

## Biblical Preaching Survey 2018

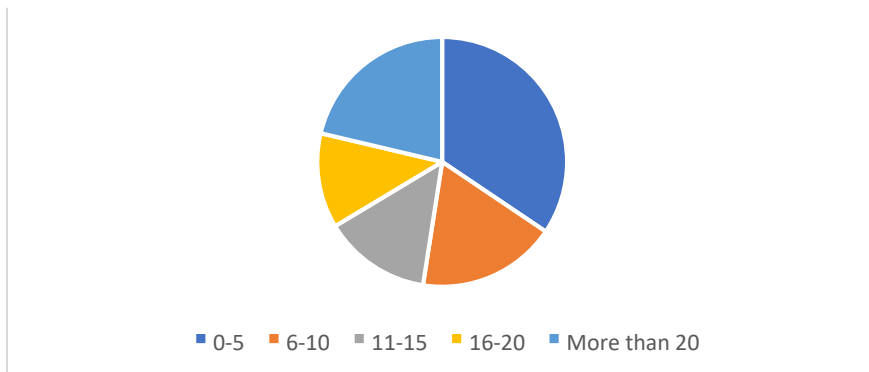
We sent out the Biblical Preaching Survey to our mailing list of pastors in New England in July 2018. Most of the pastors serve in towns with populations under 25,000. Many pastor churches in towns less than 5,000 in population. The smallest town has a population of 360.

The survey reveals that the pastors are hardworking, biblical, faithful and well-educated. The majority of the pastors possess graduate degrees and spend at least eleven hours a week in sermon preparation. Over 50% have served in their current ministry less than ten years, but over one in five have served more than twenty years. Studies of Bible books are the preferred method of preaching by 60% of pastors, and three out of four pastors stress the exegesis of Scripture in their preparations.

Pastors are generally satisfied with their preaching skills (60%) which partially explains why they do not pursue continuing education in preaching. Four out of five pastors have not enrolled in a class on preaching since college or seminary. Almost half never or rarely attend seminars or workshops on preaching, and 57% rarely or never attend pastoral groups to discuss preaching. Only about one in ten pastors intentionally seek any evaluation of their sermons from others.

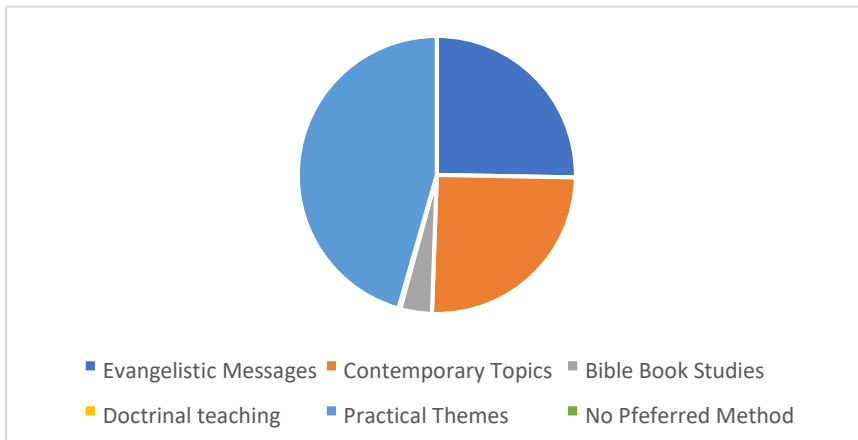
However, a majority of pastors read books or articles on preaching and 70% listen to other preachers on podcasts, radio or websites. Furthermore, almost 40% of the pastors indicated that they believe their preaching needs improvement. These statistics suggest that pastors are interested in learning more about preaching if we can bring workshops to small-town New England. Many are interested in continuing education if we can make preaching resources easily accessible and financially affordable to busy pastors.

Q1 How many years have you served in your current ministry?



