

Belin Memorial UMC Congregation Survey

Summer 2024



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Survey Administration

This survey was created, administered, and analyzed by Molly French in the office of Institutional Research, Assessment, and Analysis (IRAA) at Coastal Carolina University in Conway, SC. All data is stored on IRAA servers and can only be accessed by members of that office.

The survey was anonymous; responses cannot be tied to individual members of the congregation (unless they chose to identify themselves in the open response questions). All multiple-choice questions required a response, and all open response questions were optional. All invitees were presented with the same question set.

The survey was available online from June 6th - June 24th, 2024. Access was restricted; each congregant on the list provided by Belin Memorial UMC was assigned a unique random code required to log into the survey. Only those with a code could access the survey, and only one time per code. These unique codes were sent via postcard to all listed congregants, and also via email for those with an email address provided. Any needed adjustments (changing/correcting/adding email addresses) or additions to the congregant list were handled on the fly during the survey administration. Over the nineteen-day span of the survey, three follow-up email reminders were sent to those who had not yet responded.

Response Rate

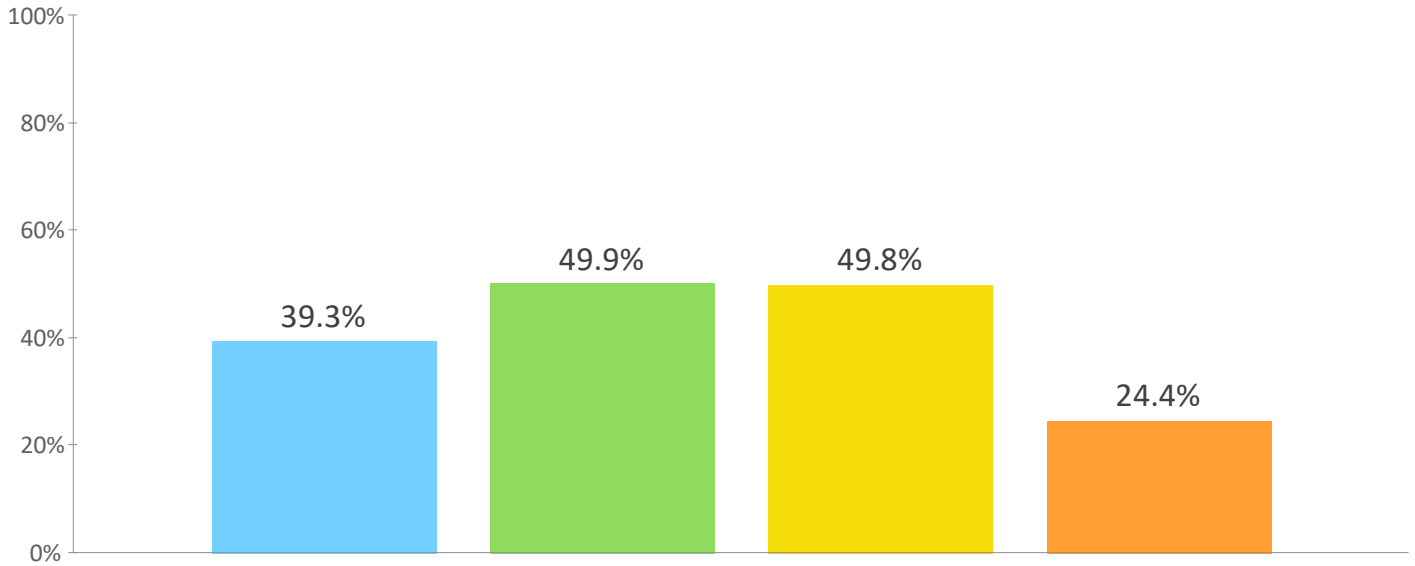
# Invited	2860
# Responded	1183
% Responded	41.4%

Belin Memorial UMC Congregant Survey

Summer 2024

Understanding of Information

Q1: Did you access or attend any of the following? Select all that apply.



