

Would you believe it? What lay leaders really think...

Surveys produce statistics – and we love to find the facts that reinforce our opinions! So when 57 lay leaders, including 14 women, filled in a survey at this year's Conference, we're hoping that they provided some ammunition for useful debate about church leadership – from a non-ministerial perspective.

You could start with **age**. The majority of those surveyed were over 55 – but perhaps that says something about lay leaders who come to the conference. But then nearly all the respondents indicated that the average age of their leadership teams was between 45 and 60, and that there were relatively few under 35. Are leadership teams getting older? Are we making enough effort to recruit and mentor younger leaders?

Deacons, elders, leadership teams? The majority of leaders in all roles were **elected**; all the deacons had been elected, but nearly half the leadership team members had not been elected. Ministers had been part of the selection/election process in some way for about two-thirds of all those involved. So how do churches elect the right leaders?

Most people thought that their **leadership role** was defined well enough for them to understand it sufficiently – but 25% did not, which suggests a small but significant problem. But then half of those surveyed did not think that their role had been defined well enough for the church to understand it sufficiently. Do church members really know what the role of a leader is? Most of those surveyed thought being a leader meant sharing in church leadership and supporting the minister – one added that their minister saw support as 'a rubber stamp'! Half of these leaders were sure their minister had a job description.

Two-thirds had heard **teaching or preaching** on church leadership – which also means that one-third had not. And only one-third had received any **training** in church leadership.

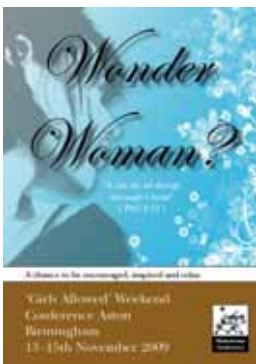
Over 75% of these leaders said they enjoyed **church meetings** and were basically happy with the way leadership functioned in their church. They described their leadership teams as functional (34%), missional (29%), pastoral (20%) and business-like (16%).

The survey suggested there was still some uneasiness about **women in leadership**. While most churches represented had women in leadership roles, 30% were in churches where reservations about women in leadership were expressed, usually openly.

Want to know more? There is a fuller version of this report available by clicking [here](#). And we would love to hear your comments on the survey – just email [Stephen Rand](mailto:Stephen.Rand) and let him know your thoughts.

Wonder Woman?

'Girls Allowed' Weekend Conference 13-15 November 2009



This is a great weekend designed specially for women leaders, ministers' wives or younger girls or women who know God is calling them to leadership/pioneering situations.

We know for a fact that some of you (men) received this news by email in April AND DID NOTHING WITH IT! You didn't even tell your wife!!

Places are going fast, but we still want you to think who you should be encouraging to be there - a church leader, a full-time church worker's wife, your church administrator, or a woman on whom you see God's hand for leadership. All it takes is one minute to forward this email with an added word of personal encouragement.

You can download the brochure, including the booking form, by clicking [here](#)

For a larger version of the booking form only, click [here](#)

PLEASE BOOK NOW!

Have I Got News For You...

Andy Twilley would love you to explore [VIEWFINDER](#), a new DVD-based resource for individuals or small groups, enabling people to go on a journey to a deeper understanding of the heart of Christianity. You can explore it further [here](#), or email [Andy](#) and he'll be pleased to send you a free promo disc.

Stuart Murray Williams is highlighting the [CRUCIBLE COURSE](#), three intensive training weekends each year to equip Christians to follow Jesus on the margins. Full details [here](#).

Stephen and Helena Ibbotson will be leading [LIVING YOUR DREAMS](#), a retreat at Parcevall Hall, nr. Appletreewick, North Yorkshire, July 27-29. For information and to apply, click [here](#).

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