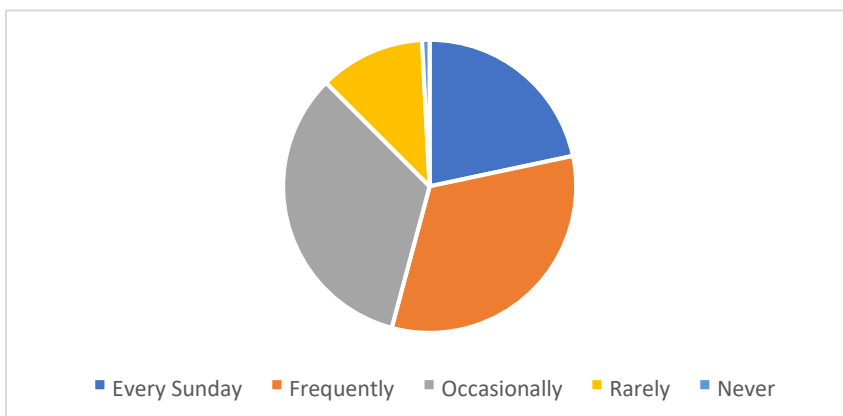
0-5 years	34.43%
6-10 years	18.03%
11-15 years	13.93%
16-20 years	12.30%
More than 20 years	21.31%

Q2 What is your preferred method of preaching?



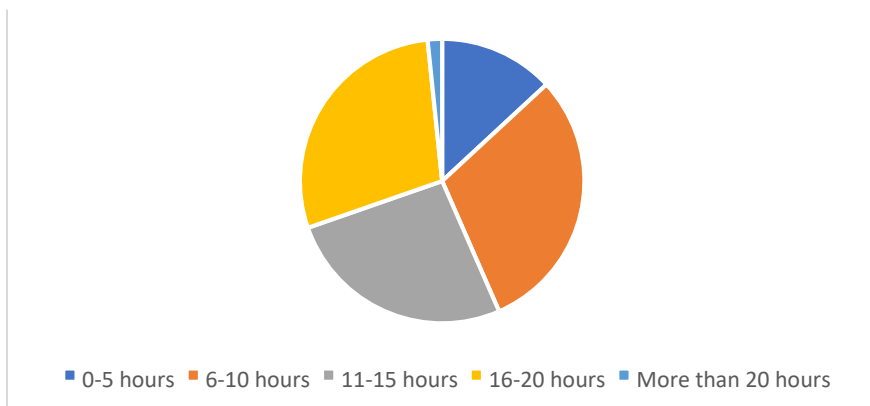
Evangelistic Messages	4.13%
Contemporary Topics	4.13%
Bible Book Studies	60.33%
Doctrinal Teaching	3.31%
Practical Themes	7.44%
I Do Not Have a Preferred Method	20.66%

Q3 How often do you give a gospel invitation?



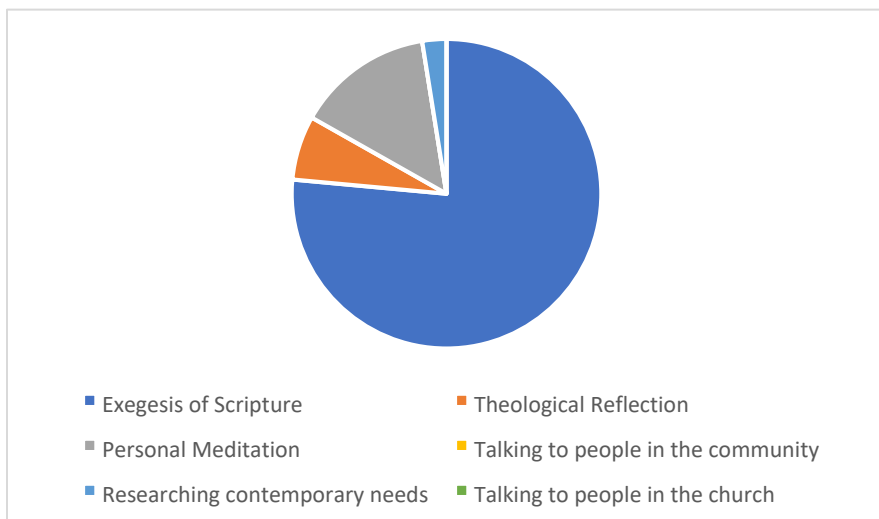
Every Sunday	21.67%
Frequently	32.50%
Occasionally	33.33%
Rarely	11.67%
Never	0.83%

Q4 How many hours do you spend on sermon preparation each week?



