

# YOUTH FOCUS GROUPS

Follow-up Awareness Survey

# Joint Standing Committee

- ▣ Joint Standing Committee (JSC) of the
  - Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada (UOCC)
  - Ukrainian Self-Reliance League (USRL)
- ▣ Core mandate:
  - To identify mutual goals of UOCC and USRL and develop an implementation strategy to achieve such goals
  - Renewal of both organizations and by proxy the Ukrainian Orthodox Community (UOC)

# JSC - Terms of Reference

- 1 Clarify the relationship between the USRL and the UOCC by identifying mutual goals and developing an implementation strategy to achieve such goals in order to strengthen this organizational relationship.
- 2 Determine how to facilitate the missionary role of the Church into that segment of the general membership that maintains a cultural identification with the Ukrainian Canadian tradition.
- 3 Facilitate and promote the role of the laity in the Church.
- 4 To determine how to enable the USRL to act as a broker and liaison with common interests in Ukraine where the UOCC cannot be as overt or active.
- 5 Identify the ways and means of encouraging the interaction of the UOCC and USRL with other parts of the mainstream Canadian community with respect to charitable and other endeavors.

# JSC - Recommendations to Date

- ▣ Camps
- ▣ Institutes
- ▣ Chaplains
- ▣ Youth Worker
- ▣ Young Adults
- ▣ Leadership Development

# Young Adults

- ▣ Under-represented group
  - Church attendance
  - USRL involvement
- ▣ Many formerly active
- ▣ Desire to engage this demographic
- ▣ What are their needs?
- ▣ What can we do to increase their involvement?

# Youth Focus Groups – Process

- ▣ Conducted in 6 major centres across Canada
- ▣ Participants invited (open invite)
- ▣ Standard questionnaire
- ▣ Facilitated by JSC members
- ▣ Proceedings recorded by JSC member

# Focus Groups – Results

- ▣ General themes identified
- ▣ Results presented to
  - Western Diocese
  - USRL National Convention 2009
- ▣ Final report distributed via email, Visnyk, Ukrainian Voice, placed on UOCC website

# Implications

## UOCC

- ▣ Call to improve faith-based education
  - Goal = better understanding of Orthodox Faith
  - Quality more important than quantity
- ▣ Culture of lifelong learning
  - Education does not end with Sunday School
- ▣ Look at alternate forms of education
  - Adult learners – use your expertise!!

# Implications

URSL

- ▣ Vision and mission must be relevant
- ▣ Listen to the young people we have (e.g. CYMK)
- ▣ May involve
  - Significant organizational change
  - Clarity in focus (church-based)

# Implications

## UOCC & URSL

- ▣ Leadership must be developed
- ▣ Proactive and deliberate
  - Right people on the bus
- ▣ Utilize the skills we have
  - Right people in the right seats on the bus

# Bottom Line

- ▣ We presented some ideas, but now it was time for grassroots and leadership to take the initiative...
- ▣ **But, what was the uptake, was any action taken as the result of our work??**

