

Mount Zion Congregation 2020 Survey Findings



Methodology

- Mount Zion emailed 812 active members a link to an online Google Form survey on 9/21/2020 (two days after Rosh Hashana.)
- Reminder emails were sent on 10/1, 10/8, and 10/14.
- The survey was closed on 10/27/2020 with 426 responses for a 52% response rate – a high response rate for an online survey.
- A similar survey was conducted during the Fall of 2017.

Survey Respondent Demographics

- Gender: 60% female, 37% male, 3% something else.
- Age: Average age was 61 years.
- Membership: 46% members for greater than 20 years, 27% for 10-19 years, and 27% for less than 10 years.
- Religious School Children: 60% in the past; 20% in the present; 6% in the future.
- Religious School Grandchildren: 91% not applicable; 5% in the future; 3% in the present; 2% in the past.

*Likely somewhat of an older and more female group than MZ members overall.
Underrepresents Religious School families.*

In the past
year before
the Covid-19
pandemic:

	<i>% Strongly Agree or Agree</i>	<i>% Neither Agree or Disagree</i>	<i>% Strongly Disagree or Disagree</i>	<i>Increase in SA/A from 2017</i>
The rabbis make me feel welcome. (n=420)	95%	2%	3%	+3
The cantors make me feel welcome. (n=411)	95%	2%	3%	+3
I would recommend Mount Zion to a friend. (n=423)	95%	5%	1%	+3
The professional staff (education, engagement, administration, youth leaders) make me feel welcome. (n=374)	90%	7%	3%	+5
Members of Mount Zion's lay leadership (e.g., president, board, committee chairs) make me feel welcome. (n=410)	90%	7%	3%	+11

In the past
year before
the Covid-19
pandemic:

	<i>% Strongly Agree or Agree</i>	<i>% Neither Agree or Disagree</i>	<i>% Strongly Disagree or Disagree</i>	<i>Increase in SA/A from 2017</i>
Mount Zion fulfills its vision. (n=401)	89%	9%	1%	+8
The clergy (spiritual leaders) present a compelling vision of Jewish life that resonates with me. (n=413)	87%	10%	3%	+6
I would recommend Mount Zion's Religious School to a friend. (n=318)	85%	12%	3%	+7
Mount Zion has helped me develop a deeper sense of belonging to a community - something bigger than myself. (n=406)	83%	12%	5%	+8
Mount Zion has helped me grow spiritually and intellectually as a Jew. (n=393)	83%	13%	4%	+3

In the past
year before
the Covid-19
pandemic:

	<i>% Strongly Agree or Agree</i>	<i>% Neither Agree or Disagree</i>	<i>% Strongly Disagree or Disagree</i>	<i>Increase in SA/A from 2017</i>
Mount Zion's lay leadership accurately represents membership interests. (n=365)	81%	16%	4%	+14
I feel Mount Zion manages its budget effectively for the financial health of the congregation. (n=341)	74%	19%	7%	+11
Mount Zion has helped me become a more whole and complete human being. (n=407)	74%	22%	4%	+9
Through Mount Zion I develop meaningful social connections with people I can relate to. (n=403)	73%	19%	7%	+3
Mount Zion has helped me deepen my connection with God (as I define God). (n=390)	68%	25%	7%	+8

In Members' Own Words

“A great shul, all told,
with an exemplary clergy
and staff!”

“I am grateful for the MZ
community, and for the
extraordinary work of the clergy,
staff, and community to maintain
that community during these
times.”

“Everyone who has worked
so hard under these
pandemic circumstances is
deserving of praise and
gratitude.”

