

## I. Congregational 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 close-knit family	10.7	37.4	38.2	10.7	3.1
B. Our congregation is spiritually vital and alive	41.2	48.9	9.9	.0	.0
C. Our congregation is working for social justice	10.7	22.9	37.4	22.1	6.9
D. Our congregation helps members deepen their relationships with God	40.5	45.0	13.0	.0	1.5
E. Our congregation is trying to increase its racial/ethnic diversity	26.8	22.0	34.6	11.8	4.7
F. Our congregation clearly expresses its denominational heritage <b>or IF nondenomntnl.</b> , its independent stance	18.8	18.0	32.8	19.5	10.9
G. Our congregation is a moral beacon in the community	25.6	49.6	20.9	3.1	.8
H. Our congregation welcomes innovation and change	39.7	43.5	14.5	.8	1.5
I. Our congregation deals openly with disagreements and conflicts	12.4	45.7	32.6	5.4	3.9
J. Our congregation has a strong racial/ethnic or national heritage that it is trying to preserve	3.9	5.5	8.7	11.8	70.1
K. Members are excited about future of our congregation	49.6	45.8	3.8	.8	.0
L. New people are easily incorporated into the life of our congregation	26.0	48.1	24.4	.8	.8
M. Our congregation has a clear sense of mission and purpose	56.5	29.8	12.2	.8	.8
N. Our congregation encourages public expression of speaking in tongues	6.9	10.0	8.5	10.8	63.8

2. Worship 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?	a <u>ave .3</u>	b <u>ave .7</u>	c <u>ave 2.7</u>	d <u>ave .8</u>
B. What is the total attendance for all services held on this day/time on a <b>typical</b> weekend?	a <u>ave 390</u>	b <u>ave 732</u>	c <u>ave 2913</u>	d <u>ave 807</u>
C. If you typically hold more than one service on the weekend, are these services: (✓ one)				
52.1 Very similar in style (other than the language used)				
24.3 One or more is <i>somewhat different</i> in style from the rest				
23.6 One or more is <i>very different</i> in style from the rest				



## I. Congregation Worship, continued

8. How important are the following sources of authority in the worship and teaching of your congregation? (✓ one on each line)

	<i>Absolutely Foundational</i>	<i>Very Important</i>	<i>Somewhat Important</i>	<i>Little Or No Importance</i>
A. The Bible.....	92.1	7.1	.0	.7
B. Historic creeds, doctrines & tradition .....	16.4	18.6	37.1	27.9
C. The leading of the Holy Spirit.....	58.6	33.6	7.9	.0
D. The authority of denominational leaders or if nondenomntl., your spiritual head, network overseer or elder.....	10.1	18.8	37.0	34.1
E. Human reason and understanding .....	4.3	34.8	45.7	15.2
F. Personal experience .....	6.5	45.7	42.0	5.8
G. Congregational Vision & purpose .....	27.7	51.8	15.3	5.1

H. Please check the box 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. (✓ one)

79.7	The Bible
8.0	Historic creeds, doctrines & tradition
5.8	The leading of the Holy Spirit
.0	Authority of Denominational Leaders
.0	Human reason and understanding
.7	Personal experience
5.8	Congregational Vision & Purpose

## II. Your Congregation's Location and Building

1. In approximately what **year** was this congregation officially founded? median 1956

2. In what ZIP code area is this congregation's primary worship building located?

Northeast 6.0                  South 40.4                  Northcentral 21.2                  West 32.5

3. In approximately what **year** did this congregation begin worshipping at its current location? median 1978

4. How would you describe the place where your congregation's primary worship building is located? (✓ one)

A. Rural or open country .....	.0
Town or village of less than 10,000 .....	2.0
In or around a city of 10,000 - 49,999 .....	9.2
In or around a city of 50,000-249,999 .....	26.1
In or around a city of 250,000+ .....	62.7

B. If "**In or around a city**", is your congregation located: (✓ one)

Downtown or in the inner city.....	14.3
In another part of the city .....	14.3
In an older suburb around the city .....	37.1
In a newer suburb around the city .....	34.3

C. If "**In or around a city**", is your congregation located: (✓ one)

Residential area.....	39.1
Mixed residential and commercial area.....	55.1
Commercial or industrial area.....	5.1

