

Faith Communities Today 2008

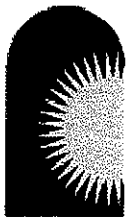
Questionnaire & Frequencies

The *FACT²⁰⁰⁸* survey questionnaire was designed by the CCSP Research Taskforce. A copy of the questionnaire is available on the FACT website (<http://fact.hartsem.edu>) and should be consulted for exact question and response category wordings. It is completed by a key informant in each surveyed congregation, most typically the senior or sole clergy leader. The survey sample is an aggregation of three different layers designed to represent the universe of American congregations. One layer is a mail and web survey of a random sample of 3,000 U.S. congregations conducted for CCSP by the Research Services office of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). A second layer is a telephone survey of a random sample of 1,000 congregations conducted by the Center for Creative Ministry. The third layer is a set of mini-surveys conducted by 12 of the CCSP partner denominations and faith groups. These mini-surveys used the *FACT²⁰⁰⁸* questionnaire, but were conducted by the respective denomination or faith group as a supplement to the general samples. The general survey sample was generated by the CCSP Research Taskforce from a larger random national sample of congregations purchased from MCH www.mailings.com.

The final aggregated data set contains questionnaires from 2,527 congregations. To better represent national population parameters a two stage weighting procedure was used. To mitigate the over-representation of those denominations and faith groups that contributed supplemental survey data, the total aggregated responses were weighted to the population parameters for faith families presented by Hadaway and Marler [C. Kirk Hadaway and Penny Long Marler, How Many Americans Attend Worship Each Week? An Alternative Approach to Measure, *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion* (2005) 44(3): 307-322, Table 2]. Then to further enhance national representation, the total aggregated dataset was also weighted to size of congregation and rural/city/suburban location parameters found in the *FACT²⁰⁰⁰* national survey of 14,301 congregations. This is the same weighting procedure used for *FACT²⁰⁰⁵* and therefore has the added benefit of making the report's trend comparisons more robust. The sampling error for *FACT²⁰⁰⁸* type samples is difficult to calculate with precision. It is estimated to be +/- 4%.



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**FAITH
Communities
TODAY**

2008 NATIONAL SURVEY OF CONGREGATIONS

Your congregation has been randomly selected to participate in a national study of religious life in America. This is not a commercial study and your responses are confidential. In order to create a complete picture of religious congregations in America we need to hear from you.

This survey can be completed by the leader of the congregation (pastor, priest, etc.), a staff member, or a well-informed lay leader. If any of the questions do not apply to your religious tradition, please feel free to skip them.

The survey may also be completed online at <http://www.pcusa.org/fact> using the code number printed on the top (right side) of this page.

Thank you for your willingness to be included in this important national study.

A. Your Congregation's Worship

1. In the boxes below write in the number of worship services and the average total attendance for that day and time during 2007. (If your congregation holds worship services less than weekly, answer for a *typical weekend* you do hold services. If no services are held that day and time, write in "0" or "none.")

	Friday	Saturday	Sunday AM	Sunday PM
How many <i>worship services</i> does your congregation have on each of the following days or times on a typical weekend?	Zero = 92.1% One = 5.9%	Zero = 82.2% One = 14.0%	Zero = 9.8% One = 63.5%	Zero = 78% One = 20.6%
What is the average <i>total attendance</i> for all services held on this day or time on a typical weekend?	Of those holding services Ave = 58.1 Median = 30	Of those holding services Ave = 155.9 Median = 100	Of those holding services Ave = 242.3 Median = 140	Of those holding services Ave = 92.4 Median = 45

2. If you hold more than one service on a typical weekend, are these services:
- 19.6% ₁ Very similar in style (other than the language used)
 14.0% ₂ One or more of the services is **somewhat different** in style from the rest
 13.0% ₃ One or more is **very different** in style from the rest
 53.4% ₄ We only have one service on a typical weekend
3. On a typical weekend, does your congregation have a worship service in which the primary language is a language other than English, or which is bilingual in English and another language?
- 11.6% Yes ⇨ In what other language (s)? Not Tabulated
4. For each of the last 6 years, what is your best estimate of the average attendance at your congregation's weekend worship services?