# Purpose of Survey

- ▣ Determine knowledge of and uptake of results of YFG initiative

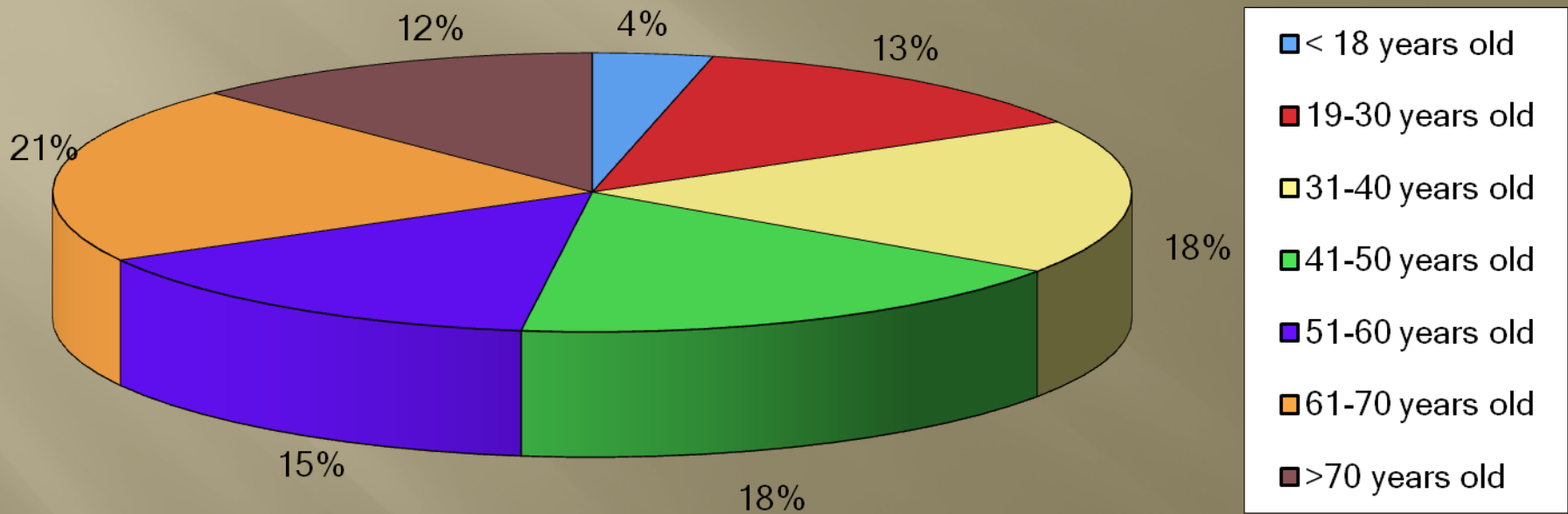
# Methodology

- ▣ Online survey – “Survey Monkey”
- ▣ Multiple distribution methods
  - Email
  - Facebook
  - Notice mailed to parishes (with Sobor mailout)
  - Notice placed in Visnyk/Ukrainian Voice
  - Weblinks on USRL and UOCC websites
- ▣ 9 questions
  - 3 demographic; 6 survey-specific

