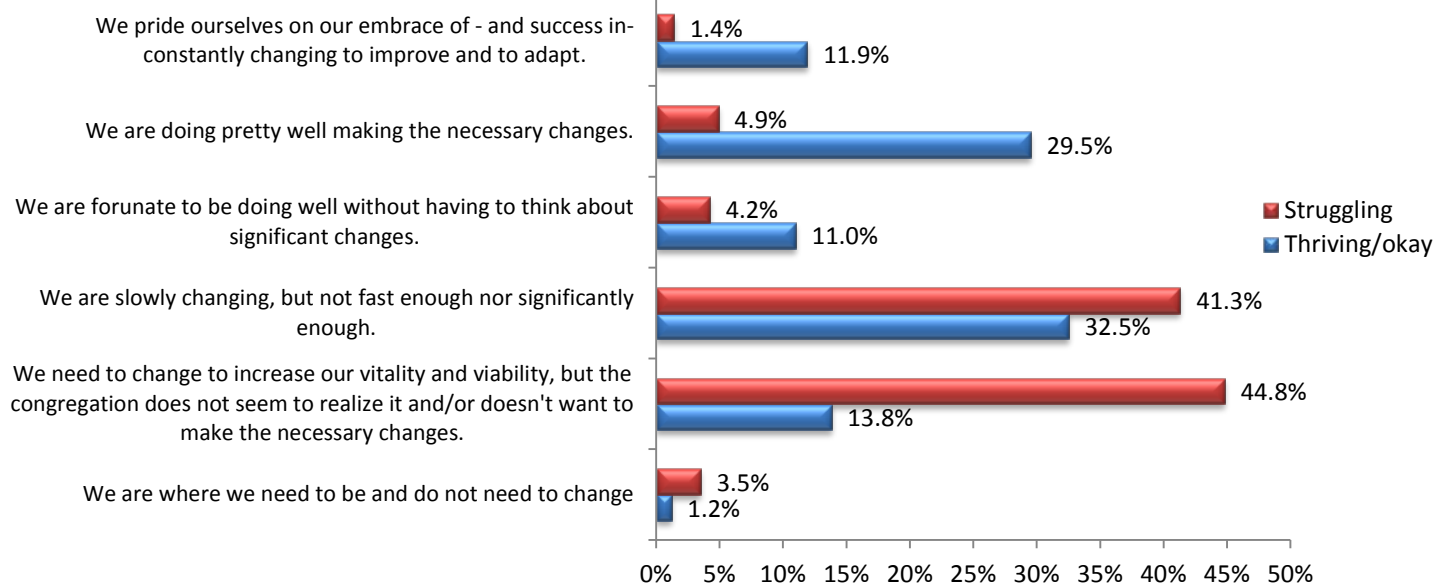


FACTS ON CHANGE AND ADAPTATION

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

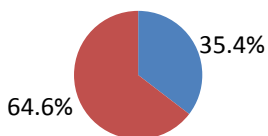
- A higher percentage of UCC churches that say they are “thriving or doing okay” embrace and adapt to change when compared with congregations that say they are “struggling.” The more that congregations have embraced and made changes within their congregations, the more they have experienced growth. (Figure 1)
- Of those struggling congregations, 41.6% identified the lack of resources (energy and/or finances) as factors hindering change within their churches either “quite a bit” or “a lot.”

Figure 1: Congregational Adapability



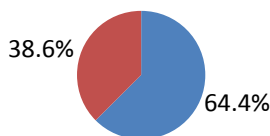
- UCC churches reported the following factors as most important in helping to achieve change:
 - Assistance from the denomination in the form of advice, money, etc. (64.6% of churches) (Figure 2)
 - Familiarity with concrete models that provided realistic, vitalizing alternatives to the status quo (64.6% of churches)
 - Leadership training (62.2% of churches)
 - Rigorous assessment of the church and its community (59.6% of churches)
- The assistance of an outside consultant or program was not tried or not at all helpful for change to occur (38.6% of churches). (Figure 3)

Figure 2: Denominational Assistance



■ Did not try/Not at all ■ Some/A Lot

Figure 3: Outside Consultation



■ Did not try/Not at all ■ Some/A Lot

