



2010 NATIONAL SURVEY OF CONGREGATIONS

This is the generic version of the FACT2010 common core questionnaire. Participating denominations and faith groups could substitute words and phrases appropriate to their traditional language (e.g., priest, minister, Imam, rabbi), delete questions that did not fit their congregations (e.g., gender of clergy), and supplement the common core questions with items of particular interest to them. The latter are not contained in the following frequencies. The total N = 11,077 congregations representing a random national sample of congregations of all religious persuasions in the United States.

Worship

1. Please describe the worship services your congregation holds on a **typical weekend**:

<i>For each day or time on a typical weekend:</i>	Friday	Saturday	Sunday AM	Sunday PM
Write in the number of worship services held on each day or time -- MEDIAN	0.0	0.0	1.0	0.0
Write in the average (or typical) attendance for all services on this day or time: MEDIAN	0.0	0.0	90.0	0.0
MEDIAN TOTAL ATTENDANCE	--- 108.0 ---			

2. If you hold **more than one service** on a typical weekend, how different are these services from each other?

- 53.9% We have only one service on a typical weekend
- 18.9 Very similar or identical in style
- 16.7 One or more is *somewhat* different in style from the other(s)
- 11.5 One or more *very* different in style from the other(s)

3. **During the past 5 years**, has your congregation *changed the style* of any of its weekend worship services or added a new service with a different style of worship?

- 46.4% No change in style
- 22.0 Changed style a little
- 18.3 Changed style somewhat
- 6.1 Changed style a lot
- 7.2 Added a new service with a different style of worship

4. On a typical weekend, does your congregation hold a worship service in a language **other than English**, or one that is **bilingual** in English and another language? (full services, not occasional songs or readings)

- 91% No
- 9 Yes

5. So far in 2010 and for the past 5 years, estimate the **average attendance at your regular weekend worship services**. If you have more than one weekend worship service, estimate the attendance for all weekend services combined. Do not include special services such as weddings or funerals.

MEDIAN AVERAGE ATTENDANCE		MEDIAN AVERAGE ATTENDANCE	
105	2010	97	2007
100	2009	97	2006
100	2008	95	2005

6. How often are the following a part of your congregation's **regular weekend worship services**?

√ ONE ON EACH LINE	Never	Seldom	Sometimes	Often	Always
Choir.....	23%	10%	11%	18%	39%
Organ	33	7	5	11	45
Drums or other percussion instruments	39	11	10	8	33
Electric guitar or bass.....	43	13	10	8	26
Visual projection equipment.....	33	13	9	7	39
Kneeling by the congregation	42	17	16	10	16
[Eucharist, Lord's Supper, Sacrament]	3	3	25	39	30
Reading or performing by children or youth.....	8	23	40	22	8

7. How well do the following describe your congregation's **largest regular weekend worship service**?

√ ONE ON EACH LINE	Not at all	Slightly	Somewhat	Quite Well	Very Well
Reverent.....	1%	4%	24%	45%	27%
Filled with a sense of God's presence	1	2	15	44	39
Joyful	3	2	17	44	36
Innovative	7	20	36	24	13
Inspirational.....	1	2	17	51	30
Thought-provoking	1	2	16	47	34

Programs

1. Does your congregation have any of the following programs or activities? **If yes**, how much emphasis is given to the activity?

√ ONE ON EACH LINE	No	Yes		
		Some emphasis	A lot of emphasis	Specialty of the Congregation
Sunday School [church school, religious school].....	8%	17%	59%	16%
Prayer or meditation groups	20	35	36	10
Scripture [Bible] studies (other than Sunday school)	11	29	44	17
Fellowships, trips, or other social activities	9	47	36	9
Music program	13	29	40	18
Adult religious formation classes	28	36	27	9
Spiritual retreats	46	41	10	3
Support groups (bereavement, job loss, 12-step).....	54	29	12	5
Community service activities.....	13	42	31	14
Parenting or marriage enrichment activities.....	43	39	15	3
Young adult activities or programs.....	31	38	24	8
Youth [teen] activities or programs	15	27	41	17
Team sports, fitness activities, exercise classes	63	25	8	3

7. Which of the following technologies does your congregation use on a regular basis? ✓ **ALL THAT APPLY**
- | | | | |
|-----|---------|-----|--------------------------------|
| 90% | E-mail | 41% | Facebook or other social media |
| 69 | Website | 12 | Podcasts |
| 13 | Blogs | 9 | Other → _____ |