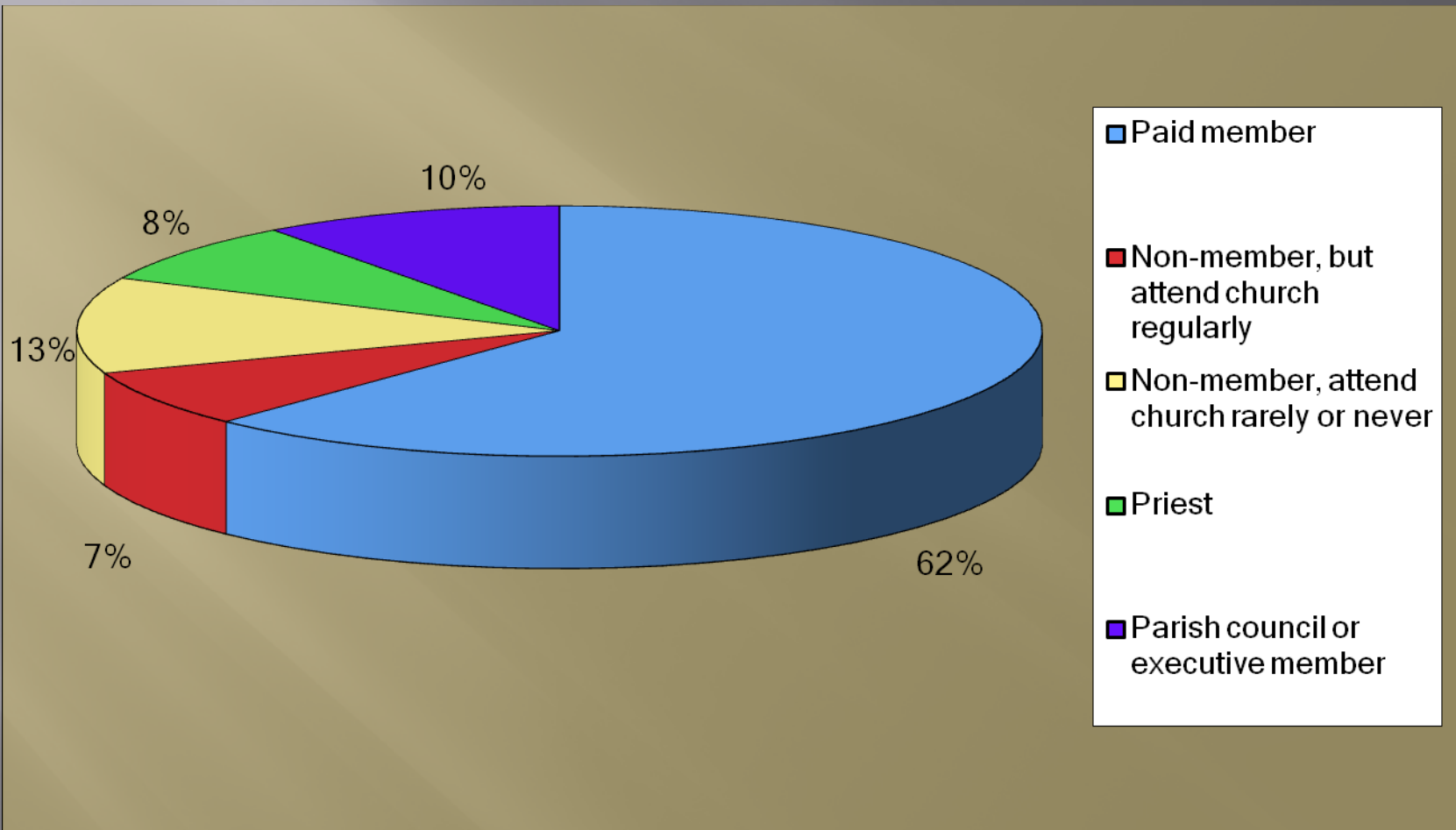
# Results

- ▣ Distributed mid-April to mid-May
- ▣ One final email reminder 10 days prior to survey closure
  
