

## Appendix: Tables

We present four tables. Tables 1 and 2, “Continuity and Change in American Congregations,” facilitate comparisons over time, giving values for virtually all items asked in 2012 and also asked in one or both of the earlier NCS survey waves. Table 3, “2012 National Congregations Study Basic Findings,” gives values for almost every item on the Wave III questionnaire and provides a simple overview of the 2012 data. In Table 4, “Characteristics of Assistant, Associate, and Other Ministerial Staff,” we present information about secondary staff at the level of the individual staff person.

There are two kinds of numbers provided in Tables 1, 2, and 3, labeled “Attendees’ Perspective” and “Congregations’ Perspective.” Both sets of numbers are meaningful, but they provide slightly different views of the NCS data. Look at the attendees’ perspective if you want to know about the characteristics of the congregation attended by the average worship service attendee or the percent of persons in U.S. congregations of a certain type. Look at the congregations’ perspective if you want to know about the characteristics of the average congregation or the percent of congregations of a certain type.

A contrived example helps clarify the difference between these two perspectives: Suppose that the universe contains only two congregations, one with 1,000 regular attendees and the other with 100 regular attendees. Suppose further that the 1,000-person congregation supports a food pantry and the 100-person congregation does not. We can express this reality in one of two ways. We can say that 91% of the people are in a congregation that supports a food pantry (1,000/1,100), or we can say that 50% of the congregations support a food pantry (1/2). Both of these are meaningful numbers. The first number views congregations from the perspective of the average attendee, and the second number views them from the perspective of the average congregation.

Here is another example using actual NCS data: In exploring the facts about the gender of congregations’ senior leaders, you might be interested in the percent of people who attend U.S. congregations that are led by female senior clergy. The attendees’ perspective column on the second page of both Tables 1 and 3 shows that as of 2012, 6.2% of U.S. worshippers are in congregations led by a female clergy person. On the other hand, you might be interested in the percent of *congregations* that are led by females. The congregations’ perspective column on the second page of Tables 2 and 3 shows that 11.4% of congregations have female senior clergy.

The tables also contain many endnotes. While some of these notes provide clarification on item wording or other issues across surveys, the vast majority of these notes indicate the denominators for given percentages. It is important to keep these denominators in mind since interpretations and impressions about the meaning of a percentage change with its denominator. For example, on page 52 in Table 3, the “Congregations’ Perspective” column shows that 33.3% of regular attendees are in congregations with lobbying or marching activities related to abortion; however, note 22 tells us that this is not 33.3% of all congregations, but 33.3% of congregations who participated in lobbying or marching activities. The percent for all congregations is 5.0 (33.3% of the 15.1% who lobbied and/or marched). Thus, instead of concluding that a rather significant number of American congregations have recently marched or lobbied about abortion, we conclude that only 1 in 20 congregations are involved in such activities. The appropriate interpretation of this percentage depends entirely on its denominator.

**Table 1. Continuity and Change in American Congregations:  
Attendees' Perspective**

This table provides descriptive statistics for many items contained in multiple NCS waves. Values for a single variable in different years that are followed by different lower case letters are different from one another at the 0.05 level of statistical significance.<sup>1</sup> All comparisons are t-tests of means, even when medians are reported. Where no differences are statistically significant, letters are omitted. Sometimes a mean difference between years is statistically significant even when the median is unchanged.

We use a slightly updated version of the 1998 and 2006-07 datasets, so these numbers may not exactly match values produced from the previously available datasets. Means and medians refer to the congregation attended by the average participant (attendee) in religious services.<sup>2</sup> Percentages give the percentage of attendees in congregations with the stated characteristic.

	1998	2006-07	2012
<b>AGE AND SIZE</b>			
Median founding date	1924 <sup>a</sup>	1940 <sup>a</sup>	1946 <sup>b</sup>
Median congregation age (yrs)	74	66	66
Number of people associated in any way with the congregation's religious life:			
Mean	2558 <sup>ab</sup>	2399 <sup>a</sup>	3278 <sup>b</sup>
Median	750	700	800
Number of people regularly participating in the congregation's religious life: <sup>3</sup>			
Mean	1183 <sup>a</sup>	1167 <sup>a</sup>	1540 <sup>b</sup>
Median	400	400	400
Number of <i>adults</i> regularly participating in the congregation's religious life:			
Mean	779 <sup>a</sup>	794 <sup>a</sup>	1068 <sup>b</sup>
Median	275	280	310
Percent for whom the number of regularly participating adults in the last two years has:			
Increased	--	49.2 <sup>a</sup>	36.5 <sup>b</sup>
Remained about the same	--	36.2	34.0
Decreased	--	14.6 <sup>a</sup>	29.5 <sup>b</sup>
<b>RELIGIOUS TRADITION<sup>4</sup></b>			
Roman Catholic	28.8	27.9	27.7
White evangelical Protestant	33.4	37.3	37.6
White mainline Protestant	24.0 <sup>a</sup>	20.0 <sup>ab</sup>	17.1 <sup>b</sup>
Black Protestant	10.5	11.4	12.9
Jewish	1.6	1.6	2.1
Muslim	0.4	0.4	0.7
Buddhist	0.1	0.3	0.3
Hindu	0.2	0.4	0.6
Other non-Christian	1.1	0.6	1.0
Percent with no denominational affiliation	10.4 <sup>a</sup>	14.0 <sup>ab</sup>	15.0 <sup>b</sup>
<b>BUILDING AND FINANCE</b>			
Percent owning their own building	94.9	94.9	92.6
Percent meeting in a:			
Church, synagogue, temple, or mosque	92.9 <sup>a</sup>	97.3 <sup>b</sup>	95.7 <sup>ab</sup>
School	3.3 <sup>a</sup>	0.8 <sup>b</sup>	1.0 <sup>b</sup>
Other kind of building	3.8	2.0	3.3

**Table 1. Continuity and Change in American Congregations: Attendees' Perspective** (continued)

	1998	2006–07	2012
Percent with a formal written budget	87.7	88.8	90.8
Median income in past year	\$260,000 <sup>a</sup>	\$380,000 <sup>b</sup>	\$450,000 <sup>c</sup>
Median income from individuals in past year	\$230,000 <sup>a</sup>	\$330,000 <sup>b</sup>	\$400,000 <sup>c</sup>
Median budget for past year	\$250,000 <sup>a</sup>	\$350,000 <sup>b</sup>	\$450,000 <sup>c</sup>
Percent receiving income in the past year from sale or rent of building or property <sup>5</sup>	38.2 <sup>a</sup>	30.6 <sup>b</sup>	35.2
Median amount of income from rental or sale of building or property in past year <sup>6</sup>	\$4,845	\$9,000	\$10,000
Percent giving money to denomination in the past year	82.8 <sup>a</sup>	80.2 <sup>a</sup>	74.8 <sup>ab</sup>
Median amount given to denominations in past year <sup>7</sup>	\$20,800 <sup>a</sup>	\$25,000 <sup>ab</sup>	\$32,000 <sup>b</sup>
Percent with an endowment, savings account, or reserve fund	73.9	73.3	77.2
Median amount in endowment, savings, or reserve <sup>8</sup>	\$70,000 <sup>a</sup>	\$100,000 <sup>ab</sup>	\$150,000 <sup>b</sup>
<b>LEADERSHIP</b>			
Percent with a head clergy person or leader	95.5	97.0	95.7
Percent with full-time head clergy person or leader <sup>9</sup>	--	87.0	89.9
Percent with female head clergy person or leader	5.5	4.6	6.2
Percent with head clergy person or leader of each race or ethnicity:			
White	83.9 <sup>a</sup>	79.5 <sup>ab</sup>	75.5 <sup>b</sup>
Black	11.9	13.0	14.6
Hispanic	2.1 <sup>a</sup>	3.3 <sup>ab</sup>	6.0 <sup>b</sup>
Asian/Pacific Islander	1.4 <sup>a</sup>	3.1 <sup>ab</sup>	3.5 <sup>b</sup>
Other	0.7	1.1	0.5
Median number of years senior clergy person in current position <sup>10</sup>	6.0 <sup>a</sup>	6.0 <sup>ab</sup>	6.0 <sup>b</sup>
Median age of senior clergy person	51 <sup>a</sup>	54 <sup>b</sup>	55 <sup>b</sup>
Percent for whom head clergy person has highest education level of:			
Less than high school	1.4	--	0.9
High school diploma or GED, with or without one or more years of college	9.4	--	12.1
Bachelor's degree	15.0	--	15.4
Graduate Degree	74.2	--	71.6
Percent for whom head clergy person has following characteristics:			
Currently attends seminary or theological school	--	13.0	7.6
Ordained to full clergy status	--	97.1	96.9
Paid for work in congregation	--	92.5	94.3
Also serves another congregation	--	11.2	11.1
Also holds another job	--	17.4	17.7
<b>PAID STAFF</b>			
Percent with the following characteristics:			
No paid staff <sup>11</sup>	7.0	4.9	4.8
No full-time staff	14.7	11.5	11.9
1 full-time staff person	20.4	22.6	21.5
2 or more full-time staff people	64.9	65.9	66.6
No full-time ministerial staff <sup>12</sup>	--	12.6	13.1
1 full-time ministerial staff person	--	33.4	32.2

