

Ministers' & Spouses Retreat Survey

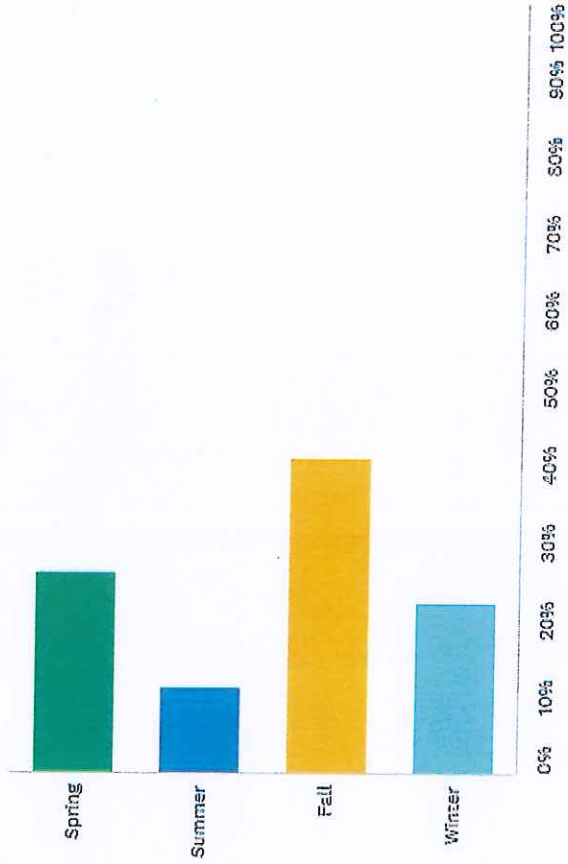
August 2020

28 Responses

Q1

What time of the year (season) is your preference for when this annual retreat is scheduled?

Answered: 27 Skipped: 1

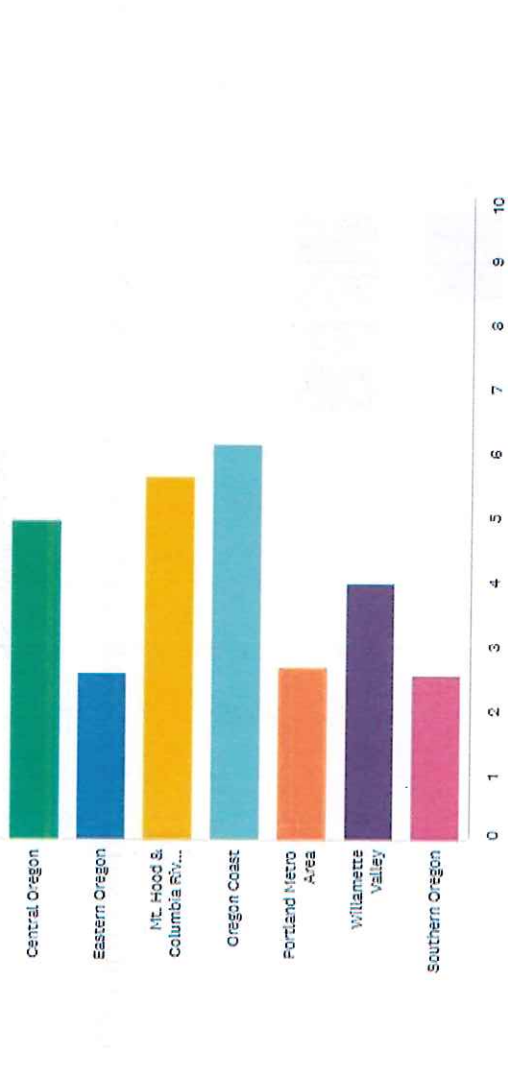


ANSWER CHOICES

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
▼ Spring	7
▼ Summer	3
▼ Fall	11
▼ Winter	6
TOTAL	27

Q2 What area (region) of our district is your preference for where this annual retreat is held? Please rank your preferences (1 being your top choice).