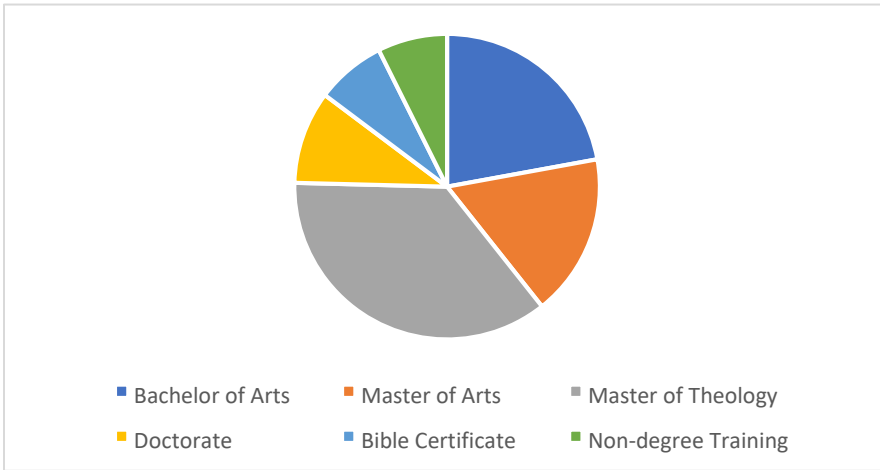
0-5 hours	13.11%
6-10 hours	30.33%
11-15 hours	26.23%
16-20 hours	28.69%
More Than 20 hours	1.64%

Q5 What is the most important element of sermon preparation for you?



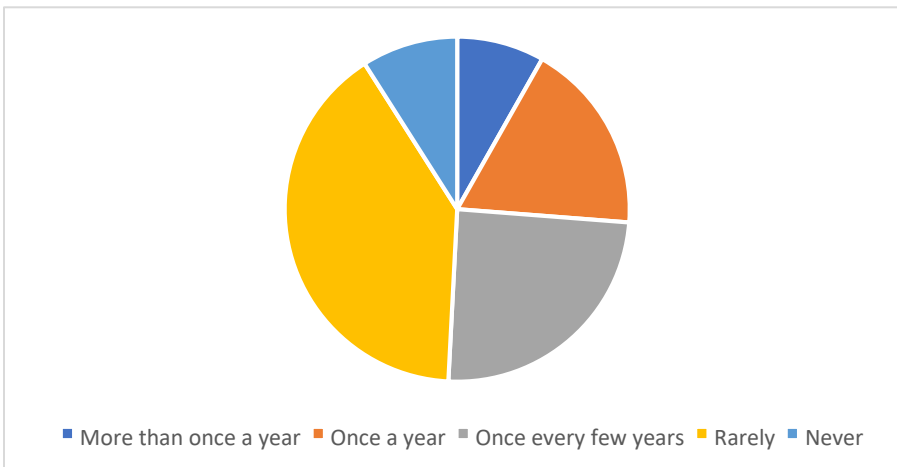
Exegesis of Scripture	76.47%
Theological Reflection	6.72%
Personal Meditation	14.29%
Talking to people in the community	0.00%
Researching Contemporary Needs	2.52%
Talking to people in the church	0.00%

Q6 What is your highest level of theological education?