**Table 1. Continuity and Change in American Congregations: Attendees' Perspective** (continued)

	1998	2006–07	2012
2 or more full-time ministerial staff people	--	54.0	54.7
No part-time staff	17.0	16.1	15.1
1 part-time staff person	10.0	10.3	10.3
2 or more part-time staff people	73.0	73.6	74.6
Number of full-time paid staff: <sup>13</sup>			
Mean	7.8	9.1	9.5
Median	3.0	3.0	3.0
Number of full-time paid ministerial staff:			
Mean	--	3.6	4.4
Median	--	2.0	2.0
Number of part-time paid staff:			
Mean	5.9 <sup>a</sup>	5.8 <sup>a</sup>	7.4 <sup>b</sup>
Median	3.0	4.0	4.0
Percent for whom the number of full-time paid staff in past year has:			
Increased	--	17.5	14.3
Stayed the same	--	74.5	76.0
Decreased	--	7.9	9.7
<b>WORSHIP</b>			
Percent with 1 service in typical week	14.3	14.5	17.8
Percent with 2 or more services in typical week	85.6	85.3	82.2
Percent reporting important differences between services on typical weekend	--	50.1 <sup>a</sup>	42.3 <sup>b</sup>
Median length of most recent main service (minutes)	70	70	70
Median length of most recent sermon (minutes) <sup>14</sup>	20 <sup>a</sup>	20 <sup>b</sup>	22 <sup>b</sup>
Median number of minutes of music at most recent main service	20	20	20
Median number of socializing minutes before / after typical service	30	30	30
Median attendance at most recent main service	230	200	225
Median total attendance (adults and children) at <i>all</i> services during the past weekend	--	350 <sup>a</sup>	400 <sup>b</sup>
Median number of regularly participating adults attending more than one service in past week <sup>15</sup>	40	50	50
Percent of most recent main services with each characteristic:			
Sermon or speech	97.2	98.0	98.4
Speaker came down from the chancel during sermon	--	43.4	42.3
Singing by congregation	98.1	97.1	98.4
Singing by choir	72.3 <sup>a</sup>	58.0 <sup>b</sup>	57.2 <sup>b</sup>
Time to greet one another	84.6	86.7	88.2
Congregants joining hands	--	38.0	43.2
Leader wearing robe or special garments	--	52.2	46.3
People saying "Amen"	52.8 <sup>a</sup>	60.4 <sup>b</sup>	59.5 <sup>b</sup>
Applause	58.7	59.1	62.2
Adults jump, shout, or dance spontaneously	13.1 <sup>a</sup>	17.3 <sup>a</sup>	22.1 <sup>b</sup>

**Table 1. Continuity and Change in American Congregations: Attendees' Perspective** (continued)

	1998	2006–07	2012
Raise hands in praise	48.1 <sup>a</sup>	55.2 <sup>b</sup>	59.0 <sup>b</sup>
Written order of service	84.2 <sup>a</sup>	75.4 <sup>b</sup>	69.1 <sup>c</sup>
Visual projection equipment	14.8 <sup>a</sup>	32.4 <sup>b</sup>	45.0 <sup>c</sup>
Organ used	70.1 <sup>a</sup>	--	56.0 <sup>b</sup>
Drums used	25.1 <sup>a</sup>	36.4 <sup>b</sup>	45.5 <sup>c</sup>
Guitar used	--	43.7	49.2
Percent with the following in any worship in past year:			
Speaking in tongues	19.5	20.6	24.6
People told of opportunities for political activity	36.8 <sup>a</sup>	29.5 <sup>b</sup>	24.3 <sup>c</sup>
People told of opportunities for volunteer activity	--	96.2	95.3
Time for people other than leaders to testify	72.1 <sup>a</sup>	78.7 <sup>b</sup>	74.4 <sup>ab</sup>
Percent with any Spanish or bilingual (Spanish/English) service in typical week	--	16.3	19.4
<b>DOCTRINE AND CULTURE</b>			
Percent encouraging use of NIV Bible rather than other translations	21.9 <sup>a</sup>	--	15.7 <sup>b</sup>
Percent considering Bible to be literal and inerrant	63.0 <sup>a</sup>	70.7 <sup>b</sup>	71.3 <sup>b</sup>
Percent saying their congregation would be considered <i>politically</i> :			
More on the conservative side	55.2	54.1	52.2
Right in the middle	37.0	38.7	37.8
More on the liberal side	7.8	7.2	10.0
Percent saying their congregation would be considered <i>theologically</i> :			
More on the conservative side	52.7	57.8	59.0
Right in the middle	37.6 <sup>a</sup>	33.4 <sup>ab</sup>	28.8 <sup>b</sup>
More on the liberal side	9.8	8.8	12.2
<b>GROUPS AND SPEAKERS</b>			
Number of regularly participating teenagers:			
Mean	--	100 <sup>a</sup>	144 <sup>b</sup>
Median	--	30	35
Percent with youth minister	--	77.2	76.6
Percent with a group in the past year focused on the following:			
Discuss politics	12.5	15.5	13.2
Voter registration	12.4 <sup>a</sup>	27.3 <sup>b</sup>	23.4 <sup>b</sup>
Get out the vote during an election	--	25.0	26.4
English as a second language	9.0 <sup>a</sup>	14.2 <sup>b</sup>	15.5 <sup>b</sup>
Receive or practice gifts of spirit	19.7	15.6	19.0
Class to train new teachers	67.6	65.1	69.1
Discuss/learn about another religion	29.8 <sup>a</sup>	37.4 <sup>b</sup>	37.8 <sup>b</sup>
Discuss/learn about managing personal finances	33.1 <sup>a</sup>	--	47.7 <sup>b</sup>
Discuss management of congregation's money	55.6 <sup>a</sup>	--	72.2 <sup>b</sup>
Assess community needs	48.1 <sup>a</sup>	57.1 <sup>b</sup>	67.8 <sup>c</sup>
Volunteer or service project with people from another faith	--	51.9 <sup>a</sup>	65.5 <sup>b</sup>

**Table 1. Continuity and Change in American Congregations: Attendees' Perspective** (continued)

	1998	2006–07	2012
Strategic planning and future goals of congregation	--	89.0 <sup>a</sup>	93.8 <sup>b</sup>
Travel in U.S. to assist people in need	--	49.8	44.7
Travel abroad to assist people in need	--	42.2	41.8
Percent with organized effort to help members of congregation	--	89.2	85.4
Percent with organized effort to provide members with health-focused programs	--	41.3	42.8
Percent having any visiting speakers in the past year	89.6	86.2	86.7
Speaker was: <sup>16</sup>			
Elected government official	13.8	14.3	12.9
Denominational representative	69.2	74.6	70.9
Representative of social service organization	44.0 <sup>a</sup>	54.0 <sup>b</sup>	54.9 <sup>b</sup>
Someone running for office	7.1	7.5	6.9
Percent with members serving on denominational committees in past year	--	77.9	75.4
<b>POLITICAL ACTIVITIES</b>			
Percent distributing voter guides <sup>17</sup>	26.5	25.6	24.2
Percent with a group in past year to lobby an elected official	12.0	14.5	15.7
Percent with a group in past year to participate in demonstration or march	21.5	20.2	24.8
Lobbying or marching related to: <sup>18</sup>			
Immigration	--	18.1	24.1
Abortion	--	53.4	63.4
Poverty/welfare, social services support	--	15.7	--
Poverty	--	--	42.0
Gay and lesbian issues	--	13.7	--
Same-sex marriage	--	--	24.3
<b>SOCIAL SERVICES</b>			
Percent participating in any social service programs in past year	--	89.4	91.7
Median amount spent on social service programs in the past year <sup>19</sup>	--	\$5,000 <sup>a</sup>	\$10,000 <sup>b</sup>
Percent with anyone on paid staff spending more than 25% of their time on congregation's social service projects	--	20.8	23.5
Percent with outside funding support for social service programs	--	16.5	14.3
Percent with outside funding support from local, state, or federal government	--	5.8	3.9
Percent who have applied in past two years for a government grant	--	9.5	9.2
Percent who have started a separate non-profit organization in past two years for human services or outreach ministries	--	10.1	12.3
<b>SOCIAL COMPOSITION</b>			
Median percent of regular adult participants:			
Who are female <sup>20</sup>	60.0 <sup>a</sup>	60.0 <sup>ab</sup>	60.0 <sup>b</sup>
With at least a four-year college degree	30.0 <sup>a</sup>	40.0 <sup>b</sup>	40.0 <sup>b</sup>
Over 60 years old	25.0 <sup>a</sup>	30.0 <sup>b</sup>	30.0 <sup>b</sup>
Under 35 years old <sup>21</sup>	25.0 <sup>a</sup>	25.0 <sup>b</sup>	25.0 <sup>b</sup>
Who live more than a 30 minute drive from meeting place	5.0	5.0	5.0
With household income under \$25,000/year	20.0 <sup>a</sup>	10.0 <sup>b</sup>	--
With household income under \$35,000/year	--	--	20.0

