

Clergy Peer Group Study (CPGS): SPE Focus Group Participant Survey

Thirty-seven different SPE projects participated in Focus Group Interviews in Indianapolis on August 8, 2007. These respondents reported starting approximately **726** SPE peer groups involving approximately **6,296** clergy. Among these SPE projects, the average number of peer groups is **20**, the modal group size is **8**, and the median annual out of pocket cost to participants is **\$500**.

Information about Focus Group Participants

1. What is your current position?

Director	62%
Associate Director	16%
Evaluator	6%
Group Facilitator/Member	10%
Other positions	6%

2. How long have you been in your current SPE position?

1 year or less	14%
More than 1, up to 2	5%
More than 2, up to 4	43%
More than 4, up to 5	29%
More than 5 years	9%

3. How would you describe your current SPE project position?

Existing administrative position with part-time SPE assignments	19%
SPE-initiated position, full-time	43%
SPE-initiated position, part-time	22%
Other (volunteer, participant, consultant, new admin/part-time SPE)	16%

4. Are you ordained?

Yes	65%
No	35%

4a. How many years have you been ordained?

10 years or less	20%
More than 10, up to 20	45%
More than 20, up to 30	15%
More than 30 years	20%

5. What is your present religious denomination?

Church of God, Cleveland	3%
Evangelical Covenant	3%
Nazarene	3%
Presbyterian Church of America	3%
Baptist	
Baptist (only)	8%
Alliance of Baptists	3%
Cooperative Baptist Fellowship	3%
National Baptist	3%
Church of the Brethren	3%
Christian Reformed Church	3%
Reformed Church in America	5%
United Methodist	16%
Presbyterian, U.S.A.	10%
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America	3%
Disciples of Christ	5%
United Church of Christ	8%
Roman Catholic	16%

6. What is your highest level of theological training?	
None	5%
Certificate from denominational training program, Bible college, or seminary	5%
Master of Divinity or Bachelor of Divinity	22%
M.A., S.T.M, Th.M. or other Masters degree	22%
Doctor of Ministry degree	22%
Ph.D. or Th.D.	13%
Other (Ed.D)	11%

7. What is your gender?	
Male	51%
Female	49%

8. How old are you?	
40 years or less	17%
More than 40, up to 50	36%
More than 50, up to 60	28%
More than 60 years old	19%

9. Which of the following racial categories best describes you?	
African-American or Black	14%
Asian-American or Pacific Islander	5%
Hispanic or Latina/o	5%
White, European-American	76%

Information about Your SPE Clergy Peer Groups

1. What kind of organization is your sponsoring institution?	
Institution of Higher Education (College, Seminary, Divinity school)	27%
Judicatory	49%
Monastery or Retreat Center	11%
Counseling Agency	5%
Interfaith Organization	8%

1a. What is your sponsor's denominational affiliation (if any)?	
Conservative Protestant	27%
Moderate Protestant	25%
Liberal Protestant	16%
Roman Catholic	16%
Interfaith	16%

2. When did your clergy peer group program start?	
One year ago or less	3%
Over 1 year ago, up to 3 years	8%
Over 3 years ago, up to 4 years	38%
Over 4 years ago, up to 5 years	40%
Over 5 years ago	11%

3. To date, approximately how many clergy peer groups has your SPE program started?	
5 groups or less	24%
6-10 groups	18%
11-20 groups	29%
21-30 groups	15%
31-70 groups	9%
More than 70	6%