If you have more than one weekend worship service, use the average attendance for all worship services combined. Do not include weddings or funerals.

Year	Average Attendance at Worship Services			Average Attendance at Worship Services	
	Average	Median		Average	Median
2007	252	140	2004	230	128
2006	246	135	2003	225	128
2005	236	130	2002	222	125

5. What is the approximate seating capacity of the space where your largest worship service is held?
Average 337 Median 250

6. 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	0.8%	4.4%	21.6%	52.9%	20.2%
Contemporary	18.7	24.8	28.3	19.1	9.0
Filled with a sense of God's presence	0.1	1.4	14.2	45.2	39.0
Joyful	0.1	1.9	19.6	48.5	30.0
Thought-provoking	0.7	1.4	17.2	54.0	26.7
Welcoming to newcomers	0.1	2.5	14.8	42.6	40.0
Predictable	3.8	7.6	34.6	33.3	20.7

7. 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	22.9%	13.2%	13.6%	20.9%	29.4%
Drums or other percussion instruments.....	50.6	13.7	7.8	7.4	20.4
Visual projection equipment	42.5	10.9	8.7	6.3	31.6
Kneeling by the congregation	40.7	17.5	14.2	10.9	16.8
Eucharist, Lord's Supper, or sacrament	0.6	3.5	23.5	30.6	41.8
Reading or performing by children or youth	5.4	22.5	40.9	24.9	6.4
A printed order of service or worship bulletin	6.7	3.8	2.5	5.4	81.7
Prayers for healing.....	6.6	9.0	24.5	25.5	34.4

8. **During the past 5 years**, has your congregation changed the format or style of one or more weekend worship services?

- 31.2% No change
- 30.8% Changed a little
- 26.3% Changed moderately
- 11.7% Changed a lot

B. Your Congregation's Programs

1. **During the past 12 months**, did your congregation conduct any of the following programs or activities? **If yes**, how much emphasis or attention is given to the activity? Was it some emphasis, a lot of emphasis, or is the activity a specialty of your congregation (something you are known for)?

✓ ONE ON EACH LINE	DO NOT HAVE	SOME EMPHASIS	A LOT OF EMPHASIS	SPECIALTY OF CONGREGATION
Sunday School, church school or religious school classes	3.3%	17.7%	61.5%	17.5%
Prayer, meditation, or spiritual development activities	7.7	34.8	47.4	10.2
Scripture study groups (in addition to Sunday School)	15.6	34.2	39.0	11.2
Fellowships, trips or other social activities.....	5.6	51.2	36.4	6.8
Support groups (such as bereavement, divorce, 12-step, etc.)	51.4	34.2	11.1	3.2
Evangelism or recruitment activities	12.1	46.3	33.9	7.6
Community service activities	6.1	43.6	36.5	13.9
Music program	11.1	34.4	38.8	15.8
Parenting or marriage enrichment activities	40.1	42.0	16.1	1.9
Young, single adult activities	40.0	38.8	17.5	3.7
Sports activities (teams, tournaments, recreation centers, etc.)	50.8	34.2	11.7	3.3

