

Experiencing New Vitality Through the Ancient Art of Hospitality


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Hospitality



Hospitality, *philoxenia*, is the demonstration of “brotherly love” toward strangers

“Hospitality is central to the meaning of the gospel... and a practice by which we can welcome Jesus.” (Pohl 1999)

“The Astounding range and depth of the evidence tells us that hospitality as a practice and as a virtue held a central place in early Christian life. Indeed, there is hardly a place we can look where we will not see traces of it.” (Oden 2001)

Hospitality in Scripture – Old Testament

- *Xenophobia* is not new – Gen. 4:10-16
- *Paroikos* – Sojourner – this is the identity of the Israelites for much of the Old Testament – essentially it is what we call an immigrant or migrant person
- Leviticus 19:33-34 – Love the stranger or alien among you
- Numbers 9:14 – Welcome them into community
- Malachi 3:1-5 – Judgement for not welcoming strangers

Examples: Josh. 5-6, Ruth, Ezekiel 47:22





Hospitality In Scripture – New Testament

- 1 Peter 2:9-12 – Family of God to live as strangers
- Ephesians 2:19 – Live as strangers no longer
- Galatians 3-4 – Strangers adopted into the family of God
- Luke 10:25-37 – Love your neighbor – Good Samaritan
- Matthew 25:31-46 – Whatever you did for the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.

Hospitality in Scripture – N.T. Continued

- Acts 8 – Church persecuted and scattered (Diaspora)
- Acts 10-11 – God extends hospitality to the Gentiles through Peter
- Hospitality a key to the missionary journeys – a place to stay
- Hospitality and discipleship – Acts 18:26 – Apollos disciplined in the home of Priscilla and Aquila.
- Acts demonstrates a vivid expansion of hospitality to the margins





Hospitality in History - Church



- Churches met in people's homes
- Traveling pastors and missionaries met in people's homes
- Believers invited traveling strangers into their homes for rest and relationship.
 - Hebrews 13:2



Hospitality in History - State



- In the Constantinian Era, there is a movement toward the institutionalization of Hospitality.
- Support from the Emperor provided resources to make hospitality a public service.
- The reformers (16thC.) criticized hospitality for its extravagance, indulgence and waste (associated with medieval hospitality. Called people back to the basics of caring for the poor and needy (Pohl 1999)

Hospitality In Modern, Western, Society



John Wesley sought to bring hospitality back but without using that term, which carried negative connotations.

Shared
meals

Welcoming
the least

Shared
conversations

The
importance of
overlapping
church and
home spheres

Visitaiton



Jean Vanier (L'arche) "Hospitality is a sign that a community is alive and not afraid... a sign that love and hope are possible in a broken world." (Pohl 2010)

Hospitality In Modern, Western, Society cont.

Emphasis on loving neighbors and fostering true community

“Missional church”

Hospitality is about extending brotherly love – not evangelism.

- “Perhaps it is necessary to distinguish between hospitality and evangelism by stating that the intention of hospitality is never to proselytize one’s guest or host... The practice of hospitality is distorted if it becomes primarily an instrumental means to change people.” (Wroblewski 2012)
- Story of Rosaria Butterfield

