

---

# ***FAITH COMMUNITIES TODAY***

*A Congregational Survey Of*  
***The Christian Reformed Church  
in North America***

*In Association With The  
Cooperative Congregational Studies Project*

---

In Cooperation With  
Social Research Center  
Calvin College

Winter 2000

# 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 Reformed 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 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>

2. **Worship Services.** [Note: If your congregation holds worship services *less than once a week*, please check here  and answer for a typical weekend on which you do hold services.]

	<u>Friday</u>	<u>Saturday</u>	<u>Sunday AM</u>	<u>Sunday PM</u>
A. How many worship services does your congregation have on each of the following days/times on a <b>typical</b> weekend?	_____	_____	_____	_____
B. What is the total attendance for all services held on this day/time on a <b>typical</b> weekend?	_____	_____	_____	_____
C. If you typically hold more than one service on the weekend, are these services: (✓ one)				
<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub> Very similar in style (other than the language used) <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub> One or more is <i>somewhat different</i> in style from the rest <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>3</sub> One or more is <i>very different</i> in style from the rest				
D. Please list all the languages in which your congregation conducts worship services on a typical weekend: _____				

3. How often does the sermon in your worship services **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>

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 weekend 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 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 or pass the peace	<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. Dance or drama	<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>

6. How often are the following included as part of your congregation's regular weekend 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. Scripture	<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. Historic creeds, doctrines & tradition	<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	<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. Synodical decisions	<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 → →



## II. History, Location and Building

- In approximately what year was this congregation officially founded? \_\_\_\_\_
- In what ZIP or postal code area is this congregation's primary worship building located?  
Zip/postal code: \_\_\_\_\_
- 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>

**C. (Only churches in U.S.) in what county is it located:** \_\_\_\_\_

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

(✓ one each line)	<i>Much More Than We Need</i>	<i>Slightly More Than We Need</i>	<i>Just About Right</i>	<i>Slightly Less Than We Need</i>	<i>Much Less Than We Need</i>
A. 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>

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

## III. Congregational Programs

- Does your congregation have a church 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 church school? (Circle at least one word on each line.)

- 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

	No	Yes		
	No	One-Time, Short-Term, Occasional	On-going During A Season	On-going Thru [Church] Year
A. Bible study (other than church 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, dance, 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. Youth/teen activities and programs	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, and devotions	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5
B. Family devotions	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5
C. Fasting	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5
D. Observing dietary restrictions	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5
E. Abstinence from alcohol	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5
F. Keeping the Sabbath	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5
G. Displaying religious objects, symbols, statuary, icons or pictures in the home	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5
H. Abstaining from premarital sex	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5

4. 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 church members probably **would support**; or **B)** Something that they probably **would not support**?

(✓ one on each line)

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

5. 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.  
(Circle at least one word on each line.)

	<u>No</u>	----- Yes, circle all that apply -----	
		<u>Provided Directly By Your Congregation</u>	<u>Cooperated With Another Congregation, Agency, Or Organization</u>
A. Food pantry or soup kitchen	No	Yes	Yes
B. Cash assistance to families or individuals	No	Yes	Yes
C. Thrift store or thrift store donations	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

6. 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 \_\_\_\_\_

#### 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 the current (senior) pastor or minister by checking all of the boxes that apply or filling in the requested information. If you have **co-pastors**, please check here  and answer the following for the older of your co-pastors. 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 does s/he also: 1) Serve another congregation? <sub>1</sub> Yes    <sub>2</sub> No

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

I. This person became your (senior) pastor in what year? 19\_\_\_\_\_

3. How many (senior) pastors, including the current one, have served your congregation during the past 10 years? \_\_\_\_\_
4. How long was the previous (senior) pastor employed by your congregation? \_\_\_\_\_ years
5. How many paid, ministerial and program staff does your congregation have?
  - A. Number full time, paid \_\_\_\_\_
  - B. Number part time, paid \_\_\_\_\_

6. During the last 12 months, has your congregation been involved in any of the following types of inter-congregational, ecumenical or interfaith activities? (Circle at least one word on each line.)

(Circle all the "yeses" that apply)

With other congregations or persons:

	No	From Your Denomination	From Other Denominations	From Other Faith Traditions
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

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

	No	Yes, and it was:		
		Very Serious	Moderately Serious	Not Very Serious
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. Member'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>
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>

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

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

9. 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.

**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 regular and irregular participants, counting both official or registered members and also participating nonmembers.