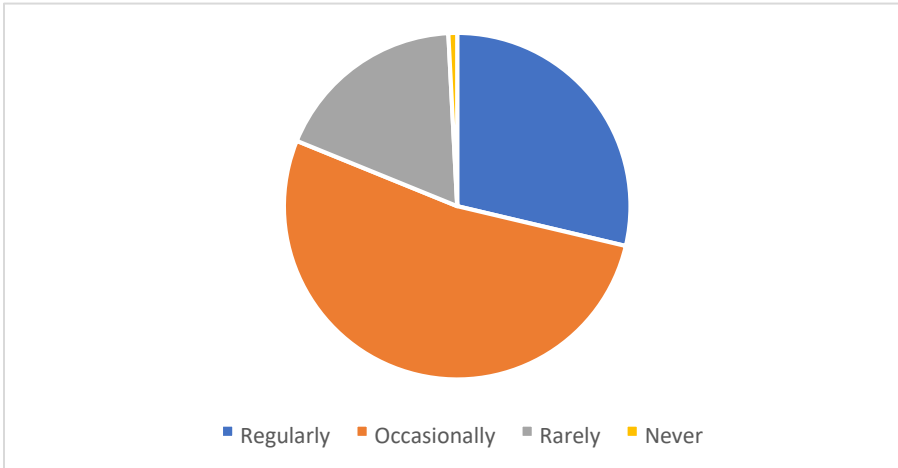
Bachelor of Arts	22.13%
Master of Arts	17.21%
Master of Theology	36.07%
Doctorate	9.84%
Bible Certificate	7.38%
Non-degree Training	7.38%

Q7 How often do you attend seminars or workshops devoted to preaching skills?



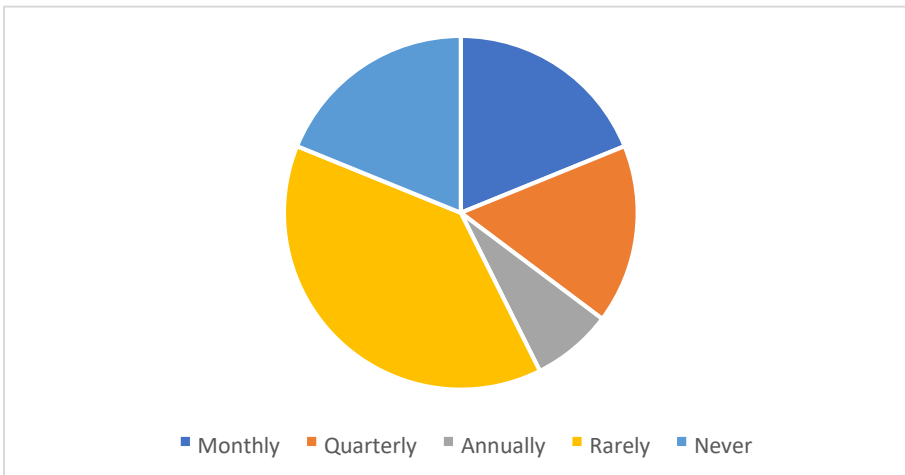
More than once a year	8.20%
Once a year	18.03%
Once every few years	24.59%
Rarely	40.16%
Never	9.02%

Q8 How often do you read books or articles about preaching?



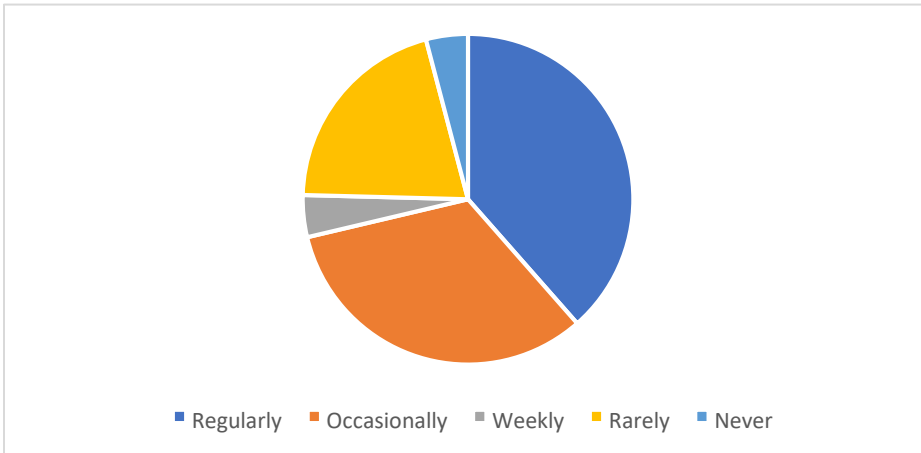
Regularly	28.69%
Occasionallly	52.46%
Rarely	18.03%
Never	0.82%

