

General

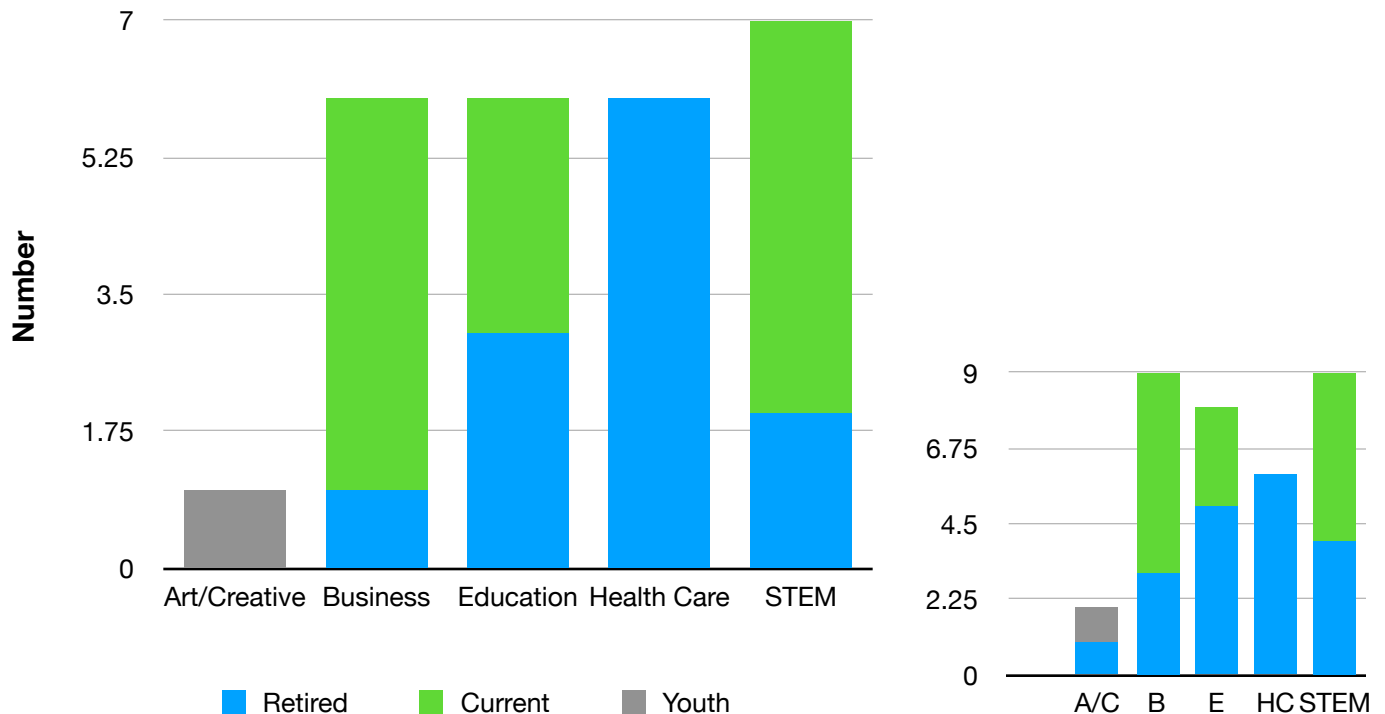
Four question survey conducted in November 2025 via bulletin insert. 26 responses received.

- 17 women, 9 men. 12 retirees (9 women, 3 men), 1 youth (girl)

Variable numbers of responses on each question. Most people answered every question but some people provided multiple responses, others just a single answer.

Profession

What do you do professionally? If you're retired, what did you do professionally? If you've not yet established your profession, what do you hope to do?