In Members' Own Words

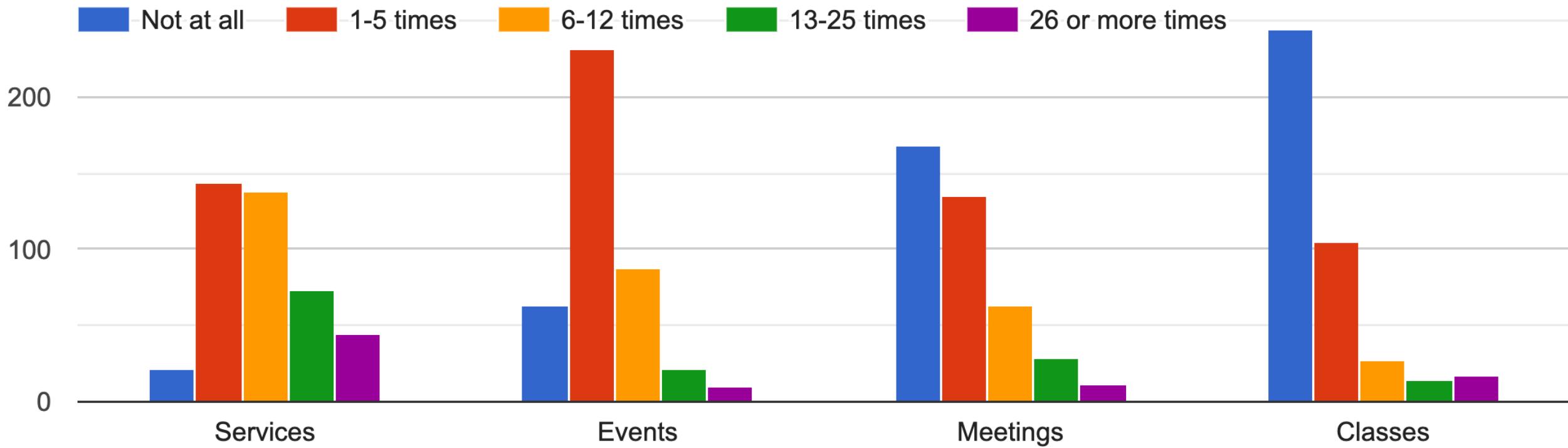
“More personal connections. I've never found a subgroup that really works for me and it's hard to make friends once you don't have kids in Religious School.”

“We talk about tolerance towards others, but that should also include tolerance - acceptance of those who share a different political view...”

“I have felt disconnected during COVID. It's hard. I can only tolerate so much on ZOOM. I appreciate the efforts made, but I wish there were other things we could do. I miss being at Mount Zion and everything that goes with it.”

Participation Levels (Pre-Pandemic)

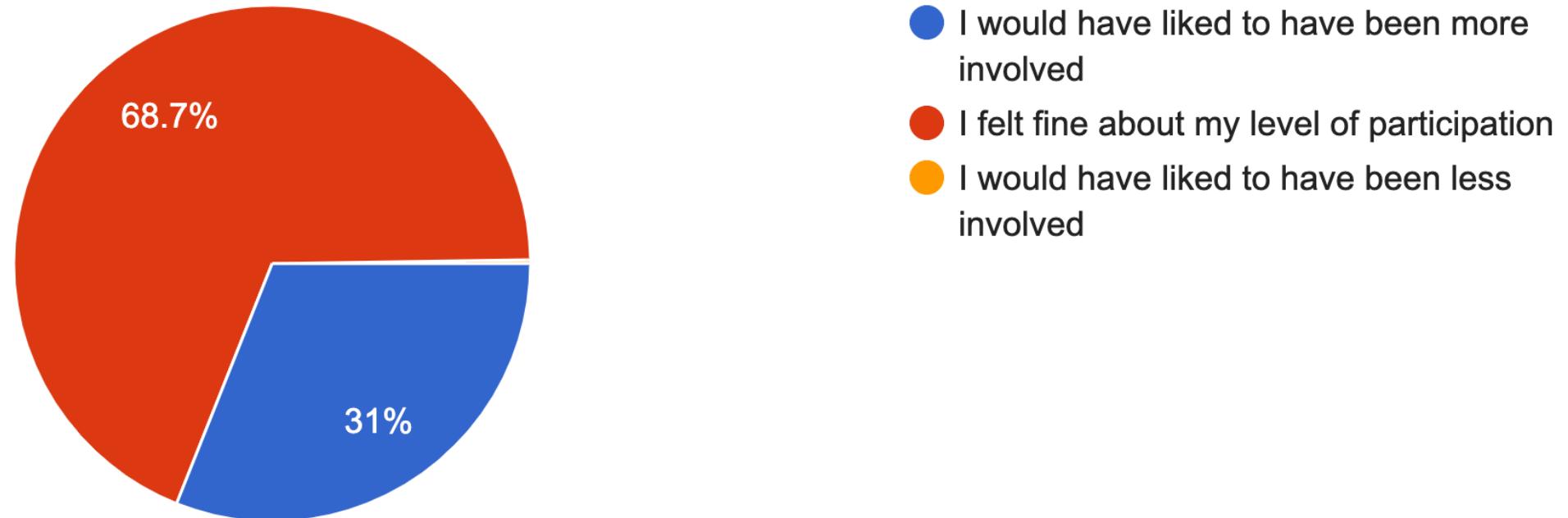
In the year prior to the Covid-19 pandemic, I attended these Mount Zion activities:



Feedback About Participation Levels

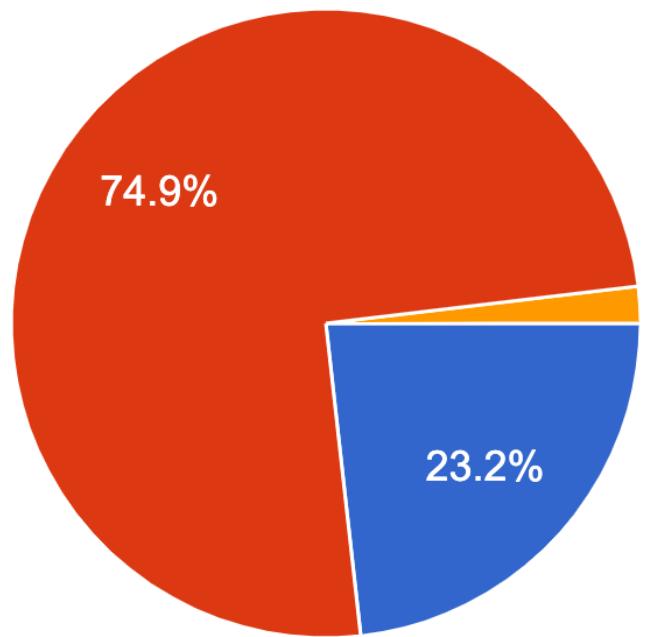
Before the Covid-19 pandemic, how did you feel about the level of your personal participation at Mount Zion?

419 responses



Now that we are living with the restrictions imposed by the Covid-19 pandemic, how do you feel about your current level of involvement at Mount Zion?