Q9 How often do you attend pastoral groups that discuss preaching?



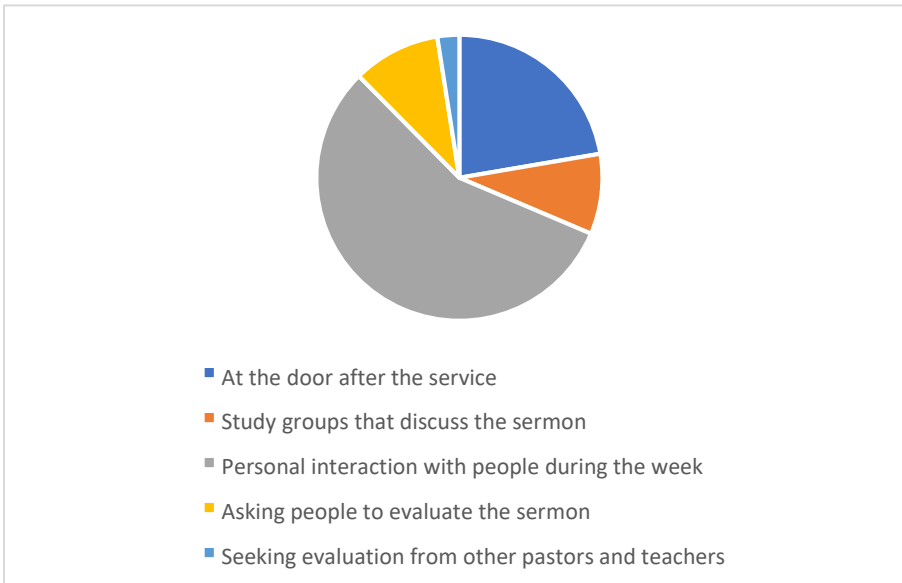
Monthly	18.85%
Quarterly	16.39%
Annually	7.38%
Rarely	38.52%
Never	18.85%

Q10 How often do you listen to other preachers on podcasts, radio or websites?



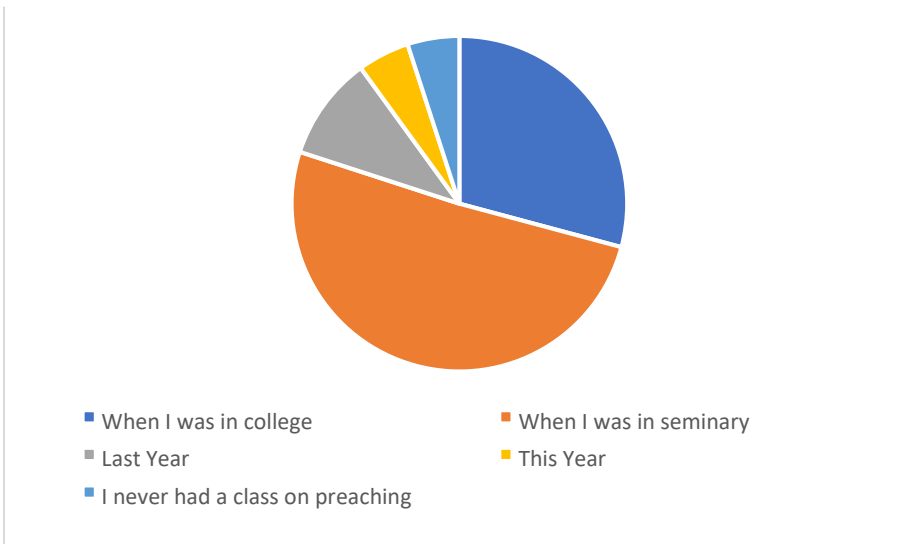
Regularly	38.52%
Occasionally	32.79%
Weekly	4.10%
Rarely	20.49%
Never	4.10%

Q11 How do you most often get feedback from your listeners about your sermons?



