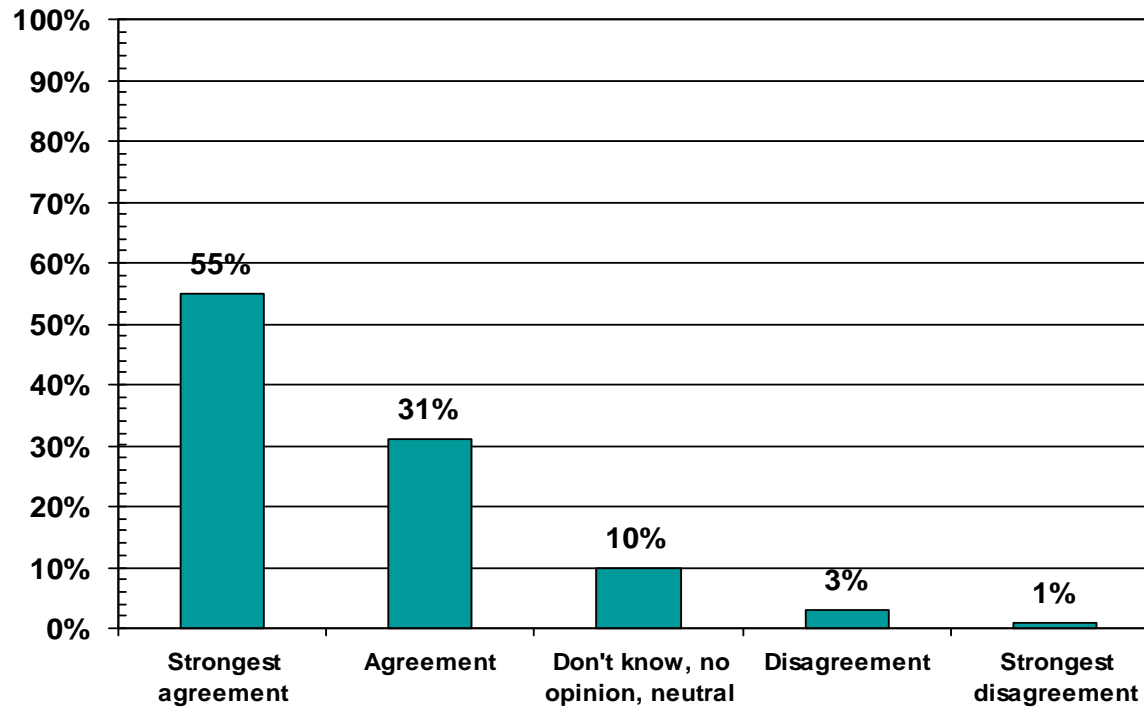
2. I prefer congregational singing to be accompanied by the piano.



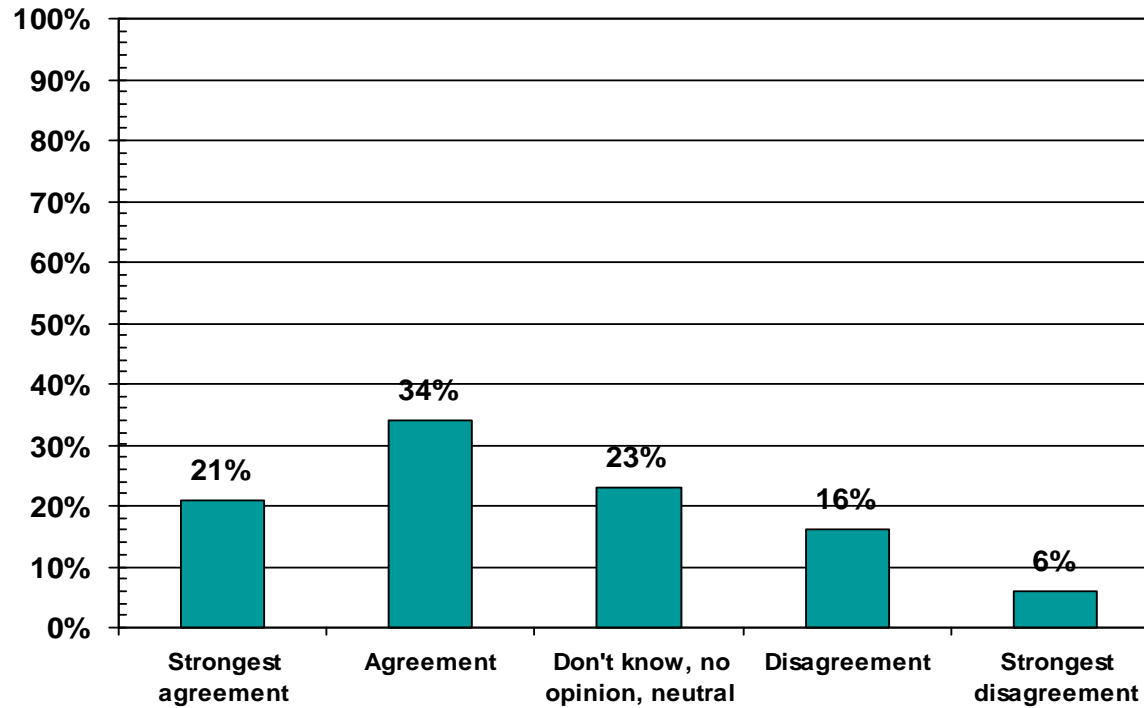
3. I prefer congregational singing to be accompanied by guitars or a praise band.



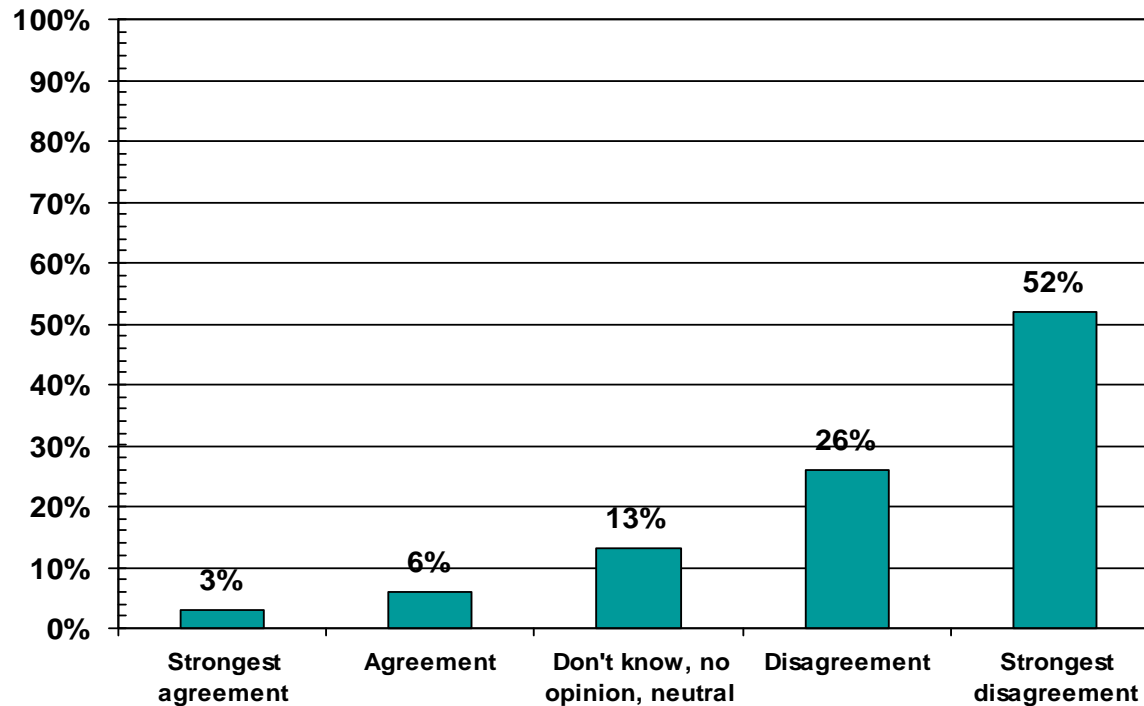
4. I enjoy congregational singing that is strong, vigorous, and upbeat.



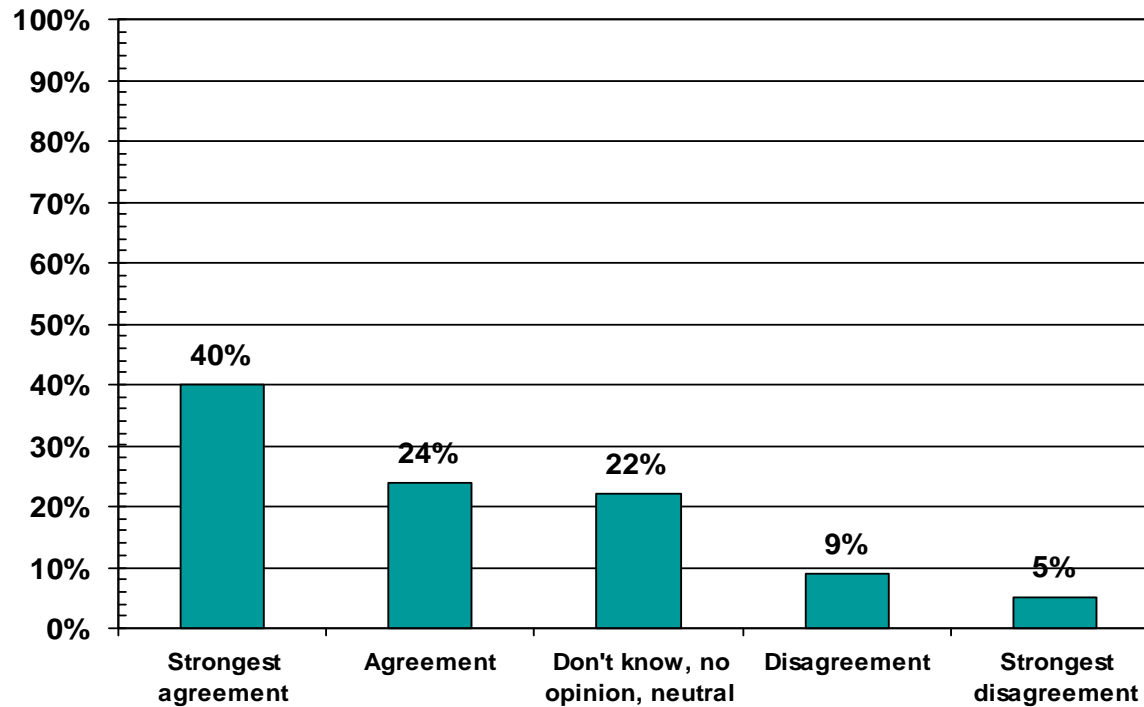
5. I enjoy congregational singing that is quiet, slow tempo, and meditative.



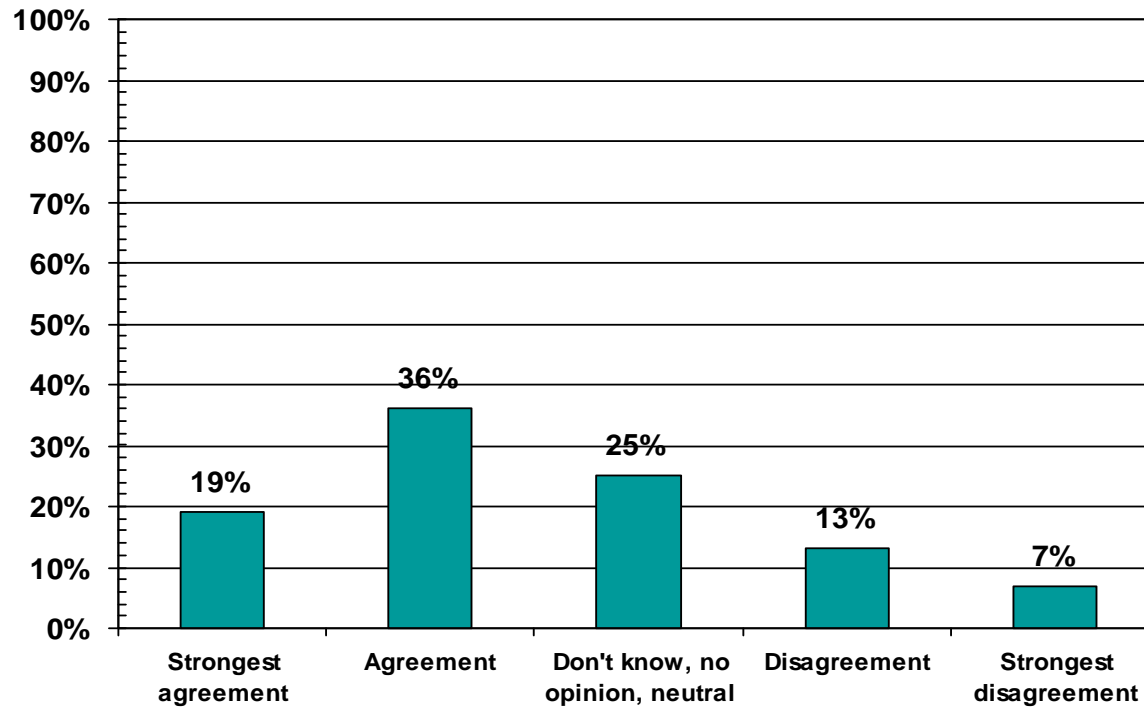
6. I would rather hear the choir or praise team sing the hymns than sing myself.



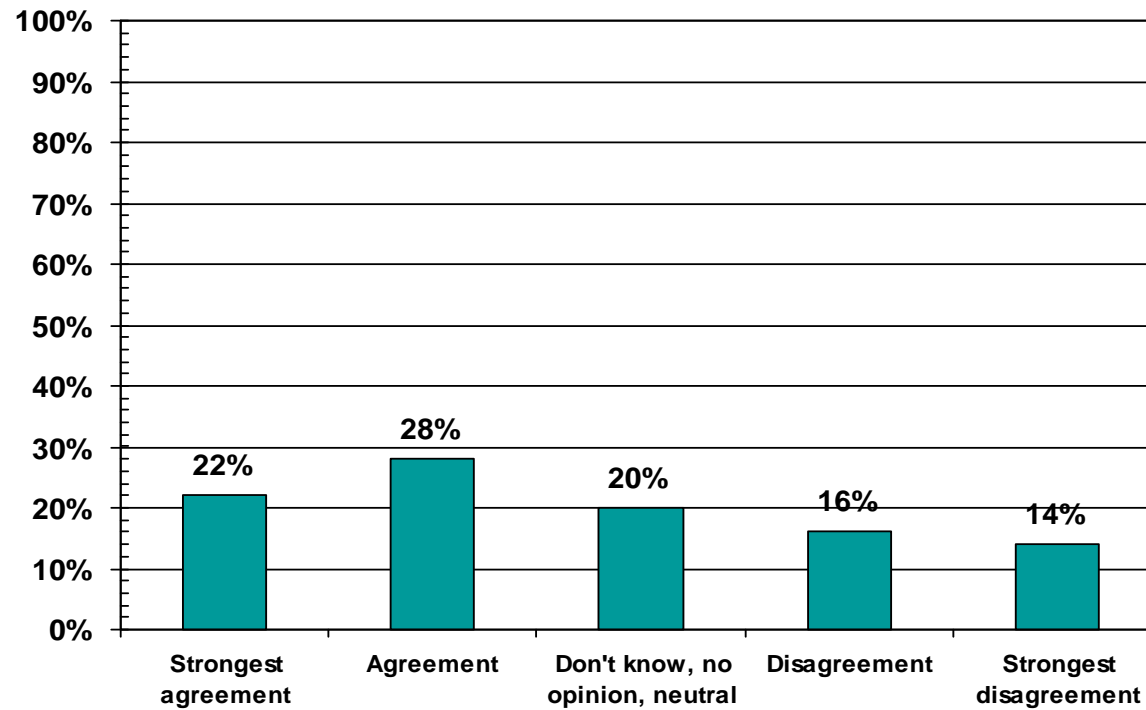
7.a. I wish our hymnal had more traditional hymns.



