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# *FAITH COMMUNITIES TODAY*

## *A Congregational Survey Of SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS*

*In Association With The  
Cooperative Congregational Studies Project*

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Every faith tradition in the United States and Canada affirms the centrality of religious gatherings. Yet until now there has never been a major, interfaith, international study of congregations to help tell of their foundational contribution as the front-lines of religious expression and the backbone of the nation's voluntary sector. In an unprecedented ecumenical and interfaith effort over 30 denominations and religious groups, representing over 90% of the congregations in United States and Canada are cooperating to fill this void.

The North American Division of Seventh-day Adventists is participating in this ground-breaking venture, and your congregation has been selected as one of 813 scientifically selected to represent the whole Division. From this study materials and training sessions will be developed that will strengthen congregational life—the venue where the church's mission is accomplished.

Congregation \_\_\_\_\_

Identification # \_\_\_\_\_

# I. Congregational Identity and Worship

1. How well does each of the following statements describe your congregation? (✓ one on each line)

	<u>Very Well</u>	<u>Quite Well</u>	<u>Some-What</u>	<u>Slightly</u>	<u>Not At All</u>
A. Our congregation feels like a [large], close-knit family	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>3</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>4</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>5</sub>
B. Our congregation is spiritually vital and alive	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>3</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>4</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>5</sub>
C. Our congregation is working for social justice	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>3</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>4</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>5</sub>
D. Our congregation helps members deepen their relationships with God	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>3</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>4</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>5</sub>
E. Our congregation is trying to increase its racial/ethnic diversity	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>3</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>4</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>5</sub>
F. Our congregation clearly expresses its Adventist heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>3</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>4</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>5</sub>
G. Our congregation is a moral beacon in the community	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>3</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>4</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>5</sub>
H. Our congregation welcomes innovation and change	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>3</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>4</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>5</sub>
I. Our congregation deals openly with disagreements and conflicts	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>3</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>4</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>5</sub>
J. Our congregation encourages the public expression of speaking in tongues	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>3</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>4</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>5</sub>
K. Our congregation has a strong racial/ethnic or national heritage that it is trying to preserve	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>3</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>4</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>5</sub>
L. Members are excited about the future of our congregation	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>3</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>4</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>5</sub>
M. New people are easily assimilated/incorporated into the life of our congregation	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>3</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>4</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>5</sub>
N. Our congregation has a clear sense of mission and purpose	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>3</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>4</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>5</sub>
O. Our congregation's worship services are spiritually uplifting and inspirational	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>3</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>4</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>5</sub>
P. Our congregation's programs and activities are well organized	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>3</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>4</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>5</sub>
Q. Our congregation's programs and activities strengthen personal relationships among our members	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>3</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>4</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>5</sub>
R. The community around our church is well-informed about the activities taking place in our congregation	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>3</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>4</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>5</sub>

## 2. Worship Services.

- A. How many worship services does your congregation hold on a **typical** Sabbath? \_\_\_\_\_
- B. What is the total attendance for all services held on a **typical** Sabbath? \_\_\_\_\_
- C. If you typically hold more than one worship service on the Sabbath are these services: (✓ one)
- <sub>1</sub> Very similar in style (other than the language used)
  - <sub>2</sub> One or more is *somewhat different* in style from the rest
  - <sub>3</sub> One or more is *very different* in style from the rest
- D. In what languages does your congregation conducts worship services on a typical Sabbath?
- <sub>1</sub> English    <sub>2</sub> Spanish    <sub>3</sub> French    <sub>4</sub> Korean    <sub>5</sub> Other \_\_\_\_\_

3. How often does the sermon in your worship **focus** on: (✓ one on each line)

	<u>Always</u>	<u>Often</u>	<u>Sometimes</u>	<u>Seldom</u>	<u>Never</u>
A. God's love and care	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>3</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>4</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>5</sub>
B. Practical advice for daily living	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>3</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>4</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>5</sub>
C. Personal spiritual growth	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>3</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>4</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>5</sub>
D. Social justice or social action	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>3</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>4</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>5</sub>
E. Personal salvation	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>3</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>4</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>5</sub>