Some members either changed career fields during their working years and/or had professions which overlapped multiple fields. (Ex: someone doing a business function for a tech company=Business + STEM)

Observations:

- The most common professional field was STEM but it was close. Seven respondents work or worked in STEM fields but the fields of Business, Education and Health Care all had six.
- If you consider people who had changed careers or had professions with overlap between fields, Business, STEM and Education all gained a couple people. Business and STEM then tied for most common.

Skills

Do you have special training, certification, licensure or expertise in anything? (Examples: professional licenses, CPR/first aid certification, disaster response training, coaching certificates, multiple language fluency, etc.)

Responses were strongly weighted toward skills which are “officially” recognized by a college degree and/or certification/licensure. Certainly Bethel members also have skills and areas of expertise apart from their formal educations (refer to question #3) but, for the most part, the respondents did not list those types of things.

About a fourth of the respondents specifically listed academic degrees (2 BAs-biology, electrical engineering; 5 Masters-MBAx2, computer science, biotechnology, library science; 2 doctoral level degrees-MDx2). However, from their professions, it can be assumed that all the respondents but one (who is a youth) have completed college and have at least bachelor’s degrees.

Licenses	Certifications	Non-English Languages Fluent/ <i>Non-fluent</i>	Other Skills
Medicine	Board Certification*	Maylayan	Music-piano
Civil Engineer	Certified CNC Machinist	German	Notary
Structural Engineer	Intelligence Research	French	Water safety
Stockbroker	Sales trainer	Spanish	Special needs support
Ham radio operator	CPR/first aid (5)	<i>French</i>	Artificial intelligence
	education	<i>Hindi</i>	Engineering job skills
	music-organ	<i>Tamil</i>	Disaster response
	TESOL**	<i>Italian</i>	
	Life Teaching Grades 1-8		

*Pulmonary & Critical Care Medicine
** Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages

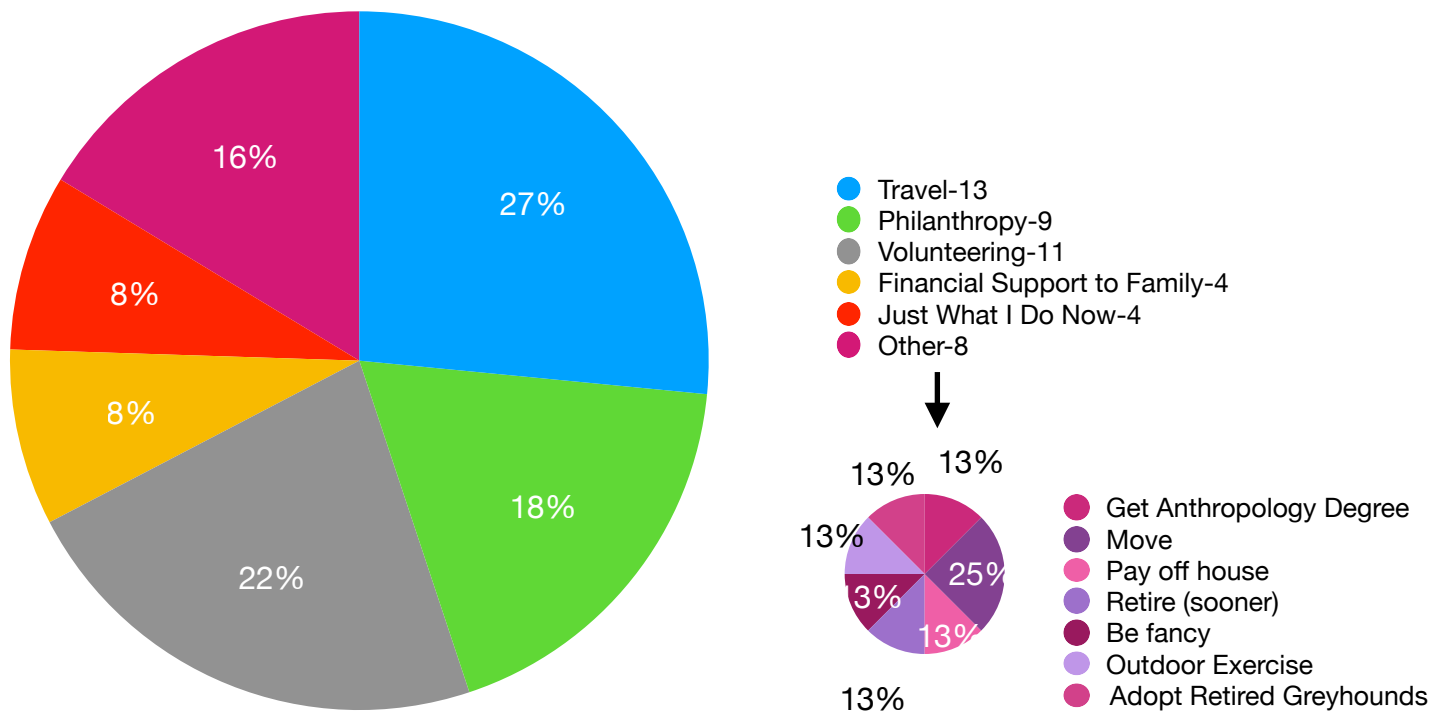
Observations:

- Bethel members have **high levels of educational and professional achievement.** And they value that type of achievement and skill-when asked about their skills that’s what they report. (The wording of the question probably affected the type of answers provided.)
- A **wide variety of knowledge and skills** can be found among Bethel members. Some of the most common areas of expertise include STEM (engineering, computers, AI), health and healthcare, business (especially sales, marketing and investing), education and support services for children, music and a few non-English languages.

Dreams

What is your dream? If you won the lottery tomorrow and had the means to do anything, how would you spend your life?

26 respondents provided 49 responses.



Observations:

- Bethel people are **extremely generous and service oriented**. Although travel was the most frequently listed dream, volunteering and philanthropy were number 2 and 3. And, when added together, volunteering and philanthropy are greater than travel.
- A fair number of Bethel people **wouldn't change a thing**—they're already living the way they want to.
- A number of responses referenced the **high cost of living and housing** our area. A couple people indicated that if they had the means they'd help their children purchase homes (or better homes) and a couple people indicated that they dream of moving to a different location.
- Bethel people are **practical realists**. No one listed a crazy, audacious dream. The things listed are things that could be achievable dreams, at least at some level.

Final Summary:

- The survey consisted of four questions. People were asked about their 1. Profession(s) 2. Skills and Expertise 3. Fun hobbies or pastimes 4. Dreams.
- Twenty-six members completed the questionnaire. This small sample size limits the ability to draw too many conclusions from the answers.
- **Bethel members are highly educated, intelligent, creative, curious, life-long learners.**
 - The survey respondents were all college educated in worked/had worked in white-collar professions such as STEM, Business, Education and Health Care.
 - Furthermore, some of the hobbies (reading, writing, arts & crafts) and dreams (travel) further illustrated the intelligence and intellectual curiosity of the respondents.
- When it comes to their dreams, **Bethel members are generous and service oriented.**
 - Philanthropy and Volunteering were the 2nd and 3rd most common answers and, when combined, they become number one (overtaking travel).
 - Some of the respondents provided very specific answers of causes they'd support through philanthropy or volunteer work but many simply answered "philanthropy" or "volunteering" in general. It would be interesting, and possibly beneficial, to learn more about what types of philanthropy or volunteer opportunities people are passionate about.
 - When people did give specific examples of ways they'd like to serve, they were practical, achievable goals.
 - A few of the dreams directly related to Silicon Valley's high cost of living; a couple people mentioned helping their children obtain housing or moving to a more affordable location.
 - A fair number of people indicated that they wouldn't change a thing even if they had unlimited financial resources to live however they wanted.
- Most of **Bethel's current ministries and activities are well aligned to our member's gifts and interests.**
 - Some examples: A couple respondents referred to an interest in Boy Scouts and scouting is already present and active in the life of our congregation. Many people listed reading as a hobby and Bethel already has a Book Club.
- Even though there's already good alignment, the **responses to this survey could help guide new initiatives or directions for Bethel.**
 - One example: the survey shows that many Bethel members are outdoor oriented, maybe Bethel could continue to lean in to environmental stewardship ministries and/or outdoor fellowship opportunities.