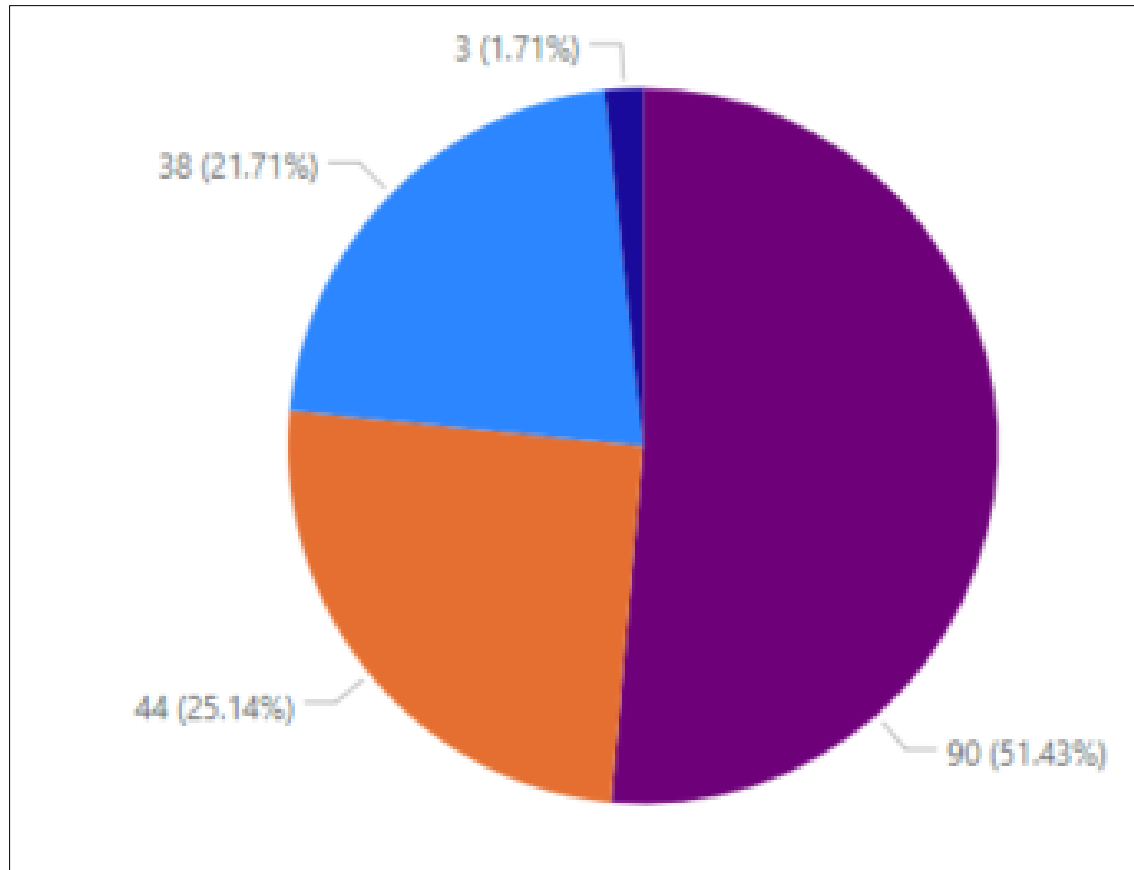


Does Hospitality Matter?

- Survey conducted in September 2019 – 176 Churches participated



Does Hospitality Matter?