422 responses

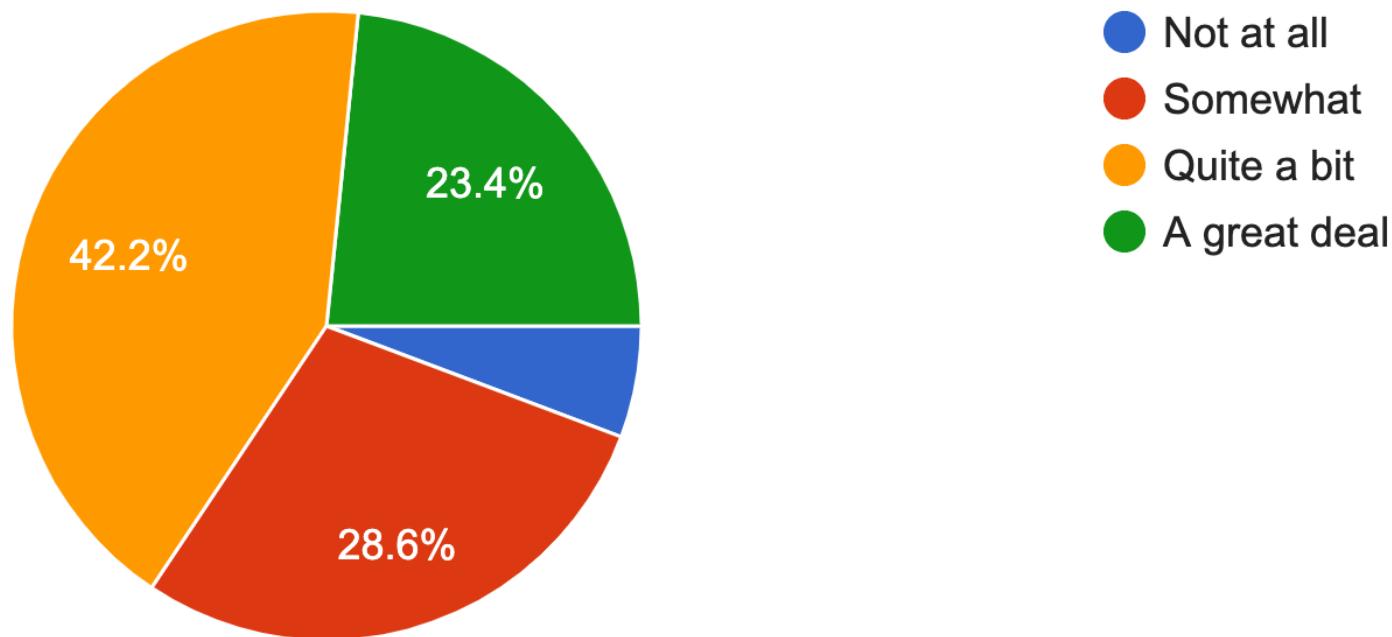


- I would like to be more involved
- I feel fine about my level of participation
- I would like to be less involved