Appendix

Responses to Question #3.

12 responses-Reading-12 “read-audible books”, “read-book club”

8 responses-Travel-8

7 responses-Hiking-7

6 responses-Biking-6

5 responses-Music-5 “singing, recorder”, “accordion”, “piano”, “piano, harp, organ, singing”, “singing, handbells, choir, piano”

4 responses-TV-4 “watch TV”, “watch TV-too much!”, “watch TV & movies”

3 responses- friends (“family & friends”, “lunch w/ friends”), spectator sports (“attend sporting events”, “spectator sports-FB, baseball”, “follow sports”) volunteering (“volunteering-helping others)

2 responses-baking, Bible Study (“Bad Girls Bible Study”, “Bible teaching”), Boy Scouts (“Boy Scout Volunteer”, “scout leader”), concerts (“attend music concerts”, “music-concerts”), cooking, family (“family & friends”, “family gathering”), gardening, grandchild care, grandchildren’s activities, knitting, photography (“photography-nature”), running, swimming, video games, walking, woodworking, writing

1 response-art, blogging, “brewing Kombucha”, car care, “cars-especially Mazda roadsters”, Caring Connection (“calls-family, friends and prayer list”), Christmas decorating (“overdecorating for Christmas (exterior)”), coffee roasting, crocheting, dog care (“dog care-walking”), exercise class, genealogy, golf, greeting cards (“handiwork-greeting card making”), history, HOA Board, home repair, housework, learning (“learning new things”), lector & deacon, LWR activities, metal-smithing, motorcycling, movies (“watch TV & movies”), nature, news (“follow current events”), NYT puzzles, painting, pickleball, pinball, podcasting, politics (“follow politics”), quilting, salsa dancing, sewing, skiing, social media, yoga

Responses to Question #4

13 responses-Travel “6 month cruise annually”, “bicycling vacations”, “more vacations”, “travel more” x 2, “travel more or at a higher level”, “travel the world”, “travel the world if it were sustainable”, “travel with my wife more”, “travel-all over the world”

11 responses-Volunteer “do something that helps people”, “help young children and adults to be self confident and develop their skills and use them to earn their livelihood and help others.”, “maybe teach kids about computes and programming”, “volunteer with the NPS or NFS”, “serving at Bethel, possibly council (when I retire, not possible now!)”, “spend more time in community (church, school, etc.)”, “support Boy Scouts more”, “volunteer more”, “volunteer to help underserved students” “work with children & families with focus on literacy and justice”

9 responses-Philanthropy “\$ to Alzheimer’s & \$ Age Related Macular Degeneration Research”, “\$ to Bethel and Augustana University”, “\$ to feed the hungry”, “donate to more charities”, “establish an non-profit foundation help others (scholarships, homeless, mental health support services)”, “share the money to help others, so many people have so little”, “share the wealth”

4 responses-Assist Family “\$ to family”, “assure happiness and security of my family”, “help my children buy a home”, “help our children obtain a dream home”,

Responses to Question #4 (cont.)

4 responses-**Little Would Change** “Exactly as I am now”, “I wouldn’t change anything but I would enjoy the financial stability to help when I can”, “Just as I do now”, “won’t change much”

2 responses -**Move** “move somewhere affordable”, “move to the mountains”

1 response- adopt retired racing greyhounds, get an anthropology degree, “I would be rich and fancy”, outdoor exercise to stay healthy, pay off the house, retire (sooner).