4. How often does the sermon include **a lot of**. (✓ one on each line)

	<u>Always</u>	<u>Often</u>	<u>Sometimes</u>	<u>Seldom</u>	<u>Never</u>
A. Personal stories or first-hand experiences	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>3</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>4</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>5</sub>
B. Literary or scholarly references	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>3</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>4</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>5</sub>
C. Illustrations from contemporary media (e.g., magazines, newspapers, television, movies, etc)	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>3</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>4</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>5</sub>
D. Detailed explanations of scripture or doctrine	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>3</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>4</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>5</sub>

5. How often are the following included as part of your congregation's regular Sabbath worship service(s)? (✓ one on each line)

	<u>Always</u>	<u>Often</u>	<u>Sometimes</u>	<u>Seldom</u>	<u>Never</u>
A. Reading/recitation of creeds or statements of faith	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>3</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>4</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>5</sub>
B. A time for lay members to testify about their faith	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>3</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>4</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>5</sub>
C. A time during worship for people to greet each other	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>3</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>4</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>5</sub>
D. The use of visual projection equipment	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>3</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>4</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>5</sub>
E. Incense or candles	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>3</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>4</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>5</sub>
F. Drama or acted parables	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>3</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>4</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>5</sub>
G. Kneeling by the congregation	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>3</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>4</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>5</sub>
H. Children's sermon, youth choir, etc.	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>3</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>4</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>5</sub>
I. Member participation in leading worship	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>3</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>4</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>5</sub>

6. How often are the following included as part of your congregation's regular Sabbath worship service(s)? (✓ one on each line)

	<u>Always</u>	<u>Often</u>	<u>Sometimes</u>	<u>Seldom</u>	<u>Never</u>
A. Organ and/or piano	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>3</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>4</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>5</sub>
B. Electronic keyboard or synthesizer	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>3</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>4</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>5</sub>
C. Electric guitar/bass	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>3</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>4</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>5</sub>
D. Non-electronic string or wind instruments (e.g., harp, violin, guitar, flute, brass, etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>3</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>4</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>5</sub>
E. Drums or other percussion instruments	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>3</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>4</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>5</sub>
F. Recorded music (tapes, cd's, etc)	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>3</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>4</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>5</sub>

7. In comparison to the style of your congregation's primary worship service 5 years ago, would you say the style of your current primary worship service:

- <sub>1</sub> Is basically the same   <sub>2</sub> Changed a little   <sub>3</sub> Changed somewhat   <sub>4</sub> Changed a great deal  
<sub>5</sub> Our congregation did not exist in 1995

8. How important are the following sources of authority in the worship and teaching of your congregation?

(✓ one on each line)

	<u>Absolutely Foundational</u>	<u>Very Important</u>	<u>Somewhat Important</u>	<u>Little Or No Importance</u>
A. Sacred Scripture/the Bible	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>3</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>4</sub>
B. Adventist heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>3</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>4</sub>
C. The Holy Spirit	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>3</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>4</sub>
D. Human reason and understanding	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>3</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>4</sub>
E. Personal experience and common sense	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>3</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>4</sub>
F. Ellen G. White's writings	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>3</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>4</sub>

G. Now please write the letter of the **one** source of authority that is **most important** in your congregation's worship and teaching, as difficult a choice as this may be, in this box → →



9. When visitors attend worship services at your church, *about* how many members usually welcome them?

- <sub>1</sub> More than five    <sub>2</sub> Three to five    <sub>3</sub> One or two    <sub>4</sub> None

10. Congregations might be focused more on winning individual converts and preparing people for heaven or more on working to serve people in need and making their communities better places to live. Would you say that your congregation is:

- <sub>1</sub> More other-world focused                      <sub>2</sub> More this-world focused  
<sub>3</sub> A balanced focus between other-world and this-world

## II. History, Location and Building

- In approximately what year was this congregation officially founded? \_\_\_\_\_
- In what ZIP code area is this congregation's primary worship building located? Zip \_\_\_\_\_
- In approximately what year did this congregation begin worshipping at its current location? \_\_\_\_\_
- How would you describe the place where your congregation's primary worship building is located?