**Table 1. Continuity and Change in American Congregations: Attendees' Perspective** (continued)

	1998	2006–07	2012
With household income higher than \$100,000/year	5.0 <sup>a</sup>	10.0 <sup>b</sup>	--
With household income higher than \$140,000/year	--	--	10.0
Living in households with two parents and at least one child	50.0 <sup>a</sup>	50.0 <sup>ab</sup>	45.0 <sup>b</sup>
Serving in leadership role in past year	20.0	20.0	20.0
Percent with regular adult participant composition:			
At least 80% white and non-Hispanic	71.6 <sup>a</sup>	65.6 <sup>b</sup>	57.4 <sup>c</sup>
At least 80% black	12.1	12.0	13.6
More than 0% Hispanic	57.0 <sup>a</sup>	64.0 <sup>b</sup>	65.4 <sup>b</sup>
At least 80% Hispanic	1.5 <sup>a</sup>	4.0 <sup>b</sup>	7.7 <sup>c</sup>
More than 0% Asian or Pacific Islander	41.0 <sup>a</sup>	49.7 <sup>b</sup>	48.8 <sup>b</sup>
More than 0% American Indian	--	21.0	15.8
More than 0% immigrated to the U.S. in past five years	39.4 <sup>a</sup>	50.7 <sup>b</sup>	48.1 <sup>b</sup>
<b>MEMBERS AND LAY LEADERS</b>			
Percent allowing openly gay or lesbian couple in committed relationship to:			
Hold full-fledged membership	--	48.8	51.1
Hold any volunteer leadership positions open to other members	--	21.9	27.0
Percent allowing women to:			
Hold all volunteer leadership positions that men can hold	--	79.6	82.0
Serve as full-fledged members of main governing body	--	86.1	87.8
Teach by themselves a class with adult men in it	--	87.8	89.7
Preach at a main worship service	--	56.7	53.6
Be head clergy person or primary religious leader	--	39.3	42.3
<b>GEOGRAPHY</b>			
Percent in each region: <sup>22</sup>			
Northeast and Mid-Atlantic	19.5 <sup>a</sup>	15.4 <sup>ab</sup>	12.7 <sup>b</sup>
East North Central and West North Central	24.3	24.4	25.9
South Atlantic, East South Central, and West South Central	38.5	38.7	42.3
Mountain and Pacific	17.7	21.5	19.1
<b>NEIGHBORHOOD CHARACTERISTICS</b>			
Percent in census tracts with at least 30% of individuals below the poverty line	10.1 <sup>a</sup>	10.4 <sup>ab</sup>	14.4 <sup>b</sup>
Percent in census tracts where at least 5% of people are Hispanic	29.2 <sup>a</sup>	39.6 <sup>b</sup>	55.8 <sup>c</sup>
Percent in census tracts where at least 80% of people are African-American	5.0	4.0	3.6
Percent in predominantly urban census tracts	60.9 <sup>a</sup>	66.8 <sup>a</sup>	73.1 <sup>b</sup>
Percent in predominantly rural census tracts	23.3 <sup>a</sup>	17.8 <sup>b</sup>	14.7 <sup>b</sup>
<b>OTHER</b>			
Percent with an elementary or high school	23.4	20.9	23.5
Percent with a website	28.7 <sup>a</sup>	74.3 <sup>b</sup>	83.0 <sup>c</sup>
Percent with member publicly acknowledging HIV infection	--	9.4	11.6

- 1 For example, the average (mean) number of people regularly participating in the religious life of a congregation is not significantly different between 1998 and 2006, but 2012 is different from both previous waves. Hence, the 1998 and 2006 values are followed by the same letter (“a”), and 2012 is followed by a different one (“b”). In a different example, the percent of congregations with no denominational affiliation is not different between the years 1998 and 2006 (both followed by “a”) or between 2006 and 2012 (both followed by “b”), but 1998 and 2012 are significantly different from one another.
- 2 To get results that represent the average attendee, data weighting ignores the over-representation of larger congregations, but consider duplicate nominations (congregations nominated by more than one person in the GSS), the 2012 oversample of Hispanic congregations, and other relevant characteristics of the survey. The weighting variable used for this table is termed “wt\_all3\_attendee” in the publicly available dataset. For more information on weights, see the NCS Cumulative Codebook for Waves I, II, and III, available at <http://www.soc.duke.edu/natcong/>.
- 3 One extreme outlying observation in 2012 has been removed from this and the following two size variables.
- 4 The largest groups in the mainline Protestant category are, in size order beginning with the largest, the United Methodist Church, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, Presbyterian Church (USA), Episcopal Church, United Church of Christ, American Baptist Churches in the USA, Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), and Unitarian Universalist. The largest groups in the evangelical Protestant category are nondenominational congregations, the Southern Baptist Convention, Assemblies of God, Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Jehovah’s Witnesses, Churches of Christ, Seventh-day Adventists, Baptist General Conference/Convention, Church of the Nazarene, Christian and Missionary Alliance, Baptist Missionary Association of America, Evangelical Free Church, and Church of God (Anderson). The Black Protestant category includes all predominantly African American Protestant churches, whatever their denominational affiliation. The largest groups are the National Baptist Convention, USA, Inc., Church of God in Christ, and African Methodist Episcopal. No other denomination or group in any of these categories is represented by more than 15 congregations in the NCS sample. Congregations are placed within a religious tradition even if they do not have a formal denominational affiliation. For example, a majority-white, independent Baptist church can be placed into the evangelical Protestant category. Therefore, the categories in the Religious Tradition section sum to more than 100% when including those with “no denominational affiliation.”
- 5 In 1998 and 2006, this question asked about both rental and sale income, but in 2012 it asked only about rental income. Therefore, statistical comparison is only possible between the first two waves.
- 6 Calculated only for those congregations that earned rental or sale income from property in past year.
- 7 Calculated only for those congregations that gave any money to their denominations.
- 8 Calculated only for those congregations with an endowment, savings, or reserve account.
- 9 This and all following head clergy person characteristics are calculated only for those congregations who have a head clergy person.
- 10 While medians are the same, the mean for this variable is significantly higher in 2012 (9.3) than in 1998 (8.3). The mean for 2006 (8.9) is not significantly different from the other two years.
- 11 Although respondents were asked in all waves how many people work in the congregation as paid staff, in 2006-07 and 2012 the question was prefaced with “including you” (if the respondent was an employee), and interviewers were trained in 2006-07 and 2012 to probe to make sure that informants included themselves. We believe this difference is behind the initial decrease in the percent of congregations with no paid staff.
- 12 Ministerial staff members are those primarily engaged in religious work, that is, not secretaries or custodians.
- 13 One congregation with extreme values in staff variables was removed from this analysis and other calculations of mean and median staff members per congregation.
- 14 While medians for 1998 and 2006 are the same, the mean for this variable is significantly higher in 2006 (25.4) than in 1998 (23.4). The mean for 2012 (26.0) is not significantly different from 2006.
- 15 Calculated only for those congregations that report two or more services in a typical week.
- 16 Calculated only for those congregations that hosted a visiting speaker in the past year.
- 17 In 1998 respondents were asked if their congregation had ever distributed voter guides; in 2006-07 and 2012, respondents were asked if their congregation had distributed voter guides *within the past two years*.
- 18 Calculated only for those congregations that lobbied elected officials and/or demonstrated/marched. In 1998, 2006, and 2012, respectively, this applied to 25.8%, 27.4%, and 29.2% of regular attendees.
- 19 This item and the following social service values are calculated only for those congregations that participated in social service programs or projects in the past year.
- 20 While medians are the same, the mean for this variable is significantly higher in 2012 (59.9%) than in 1998 (58.3%). The mean for 2006 (59.7%) is not significantly different from the other two years.
- 21 While medians are the same, the mean for this variable is significantly higher in 1998 (29.8%) than in 2006 (27.6%) and in 2012 (27.7%). The means for 2006 and 2012 are not significantly different from one another.
- 22 Northeast states are ME, NH, VT, MA, RI, CT. Mid-Atlantic states are NY, NJ, PA. East North Central states are OH, IN, IL, MI, WI. West North Central states are MN, IA, MO, ND, SD, NE, KS. South Atlantic states are DE, MD, DC, VA, WV, NC, SC, GA, FL. East South Central states are KY, TN, AL, MS. West South Central states are AR, LA, OK, TX. Mountain states are MT, ID, WY, CO, NM, AZ, UT, NV. Pacific states are WA, OR, CA, AK, HI.