- ▣ 311 respondents

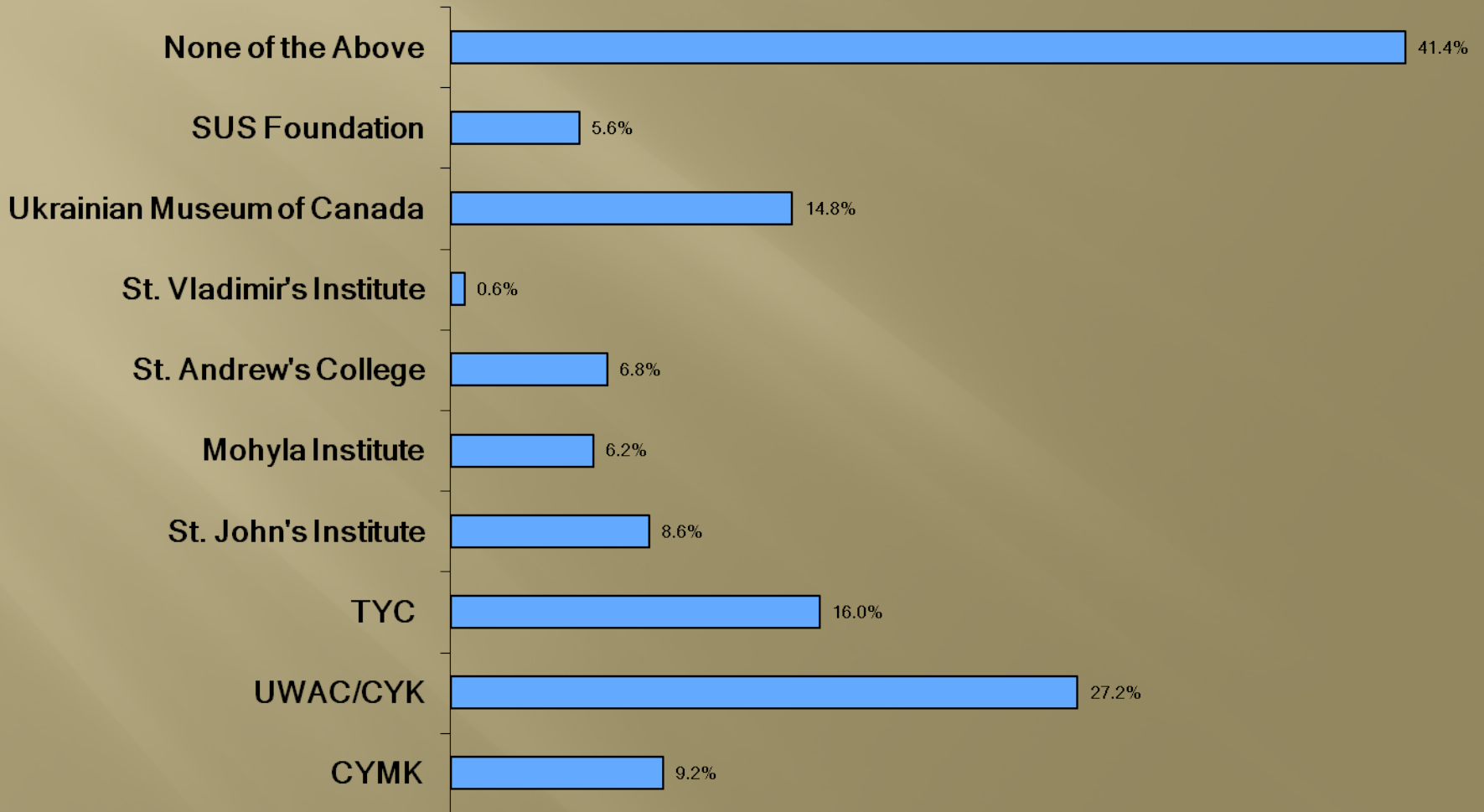
# Age of Respondents