- Rural or open country . . . . . <sub>1</sub>  
 Town or village of less than 10,000 . . . . . <sub>2</sub>  
 In or around a city of:  
     10,000 - 49,999 . . . . . <sub>3</sub>  
     50,000-249,999 . . . . . <sub>4</sub>  
     250,000+ . . . . . <sub>5</sub>

**A. If in or around a city, is your building located:**

- In the central or downtown area of the city . . . . . <sub>1</sub>  
 In another area of the city . . . . . <sub>2</sub>  
 In an older suburb around the city . . . . . <sub>3</sub>  
 In a newer suburb around the city . . . . . <sub>4</sub>

**B. If in or around a city, is your building located in a:**

- Residential area . . . . . <sub>1</sub>  
 Mixed residential and commercial area . . . . . <sub>2</sub>  
 Commercial or industrial area . . . . . <sub>3</sub>

5. How would you describe the **size** of the following relative to the current needs of your congregation?:

(✓ one each line)	Much More Than We Need	Slightly More Than We Need	Just About Right	Slightly Less Than We Need	Much Less Than We Need
A. Your Worship space	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>3</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>4</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>5</sub>
B. Educational space	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>3</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>4</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>5</sub>
C. Fellowship space	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>3</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>4</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>5</sub>
D. Space for parking	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>3</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>4</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>5</sub>

6. How would you describe the overall physical condition of your congregation's building(s)? (✓ one)

- <sub>1</sub> Excellent    <sub>2</sub> Good    <sub>3</sub> Needs improvement    <sub>4</sub> In serious need of improvements and repairs

7. Do any other congregations use your building space for worship?                      <sub>1</sub> Yes    <sub>2</sub> No

### III. Congregational Programs

1. Does your congregation have a Sabbath school that meets regularly? <sub>1</sub> Yes <sub>2</sub> No

IF YES: A. What is the typical, total, weekly attendance of **adults (18 and over)**? → → → → → \_\_\_\_\_

B. What is the typical, total, weekly attendance of **children and teens (17 and under)**? → \_\_\_\_\_

2. During the past 12 months, did your congregation have any of the following programs or activities in addition to your regular Sabbath school?

IF YES: ● **A one-time, short-term or occasional event?**  
 ● **On-going during a particular season?**  
 ● **On-going throughout the year?**

Circle all "Yeses" that apply  
 ----- Yes -----  
 One-Time, Short-Term, Occasional    On-going During A Season    On-going Thru [Church] Year

	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
A. Bible/Scripture study (other than Sabbath School)	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
B. Theological or doctrinal study	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
C. Prayer or meditation groups	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
D. Spiritual retreats	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
E. Community service	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
F. Parenting or marriage enrichment	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
G. Choir(s)	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
H. Other performing arts (e.g., music, art, drama)	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
I. Groups that discuss books or contemporary issues	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
J. Self-help or personal growth groups	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
K. Exercise, fitness or weight loss groups or classes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
L. Sports teams	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
M. Pathfinder Club or other youth groups	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
N. Young adult/singles activities and programs	No	Yes	Yes	Yes

3. How much does your congregation, in its worship and education, *emphasize* the following **home and personal practices**? (✓ one on each line)

	A Great Deal	Quite A Bit	Some	A Little	Not At All
A. Personal prayer, scripture study, devotions and other spiritual practices	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>3</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>4</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>5</sub>
B. Family devotions	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>3</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>4</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>5</sub>
C. Fasting	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>3</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>4</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>5</sub>
D. Observing dietary restrictions	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>3</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>4</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>5</sub>
E. Abstinence from alcohol	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>3</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>4</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>5</sub>
F. Keeping the Sabbath holy	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>3</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>4</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>5</sub>
G. Displaying religious objects, symbols, statuary, icons or pictures in the home	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>3</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>4</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>5</sub>
H. Abstaining from premarital sex	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>3</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>4</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>5</sub>

4. If someone visited your church and indicated that he/she was a visitor by signing the guest book or visitor's card, how long would it take on average until he/she received a *visit* or *phone call* from the church?

- <sub>1</sub> We have no guest book or visitor's card
- <sub>2</sub> Within a few days
- <sub>3</sub> Within a week or two
- <sub>4</sub> Within a month or two
- <sub>5</sub> We don't follow up with visits or phone calls

5. In addition to the outreach activities of your denomination, **did your congregation** do any of the following *during the past 12 months* to reach out to new or inactive participants or to make your congregation better known in your community? If **No**, is the item: **A) Something that probably would be supported** by most members if you tried it; or **B) Something that probably would not be supported** by most members.

