



**Third Topical Survey - *Exploring the Pandemic Impact on Congregations* Study
March 2022
Religious Education/Publishing**

- 1.) In what year was this congregation officially founded? 1927 mean / **1937 median**
- 2.) In what ZIP code is this congregation's primary place of worship physically located?
 Northeast: 13%
 South: 43%
 North Central: 26%
 West: 18%
- 3.) Please estimate the *total average in-person attendance now* at all of your regular weekend (Friday, Saturday, Sunday) worship service(s), including children: 123 mean / **50 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: 51 mean / **15 median**
- 2022 Total: 173 mean / **75 median**
- 5.) Please estimate the *total average in-person attendance in 2019* at all of your regular weekend (Friday, Saturday, Sunday) worship service(s), including children: 149 mean / **60 median**
- 6.) Please estimate the *total average virtual/remote attendance in 2019* at all of your regular weekend (Friday, Saturday, Sunday) worship service(s), including children: 23 mean / **0 median**
- 2019 Total: 174 mean / **65 median**
- 7.) Of the current regular participants, **how many** are in each of the following age groups?
- | | |
|---|-----|
| Children (ages 0-12): | 11% |
| Youth (ages 13-17):..... | 8% |
| Young adults (ages 18-34)..... | 12% |
| Middle adults (ages 35-64)..... | 29% |
| Senior adults (ages 65 and older):..... | 39% |
- 8.) Of the current regular participants, **how many** are in each of the following categories?
- | | |
|--|-----|
| American Indian/Alaska Native (non-Hispanic) | 0 |
| Asian (non-Hispanic) | 5% |
| Black or African American (non-Hispanic) | 27% |
| Hispanic or Latino(a) | 7% |
| Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander (non-Hispanic) | 0 |
| White (non-Hispanic) | 69% |

Multiracial.....6%

9.) 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?.....13% mean / **6% median**

Are part of small groups?..... 27% mean / **20% median**

Volunteer regularly at the congregation?..... 31% mean / **20% median**

Next, we would like to ask you some questions about your church's worship and programs.

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

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neither Agree nor Agree	Strongly Agree
Our congregation:				
Has a clear mission and purpose	1%	4%	5%	45%
Is spiritually vital and alive	1%	7%	12%	35%
Is willing to change to meet new challenges	2%	12%	12%	43%

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

	Not offered	Discontinued since the pandemic	Currently offered <u>in-person only</u>	Currently offered <u>online only</u>	Currently offered <u>both in-person and online</u>
Prayer or meditation groups	25%	17%	27%	14%	18%
Small groups (for fellowship and spiritual nourishment)	15%	10%	38%	11%	25%
Music programs (choir, worship team, orchestra, band, etc.)	14%	17%	57%	1%	12%
Religious education for children (0-12) (e.g., Sunday school)	14%	21%	46%	5%	14%
Religious education for youth (13-17)	19%	23%	45%	5%	8%
Religious education for young adults (18-34)	23%	10%	36%	8%	22%
Religious education for adults (35-64)	9%	9%	39%	12%	31%
Religious education for seniors (65+)	7%	9%	47%	10%	27%

12.) Who has primary responsibility for running children's (0-12) educational ministries of the congregation?

- Pastor, Priest, etc.: 19%
- Other paid staff: 18%
- Lay volunteer: 57%
- Other: 6%

13.) Who has primary responsibility for running youth (13-17) educational ministries of the congregation?

- Pastor, Priest, etc.: 34%
- Other paid staff: 18%
- Lay volunteer: 42%
- Other: 6%

14.) Who has primary responsibility for running adult educational ministries of the congregation?