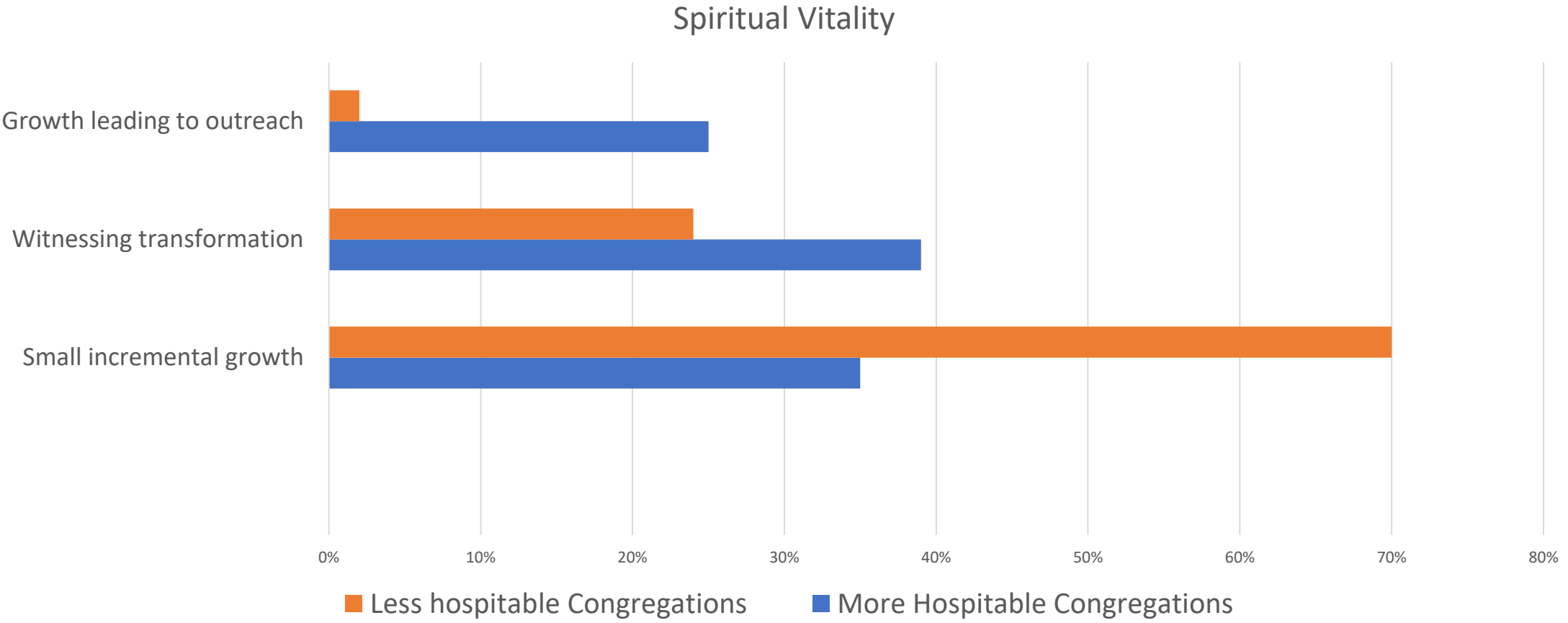


Which statement best describes your church's practice of hospitality in the past five years?

- a. We are not very warm toward outsiders or visitors.
- b. We do a good job of welcoming visitors and guests.
- c. We have a strategic plan to show hospitality toward visitors and guests that goes beyond welcoming them at a service or event.
- d. Our people are using their gifts to demonstrate love toward strangers outside of our church

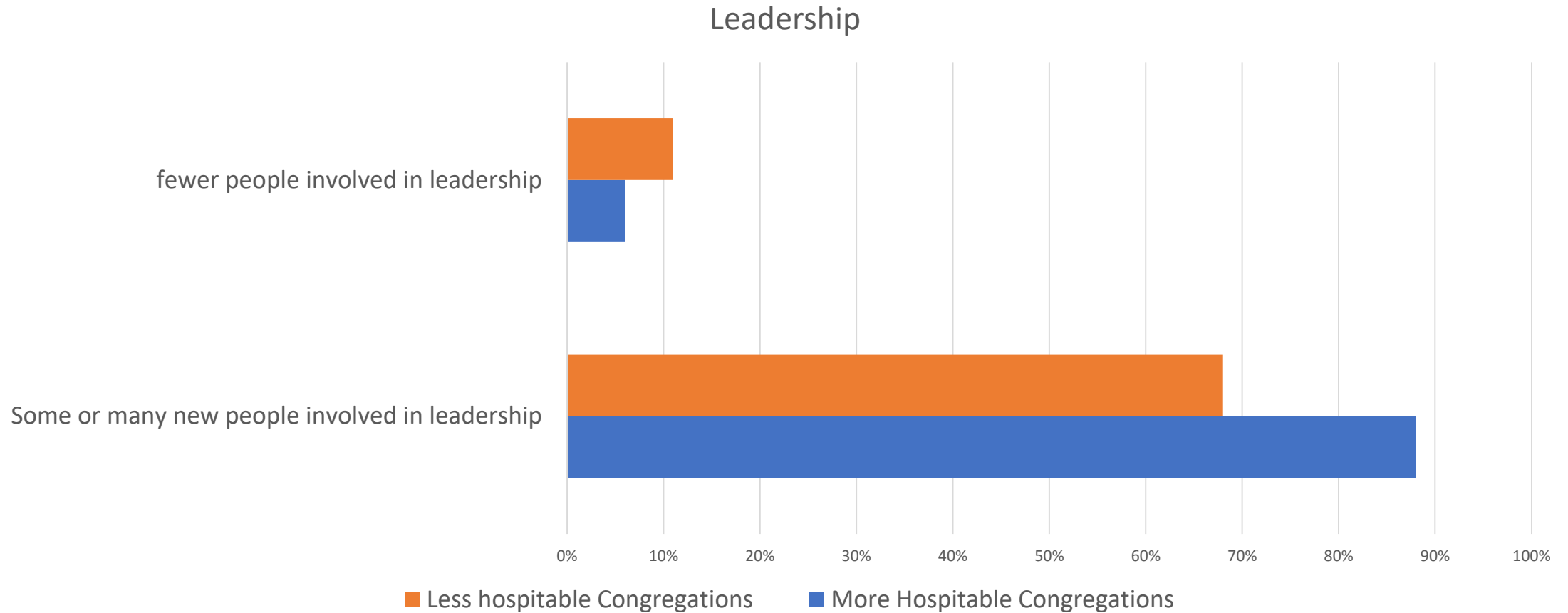


Does Hospitality Matter To Spiritual Vitality?