- Denominational Education Team webpage
- Denominational Education Team events (Jan & Feb 2024)
- Self-Study/Research
- None

Denominational Education Team webpage	465 39.3%
Denominational Education Team events (Jan & Feb 2024)	590 49.9%
Self-Study/Research	589 49.8%
None	289 24.4%

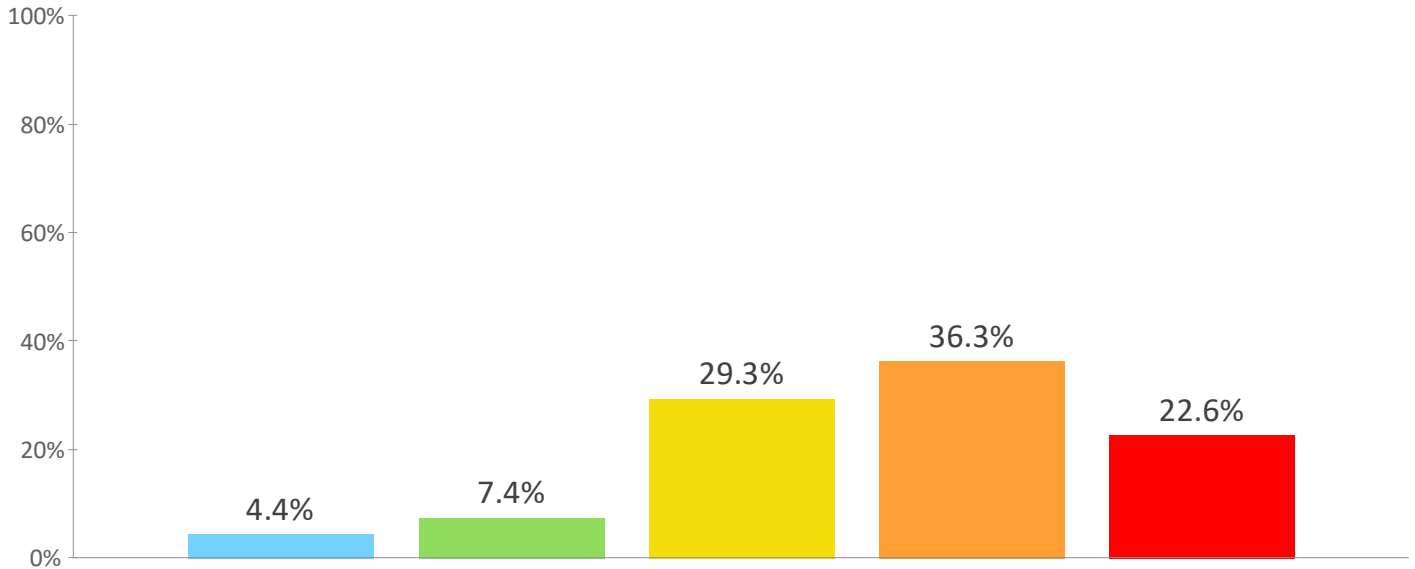
*Response required. Percentages may not equal 100 due to multiple response (more than one source selected).

Belin Memorial UMC Congregant Survey

Summer 2024

Understanding of Information

***Q2: How well do you feel you understand the current issues around church policy as it relates to human sexuality within the United Methodist denomination?**



■ Not well at all
 ■ Moderately well
 ■ Extremely well
■ Slightly well
 ■ Very well

Not well at all	52 4.4%
Slightly well	88 7.4%
Moderately well	347 29.3%
Very well	429 36.3%
Extremely well	267 22.6%

*Response required.

Belin Memorial UMC Congregant Survey

Summer 2024

Understanding of Information

Below is a word cloud for responses to Q3. The cloud shows the 40 most-frequently used words. Certain common words, or words that do not add to our understanding, are omitted. Examples are *a, an, for, through, what*, and similar.