(✓ One on each line)

	Yes <i>Done in last 12 Months</i>	--- No, But Members-- <i>Would Support    Would Not Support This Activity    This Activity</i>	
A. Newspaper advertisements and stories	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>3</sub>
B. Radio or television advertisements and stories	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>3</sub>
C. Direct mail promotions to area residents	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>3</sub>
D. An evangelistic campaign or Revelation Seminar	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>3</sub>
E. Focused efforts to identify and contact people who have recently moved into your congregation's area	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>3</sub>
F. Stressing in your congregation's preaching and teaching the importance of witnessing to others about one's faith	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>3</sub>
G. Special worship services intended to attract the unchurched/non-Adventists, e.g., "Bring a friend" services, seeker services, revivals, etc.	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>3</sub>
H. Special programs (e.g., parenting classes, young single nights, music festivals, street ministries) especially intended to attract unchurched persons/non-Adventists in your community.	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>3</sub>
I. Phone calls or personal visits by your pastors	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>3</sub>
J. Phone calls or personal visits by lay members	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>3</sub>

6. In the past 12 months, did your congregation directly provide, or cooperate in providing, any of the following services for your own members or for people in the community. "Cooperation" includes financial contributions, volunteer time by congregational members, space in your building, material donations, etc.

	<i>No</i>	----- Yes, circle all that apply ----- <i>Provided Directly    Cooperated with Another by Your    Congregation, Agency, Congregation    or Organization</i>	
A. Food pantry or soup kitchen	No	Yes	Yes
B. Cash assistance to families or individuals	No	Yes	Yes
C. Community Services Center (Dorcas)	No	Yes	Yes
D. Elderly, emergency or affordable housing	No	Yes	Yes
E. Counseling services or "hot line"	No	Yes	Yes
F. Substance abuse programs	No	Yes	Yes
G. Day care, pre-school, before/after-school programs	No	Yes	Yes
H. Tutoring or literacy programs for children & teens	No	Yes	Yes
I. Voter registration or voter education	No	Yes	Yes
J. Organized social issue advocacy or community organizing	No	Yes	Yes
K. Employment counseling, placement or training	No	Yes	Yes
L. Health programs/clinics/health education	No	Yes	Yes
M. Hospital or nursing home facilities	No	Yes	Yes
N. Senior citizen programs (other than housing)	No	Yes	Yes
O. Program for migrants or immigrants	No	Yes	Yes
P. Prison or jail ministry	No	Yes	Yes
Q. Homeless shelter	No	Yes	Yes

7. In a typical month, about how many people *do you estimate* are served through the services your congregation directly provides? Estimated number of people served \_\_\_\_\_

8. Does your congregation sponsor, either by itself or as part of a constituency of churches:

- A. An Adventist **elementary** school? ..... <sub>1</sub> No <sub>2</sub> Yes  
 B. An Adventist **secondary** school? ..... <sub>1</sub> No <sub>2</sub> Yes

9. To what extent is every phase of your congregational activity focused on church growth?  
 1 = each phase independent; 5 = every phase focused on church growth

- <sub>1</sub> <sub>2</sub> <sub>3</sub> <sub>4</sub> <sub>5</sub>

10. What do you see is the potential of your congregation for real growth? 1 = no potential; 5 = unlimited potential

- <sub>1</sub> <sub>2</sub> <sub>3</sub> <sub>4</sub> <sub>5</sub>

11. What percentage of your membership is the growth goal of your congregation this year?

\_\_\_\_\_ %

#### IV. Leadership And Organizational Dynamics

1. Which of the following best describes the situation in your congregation? (✓ one)

- <sub>1</sub> We do *not* have any problem getting people to accept volunteer leadership roles.  
<sub>2</sub> Recruiting volunteer leaders is a continual challenge, but we eventually find enough willing people.  
<sub>3</sub> We cannot find enough people who are willing to serve.

2. Please describe your current senior/sole pastor by checking all of the boxes that apply or filling in the requested information. If you have **more than one pastor**, please check here  and answer the following for your senior pastor. If you do not currently have a pastor, please check here  and skip to question 3.