2. **During the past 12 months**, did you establish or update a web site for your congregation?
 64.3% Yes
 9.9% No, but we plan to establish a web site soon
 16.1% No
 9.8% We have a web site, but it has not been updated in over a year
3. **During the past 12 months**, did your congregation conduct special events or programs (such as concerts, fairs, seminars, classes, plays, etc.) to attract people from the community? **78.0% Yes**
4. How are visitors contacted after they attend your worship services or other activities?
 ✓ ALL THAT APPLY
 5.8% We rarely, if ever, have any visitors
 12.7% We rarely, if ever, contact our visitors
 53.9% We contact visitors by mail
 39.4% We contact visitors by phone
 29.4% We contact visitors by e-mail
 47.1% We contact visitors by personal visit
 28.3% We send materials about our congregation to our visitors
5. Once a person has begun attending your congregation, what procedures are used to help that person become integrated and accepted into the life of the congregation?
 ✓ ALL THAT APPLY
 5.4% Planned procedures for integrating new people are not necessary in our congregation
 49.5% Newcomers are asked to participate in a class for new members or participants
 49.5% Invitation to join a small group (for prayer, scripture study, mutual support, etc.)
 57.6% Invitation to participate in worship (reading, singing, taking up offering, etc.)
 59.9% Regular fellowship activities (group trips, meals, concerts, plays, sports events)
 40.2% Invitation to participate in community service
 47.4% Invitation for service to the congregation (serving on boards, committees, task forces, etc.)
6. If an active participant of your congregation stopped attending, would that person be contacted to find out why?
 59.7% Yes, definitely
 24.6% Probably
 11.1% Maybe
 3.8% Probably not
 0.8% Only if the person is well-known
7. Overall, to what extent are your congregation's active participants involved in recruiting new people?
 3.2% Not at all
 27.1% A little
 42.0% Some
 21.9% Quite a bit
 5.8% A lot

8. How much do the following make it more difficult for people to participate regularly in your congregation?

✓ ONE ON EACH LINE	NOT AT ALL	A LITTLE	SOMEWHAT	QUITE A BIT
Parking problems.....	69.2%	17.4%	8.7%	4.7%
Driving distance to worship facility	54.0	29.0	13.7	3.4
Fear of crime.....	86.6	8.6	3.4	1.5
Conflict with work schedules	23.3	48.9	22.4	5.3
Conflict with school-related or sports-related activities (meetings, practices, games, etc.).....	25.9	38.0	25.8	10.3

9. How much do the following make it more difficult to attract new people to your congregation?

✓ ONE ON EACH LINE	NOT AT ALL	A LITTLE	SOMEWHAT	QUITE A BIT
Changing neighborhood	59.1%	22.5%	11.4%	7.0%
Competition with nearby congregations	36.3	32.3	21.3	10.1
A mobile population	32.0	33.6	24.2	10.2
Low level of interest in religion in the area	23.9	36.3	25.8	14.0
Population of the area is stable or declining.....	43.5	22.2	19.6	14.7

10. Does your congregation have the following activities for youth?

✓ ONE ON EACH LINE	YES
Youth minister or other leader who coordinates activities for youth.....	75.0%
Organized youth group	78.1%
Choirs or other musical groups for youth	42.4%
Youth retreats, conferences or camps	78.3%
Congregational events planned or led by youth	65.4%
Counseling for youth (e.g., sex education, substance abuse)	42.2%
Youth serving on congregation's governing committees or boards	41.7%

C. Your Congregation's Mission and Identity

1. How well does each of the following describe your congregation's approach to ministry and mission?

✓ ONE ON EACH LINE	NOT AT ALL	SLIGHTLY	SOMEWHAT	QUITE WELL	VERY WELL
A. This is an exciting place where people can get involved in a variety of meaningful activities	2.4%	11.5%	27.7%	37.8%	20.6%
B. We encourage and foster intense, intimate experiences with God	2.3	11.1	29.1	35.4	22.1
C. We are engaged in and energized by the serious study and discussion of scripture and theology	2.7	10.6	29.0	37.0	20.8
D. We hold and teach strong beliefs and moral values	0.8	5.1	14.6	33.7	45.8

