

# St. Matthews UMC Sunday Schedule Survey

For review by Church Council

Feb 27, 2019

# Overview

291 responses to survey (95% confidence level, 3-4% margin of error based on avg attendance)

## Demographics

- Attendance evenly split over all three services
- 65% worshiped at St. Matthews UMC 10+ years
- 65% over age 51
- 33% have children under the age of 18
- 33% Regularly participate in Sunday School
  - Includes modern worship where there is no option to participate

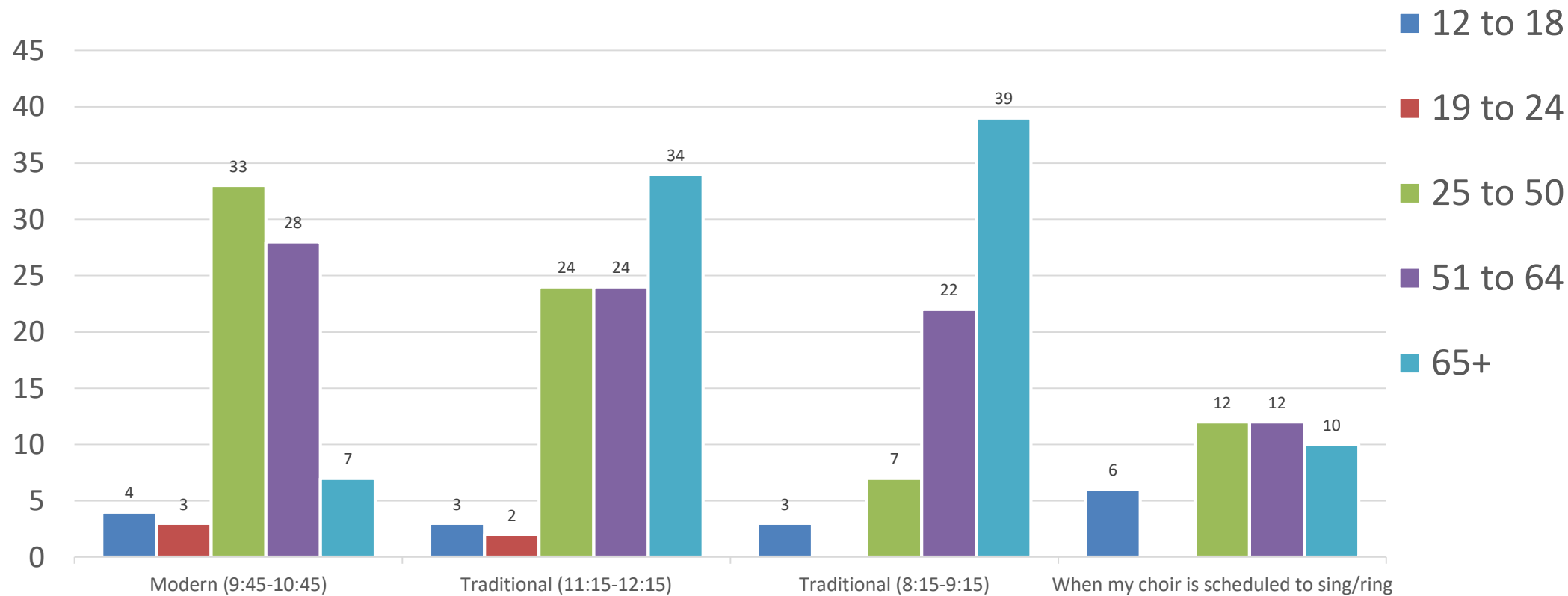
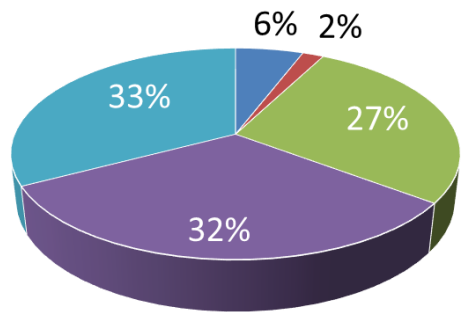
## Results

- 70% of responses said “YES” to option 1
- 67% of responses said “YES” to option 2
- 41% of responses said “YES” to option 3
  - This could mean many people are open to change
  - May have not understood question
  - ~15% of people didn’t answer option 3
  - ~15% of people gave a potential contradictory answer

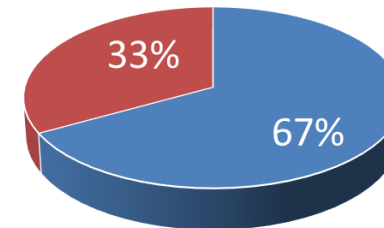
## Observations

- Many comments on ideas for broader changes to Sunday services beyond making room for Sunday school
- Did not collect data to better understand “demand” for Sunday school
- Problems with paper surveys; “blank questions”, “hard to read answers”, “didn’t fill out back page” & “manual entry”