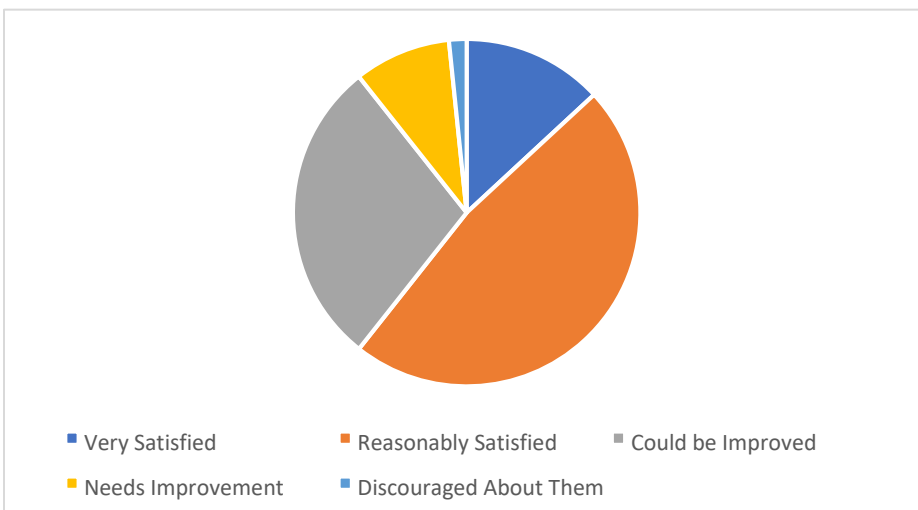
At the door after the service	22.31%
Study groups that discuss the sermon	9.09%
Personal interaction with people during the week	56.20%
Asking people to evaluate the sermon	9.92%
Seeking evaluation from other pastors and teachers	2.48%

Q12 When was the last time you enrolled in a class on preaching?



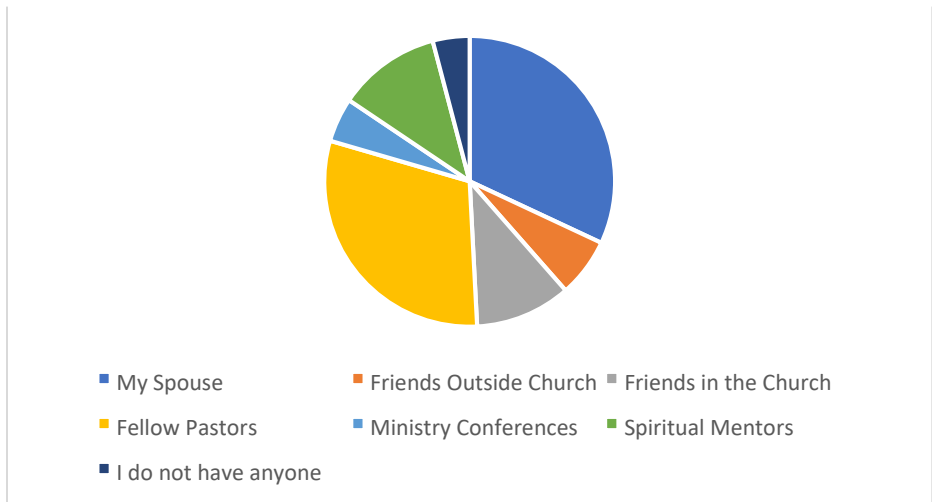
When I was in college	29.17%
When I was in seminary	50.83%
Last year	10.00%
This year	5.00%
I never had a class on preaching	5.00%

Q13 How satisfied are you with your current preaching skills?