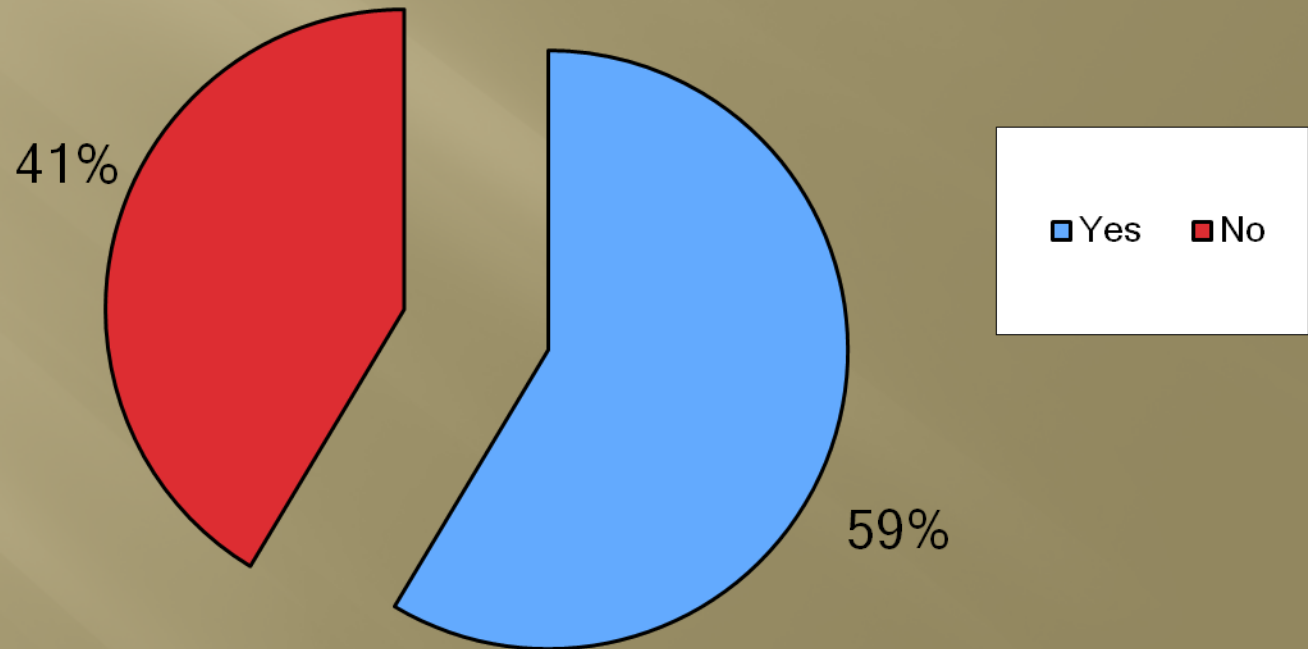
# Current Role in UOCC



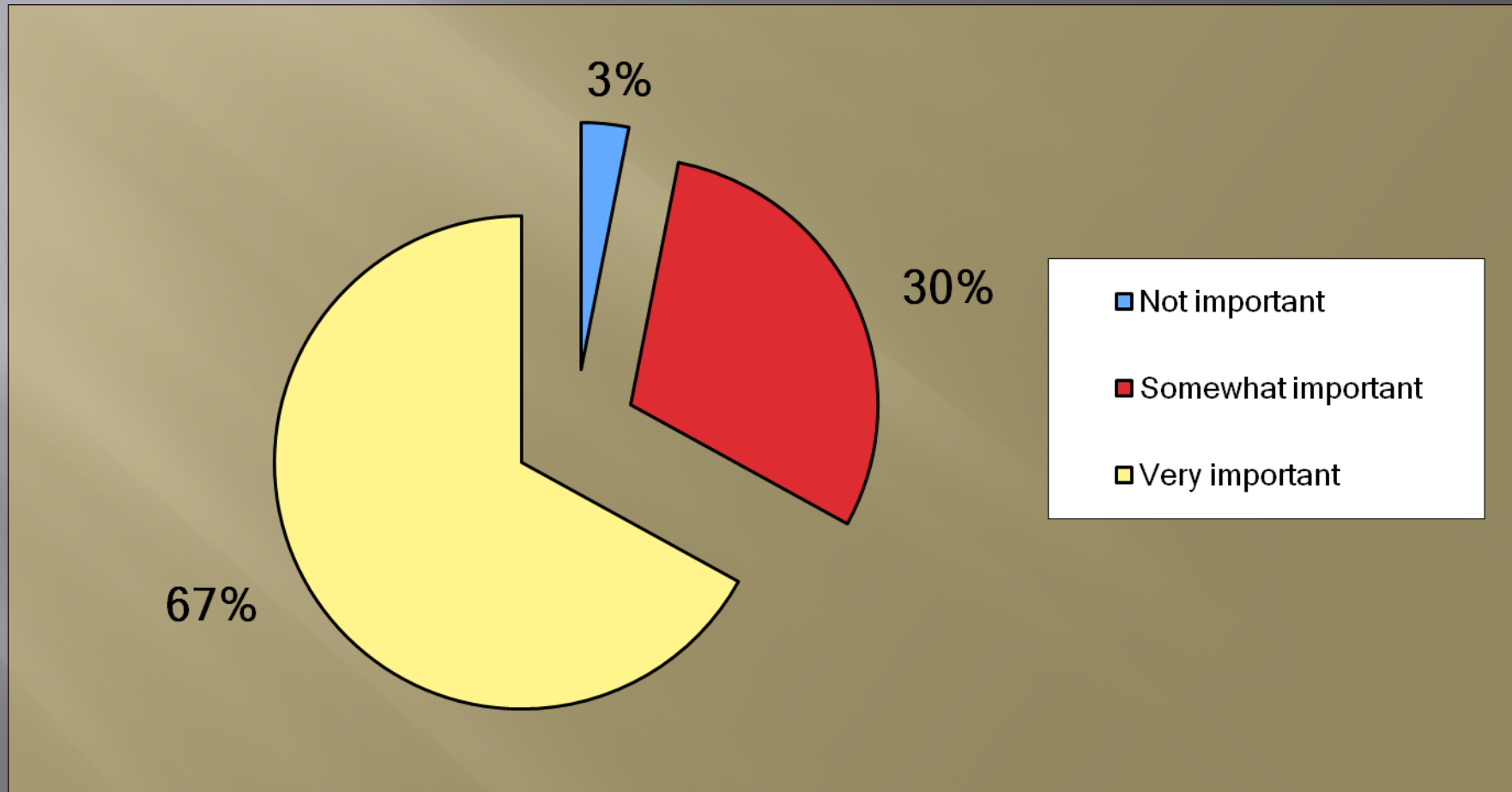
