

Andrews University

Digital Commons @ Andrews University

Faculty Publications

3-24-2021

The 2022-2023 Global Church Member Survey: Developing the Questionnaire

Karl Bailey

Andrews University, kgbailey@andrews.edu

Duane McBride

Andrews University, mcbride@andrews.edu

Shannon Trecartin

Andrews University, trecarts@andrews.edu

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.andrews.edu/pubs>

Recommended Citation

Bailey, Karl; McBride, Duane; and Trecartin, Shannon, "The 2022-2023 Global Church Member Survey: Developing the Questionnaire" (2021). *Faculty Publications*. 4466.

<https://digitalcommons.andrews.edu/pubs/4466>

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by Digital Commons @ Andrews University. It has been accepted for inclusion in Faculty Publications by an authorized administrator of Digital Commons @ Andrews University. For more information, please contact repository@andrews.edu.

The 2022–2023 Global Church Member Survey: *Developing the Questionnaire*

by Karl Bailey, Duane McBride and Shannon Trecartin



OUR RESEARCH TEAM AT ANDREWS University led a global research project to survey the religious beliefs, attitudes and behaviors of members of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in 2017–2018. The project went very well, and our team, under the auspices of the Institute for the Prevention of Addictions, was awarded the contract again, now leading the 2021–2023 study. We were very impressed about how seriously the Church leadership took our findings, as they initiated actions in response to our findings.

The 2017–2018 Andrews team was led by Duane McBride and Karl Bailey with Shannon Trecartin, Alina Baltazar, Petr Cincala and former Andrews faculty member Rene Drumm as co-investigators. For the 2022–2023 project, Karl Bailey will take the lead (Duane McBride is semi-retired but will remain as a co-principal investigator), and we have added Shannon Trecartin as

another co-principal investigator. Alina Baltazar, Petr Cincala and Rene Drumm will continue as co-investigators. This multi-departmental project includes faculty from the School of Social & Behavioral Sciences, the School of Social Work and the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary and our colleague Rene Drumm, now at the University of Southern Mississippi. Petr Cincala also has the responsibility for collecting data from five of the world divisions.

We have just finished the process of developing the new questionnaire, working closely with global research teams and a committee at the General Conference as well as receiving input from the Biblical Research Institute. The quality of the input from our global research colleagues was impressive. When data collection begins, a purposive sampling approach will be used to ensure variance by size

and location of the church within each of the 13 divisions.

For consistency with past surveys, many questions from previous versions of the survey are included, and new questions are added to address current issues. The consistency of questions allows us to examine trends over time. Survey questions address such areas as demographics, disabilities, religious roles and behaviors, awareness of and participation in various Church programs, religious attitudes, and experiences, personal as well as family religious beliefs and practices, experiences of abuse within the church, and belief in and adherence to the health message.

In addition, questions about the impact of COVID-19 as well as use of social media have been added to this newest survey. Our church has been strongly affected by the pandemic, and it is important to understand the extent of the impact. Use of

social media has also been added, to examine the increasing role of social media in general as well as in members' spiritual lives. We also examine mental health consequences of social media use.

We believe that these data will assist our Church in assessing the state of members' beliefs and practices, and in developing programs to address the findings. The General Conference has been very supportive of our presenting and publishing the data in Church publications and professional associations (including the Adventist Human-Subject Researchers Association) as well as at wider scientific associations and publications. Two publications are in press, but we have published our first article in *Dialogue Magazine* focusing on the intuitive soul.

It continues to be an honor to be part of the advancement of the mission of the Church, as well as to contribute to the scholarly understanding of the role of beliefs and behaviors in members' lives. ■

To read the *Dialogue Magazine* article, please visit <https://dialogue.adventist.org/3382/>.