Answered: 28 Skipped: 0



	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	TOTAL	SCORE
Central Oregon	7	5	4	3	6	1	0	24	4.96
Eastern Oregon	0	1	3	1	3	6	5	22	2.89
Mt. Hood & Columbia River Gorge	6	9	6	0	1	1	0	25	5.64
Oregon Coast	13	8	1	4	0	0	0	26	6.13
Portland Metro Area	1	1	1	5	3	3	9	23	2.70
Willamette Valley	0	4	6	5	3	4	1	23	4.00
Southern Oregon	0	0	2	4	5	3	7	21	2.57

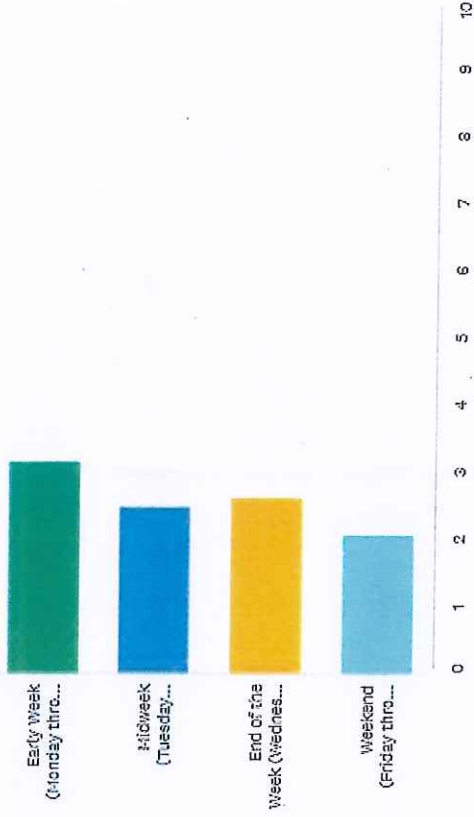
Q3

Comments or input regarding retreat location:

- Sun River is any season is awesome!
- We love the coast, but would be willing to be flexible.
- I think the biggest concern for location is pricing for me. I'm sure we can have fun wherever we go, but I know that different locations will cause the price to vary.
- Portland is best.
- Needs to be affordable and focused on people still active in ministry. Retired are, of course, welcome, but you should focus on the active group in picking a speaker/worship leader. Or do something brand new. Go outside the box. Ask your kids what they would like to do.
- The location is not as important as is having time together.
- Somewhere with a beautiful natural setting.
- The rooms need to be hotel quality, private baths, fun things to go visit and see nearby.
- Have different locations each year.
- Not too expensive!
- Make it affordable.
- It is nice to feel a bit pampered so we like a nice hotel.
- Is there a way to make the retreat less expensive so more pastors and spouses can attend?
- I am not interested in attending.
- If I could go to the retreats, this is where I would go (Oregon Coast preferred choice).

Q4 What days of the week are your preference for when the event is held? Please rank your preferences (1 being your top choice).

Answered: 27 Skipped: 1



	1	2	3	4	TOTAL	SCORE
Early Week (Monday through Wednesday)	44.00% 11	32.00% 8	20.00% 5	4.00% 1	25	3.16
Midweek (Tuesday through Thursday)	16.67% 4	33.33% 8	53.33% 13	16.67% 4	24	2.50
End of the Week (Wednesday through Friday)	30.43% 7	13.04% 3	43.48% 10	13.04% 3	23	2.61
Weekend (Friday through Sunday)	20.00% 5	24.00% 6	0.00% 0	56.00% 14	25	2.08