**Table 2. Continuity and Change in American Congregations:  
Congregations' Perspective**

This table provides descriptive statistics for many items contained in more than one NCS wave. Values for a single variable in different years that are followed by different lower case letters are different from one another at the 0.05 level of statistical significance.<sup>1</sup> All comparisons are t-tests of means, even when medians are reported. Where no differences are statistically significant, letters are omitted. Sometimes a mean difference between years is statistically significant even when the median is unchanged.

We use a slightly updated version of the 1998 and 2006-07 datasets, so these numbers may not exactly match values produced from the previously available datasets. Means and medians refer to the average congregation.<sup>2</sup> Percentages give the percentage of congregations with the stated characteristic.

	1998	2006-07	2012
<b>AGE AND SIZE</b>			
Median founding date	1938 <sup>a</sup>	1944 <sup>a</sup>	1954 <sup>b</sup>
Median congregation age (yrs)	60	62	58
Number of people associated in any way with the congregation's religious life: <sup>3</sup>			
Mean	414	396	404
Median	150	150	135
Number of people regularly participating in the congregation's religious life:			
Mean	185	184	183
Median	80	75	70
Number of <i>adults</i> regularly participating in the congregation's religious life:			
Mean	120	124	120
Median	50	50	50
Percent for whom the number of regularly participating adults in the last two years has:			
Increased	--	42.5 <sup>a</sup>	26.3 <sup>b</sup>
Remained about the same	--	40.3	36.5
Decreased	--	17.2 <sup>a</sup>	37.3 <sup>b</sup>
<b>RELIGIOUS TRADITION<sup>4</sup></b>			
Roman Catholic	7.3	6.0	5.5
White evangelical Protestant	45.7	47.8	46.1
White mainline Protestant	26.3	19.7	20.3
Black Protestant	15.8	23.4	21.4
Jewish	1.0	1.4	1.6
Muslim	0.9	0.4	1.1
Buddhist	0.0	0.1	1.1
Hindu	0.1	0.3	0.6
Other non-Christian	2.9	0.9	2.3
Percent with no denominational affiliation	18.1	20.4	23.5
<b>BUILDING AND FINANCE</b>			
Percent owning their own building	87.6	89.7	84.6
Percent meeting in a:			
Church, synagogue, temple, or mosque	87.3	92.7	88.9
School	5.0	1.0	1.8
Other kind of building	7.8	6.3	9.3

**Table 2. Continuity and Change in American Congregations: Congregations' Perspective** (continued)

	1998	2006–07	2012
Percent with a formal written budget	72.8	75.3	76.4
Median income in past year	\$60,000 <sup>a</sup>	\$96,000 <sup>b</sup>	\$95,000 <sup>b</sup>
Median income from individuals in past year	\$55,000 <sup>a</sup>	\$85,000 <sup>b</sup>	\$84,000 <sup>b</sup>
Median budget for past year	\$60,000 <sup>a</sup>	\$94,000 <sup>b</sup>	\$85,000 <sup>b</sup>
Percent receiving income in the past year from sale or rent of building or property <sup>5</sup>	24.0	21.3	22.3
Median amount of income from rental or sale of building or property in past year <sup>6</sup>	\$1,500	\$7,000	\$5,000
Percent giving money to denomination in the past year	73.6 <sup>ab</sup>	74.2 <sup>a</sup>	62.7 <sup>b</sup>
Median amount given to denominations in past year <sup>7</sup>	\$5,000	\$7,000	\$7,500
Percent with an endowment, savings account, or reserve fund	59.8	57.3	60.5
Median amount in endowment, savings, or reserve <sup>8</sup>	\$20,000 <sup>a</sup>	\$30,000 <sup>ab</sup>	\$33,000 <sup>b</sup>
<b>LEADERSHIP</b>			
Percent with a head clergy person or leader	92.3	95.0	94.2
Percent with full-time head clergy person or leader <sup>9</sup>	--	63.2	71.4
Percent with female head clergy person or leader	10.6	7.9	11.4
Percent with head clergy person or leader of each race or ethnicity:			
White	76.9	69.2	67.5
Black	18.6	25.0	23.3
Hispanic	1.8 <sup>ab</sup>	1.9 <sup>a</sup>	5.7 <sup>b</sup>
Asian/Pacific Islander	1.7	2.5	2.7
Other	0.9	1.4	0.9
Median number of years senior clergy person in current position	4.0	5.0	6.0
Median age of senior clergy person	49 <sup>a</sup>	53 <sup>b</sup>	55 <sup>c</sup>
Percent for whom head clergy person has highest education level of:			
Less than high school	5.7	--	3.2
High school diploma or GED, with or without one or more years of college	22.3	--	25.2
Bachelor's degree	19.8	--	22.9
Graduate Degree	52.2	--	48.7
Percent with head clergy person having following characteristics:			
Currently attends seminary or theological school	--	11.7	7.0
Ordained to full clergy status	--	94.0	92.6
Paid for work in congregation	--	80.7	86.2
Also serves another congregation	--	13.6	16.3
Also holds another job	--	37.0	34.3
<b>PAID STAFF</b>			
Percent with the following characteristics:			
No paid staff <sup>10</sup>	22.6 <sup>a</sup>	12.4 <sup>b</sup>	13.0 <sup>ab</sup>
No full-time staff	39.3	34.6	35.9
1 full-time staff person	34.5	36.0	39.7
2 or more full-time staff people	26.2	29.4	24.4
No full-time ministerial staff <sup>11</sup>	--	36.8	37.8
1 full-time ministerial staff person	--	44.1	46.3

**Table 2. Continuity and Change in American Congregations: Congregations' Perspective** (continued)

	1998	2006–07	2012
2 or more full-time ministerial staff people	--	19.1	15.9
No part-time staff	41.6	32.7	33.1
1 part-time staff person	17.3	20.3	21.0
2 or more part-time staff people	41.1	47.0	45.9
Number of full-time paid staff: <sup>12</sup>			
Mean	1.8	1.9	1.9
Median	1.0	1.0	1.0
Number of full-time paid ministerial staff:			
Mean	--	1.1	1.0
Median	--	1.0	1.0
Number of part-time paid staff:			
Mean	2.2	2.4	2.4
Median	1.0	1.0	1.0
Percent for whom the number of full-time paid staff in past year has:			
Increased	--	6.8	6.4
Stayed the same	--	86.9	89.9
Decreased	--	6.3	3.8
<b>WORSHIP</b>			
Percent with 1 service in typical week	26.6 <sup>a</sup>	28.5 <sup>ab</sup>	38.1 <sup>b</sup>
Percent with 2 or more services in typical week	72.8	71.4	61.9
Percent reporting important differences between services on typical weekend	--	47.9 <sup>a</sup>	30.3 <sup>b</sup>
Median length of most recent main service (minutes)	75	75	75
Median length of most recent sermon (minutes)	25 <sup>a</sup>	30 <sup>ab</sup>	30 <sup>b</sup>
Median number of minutes of music at most recent main service	20	20	20
Median number of socializing minutes before / after typical service	30	30	30
Median attendance at most recent main service	70	65	60
Median total attendance (adults and children) at <i>all</i> services during the past weekend	--	100	76
Median number of regularly participating adults attending more than one service in past week <sup>13</sup>	15 <sup>a</sup>	25 <sup>ab</sup>	25 <sup>b</sup>
Percent of most recent main services with each characteristic:			
Sermon or speech	95.3	95.3	96.5
Speaker came down from the chancel during sermon	--	50.6	48.6
Singing by congregation	96.8	97.2	96.4
Singing by choir	53.9	44.1	45.3
Time to greet one another	78.4	80.7	81.4
Congregants joining hands	--	34.0	40.3
Leader wearing robe or special garments	--	32.1	30.2
People saying "Amen"	60.7 <sup>a</sup>	70.7 <sup>b</sup>	66.7 <sup>ab</sup>
Applause	54.6	61.3	65.3
Adults jump, shout, or dance spontaneously	19.2	25.8	26.5
Raise hands in praise	44.6 <sup>a</sup>	56.7 <sup>ab</sup>	59.4 <sup>b</sup>
Written order of service	72.0	67.8	62.2