Q3: What additional information or resources would you like to see provided by the Denomination Education Team to the congregation, if any? (optional)



Belin Memorial UMC Congregant Survey

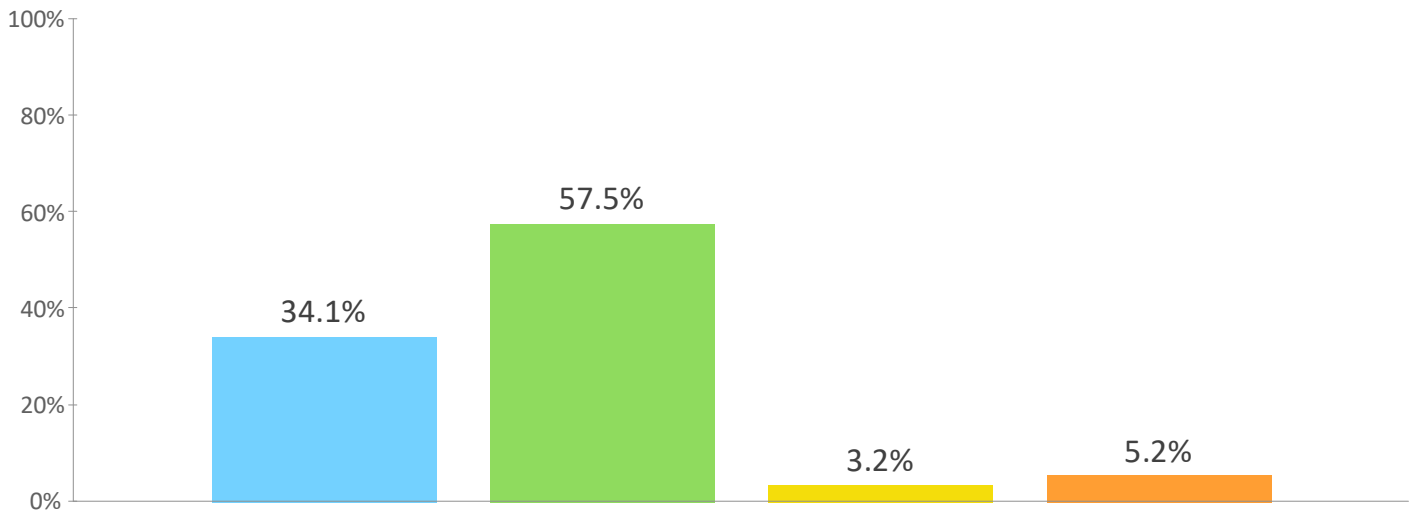
Summer 2024

Same-Gender Marriages

The United Methodist Church recently amended its rules regarding same gender marriage. Some of the important points are as follows:

- United Methodist Clergy are now permitted to perform same gender marriages
- United Methodist Clergy are free to decide if they wish to perform same gender marriages. They cannot be forced to do so.
- Each United Methodist Church can decide whether same gender marriages are permitted in its facilities.

***Q4: Which of the following best describes your position regarding marriage? Select the one that fits best.**



- Marriage can be between two people of the same gender
- Marriage should be between a man and a woman only
- Not sure
- No opinion

Marriage can be between two people of the same gender	403 34.1%
Marriage should be between a man and a woman only	680 57.5%
Not sure	38 3.2%
No opinion	62 5.2%

