

2010 Survey of Independent & Nondenominational Churches

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N=437 – 4000 surveyed, response rate 11%
Results weighted by region and size based on 35,496 churches in database.

Your Location, Building and Affiliation

In what year was your congregation officially founded? 1983 median

In what **Region** is your congregation's place of worship **physically located**?

New England 4%	East South Central 8%	West North Central 16%
Mid Atlantic 11%	West South Central 22%	Mountain 6%
South Atlantic 14%	East North Central 7%	Pacific 13%

How would you describe the **location** of your place of worship? (\checkmark ONE)

14% **Rural area or open country** 4% **Downtown** or central area of a **large city** 50,000 or more
31% **Village or town** less than 10,000 13% **Older residential area** of a **large city** 50,000 or more
24% **Small city or large town** 10,000 to 50,000 7% **Older suburb** around a **large city** 50,000 or more
6% **Newer suburb** around a **large city** 50,000 or more

What is the approximate seating capacity where your largest worship service is held? 200 median

Worship

Please describe the worship services your congregation holds on a **typical weekend**:

For each day or time on a typical weekend:	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	
			AM	PM
Write in the number of worship services held on each day or time:	9% have	6% have	80% have	62% have
Write in the median attendance for all services on this day or time:	20	50	100	79

Is your church part of a Network, Fellowship, Association of Churches or Denomination? 64% No 35% Yes

If your church is Nondenominational or Independent, was it founded that way? 88% Yes

Or did it leave a Denomination in the past? 12% Yes In what year? **Majority (80%) since 1980**

During the past 5 years, has your congregation changed the style of any of its weekend worship services or added a new service with a different style of worship?

59% No change in style 22% Changed style a little 14% Changed style somewhat 3% Changed style a lot
3% Added a new service with a different style of worship

Do you hold services at satellite (off campus) locations? 84% No 6% Yes 7% Not yet, but thinking about it.

Participants

How many people are associated **in any way** with the religious life of your church? Ave 376/median 150 (counting adults and children, counting regular and irregular participants, counting official members and participating nonmembers)

How many persons (including children) **regularly participate** in worship or other religious activities in your church? Ave 252/median 105

So far in 2010 and for the past 5 years, estimate the **median attendance at your regular weekend worship services**. If you have more than one weekend worship service, estimate the attendance for all weekend services combined. Do not include special services such as weddings or funerals.

105	2010 Median Attendance	85	2007 Median Attendance
91	2009 Median Attendance	80	2006 Median Attendance
90	2008 Median Attendance	80	2005 Median Attendance

Of these participants, what is **the majority** racial or ethnic group:

1% American Indian/Alaska Native 11% Black or African American 13% No Majority, Multiracial
 1% Asian 1% Hispanic or Latino/a 0% Other:
 0% Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander 74% White

Which label comes closest to describing the **theological outlook** of the majority of your regularly participating adults? (✓ **ONE**)

20% Fundamentalist 14% Pentecostal 2% Moderate 0.3% New Age 3% Missional
 45% Evangelical 11% Charismatic 0.3% Liberal 0.7% Seeker 3% Other:

Of all your regular participants, estimate the **percent** who are: **Median percentage**

10 %	Senior adults, age 65 or older
19 %	Adults, age 50-64
25 %	Adults, age 35-49
15 %	Younger adults, age 18-34
20 %	Children and youth, age 0-17

Of your total regular participants **age 18 and older**, estimate the **percent** who are: **Median percentage**

55 %	Female
30 %	College graduates
30 %	New to this congregation in the past 5 years
20 %	Life-long members of your church
70 %	Living within 15 minutes of the church

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.....	40%	17%	11%	13%	20%
Organ.....	48%	8%	11%	13%	21%
Drums or other percussion instruments.....	34%	8%	9%	12%	37%
Electric guitar or bass.....	30%	12%	12%	11%	34%
Visual projection equipment.....	11%	12%	14%	7%	55%
Lord's Supper, Communion or Eucharist	5%	7%	34%	32%	22%
Reading or performing by children or youth	8%	25%	46%	14%	7%

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%	7%	25%	46%	23%
Filled with a sense of God's presence.....	0%	0%	13%	48%	38%
Joyful	0%	1%	7%	51%	42%
Innovative	3%	15%	39%	24%	18%
Inspirational	0%	1%	13%	57%	29%
Thought-provoking	0%	1%	14%	51%	34%

Programs

Overall, to what extent are your congregation's active participants involved in recruiting new people?

1% Not at all 20% A little 47% Some 26% Quite a bit 6% A lot

Which of the following technologies does your congregation use on a regular basis?