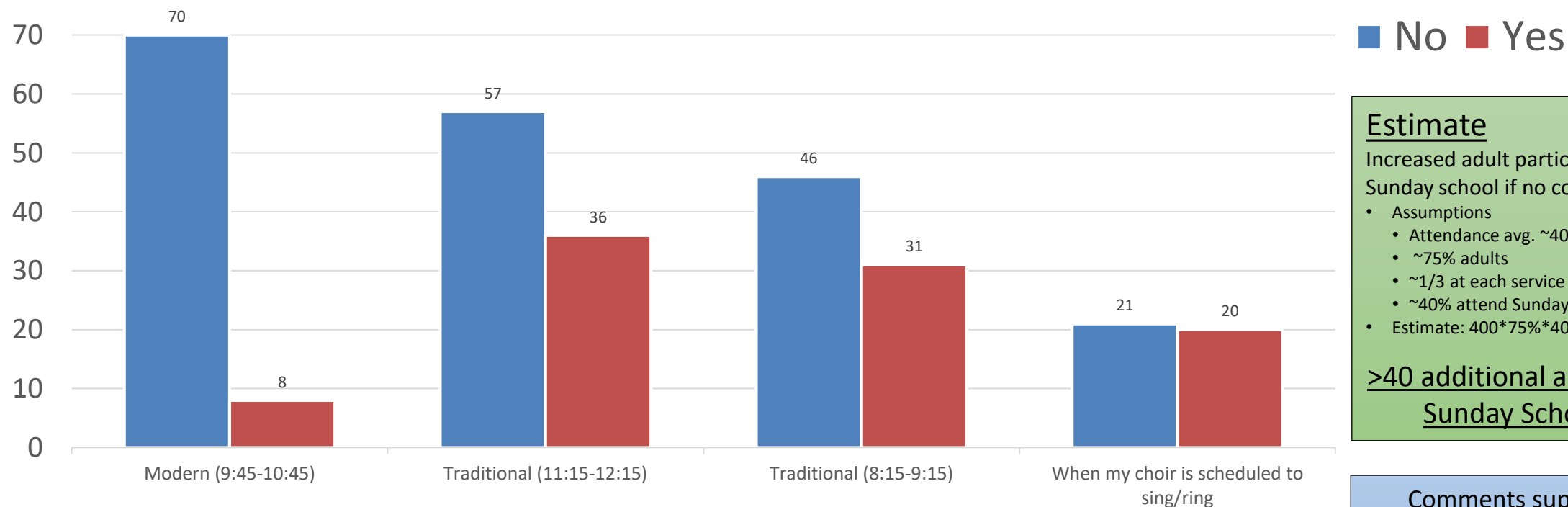
# Age Demographic



# Sunday School



Survey shows most people do not attend Sunday school. Actual attendance is much higher, but includes all age groups. Survey did not ask if wanted to attend Sunday school, but using data was able to estimate demand.



**Estimate**  
Increased adult participation in Sunday school if no conflict

- Assumptions
  - Attendance avg. ~400 people
  - ~75% adults
  - ~1/3 at each service
  - ~40% attend Sunday school
- Estimate:  $400 * 75\% * 40\% / 3 = 40$

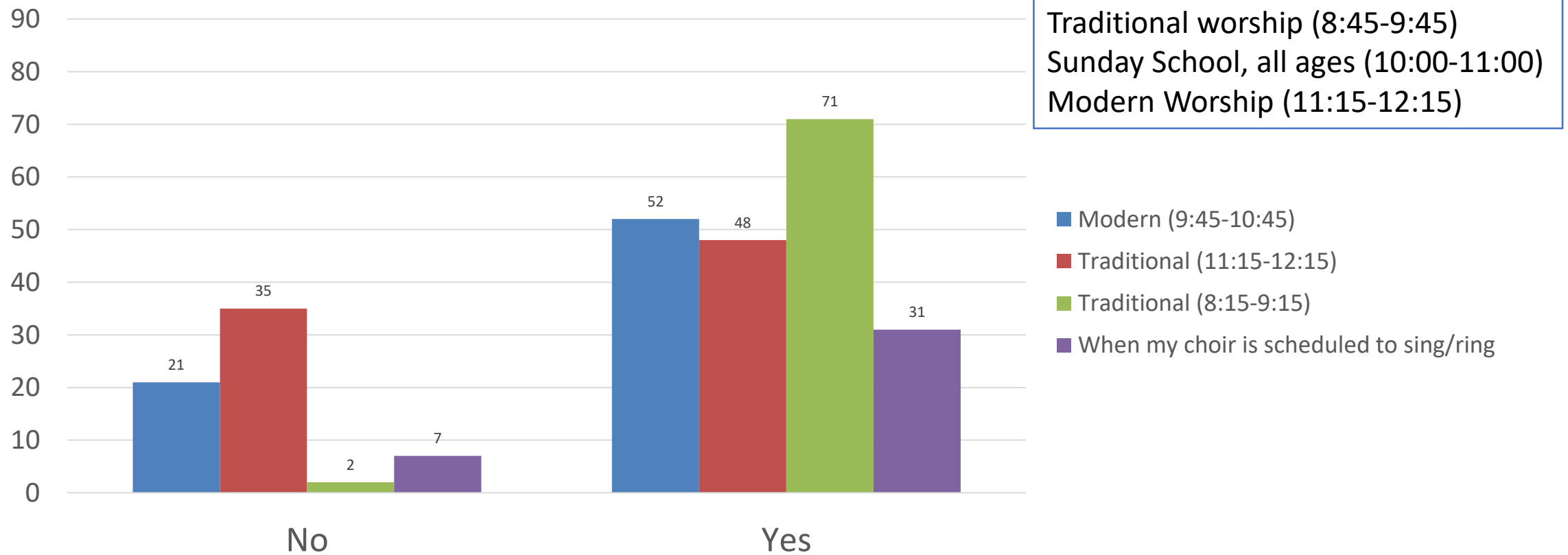
**>40 additional adults in Sunday School**