Mission and Identity

1. Do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements? ✓ **ONE ON EACH LINE**

Our congregation:	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral/ Unsure	Agree	Strongly agree
Is like a close-knit family	1%	4%	11%	51%	34%
Is spiritually vital and alive.....	1	3	14	54	28
Is not that different from other congregations in our community.....	13	33	23	27	4
Has a clear mission and purpose.....	1	6	14	47	32
Is a “moral beacon” in our community.....	1	6	26	47	21
Is willing to change to meet new challenges.....	3	8	21	48	20
Wants to grow in membership [participants].....	1	2	8	42	48
Holds strong beliefs and values	1	1	5	41	53
Celebrates its [denominational] heritage.....	4	8	19	41	29
Wants to be racially and culturally diverse.....	2	7	25	38	28
Is working for social justice	5	13	37	31	14

2. How would you describe the **theological outlook** of the majority of your regularly participating adults?

Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
2%	6%	25%	38%	29%

Participants

1. How many persons (including children) **regularly participate** in worship or other religious activities in your congregation? Median: 100

2. Of your regular participants (**the figure given above**), estimate the **number** who are:

Median	Percent	
1%		American Indian/Alaska Native
1		Asian
1		Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander
22		Black or African American
2		Hispanic or Latino/a
70		White
4		Biracial/multiracial

2a. What is majority of racial or ethnic group:

	Median Percent
American Indian/Alaskan Native	1%
Asian	1%
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	1%
Black or African American	22%
Hispanic or Latino/a	2%
White	70%
No majority, multiracial	4%

3. Of your regular participants, estimate the **percent** who are:

Median Percent

20%	Senior adults, age 65 or older
20%	Adults, age 50-64
20%	Adults, age 35-49
10%	Younger adults, age 18-34
15%	Children and youth, age 0-17
100%	Total

4. Of your total regular participants **age 18 and older**, estimate the **percent** who are:

Median Percent

60%	Female
30%	College graduates
20%	New to this congregation in the past 5 years
50%	Life-long [denomination, e.g., Baptists]
75%	Living within 15 minutes of this congregation's place of worship

5. How many people are associated **in any way** with the religious life of your congregation? Median: 150

Leadership

1. Our congregation has:

- 43% A principal leader with one or more assistant or associate leaders (such as a senior pastor)
- 48 One principal leader (such as a pastor, priest, rabbi, etc. with no assistant or associate leaders)
- 3 Co-principal leaders (two or more persons sharing the leadership role equally)
- 4 No principal leader at present (*If you have no principal leader at present, skip to Question 12*)

Please describe the **principal leader** of your congregation (if co-principal leaders, answer only about your oldest principal leader).

2. Age: Median 55

3. 88% Male

12% Female

4. Employment status ✓ *ONE*

- 71% Full-time paid leader
- 4 Full-time unpaid leader
- 19 Part-time paid leader
- 6% Part-time unpaid leader

5. Ordained Status

- 11% Layperson
- 89 Ordained

6. Permanent or temporary status

- 93% Permanent leader [called, elected, assigned; or use titles that convey permanence: rector, etc.]
- 4 Interim or supply leader
- 3 Retired clergy serving as leader

7. Highest level of education

- 4% High school diploma or GED
- 12 Some college or technical school; associate's degree
- 22 College bachelor's degree
- 45 Master's degree (including M Div)
- 18 Doctoral degree (PhD, D Min)

8. Leader's race/ethnicity:

Native American	1%
Asian	1%
Pacific Islander	1%
Black	19%
Hispanic	2%
White/Non-Hispanic	76%
Bi- or Multi-Racial	1%

9. This person became the principal leader of your congregation in what year? Median 2005

10. How much time does your principal leader spend in the following areas?

✓ <i>ONE ON EACH LINE</i>	Very Little	Some	Quite a Bit	A Great Deal
Planning and leading worship	5%	19%	44%	32%
Developing and promoting a vision and purpose for the congregation	4	27	41	28
Evangelism or recruitment	11	44	31	14
Recruiting and training lay leaders.....	15	44	30	11
Providing pastoral care (visiting the sick, counseling people) ..	3	24	42	32
Teaching people about the faith and scripture.....	2	14	41	43
Leading small groups (for sharing, support, spiritual growth) ...	19	39	29	14
Administration, supervision and committee meetings.....	7	29	40	24
Representing the congregation in the community.....	12	34	31	24
Engaging youth and young adults.....	13	40	31	17
Dealing with conflict and disagreements.....	49	43	24	14

11. **During the past 3 years**, has your principal leader met regularly with other ministers or pastoral leaders in a **small** group for continuing education and support?

- 73% Yes
- 27% No

12. How many people are employed by your congregation *including your principal leader*?

<i>WRITE IN NUMBER OF: AVERAGE</i>	Full-time paid employees	Part-time paid employees
Ordained professionals	1	0
Lay administrative professionals	0	0
Lay program professionals (including musicians and lay pastors)	0	0
Clerical or secretarial employees	0	0
Custodial or maintenance employees	0	0
Other employees of the congregation	0	0

13. Do the same people tend to serve in volunteer leadership roles year after year, or does your congregation rotate volunteer service among a larger number of people?