A. Age? \_\_\_\_\_ Years old

B. <sub>1</sub> Paid <sub>2</sub> Volunteer

C. <sub>1</sub> Full time <sub>2</sub> Full time, supplemented by outside employment

<sub>3</sub> Part time → IF PART TIME, 1) How many churches does he/she serve? \_\_\_\_\_

2) Does he/she work at a secular job? <sub>1</sub> Yes <sub>2</sub> No

D. <sub>1</sub> Male <sub>2</sub> Female

E. <sub>1</sub> Regular call <sub>2</sub> Temporary/interim

F. Highest level of education (✓ one):

- <sub>1</sub> High school diploma or less  
<sub>2</sub> Some college or technical  
<sub>3</sub> College bachelors degree  
<sub>4</sub> Masters Degree  
<sub>5</sub> Doctoral Degree

G. Highest level of ministerial education (✓ one):

- <sub>1</sub> None  
<sub>2</sub> Certificate or correspondence program  
<sub>3</sub> Bible college or some seminary  
<sub>4</sub> Seminary Masters degree (e.g., M. Div)  
<sub>5</sub> Post-Masters, Seminary degree (e.g., D.Min)

H. Race/ethnicity (✓ one):

- <sub>1</sub> American Indian/Alaska Native      <sub>4</sub> Hispanic or Latino  
<sub>2</sub> Asian      <sub>5</sub> Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander  
<sub>3</sub> Black or African American      <sub>6</sub> White      <sub>7</sub> Other \_\_\_\_\_

I. This person became your senior/sole pastor in what year? 19\_\_\_\_\_

J. How would you rate the skill of your pastor in gaining decisions for membership? 1 = low: 5 = high

- <sub>1</sub>      <sub>2</sub>      <sub>3</sub>      <sub>4</sub>      <sub>5</sub>

3. How many **senior/sole** pastors, including the current one, have served your congregation during the past 10 years? \_\_\_\_\_ pastors

4. How long did the previous senior/sole pastor serve your congregation? \_\_\_\_\_ years

4. How many paid ministerial and program staff does your congregation have?

- A. Number full time, paid \_\_\_\_\_      B. Number part time, paid \_\_\_\_\_

6. How many other paid staff members (secretarial, maintenance, etc.)? A. Full time \_\_\_\_\_ B. Part time \_\_\_\_\_

7. During the last 12 months, has your congregation been involved in any of the following types of inter-congregational, ecumenical, or interfaith activities?

(Circle all the "yeses" that apply)

\_\_\_\_\_ *With other congregations or persons:* \_\_\_\_\_

	<i>From our</i>	<i>From other</i>	<i>From other</i>
	<i>Denomination</i>	<i>Christian</i>	<i>Faith</i>
	<i>Denomination</i>	<i>Denominations</i>	<i>Traditions</i>

	<i>No</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>Yes</i>
A. Joint worship services	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
B. Joint celebrations or programs other than worship	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
C. Joint social outreach or service projects	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
D. Councils of churches or ministerial associations	No	Yes	Yes	Yes

8. During the last **five years** has your congregation experienced any disagreements or conflicts in the following areas? (✓ one on each line)

\_\_\_\_\_ *Yes, and it was:* \_\_\_\_\_

	<i>No</i>	<i>Very Serious</i>	<i>Moderately Serious</i>	<i>Not Very Serious</i>
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	<i>No</i>	<i>Very Serious</i>	<i>Moderately Serious</i>	<i>Not Very Serious</i>
A. Theology	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>3</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>4</sub>
B. Money/finances/budget	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>3</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>4</sub>
C. How worship is conducted	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>3</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>4</sub>
D. Program/mission priorities or emphases	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>3</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>4</sub>
E. Who should make a decision	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>3</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>4</sub>
F. Pastor's leadership style	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>3</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>4</sub>
G. Pastor's personal behavior	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>3</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>4</sub>
H. Personal behavior of a member or visitor	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>3</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>4</sub>
I. Other: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>3</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>4</sub>

9. When your congregation purchases worship, educational, stewardship, evangelism, etc. materials or supplies does it purchase them: (✓ one)

- <sub>1</sub> Exclusively from denominational suppliers      <sub>3</sub> Primarily from outside the denomination  
<sub>2</sub> Primarily from denominational suppliers      <sub>4</sub> Exclusively from outside the denomination  
<sub>5</sub> From a pretty even balance between denominational and non-denominational sources

10. Which **one** of the following three statements best describes your congregation? (✓ one)



- <sub>1</sub> Our congregation has explicit expectations for members that are strictly enforced.
- <sub>2</sub> Our congregation has fairly clear expectations for members, but the enforcement of these expectations is not very strict.
- <sub>3</sub> Our congregation has only implicit expectations for members that are seldom, if ever, enforced.