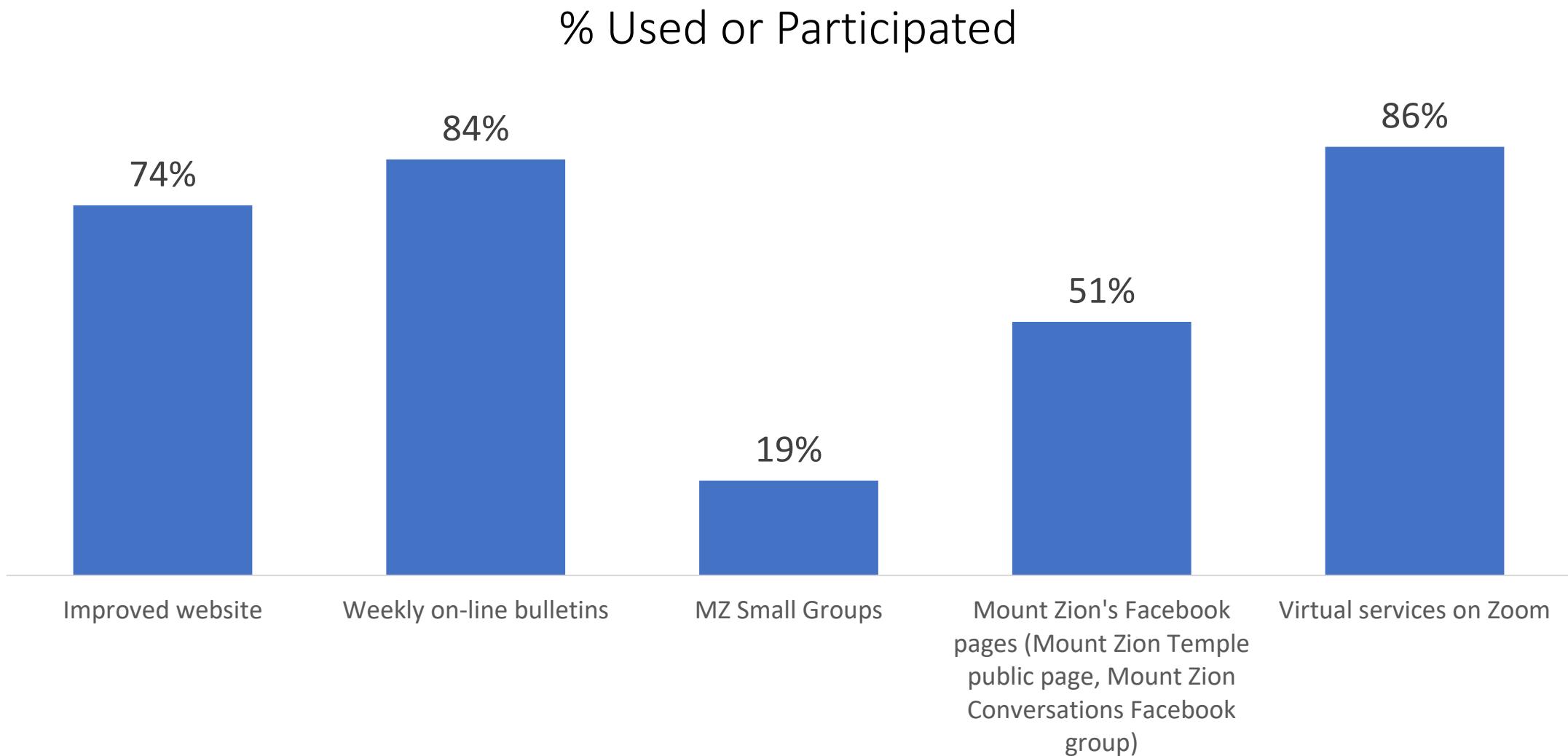
“I always end the week wishing I could have been even more of a participant... that's because Mount Zion offers so much.”