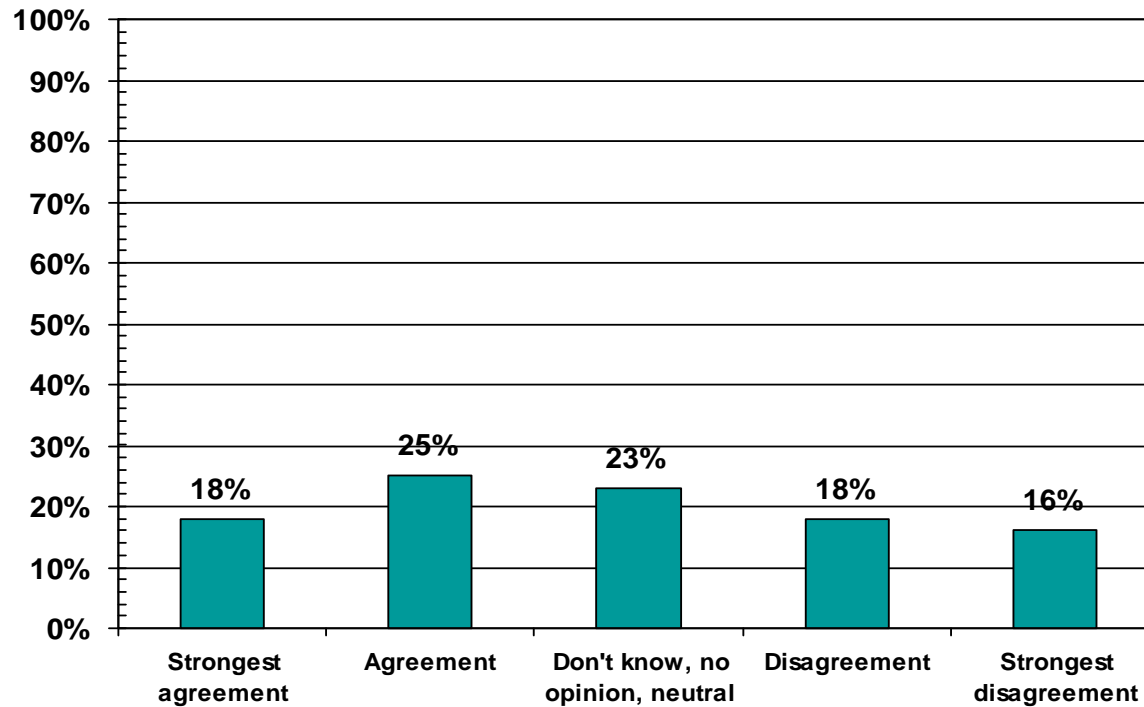
7.b. I wish our hymnal had more new, recently composed hymns.



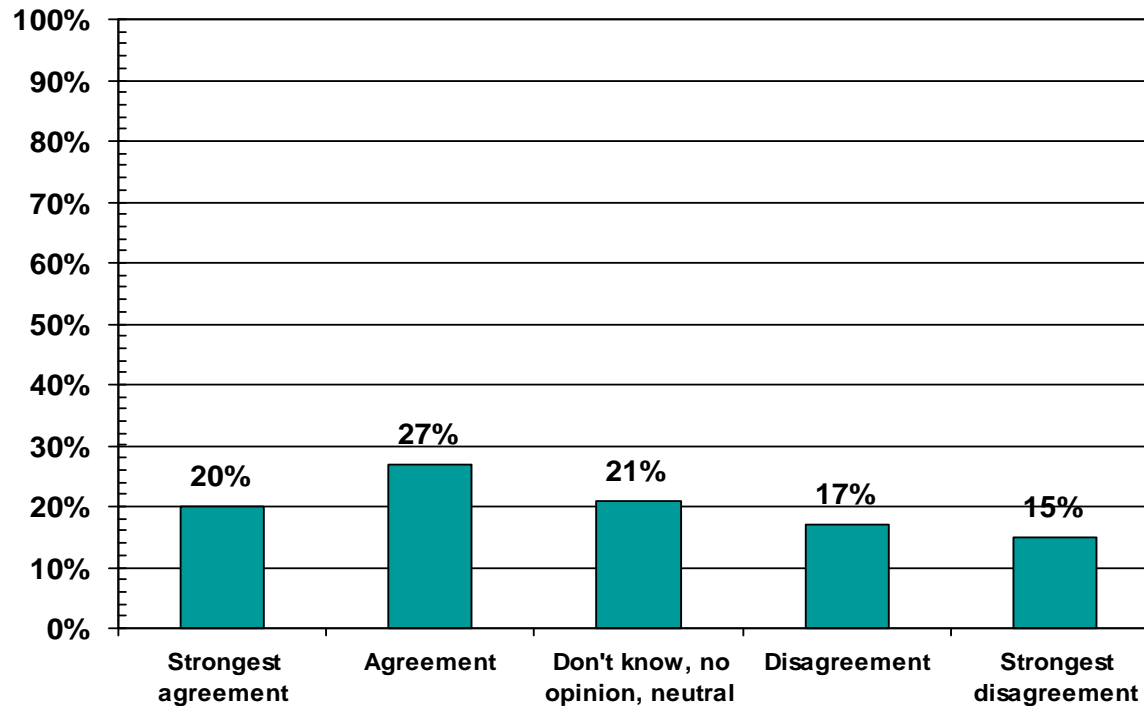
7.c. I wish our hymnal had more praise songs.



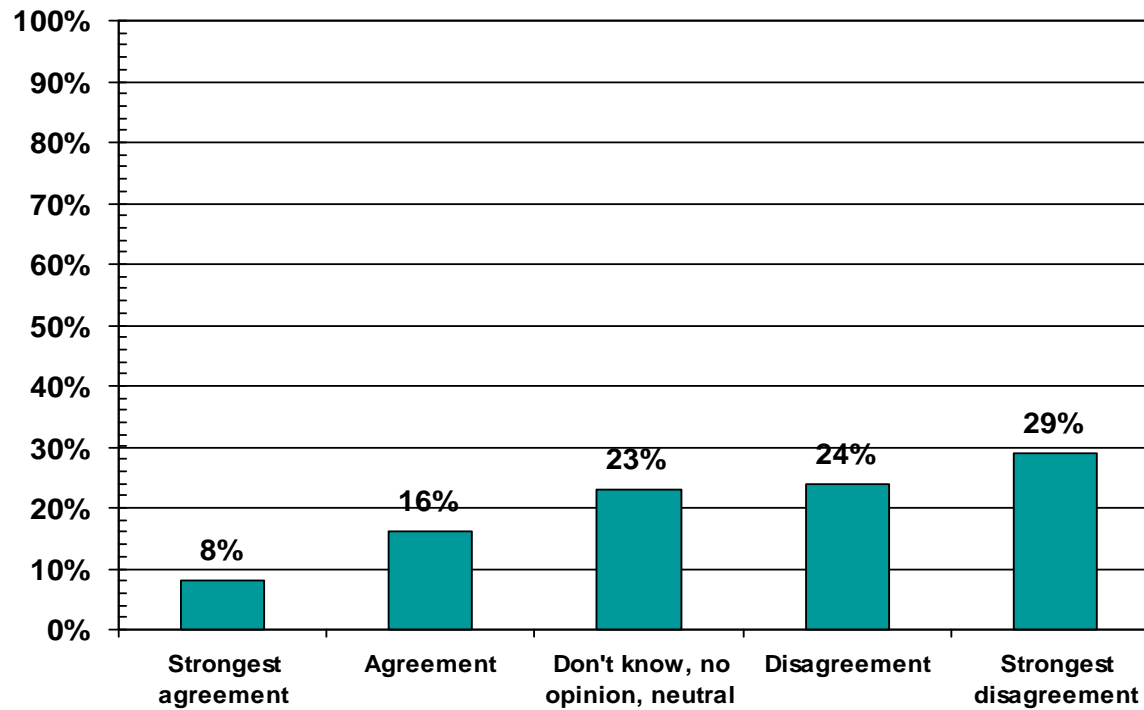
7.d. I wish our hymnal had more praise choruses.



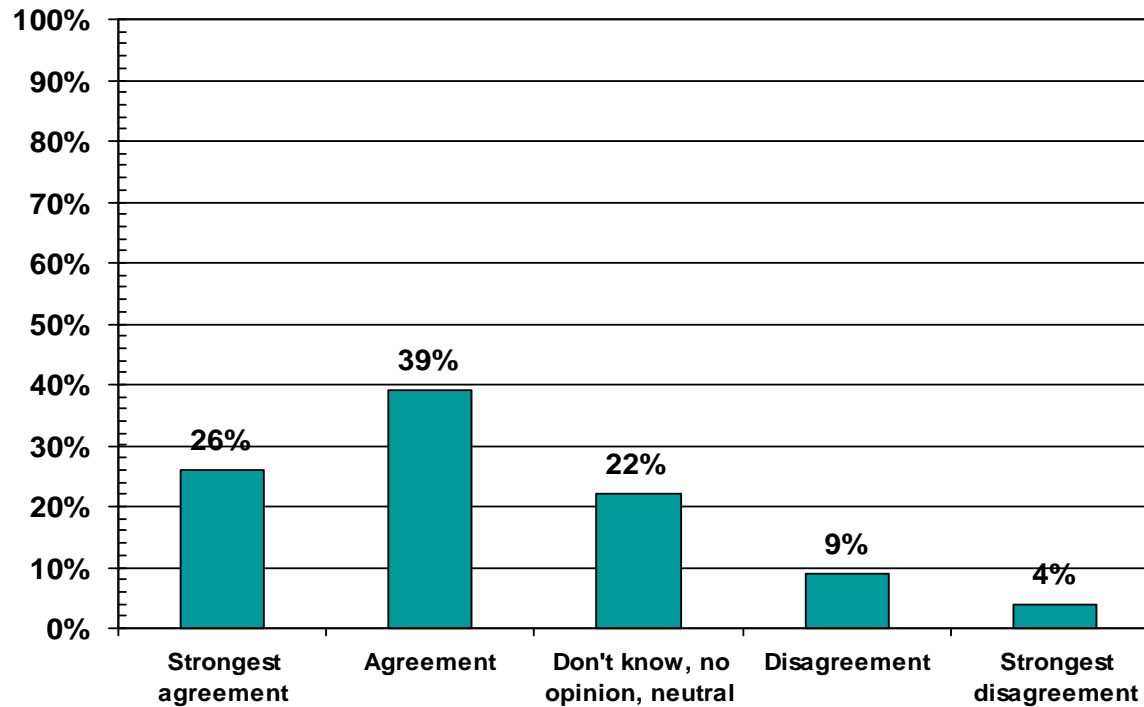
7.e. I wish our hymnal had more contemporary Christian worship songs.



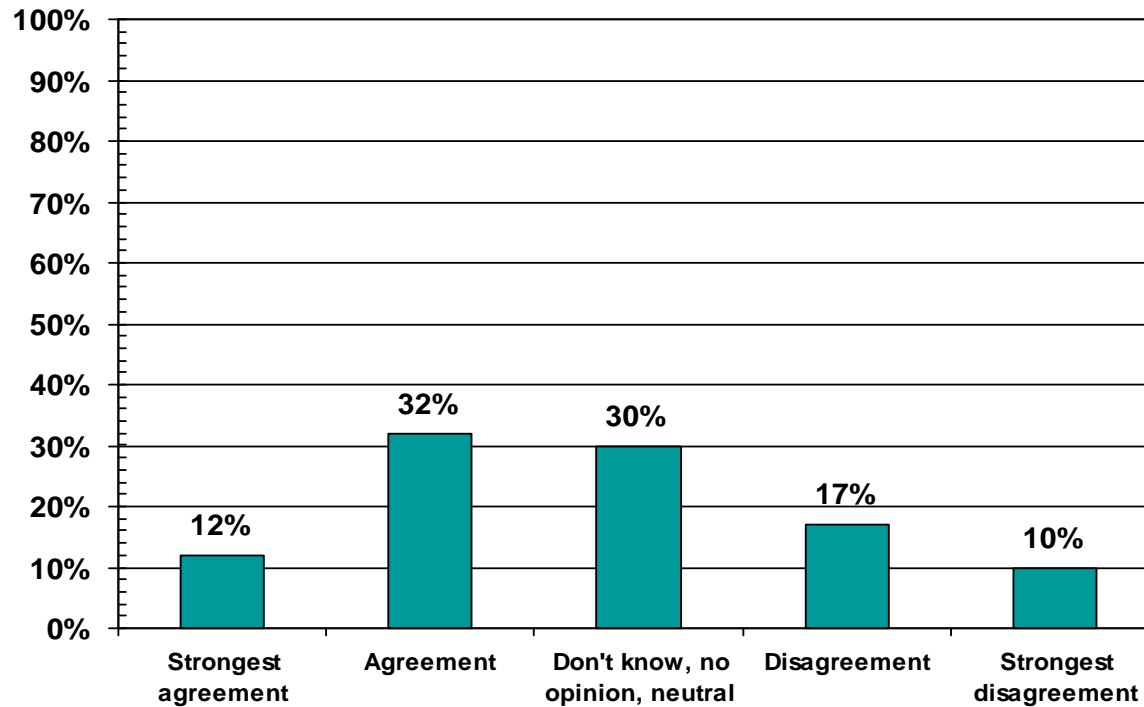
7.f. I wish our hymnal had more chants and refrains, Taize, and other contemplative music.



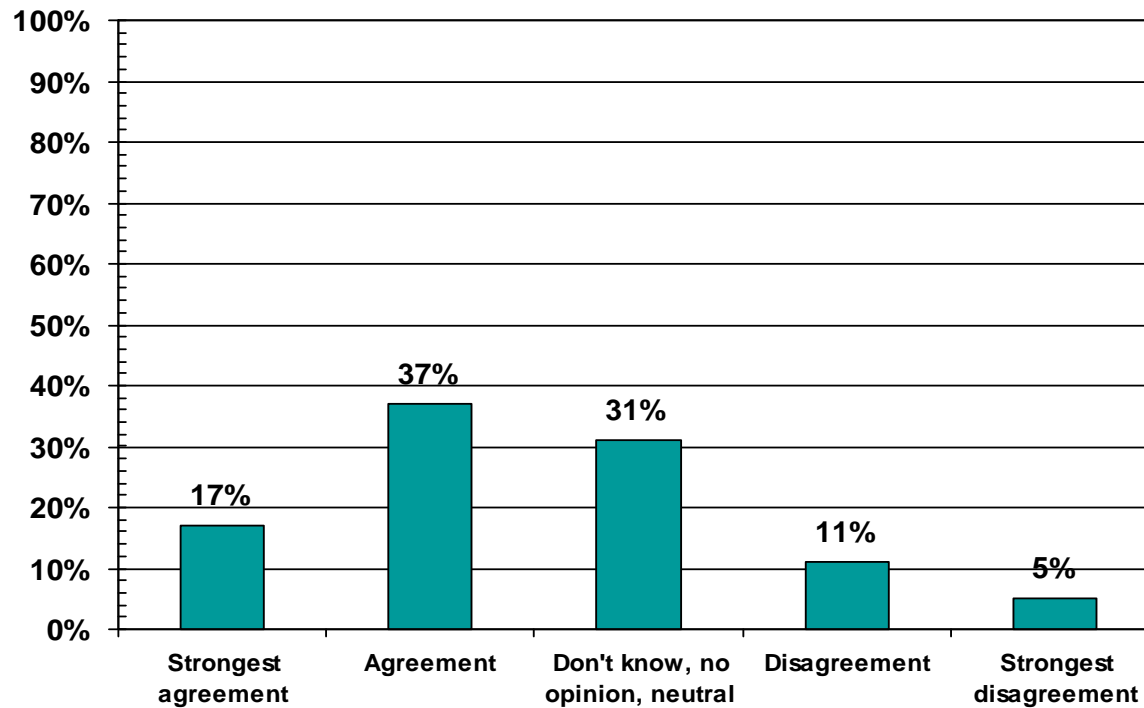
7.g. I wish our hymnal had more traditional gospel songs.