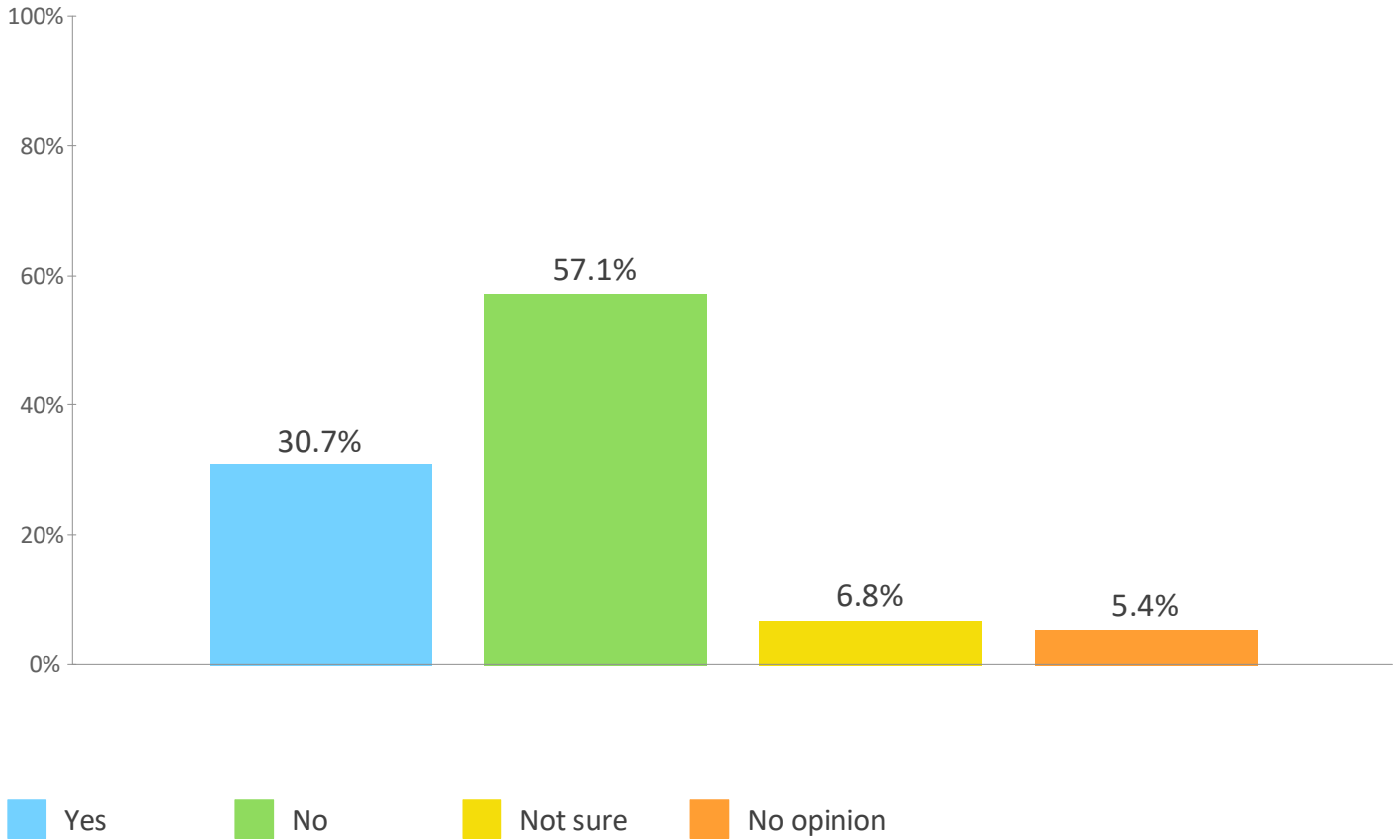
*Response required.

Belin Memorial UMC Congregant Survey

Summer 2024

Same-Gender Marriages

***Q5: Regardless of your response to the previous question, do you believe same gender marriages should be permitted at Belin Memorial UMC?**



Yes	363	30.7%
No	676	57.1%
Not sure	80	6.8%
No opinion	64	5.4%

*Response required.

