



**Topical Survey #1 Questionnaire and General Frequencies
Exploring the Pandemic Impact on Congregations Study
Summer 2021**

Demographics

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

- 4.3 % Catholic & Orthodox Christian
- 60.7 % Evangelical Protestant Christian
- 34.6 % Mainline Protestant Christian
- 0.3 % Other Religious Traditions (Baha'i, Jewish, Muslim)

1.) In what year was this congregation officially founded? 1945 Mean **1954 Median**

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

- Northeast 14%
- South 49%
- Northcentral 23%
- West 14%

3.) Please estimate the *total average in-person attendance now* at all of your regular weekend (Friday, Saturday, Sunday) worship service(s), including children. attendance: 93 Mean **45 Median**

4.) Please estimate the *total average virtual/remote attendance now* at all of your regular weekend (Friday, Saturday, Sunday) worship service(s), including children. attendance: 61 Mean **20 Median**

*** Total average attendance combined in person and virtual/remote currently: Mean 153 Median 65**

Combined Current Attendance Size Groups

- 1-50 41%
- 51-100 28%
- 101-250 19%
- 251 or more 12%

Percent of worship attendance change (Growth or Decline) in **TWO** years – **median 12% Decline**

- 35.2% Decline -25% or more
- 22.1% Decline btw. -5.0% & -24.9%
- 14.8% Stable btw. -4.9% & +4.9%
- 10.5% Growth btw. +5.0% & +24.9%
- 17.5% Growth +25% or more

5.) Please estimate the *total average in-person attendance two years ago (2019)* at all of your regular weekend (Friday, Saturday, Sunday) worship service(s), including children. attendance: 142 Mean **70** Median

6.) Please estimate the *total average virtual/remote attendance two years ago (2019)* at all of your regular weekend (Friday, Saturday, Sunday) worship service(s), including children. attendance: 13 Mean **0** Median

* **Total average attendance combined in person and virtual/remote in 2019:** Mean 155 Median **75**

7.) **Prior to the pandemic, how many** persons (including children) *regularly participated* (once a month or more) in worship or other religious activities in your congregation? Mean Median

8.) **Currently, how many** people (including children) *regularly participate* (once a month or more) in worship or other religious activities in your congregation? Mean Median

9.) Of the current regular participants, **what percent** are in each of the following age groups?

- Children (ages 0-12):..... 12%
- Youth (ages 13-17):..... 8%
- Young adults (ages 18-34)..... 15%
- Middle adults (ages 35-64) 32%
- Senior adults (ages 65 and older): 34%

10.) Of the current regular participants, **what percent** are in each of the following categories?

- American Indian/Alaska Native (non-Hispanic) 2%
- Asian (non-Hispanic) 3%
- Black or African American (non-Hispanic)30%
- Hispanic or Latino(a) 8%
- Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander (non-Hispanic) 1%
- White (non-Hispanic)67%
- Multiracial..... 4%

11.) Of all current *regularly participating adults* (ages 18 and over), what **percent** would you estimate

- Are new to the congregation since the start of the pandemic (1.5 years)?.....5%
- Have taken on new volunteer roles in the congregation since the pandemic started (e.g., technology, communication, health)?.....5%
- Are part of small groups?.....10%
- Volunteer regularly at the congregation?.....15%
- Are American born?.....85%

Worship and Programs

12.) Please rate your level of agreement with the following statements. (Check one on each line.)

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree
Our congregation:					
Has a clear mission and purpose	2	3	9	32	54
Is striving to be diverse (e.g. racially, ethnically, socioeconomically)	5	5	27	34	28

Is good at incorporating new people into the congregation	2	5	12	36	45
Is spiritually vital and alive	2	3	8	39	47
Is willing to change to meet new challenges	2	5	15	39	39
Is actively involved in our local community	2	8	15	34	36

13.) Did your congregation stop worshipping in person due to COVID-19?

Yes	No
88	12

IF NO- PLEASE SKIP TO #15

Last date you worshipped in person before pausing: _____

14.) Have you resumed worshipping in person?

Yes	Yes, we resumed meeting in person and then we stopped again	No
93	0	7

Date worship resumed (NOTE: if you stopped and resumed multiple times, indicate the date you first resumed meeting in person): _____

15.) How have the following changed since the pandemic?

	Increased since the pandemic	Stayed the same	Decreased since the pandemic	Not applicable
The number of people coming for food assistance	31	43	26	0
The number of people coming for financial assistance	25	54	21	0
The number of people coming seeking counseling	31	50	20	0
The number of people coming seeking spiritual guidance	37	48	15	0
The amount of donations coming from congregants	41	29	30	0
The number of children participating in religious education	8	32	60	0
The number of adults participating in religious education	16	33	51	0

16.) Which of the following statements best describes your congregation? (Check one for each line).

	Yes	No	
Has the religious leader of the congregation publicly encouraged your congregants to get vaccinated?	62	38	
Have you had a medical professional address the congregation about COVID-19?	28	72	
Has your congregation served as a COVID-19 testing site or vaccination site?	8	92	
	Yes	No	If yes, how many do you know of?

Have one or more members of your congregation tested positive for COVID-19?	83	17	%
Have one or more members of your congregation died of COVID-19?	17	83	%
Have one or more of your congregation's ministry staff tested positive for COVID-19?	37	64	%
Have one or more of your congregation's ministry staff died of COVID-19?	2	98	%

17.) Does your congregation have any of the following programs or activities? If yes, how did the pandemic affect its offering and mode of offering?