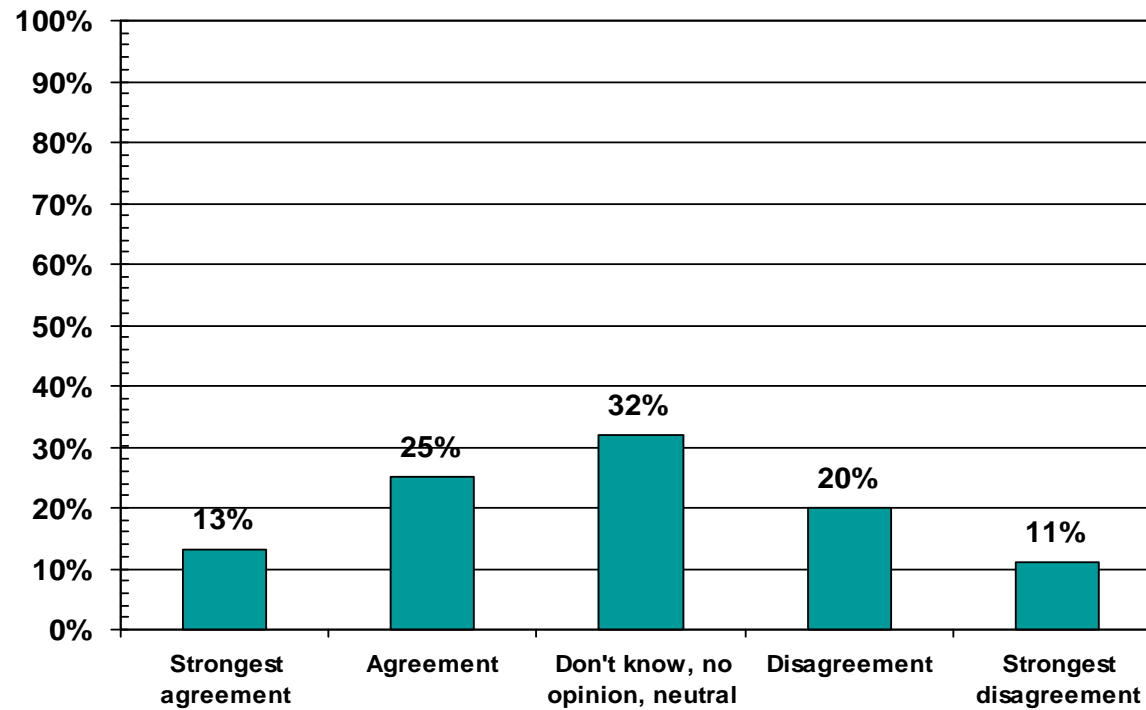
7.h. I wish our hymnal had more contemporary gospel songs.



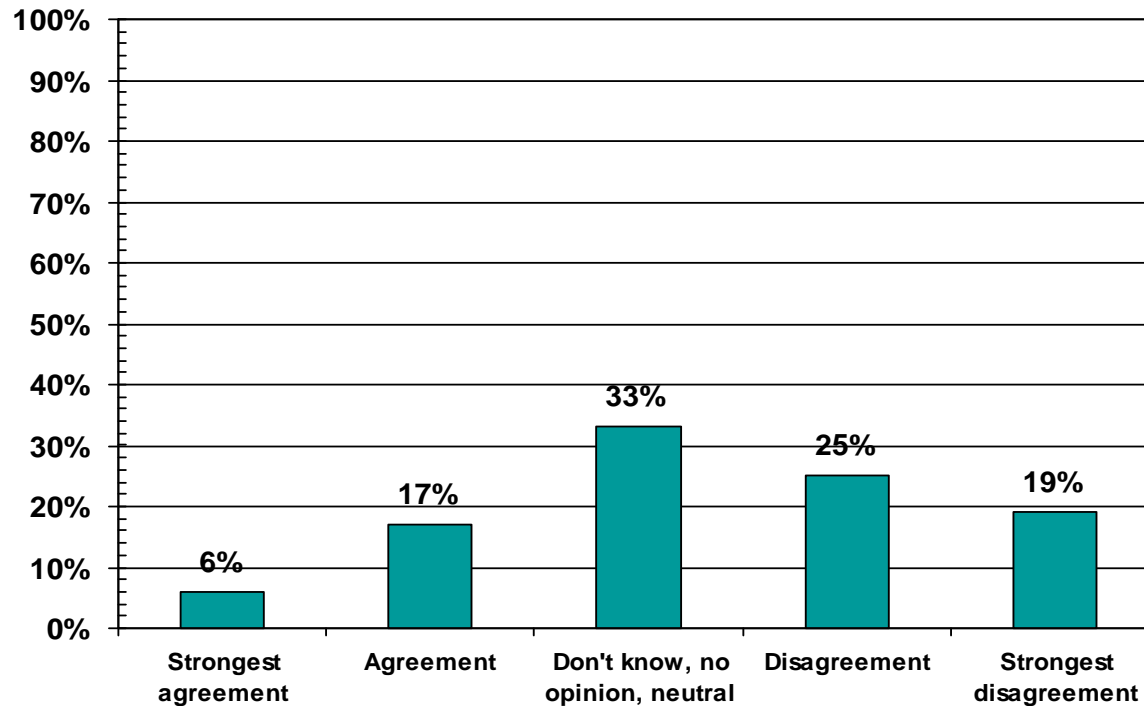
7.i. I wish our hymnal had more Spirituals.



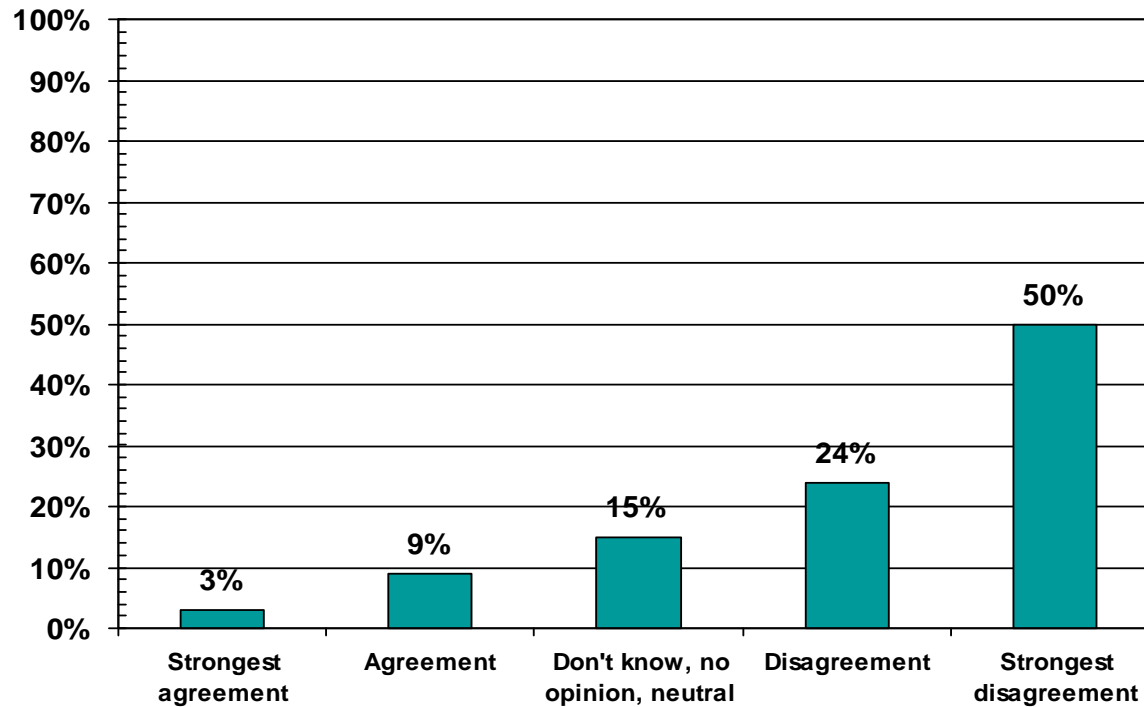
7.j. I wish our hymnal had more southern gospel.



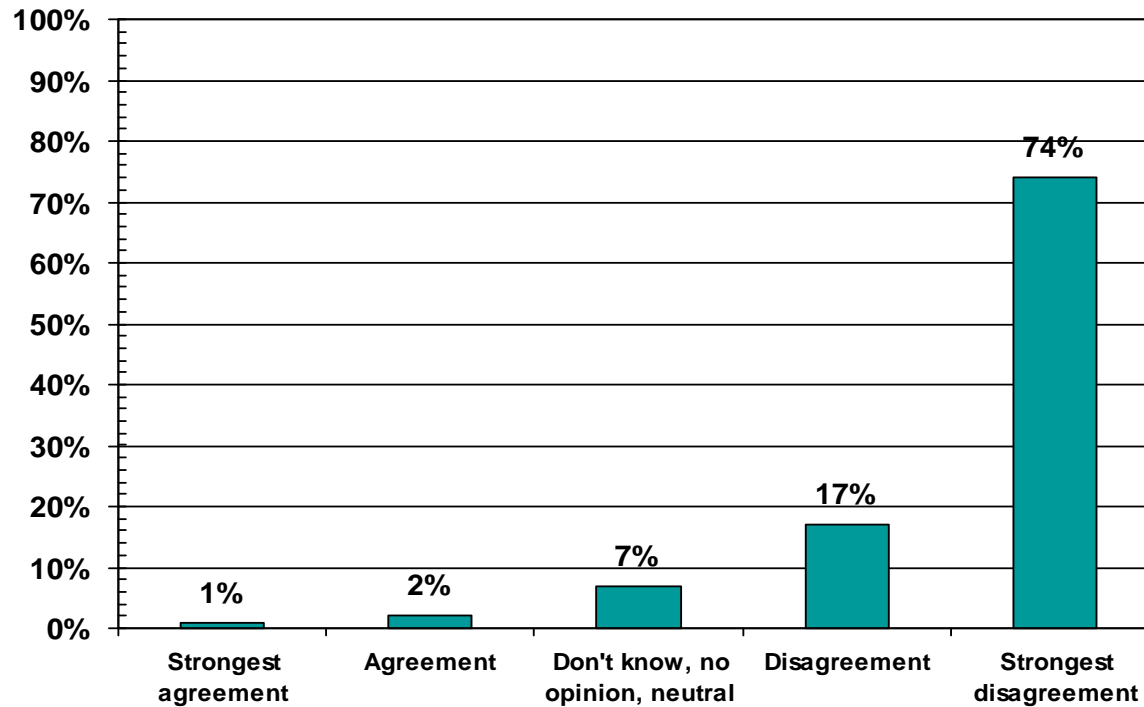
7.k. I wish our hymnal had more global songs.



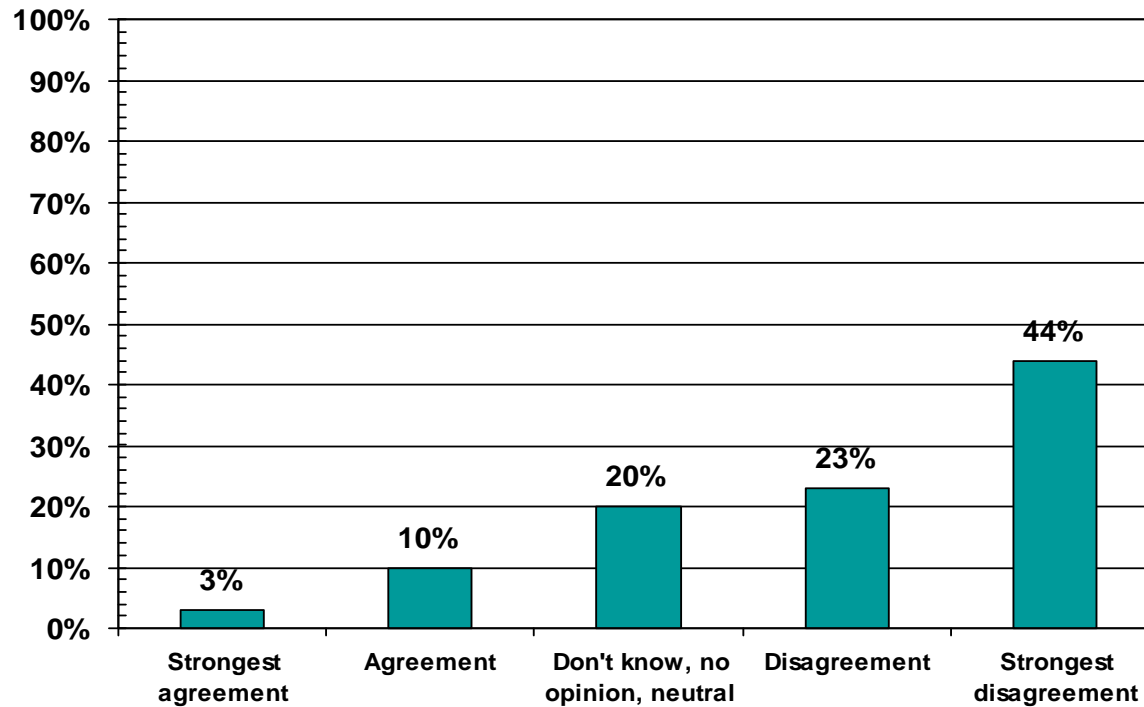
7.1. I wish our hymnal had more pop/rock.



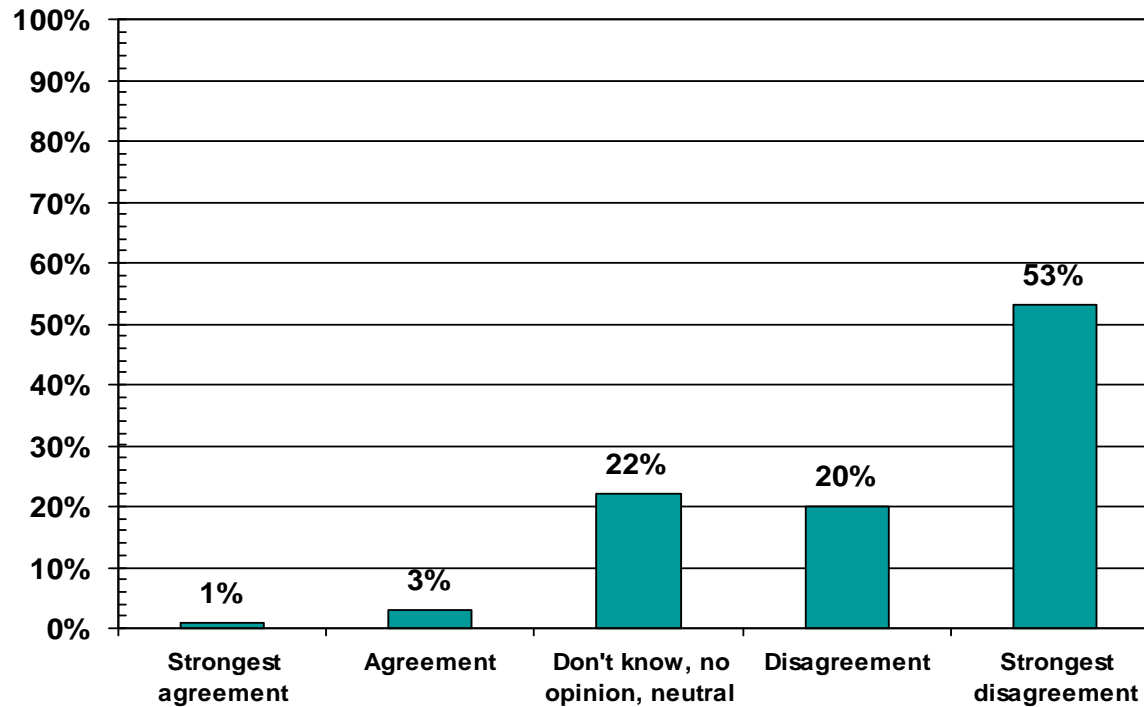
7.m. I wish our hymnal had more hip hop/rap.