# Current Role in USRL



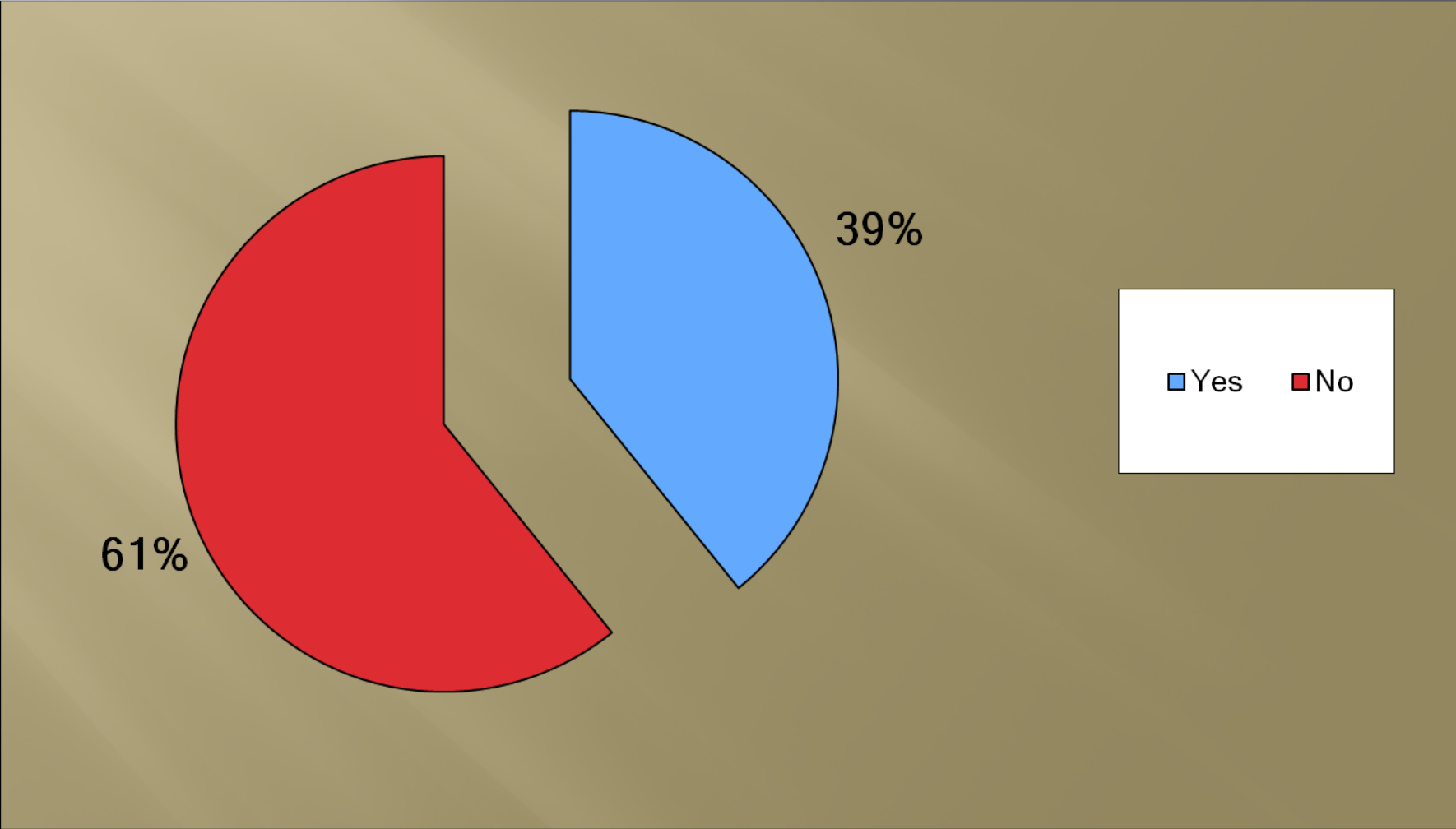
# Have You Heard of The YFG?



