



# IS SDA HISTORY RELEVANT TO MILLENNIALS?

Minnie Day Sype, Licensed Minister 1902-1956

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# Introduction and Objectives

- Learn millennials' attitudes on the value of studying SDA history
- Identify ways libraries can make SDA history relevant to millennials
- Illustrate how a topic of current interest such as *Women in Ministry* also relates to SDA history through a study of Minnie Day Sype, licensed SDA minister from 1902-1956

# Generations Theory

- 20 year repeating cycles of shared characteristics
- Each generation reacts to the previous one
- Influenced by world events, technology, society, economics, etc.

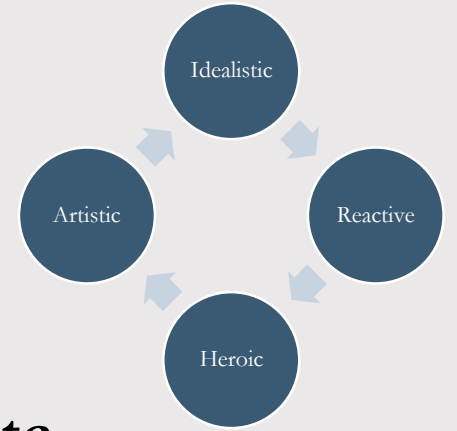


Table: Strauss & Howe, 2000; adapted by Pendergast, 2010

Life-cycle Type	Idealistic - Boomer	Reactive - Gen X	Heroic - Gen Y	Artistic - Gen Z
Childhood Nurture	Relaxed	Under-protected	Tightening	Overprotected
Young Adulthood Nurture Given	Reflecting Tightening	Competing Overprotective	Building Relaxed	Remodeling Underprotective
Middle Age	Judgmental	Exhausted	Energetic	Experimental
Elderhood Leadership Style	Wise, visionary Austere, safe	Persuasive Pragmatic	Busy, confident Grand, inclusive	Sensitive, flexible Pluralistic
Motto	Truth	Persuasion	Power	Love
Positive Attributes	Principled, resolute	Savvy, practical	Rational, competent	Caring, open mind
Negative Attributes	Selfish, arrogant	Money, amoral	Bold, insensitive	Indecisive, guilt

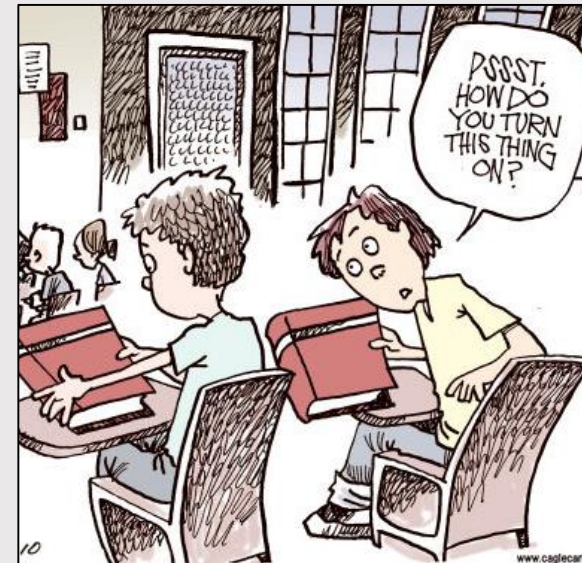
# Characteristics of Millennials

- **Special**
- **Sheltered**
- **Confident**
- **Team Oriented**
- **Conventional**
- **Pressured**
- **Achieving**
- **Connected**