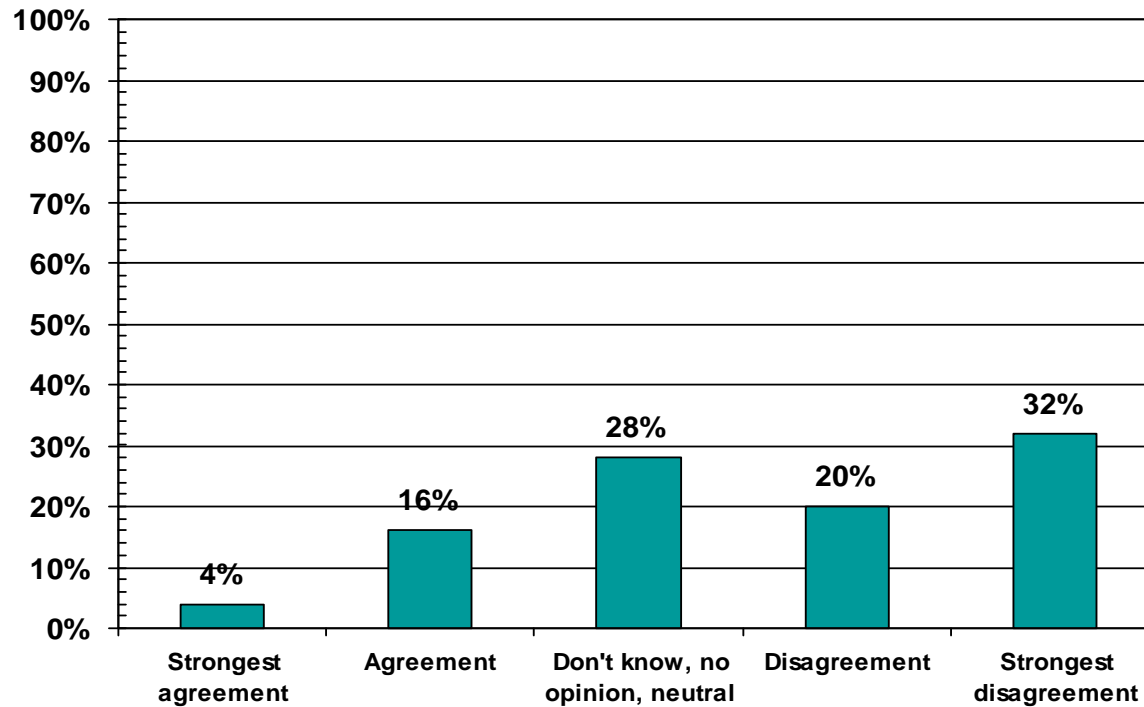
7.n. I wish our hymnal had more country/
bluegrass.



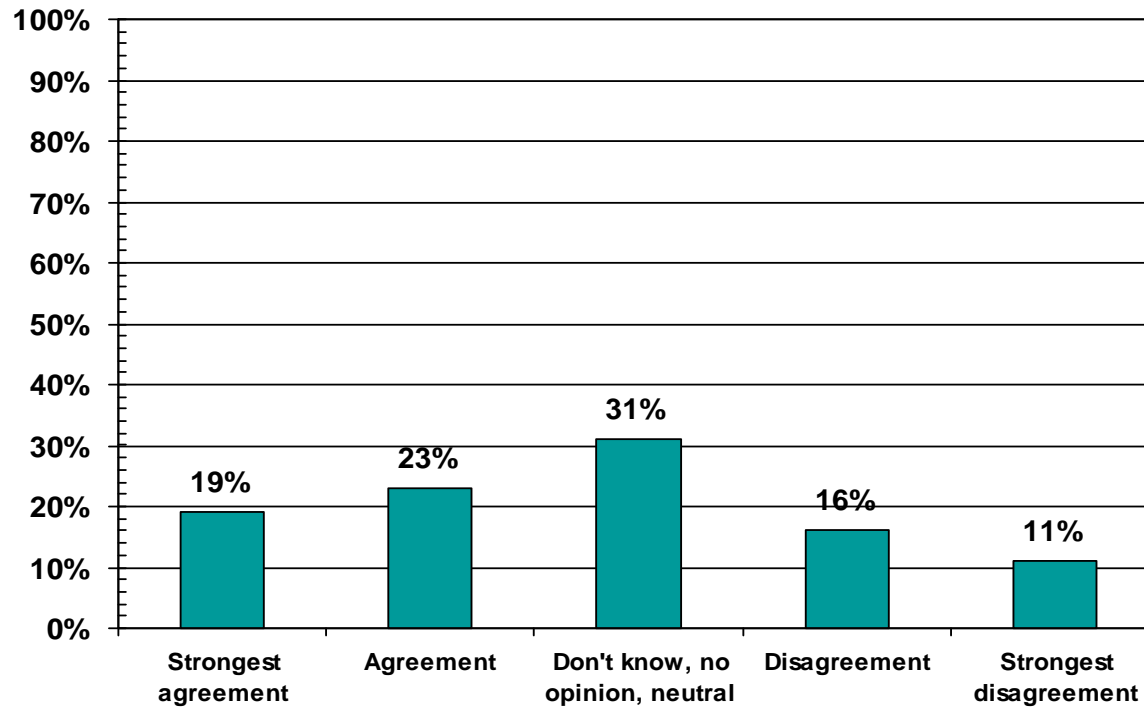
7.o. I wish our hymnal had more avant garde.



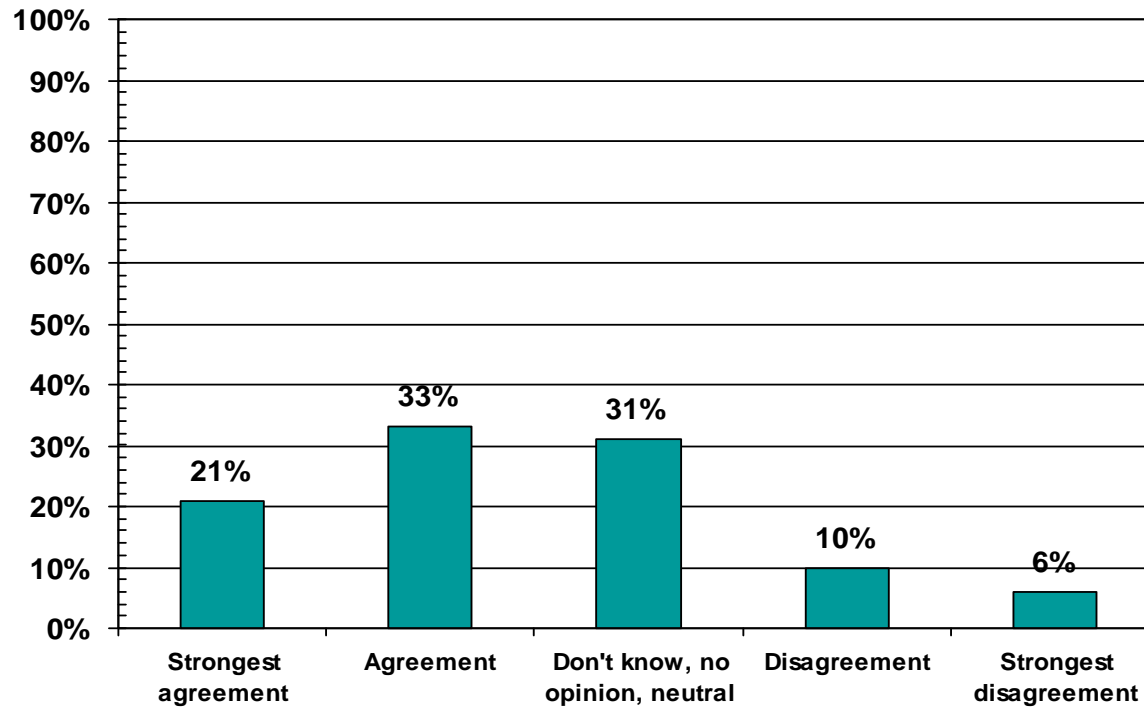
7.p. I wish our hymnal had more ethnic songs and styles.



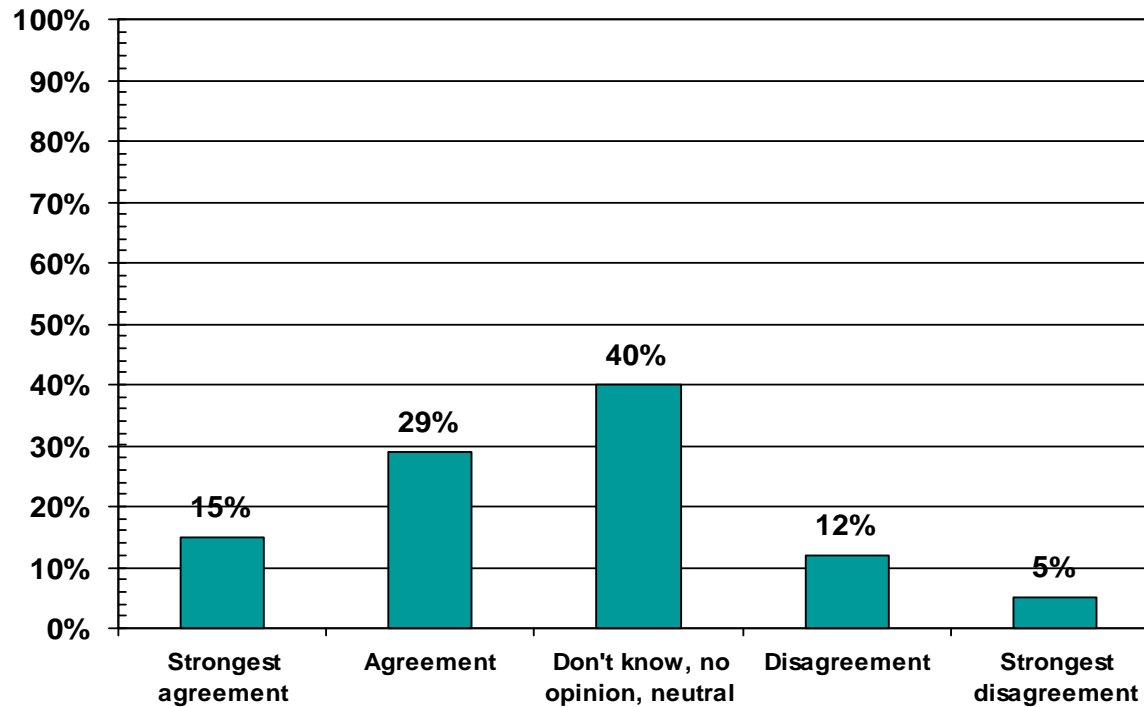
8. I prefer that we sing the musical responses included in the hymnal's Psalter.



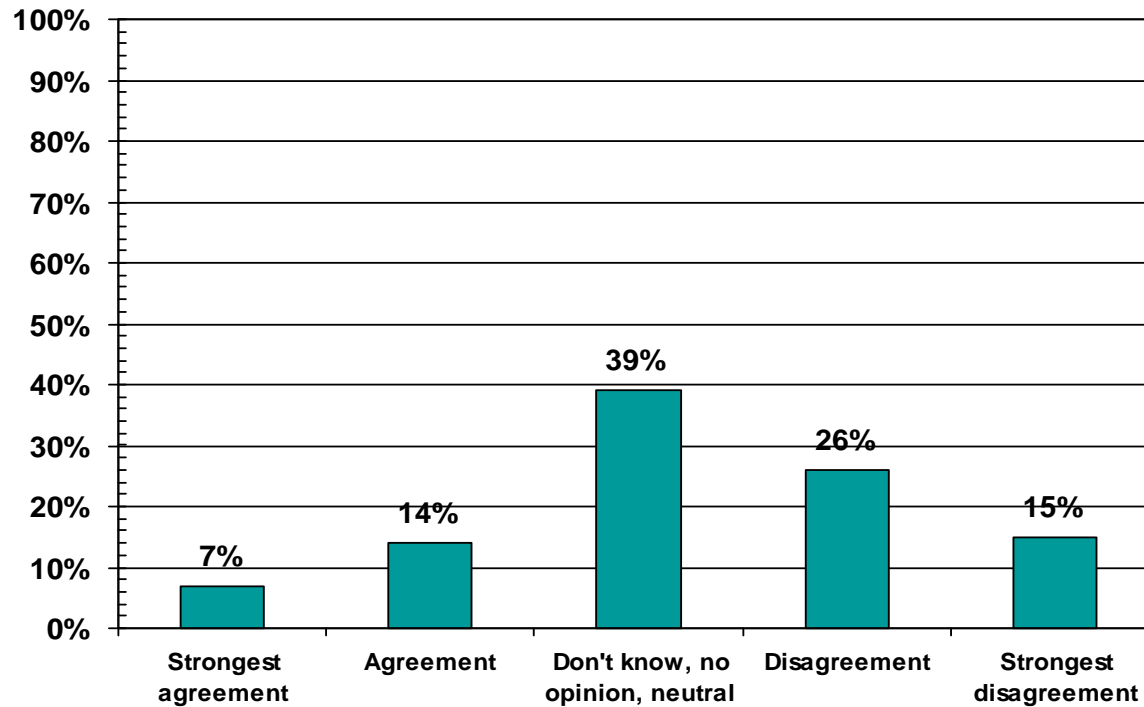
9. I prefer that the psalms be read as a responsive reading.



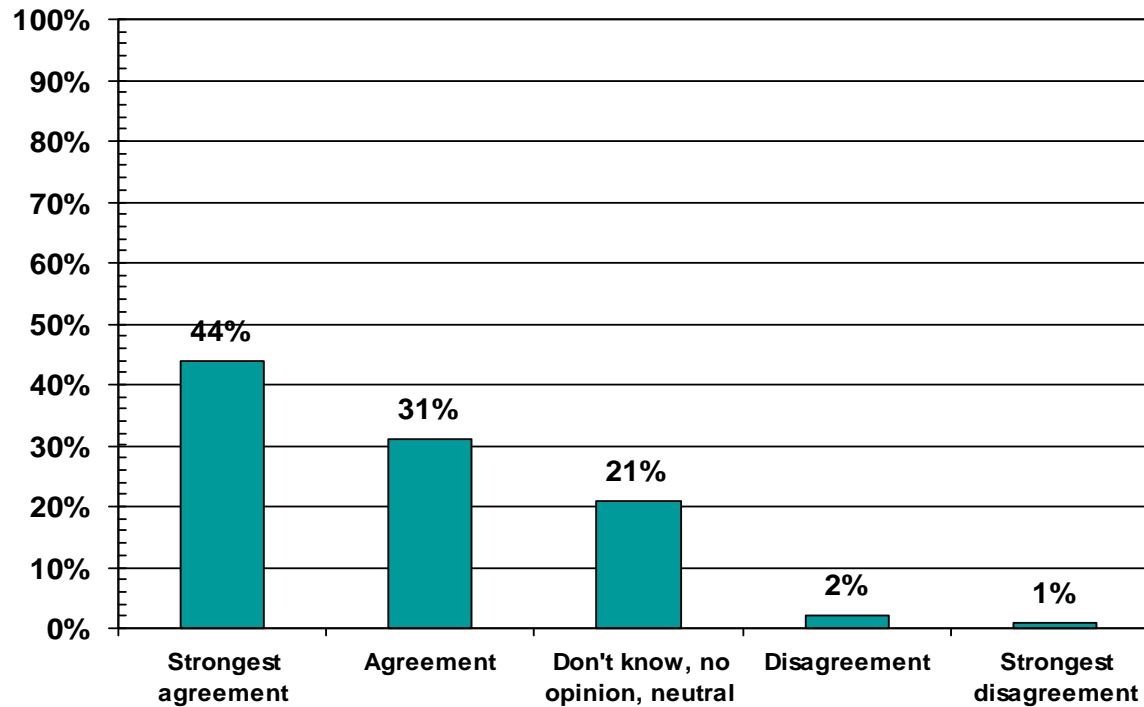
10. I prefer that the psalms be read as Scripture.



