



FACT 2020 Common Questionnaire

N=15,278

Background/Demographics

Pre Covid 58% Post Covid 42% (but given instructions to provide pre Covid information)

Which of the following best describes your congregation's faith group?

- 5.3% Catholic & Orthodox Christian
- 73.0% Evangelical Protestant Christian
- 20.3% Mainline Protestant Christian
- 1.4% Other Religious Traditions (Baha'i, Jewish, Muslim)

In what year was this congregation officially founded? 1934 Mean **1950 Median**

Is your congregation still in the location in which it was founded? 55% Yes 43% No 2% No permanent location
[Branch (if "No")] When did you move to your current location? 1974 Mean **1984 Median**

In what ZIP code is this congregation's primary place of worship physically located?

- Northeast 12%
- South 50%
- Northcentral 24%
- West 14%

Community Description

- Rural or open country 25%
- Village or town <10K 11%
- Small city or town 10-50K 11%
- Downtown/central large city 7%
- Older residential large city 21%
- Older suburb city 50K+ 15%
- Newer suburb city 50K+ 10%

Which best describes your congregation's relationship to its primary place of worship?

- 2% Have use of a facility for free
- 13% Rent
- 64% Owned by congregation
- 17% Owned by denomination
- 3% Other arrangement

Do any of the following types of other organizations also use the facility where you worship? (Check all that apply.)

- 18% Another congregation(s)
- 7% A school (K-6, K-12)
- 10% A day care or preschool
- 24% Nonprofit organization(s), e.g., Boy Scouts, food shelf, credit union
- 20% Support group(s), e.g., A.A., Al-Anon, Alzheimer's
- 9% Government, e.g., voting, town hall meetings
- 15% Other (please describe):

[Branch (if "Another congregation")] IF you indicated that another congregation uses the same worship facility. Is the other congregation (if more than one, are any of the congregations) different from yours in terms of language or ethnicity? 30.5% Yes

[Branch (if "Another congregation")]

Does the other congregation (if more than one, do any of the congregations) have a different denominational affiliation or practice a different faith than yours? 47.8% Yes

What is the seating capacity where your primary services are held? 291 Mean **200 Median**

Worship

Please estimate the total average attendance at all of your regular weekend (Friday, Saturday, Sunday) worship service(s): 229 Mean **65 Median**

Attendance Size Groups

1-50	44%
51-100	25%
101-250	21%
251 or more	10%

Percent of worship attendance change (Growth or Decline) in five years – **median 7.1% Decline**

27.4%	Decline -25% or more
24.5%	Decline btw. -5.0% & -24.9%
13.6%	Stable btw. -4.9% & +4.9%
11.3%	Growth btw. +5.0% & +24.9%
23.2%	Growth +25% or more

Please estimate the total average attendance at all of your regular weekend (Friday, Saturday, Sunday) worship service(s) **five years ago**: 221 Mean **70 Median**

How well do the following describe your congregation's primary regular worship service?

	Not at all	Slightly	Somewhat	Well	Very well
Contemporary	20	21	28	18	13
Reverent	3	6	28	43	21
Innovative	13	27	36	17	7
Formal ritual or liturgy	32	21	17	19	12
Includes electric guitar	59	10	9	9	14
Includes organ	48	7	7	10	28
Includes choir	45	12	11	13	19
Includes children reading or performing	33	27	21	10	9
Includes youth reading or performing	29	25	22	15	9
Informal	10	18	31	29	13
Thought-provoking	1	3	20	43	34

Does your congregation provide any of the following accommodations? (Check all that apply.)

76%	Wheelchair access throughout the building(s)
5%	Sign language interpreters
30%	Large print worship materials
30%	Hearing assistive devices
10%	Other accommodations: top listed -
8%	None of the above

Leadership

Which statement best describes the (religious) leadership of this congregation?