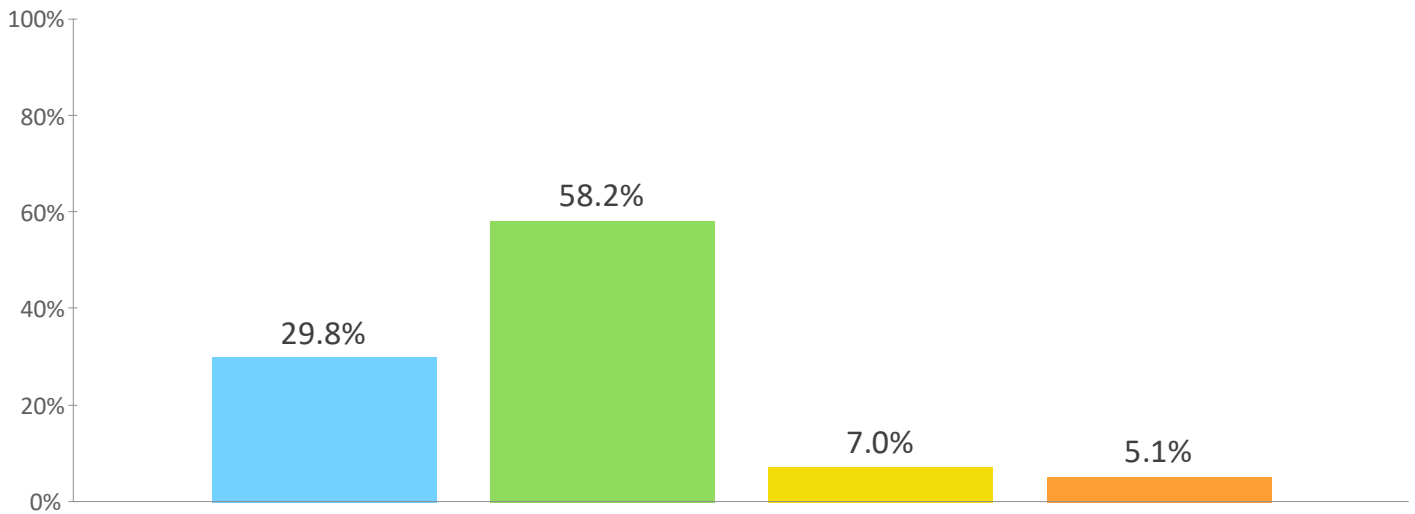
Belin Memorial UMC Congregant Survey

Summer 2024

Homosexual Clergy

The United Methodist Church recently amended the language in the Book of Discipline regarding homosexual clergy; homosexuals may now be ordained into the ministry.

***Q6: Which of the following best describes your position regarding homosexual clergy? Select the one that fits best.**



- Homosexuals should be permitted to be ordained ministers at Belin Memorial UMC
- Homosexuals should not be permitted to be ordained ministers at Belin Memorial UMC
- Not sure
- No opinion

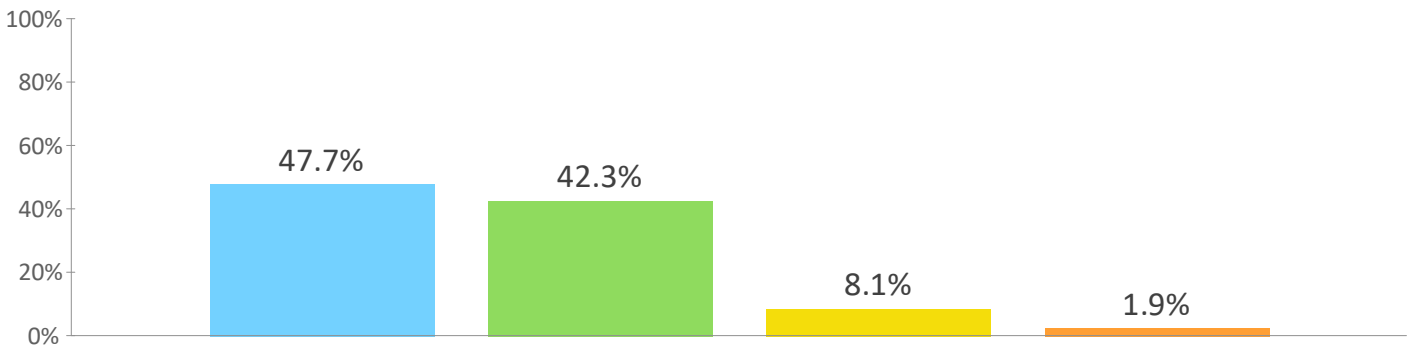
Homosexuals should be permitted to be ordained ministers at Belin Memorial UMC	352 29.8%
Homosexuals should not be permitted to be ordained ministers at Belin Memorial UMC	688 58.2%
Not sure	83 7.0%
No opinion	60 5.1%

*Response required.