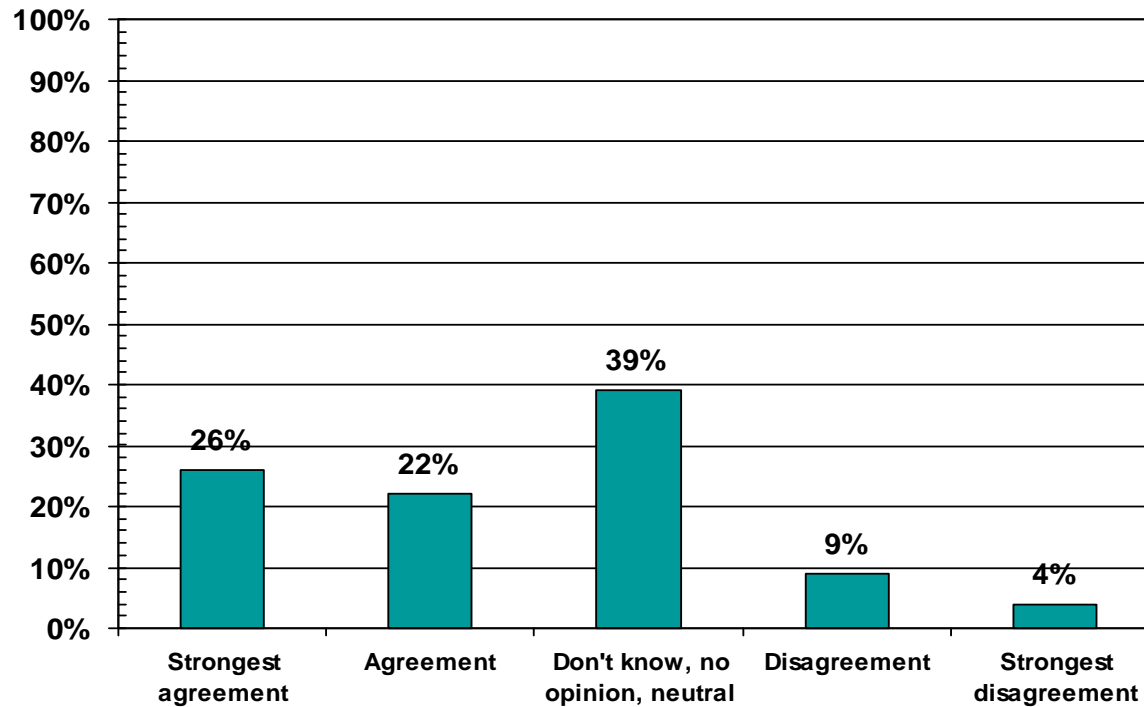
11. I prefer that the psalms be sung rather than read.



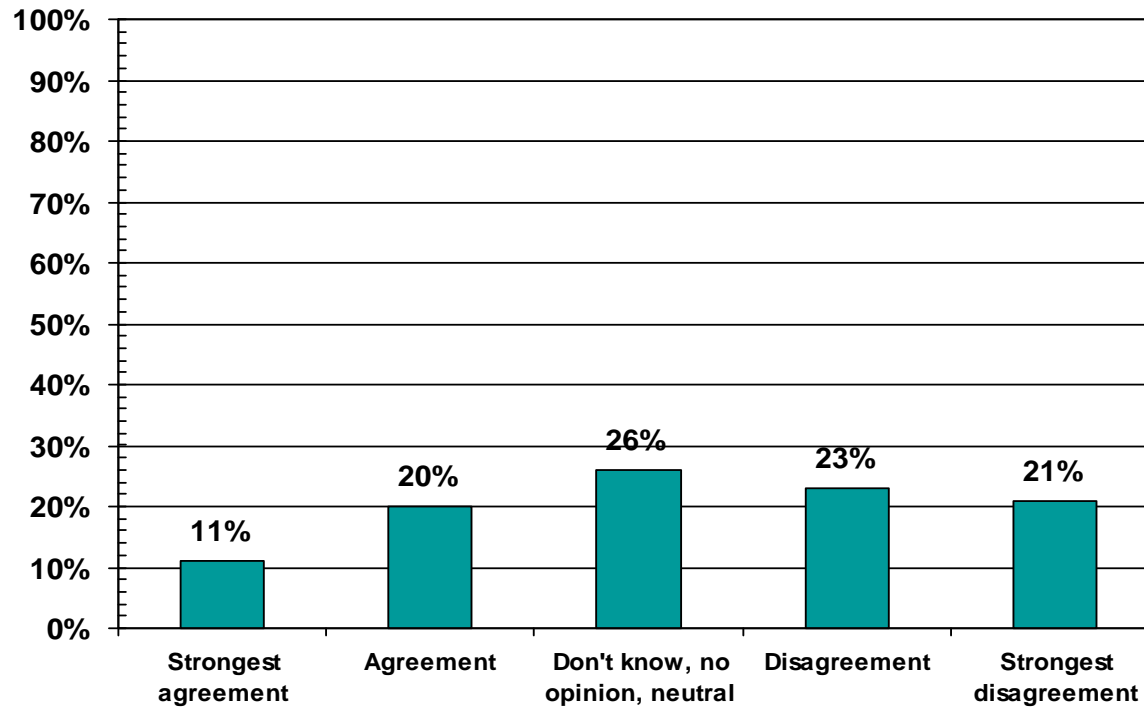
12. Whether sung or read, the psalms **CAN** be prayed.



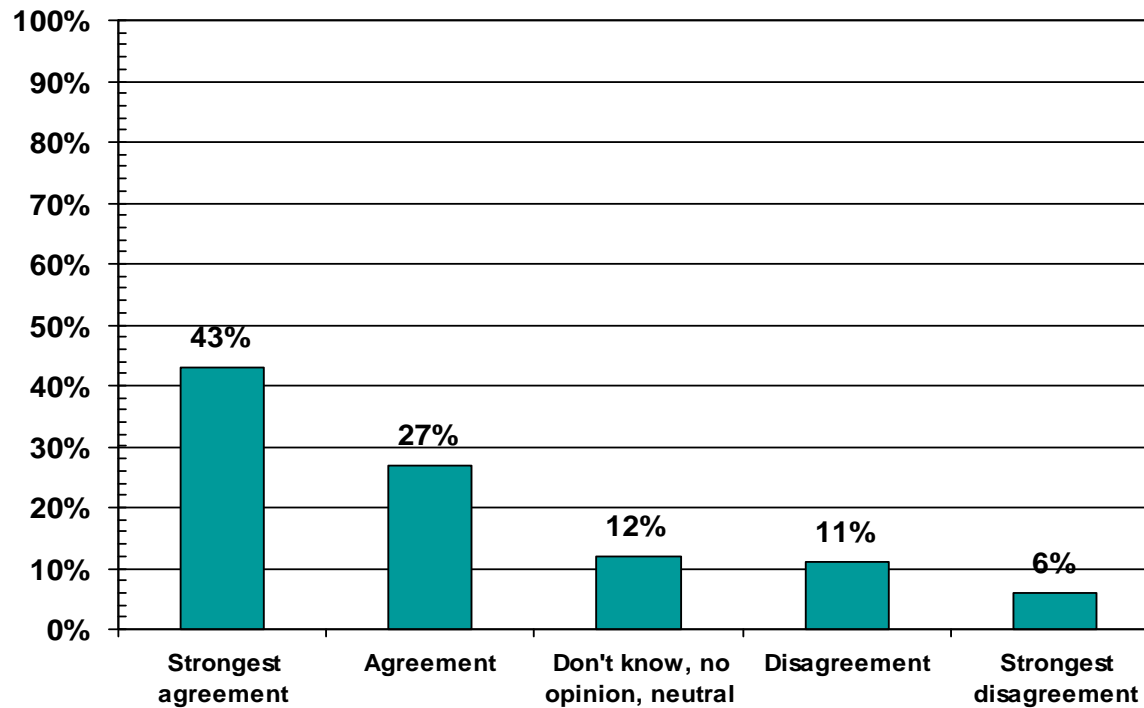
13. Whether sung or read, the psalms **SHOULD** be prayed.



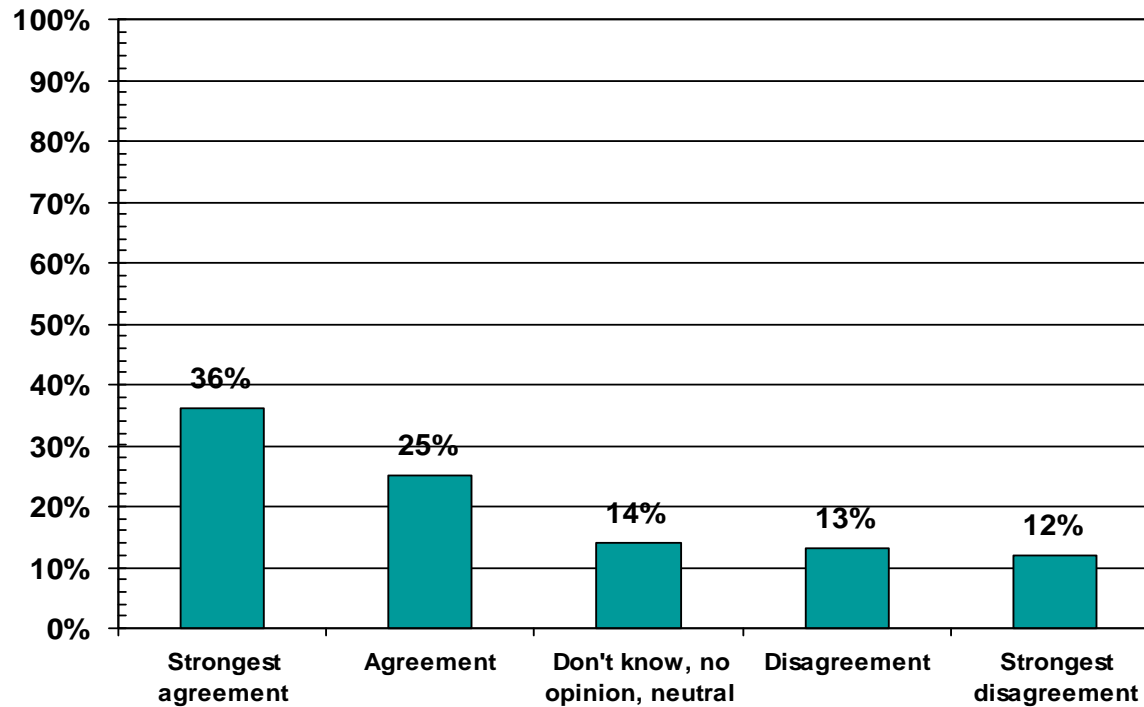
14. I find the musical responses to be often difficult or unpleasant.



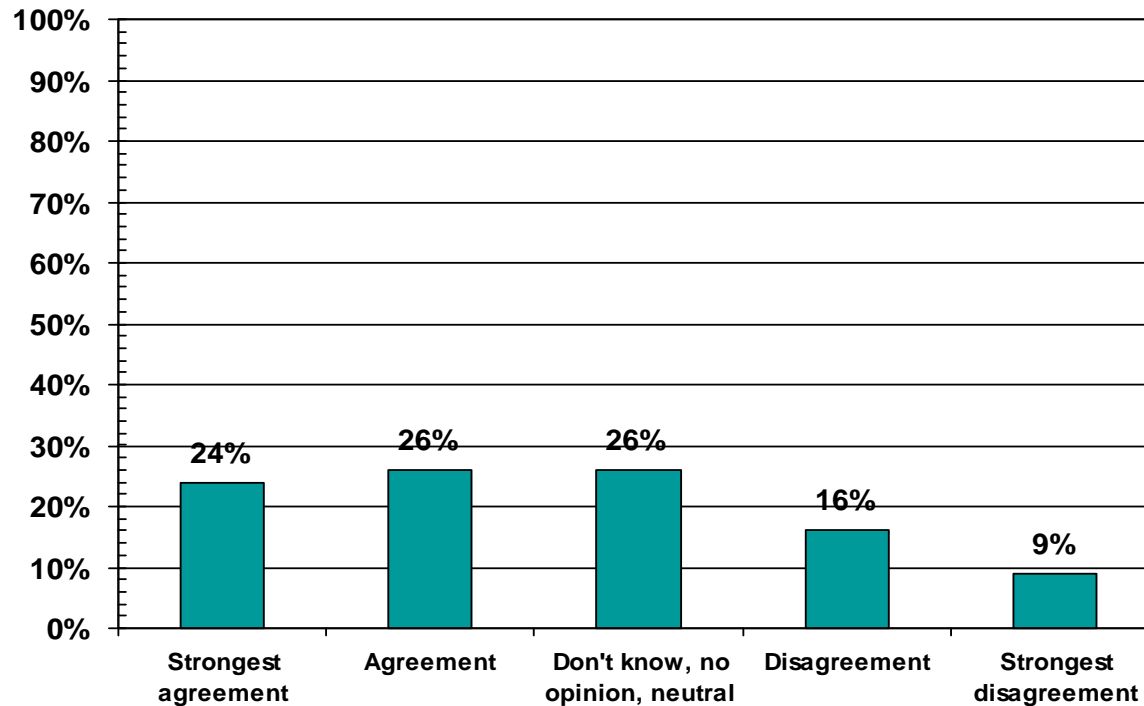
15. I usually sing the melody line of hymns.



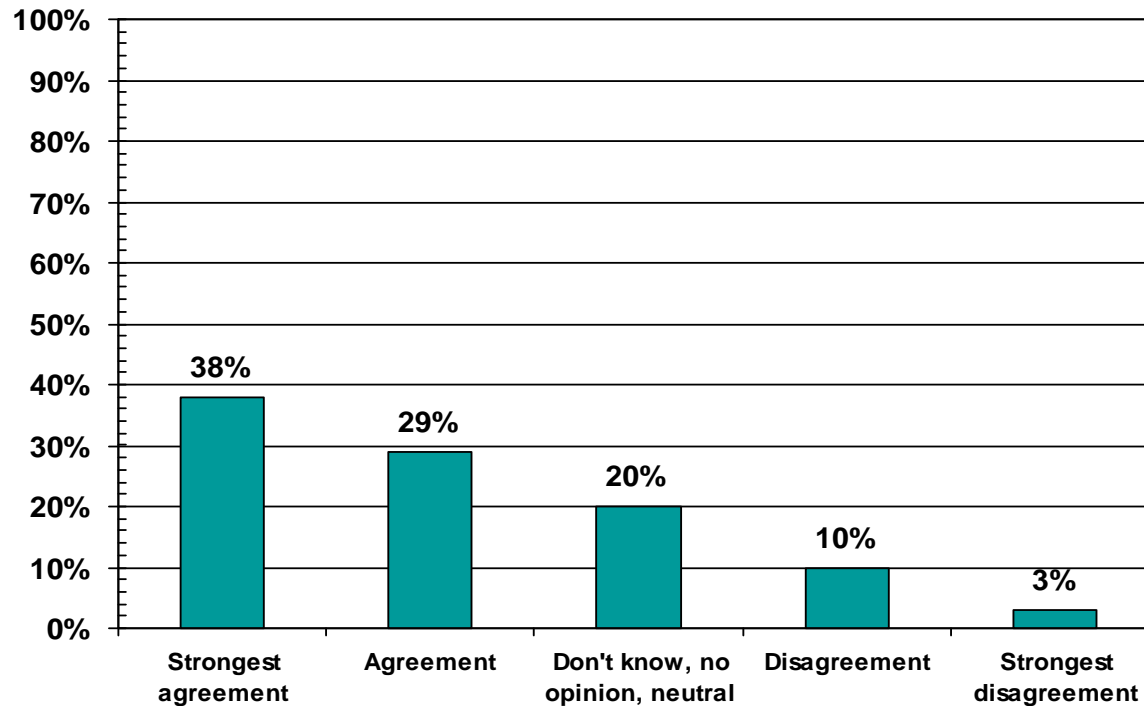
16. I read music and sing the harmony when it is provided.