11. Which of the following does your congregation regularly use to communicate with members/participants?

Check **all** that apply.

- <sub>1</sub> Verbal announcements during worship
- <sub>2</sub> Printed bulletin distributed during worship
- <sub>3</sub> A newsletter produced by your congregation
- <sub>4</sub> A magazine from your conference or union
- <sub>5</sub> A quarterly or more frequent letter from the pastor

12. Does your congregation own, rent, or have regular access to a computer? (Check all that apply)

- <sub>1</sub> No
- <sub>2</sub> Yes--own or lease
- <sub>3</sub> Yes--access is through our pastor or other member(s) of the congregation who use their personal computers for congregational business

IF YES: What does your congregation use a computer for? Check **all** that apply.

- A.  Word processing -- e.g., letters, reports, bulletins, sermons
- B.  List and file management — e.g., membership data bank and address lists
- C.  Financial bookkeeping
- D.  Education
- E.  E-mail communication
- F.  Congregational web site
- G.  Other (specify): \_\_\_\_\_

**V. Participants:** *[We know you may have to estimate or guess at the answers to several of the questions in this section and the next section. That is O.K.]*

1. Approximately how many persons would you say are associated **in any way** with the religious life of your congregation — counting both adults and children, counting both anyone (member or not) who attends and members who do not attend?

→ → Number \_\_\_\_\_

2. Approximately how many persons — both adults and children — would you say **regularly participate** in the religious life of your congregation — *whether or not* they are officially members of your congregation?

A. Number of **regularly participating** adults (18 and over) → → → → → → → \_\_\_\_\_

B. Number of **regularly participating** children and teens (17 and under) → → \_\_\_\_\_

3. Since 1995, has the above number of **regularly participating adults**: (✓ one)

- <sub>1</sub> Increased 10% or more
- <sub>2</sub> Increased 5% to 9%
- <sub>3</sub> Stayed about the same (+/- 4%)
- <sub>4</sub> Decreased 5% to 9%
- <sub>5</sub> Decreased 10% or more
- <sub>6</sub> Our congregation did not exist in 1995

4. Of your total number of **regularly participating adults**, what percent would you estimate are:

- American Indian/Alaska Native \_\_\_\_\_ %
  - Asian \_\_\_\_\_ %
  - Black or African American \_\_\_\_\_ %
  - Hispanic or Latino \_\_\_\_\_ %
  - Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander \_\_\_\_\_ %
  - White \_\_\_\_\_ %
  - Other \_\_\_\_\_ %
- 100%

Within these racial/ethnic groups, are there any significant national sub-groups (e.g. German , Korean, Irish, Mexican, Carribean, etc)? <sub>1</sub> Yes <sub>2</sub> No **IF YES**, please list them \_\_\_\_\_

5. Of the total number of **regularly participating adults**, what percent would you estimate are:

	None 0%	Hardly Any 1-10%	Few 11-20%	Some 21-40%	Many 41-60%	Most 61-80%	All Or Nearly All 81-100%
A. Female	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	<input type="checkbox"/> 6	<input type="checkbox"/> 7
B. Less than high school diploma	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	<input type="checkbox"/> 6	<input type="checkbox"/> 7
C. At least college graduates	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	<input type="checkbox"/> 6	<input type="checkbox"/> 7
D. Age 35 or younger	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	<input type="checkbox"/> 6	<input type="checkbox"/> 7
E. Over 60 years old	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	<input type="checkbox"/> 6	<input type="checkbox"/> 7
F. Married	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	<input type="checkbox"/> 6	<input type="checkbox"/> 7
G. Life long Adventists	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	<input type="checkbox"/> 6	<input type="checkbox"/> 7
H. New to your congregation in the last five years	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	<input type="checkbox"/> 6	<input type="checkbox"/> 7
I. Living in the immediate area around your church building	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	<input type="checkbox"/> 6	<input type="checkbox"/> 7
J. Commuting more than 15 minutes to get to your worship services	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	<input type="checkbox"/> 6	<input type="checkbox"/> 7
K. Currently holding <b>volunteer leadership roles</b> in your congregation, like serving on administrative committees, teaching Sabbath school, running outreach programs, etc.	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	<input type="checkbox"/> 6	<input type="checkbox"/> 7
L. In households with incomes below \$20,000	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	<input type="checkbox"/> 6	<input type="checkbox"/> 7
M. In households with children Under 18 present	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	<input type="checkbox"/> 6	<input type="checkbox"/> 7
N. Were not born in this country	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	<input type="checkbox"/> 6	<input type="checkbox"/> 7
O. Meeting in small fellowship or study groups	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	<input type="checkbox"/> 6	<input type="checkbox"/> 7
P. Regularly attending mid-week meetings such as prayer meeting	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	<input type="checkbox"/> 6	<input type="checkbox"/> 7