- 2% There is no clergy at present (we are between clergy leaders).
- 53% There is one clergy leader (no assistant or associate clergy).
- 5% There are co-leaders (two or more clergy sharing leadership equally).
- 31% There is a senior clergy leader with one or more assistant or associate clergy.
- 2% We are lay led and do not have formal clergy.
- 7% None of the above descriptions apply to our situation. (Please describe.):

[Branch (if clergy leader present)]

Please describe the **senior** or **sole clergy leader** of this congregation (if co-leaders, answer about the oldest co-leader).

Age: 55.6 Mean **57.0 Median** years old

Gender: 90.2 Male 9.8 Female >.1 Other

Leader's race/ethnicity (Of those answering the question):

- 1.3% American Indian/Alaska Native (non-Hispanic)
- 1.8% Asian (non-Hispanic)
- 9.1% Black or African American (non-Hispanic)
- 2.3% Hispanic or Latino(a)
- 0.4% Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander (non-Hispanic)
- 85.7% White (non-Hispanic)
- 2.0% Multiracial

Which best describes the clergy leader's employment status?

- 76% Full-time
- 24% Part-time

If part-time, how many hours is this person contracted to work each week? 23 Mean **20 Median**

Which best describes the clergy leader's compensation?

- 86% Paid
- 14% Unpaid

Which of the following characteristics apply to the clergy leader of this congregation? (Check either "yes" or "no" for each characteristic.)

- 13 Yes, 87 No Serves another congregation(s)
- 15 Yes, 85 No Serves as a chaplain [branch item if "yes": List type of institution:]
- 34 Yes, 66 No Has other paid employment outside of this congregation [branch item if "yes": Average number of hours per week 28 Mean **27 Median**
List type of employment -
- 11 Yes, 89 No Was previously retired from ministry
- 52 Yes, 48 No Has an MDiv degree
- 23 Yes, 77 No Has had a sabbatical within the last 10 years
- 68 Yes, 32 No Regularly schedules and takes a day off each week (from all paid employment)
- 7 Yes, 93 No Is a first generation immigrant

In what year did the senior leader start serving this congregation? 2010 Mean **2013 Median**

Leadership Tenure - 10 years mean **7 years median**

To what extent is there a good “fit” between the senior leader of this congregation and the members?

- 2% Not good
- 5% Just okay
- 25% Good
- 68% Very good

Participants

How many persons (including children) **regularly participate** (once a month or more) in worship or other religious activities in your congregation? 274 Mean **65 Median**

Of the above regular participants, **what percent** are in each of the following age groups?

- 13.8% Children (ages 0-12)
- 8.9% Youth (ages 13-17)
- 13.9% Young adults (ages 18-34)
- 32.9% Middle adults (ages 35-64)
- 32.9% Senior adults (ages 65 and older)

Of the above regular participants, **what percent** are in each of the following categories?

- 0.8% American Indian/Alaska Native (non-Hispanic)
- 2.9% Asian (non-Hispanic)
- 9.9% Black or African American (non-Hispanic)
- 5.2% Hispanic or Latino(a)
- 0.6% Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander (non-Hispanic)
- 76.2% White (non-Hispanic)
- 4.4% Multiracial

What percent of congregations have 20% or more of participants are minority racial groups? 25%

Of all **regularly participating adults** (age 18 and over), **what percent** would you estimate:

- 56% Are female?
- 41% Are college graduates?
- 24% Are new to this congregation in the last five years?
- 44% Volunteer regularly at the congregation?
- 13% Live below the poverty level?
- 68% Live within 15 minutes of the congregation’s place of worship?
- 46% Are lifelong members of your denomination
- 87% Are American born?
- 4% Are immigrants (0-5 years in the U.S.)?
- 5% Are persons with Special Needs (physically, mentally, emotionally challenged)?

Mission and Identity

Do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements? *(Check one on each line.)*

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree
<i>Our congregation:</i>					
Has a clear mission and purpose	1	4	10	45	39
Is striving to be diverse (e.g. racially, ethnically, socio-economically)	2	8	28	36	26
Is good at incorporating new people into the congregation	1	6	13	52	29
Is spiritually vital and alive	1	4	14	49	33
Is willing to change to meet new challenges	2	5	20	50	23
Is actively involved in our local community	2	8	19	41	30
Is actively looking for new members	2	7	22	40	30

Since 2010, has your congregation experienced any of the following? (Check all that apply, percent of those responding.)