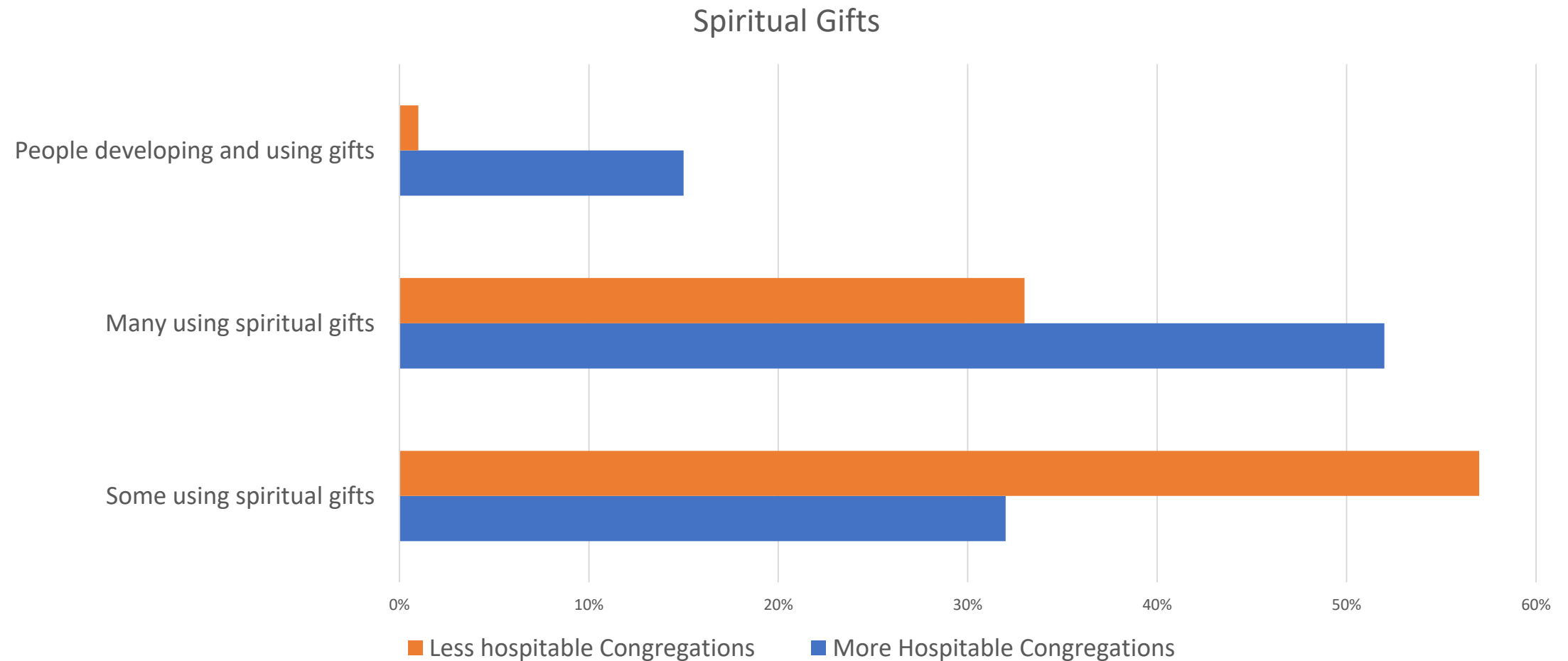


Does Hospitality Matter to Leadership?