4. What would you say is the average size of your clergy peer groups?
- | | |
|----------------------|-----|
| 5 persons or less | 5% |
| 6-8 persons | 51% |
| 9-12 persons | 22% |
| 12-20 persons | 11% |
| More than 20 persons | 11% |
5. On average, how many times a year do your SPE clergy peer groups meet face-to-face?
- | | |
|---------------------------|-----|
| At least 2 times a year | 12% |
| 3-4 times a year | 18% |
| 5-10 times a year | 58% |
| More than 10 times a year | 12% |
- 5a. On average, how long do your peer groups meet? (total hours per meeting)
- | | |
|--------------------|-----|
| Two hours or less | 19% |
| 3-4 hours | 25% |
| 5-8 hours | 22% |
| 9-12 hours | 3% |
| 13-24 hours | 6% |
| 25-36 hours | 9% |
| 37-60 hours | 9% |
| More than 60 hours | 6% |
6. How long may peer groups receive direct support from your SPE program?
- | | |
|----------------------|-----|
| One year or less | 6% |
| More than 1, up to 2 | 21% |
| More than 2, up to 3 | 44% |
| More than 3 up to 5 | 9% |
| More than 5 up to 10 | 3% |
| Indefinitely | 17% |
7. Please estimate the annual cost for an SPE clergy peer group participant (whether paid by the participant or their congregation).
- | | |
|----------------------------------|-----|
| Nothing | 13% |
| \$150 or less | 19% |
| More than \$150, up to \$400 | 10% |
| More than \$400, up to \$600 | 19% |
| More than \$600, up to \$1,000 | 19% |
| More than \$1,000, up to \$1,500 | 10% |
| More than \$1,500, up to \$2,500 | 7% |
| More than \$2,500, up to \$5,000 | 3% |
8. Have any of your clergy peer groups continued to meet after SPE program support ended?
- | | |
|--|-----|
| Yes | 71% |
| No | 3% |
| No, SPE program support continues for all groups | 26% |
9. Are your clergy peer groups led by trained facilitators or other credentialed professionals?
- | | |
|------|-----|
| Yes | 70% |
| No | 24% |
| Both | 6% |

10. Using the seven point scale between each set of alternatives, *please check the number which best describes where your groups fall, "1" meaning most like the characteristic on the left, "7" meaning most like the characteristic on the right, "4" meaning an equal mix of both.*

(Y ONE ON EACH LINE)

A. Our groups are made up of people who are very similar to each other	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 <input type="checkbox"/> 2 <input type="checkbox"/> 3 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 4 <input type="checkbox"/> 5 <input type="checkbox"/> 6 <input type="checkbox"/> 7 Average response=3.89	Our groups are made up of people who are very different from each other
B. The meetings of our groups are structured and predictable	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 <input type="checkbox"/> 2 <input type="checkbox"/> 3 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 4 <input type="checkbox"/> 5 <input type="checkbox"/> 6 <input type="checkbox"/> 7 Average response=3.22	The meetings of our groups are unstructured and spontaneous
C. We have made a noticeable impact on our institution	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 <input type="checkbox"/> 2 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 3 <input type="checkbox"/> 4 <input type="checkbox"/> 5 <input type="checkbox"/> 6 <input type="checkbox"/> 7 Average response=3.08	Our institution hardly knows that the clergy peer group program exists
D. The future sustainability of our peer group program is very high	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 <input type="checkbox"/> 2 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 3 <input type="checkbox"/> 4 <input type="checkbox"/> 5 <input type="checkbox"/> 6 <input type="checkbox"/> 7 Average response=2.95	Sustainability beyond the grant period is highly unlikely

11. Do your SPE peer groups engage in any of the following? **If yes**, is it a relatively minor emphasis or a key practice among your groups?

(✓ ONE ON EACH LINE)

	NO	MINOR EMPHASIS	KEY PRACTICE
A. Theological reflection on common readings or topics	6%	20%	74%
B. Spiritual direction, guided meditation, and/or discipline of silence	11%	33%	56%
C. Worshiping together	0%	31%	69%
D. Sharing personal and ministry-related problems or challenges	3%	5%	92%
E. Expressing creativity through art, music, literature, or drama	33%	50%	17%
F. Meeting with recognized experts, religious and/or secular	8%	36%	56%
G. Fellowship (eating, drinking, laughing, and conversing casually)	0%	22%	78%
H. Engaging in social service or action	43%	36%	22%
I. Traveling together	64%	33%	3%
J. Meeting via the internet, telephone or video-conferencing	51%	29%	20%
K. Studying the Bible	11%	44%	44%
L. Honing preaching or other priestly skills	28%	44%	28%
M. Pastoral counseling (e.g. exploring narrative or systems therapies)	26%	60%	14%
N. Praying	3%	19%	78%
O. Other (journals; case studies; retreats; collaboration between churches)	87%	0%	13%