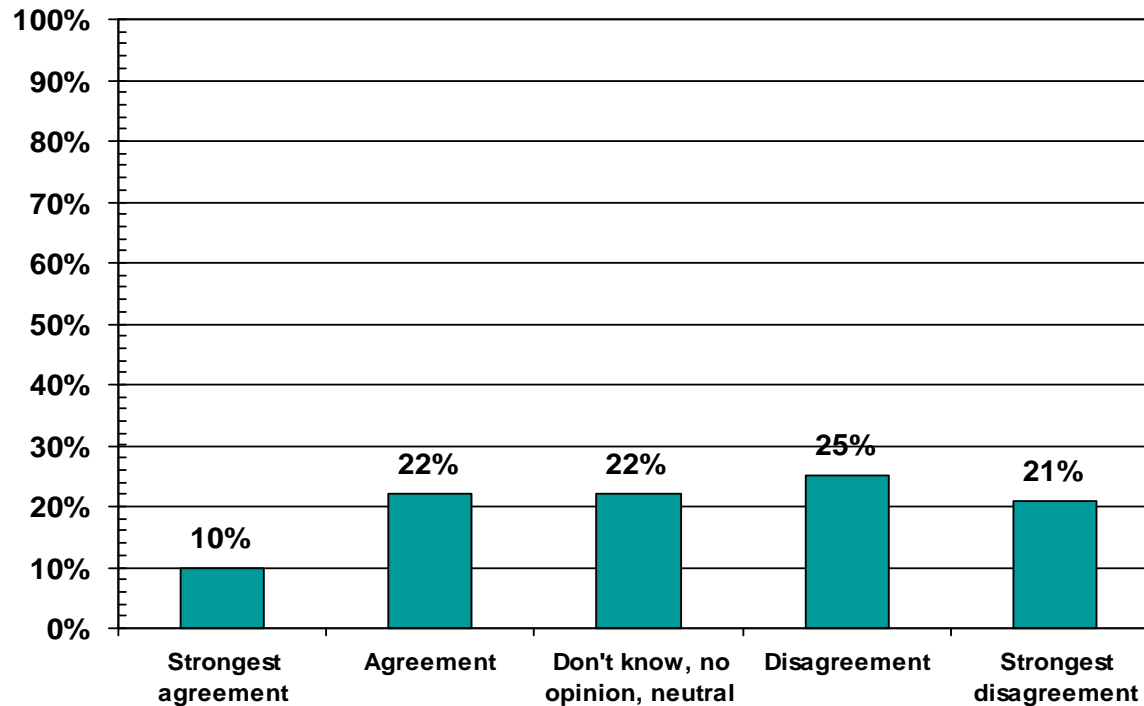
17. It is important that we have hymns in a variety of musical styles from around the world.



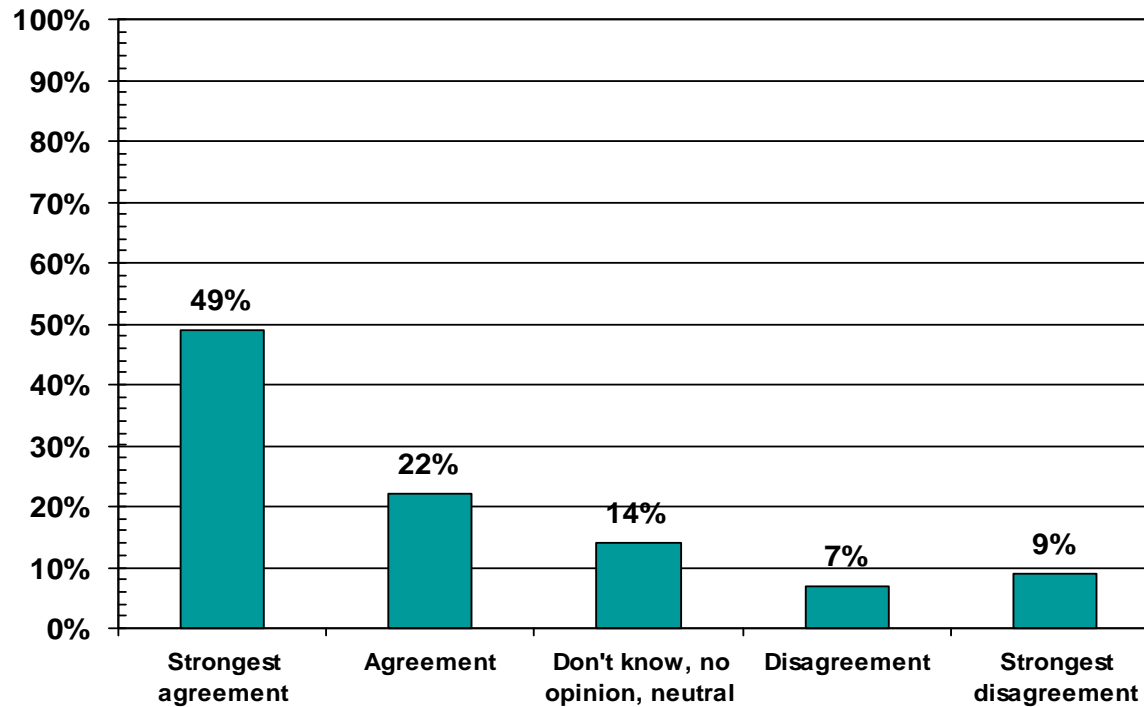
18. I believe it is important to preserve the author's original words in hymns.



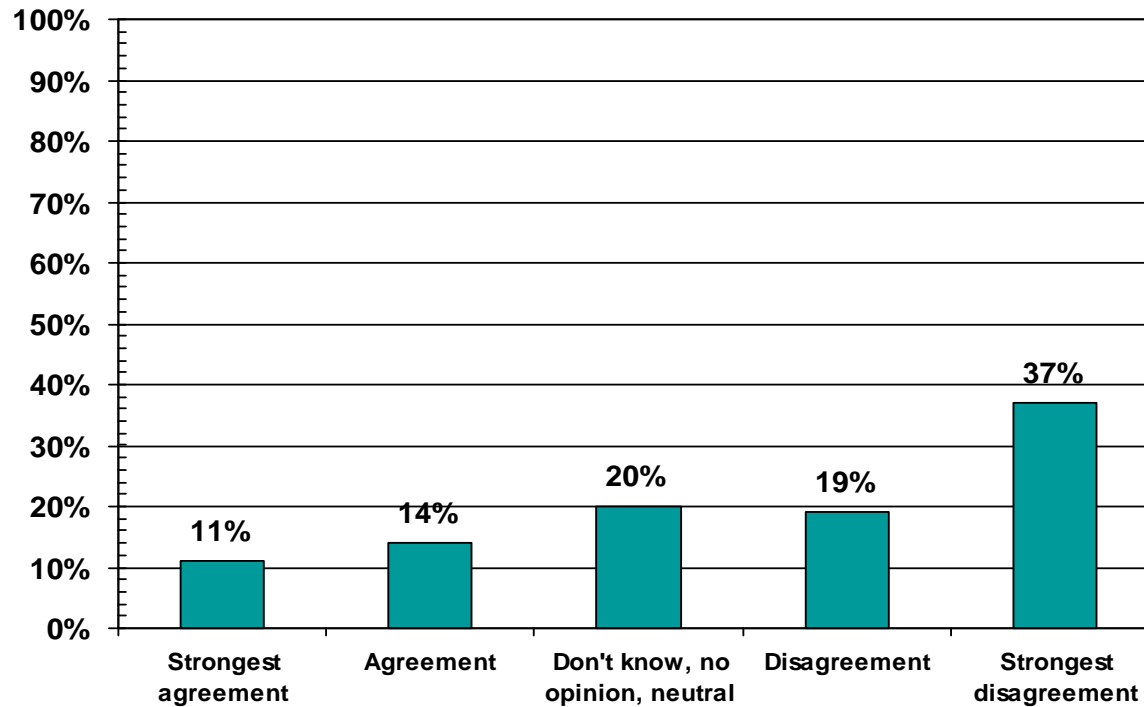
19. I believe that hymn texts should be edited to make their meaning and language easier for today's worshipers to sing and understand.



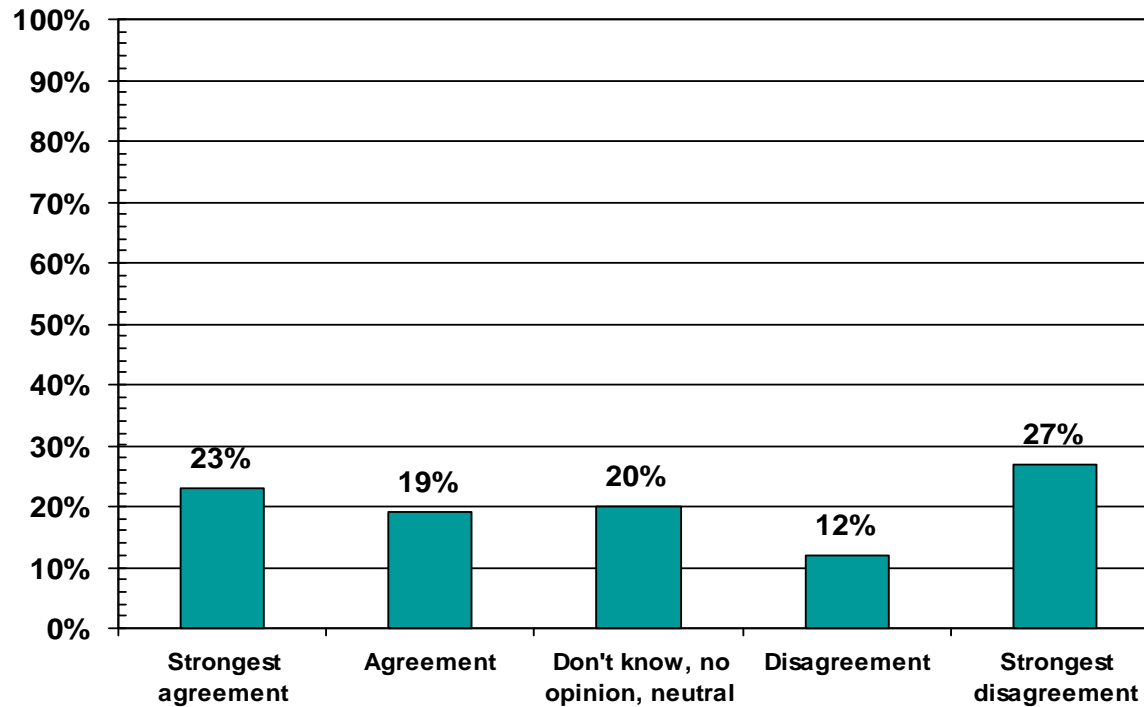
20. I am comfortable with hymn language that refers to God in male terms only.



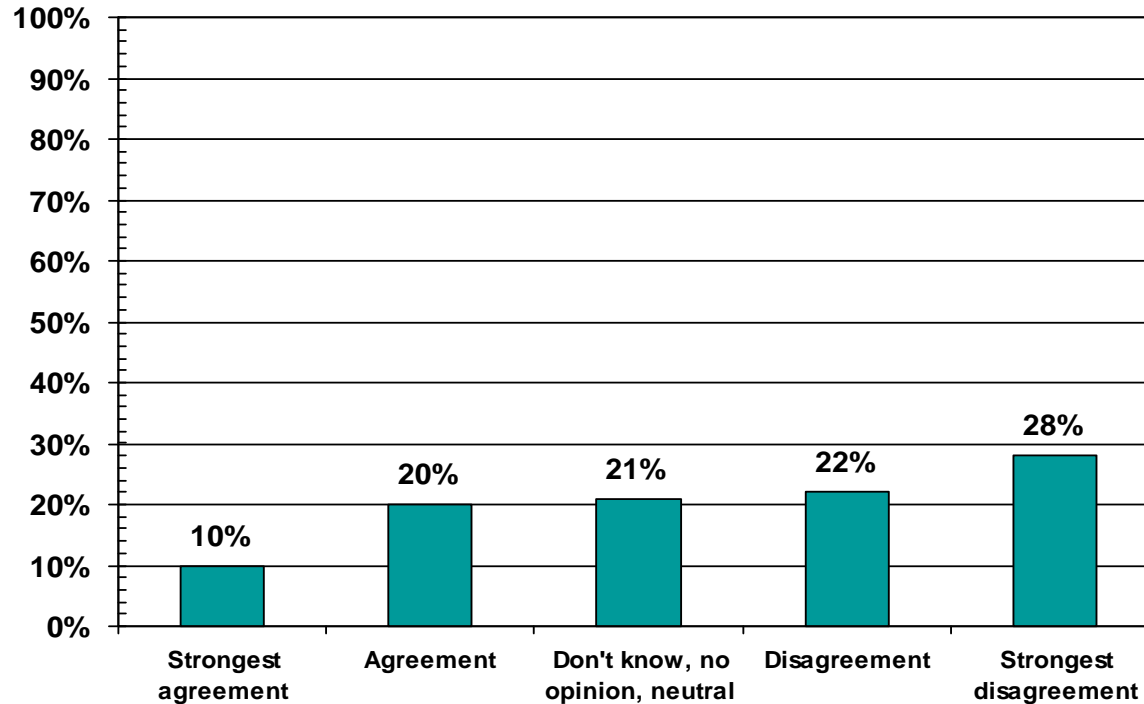
21. I am comfortable with hymn language that refers to God in female terms.



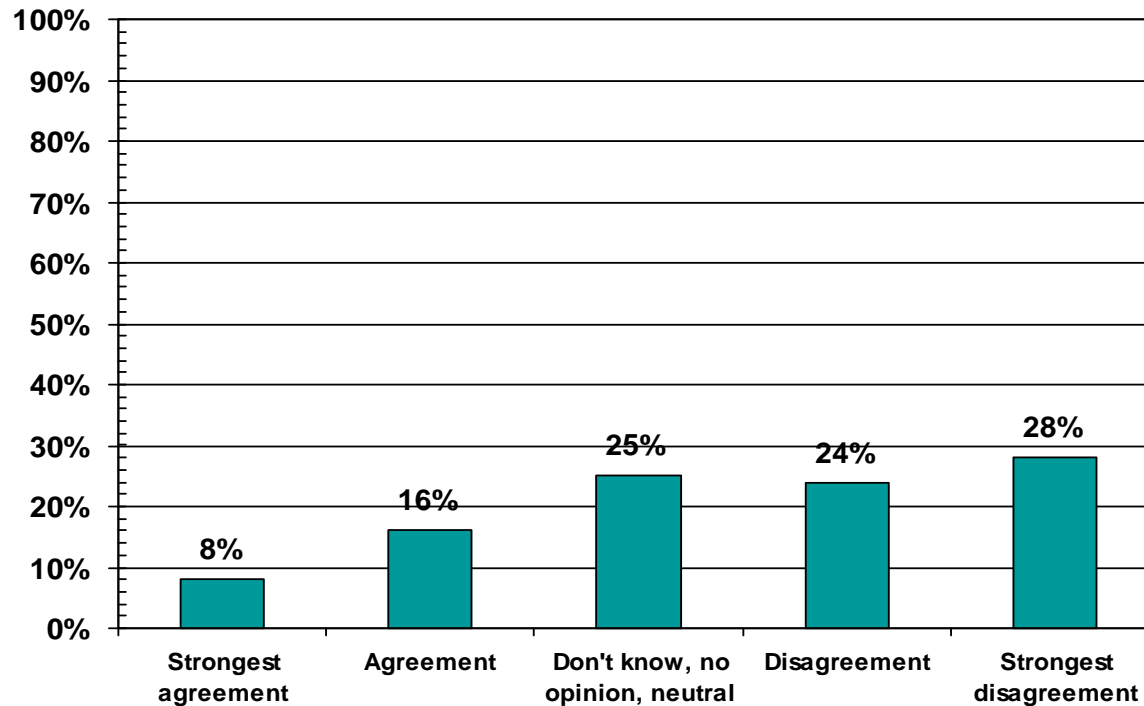
22. I am comfortable with hymn language that refers to God as either male or female.