**Table 2. Continuity and Change in American Congregations: Congregations' Perspective** (continued)

	1998	2006–07	2012
Visual projection equipment	11.9 <sup>a</sup>	26.5 <sup>b</sup>	35.3 <sup>b</sup>
Organ used	53.0 <sup>a</sup>	--	42.0 <sup>b</sup>
Drums used	19.9 <sup>a</sup>	32.5 <sup>b</sup>	34.3 <sup>b</sup>
Guitar used	--	33.5	29.3
Percent with the following in any worship in past year:			
Speaking in tongues	24.0	27.0	29.8
People told of opportunities for political activity	26.2 <sup>a</sup>	21.4 <sup>ab</sup>	14.5 <sup>b</sup>
People told of opportunities for volunteer activity	--	93.6	91.8
Time for people other than leaders to testify	77.6	85.0	84.9
Percent with any Spanish or bilingual (Spanish/English) service in typical week	--	6.3	8.8
<b>DOCTRINE AND CULTURE</b>			
Percent encouraging use of NIV Bible rather than other translations	20.8	--	21.2
Percent considering Bible to be literal and inerrant	76.2	82.6	83.3
Percent saying their congregation would be considered <i>politically</i> :			
More on the conservative side	62.0	58.1	54.9
Right in the middle	30.6	34.6	33.7
More on the liberal side	7.4	7.4	11.5
Percent saying their congregation would be considered <i>theologically</i> :			
More on the conservative side	59.8	62.8	62.8
Right in the middle	29.9	29.5	25.0
More on the liberal side	10.3	7.7	12.2
<b>GROUPS AND SPEAKERS</b>			
Number of regularly participating teenagers:			
Mean	--	19.9	22.3
Median	--	10.0	8.0
Percent with youth minister	--	55.6	54.9
Percent with a group in the past year focused on the following:			
Discuss politics	6.4	6.3	5.8
Voter registration	8.3 <sup>a</sup>	17.8 <sup>b</sup>	11.1 <sup>ab</sup>
Get out the vote during an election	--	22.8	19.8
English as a second language	3.6	5.8	4.8
Receive or practice gifts of spirit	13.4	11.1	15.9
Class to train new teachers	38.0	39.4	41.3
Discuss/learn about another religion	20.3	25.2	25.9
Discuss/learn about managing personal finances	21.9	--	30.6
Discuss management of congregation's money	46.9 <sup>a</sup>	--	66.2 <sup>b</sup>
Assess community needs	36.9 <sup>a</sup>	48.4 <sup>b</sup>	56.7 <sup>b</sup>
Volunteer or service project with people from another faith	--	34.8 <sup>a</sup>	51.5 <sup>b</sup>
Strategic planning and future goals of congregation	--	82.4	86.1
Travel in U.S. to assist people in need	--	30.9	34.2
Travel abroad to assist people in need	--	25.2	27.3

**Table 2. Continuity and Change in American Congregations: Congregations' Perspective** (continued)

	1998	2006–07	2012
Percent with organized effort to help members of congregation	--	80.8	80.0
Percent with organized effort to provide members with health-focused programs	--	22.0	28.1
Percent having any visiting speakers in the past year	83.1	81.4	78.6
Speaker was: <sup>14</sup>			
Elected government official	8.0	10.1	6.6
Denominational representative	62.4	68.6	71.4
Representative of social service organization	26.7 <sup>a</sup>	37.6 <sup>ab</sup>	39.9 <sup>b</sup>
Someone running for office	5.5	6.8	6.7
Percent with members serving on denominational committees in past year	--	66.1	62.8
<b>POLITICAL ACTIVITIES</b>			
Percent distributing voter guides <sup>15</sup>	17.0	17.2	12.9
Percent with a group in past year to lobby an elected official	4.4	7.9	6.6
Percent with a group in past year to participate in demonstration or march	9.2	8.3	12.5
Lobbying or marching related to: <sup>16</sup>			
Immigration	--	8.8	13.0
Abortion	--	32.9	33.3
Poverty/welfare, social services support	--	17.0	--
Poverty	--	--	37.4
Gay and lesbian issues	--	15.8	--
Same-sex marriage	--	--	29.0
<b>SOCIAL SERVICES</b>			
Percent participating in any social service programs in past year	--	80.8	83.1
Median amount spent on social service programs in the past year <sup>17</sup>	--	\$1,400	\$1,500
Percent with anyone on paid staff spending more than 25% of their time on congregation's social service projects	--	13.6	16.9
Percent with outside funding support for social service programs	--	13.3	10.8
Percent with outside funding support from local, state, or federal government	--	5.0	1.9
Percent who have applied in past two years for a government grant	--	3.6	4.9
Percent who have started a separate non-profit organization in past two years for human services or outreach ministries	--	6.1	8.9
<b>SOCIAL COMPOSITION</b>			
Median percent of regular adult participants:			
Who are female <sup>18</sup>	60.0 <sup>a</sup>	60.0 <sup>b</sup>	60.0 <sup>b</sup>
With at least a four-year college degree	15.4 <sup>a</sup>	20.0 <sup>a</sup>	25.0 <sup>b</sup>
Over 60 years old	25.0 <sup>a</sup>	30.0 <sup>b</sup>	30.0 <sup>b</sup>
Under 35 years old	25.0 <sup>a</sup>	20.0 <sup>b</sup>	20.0 <sup>b</sup>
Who live more than a 30 minute drive from meeting place <sup>19</sup>	5.0 <sup>a</sup>	5.0 <sup>ab</sup>	5.0 <sup>b</sup>
With household income under \$25,000/year	30.0 <sup>a</sup>	20.0 <sup>b</sup>	--
With household income under \$35,000/year	--	--	30.0
With household income higher than \$100,000/year	0.0 <sup>a</sup>	2.0 <sup>b</sup>	--
With household income higher than \$140,000/year	--	--	1.0

**Table 2. Continuity and Change in American Congregations: Congregations' Perspective** (continued)

	1998	2006–07	2012
Living in households with two parents and at least one child	40.0 <sup>a</sup>	30.0 <sup>b</sup>	30.0 <sup>b</sup>
Serving in leadership role in past year	33.3 <sup>a</sup>	30.0 <sup>b</sup>	28.6 <sup>b</sup>
Percent with regular adult participant composition:			
At least 80% white and non-Hispanic	71.2 <sup>a</sup>	62.6 <sup>ab</sup>	57.1 <sup>b</sup>
At least 80% black	17.0	23.8	21.2
More than 0% Hispanic	33.3	35.7	37.6
At least 80% Hispanic	1.4 <sup>a</sup>	2.2 <sup>a</sup>	6.0 <sup>b</sup>
More than 0% Asian or Pacific Islander	18.2	22.6	23.9
More than 0% American Indian	--	11.1	11.2
More than 0% immigrated to the U.S. in past five years	17.9	20.4	18.4
<b>MEMBERS AND LAY LEADERS</b>			
Percent allowing openly gay or lesbian couple in committed relationship to:			
Hold full-fledged membership	--	37.4	48.0
Hold any volunteer leadership positions open to other members	--	17.8 <sup>a</sup>	26.5 <sup>b</sup>
Percent allowing women to:			
Hold all volunteer leadership positions that men can hold	--	73.7	79.3
Serve as full-fledged members of main governing body	--	84.0	86.4
Teach by themselves a class with adult men in it	--	83.7	85.7
Preach at a main worship service	--	65.3	67.8
Be head clergyperson or primary religious leader	--	46.8 <sup>a</sup>	57.7 <sup>b</sup>
<b>GEOGRAPHY</b>			
Percent in each region: <sup>20</sup>			
Northeast and Mid-Atlantic	12.7	12.9	12.1
East North Central and West North Central	20.1	25.0	22.9
South Atlantic, East South Central, and West South Central	48.8	47.7	50.8
Mountain and Pacific	18.5	14.4	14.2
<b>NEIGHBORHOOD CHARACTERISTICS</b>			
Percent in census tracts with at least 30% of individuals below the poverty line	11.8	14.1	17.1
Percent in census tracts with at least 5% Hispanics	25.4 <sup>a</sup>	28.2 <sup>a</sup>	50.2 <sup>b</sup>
Percent in census tracts with at least 80% African-Americans	3.7	5.2	2.8
Percent in predominantly urban census tracts	41.8	44.1	50.2
Percent in predominantly rural census tracts	43.4 <sup>a</sup>	32.6 <sup>b</sup>	31.7 <sup>b</sup>
<b>OTHER</b>			
Percent with an elementary or high school	6.1	4.7	5.6
Percent with a website	17.1 <sup>a</sup>	44.3 <sup>b</sup>	55.7 <sup>b</sup>
Percent with member publicly acknowledging HIV infection	--	4.4	7.3