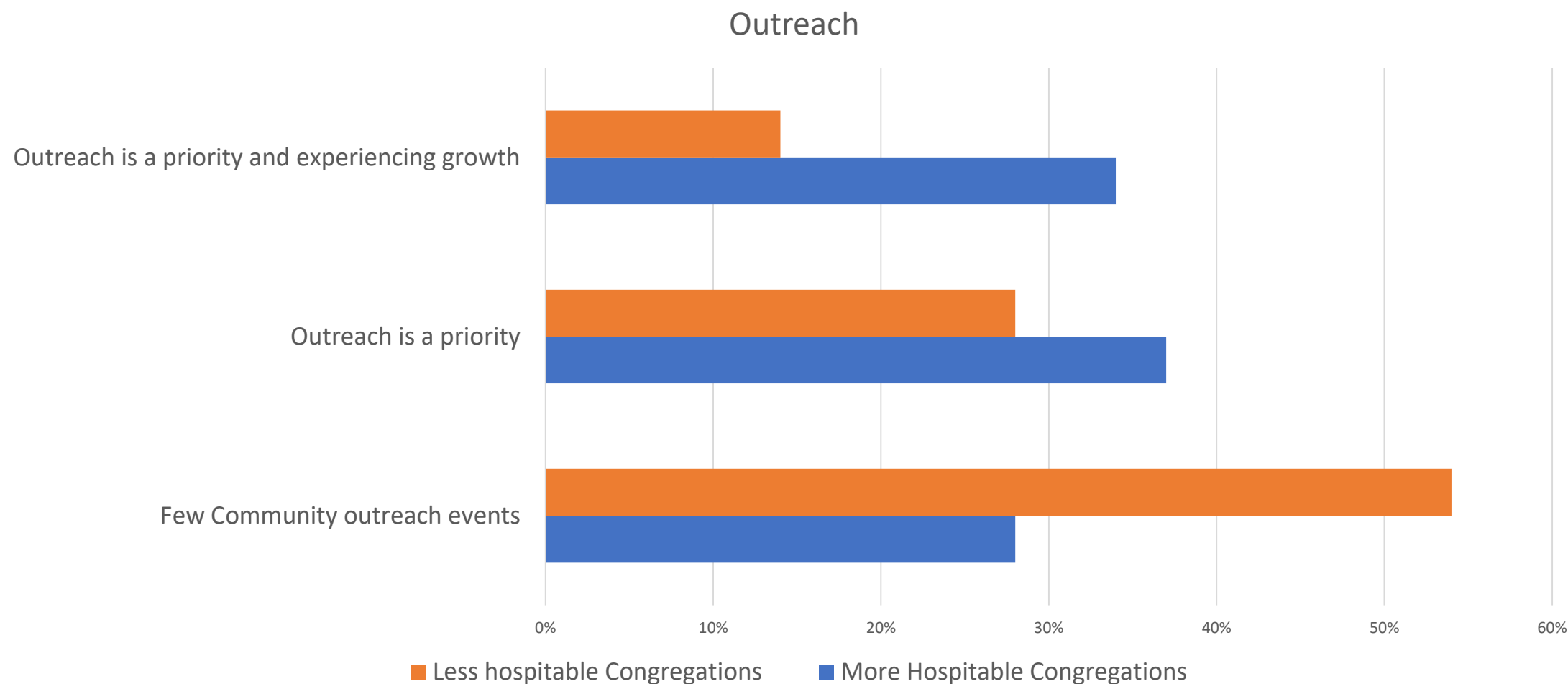


Does Hospitality Matter to Spiritual Gifts?