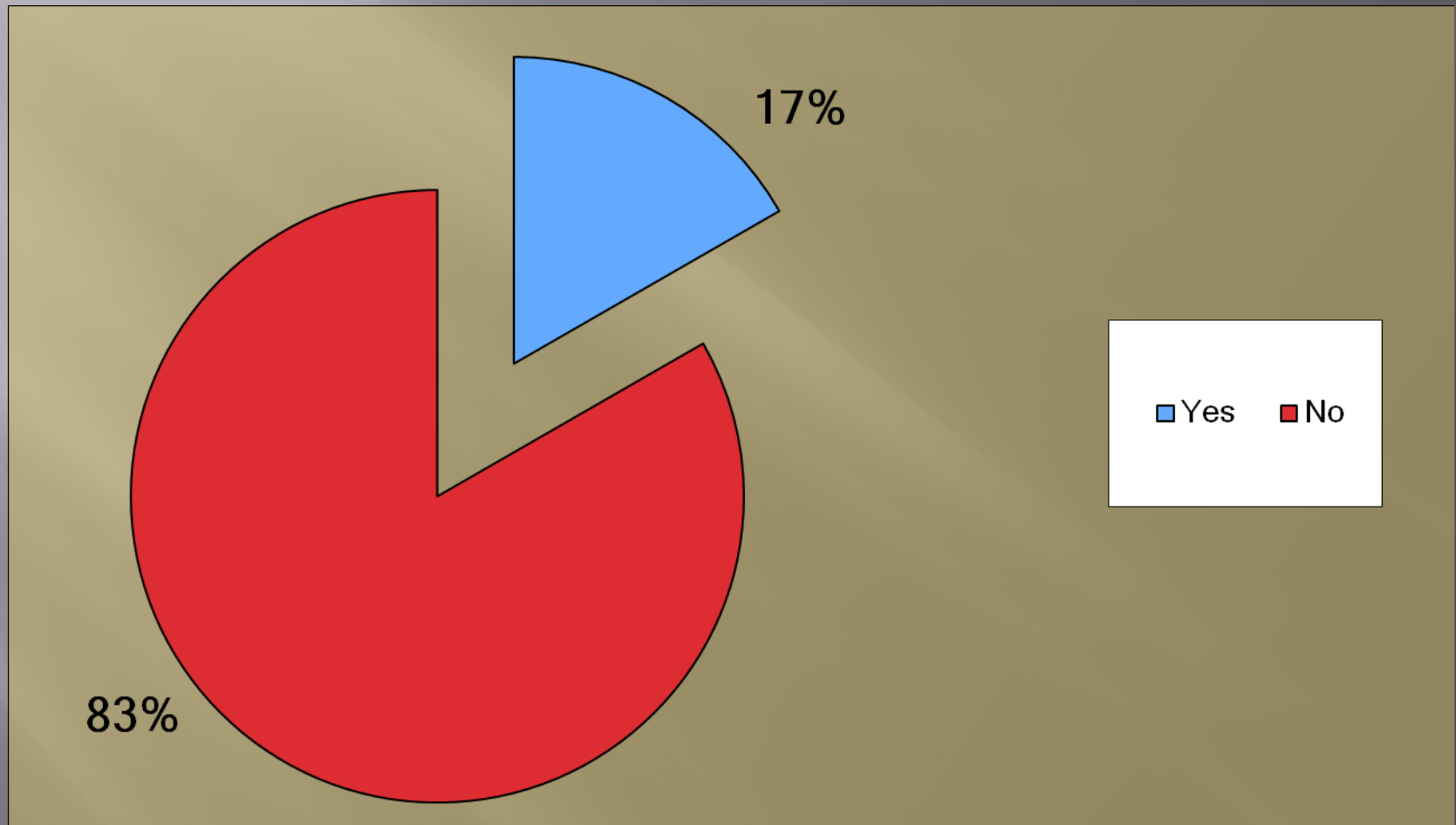
# How Important is The YFG?