5. What is the total seating capacity of your sanctuary? ave. 2,040



### III. Congregational Programs, continued

N. Young adult/singles activities and programs .....	a	4.3	b	9.4	c	11.6	d	83.3
O. Senior Adult activities .....	a	5.8	b	9.4	c	8.7	d	81.9
P. Mens/Womens ministries .....	a	2.9	b	10.9	c	9.4	d	86.2
Q. National Programs .....	a	27.5	b	8.7	c	12.3	d	52.9

3. How much does your congregation, in its worship and education, emphasize the following **home or personal practices?** (✓ one on each line)

	<i>A Great Deal</i>	<i>Quite A Bit</i>	<i>Some</i>	<i>Little</i>	<i>Not At All</i>
A. Personal prayer, meditation or devotions .....	70.6	26.5	2.9	.0	.0
B. Studying the Bible .....	66.4	24.8	8.8	.0	.0
C. Family devotions .....	31.4	38.0	26.3	3.6	.7
D. Fasting.....	11.7	19.0	35.8	24.8	8.8
E. Observing dietary restrictions .....	.0	3.6	9.5	19.0	67.9
F. Abstinence from alcohol .....	11.7	14.6	20.4	23.4	29.9
G. Keeping the Sabbath holy.....	11.0	21.3	30.1	19.9	17.6
H. Abstaining from premarital sex.....	41.6	40.1	11.7	5.8	.7

4. Does your congregation have a radio ministry?            44.0 Yes    56.0 No

5. Does your congregation have a television ministry?       37.6 Yes    62.4 No

6. Does your church have an organized program for keeping up with members' needs and providing ministry at the neighborhood level (e.g. shepherding deacon/elder, care group, area pastor)?

81.3 Yes            18.7 No

7. 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?

- 6.5    Such groups do not exist within our congregation
- 43.9    A few such groups meet, but are not central to our congregations' program
- 49.6    Small groups are central to our strategy for Christian nurture and spiritual formation

8. Are new members:

Required to take informational class prior to or after becoming a member?	76.4 Yes	22.2 No
Assigned a "mentor" (a pastor or lay leader) to incorporate them into the church?	31.7 Yes	67.6 No
Strongly encouraged to volunteer in the church's ministries?	95.8 Yes	3.5 No

9. Overall, to what extent are your church members involved in recruiting new members?

28.5 Extensively            37.5 Moderately            29.9 Minimally            3.5 Not at all

10. Are efforts made to provide special parking or seating for visitors to your church? 52.5 Yes    47.5 No

11. Are visitors acknowledged in a demonstrative way (made to stand, raise hand, put on label)?            38.1 Yes    61.9 No

12. To what extent are the teenage children of church members involved in the religious life of your congregation?

27.3 Very great extent	42.4 Large extent	27.3 Some extent
2.9 Slight extent	.0 Not at all	

### III. Congregational Programs, continued

13. During the past 12 months, did your congregation do any of the following to reach out to new or inactive participants, or to make your congregation better known in your community?

	<b>Yes, Done in last 12 Months</b>	<b>----- No, but members -----</b>	
		<b>A) Would Support</b>	<b>B) Would Not Support</b>
A. Newspaper advertisements or articles .....	83.8	13.4	2.8
B. Radio or television advertisements or coverage.....	71.1	24.6	4.2
C. Direct mail promotions to area residents .....	57.6	36.0	6.5
D. A growth or evangelistic campaign/program .....	62.9	30.7	6.4
E. Efforts to identify and contact people who have recently moved into your congregation's area .....	55.8	41.3	2.9
F. Stressing the importance of witnessing to others .....	83.1	14.8	2.1
G. Special worship services intended to attract the unchurched/nonmembers, e.g., "Bring a friend" services, revivals, etc. ....	70.9	25.5	3.5
H. Special programs (e.g., parenting classes, young single nights, art festivals, street ministries) especially intended to attract unchurched persons/nonmembers in your community.....	85.9	12.7	1.4
I. Phone calls or personal visits by your pastoral staff.....	71.8	22.5	5.6
J. Phone calls or personal visits by laity .....	80.9	17.0	2.1

14. In the past 12 months, did your congregation provide or cooperate in providing any of the following services for your own congregation's members or for people in the community? "Cooperation" includes financial contributions, volunteer time by congregational members, space in your building, material donations, etc.