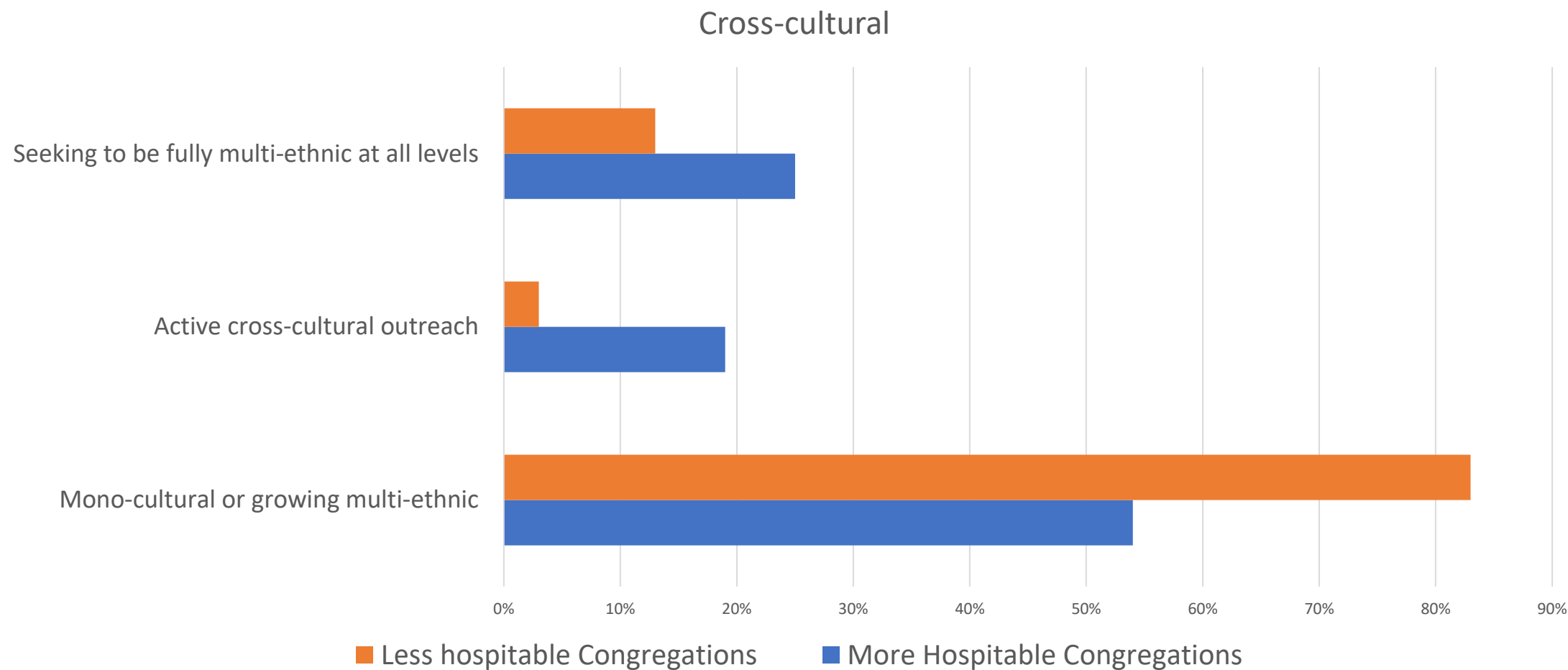


Does Hospitality Matter To Outreach?