Opportunity for increased Sunday School participation if remove conflict with Modern Worship

Based on survey data of traditional service ~40% attend Sunday school. ( $87/211 = 41\%$ )  
This is a conservative estimate since actual attendance is much higher but includes all age groups.

Comments support estimate showing there is more demand for Sunday School options

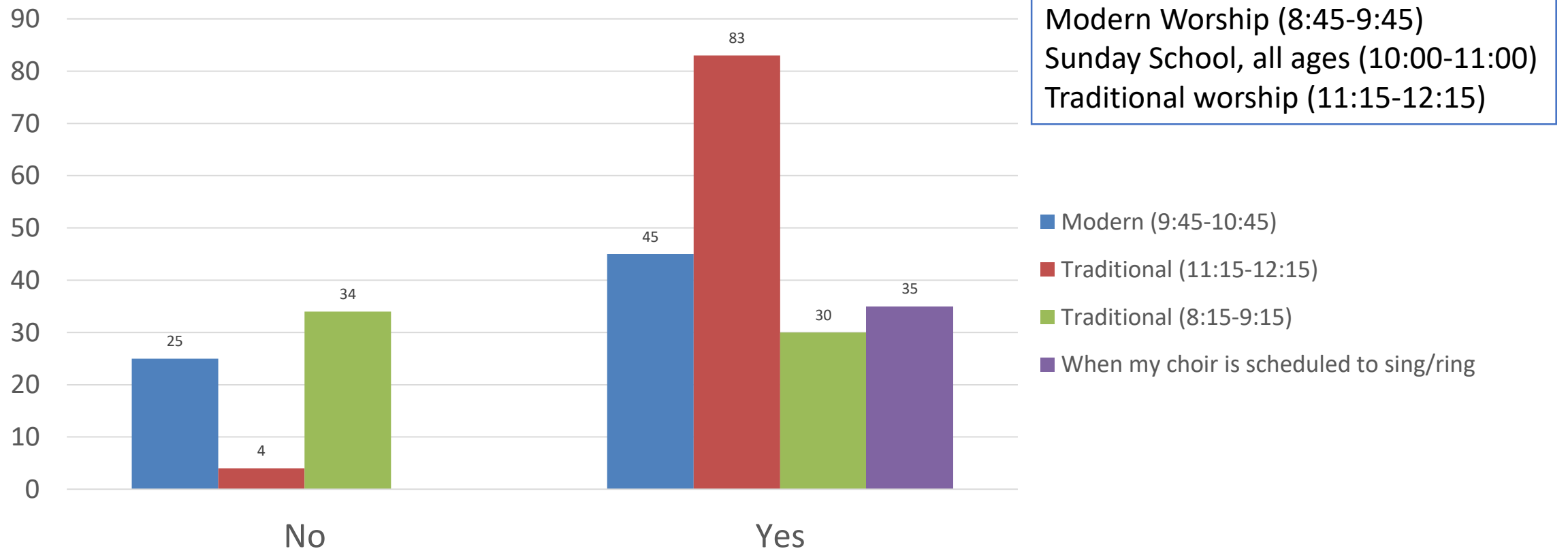
# Option 1 - Would you be willing to continue your participation at St. Matthews UMC?