2. Do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

✓ ONE ON EACH LINE	STRONGLY DISAGREE	SOMEWHAT DISAGREE	NEUTRAL/ UNSURE	SOMEWHAT AGREE	STRONGLY AGREE
<i>Our congregation:</i>					
A. Is like a close-knit family.....	0.6%	5.5%	8.6%	45.0%	40.2%
B. Is spiritually vital and alive.....	0.8	4.8	10.3	48.6	35.4
C. Has a clear mission and purpose	2.0	5.4	13.7	42.8	36.1
D. Is a force for positive change in our community.....	2.1	8.6	18.8	41.1	29.4
E. Is willing to change to meet new challenges	3.3	10.5	17.4	44.3	24.5
F. Is not that different from other congregations in our community	23.1	28.7	18.7	23.6	5.8
G. Has a hard time accepting newcomers	58.7	27.0	6.0	6.6	1.7

3. Compared to other congregations in your denomination or faith tradition, how would you describe the **theological outlook** of the **majority** of your congregation's active participants?
- 12.2% Considerably more conservative than most other congregations
 - 31.4% Somewhat more conservative
 - 39.8% Right in the middle
 - 12.9% Somewhat more liberal
 - 3.8% Considerably more liberal than most other congregations

D. Your Congregation's Active Participants

1. How many people (including children) actively participate in the life of your congregation? Average 294 Median 150

2. Of your total number of active participants (the number given above), how many would you estimate are:

<u>Number</u> =		Percent
_____ 1.8	American Indian/Alaska Native	1.1%
_____ 5.4	Asian	2.0
_____ 1.8	Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander	0.8
_____ 46.0	Black or African American	12.3
_____ 35.0	Hispanic or Latino/a	6.0
_____ 194.7	White	75.5
_____ 6.6	Biracial/multiracial	2.4
291.6 Total Average		150 Total Median

3. Of your total number of active participants, about what percentage are female? Ave = 59.7% Median = 60%

4. Of your total number of active participants, estimate the percent in each of the following age groups. **The total for all age groups should add to 100%.**

Average	24.7%	Senior adults (age 65 or older)
	21.1%	Pre-retirement adults (age 50 – 64)
	21.7%	Median adults (age 35 – 49)
	13.9%	Younger adults (age 18 – 34)
	18.5%	Children and youth (age 0 – 17)
	100%	Total

E. Your Congregation's Leadership

1. Our congregation has:

85.3% A principal leader (solo minister, senior minister, pastor, priest, rabbi, imam)

12.7% Co-principal leaders

1.9% No principal leader at prese  **Skip to Question 12 on Page 7**

2. Principal leader's employment status: (If you have **co-principal** leaders, answer this question and questions 3-11 about your **oldest** leader.)

✓ ALL THAT APPLY

64.8% Full-time *paid* leader

11.5% Part-time *paid* leader

21.0% Unpaid leader (full or part time)

1.4% Temporary/interim leader

2.6 % Retired clergy leader (full or part time)

1.1% Seminary/Divinity School student serving as leader

2.5% Other _____

3. This person became the leader in what year? Average 2001

4. Leader's age in years: Average 52
5. Principal leader is:
91.5% Male
8.5% Female
6. Leader's race/ethnicity: 1.4% Asian 10.1% Black 2.1% Hispanic 1.0% Native American
0.4% Pacific islander 84.2% White 0.2% Bi-racial
7. Leader's highest level of education:
2.4 % High school diploma or GED
11.8% Some college or technical school
21.2% Bachelor's degree
47.9% Master's degree (including M.Div.)
16.8% Doctoral degree (Ph.D., D.Min.)
8. Does your congregation provide financial support for your leader to participate in continuing education or training?
76.2% Yes
23.8% No
9. Does your congregation or denomination require your leader to participate in continuing education or training on an annual basis?
54.5% Yes
45.3% No