6. Of your total number of adult participants, how many would you estimate are involved in:

	<b>Almost All</b>	<b>Most</b>	<b>Some</b>	<b>Few</b>	<b>None</b>
A. Recruiting new members	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5
B. Activities outside of worship that strengthen their faith	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5
C. Expressing their faith through helping others	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5

7. How many of the high school age children of your adult participants would you estimate are involved in the religious life and activities of your congregation?

1 Almost all    2 Most    3 Some    4 Few    5 Hardly Any

8. What was the official membership of your congregation as of January 1, 2000? \_\_\_\_\_ members

## VI. Finances

1. How would you describe your congregation's financial health currently and 5 years ago (1995)?

**A. Currently:** 1 Excellent 2 Good 3 Tight, but manageable 4 In some difficulty 5 In serious difficulty

**B. In 1995:** 1 Excellent 2 Good 3 Tight, but manageable 4 In some difficulty 5 In serious difficulty

6 Our congregation did not exist in 1995

2. Approximately how much income did your congregation receive last year from all sources (e.g., tithes, local and denominational offerings, pledges, interest, bequests, endowment income, etc)?

TOTAL INCOME \$ \_\_\_\_\_

A. Approximately what percentage of your church's total income last year was from endowments or

investments?

\_\_\_\_\_ % or  None

3. Approximately how much money did your congregation spend in the following areas last year?

- A. All staff salaries and benefits \$ \_\_\_\_\_
  - B. Congregation operations (including building, property and grounds, utilities, mortgage, insurance, maintenance, equipment, etc.) \$ \_\_\_\_\_
  - C. Capital improvements, building fund, etc. \$ \_\_\_\_\_
  - D. Program support and materials \$ \_\_\_\_\_
  - E. Local mission work & outreach work (e.g., evangelism, community services, etc.) \$ \_\_\_\_\_
  - F. National and international mission work and programs (other than through the conference or General Conference) \$ \_\_\_\_\_
  - G. Subsidies to schools, day care, before/after school programs, and student aid \$ \_\_\_\_\_
  - H. Money put into reserve/endowments/investments \$ \_\_\_\_\_
  - I. Other \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- → TOTAL EXPENDITURES \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

4. What was the tithe income for your congregation last year? \$ \_\_\_\_\_

5. What was the total of non-tithe funds remitted to the conference from your congregation last year?  
\$ \_\_\_\_\_

6. During the past 12 months, what methods did your congregation use to encourage financial giving among members? (✓ all that apply)

- <sub>1</sub> Sermons on stewardship or appeals by the pastor
- <sub>2</sub> Appeals or testimonies from lay members during worship services
- <sub>3</sub> Special fund raisers (fairs, yard sales, bake sales, etc)
- <sub>4</sub> Appeals based on specific, concrete, and special needs
- <sub>5</sub> Distribution of promotional material such as bulletin inserts
- <sub>6</sub> Canvassing members by phone or in person (e.g., member visitation)
- <sub>7</sub> Pledge or commitment cards
- <sub>8</sub> Offering envelopes with suggested giving guidelines

7. In our congregation:

- <sub>1</sub> Members are told that they must place all tithe in the Tithe Fund that is sent to the conference.
- <sub>2</sub> Members think that it is permissible to use a portion of their tithe for local or other needy ministries.

8. Does your congregation operate with a formal, written, annual budget? <sub>1</sub> Yes <sub>2</sub> No

9. Does your congregation have a mortgage or other debt?  
<sub>1</sub> Yes, a total of approximately \$ \_\_\_\_\_ <sub>2</sub> No

10. Does your congregation have a written mission or vision statement? <sub>1</sub> Yes <sub>2</sub> No

**VII.** Please use this page to describe any unusual or unique strengths or weaknesses that characterize this congregation.

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**PLEASE ANSWER ALL QUESTIONS THAT APPLY TO THIS CONGREGATION.**

Your information will be held in complete confidence.