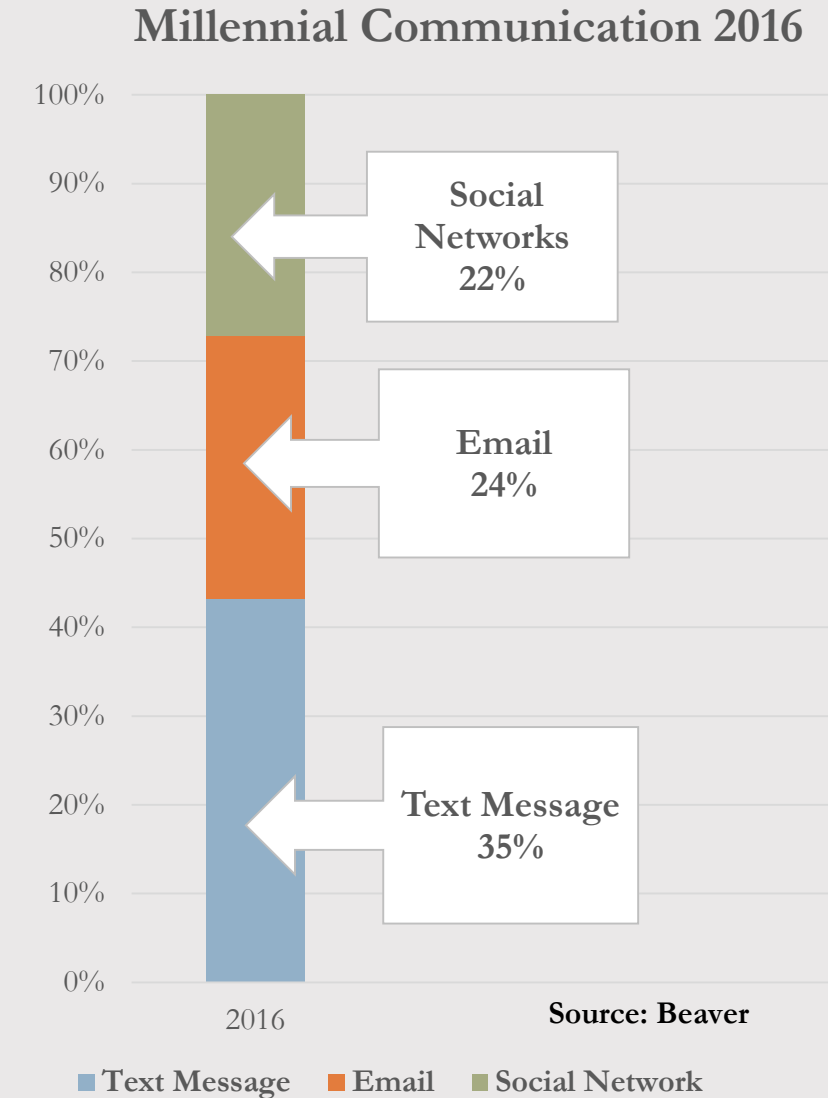
# Millennials in the Library – Lit Review

- *Special*, e-commerce market causes expectation for good public service, and personalization – Walker, Becker
- *Confident*, depend on Google, not aware of academic sources, or how to evaluate & use them – Jones; Costello et al
- *Collaborative*, active, game-based learning, not lecturing – Rush, Brigham
- Library space based on input--media-rich with collaborative as well as quiet study areas – Girven
- Librarians need hybrid skills – Becker



# Lit Review - part 2

- *Connected* for entertainment, e-commerce – Rush
- *Connected*, use “hypertext” rather than “linear” approach to research skills taught by libraries – Costello et al.
- *Connected*, importance of developing a relationship with a librarian – Becker
- Important to use up-to-date communication means such as chat apps, instant messaging, texting, etc. – Beaver





# PATRON SURVEY



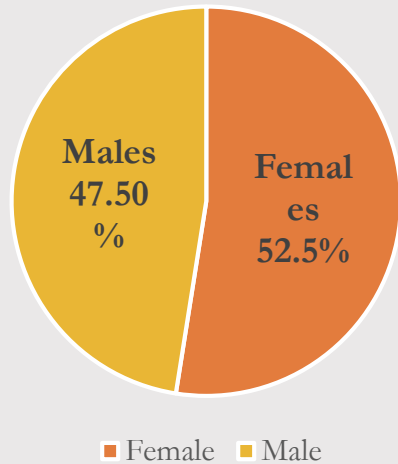
# Survey Methodology

- IRB approval for anonymous online survey advertised through posters, email, and on library website for 3 weeks
- Demographics: gender, age range, SDA, classification
- Asked six questions relating to SDA history, *Women in Ministry*, and the library's role in promoting SDA history