Belin Memorial UMC Congregant Survey Summer 2024

Your Position after the UMC General Conference

***Q7: Now that the United Methodist Church has modified and adopted the language in the Book of Discipline regarding same gender marriages and homosexual clergy, which best describes your position regarding Belin Memorial’s place in the United Methodist Church? Select the one that fits best.**



- I want Belin Memorial to remain affiliated with (stay with) the United Methodist Church
- I want Belin Memorial to disaffiliate from (leave) the United Methodist Church
- Not sure
- No opinion

I want Belin Memorial to remain affiliated with (stay with) the United Methodist Church	564 47.7%
I want Belin Memorial to disaffiliate from (leave) the United Methodist Church	501 42.3%
Not sure	96 8.1%
No opinion	22 1.9%

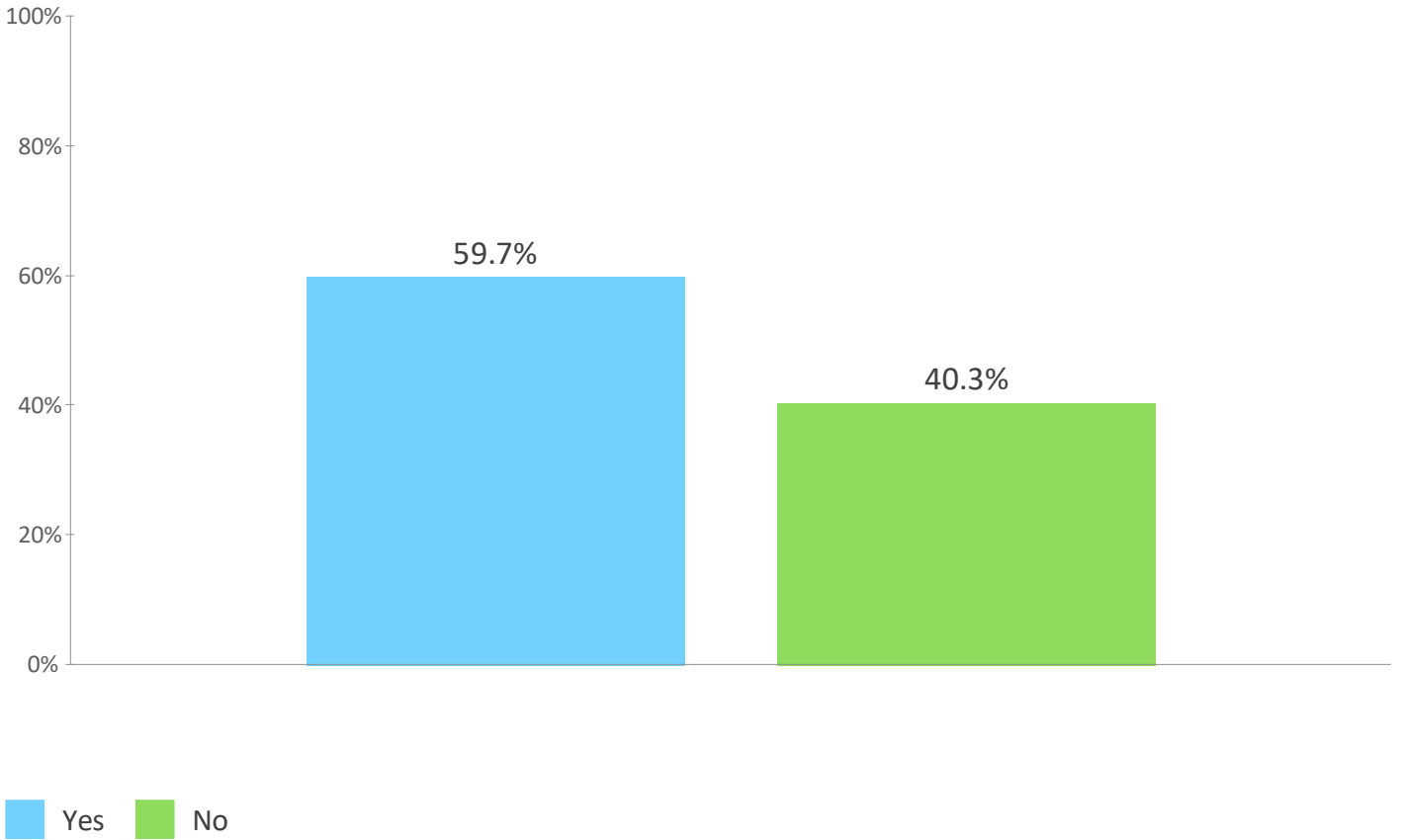
*Response required.