- 1 For example, income in the past year is not significantly different between 2006 and 2012, but 1998 is different from both following waves. Hence, the 2006 and 2012 values are followed by the same letter (“b”), and 1998 is followed by a different one (“a”). In a different example, the amount of money in congregational savings or endowment is not different between the years 1998 and 2006 (both followed by “a”) or between 2006 and 2012 (both followed by “b”), but 1998 and 2012 are significantly different from one another.
- 2 To get results that represent the average congregation, data are weighted to account for a larger congregation having an increased probability of being in the survey. Therefore, using this weighting, the information from smaller congregations counts as much as that from larger ones. Weight adjustments also consider duplicate nominations (congregations nominated by more than one person in the GSS), the 2012 oversample of Hispanic congregations, and other relevant characteristics of the survey. The weighting variable used for this table is termed “wt\_all3\_cong\_dup” in the publicly available dataset. For more information on weights, see the NCS Cumulative Codebook for Waves I, II, and III, available at <http://www.soc.duke.edu/natcong/>.
- 3 One extreme outlying observation in 2012 has been removed from this and the following two size variables.
- 4 The largest groups in the mainline Protestant category are, in size order beginning with the largest, the United Methodist Church, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, Presbyterian Church (USA), Episcopal Church, United Church of Christ, American Baptist Churches in the USA, Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), and Unitarian Universalist. The largest groups in the evangelical Protestant category are nondenominational congregations, the Southern Baptist Convention, Assemblies of God, Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Jehovah’s Witnesses, Churches of Christ, Seventh-day Adventists, Baptist General Conference/Convention, Church of the Nazarene, Christian and Missionary Alliance, Baptist Missionary Association of America, Evangelical Free Church, and Church of God (Anderson). The Black Protestant category includes all predominantly African American Protestant churches, whatever their denominational affiliation. The largest groups are the National Baptist Convention, USA, Inc., Church of God in Christ, and African Methodist Episcopal. No other denomination or group in any of these categories is represented by more than 15 congregations in the NCS sample. Congregations are placed within a religious tradition even if they do not have a formal denominational affiliation. For example, a majority-white, independent Baptist church can be placed into the evangelical Protestant category. Therefore, the categories in the Religious Tradition section sum to more than 100% when including those with “no denominational affiliation.”
- 5 In 1998 and 2006, this question asked about both rental and sale income, but in 2012 it asked only about rental income.
- 6 Calculated only for those congregations that earned rental or sale income from property in past year.
- 7 Calculated only for those congregations that gave any money to their denominations.
- 8 Calculated only for those congregations with an endowment, savings, or reserve account.
- 9 This and all following head clergy person characteristics are calculated only for those congregations who have a head clergy person.
- 10 Although respondents were asked in all waves how many people work in the congregation as paid staff, in 2006-07 and 2012 the question was prefaced with “including you” (if the respondent was an employee), and interviewers were trained in 2006-07 and 2012 to probe to make sure that informants included themselves. We believe this difference is behind the initial decrease in the percent of congregations with no paid staff.
- 11 Ministerial staff members are those primarily engaged in religious work, that is, not secretaries or custodians.
- 12 One congregation with extreme values in staff variables was removed from this analysis and other calculations of mean and median staff members per congregation.
- 13 Calculated only for those congregations that report two or more services in a typical week.
- 14 Calculated only for those congregations that hosted a visiting speaker in the past year.
- 15 In 1998 respondents were asked if their congregation had ever distributed voter guides; in 2006-07 and 2012, respondents were asked if their congregation had distributed voter guides *within the past two years*.
- 16 Calculated only for those congregations that lobbied elected officials and/or demonstrated or marched. In 1998, 2006, and 2012, this was 11.0%, 13.4%, and 15.1%, respectively.
- 17 This item and the following social service values are calculated only for those congregations that participated in social service programs or projects in the past year.
- 18 While medians are the same, the mean for this variable is significantly lower in 1998 (58.7%) than in 2006 (63.0%) and 2012 (62.0%).
- 19 While medians are the same, the mean for this variable in 2012 (12.2%) is significantly lower than in 1998 (15.7%). The mean for 2006 (14.0%) is not significantly different from the other two years.
- 20 Northeast states are ME, NH, VT, MA, RI, CT. Mid-Atlantic states are NY, NJ, PA. East North Central states are OH, IN, IL, MI, WI. West North Central states are MN, IA, MO, ND, SD, NE, KS. South Atlantic states are DE, MD, DC, VA, WV, NC, SC, GA, FL. East South Central states are KY, TN, AL, MS. West South Central states are AR, LA, OK, TX. Mountain states are MT, ID, WY, CO, NM, AZ, UT, NV. Pacific states are WA, OR, CA, AK, HI.

Table 3. 2012 National Congregations Study  
Basic Findings

This table provides descriptive statistics for all items contained in the 2012 NCS (Wave III). Values for each variable are presented from two different perspectives. In the “Attendees’ Perspective” column, the means and medians refer to the congregation attended by the average participant (attendee) in religious services. Percentages give the percentage of attendees in congregations with the stated characteristic. In the “Congregations’ Perspective” column, means and medians refer to the average congregation. Percentages give the percentage of congregations with the stated characteristic.

	ATTENDEES’ PERSPECTIVE <sup>1</sup>	CONGREGATIONS’ PERSPECTIVE <sup>2</sup>
<b>AGE AND SIZE</b>		
Median founding date	1946	1954
Median congregation age (yrs)	66	58
Number of people associated in any way with the congregation’s religious life: <sup>3</sup>		
Mean	3278	404
Median	800	135
Number of people regularly participating in the congregation’s religious life:		
Mean	1540	183
Median	400	70
Number of <i>adults</i> regularly participating in the congregation’s religious life:		
Mean	1068	120
Median	310	50
Percent for whom the number of regularly participating adults in the last two years has:		
Increased	36.5	26.3
Remained about the same	34.0	36.5
Decreased	29.5	37.3
<b>RELIGIOUS TRADITION<sup>4</sup></b>		
Percent with no denominational affiliation	15.0	23.5
Percent associated with each denomination or tradition: <sup>5</sup>		
Roman Catholic	27.7	5.5
Baptist conventions/denominations	19.2	23.3
Methodist denominations	7.9	12.8
Lutheran/Episcopal denominations	6.4	6.2
Pentecostal	8.2	13.1
Presbyterian/Reformed	5.3	4.7
Other Christian	20.7	27.6
Jewish	2.1	1.6
Muslim	0.7	1.1
Buddhist	0.3	1.1
Hindu	0.6	0.6
Other non-Christian	1.0	2.3
Percent belonging to each broad religious tradition: <sup>6</sup>		
Roman Catholic	27.7	5.5



**Table 3. 2012 National Congregations Study**  
**Basic Findings** (continued)

	ATTENDEES' PERSPECTIVE <sup>1</sup>	CONGREGATIONS' PERSPECTIVE <sup>2</sup>
White evangelical Protestant	37.6	46.1
White mainline Protestant	17.1	20.3
Black Protestant	12.9	21.4
Non-Christian	4.7	6.7
<b>BUILDING AND FINANCE</b>		
Percent owning their own building	92.6	84.6
Percent meeting in a:		
Church, synagogue, temple, or mosque	95.7	88.9
School	1.0	1.8
Storefront	0.7	2.9
Other kind of building	2.7	6.4
Percent whose building is also used by another congregation for worship services <sup>7</sup>	8.3	9.7
Other congregation is primarily recent immigrants to U.S. (%) <sup>8</sup>	51.9	39.3
Percent with worship services at more than one location:		
Median number of locations <sup>9</sup>	2.0	3.0
Percent who have the same sermon for different locations	50.0	58.6
Percent who have the same music for different locations	31.2	69.6
Percent with a formal written budget	90.8	76.4
Median income in past year	\$450,000	\$95,000
Median income from individuals in past year	\$400,000	\$84,000
Percent for whom income over past two fiscal years ago has:		
Increased	52.2	42.1
Stayed the same	27.1	31.3
Decreased	20.7	26.6
Median budget for past year	\$450,000	\$85,000
Percent who held a capital campaign in past five years		
Median amount raised in capital campaign, past five years <sup>10</sup>	\$700,000	\$87,000
Percent with mortgage, loan, or other outstanding debt		
Median current balance on debt <sup>11</sup>	\$500,000	\$170,000
Percent receiving income in the past year from rental of building or property		
Median income from rental of building or property in past fiscal year <sup>12</sup>	\$10,000	\$5,000
Percent giving money to denomination in the past year		
Median amount given to denominations in past year <sup>13</sup>	\$32,000	\$7,500
Percent with an endowment, savings account, or reserve fund		
Median amount in endowment, savings, or reserve <sup>14</sup>	\$150,000	\$33,000
Percent sending money directly to any congregation outside the U.S.	30.2	18.7
<b>LEADERSHIP</b>		
Percent with a head clergy person or leader	95.7	94.2
Percent with full-time head clergy person or leader <sup>15</sup>	89.9	71.4
Percent with female head clergy person or leader	6.2	11.4