√ **ALL THAT APPLY**

72% E-mail 60% A website for our congregation 10% Blogs
 43% Facebook or other social media 16% Podcasts 14% Other

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

√ ONE ON EACH LINE	No	Yes		
		Some Emphasis	A lot of emphasis	Specialty of the Church
Sunday School or church school	12%	17%	59%	13%
Prayer or meditation groups	9%	42%	40%	9%
Scripture studies (other than Sunday school).....	8%	23%	54%	15%
Fellowships, trips, or other social activities	8%	53%	33%	6%
Music program.....	9%	35%	41%	15%
Adult religious formation classes.....	36%	34%	25%	4%
Spiritual retreats	33%	50%	16%	1%
Support groups (bereavement, job loss, 12-step)	55%	26%	14%	6%
Community service activities	18%	47%	27%	9%
Parenting or marriage enrichment activities	30%	45%	21%	3%
Young adult activities or programs	24%	40%	26%	9%
Youth activities or programs.....	8%	25%	52%	15%
Team sports, fitness activities, exercise classes	71%	20%	8%	1%

During the past 12 months, did your congregation provide any of the following services for your own members or for people in the community? **If yes**, did you provide these services directly or together with another congregation or group?

	NO	YES	
		Provided directly	Together with another group
√ ALL THAT APPLY			
Food pantry or soup kitchen.....	38%	36%	26%
Cash assistance for individuals or families.....	12%	75%	13%
Day care, pre-school, before or after-school programs	86%	11%	3%
Tutoring or literacy programs.....	88%	9%	3%
Health education, clinics, parish nurse	87%	8%	6%
Community organizing, organized social issue advocacy	80%	10%	10%
Job placement, job training, employment counseling.....	87%	11%	2%
Financial counseling or education	52%	44%	4%
Elderly or home-bound programs.....	65%	32%	4%
Voter education or registration	77%	21%	3%
Programs for migrants or immigrants.....	94%	4%	1%

Many churches make use of small groups for fellowship, spiritual nurture, etc. (in addition to church school or mission groups, etc.). Which statement best describes the situation in your congregation?

- 24% Such groups do not exist within our church
- 46% A few such groups meet, but are not central to our church's program
- 30% We have many such groups; they are central to our strategy of Christian nurture and spiritual formation

How much does your congregation emphasize the following **personal and family religious practices**?

√ ONE ON EACH LINE	Not at all	A little	Some	Quite a bit	A lot
Personal prayer, devotions or other spiritual practices	0%	1%	5%	34%	59%
Personal scripture or Bible study.....	0%	0%	5%	28%	67%
Fasting.....	17%	27%	34%	17%	5%
Observing dietary restrictions	79%	10%	6%	5%	0%
Abstaining from premarital sex	3%	2%	10%	29%	56%
Family devotions.....	1%	5%	20%	37%	37%
Parents talking with their children about faith	2%	2%	9%	30%	57%

Mission and Identity

Do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements? √ **ONE ON EACH LINE**

Our congregation:	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral/ Unsure	Agree	Strongly agree
Is like a close-knit family	1%	2%	7%	51%	40%
Is spiritually vital and alive	1%	1%	8%	52%	38%
Is not that different from other churches in our community	25%	42%	14%	14%	5%

Has a clear mission and purpose	1%	4%	5%	44%	46%
Is a "moral beacon" in our community.....	1%	5%	20%	48%	26%
Is willing to change to meet new challenges	3%	6%	19%	48%	23%
Holds strong beliefs and values	1%	0%	2%	29%	69%
Celebrates its nondenominational identity.....	7%	15%	26%	30%	22%
Is working for social justice.....	7%	16%	32%	37%	7%

Leadership

Please describe the **principal leader** of your church (if co-leaders, answer about your oldest leader).

Age: 55 Years old

Gender: 98% Male 2% Female

Employment status

72% Full-time paid leader 9% Full-time unpaid leader

16% Part-time paid leader 3% Part-time unpaid leader

Highest level of education

0% Less than a high school diploma

34% College bachelor's degree

6% High school diploma

27% Master's degree (including M Div)

20% Some college/ technical school; assoc. degree

14% Doctoral degree (PhD, D Min)

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

Median Number of:

Full-time paid

Part-time paid

Ministerial and program staff

1

0

Administrative and support staff

0

1

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?

32% The same people tend to serve

52% Although there is some rotation, it tends to be among a limited number of people

17% We have a lot of rotation among persons in volunteer leadership roles

During the past 12 months, has your church been involved in any of the following ecumenical or interfaith activities?

√ ALL THAT APPLY ON EACH LINE

	No	Yes	
		With other Christian Groups	With other faith traditions
Worship services.....	54%	42%	7%
Joint celebrations, fairs, meals or cultural events	62%	34%	7%
Educational or fellowship activities	53%	44%	6%
Community service activities.....	53%	36%	11%

Finances

What was the approximate dollar amount of your congregation's total budget for **2009**? (Do not count funds for capital improvements or primary/secondary schools) \$158,2940 median

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

Today	2005
3% In serious difficulty	3% In serious difficulty
7% In some difficulty	6% In some difficulty
40% Tight, but we manage	27% Tight, but we managed
30% Good	45% Good
21% Excellent	19% Excellent

How would you assess the **impact of the 2008-2009 recession** on your congregation's income?

20% Our income declined a lot	22% No significant change in income
31% Our income declined a little	14% Our income has grown
13% Our income declined at first, but has since rebounded	

Grouping by Total Attendance at Worship Services

Size	Percent of Churches
1-49	11 %
50-99	18 %
100-149	37 %
150-349	22 %
350-499	4 %
500-999	4 %
1000-1999	2 %
2000 or more	2 %