To what extent do you think Mount Zion has succeeded in enabling your active involvement?

419 responses

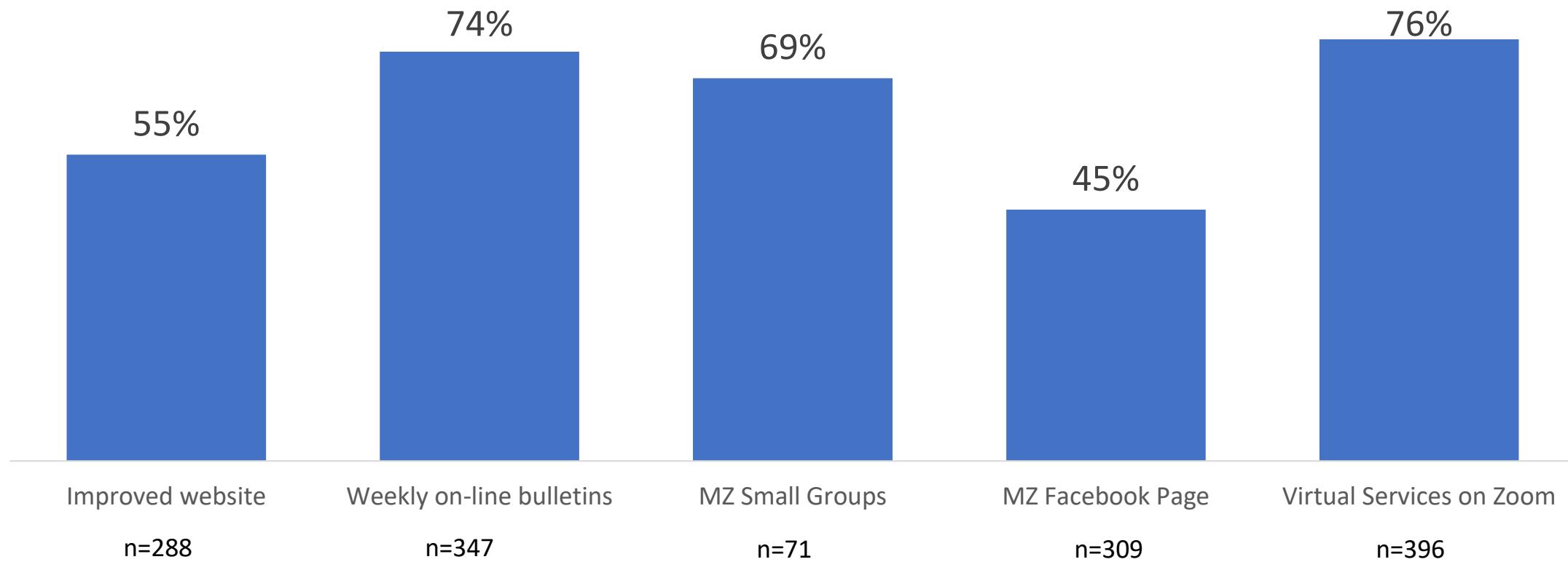


Participation Levels (During Pandemic)



Percent indicating these were “a great deal” or “quite a bit” useful in sustaining connection to Mount Zion.

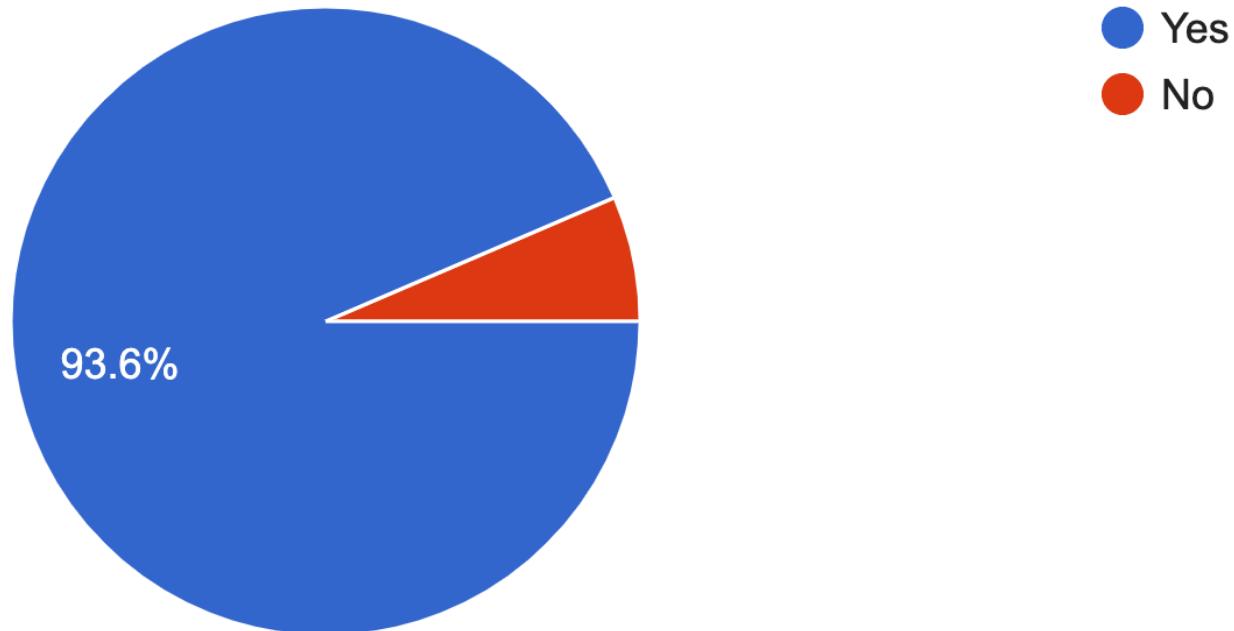
(Among those reporting having participated during the pandemic.)



Feedback About Virtual Options

Do you like the convenience and accessibility of services, meetings, and classes being virtual?