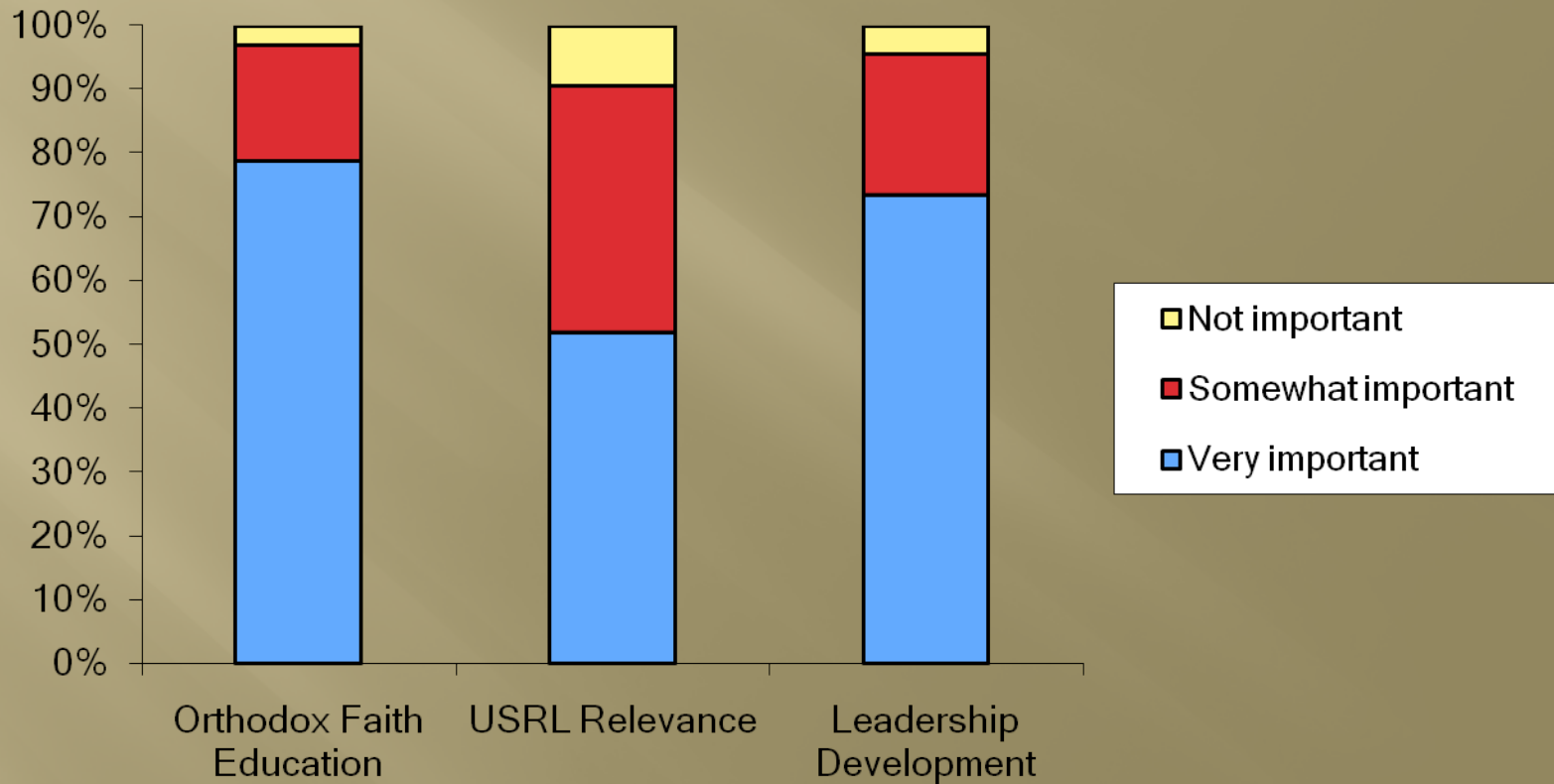
# Familiarity with Key Findings



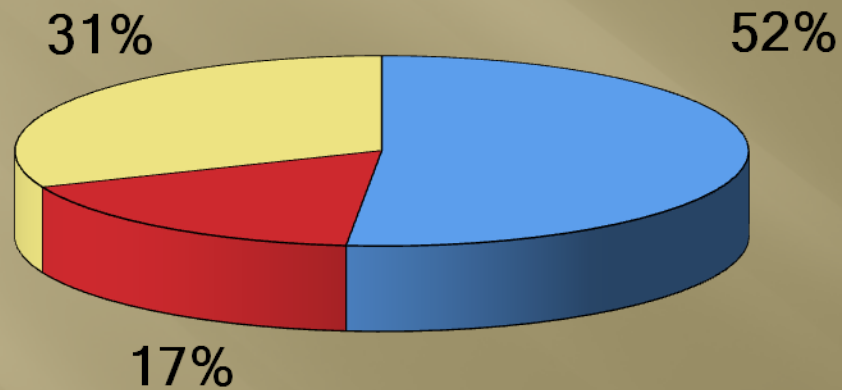
# Is Anything Happening in Your Parish re: Key Findings?



# RELEVANCE of Key Findings



# What Should be our TOP PRIORITY?



- Orthodox Faith Education
- USRL Relevance
- Leadership Development

# Comments

- ▣ Survey sent to similar mailing list as those who would have received final report
  - BUT – it means most read the report!
- ▣ 60% of respondents have heard of the initiative, but only 20% are seeing any results
  - Knowledge Translation Gap
- ▣ 50% feel Orthodox Education should be our top priority
  - You are the body to address that!

# Next Steps

- ▣ Results suggest several things
  - Need to publicize work of JSC more
  - Need for community to see tangible benefits of our work
  - Need for action on our recommendations
    - ▣ Lies with USRL and UOCC leadership AND membership
- ▣ Your work now...
  - What can we do to address this?
  - What will work in MY parish?
  - Timeframe?