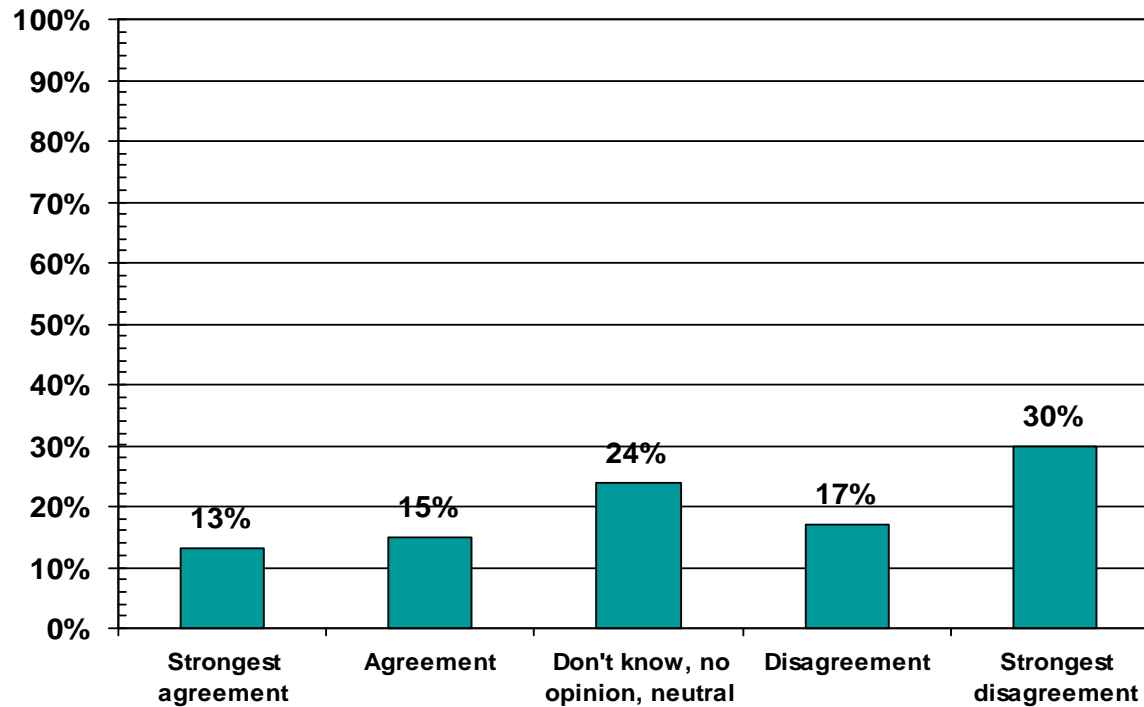
23. Contemporary hymns and songs may include contemporary language, including slang, colloquialisms, or localized terms.



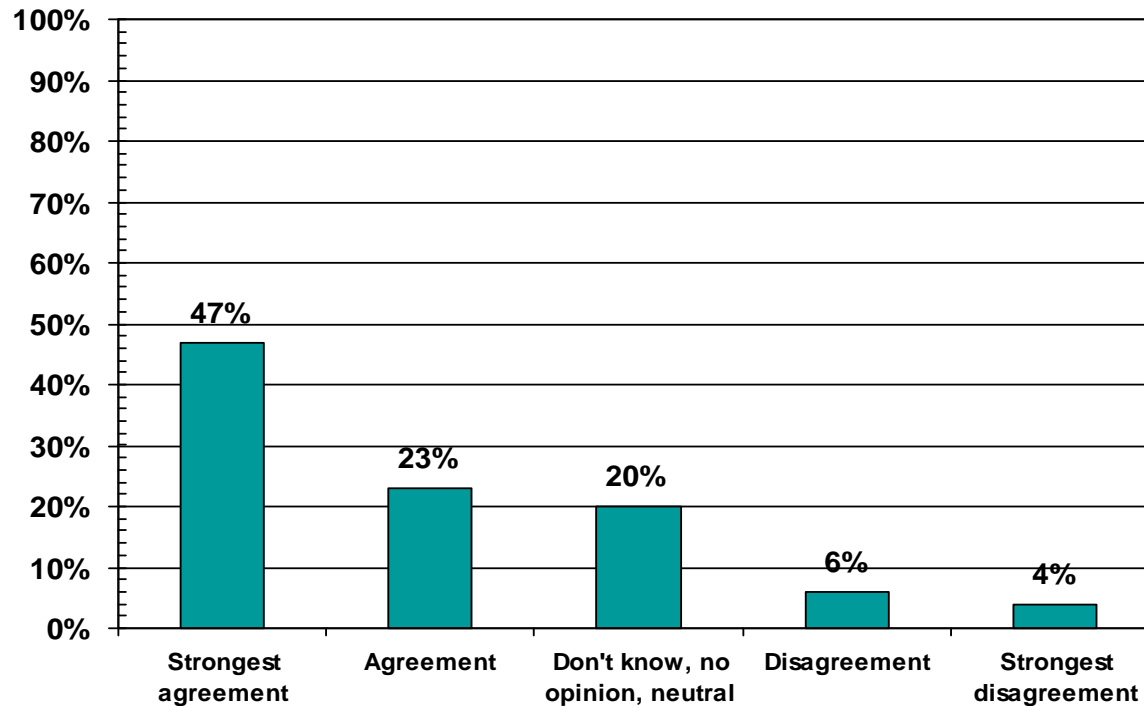
24. It is important to include hymns and songs in a variety of languages.



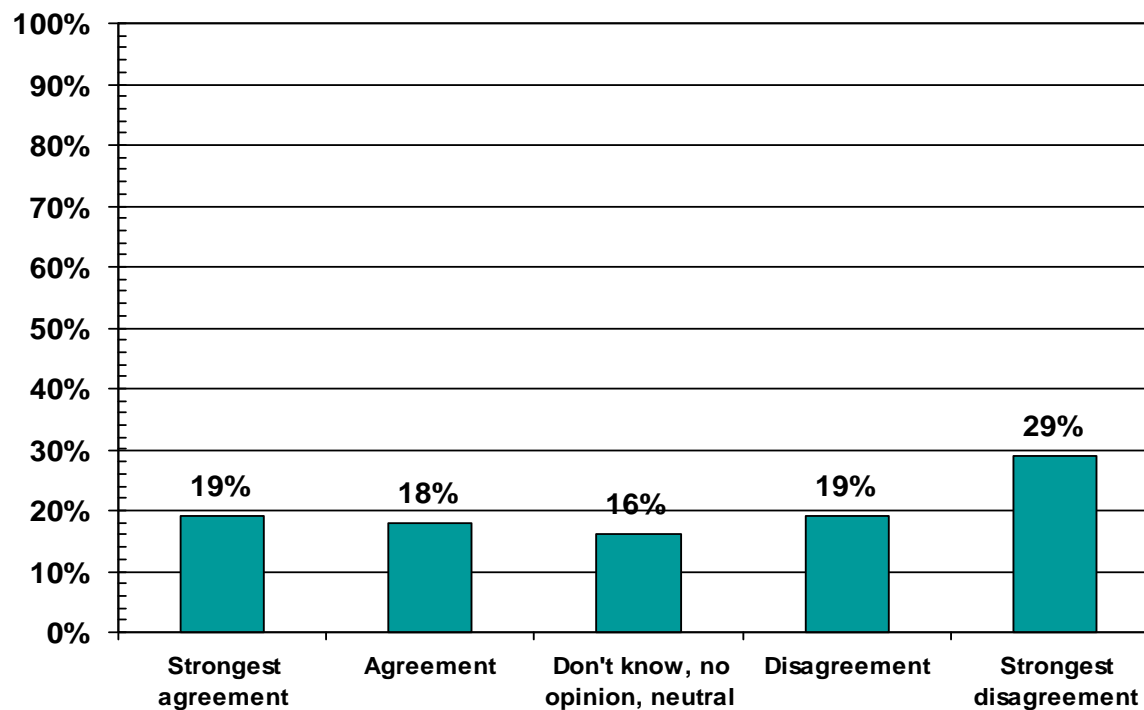
25. I prefer to sing hymns that are projected on a screen in worship.



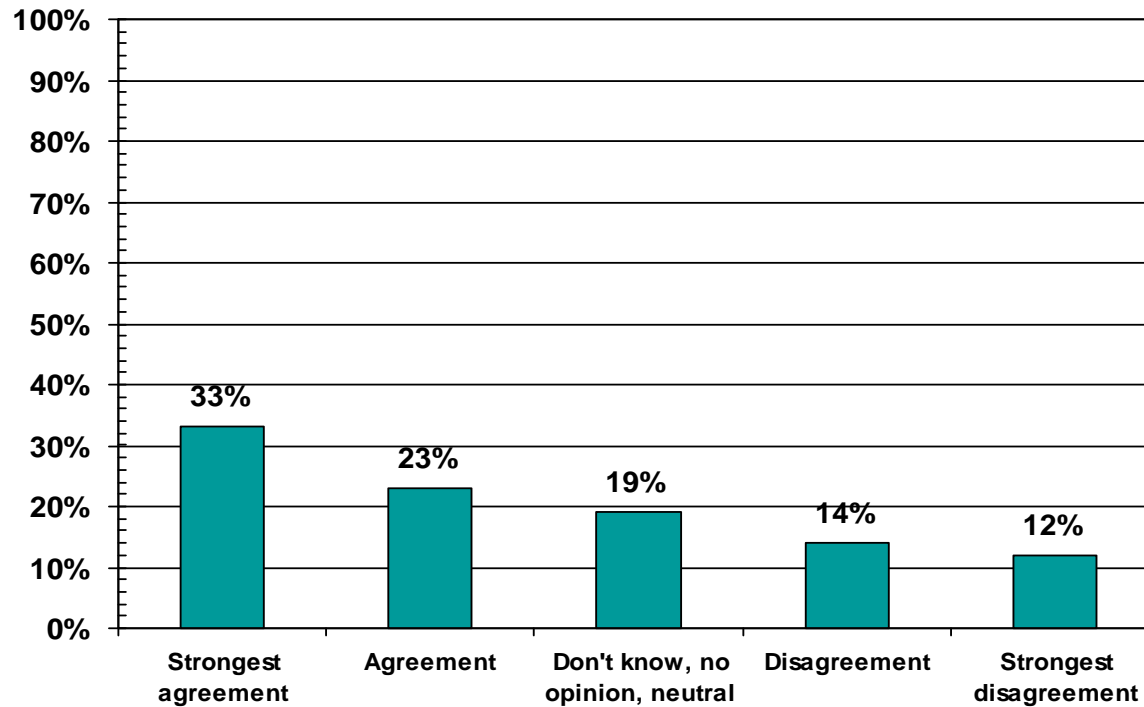
26. I prefer to sing while holding a hymnal or songbook that contains the hymns and songs.



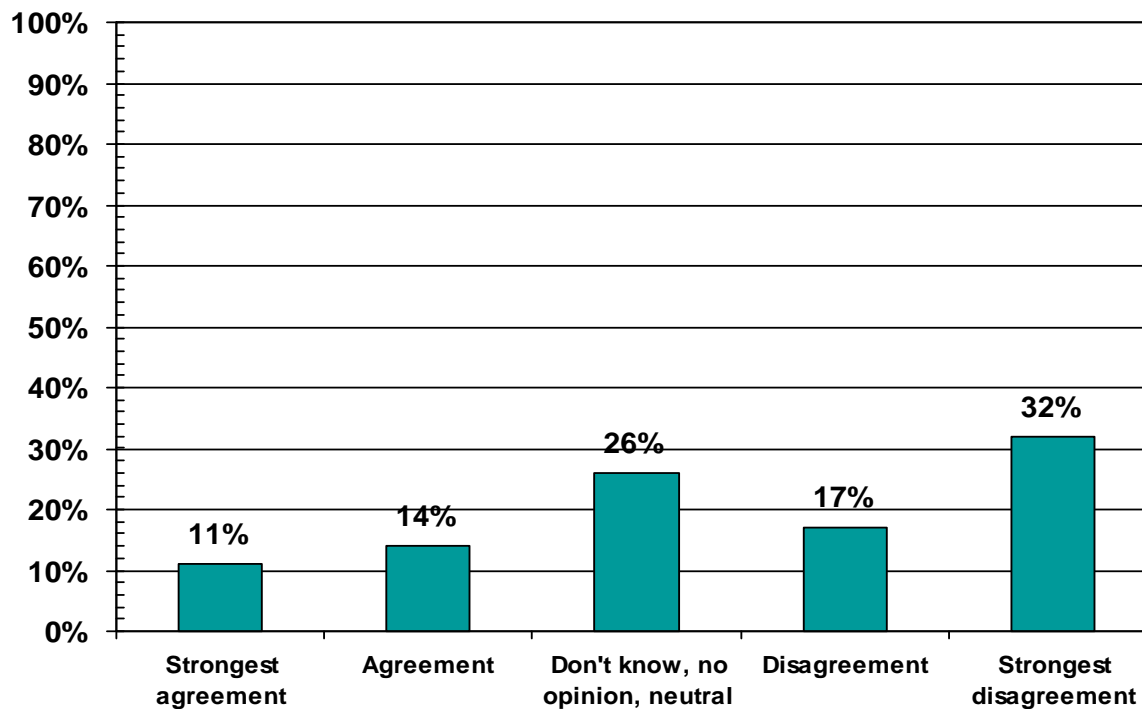
27. If we are going to project hymns for singing, I need only to see the words.



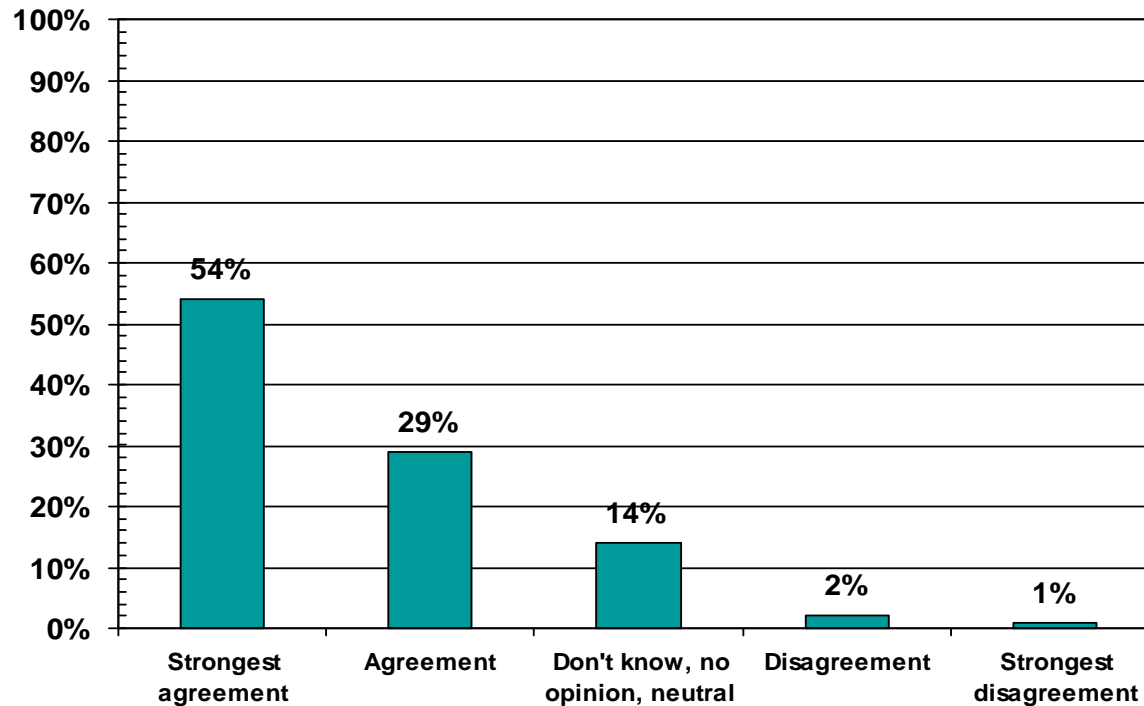
28. If we are going to project hymns for singing, I need music with the words.