Belin Memorial UMC Congregant Survey

Summer 2024

If A Vote Is Taken at Belin Memorial UMC

***Q8. If a vote was taken and Belin Memorial UMC REMAINED a United Methodist Church, would you continue to worship at Belin?**



Yes	706	59.7%
No	477	40.3%

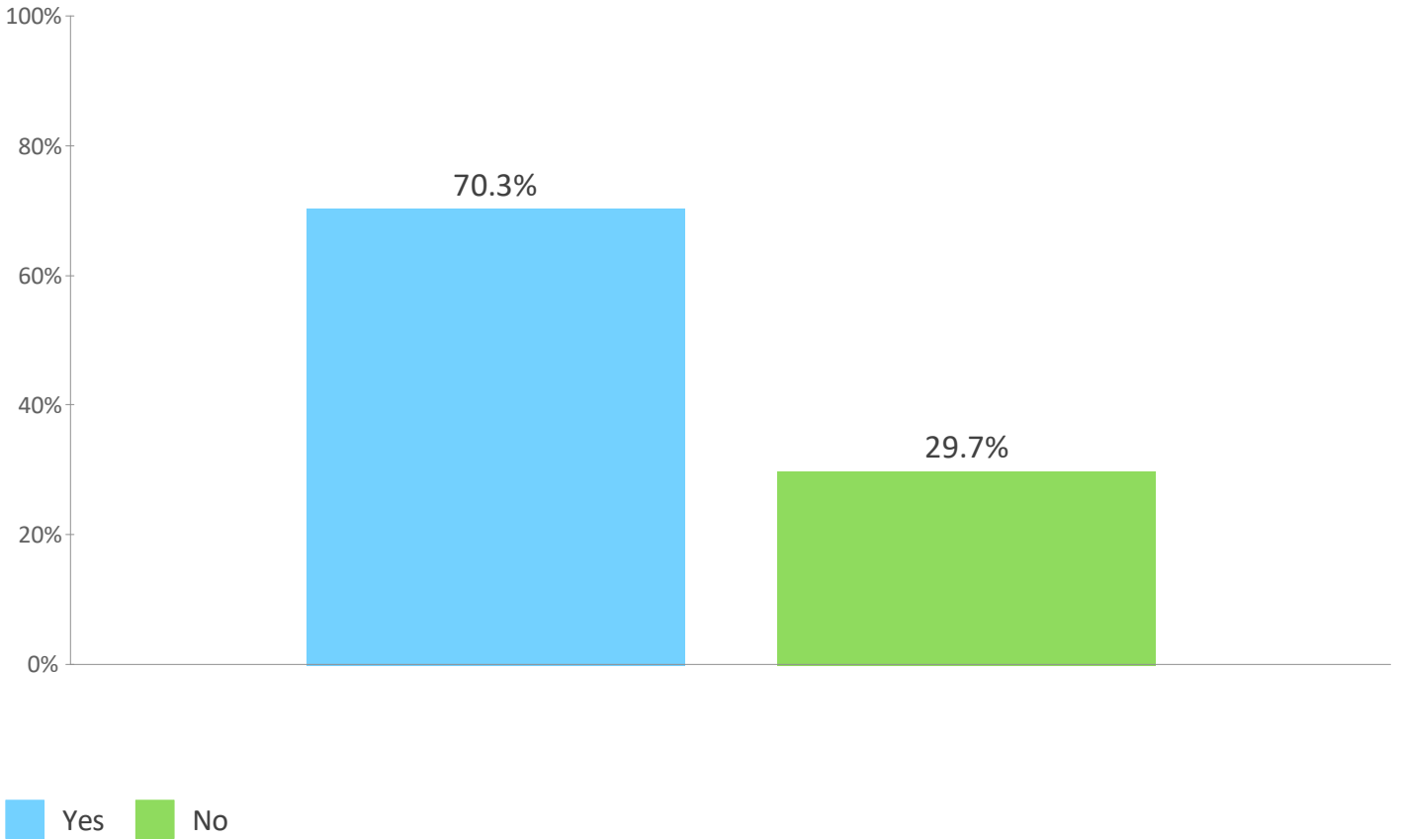
*Response required.