- Like Traditional service (not an early person) [33]
- Like Modern Worship early (have other activities after service) [16]
- Prefer Children in Sunday school during service [6]

- Either Option 1 or 2 are fine for me [28]
- Would not likely attend as often [6]

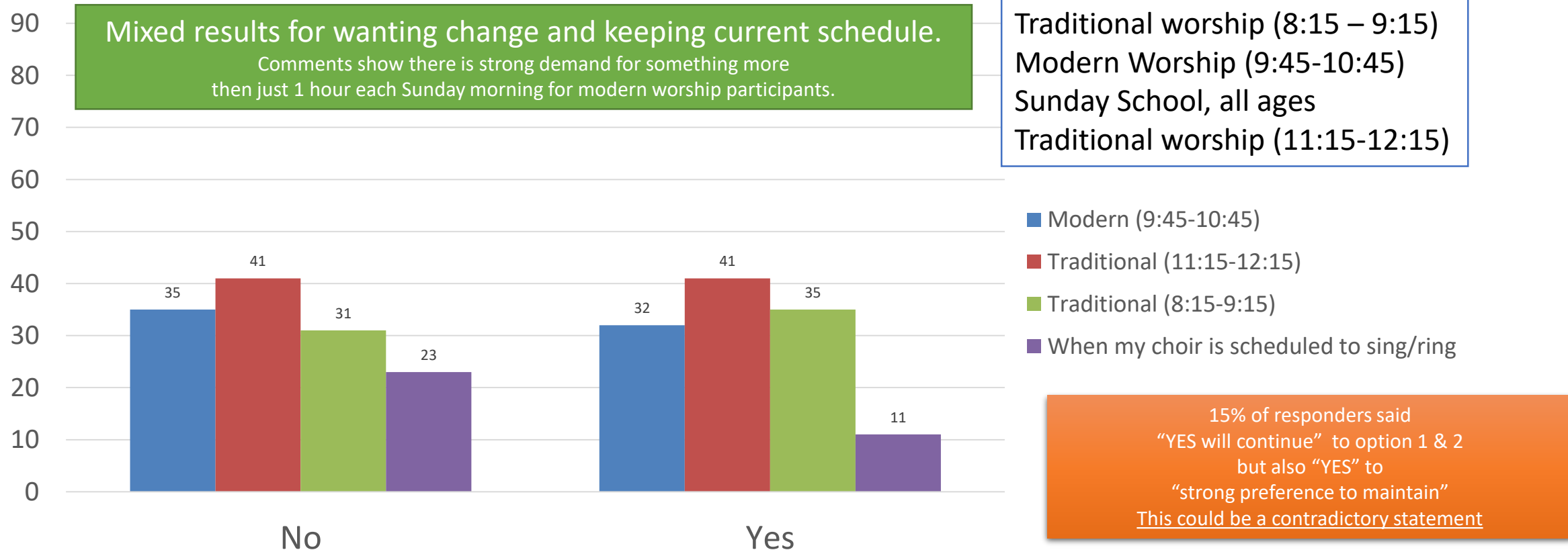
# Option 2 - Would you be willing to continue your participation at St. Matthews UMC?



- Like Traditional service early (have other activities after service) [24]
- Like Modern Worship service later (not an early person) [12]
- Prefer Children in Sunday school during service [4]

- I like this! [17]
- Either Option 1 or 2 are fine for me [15]
- This time frame is easier for young children and teens who sing in choir or bells

# Option 3 - Do you have a strong preference to maintain the current Sunday morning schedule?



- Want both Sunday School and Worship Service of their choice [39]
- Happy with anything or do what is best for St. Matthews [18]
- Don't want Sunday School [3]

- Like Modern Worship service at 9:45 [13]
- Like two options for traditional service [8]

# Representative Comments

## “If you have additional thoughts you'd like to share”

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- Demand for change [10]
  - “Having modern worship during Sunday School makes me feel like a less important ... would love the opportunity to study with others during Sunday School!”
  - “I like having my child and I attend Sunday School at the same time.”
  - “We need a schedule that has no conflict with worship & Sunday School.”
  - “I would love to be a part of Sunday school and enjoy modern worship ... I feel disconnected from the church in a lot of ways. “
  - “As a 9:45 worshipper, Sunday School is wholly unavailable as a participant or as a teacher ...very frustrating experience for me.”
  - “...the traditional service attendees treat the modern worship service attendees as step-children.”
- Want something different from music program [7]
  - “I would love to have a traditional/modern mixed service so we can sing hymns and modern songs.”
  - “I would like to see bell choirs ring at modern services.”
- Don't want Sunday School [2]
  - “I like both modern and traditional services but really do not want to attend Sunday School.”
- Don't want change [26]
  - “Children's choir and bells ...should have opportunity to perform at service at least once per month.”
  - “We've been coming to the Modern Worship service since its inception. Don't change it just for a few people.”
- Want what is best for St. Mathews [18]
  - “I will continue to attend no matter when the services are.”