	No	Yes, in 2010- 2015	Yes, in 2016- 2020
Merged with another congregation	97	2	2
Split into two or more congregations	95	4	2
Helped start or plant a new congregation	90	7	9
Opened a satellite or branch location(s)	97	1	2
Changed the name of the congregation	95	3	4
Changed denominational affiliation	98	.4	.3
Left a denomination (to become independent or unaffiliated)	98	1	.1
Joined a denomination (no longer independent or unaffiliated)	99	.4	.5

Programs

Does your congregation have any of the following programs or activities? If "Yes," how much emphasis is given to the activity? (Check one on each line.)

	No	Yes	
		Some emphasis	A lot of emphasis
Prayer or meditation groups	20	48	32
Religious education for children (e.g., Sunday School)	12	31	57
Religious education for adults (e.g., scripture studies)	4	36	60
Spiritual retreats	57	34	9
Special interest groups (e.g., crafts, hobbies)	52	41	7
Sports and exercise groups	77	19	3
Music program (choir, orchestra, band, etc.)	30	39	31
Community service activities	16	51	34
Youth (13-17) activities or programs	31	38	31
Young adult (18-34) activities or programs	48	41	11
Senior (65+) activities or programs	43	41	17
Global ministry activities (service/mission trips/special donations)	29	40	31
Social justice/advocacy groups	70	23	7
Preschool and/or daycare center	86	6	8
Elementary (Primary) school	86	8	6
High (Secondary) school	89	7	4
Special needs ministry (programs for physically, mentally, emotionally challenged)	80	16	4

How much does your congregation emphasize the following personal and family religious practices? (Check one)

	Not at all	A			A Lot
		Little	Some	Quite a Bit	
Personal religious practices (e.g., prayer, meditation, scripture study, devotions)	1	3	16	38	42
Fasting	27	27	28	11	7
Talking about one's faith with those who are not a part of your congregation	2	10	26	33	29
Observing special practices or restrictions on one's holy days (e.g., keeping the Sabbath day holy)	19	22	26	18	15
Parents talking with children about faith	3	8	25	35	29
Living out one's faith in all aspects of one's daily life (e.g., work, family, civic engagement)	1	2	11	32	54
Regular worship attendance	1	2	14	34	49

During the past 12 months, has your congregation been involved in any of the following activities with other faith groups? (Check all that apply on each line.)

	No	-----Yes-----	
		With Other Christian Groups	With Other Faith Traditions
Worship Services	37	40	9
Educational or social activities	38	37	9
Community service activities	28	44	15

Overall, to what extent are your congregation’s regularly participating adults involved in recruiting new people?

- 4% Not at all
- 30% A little
- 45% Some
- 17% Quite a bit
- 4% A lot

Technology

Does your congregation use any of the following technology? (Check one on each line.)

	No	-----Yes-----		
		A Little	Some	A Lot
Email communication	5	12	27	56
E-newsletter	51	9	14	27
Website	15	14	28	44
Electronic/ACH/online giving	42	10	18	30
Facebook	8	12	30	50
Instagram	74	10	7	9
Twitter	77	11	7	5
Podcasts	77	8	7	8
Texting	18	17	30	34
Blogging	81	11	6	3
App(s) (e.g., congregational or denominational)	71	10	7	12
Live streaming of worship services/sermons	48	7	13	32
Video projection during worship services	32	12	14	42
Online archive of audio/video of worship services/sermons	33	11	15	41
Online meetings (e.g., Zoom, Skype, GoTo Meeting)	56	18	13	14
Wi-Fi access in your building	15	6	15	64
Other social media that you believe is important to your congregation (please describe): _____	86	5	5	5
Other technology used that you believe is important to your congregation (please describe): _____	82	5	6	7

[Branch if “Yes” to “Live streaming of worship service” above]

- Do you track how many people watch the live stream of your worship services/sermons? 20%
- Yes (please provide an approximate average number): 338 mean 70 median
 - No

[Branch if “Yes” to “Online giving” above]

Approximately what percentage of your regular monthly giving is received through online giving?
22% mean 10% median

[Branch if “Yes” to “Online giving” above]

Approximately what percentage of your participants donate online? 23% mean 15% median

Finances

What was the total amount of money your congregation received from all sources in your most recent fiscal year?
\$446,955 mean **\$120,000 median**

Per capita Giving by attendance median \$2000; by participants median \$1812

Approximately what percentage of your congregation's annual income are from the following?