10. How much time and attention does your leader spend on the areas listed below?

<i>✓ ONE ON EACH LINE</i>	VERY LITTLE	SOME	QUITE A BIT	A GREAT DEAL
Planning and leading worship.....	5.4%	17.7%	47.5%	29.4%
Developing and promoting a vision & purpose for the congregation.....	3.4	30.2	43.7	22.7
Evangelism or recruitment.....	10.2	46.6	32.7	10.5
Recruiting and training lay leaders	10.9	47.4	33.0	8.6
Pastoral care, such as visiting the sick and counseling people	3.4	23.8	44.0	28.8
Teaching people about the faith and scripture	1.3	19.0	47.7	32.0
Contacting inactive persons in the congregation.....	26.6	48.9	19.5	4.9
Organizing/leading small groups for sharing, support and spiritual growth.....	26.8	41.7	23.8	7.7
Representing the congregation in the community	19.5	35.9	27.2	17.3
Administration, supervision and committee meetings	5.9	23.2	46.5	24.4
Dealing with conflict and disagreements	19.4	45.8	23.2	11.6

11. Has your principal leader met regularly with other ministers or pastoral leaders in a small group for continuing education and support in the last 5 years?
76.7 % Yes ⇨ **Answer A-C below**
23.3% No ⇨ **Skip to Question 12 on Page 7**

- A. Years/Months leader participated? Not coded
- B. The group met/meets (not coded) times a year for an **average** of (not coded) hours per meeting.

C. Does/did the group have the following characteristics?

✓ ONE ON EACH LINE

YES

Members make decisions about who belongs and/or what the group does	47.6%
A sponsoring organization (denomination, seminary, etc.) provides trained leaders and/or curriculum.....	48.9
The group includes persons of different races or ethnicities.....	61.0
The group includes persons of different denominations or faith traditions.....	30.1
The group's primary focus is sharing ideas & resources for effective ministry	80.8
Our congregation contributes to the cost of participation in the group.....	32.4

12. How many **paid staff positions** do you have in your congregation? (counting your leader)
*Count only full- and part-time leadership and program staff, not support (secretarial) or maintenance staff.
 Count all positions whether currently filled or not. If you have a school, don't count school employees.*

<u>Total full-time</u>	Average = 1.9	<u>Total part-time</u>	Average = 1.4
	Median = 1.0		Median = 1.0

13. How many committees or task forces does this congregation have at the present time? Ave = 7.5 Median = 6
14. How easy or difficult is it for your congregation to recruit people for volunteer leadership roles? (for example, serving on governing boards or committees, or teaching Sunday School)
29.6% We have no problem recruiting volunteer leaders
59.0% Recruiting volunteer leaders is a continual challenge, but we eventually find enough people to serve
11.4% We often can't find enough people who are willing to serve
15. 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?
24.9% The same people tend to serve
57.2% Although there is some rotation, it tends to be among a limited group of people
17.9% We have a lot of rotation among persons in volunteer leadership roles
16. How well do the volunteer leaders of this congregation represent the diversity of your active participants in terms of age, race and gender?
53.2% Very well
40.2% Somewhat well
6.6% Not so well; not all participants are adequately represented
17. Do volunteer leaders (including teachers) receive recognition for their service on a regular basis?
43.0% Yes, they are publicly recognized and thanked on a regular basis
51.7% Yes, but not on a regular basis
4.9% No
18. Do new volunteer leaders receive any training for their roles or assignments?
 ✓ ALL THAT APPLY
24.2% Yes, regular training sessions are held for new leaders
34.6 Yes, through mentoring or one-on-one training
46.4 Some leaders have received training and others have not
12.3 Not usually

19. During the last **five years** has your congregation experienced any conflict or disagreement in the following areas?

✓ ALL THAT APPLY ON EACH LINE	NO	YES, BUT THE CONFLICT WAS NOT SERIOUS	YES, AND SOME PEOPLE LEFT	YES, AND SOME PEOPLE WITHHELD FUNDS	YES, AND A STAFF MEMBER WAS DISMISSED OR REASSIGNED
Finances, budget	56.2%	31.4	7.8	6.0	2.4
How worship is conducted	42.9	28.4	13.8	3.2	0.9
Pastor/Priest/Rabbi's leadership style	53.8	23.8	18.3	5.4	5.2
Program priorities	61.5	29.9	7.6	1.7	0.6
Use of facilities	64.4	30.8	4.0	1.1	0.6
Actions of your denomination or supervisory body	67.8	19.8	9.5	4.8	1.2
Other _____					