**Table 3. 2012 National Congregations Study**  
**Basic Findings** (continued)

	ATTENDEES' PERSPECTIVE <sup>1</sup>	CONGREGATIONS' PERSPECTIVE <sup>2</sup>
Percent with head clergy person or leader of each race or ethnicity:		
White	75.5	67.5
Black	14.6	23.3
Hispanic	6.0	5.7
Asian/Pacific Islander	3.5	2.7
Other	0.5	0.9
Percent with head clergy person born in U.S.	88.0	90.5
Median number of years head clergy person in current position	6.0	6.0
Median age of senior clergy person	55	55
Percent for whom head clergy person has highest education level of:		
Less than high school	0.9	3.2
High school diploma or GED	10.0	20.1
Jr. College, Associate's degree, or Bible college diploma or certificate	2.1	5.1
Bachelor's degree	15.4	23.0
Graduate Degree	71.6	48.7
Median years of college and post-graduate education for head clergy person	8.0	6.0
Percent with head clergy person having following characteristics:		
Currently attends seminary or theological school	7.6	7.0
Ordained to full clergy status	96.9	92.6
Paid for work in congregation	94.3	86.2
Took pay cut in past two years	9.2	13.7
Also serves another congregation	11.1	16.3
Also holds another job	17.7	34.3
<b>PAID STAFF</b>		
Percent with the following characteristics:		
No paid staff	4.8	13.0
No full-time staff	11.9	35.9
1 full-time staff person	21.5	39.7
2 or more full-time staff people	66.6	24.4
No full-time ministerial staff	13.1	37.8
1 full-time ministerial staff person	32.2	46.3
2 or more full-time ministerial staff people	54.7	15.9
No part-time staff	15.1	33.1
1 part-time staff person	10.3	21.0
2 or more part-time staff people	74.6	45.9
No part-time ministerial staff	43.1	52.1
1 part-time ministerial staff person	24.0	33.3
2 or more part-time ministerial staff people	32.9	14.6
Number of full-time paid staff:		
Mean	9.5	1.9
Median	3.0	1.0

**Table 3. 2012 National Congregations Study**  
**Basic Findings** (continued)

	ATTENDEES' PERSPECTIVE <sup>1</sup>	CONGREGATIONS' PERSPECTIVE <sup>2</sup>
Number of full-time paid ministerial staff:		
Mean	4.4	1.0
Median	2.0	1.0
Number of part-time paid staff:		
Mean	7.4	2.4
Median	4.0	1.0
Number of part-time paid ministerial staff:		
Mean	2.1	0.8
Median	1.0	0.0
Percent for whom the number of full-time paid staff in the past year has:		
Increased	14.3	6.4
Stayed the same	76.0	89.9
Decreased	9.7	3.8
<b>WORSHIP</b>		
Percent with 1 service in typical week	17.8	38.1
Percent with 2 or more services in typical week	82.2	61.9
Percent reporting important differences between services in typical weekend <sup>16</sup>	42.3	30.3
Important difference is: <sup>17</sup>		
Level of formality	57.4	69.3
Languages used during service	35.2	10.5
Kind of music during service	71.9	46.3
Median length of most recent main service (minutes)	70	75
Median length of most recent sermon (minutes)	22	30
Median number of minutes of music at most recent main service	20	20
Median number of socializing minutes before/after typical service	30	30
Median attendance at most recent main service	225	60
Median total attendance (adults and children) at <i>all</i> services during the past weekend	400	76
Median number of regularly participating adults attending more than one service in past week <sup>18</sup>	50	25
Percent of most recent main services with each characteristic:		
Sermon or speech	98.4	96.5
Speaker came down from the chancel during sermon	42.3	48.6
Singing by congregation	98.4	96.4
Singing by choir	57.2	45.3
Time to greet one another	88.2	81.4
Congregants joining hands	43.2	40.3
Leader wearing robe or special garments	46.3	30.2
People saying "Amen"	59.5	66.7
Applause	62.2	65.3
Adults jump, shout, or dance spontaneously	22.1	26.5

**Table 3. 2012 National Congregations Study**  
**Basic Findings** (continued)

	ATTENDEES' PERSPECTIVE <sup>1</sup>	CONGREGATIONS' PERSPECTIVE <sup>2</sup>
Raise hands in praise	59.0	59.4
Written order of service	69.1	62.2
Visual projection equipment	45.0	35.3
Song lyrics projected on wall or screen	42.1	31.5
Song lyrics provided on handout or flyer	31.6	26.1
Reading from the Bible	97.8	98.3
Watched video recorded at or broadcast from another location	7.2	3.0
Organ used	56.0	42.0
Drums used	45.5	34.3
Guitar used	49.2	29.3
Number of people paid to sing or perform at most recent main service:		
None	52.7	76.1
One	27.5	15.7
Two or more	19.8	8.2
Percent with the following in any worship in the past year:		
Speaking in tongues	24.6	29.8
People told of opportunities for political activity	24.3	14.5
People told of opportunities for volunteer activity	95.3	91.8
Time for people other than leaders to testify	74.4	84.9
Praying over or laying hands on people in effort to cure from injury or illness	60.1	57.8
Percent with the following characteristics:		
Copyright agreement to sing certain songs	73.8	51.1
Bibles in pews for people to use during services	49.8	66.3
Encourage people to bring their own Bibles to worship services	60.6	78.8
Follow lectionary or other schedule of scripture readings	53.0	40.3
Event in past year during which children in congregation recite scripture from memory	60.3	63.9
Percent with any Spanish or bilingual (Spanish/English) service in typical week	19.4	8.8
Percent with main service Spanish or bilingual (Spanish/English)	8.2	5.8
<b>DOCTRINE AND CULTURE</b>		
Percent encouraging use of NIV Bible rather than other translations	15.7	21.2
Percent considering Bible to be literal and inerrant	71.3	83.3
Percent saying their congregation would be considered <i>politically</i> :		
More on the conservative side	52.2	54.9
Right in the middle	37.8	33.7
More on the liberal side	10.0	11.5
Percent saying their congregation would be considered <i>theologically</i> :		
More on the conservative side	59.0	62.8
Right in the middle	28.8	25.0
More on the liberal side	12.2	12.2

**Table 3. 2012 National Congregations Study**  
**Basic Findings** (continued)

	ATTENDEES' PERSPECTIVE <sup>1</sup>	CONGREGATIONS' PERSPECTIVE <sup>2</sup>
<b>GROUPS AND SPEAKERS</b>		
Number of regularly participating teenagers:		
Mean	144	22.3
Median	35	8.0
Percent with youth minister	76.6	54.9
Percent for whom one or more youth ministers: <sup>19</sup>		
Are paid for work in congregation	66.4	36.1
Work full-time as youth leader(s) in congregation	41.6	17.1
Percent with a group in the past year focused on the following:		
Discuss politics	13.2	5.8
Read and discuss the Bible	95.9	90.4
Voter registration	23.4	11.1
Get out the vote during an election	26.4	19.8
English as a second language	15.5	4.8
Offer services for immigrants	22.9	9.5
Receive or practice gifts of spirit	19.0	15.9
Class to train new teachers	69.1	41.3
Discuss/learn about another religion	37.8	25.9
Discuss/learn about managing personal finances	47.7	30.6
Discuss management of congregation's money	72.2	66.2
Assess community needs	67.8	56.7
Volunteer or service project with people from another faith	65.5	51.5
Strategic planning and future goals of congregation	93.8	86.1
Travel in U.S. to assist people in need	44.7	34.2
Travel abroad to assist people in need	41.8	27.3
Specifically for women	86.5	74.9
Specifically for men	77.6	58.4
Support military veterans and their families	40.2	27.3
Exercise or promote physical activity	47.7	29.1
Help people who are unemployed	51.0	34.9
Support people with terminal illness or chronic health problems	61.6	46.5
Support people struggling with drug/alcohol abuse	52.1	37.6
Support people with mental illness	31.4	23.0
Support people living with HIV or AIDS	12.0	7.5
Prevent HIV transmission, teach prevention, or promote testing	12.2	8.6
Raise awareness about HIV/AIDS in other ways	12.6	7.4
Percent with organized effort to help members of congregation	85.4	80.0
Percent with organized effort to provide members with health-focused programs	42.8	28.1
Percent hosting clergyperson or preacher in past year who lives in another country	49.9	29.5
Percent having any visiting speakers in the past year	86.7	78.6