<b>----- Yes (Circle all that apply)-----</b>			
	<b>No</b>	<b>Provided Directly by Our Congregation</b>	<b>Cooperated With Another Congregation, Agency, Or Organization</b>
A. Food pantry or soup kitchen .....	a 1.3	b 58.6	c 45.9
B. Cash assistance to families or individuals .....	a 8.9	b 73.9	c 20.7
C. Thrift store or thrift store donations.....	a 21.7	b 41.4	c <b>35.0</b>
D. Temporary or permanent shelter/housing .....	a 21.7	b 37.6	c 38.9
E. Counseling services or "hot line" .....	a 4.5	b 79.6	c 19.7
F. Substance abuse programs.....	a 15.3	b 60.5	c 19.7
G. Day care, pre-school, before/after-school programs .....	a 21.7	b 65.6	c 5.1
H. Programs for youth & teens.....	a 1.3	b 84.7	c 12.7
I. Voter registration or voter education.....	a 38.9	b 43.3	c 8.9
J. Social issue advocacy, community organizing .....	a 38.2	b 36.3	c 19.7
K. Employment counseling, placement or training.....	a 40.1	b 34.4	c 17.2
L. Health programs/clinics/health education.....	a 31.2	b 39.5	c 22.9
M. Hospitals or nursing homes .....	a 20.4	b 49.0	c 26.8
N. Senior citizen programs (other than housing).....	a 15.9	b 64.3	c 12.7
O. Program for migrants or immigrants.....	a 56.7	b 22.9	c 11.5
P. Prison or jail ministry.....	a 8.9	b 63.7	c 24.2

15. 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 median 500

## IV. Leadership and Organizational Dynamics

1. Which of the following best describes the situation in your congregation? (✓ one)

27.0 We do *not* have any problem getting people to accept volunteer leadership roles.

71.6 Recruiting volunteer leaders is a continual challenge, but we eventually find enough willing people.

1.4 We cannot find enough people who are willing to serve.

2. Please describe your current senior pastor by checking all of the boxes that apply or filling in the requested information.

A. If you have **co-pastors**, please check here <sub>(1)</sub> and answer the following for the older of your co-pastors.

3.2

B. If you do not currently have a senior pastor, please check here <sub>(1)</sub>

1.9

C. Age? 52 Years old

D. Does this person co-pastor with spouse? 6.4 Yes

E. 99.3 Male

F. Temporary/interim? 99.3 No

G. Highest level of education: (✓ one)

2.7 High school diploma or less

4.1 Some college or technical

34.7 College Bachelor's Degree

27.9 Master's Degree

30.6 Doctoral Degree

H. Highest level of ministerial education: (✓ one)

3.6 None

1.5 Certificate or correspondence program

21.9 Bible college or some seminary

30.7 Seminary Master's degree (e.g., M. Div)

42.3 Post-Master's Seminary degree (e.g., D.Min)

I. Race/ethnicity: (✓ one)

4.1 American Indian/Alaska Native

1.4 Hispanic or Latino

0.0 Asian

0.0 Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander

6.1 Black or African American

87.8 White

0.7 Other

K. This person became your senior pastor in what year? Median 1987

L. Did your church's phenomenal growth occur primarily during this pastor's tenure?

3. How many senior pastors, including the current one, have served this congregation during the past 10 years?

Ave. 1.5

4. How long was the previous senior pastor employed by this congregation? Ave. 15.5 years

5. How many paid ministerial and program staff does this congregation have?

A. Number Full time, paid ave. 12.6

B. Number Part time, paid ave.2.9

6. How many paid program staff does this congregation have?

A. Number Full time, paid ave. 25.3

B. Number Part time, paid ave.14.4

7. How many volunteer workers (giving 5+ hours a week) does the church have? Ave. 296.5

**IV. Leadership and Organizational Dynamics, continued**

6. Is your congregation:

Associated with a denomination? 66.9% yes

Independent or nondenominational? 29.0 % If yes, has it always been independent? 82.0%

Part of a network, fellowship, or association? 20.0% Yes

If networked, what is the name of the Network, Fellowship, or Association?

What is the approximate number of churches in the network? Median 500

When was the network, Fellowship, or Association founded? median 1985

In what city & state is the headquarters or current central leader located?

7. During the last 12 months, has your congregation been involved in any of the following types of inter-congregational, ecumenical or interfaith activities?

