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 8%
   - 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%
   - More than $5,000: 1%

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)

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

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)

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