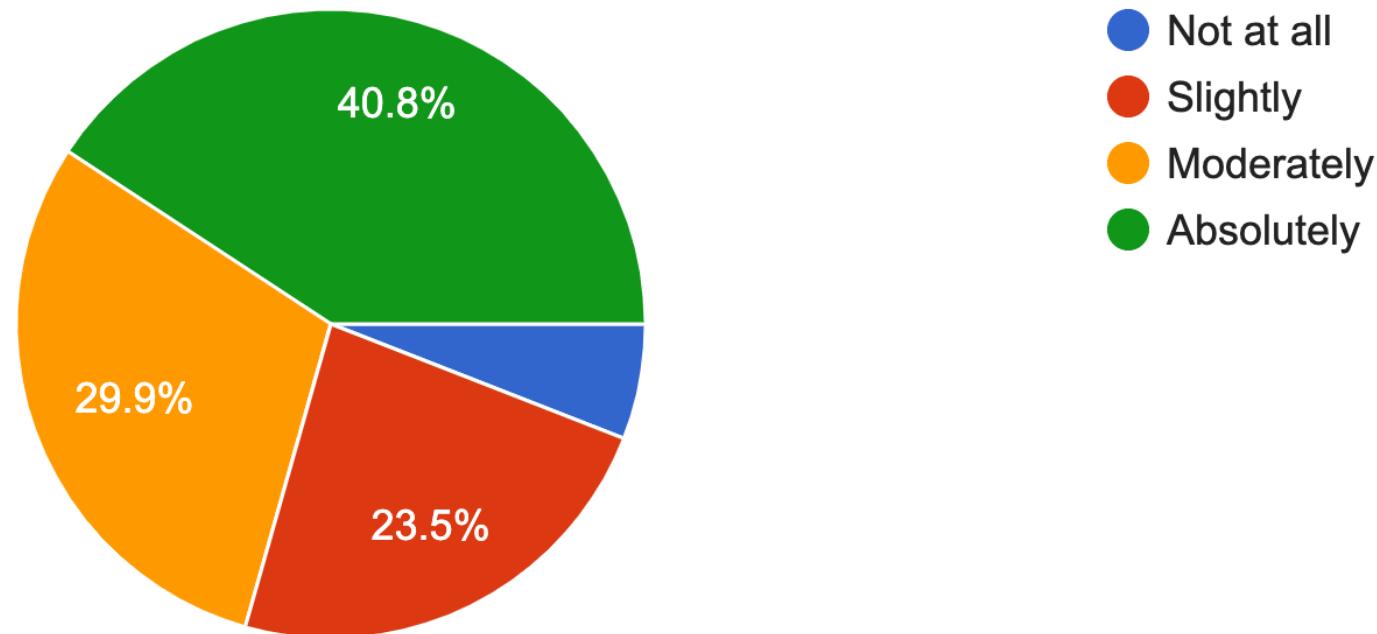
419 responses



Interest in Sustaining Virtual Options

To what extent would you want these virtual options sustained in some way after we are able to meet again in person?

422 responses



In Members' Own Words

“Zoom services were outstanding. I saw more services this year than before Covid-19.”

“Resumption of in-person services, albeit in safety, possibly in a hybrid mode. Possibly a large screen projection of those not present to create sense that we are all together.”

“I find Zoom exhausting. It is not the clergy and staff's fault. They are offering a wide range of good options.”

Religious School Parent Satisfaction

(81 of 319 parents of RS children responded to the survey)

- 98% of RS parents Strongly Agree or Agree they would recommend the RS to a friend.
- 90% of RS parents say that professional staff such as educators, administrators, engagement, and youth leaders make them feel welcome.
- However, RS parents are less interested in sustaining virtual programming options post-pandemic (60% of RS vs. 73% of non-RS.)

In Members' Own Words

“Given the circumstances, I think Mt Zion has done a great job trying to maintain connections and community in the congregation!”