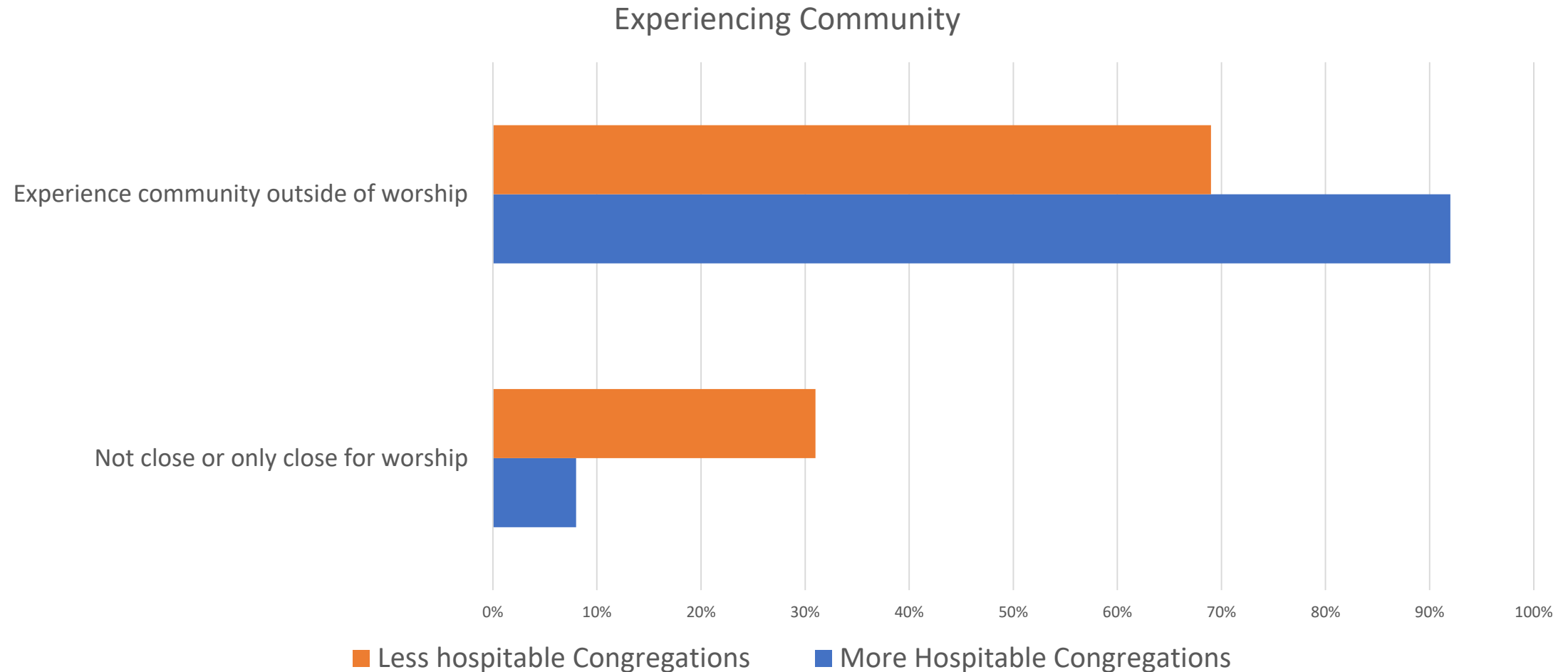


Does Hospitality Matter To Cross-Cultural Outreach?



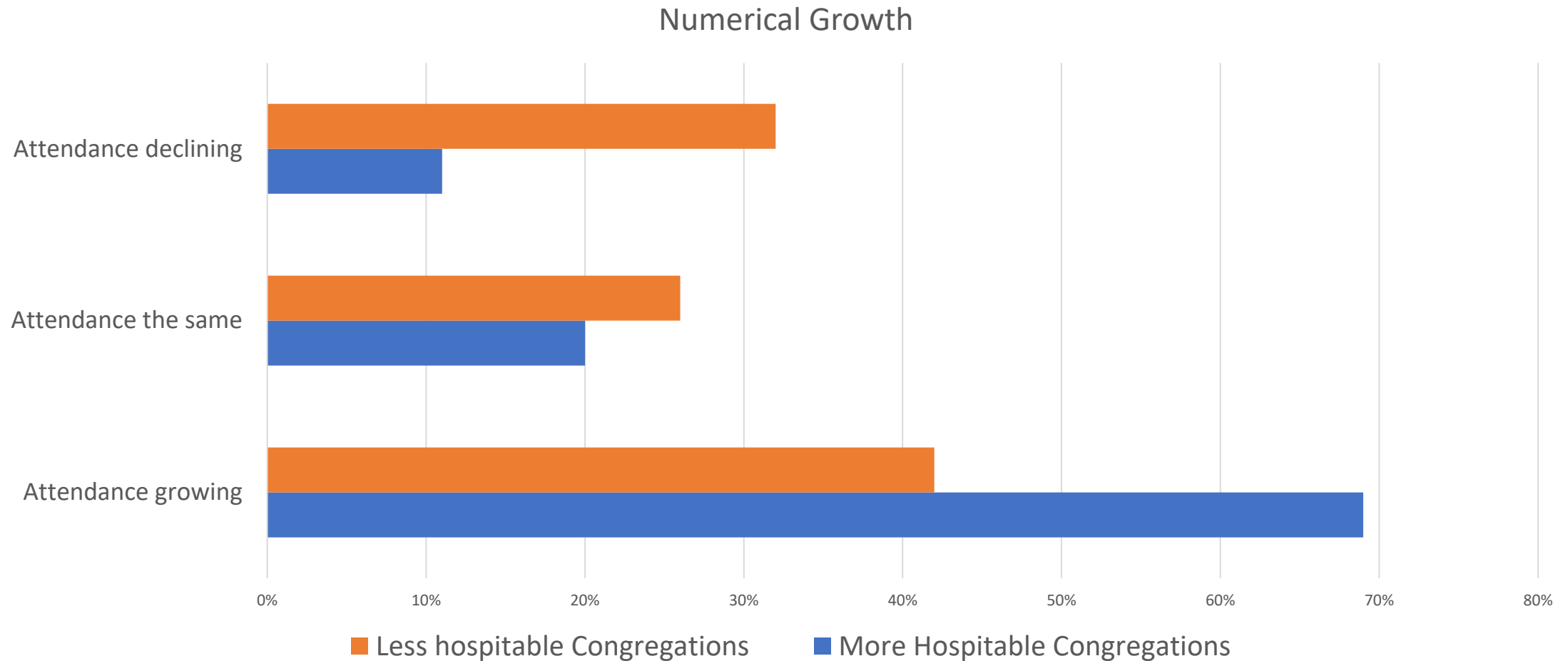


Does Hospitality Matter to Community?