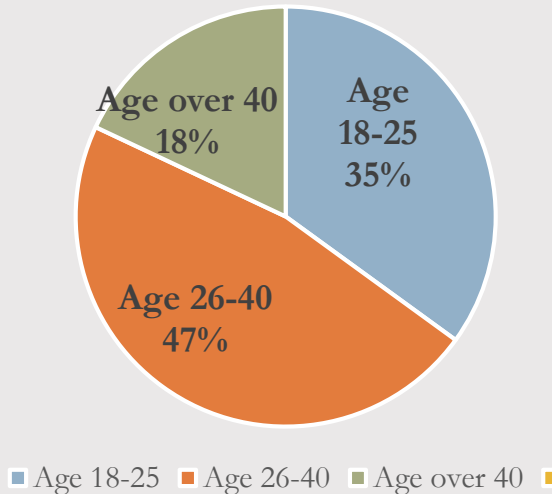
# Characteristics of 40 Participants

Gender

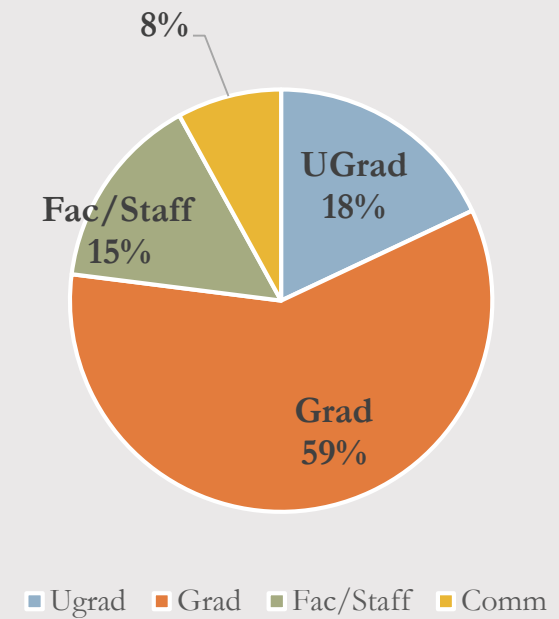


SDA – 95%  
Non-SDA – 5%

Age Groups



Comm Classification



# Survey Results

(1) How important is SDA History?

Average on scale 1-5: 4.18

Gender: **Women 4.0**, **Men 4.37**

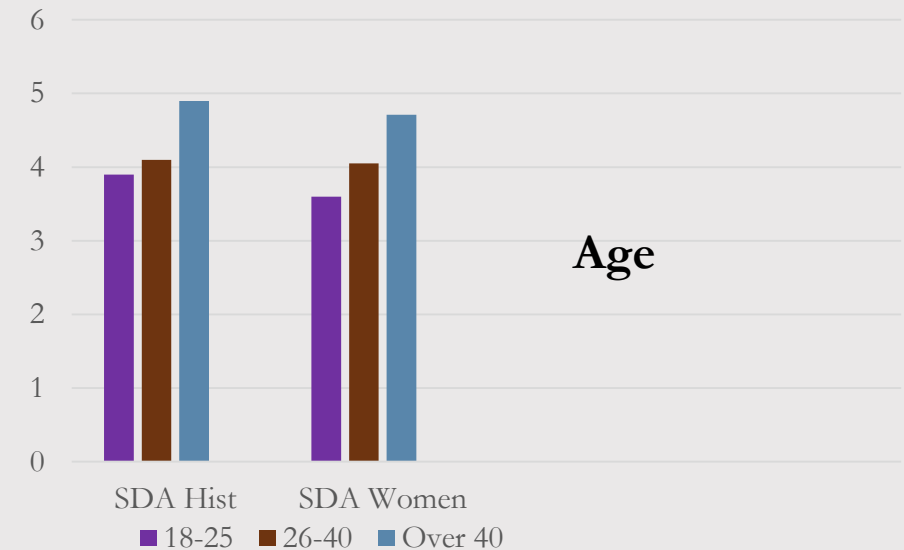
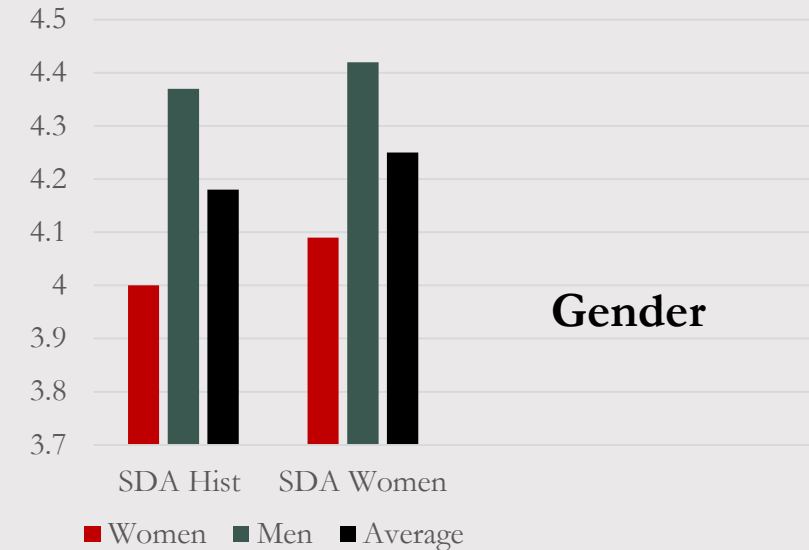
Age: **18-25: 3.9**, **26-40: 4.1**, **Over 40: 4.9**