- Pastor, Priest, etc.: 44%
- Other paid staff: 14%
- Lay volunteer: 38%
- Other: 3%

15.) Approximately how many children (0-12) regularly participated in religious education programs/classes **in 2019**? 27 mean / **8 median**

16.) Approximately how many children (0-12) **currently** participate regularly in religious education programs/classes? 21 mean / **6 median**

17.) Approximately how many youth (13-17) regularly participated in religious education programs/classes **in 2019**? 14 mean / **5 median**

18.) Approximately how many youth (13-17) **currently** participate regularly in religious education programs/classes? 10 mean / **2 median**

19.) Approximately how many adults regularly participated in religious education programs/classes **in 2019**? 37 mean / **15 median**

20.) Approximately how many adults **currently** participate regularly in religious education programs/classes? 39 mean / **15 median**

21.) Do you externally purchase literature to support your children's (0-12) educational programs?

- Yes: 74%
- If yes, what publishers do you use? _____
- If no, what do you use? _____

22.) Do you externally purchase literature to support your youth (13-17) educational programs?

- Yes: 50%
- If yes, what publishers do you use? _____

If no, what do you use? _____

23.) Do you externally purchase literature to support your adult educational programs?

Yes: 47%

If yes, what publishers do you use? _____

If no, what do you use? _____

24.) Prior to the pandemic did your church typically offer Vacation Bible School (VBS)?

Yes: 36%

(IF NO, SKIP TO #27)

25.) Did you offer VBS in summer 2020? Yes: 17%

26.) Did you offer VBS in summer 2021? Yes: 36%

27.) Do you plan to offer VBS in summer 2022? Yes: 31%

28.) Have you made major adjustments to the way you offer VBS (since 2019)? What are they?

29.) What has been the most successful adaptation you made to the Christian education program at your congregation in response to the pandemic?

30.) How well do each of the following statements describe your congregation?

(Check one on each line).

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Somewhat Disagree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Somewhat Agree	Agree	Strongly Agree
This church is stronger now than before the pandemic started.	9%	14%	9%	16%	14%	21%	18%
As a result of the pandemic, we are thinking in new ways about our future mission and direction.	3%	2%	10%	12%	23%	33%	17%
The religious education programs of this church have continued without major disruption.	14%	21%	15%	4%	7%	22%	16%
This church has increased the use of video curriculum as a result of the pandemic.	19%	17%	4%	12%	19%	18%	11%
Because of the pandemic, this church's continued existence is threatened.	40%	13%	12%	16%	10%	8%	1%

This church faced challenges getting enough Christian education volunteers over the past 2 years.	10%	16%	7%	10%	27%	22%	8%
---	-----	-----	----	-----	-----	-----	----

Now, we would like to ask you about religious leadership at your church.

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

- 2% There is no clergy at present (we are between clergy leaders).
- 58% There is one clergy leader (no assistant or associate clergy).
- 8% There are co-leaders (two or more clergy sharing leadership equally).
- 26% There is a senior clergy leader with one or more assistant or associate clergy.
- 5% We are lay led and do not have formal clergy.
- 2% None of the above descriptions apply to our situation. Please specify:

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

Age: 55 mean / **56 median** years old

Gender: 76% male; 18% female; 1% other

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

- American Indian/Alaska Native (non-Hispanic) 2%
- Asian (non-Hispanic) 1%
- Black or African American (non-Hispanic) 10%
- Hispanic or Latino(a) 4%
- Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander (non-Hispanic) 0.2%
- White (non-Hispanic) 81%
- Other (please specify) 2%

33.) In what year did the senior leader start serving this congregation? 2013 mean / **2016 median**

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

Full-time
65%

Part-time
35%

In this section we would like to ask a few questions about your church's financial situation.

35.) What is your congregation's annual budget? **\$120,000 median**

36.) What percent of the congregational budget is devoted to children's (0-12) religious education? 1.4%

37.) What percent of the congregational budget is devoted to youth (13-17) religious education?
1%

38.) What percent of the congregational budget is devoted to adult religious education? 1%

39.) What Christian education resources would be helpful as you continue to navigate the pandemic?

Finally, we have a few optional questions.

40.) Would you like a copy of the report generated from this research? Yes No

41.) Would you be willing to be contacted for follow-up questions? Yes No

42.) 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):