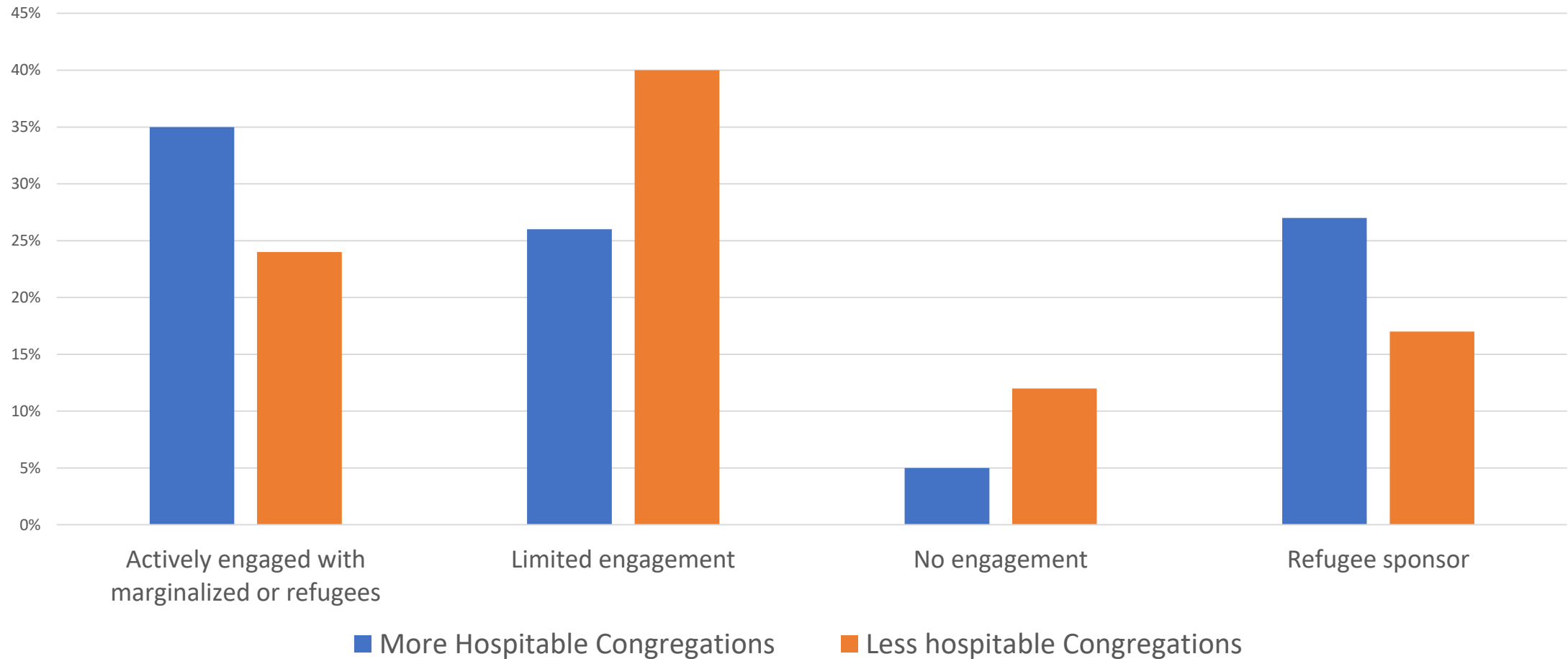
Does Hospitality Matter To Growth?



Does Hospitality Matter To Our Engagement with Others?



Engagement with Marginalized People



Hospitality
Suggestions
for our
Context?



www.outreach.ca/welcomingstrangers



Suggested Resources

Arterbury, Andrew E. *Entertaining Angels: Early Christian Hospitality in Its Mediterranean Setting*. New Testament monographs. Sheffield: Sheffield Phoenix Press, 2005.

Krause, Michael, Narry Santos, and Robert Cousins, eds. *From the Margins to The Centre: The Diaspora Effect*. Toronto: Tyndale Academic Press, 2018.

Oden, Amy. *And You Welcomed Me: A Sourcebook on Hospitality in Early Christianity*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2001.

Pohl, Chistine D. *Making Room: Recovering Hospitality as a Christian Tradition*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1999.

Smith, Terry A. *The Hospitable Leader: Create Environments Where People and Dreams Flourish*. Minneapolis: Bethany House Publishers, 2018.

Wrobleski, Jessica. *The Limits of Hospitality*. Collegeville: Liturgical Press, 2012.