(2) How relevant is contribution of women to your experience?

Average on scale 1-5: 4.25

Gender: **Women 4.09**, **Men 4.42**

Age: **18-25: 3.6**, **26-40: 4.05**, **Over 40: 4.71**



# Survey Results

**(4a) Should women be Ordained Ministers?**

**Average: Yes – 72.5%**

**Gender: Women: Yes – 90%, Men: Yes – 53%**

**Age: 18-25: Yes – 93%; 26-40: Yes – 58%;**

**Over 40: Yes – 71%**

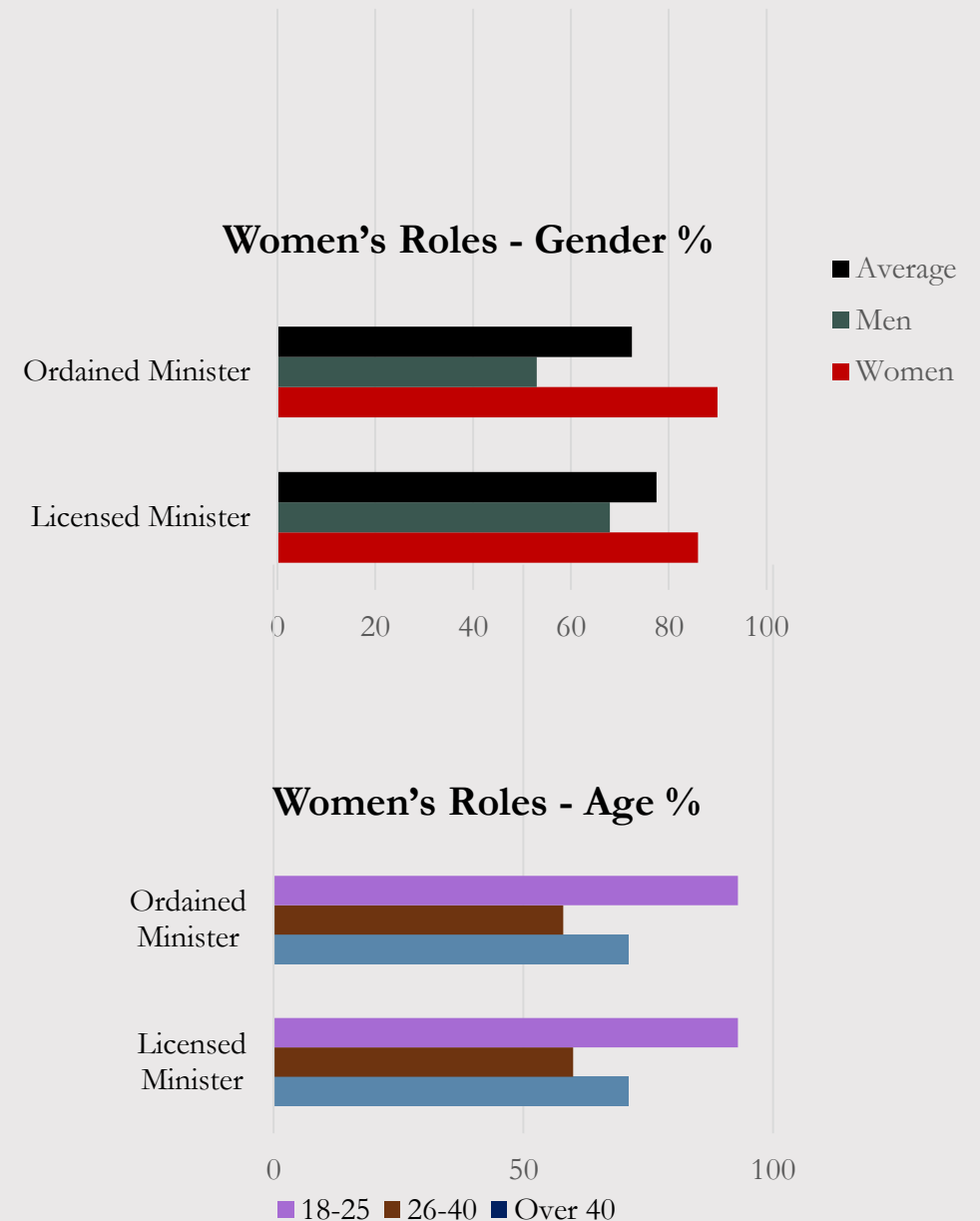
**(4b) Licensed Ministers?**

**Average: Yes – 77.5%**

**Gender: Women: Yes - 86%, Men: Yes – 68%**

**Age: 18-25: Yes – 93%; 26-40: Yes – 60%;**

**Over 40: Yes – 71%**



# How Can the Library Contribute?

## Patron Comments

**“Often times, the information that we learn about most women in the church (apart from EGW) is heavily related to her husband. We do not often learn about these women independently.”**

# How Can the Library Contribute?

## Patron Comments - 2

**“Encourage professors to speak about these women and their influence and to encourage their students to reference them in at least a couple of their assignments that would build awareness of women in ministry that I believe the new generation of millennial ministers so desperately needs.”**

# How Can the Library Contribute?

## Patron Comments - 3

**“Have an info wall with pictures, infographics, books, and other resources. They can also create a video, have a link on their website, or small posters in cubicles.”**

# How Can the Library Contribute?

Patron Comments - 4

**“Scholarships or incentives for research dealing with Adventist women who were pioneers in all aspects of SDA development.”**





**MINNIE DAY SYPE**

**Licensed Minister 1902-1956**

# From “Logan’s Wife” to “Licensed Minister”

- Born – April 18, 1869, Thayer, Iowa