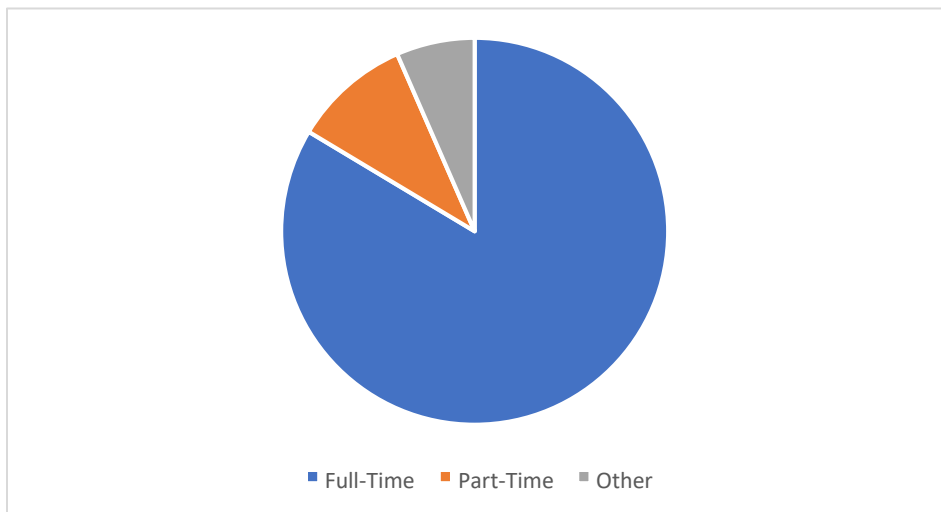
Very satisfied	13.11%
Reasonably satisfied	47.54%
Could be improved	28.69%
Needs improvement	9.02%
Discouraged about them	1.64%

Q14 Where do you usually go for encouragement in ministry?



My spouse	31.97%
Friends outside church	6.56%
Friends in the church	10.66%
Fellow pastors	30.33%
Ministry conferences	4.92%
Spiritual mentors	11.48%
I do not have anyone to go to for encouragement	4.10%

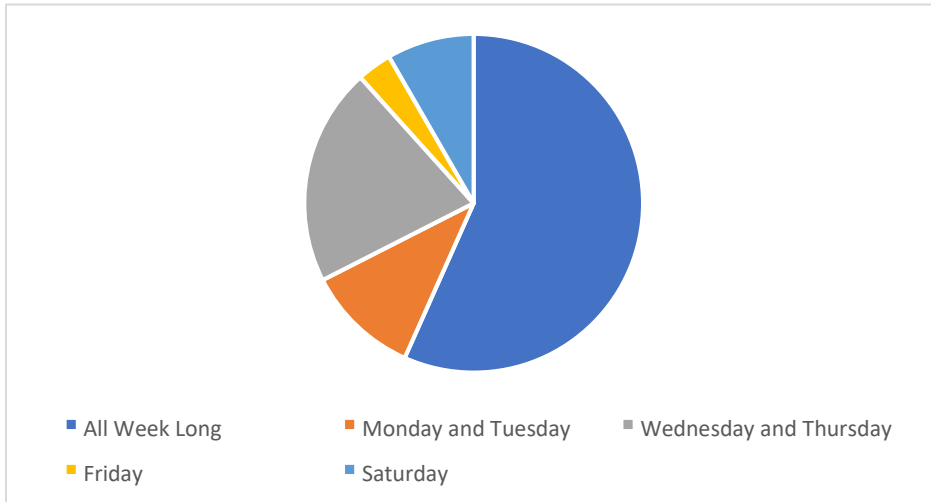
Q15 What is your current ministry status?



Full-time	83.61%
Part-time	9.84%
Other	6.56%



Q16 When do you do the bulk of your sermon preparation?



All week long	56.67%
Monday and Tuesday	10.83%
Wednesday and Thursday	20.83%
Friday	3.33%
Saturday	8.33%