*Circle all "yeses" that apply  
With other congregations or persons:*

	<i>From our denom. or other nondenom. groups</i>	<i>From other Christian Denominations</i>	<i>From Other Faith Traditions</i>
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A. Joint worship services .....	a 39.9	b 25.5	c 34.0	d 11.8
B. Joint celebrations or programs other than worship ...	a 30.7	b 23.5	c 32.0	d 13.7
C. Joint social outreach or service projects .....	a 28.1	b 25.5	c 40.5	d 14.4
D. Councils of churches or ministerial associations .....	a 36.6	b 19.0	c 33.3	d 12.4

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

3.1 Exclusively from sources in our denomination	19.8	Primarily from outside our denomination
24.4 Primarily from sources in our denomination	3.8	Exclusively from outside our denomination
29.8 From a pretty even balance in and outside our denomination	19.1	We create all our own material

9. Does your congregation operate a Christian elementary or secondary school? 41.7 Yes 58.3 No

10. Does it have a Bible school or Institute? 30.4 Yes 69.6 No

11. Does your church sponsor Pastor's or ministerial conferences? 46.9 Yes 53.2 No

12. Does your church regularly use computers? 100.0 Yes

If YES, what is the computer used for?

99.3 Word processing	89.5 Demographic group mailings
99.3 Membership records and data reports	98.7 Email, listserv communications
99.3 Financial records and budget reports	98.7 Web information or church page

13. Does your church have an email address? 98.6 Yes

14. Does your church have a web site? 99.3 Yes

## V. Participants:

1. Approximately how many persons would you say are associated **in any way** with the religious life of this congregation—counting all adults and children, regular and irregular participants, members and also participating nonmembers?  

→ → Number ave. 6,876
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) → → → → → → → ave. 3392
  - B. Number of **regularly participating** children and teens (17 and under) → → ave. 1348

### V. Participants, continued

3. What was (or is) the **average** weekly attendance (including adults and children) for the following years?  

1349 1980
1570 1985
2053 1990
2951 1995

4. Of your total number of **regularly participating adults**, what percent would you estimate are: (✓ one each line)

	None	Hardly Any 1-10%	Few 11-20%	Some 21-40%	Many 41-60%	Most 61-80%	All Or Nearly All 81-100%
A. Female.....	.0	.0	.0	6.7	88.1	3.7	1.5
B. Not high school graduate.....	.0	51.1	32.1	11.5	2.3	3.1	.0
C. College graduates.....	.0	.8	6.2	29.2	38.5	21.5	3.8
D. Age 35 or younger .....	.0	.8	5.3	48.1	36.1	9.0	.8
E. Over 60 years old .....	.0	15.8	36.1	33.1	12.0	3.0	.0
F. Married.....	.0	1.5	2.3	12.2	53.4	28.2	2.3
G. Grew up in this denom. OR if Nondenom., grew up independent.....	.8	12.4	20.9	22.5	20.9	15.5	7.0
H. New to our congregation in the last five years.....	.0	3.7	25.4	32.1	29.1	7.5	2.2
I. Live in the immediate area around our church building .....	.0	15.0	21.1	30.1	18.8	12.0	3.0
J. Commute more than 15 minutes to get to our worship services.....	.0	9.0	14.2	39.6	25.4	9.7	2.2
K. Currently holding <b>volunteer leadership roles</b> in our congregation, e.g., serving on committees, teaching “Sunday school”, etc. ....	.0	1.5	26.9	44.8	24.6	2.2	.0
L. In households with incomes below \$20,000.....	3.0	50.0	30.3	11.4	4.5	.8	.0
M. In households with incomes above \$75,000 .....	.0	4.6	24.4	32.1	26.0	13.0	.0
N. In households with children under age 18 present.....	.0	2.4	5.5	38.6	47.2	6.3	.0

5. Of your total number of **regularly participating adults**, what percent (please report whole percents, no decimals) would you estimate are:

a. American Indian/Alaska Native	0.6%	e. Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	0.9%
b. Asian	2.1%	f. White	79.5%
c. Black or African American	10.5%	g. Biracial/Multiracial	1.7%
d. Hispanic or Latino	5.5%		



## VII. Notes

### Background

The Cooperative Congregational Studies Project is a joint effort with 44 faith groups and denominations to assess religious life in the U. S. on the congregational level. The Hartford Institute for Religion Research, Hartford Seminary, coordinates the project, which is partially funded by the Lilly Endowment.

### Methodology

Part of the project is the FACT (Faith Communities Today) survey. The U. S. megachurch survey was conducted in February – April 2000.

Unless specified otherwise, the numbers listed in these results are valid percentages. That is, they are the percent of respondents to that particular item, not the percent of total (153) respondents.

The sum of percentages may not total 100.0 due to rounding.

Other data listed includes “ave,” the average, or an arithmetic mean; and “median,” or the midpoint at which half of the responses are above and half are below.

**Response rate:** We received 153 usable surveys from a sample size of 600 churches, a response rate of 25.5% percent.