- Attended teacher training school
- Elementary school teacher
- Married Logan Sype – March 6, 1889
- Became an SDA – July 1889
- Children – Ross, James, Anna
- Paid \$25 by Oklahoma Conference
- Hired by Oklahoma Conference with her husband
- Attended Union College 1 semester
- Died June 23, 1956 in Portland Oregon



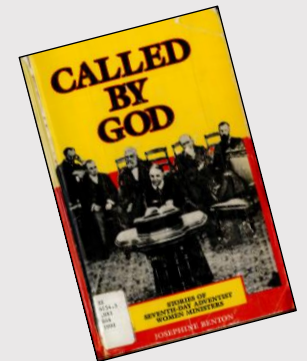
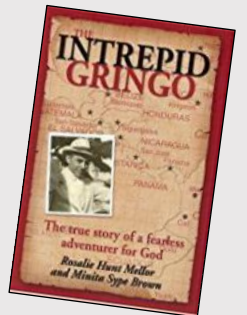
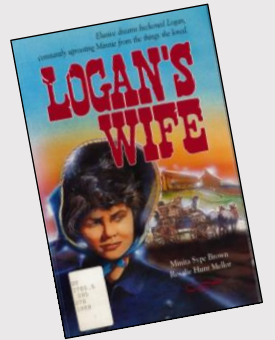
# Challenges and Rewards

- **Beginnings of working for souls**
- **Her Call to Ministry**
- **Inner Debate**
- **Debates with non-SDA ministers**
- **Writing her autobiographies**
- **Started churches in Oklahoma, Iowa Florida**
- **Licensed SDA minister 1902-1956**
- **Son, Ross, became a minister in 1914**
- **Iowa Conference home missionary secretary 1916**
- **Served in Washington State, Florida and the Bahamas**



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# Conclusions

- **Millennials are interested in SDA history**
- **Males rated the value of SDA history higher than women across age groups**
- **Millennials value women's participation in SDA ministry**
- **Females support ordination and licensing of women ministers more than males across age groups**
- **Most participants didn't know about history of SDA women other than EGW**
- **Minnie Day Sype faced problems and challenges similar to women today**
- **All ages gave constructive and creative suggestions for Library promotion of SDA history topics. No significant differences among age or gender groups**
- **James White Library will seek to implement some of the patron suggestions**

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