- 31% The same people tend to serve
- 55 Although there is some rotation, it tends to be among a limited number of people
- 14 We have a lot of rotation among persons in volunteer leadership roles

14. *During the past 12 months*, has your congregation been involved in any of the following ecumenical or interfaith activities?

	No	Yes	
		With other [Christian] groups	With other faith traditions
✓ ALL THAT APPLY ON EACH LINE			
Worship services.....	40%	51%	15%
Joint celebrations, fairs, meals or cultural events	45	46	15
Educational or fellowship activities	45	48	11
Community service activities	33	52	21

15. *During the past 5 years* has your congregation experienced any disagreements or conflict in the following areas?

	No	Yes			
		But it was not serious	Some people left	Some people withheld donation s	Leader or staff member left
✓ ALL THAT APPLY ON EACH LINE					
Finances or budget	55%	28%	10%	8%	3%
How worship is conducted	58	28	13	2	2
Program priorities.....	64	26	7	2	1
Actions of denomination or supervisory body	69	18	9	5	2
[Pastor's] leadership style	62	16	17	4	6
[Pastor's; Leader's] personal behavior	81	7	7	3	5
[Members'; Participants'] personal behavior	57	24	16	2	2
Use of facilities	71	25	3	1	1

Finances

1. What was the approximate dollar amount of your congregation's total budget for **2009**? (Do not count funds for capital improvements or primary/secondary schools) \$150,000.00 Median
2. Of this total budget amount, estimate the **percent** that was spent in each of the following categories in **2009** (or most recent fiscal year).

Median Percent	
45%	Staff salaries and benefits
20%	Building operations (utilities, mortgage, insurance, maintenance, etc.)
10%	Program support and materials (for Sunday school, evangelism, education, etc.)
10%	Mission and benevolence (including assessments)
5%	All other expenditures
100%	Total

3. How would you describe your congregation's financial health today and five years ago?

Today	2005
6% In serious difficulty	7% In serious difficulty
12 In some difficulty	13 In some difficulty
40 Tight, but we manage	28 Tight, but we managed
28 Good	37 Good
14 Excellent	16 Excellent

4. How would you assess the **impact of the 2008-2009 economic crisis** on your congregation's income?

18%	Our income declined a lot
39	Our income declined a little
10	Our income declined at first, but has since rebounded
22	No significant change in income
11	Our income has grown

5. How would you assess the **impact of the 2008-2009 economic crisis** on your congregation in the following areas?

✓ ONE ON EACH LINE	No impact	Minor impact	Moderate impact	Major impact
Impact on Congregational Staff and Operations				
Staff layoffs or furloughs	82%	9%	6%	3%
Staff salary reductions or salary freeze	55	19	16	11
Delays in filling staff positions	76	9	9	6
Funds available from investments or savings account	51	21	16	12
Funds available for mission and benevolence	49	26	17	8
Capital campaign or building program	54	19	14	13
Impact on Individuals				
Requests for pastoral counseling	42	34	18	6
Requests for cash assistance	22	30	32	16
Requests for emergency housing	53	25	14	8
Unemployment among [participants]	19	40	30	11

History, Location, Building and Affiliation

1. In what year was your congregation officially founded? Median: 1947

Before 1976	72%
1976 - 1999	19%
2000 - 2010	9%

2. How would you describe the **location** of your place of worship? √ **ONE**

- 19% **Rural area or open country**
- 24 **Village or town** with a population of less than 10,000
- 22 **Small city or large town** with a population of 10,000 to 50,000
- 8 **Downtown** or central area of a **large city** with a population of 50,000 or more
- 13 **Older residential area** of a **large city** with a population of 50,000 or more
- 11 **Older suburb** around a **large city** with a population of 50,000 or more
- 5 **Newer suburb** around a **large city** with a population of 50,000 or more

3. What is the approximate seating capacity of the space where your largest worship service is held? Median: 225

4. How adequate are the following for the **current needs** of your congregation?

√ ONE ON EACH LINE	Much less than we need	Slightly less than we need	Just about right	Slightly more than we need	Much more than we need
Space for worship	7%	12%	41%	26%	15%
Space for parking	15	19	41	16	9

5. Median Weekend Worship Attendance

50 and less	23%
50 - 100	23
100 - 150	13
150 - 200	8
200 - 250	6
250 - 300	5
300 - 350	4
350 - 400	2
450 - 500	1
500 - 550	2
Over 500	14

6. Census Region

Northeast	13%
South	41
North Central	29
West	17

7. 2005 – 2010 Worship Attendance Change

Declined > 10%	31%
Declined 2 – 10%	9
Flat: 2 – 2%	11
Grow 2 – 10%	10
Grow More than 10%	39