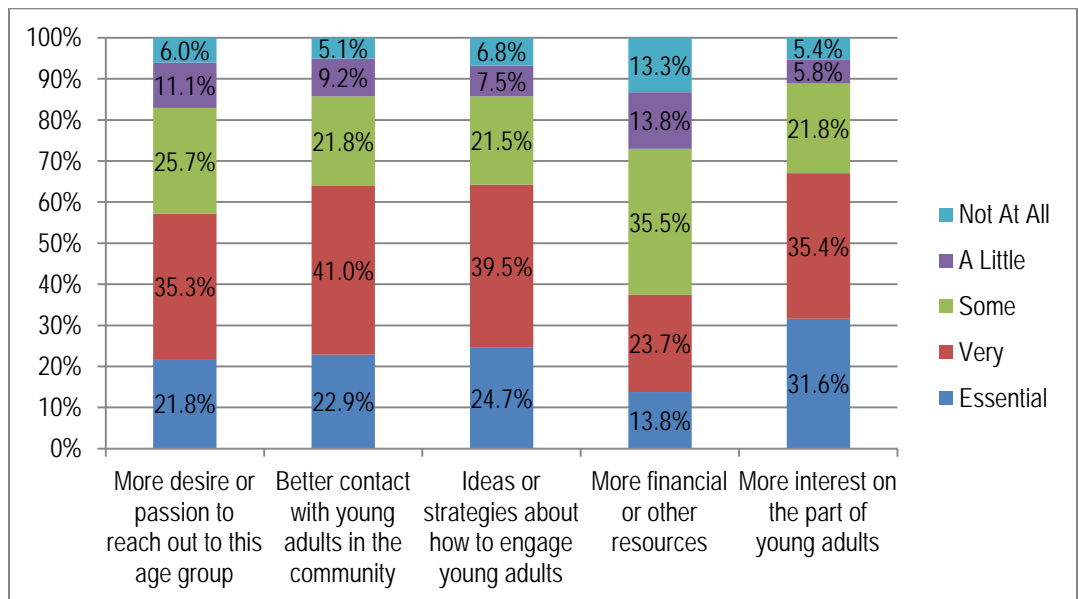


# FACTS ON YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY

*Findings from the United Church of Christ 2015 Faith Communities Today (FACT) Survey of Congregations*

- As a whole, young adults (ages 18-34) are present within six in ten UCC congregations (59.2%); but on average, this age demographic constitutes only 6.2% of the total participants in any given congregation.
- One in ten congregations (10.1%) has a thriving or solid ministry specifically for young adults; and two in ten churches (21.2%) have made progress in this ministry area. The majority of UCC churches struggle with starting a ministry with young adults.
- For UCC congregations with young adults, over three-fourths (77.7%) reported that young adults participate by attending worship services; and 69.1% indicated that young adults participate in other programs and activities that the church offers.
- In terms of family structures, over three-fourths (76.8%) of young adults in UCC churches are either married without children or single (with or without children).
- 68.9% of young adults in churches come from families already within the congregation. In contrast, only one-fifth (21.9%) are from surrounding communities; and 9.2% are from other settings/locations such as nearby companies, colleges or universities, or military bases.
- In general, the majority (68.3%) of congregations does not place a high priority on engaging young adults or considers other priorities to be more immediate. One in ten congregations (10.5%), however, views young adult engagement as one of their top priorities.

**Figure 1:  
Factors for  
Improving  
Ministry with  
Young Adults**



- Churches also provided insight into which factors they believed would be helpful to improving ministry with young adults. UCC congregations indicated that more interest on the part of young adults was most important, with 67.0% of congregations selecting that this was either “Very Important” or “Essential.” Congregationally-focused factors were also rated as “Very Important” or “Essential,” with 64.2% desiring ideas or strategies for engaging young adults and 63.9% wanting better contact with young adults in the community. (Figure 1)