20. What is the most important issue currently facing your congregation? Not Coded

F. Your Congregation's Finances

1. How would you describe your congregation's financial health today and 5 years ago?

Today		5 Years Ago	
5.2%	In serious difficulty	7.7%	In serious difficulty
10.2%	In some difficulty	13.8%	In some difficulty
35.1%	Tight, but we manage	32.8%	Tight, but we managed
80.9%	Good	30.7%	Good
18.8%	Excellent	14.8%	Excellent

2. Approximately what percent of your congregation's total expenditures were spent on the following in 2007? Total should add to 100%.

	Average Percent
All staff salaries and benefits	38.9%
Buildings and operations (utilities, mortgage, insurance, equipment, maintenance, etc.)	27.5%
Program support and materials (for Sunday School, evangelism, education, etc.)	13.7%
Mission and benevolence (including assessments)	12.8%
All other expenditures	7.0%
Total	99.9%

3. What is the approximate dollar amount of your congregation's total budget for **2007**? Average \$371,159
Median \$180,000

G. Your Congregation's History, Location and Affiliation

1. In what year was your congregation officially organized or founded? Average 1935 Median 1948

2. How would you describe the place where your principal place of worship is located?

- 11.3% Rural area or open country
- 17.6% Village or a town of less than 10,000
- 15.9% Larger town or a small city with a population between 10,000 and 50,000
- 9.8% A newer suburb around a city with a population of 50,000 or more
- 13.0% An older suburb around a city with a population of 50,000 or more
- 19.2% An older residential area in a city with a population of 50,000 or more
- 13.2% A downtown or central area of a city with a population of 50,000 or more

3. Does your congregation hold services at satellite locations?

6.6% Yes

90.5% No

2.9% No, but we are considering satellite locations

4. Has your congregation changed its name in the past 10 years?

7.7% Yes

91.1% No

1.2% No, but we are considering changing our name

5. What is your congregation's specific denomination or faith group? (e.g., Southern Baptist Convention, Roman Catholic Church, Ukrainian Orthodox Church, United Methodist, independent evangelical, Reform Jewish, etc.)

Recoded:

27.3% Oldline Protestant*

62.7% Evangelical Protestant

7.0% Catholic and Orthodox

3.0% Other World Religions

Thank you very much for completing the survey! If you have any comments, please write them on a separate sheet.

To send in your answers you can: **file online** at <http://www.pcusa.org/fact>; **mail** the survey to us in the enclosed envelope (to Research Services, 100 Witherspoon Street, Louisville, KY 40202); or **fax** it to (502) 569-8736.

If you have questions about the survey, contact the Faith Communities Today project (FACT) at 888-728-7228, ext. 2040 (toll free) or fact@hartsem.edu. Information about FACT and the 2008 survey can be found at <http://fact.hartsem.edu>.

*FACT2008 Faith Family categories follow the definitions of Faith Families found in Hadaway and Marler [C. Kirk Hadaway and Penny Long Marler, How Many Americans Attend Worship Each Week? An Alternative Approach to Measure, *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion* (2005), which are relatively typical for the social sciences. "Evangelical Protestant" is a combination of their "Conservative/Evangelical" and "Other Christian." It includes not only the larger conservative and evangelical denominations like the Southern Baptist Convention, Assemblies of God and Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, but also, for example, the Historical Black denominations, Jehovah's Witness and Latter Day Saints. What they label "Mainline Protestantism" is labeled "Oldline Protestantism" because it is more descriptively accurate. Following Hadaway and Marler, the Oldline Protestant denominations are limited to the ABC, Disciples of Christ, Episcopal Church, ELCA, PC (USA), RCA, UCC and UUA. "Other World Religions" family contains the non-Christian congregations in the survey – primarily Jewish, Muslim, and Baha'i.