- 85% Participant contributions (e.g., tithes, offerings, dues)
- 4% Fund raising events
- 4% Rental income
- 1% Endowments
- 1% Investments
- 1% School tuition
- 1% Capital campaign income
- 2% Other income

What was the total amount of money your congregation spent in your most recent fiscal year?
\$246,292 mean **\$108,000 median**

Approximately what percentage of your congregation's annual expenditures in your most recent fiscal year were for the following?

- 44% Total staff salaries and benefits (clergy and non-clergy)
- 26% Buildings and operations (e.g., utilities, mortgage, insurance)
- 11% Program support and materials (e.g., education, evangelism)
- 13% Mission and benevolence (include denominational assessments)
- 5% All other expenditures

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

- | Today | Five years ago |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| 6 In serious difficulty | 7 In serious difficulty |
| 14 In some difficulty | 19 In some difficulty |
| 30 Tight, but we manage | 29 Tight, but we manage |
| 32 Good | 31 Good |
| 17 Excellent | 12 Excellent |
| 2 Not Applicable | 3 Not Applicable |

A Few Final Items

During the past 5 years, has your congregation experienced any disagreements or conflicts? *(Check all that apply.)*

- 36 No
- 28 Yes, but it/they were not serious
- 35 Yes, and in at least one instance some people left
- 13 Yes, and in at least one instance some people withheld donations
- 12 Yes, and in at least one instance, a clergy leader or staff member left

To what extent is your congregation concerned about personal safety and security when you gather?

- 16 Not at all concerned
- 35 A little concerned
- 29 Somewhat concerned
- 19 Very concerned

Does your congregation use, or do, any of the following regarding security when you gather for services?

	No	Yes, started before 2015	Yes, started since 2015
Alarm systems	65	24	11
Security cameras	62	13	25
Locking doors during services	61	9	30
Volunteer security team or ministry from congregation	47	13	40
Paid, professional security personnel	94	3	3

Does your congregation use, or do, any of the following?

	No	Yes, started before 2015	Yes, started since 2015
Check-in procedures for infants and children	55	29	16
Background checks for volunteers with children	30	47	23
Conduct training for those working with children	33	43	25
Training on general safety and security	44	23	33

Thinking about the past 12 months, has your congregation organized any groups, meetings, classes, or events to:

	Never	Once	2 or 3 times	More than 3 times
Discuss politics	84	4	5	7
Get people registered to vote	85	7	3	5
Get out the vote during an election	84	7	4	6
Organize or participate in efforts to lobby elected officials of any sort	90	3	2	4
Organize or participate in a demonstration or march either in support of or opposition to some public issue or policy	85	6	6	3
Distribute voter guides	78	11	7	4
Invite candidates to address the congregation	93	3	2	3

To what extent do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements? (Check one on each line.)

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree
Almost everyone in this congregation has the same political position.	16	30	26	23	6
This congregation has experienced recent conflict over political issues.	39	33	18	9	1
This congregation avoids discussing political issues when it gathers.	7	17	28	33	15
This congregation is politically active.	24	16	37	19	4

What are your top 2 concerns about the future of your congregation? (max 100 characters)

What are the top 2 aspects of your congregation that you are most proud of? (max 100 characters)

How has your congregation adapted to the COVID-19 pandemic?

Contact

Would you like to receive a copy (PDF) of the National Summary Report? 38% Yes

Email: _____ (will not be used for any other purposes)

May we contact you if we have questions about your responses or if we would like to know more about your congregation and/or ministry? 27% Yes

[If "yes"]

Name: _____

Email: _____ (will not be used for any other purposes)