



# 2010 NATIONAL SURVEY OF CONGREGATIONS

## OLDLINE PROTESTANT

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. N = 4842.

### 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 <b>number of worship services</b> held on each day or time -- MEDIAN	0.0	0.0	1.0	0.0
Write in the <b>average (or typical) attendance</b> for all services on this day or time: MEDIAN	0.0	0.0	70.0	0.0
MEDIAN TOTAL ATTENDANCE	--- 73 ---			

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

- 63% We have only one service on a typical weekend
- 8 Very similar or identical in style
- 14 One or more is *somewhat* different in style from the other(s)
- 15 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?

- 37% No change in style
- 26 Changed style a little
- 20 Changed style somewhat
- 6 Changed style a lot
- 11 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)

- 95% No
- 5 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	
73	2010	114	2007
70	2009	143	2006
72	2008	179	2005

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

√ <b>ONE ON EACH LINE</b>	Never	Seldom	Sometimes	Often	Always
Choir.....	18%	7	9	23	43
Organ .....	18	5	5	14	57
Drums or other percussion instruments .....	45	18	15	7	15
Electric guitar or bass.....	52	17	11	6	14
Visual projection equipment.....	43	16	11	4	26
Kneeling by the congregation .....	50	15	16	9	10
[Eucharist, Lord's Supper, Sacrament] .....	3	1	21	47	28
Reading or performing by children or youth.....	8	21	45	22	5

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

√ <b>ONE ON EACH LINE</b>	Not at all	Slightly	Somewhat	Quite Well	Very Well
Reverent.....	1%	4	23	49	24
Filled with a sense of God's presence .....	1	2	16	48	34
Joyful .....	1	3	20	46	31
Innovative .....	6	25	37	22	9
Inspirational.....	1	2	19	53	26
Thought-provoking .....	1	2	18	51	29

## Programs

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

√ <b>ONE ON EACH LINE</b>	No	Yes		
		Some emphasis	A lot of emphasis	Specialty of the Congregation
Sunday School [church school, religious school].....	9%	24	56	12
Prayer or meditation groups .....	28	43	25	5
Scripture [Bible] studies (other than Sunday school)	13	37	41	9
Fellowships, trips, or other social activities .....	12	48	33	8
Music program .....	16	27	37	21
Adult religious formation classes .....	30	42	24	4
Spiritual retreats .....	59	35	5	1
Support groups (bereavement, job loss, 12-step).....	59	27	11	3
Community service activities.....	9	36	37	19
Parenting or marriage enrichment activities.....	69	25	5	1
Young adult activities or programs.....	50	34	14	3
Youth [teen] activities or programs .....	24	29	35	12
Team sports, fitness activities, exercise classes .....	76	19	5	1



7. Which of the following technologies does your congregation use on a regular basis?  ALL THAT APPLY

91%	E-mail	35%	Facebook or other social media
69	Website	7	Podcasts
10	Blogs	7	Other

**Mission and Identity**

1. Do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements?

ONE ON EACH LINE

<b>Our congregation:</b>	<b>Strongly disagree</b>	<b>Disagree</b>	<b>Neutral/ Unsure</b>	<b>Agree</b>	<b>Strongly agree</b>
Is like a close-knit family .....	1%	5	12	50	32
Is spiritually vital and alive.....	1	5	16	57	21
Is not that different from other congregations in our community.....	7	30	23	35	4
Has a clear mission and purpose.....	2	9	22	47	20
Is a “moral beacon” in our community.....	2	11	35	43	10
Is willing to change to meet new challenges.....	3	11	25	47	14
Wants to grow in membership [participants].....	1	2	10	49	38
Holds strong beliefs and values .....	1	2	10	59	30
Celebrates its [denominational] heritage.....	1	7	18	52	22
Wants to be racially and culturally diverse.....	2	11	31	36	19
Is working for social justice .....	3	13	35	36	13

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

<b>Very liberal</b>	<b>Somewhat liberal</b>	<b>Moderate</b>	<b>Somewhat conservative</b>	<b>Very conservative</b>
5%	12	35	35	12

**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**), what percent are:

Median Percent

1%	American Indian/Alaska Native
1	Asian
1	Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander
6	Black or African American
1	Hispanic or Latino/a
89	White
2	Biracial/multiracial

2a. What is majority racial or ethnic group

American Indian/Alaskan Native	1%
Asian	1
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	1
Black or African American	6
Hispanic or Latino/a	1
White	89
No majority, multiracial	2

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

Median Percent

34%	Senior adults, age 65 or older
22%	Adults, age 50-64
15%	Adults, age 35-49
9%	Younger adults, age 18-34
10%	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
40%	College graduates
15%	New to this congregation in the past 5 years
50%	Life-long [denomination, e.g., Baptists]
85%	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: 130

### Leadership

1. Our congregation has:

- 22% A principal leader with one or more assistant or associate leaders (such as a senior pastor)
- 72 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)
- 3 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 57 Years old

3. 75% Male  
25 Female

4. Employment status ✓ ONE

- 69% Full-time paid leader
- 1 Full-time unpaid leader
- 30 Part-time paid leader
- 1 Part-time unpaid leader

- 5. Ordained Status
  - 12% Layperson
  - 88 Ordained
- 6. Permanent or temporary status
  - 87% Permanent leader [called, elected, assigned; or use titles that convey permanence: rector, etc.]
  - 7 Interim or supply leader
  - 6 Retired clergy serving as leader
- 7. Highest level of education
  - 1% High school diploma or GED
  - 8 Some college or technical school; associate's degree
  - 10 College bachelor's degree
  - 63 Master's degree (including M Div)
  - 18 Doctoral degree (PhD, D Min)
- 8. Leader's race/ethnicity:

Median Percent

Native American	1%
Asian	2
Pacific Islander	1
Black	7
Hispanic	1
White Non-Hispanic	89
Bi- Multi-Racial	2

9. This person became the principal leader of your congregation in what year? Median 2006

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

<b>✓ ONE ON EACH LINE</b>	<b>Very Little</b>	<b>Some</b>	<b>Quite a Bit</b>	<b>A Great Deal</b>
Planning and leading worship .....	1%	11	54	35
Developing and promoting a vision and purpose for the congregation .....	5	36	42	18
Evangelism or recruitment .....	15	52	27	5
Recruiting and training lay leaders.....	19	50	26	5
Providing pastoral care (visiting the sick, counseling people) ..	3	25	44	28
Teaching people about the faith and scripture .....	3	24	49	25
Leading small groups (for sharing, support, spiritual growth) ...	20	43	28	9
Administration, supervision and committee meetings.....	7	29	45	19
Representing the congregation in the community.....	11	41	32	16
Engaging youth and young adults.....	20	47	26	8
Dealing with conflict and disagreements.....	25	47	20	8

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?

- 79% Yes
- 21 No

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

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

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?

- 23%      The same people tend to serve
- 63      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
<b>✓ ALL THAT APPLY ON EACH LINE</b>			
Worship services.....	23%	67	19
Joint celebrations, fairs, meals or cultural events .....	35	55	18
Educational or fellowship activities .....	35	57	13
Community service activities .....	20	64	25

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 donations	Leader or staff member left
<b>✓ ALL THAT APPLY ON EACH LINE</b>					
Finances or budget .....	51%	31	10	10	4
How worship is conducted .....	56	28	15	2	2
Program priorities.....	66	25	8	2	1
Actions of denomination or supervisory body .....	59	20	17	8	2
[Pastor's] leadership style .....	60	16	19	6	8
[Pastor's; Leader's] personal behavior .....	83	5	8	3	5
[Members'; Participants'] personal behavior .....	65	18	16	2	2
Use of facilities .....	70	26	4	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)      Median \$131,986.84
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

50%	Staff salaries and benefits
20%	Building operations (utilities, mortgage, insurance, maintenance, etc.)
8%	Program support and materials (for Sunday school, evangelism, education, etc.)
10%	Mission and benevolence (including assessments)
5%	All other expenditures
<b>100%</b>	<b>Total</b>

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

**Today**

8% In serious difficulty  
 15 In some difficulty  
 40 Tight, but we manage  
 25 Good  
 12 Excellent

**2005**

8% In serious difficulty  
 16 In some difficulty  
 34 Tight, but we managed  
 34 Good  
 9 Excellent

4. How would you assess the **impact of the 2008-2009 economic crisis** on your congregation’s income?  
 16% Our income declined a lot  
 40 Our income declined a little  
 9 Our income declined at first, but has since rebounded  
 26 No significant change in income  
 9 Our income has grown

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

<b>✓ ONE ON EACH LINE</b>	<b>No impact</b>	<b>Minor impact</b>	<b>Moderate impact</b>	<b>Major impact</b>
<b>Impact on Congregational Staff and Operations</b>				
Staff layoffs or furloughs .....	84%	8	5	3
Staff salary reductions or salary freeze .....	51	19	18	13
Delays in filling staff positions .....	81	9	5	5
Funds available from investments or savings account .....	43	24	20	13
Funds available for mission and benevolence .....	46	27	18	9
Capital campaign or building program .....	58	19	14	10
<b>Impact on Individuals</b>				
Requests for pastoral counseling .....	46	33	17	4
Requests for cash assistance .....	27	33	28	13
Requests for emergency housing .....	60	21	13	6
Unemployment among [participants].....	22	44	28	7

**History, Location, Building and Affiliation**

1. In what year was your congregation officially founded? Median 1889

Before 1976	91%
1976 - 1999	6
2000 - 2010	3

2. How would you describe the **location** of your place of worship?  $\sqrt{ONE}$

- 24% **Rural area or open country**
- 29 **Village or town** with a population of less than 10,000
- 24 **Small city or large town** with a population of 10,000 to 50,000
- 6 **Downtown** or central area of a **large city** with a population of 50,000 or more
- 9 **Older residential area** of a **large city** with a population of 50,000 or more
- 9 **Older suburb** around a **large city** with a population of 50,000 or more
- 4 **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 200

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

$\sqrt{ONE ON EACH LINE}$	<b>Much less than we need</b>	<b>Slightly less than we need</b>	<b>Just about right</b>	<b>Slightly more than we need</b>	<b>Much more than we need</b>
Space for worship .....	4%	8	40	28	20
Space for parking .....	14	22	42	14	8

5. Median Weekend Worship Attendance

50 and less	35%
50 - 100	26
100 - 150	14
150 - 200	8
200 - 250	4
250 - 300	2
300 - 350	2
350 - 400	1
450 - 500	1
500 - 550	1
Over 500	6

6. Census Region

Northeast	19%
South	35
North Central	36
West	10

7. 2005 – 2010 Worship Attendance Change

Declined > 10%	33%
Declined 2 – 10%	17
Flat: 2 – 2%	13
Grow 2 – 10%	15
Grow More than 10%	22