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

4. 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"/> <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>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>6</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>7</sub>
B. Less than high school diploma	<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>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>6</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>7</sub>
C. At least college graduates	<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>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>6</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>7</sub>
D. Age 35 or younger	<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>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>6</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>7</sub>
E. Over 60 years old	<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>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>6</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>7</sub>
F. Married	<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>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>6</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>7</sub>
G. Life long CRC	<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>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>6</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>7</sub>
H. New to your congregation in the last five years	<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>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>6</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>7</sub>
I. Living in the immediate area around your church building	<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>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>6</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>7</sub>
J. Commuting more than 15 minutes to get to your worship services	<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>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>6</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>7</sub>
K. Currently holding <b>volunteer leadership roles</b> in your congregation, like serving on administrative committees, teaching church school, running outreach programs, 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>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>6</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>7</sub>
L. In households with incomes below \$20,000	<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>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>6</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>7</sub>
M. In households with children under 18 present	<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>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>6</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>7</sub>

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

- |  |                               |
|--|-------------------------------|
| • American Indian/Alaska Native _____% | • Native Hawaiian or          |
| • Asian _____%                         | Other Pacific Islander _____% |
| • Black or African American _____%     | • White _____%                |
| • Hispanic or Latino _____%            | • Other _____%                |
|  | <b>100%</b>                   |

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

---



---

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

- |  | <u>Almost All</u>                     | <u>Most</u>                           | <u>Some</u>                           | <u>Few</u>                            | <u>None</u>                           |
|--|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| A. Recruiting new 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> |
| B. Activities outside of worship that strengthen 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. Expressing their faith through helping others             | <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. 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?

- <sub>1</sub> Almost all    <sub>2</sub> Most    <sub>3</sub> Some    <sub>4</sub> Few    <sub>5</sub> Hardly Any

## VI. Finances

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

- A. Currently:** <sub>1</sub> Excellent <sub>2</sub> Good <sub>3</sub> Tight, but manageable <sub>4</sub> In some difficulty <sub>5</sub> In serious difficulty  
**B. In 1995:** <sub>1</sub> Excellent <sub>2</sub> Good <sub>3</sub> Tight, but manageable <sub>4</sub> In some difficulty <sub>5</sub> In serious difficulty  
<sub>6</sub> Our congregation did not exist in 1995.

2. Approximately how much income did your congregation receive last year from all sources (e.g., tithes, pledges, membership dues, plate offerings, 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 last year?

**TOTAL EXPENDITURES** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Of your total expenditures, approximately what percent was for each of the following categories?

- |  |        |
|--|--------|
| A. All staff salaries and benefits   | _____% |
| B. Building and property operations (including building, property and grounds, utilities, mortgage, insurance, maintenance, equipment, etc.) | _____% |
| C. Capital improvements  | _____% |
| D. Program support and materials   | _____% |
| E. Denominational ministries (ministry shares, gifts, contributions, missionary support)   | _____% |
| F. Local mission work (other than through the denomination)  | _____% |
| G. National and international mission work and programs (other than through the denomination)  | _____% |
| H. Subsidies to school, day care or before/after school program  | _____% |
| I. Money put into reserve/endowments/investments   | _____% |
| J. Other _____   | _____% |
|  | 100%   |

4. 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
- <sub>2</sub> Appeals or testimonies from members during worship services
- <sub>3</sub> Special fund raisers (fairs, bake sales, etc.)
- <sub>4</sub> Appeals based on specific, concrete and special needs
- <sub>5</sub> Distribution of promotional material
- <sub>6</sub> Canvassing members by phone or in person (e.g., member visitation)
- <sub>7</sub> Pledge or commitment cards
- <sub>8</sub> Member dues
- <sub>9</sub> Teaching that a 10% tithe belongs to God, is due God and should be given to God
- <sub>10</sub> Teaching that giving a proportion of one's income, not tithing per se, is sufficient

## VII. Ministry Priorities

1. Finally, please focus on your church's ministry. HOW HIGH A PRIORITY would you say that your congregation tends to give to the following?  
(✓ one on each line)

	<i>Very High Priority</i>	<i>Fairly High Priority</i>	<i>Not Very High Priority</i>
A. Providing a sense of community for members	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>3</sub>
B. Having meaningful worship services	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>3</sub>
C. Good music	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>3</sub>
D. Bible study	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>3</sub>
E. Preserving CRC traditions and beliefs	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>3</sub>
F. Having activities for young people	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>3</sub>
G. Providing church education for young people	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>3</sub>
H. Providing church education for adults	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>3</sub>
I. Having good physical facilities	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>3</sub>
J. Cultivating spiritual gifts	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>3</sub>
K. Strengthening family life	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>3</sub>
L. Engaging in evangelism	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>3</sub>
M. Supporting world missions	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>3</sub>
N. Organizing social events for church members	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>3</sub>
O. Attempting to address social issues	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>3</sub>
P. Providing counseling and other services for members	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>3</sub>
Q. Trying to keep the church going	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>3</sub>
R. Providing seekers' services	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>3</sub>
S. Ministering to people with disabilities/special needs	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>3</sub>
T. Serving the needs of the community	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>3</sub>

2. From the list above, what are TWO things that, in your opinion, your church is trying to do particularly well?  
(Write the letters in the spaces below.)

A. \_\_\_\_\_ B. \_\_\_\_\_

3. Compared to the past 10 years, would you say that these TWO areas of priority are:  
(✓ only one)

- <sub>1</sub> Essentially the same
- <sub>2</sub> Both are different
- <sub>3</sub> #1 different but #2 same
- <sub>4</sub> #2 different but #1 same
- <sub>5</sub> I really don't know enough to say.

Thank you very much for your help. Please use the remaining space for any additional comments you may have about the topics covered by this questionnaire. When you have completed your questionnaire, please return it in the enclosed postage-paid envelope or send it to the **Calvin Social Research Center, 3201 Burton St SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49546.**