Belin Memorial UMC Congregant Survey

Summer 2024

If A Vote Is Taken at Belin Memorial UMC

***Q9. If a vote was taken and Belin Memorial UMC LEFT the United Methodist Church, would you continue to worship at Belin?**



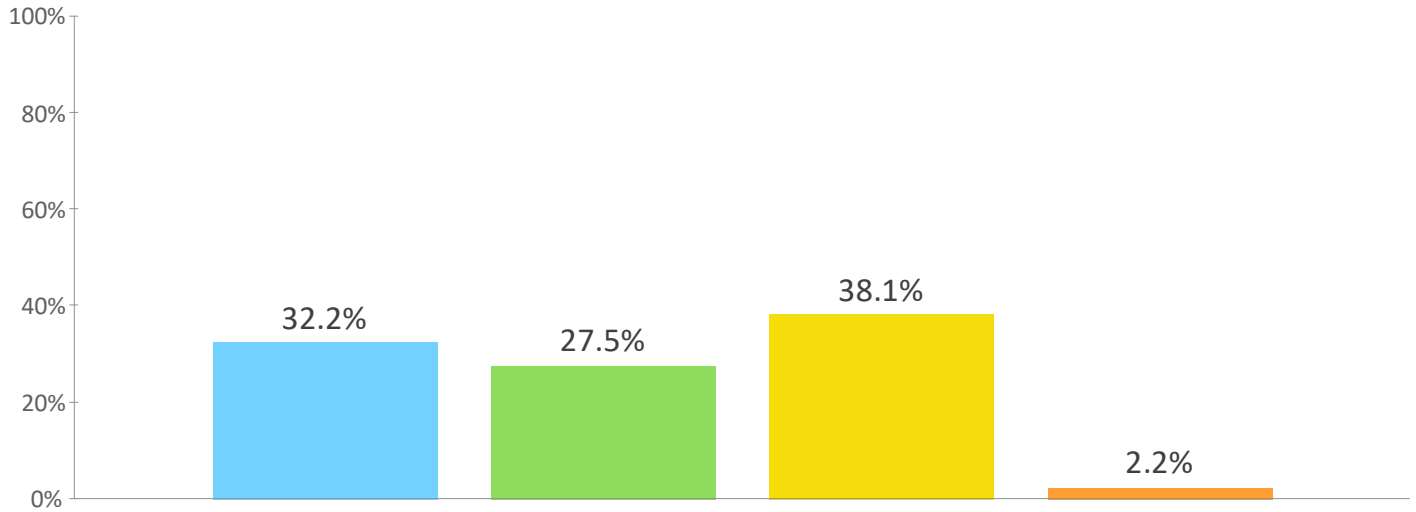
Yes	832 70.3%
No	351 29.7%

*Response required.

Belin Memorial UMC Congregant Survey Summer 2024

If A Vote Is Taken at Belin Memorial UMC

***Q8 & *Q9 COMBINED: If a vote was taken and Belin Memorial UMC _____, would you continue to worship at Belin?**



- Will worship at Belin regardless of outcome
- Will worship at Belin ONLY IF remains affiliated
- Will NOT worship at Belin ONLY IF remains affiliated
- Will NOT worship at Belin regardless of outcome

WILL WORSHIP AT BELIN REGARDLESS OF OUTCOME: YES to Q8 "REMAINED a United Methodist church" and YES to Q9 "LEFT the United Methodist Church"	381 32.2%
WILL WORSHIP AT BELIN ONLY IF REMAINS AFFILIATED: YES to Q8 "REMAINED a United Methodist church" and NO to Q9 "LEFT the United Methodist Church"	325 27.5%
WILL NOT WORSHIP AT BELIN ONLY IF REMAINS AFFILIATED: NO to Q8 "REMAINED a United Methodist church" and YES to Q9 "LEFT the United Methodist Church"	451 38.1%
WILL NOT WORSHIP AT BELIN REGARDLESS OF OUTCOME: NO to Q8 "REMAINED a United Methodist church" and NO to Q9 "LEFT the United Methodist Church"	26 2.2%

*Response required.