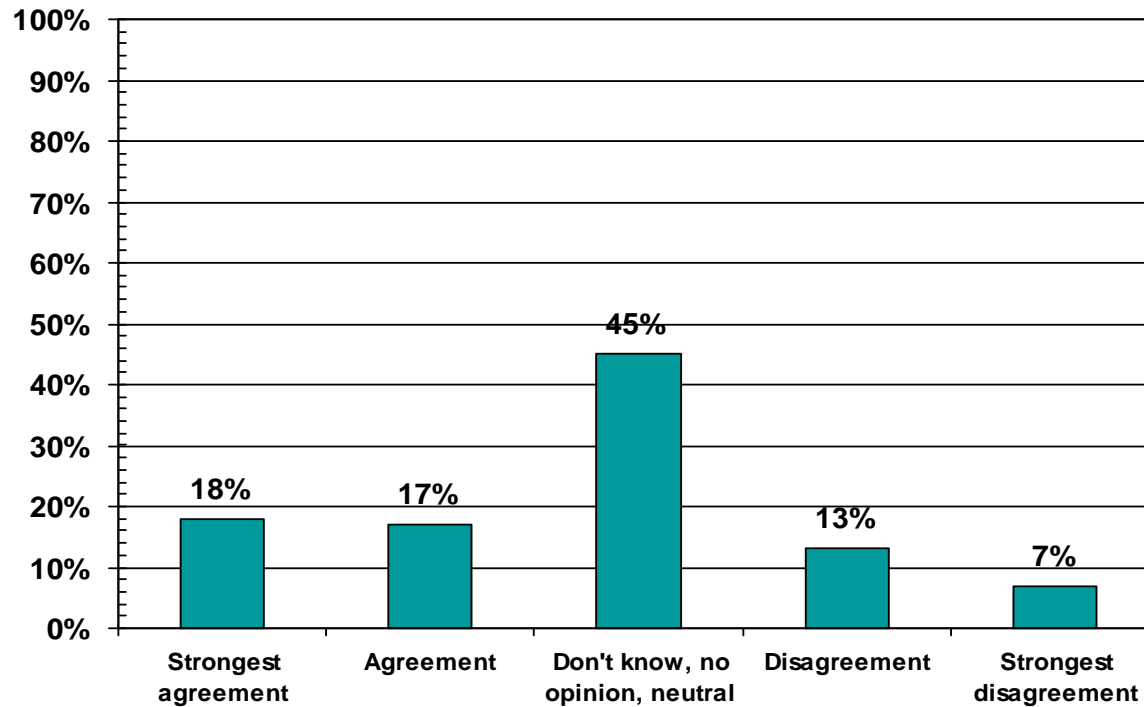
29. Rather than having a hymnal with fixed contents, it would be better to be able to select and download hymns electronically or via the Internet as we want to use them.



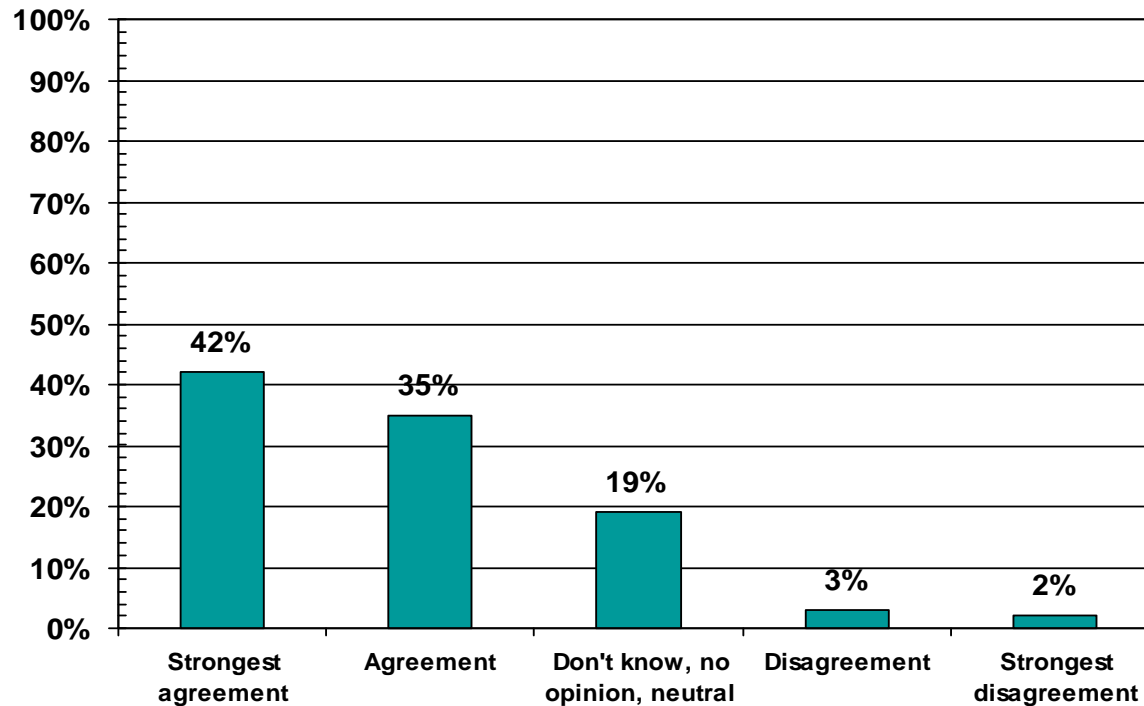
30. It is important to have a good number and variety of Wesley hymns in the hymnal.



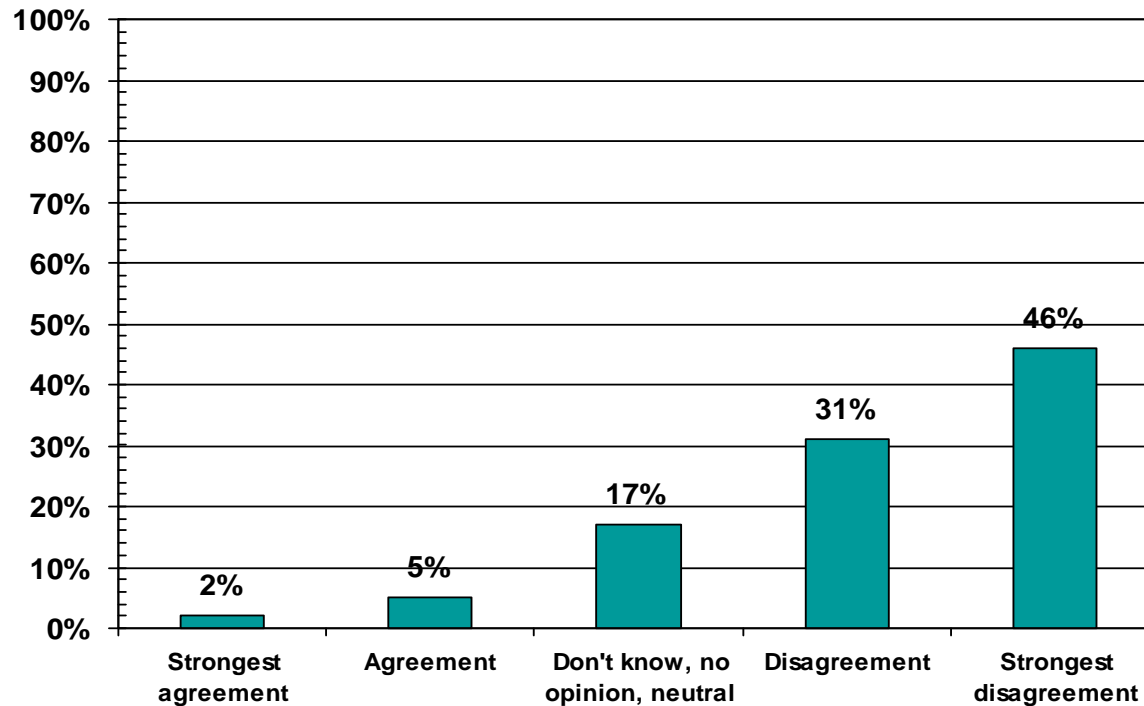
31. We need more than the 58 Wesley texts in our current hymnal.



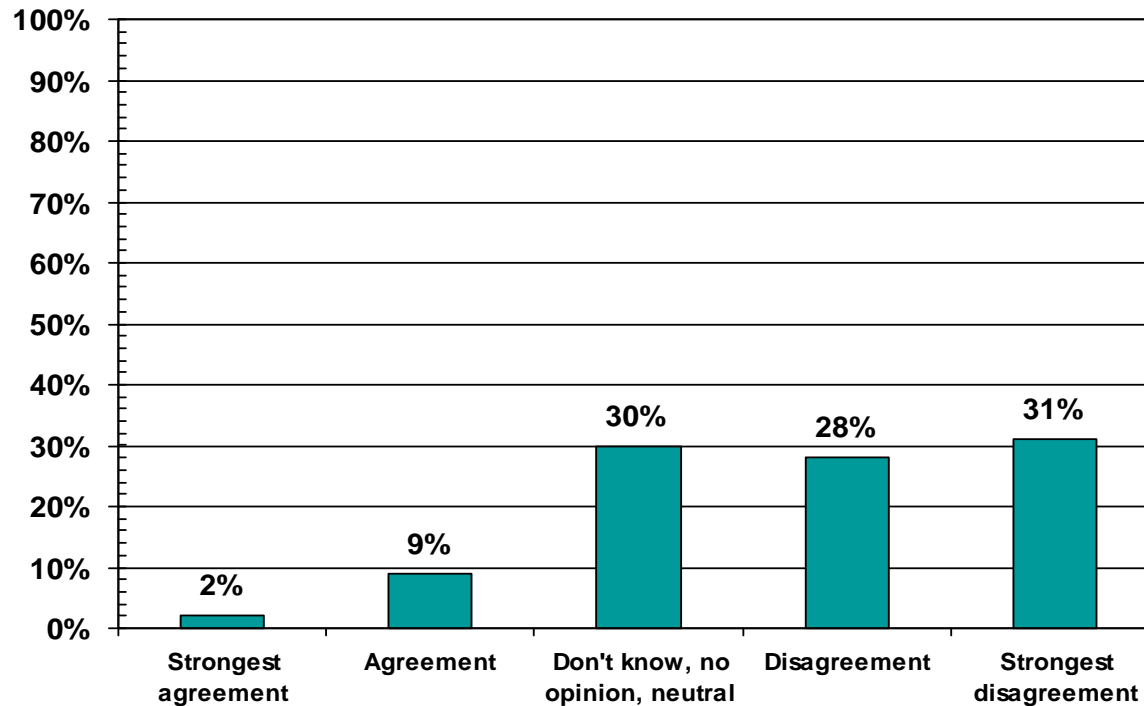
32. Wesley hymns help to give United Methodists a common heritage, theology, and identity.



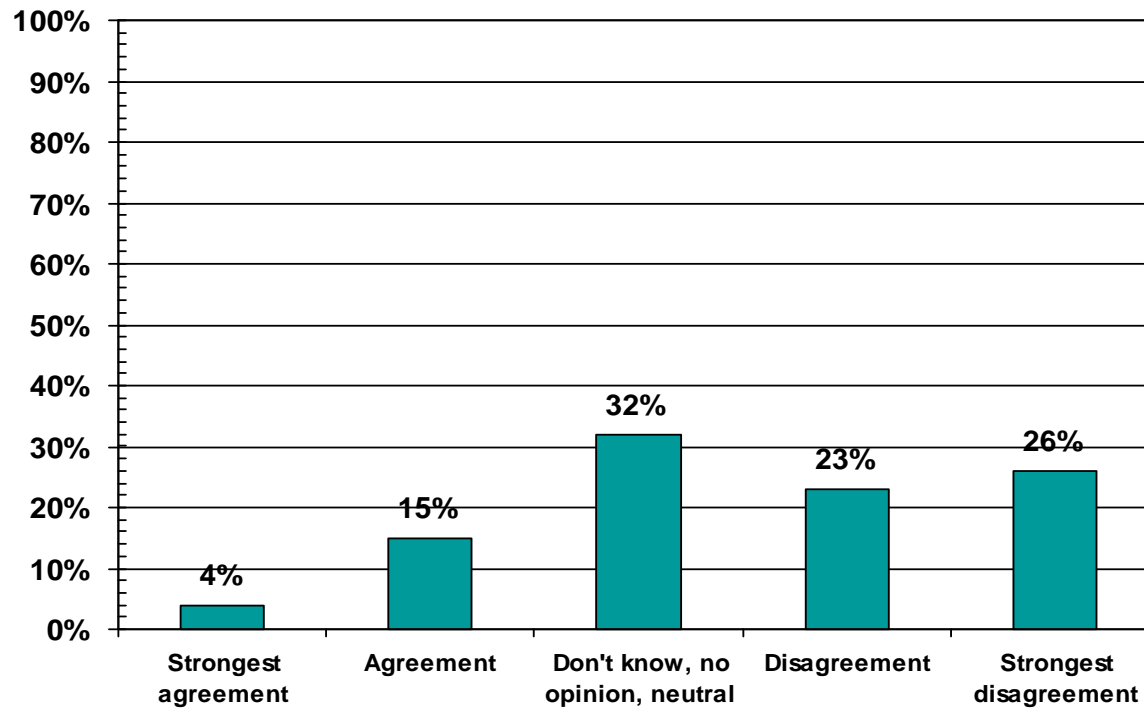
33. Wesley hymns are from an earlier time and have little meaning for us today.



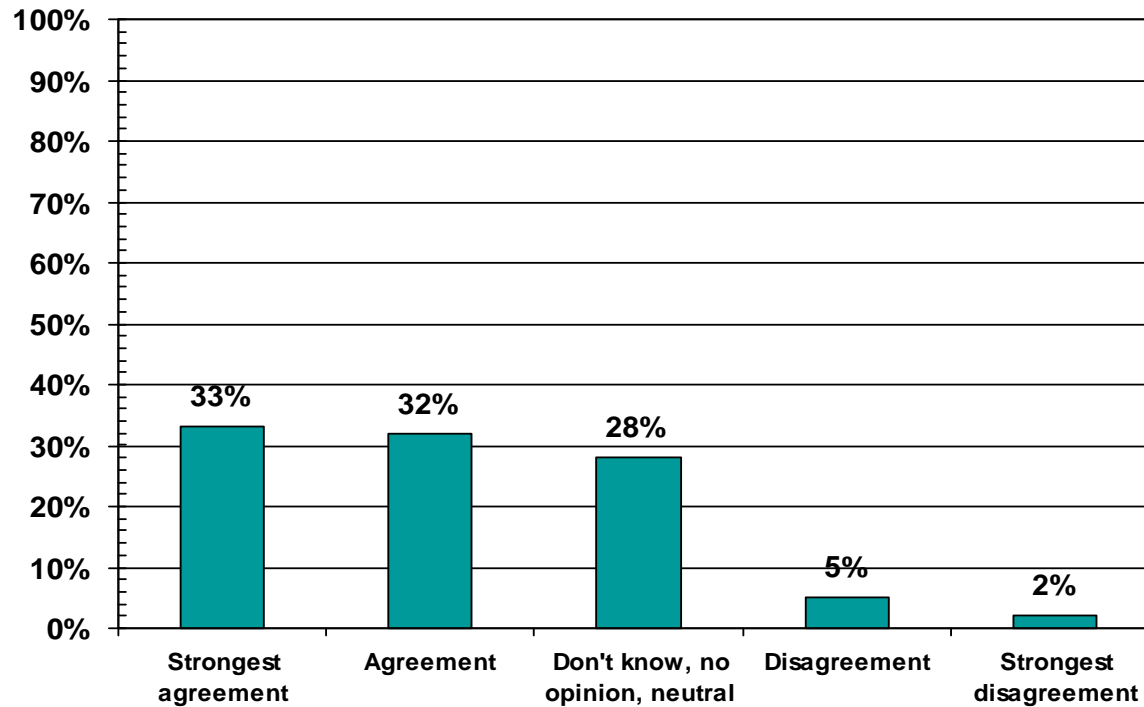
34. Wesley texts are dense, thick, and difficult to understand.



35. Wesley texts should be edited to be made easier to understand.



36. A new hymnal should include Wesley texts with their traditional tunes.



37. A new hymnal should include Wesley texts with contemporary settings.