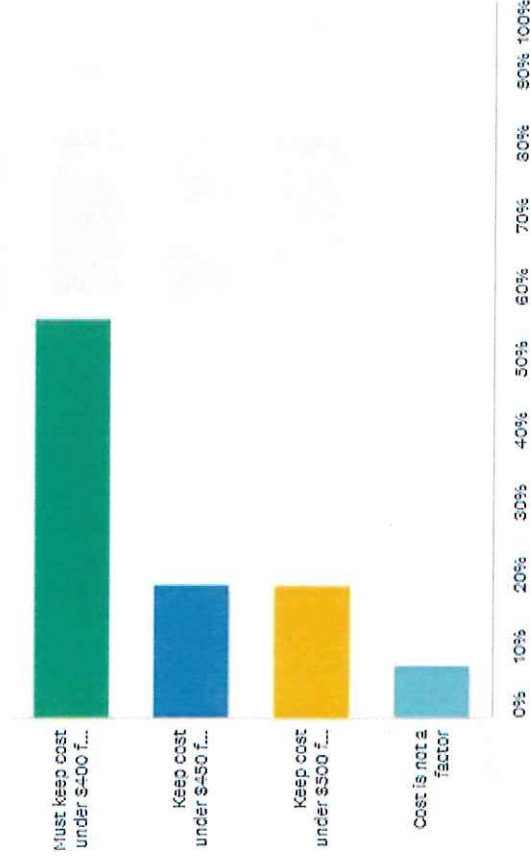
Q5

Comments or input regarding days of the week the retreat is held.

- Two nights is good. I would want a keynote, maybe one session
- Sunday is hard, but we can be flexible.
- I have youth on Tuesday nights and it's very hard for both pastor and I to leave so often I end up being the one who can't come.
- I wouldn't be able to attend anyway.
- It's tough. With kids I just don't know how to get away for this. Two nights of babysitting is a big ask of any friend. So the time of week may not matter to me.
- Sundays aren't good.
- Everything depends on having sufficient time to request the days off for both my wife and I.
- I like having a Sunday off.
- Having all the ministers leave over a weekend would put a strain on those who do pulpit supply.
- Not too important to us being retired. We can adjust to any time.
- It is nice to alternate so spouses who work can come on weekends.
- Not interested.
- If it's on a Sunday, I will not be there.

Q6 Research reveals that the cost for a three-day, two-night retreat at many resorts across our district cost over \$400 per couple, especially when food and speaker costs are included. What is your price threshold for such an event?

Answered: 27 Skipped: 1



ANSWER CHOICES

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Must keep cost under \$400 for entire stay	18
Keep cost under \$450 for stay	6
Keep cost under \$500 for stay	6
Cost is not a factor	2
TOTAL	27

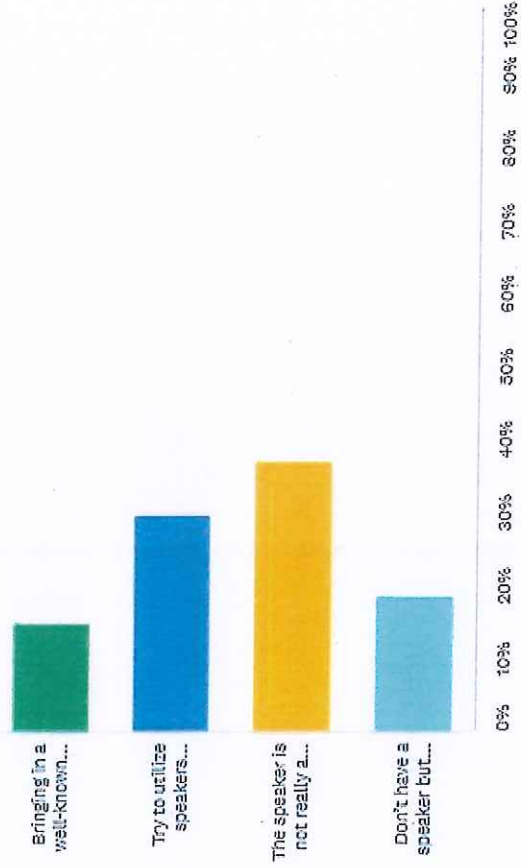
Q7

Comments or input regarding retreat cost:

- Minister's Health grant might be something on the Ministry endeavor funds.
- Prefer lower costs, but I understand that expenses rise. Will be flexible.
- I often can't bring my husband so it would be nice to have a roommate option for cutting costs for those who need it.
- I wouldn't be able to attend anyway.
- I get that speakers are a big draw for others. Personally, I think I'd be more likely to attend if the speaker was dropped (and therefore the price). I'd much rather just have a nice time praying with colleagues and having a relaxing getaway with my wife.
- Cost will burden many folks.
- Go outside the box: camping/yurts/trailers/etc. let the pastors do things together instead of sit in a room listening to each other. Save huge money - we prep our own food, but one or two big meals together. Cap it all off with a bonfire night and hotdog roast w s'mores!
- None.
- My wife & I enjoyed the retreat very much, but since our retirement we have not been able to attend at all.
- Who has money? I'd be happy to speak or lead worship to make my trip free.
- We haven't been able to afford it on a fixed income.
- Some of us are prevented from going due to the high cost.
- Cost is a factor for most retired ministers since they don't have congregational/salary support any longer.
- Cost is why we cannot attend.

Q8 Noting that scheduling some speakers can add substantially to the cost of such an event, what is your preference regarding speakers and other event activities?

Answered: 27 Skipped: 1



ANSWER CHOICES

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Bring in a well-known speaker is worth the extra cost	4 14.81%
Try to utilize speakers already in our region so travel costs are minimal	8 29.63%
The speaker is not really a determining factor in my/four participation	10 37.04%
Don't have a speaker but utilize retreat participants	5 18.52%
TOTAL	27

Q9

Past retreats have typically been a three-day, two-night event at a hotel on the coast with a speaker and a worship leader. If we started over from scratch, what could an ideal retreat look like? What would the schedule look like? What about setting and speakers? The format of the event? Dream a little. Share your thoughts with us!

- I love the mountains. I like cohorts and relationship building. I think an excursion/sight seeing or otherwise in small groups would be amazing. Utilizing AirBnB or Houses with multiple couples might be financially advantageous.
- Wow. Good for you on dreaming! Since I will probably retire soon, I think you should focus on the needs of younger, active ministers. Thank you for your hard work! Blessings!
- I love the coast option. It's my happy place. Also love connecting with other pastors!
- Love this retreat as long as I can go.
- Two days, one night at a hotel, relevant speaker, a special activity like a boat ride, and a couple's dinner.
- Lots of free time. Not over programmed. Time for prayer/devotionals with other pastors and their spouses. But really, I don't want to feel like I'm fulfilling a church duty. I just want a retreat. I want to come home rejuvenated and feeling like I had lots of space with my wife to relax and connect on a deeper level with her.
- Use younger local speakers and schedule in downtime.
- See above. also - let whoever is there share out what they are learning from the scriptures. Welcome interaction and challenge. Lead this to make sure no one shows up with an agenda and provide opportunity for discussion.
- Thank you for working to keep this retreat alive.
- I liked what we were doing.
- No speaker. Provide a format to deepen friendships with other couples/ministers. Have participants tag team topics.
- Hospitals and doctors seem to want most of what we have to spend. We used to love retreats and if it hits at a good time we would try to make an effort to be there.
- None.
- Socializing with the other pastors & wives; time to get to know one another.
- We actually really like the format. We look forward to this retreat every year.
- We need more time for conversation and collaboration. A speaker is not necessary.
- I feel this should come more from active ministers, not retired ministers.
- A true retreat with ample time to relax, explore, develop relationships with other pastors in the district. Alternating between early week and weekends so working spouses could come. Meals together to foster conversation. Alternating locations for a verity of experiences. Thanks for asking.
- Get Karl Vaters to speak.
- The retreats have always looked appealing to me, but cannot afford the costs and my husband's schedule is difficult.