	<u>Not</u> offered before or since the pandemic	Discontinued since the pandemic	Offered <u>in-person only</u> since the pandemic	Offered <u>online only</u> since the pandemic	Offered <u>both in-person and online</u> since the pandemic
Prayer or meditation groups	20	12	9	27	32
Small groups (for fellowship and spiritual nourishment)	12	21	8	21	38
Religious education for children (e.g., Sunday school)	13	27	13	22	26
Religious education for adults (e.g., scripture studies)	6	18	11	26	39
Committee and board meetings	3	6	21	28	42
Fellowship events (church suppers, picnics, etc.)	7	54	15	3	22
Music program (choir, worship team, orchestra, band, etc.)	12	26	16	11	35
Community service activities (e.g., food pantry, housing assistance)	31	15	31	5	18
Preschool and/or daycare center	84	3	8	1	5
Children (under 13) activities or programs	27	25	12	13	24
Youth (13-17) activities or programs	27	23	10	13	28
Young adults (18-34) activities or programs	38	20	9	5	29
Senior (65+) activities or programs	34	23	12	11	11
Global ministry activities (service/mission trip)	48	29	9	8	6
Social justice/advocacy groups	69	7	4	11	9

18.) Which of the following statements best describes your congregation? (Check one for each line)

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Somewhat Disagree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Somewhat Agree	Agree	Strongly Agree
This church has struggled to adapt to the pandemic's restrictions.	16	23	12	9	22	13	6

This church will emerge from the pandemic stronger than before.	3	4	6	20	18	27	23
As a result of the pandemic, we are thinking in new ways about our future mission and direction.	1	4	4	15	18	2	27
The ministries of this church have continued without major disruption.	10	14	17	8	24	1	10
We have struggled to maintain contact and community between congregational members.	11	15	15	8	25	1	10
Because of the pandemic, this church's continued existence is threatened.	45	25	8	6	9	4	3
This church has identified and embraced new opportunities for ministry since the pandemic.	2	8	5	15	20	22	27
The financial viability of this congregation has been put at risk by the pandemic	30	25	8	8	10	7	13

Leadership

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

- 1 There is no clergy at present (we are between clergy leaders).
 56 There is one clergy leader (no assistant or associate clergy).
 6 There are co-leaders (two or more clergy sharing leadership equally).
 33 There is a senior clergy leader with one or more assistant or associate clergy.
 1 We are lay led and do not have formal clergy.
 4 None of the above descriptions apply to our situation. Please specify:
-

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

Age: 56 Mean **58 Median** years old

Gender: 85 Male 15 Female .1 Other

Leader's race/ethnicity (check all that apply):

- American Indian/Alaska Native (non-Hispanic)
 Asian (non-Hispanic)
 Black or African American (non-Hispanic)
 Hispanic or Latino(a)
 Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander (non-Hispanic)
 White (non-Hispanic)
 Multiracial
 Other (please specify).....

21.) In what year did the senior leader start serving this congregation? 2005 Mean **2016 Median**

22.) Which best describes the clergy leader's employment status?

Full-time
74

Part-time
26

IF PART-TIME, HOW MANY HOURS PER WEEK?

23 Mean **20 Median**

23.) Is the person filling out this survey the religious leader of the congregation?

Yes

No

70

31

IF NO, PLEASE SKIP TO # 30

24.) In the past year, how often have you

	Never	Once or twice	A few times	Fairly often	Very often
Doubted that you are called by God to ministry	76	14	7	1	3
Seriously considered leaving pastoral ministry	63	19	10	5	3
Seriously considered leaving this congregation for another one	79	10	5	3	3
Considered this year the hardest year in your ministry experience	33	21	17	12	17

25.) Overall, how satisfied are you with life as a whole these days?

Not satisfied at all									Completely satisfied
.3	.2	1.9	4.8	4.5	9.0	14.8	24.5	26.3	13.5

26.) In general, how would you rate your physical health?

Poor									Excellent
.4	.7	3.0	3.7	5.1	8.0	15.0	25.5	20.6	18.1

27.) How would you rate your overall mental health?

Poor									Excellent
.2	.3	1.1	5.7	4.8	6.2	12.7	20.1	20.0	28.7

28.) Overall, to what extent do you feel the things you do in your life are worthwhile?

Not at all worthwhile									Completely worthwhile
.1	.1	.6	3.5	2.2	4.1	7.5	18.3	30.0	33.5

29.) I understand my purpose in life.

Strongly Disagree									Strongly Agree
.1	.0	.2	2.9	1.2	3.6	6.7	11.9	27.1	46.3

30.) How would you describe the level of dissent and/or conflict within the congregation regarding the COVID response (e.g. mask-wearing, vaccine distribution, closing/opening of congregational facility)?

No conflict	Very mild conflict	Mild conflict	Moderate conflict	Somewhat severe conflict	Severe conflict	Very severe conflict
25	32	20	17	5	2	.4

Finances

31.) What is your congregation's annual budget? \$284,067 mean **\$139,713 median**

32.) How would you describe your congregation's financial health today and two years ago? (Check one in each column.)

Today		Two years ago	
5	In serious difficulty	2	In serious difficulty
10	In some difficulty	7	In some difficulty
29	Tight, but we manage	28	Tight, but we manage
34	Good	42	Good
23	Excellent	22	Excellent

33.) Has your congregation had to make any staffing changes as a result of the pandemic?

Yes	No
15	85

If yes, please specify:

34.) What has been the most successful adaptation you made in response to the pandemic?

35.) Reflecting on the past year, what would you say the congregation is most proud of as you have responded to the pandemic?

Optional:

36.) Would you like a copy of the report generated from this research? Y N

37.) Would you be willing to be contacted for follow-up questions? Y N

38.) Please provide an email address if you said yes to either of the above questions (We will not use your information for any other purpose.): _____