

## **Profile of Nondenominational Churches**

### **A Report from the Organizing Religious Work Project**

**Total 73 churches**

#### **Subgrouping of Independent Congregations**

Networked (N=31) 42.5% - Those mentioning affiliation with a national/regional Network

Independent Baptist (N=11) 15.0% - Those independent churches indicating a strong Baptist tradition

Nondenominational (N=31) 42.5% - Those groups not mentioning any external affiliations.

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#### **General Profile**

##### ***Region***

Northeast (N=10) 14%

Midwest (N=29) 40%

South (N=15) 20%

West (N=19) 26%

##### ***Setting***

Rural Congregations (N=5) 7%

Urban Congregations (N=68) 93%

##### ***Founding Era***

1900-1924 (N=3) 5%

1925-1949 (N=6) 10%

1950-1974 (N=13) 22%

1975-1989 (N=25) 42%

1990-present (N=20) 20%

## Founding Era

	Networked	Independent Baptist	Nondenominational
<i>Number</i>	27	10	22
1900-1924	3.7	10.0	4.5
1925-1949	7.4	10.0	13.6
1950-1974	14.8	50.0	18.2
1975-1989	55.6	20.0	36.4
1990-present	18.5	10.0	27.3

**Median Weekly Attendance** - 110 persons

Range in attendance from 9 to 5500 persons

92% have a constitution

86% are incorporated

64% own their own building and of these 92% hold the deed

### Average Attendance

	Networked	Independent Baptist	Nondenominational
<i>Number</i>	28	10	23
< 50	14.3	40.0	26.1
50-99	17.9	10.0	17.4
100-299	42.9	20.0	34.8
300-499	3.6	30.0	
500-999	14.3		8.7
1000 +	7.1		13.0

### **Median Yearly Budget** - \$100,000

Range in budget from \$2000/yr. to \$7,000,000/yr.

### **Number of Clergy in the Congregations**

0 clergy (N=3) 5%

1 clergy (N=23) 41%

2 clergy (N=13) 23%

3 or more clergy (N=17) 31%

missing (N=17)

## **Membership**

### ***Education of Membership***

60% of congregations have half or more members with a high school degree or less.  
54% of congregations have some members with graduate work.

### ***Income of Membership***

84% of congregations have "some or less" with household income below \$15,000.  
50% of congregations have "some or more" with household income above \$75,000.

### ***Age of Membership***

60% of congregations have half or more young adult members.  
50% of congregations have hardly any members over the age of 65.

### ***Racial Composition of Membership - % of churches having "All or Nearly All" of indicated racial group***

**White (N=16) 22%**

**Black (N=14) 19%**

**Hispanic (N=2) 3%**

**Asian (N=2) 3%**

**\*\* 53% of the congregations have 10% or more minority racial presence.**

**\*\* 24% of the congregations have no more than 60% of any one racial group.**

**Racial Distribution**

	Networked	Independent Baptist	Nondenominational
	28	10	25
All White	25.0	20.0	28.0
All Black	21.4	40.0	16.0
All Hispanic			8.0
All Asian			8.0
Multi-Racial (more than 10% mixed)	53.6	40.0	40.0

**Identity**

**Polity - 100% have a congregational polity**

**Sense of Connection/Accountability**

	Networked	Independent Baptist	Nondenominational
<i>Number</i>	27	11	22
Reason for ties not mentioned	22.2	36.4	68.2
Independence is good	7.4	36.4	27.3
Accountability is good	22.2		4.5
Connection is good	48.1	27.2	



**Strong Worship Identity - Strong Belief Identity**

Number of churches	Networked	Independent Baptist	Nondenominational
<i>Strong Worship Identity</i>	17	1	5
<i>Strong Belief Identity</i>	13	4	9