**Table 3. 2012 National Congregations Study**  
**Basic Findings** (continued)

	ATTENDEES' PERSPECTIVE <sup>1</sup>	CONGREGATIONS' PERSPECTIVE <sup>2</sup>
Speaker was: <sup>20</sup>		
Elected government official	12.9	6.6
Denominational representative	70.9	71.4
Representative of social service organization	54.9	39.9
Someone running for office	6.9	6.7
Percent with members serving on denominational committees in past year	75.4	62.8
<b>POLITICAL ACTIVITIES</b>		
Percent distributing voter guides <sup>21</sup>	24.2	12.9
Percent with group in the past year to lobby an elected official	15.7	6.6
Percent with group in the past year to participate in demonstration or march	24.8	12.5
Lobbying or marching related to: <sup>22</sup>		
Immigration	24.1	13.0
Abortion	63.4	33.3
Poverty	42.0	37.4
Same-sex marriage	24.3	29.0
<b>SOCIAL SERVICES</b>		
Percent giving financial or in-kind donations to organization(s) that help people with HIV/AIDS or work to prevent transmission	12.4	7.6
Percent participating in any social service programs in the past year	91.7	83.1
Median number of social service programs (all inquiries) <sup>23</sup>	4.0	3.0
Percent with one of top four programs focused on:		
Victims of rape or domestic violence	3.8	2.5
Cleaning highways or parks	6.1	6.2
Clothing, blankets, rummage sales	22.7	20.9
College students or young adults	0.9	0.5
Disaster relief	4.4	6.4
Non-religious education or training	21.5	16.4
Senior citizens	11.3	10.0
Feeding the hungry	69.4	62.6
Males or females in particular	12.0	7.6
Habitat for Humanity projects	7.9	3.8
Individuals' physical health needs	27.0	25.4
Homeless or transients	22.4	14.2
Home building, repair, maintenance	32.0	21.8
Immigrants, migrants, or refugees	4.1	1.3
Beneficiaries outside the U.S.	8.7	7.6
Job placement	3.9	2.2
Youth and children	38.1	37.3
People in legal trouble or their families	3.8	2.4
Substance abusers	4.7	5.2
St. Vincent de Paul	4.8	0.1
Other	3.5	6.8

**Table 3. 2012 National Congregations Study**  
**Basic Findings** (continued)

	ATTENDEES' PERSPECTIVE <sup>1</sup>	CONGREGATIONS' PERSPECTIVE <sup>2</sup>
Percent collaborating on social service projects	81.0	74.5
Median amount spent on social service programs in the past year	\$10,000	\$1,500
Percent with anyone on paid staff spending more than 25% of their time on congregation's social service projects	23.5	16.9
Percent with outside funding support for social service programs	14.3	10.8
Percent with outside funding support from local, state, or federal government	3.9	1.9
Percent who have applied in past two years for a government grant	9.2	4.9
Percent who have started a separate nonprofit organization in past two years for human services or outreach ministries	12.3	8.9
<b>TECHNOLOGY</b>		
Percent with a website	83.0	55.7
Percent with a Facebook page	55.9	40.1
<b>SOCIAL COMPOSITION</b>		
Median percent of regular adult participants:		
Who are female	60.0	60.0
With at least a four-year college degree	40.0	25.0
Over 60 years old	30.0	30.0
Under 35 years old	25.0	20.0
Who live more than a 30 minute drive from meeting place	5.0	5.0
With household income under \$35,000/year	20.0	30.0
With household income higher than \$140,000/year	10.0	1.0
Living in households with two parents and at least one child	45.0	30.0
Serving in leadership role in past year	20.0	28.6
Percent with regular adult participant composition:		
At least 80% white and non-Hispanic	57.4	57.1
At least 80% black	13.6	21.2
More than 0% Hispanic	65.4	37.6
At least 80% Hispanic	7.7	6.0
More than 0% Asian or Pacific Islander	48.8	23.9
More than 0% American Indian	15.8	11.2
More than 0% immigrated to the U.S. in past five years	48.1	18.4
<b>MEMBERS AND LAY LEADERS</b>		
Percent allowing openly gay or lesbian couple in committed relationship to:		
Hold full-fledged membership	51.1	48.0
Hold any volunteer leadership positions open to other members	27.0	26.5
Percent allowing women to:		
Hold all volunteer leadership positions that men can hold	82.0	79.3
Serve as full-fledged members of main governing body	87.8	86.4
Teach by themselves a class with adult men in it	89.7	85.7
Preach at a main worship service	53.6	67.8
Be head clergyperson or primary religious leader	42.3	57.7

**Table 3. 2012 National Congregations Study**  
**Basic Findings** (continued)

	ATTENDEES' PERSPECTIVE <sup>1</sup>	CONGREGATIONS' PERSPECTIVE <sup>2</sup>
<b>GEOGRAPHY</b>		
Percent in each region: <sup>24</sup>		
Northeast and Mid-Atlantic	12.7	12.1
East North Central and West North Central	25.9	22.9
South Atlantic, East South Central, and West South Central	42.3	50.8
Mountain and Pacific	19.1	14.2
<b>NEIGHBORHOOD CHARACTERISTICS</b>		
Percent in census tracts with at least 30% of individuals below the poverty line	14.4	17.1
Percent in census tracts with at least 5% Hispanics	55.8	50.2
Percent in census tracts with at least 80% African-Americans	3.6	2.8
Percent in predominantly urban census tracts	73.1	50.2
Percent in predominantly rural census tracts	14.7	31.7
<b>OTHER</b>		
Percent with an elementary or high school	23.5	5.6
Percent with member publicly acknowledging HIV infection	11.6	7.3
Percent affiliated with nationally recognized community organizing group, organization or network	9.1	4.9

1 Means and medians in the “attendees” column refer to the congregation attended by the average participant (attendee) in religious services. Percentages give the percentage of attendees in congregations with the stated characteristic. For more information on weights, see the NCS Cumulative Codebook for Waves I, II, and III, available at <http://www.soc.duke.edu/natcong/>.

2 Means and medians in the “congregations” column refer to the average congregation. Percentages give the percentage of congregations with the stated characteristic.

3 One extreme outlying observation in 2012 has been removed from this and the following two size variables.

4 Non-Christian congregations are categorized as such even if they said they have no denomination.

5 Congregations without formal denominational affiliation are often associated with a given religious tradition, so this includes non-denominational congregations.

6 The largest groups in the mainline Protestant category are, in size order beginning with the largest, the United Methodist Church, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, Presbyterian Church (USA), Episcopal Church, United Church of Christ, American Baptist Churches in the USA, Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), and Unitarian Universalist. The largest groups in the evangelical Protestant category are nondenominational congregations, the Southern Baptist Convention, Assemblies of God, Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Jehovah’s Witnesses, Churches of Christ, Seventh-day Adventists, Baptist General Conference/Convention, Church of the Nazarene, Christian and Missionary Alliance, Baptist Missionary Association of America, Evangelical Free Church, and Church of God (Anderson). The Black Protestant category includes all predominantly African American Protestant churches, whatever their denominational affiliation. The largest groups are the National Baptist Convention, USA, Inc., Church of God in Christ, and African Methodist Episcopal. No other denomination or group in any of these categories is represented by more than 15 congregations in the NCS sample. Congregations are placed within a religious tradition even if they do not have a formal denominational affiliation. For example, a majority-white, independent Baptist church can be placed into the evangelical Protestant category. Therefore, the categories in the Religious Tradition section sum to more than 100% when including those with “no denominational affiliation.”

7 Calculated only for those congregations who own their own building.

8 Calculated only for those congregations whose building is used by another congregation.

9 This and the following two items are calculated only for those congregations who have worship services at more than one location.

10 Calculated only for those congregations who held a capital campaign in past five years.

11 Calculated only for those congregations with mortgage, loan, or other outstanding debt.

12 Calculated only for those congregations with income from the sale or rent of their building or property.



- 13 Calculated only for those congregations who gave any money to their denominations.
- 14 Calculated only for those congregations with an endowment, savings, or reserve account.
- 15 This item and following characteristics are calculated only for those congregations with one head clergy person or leader.
- 16 Calculated only for those congregations that report two or more services in a typical week.
- 17 Calculated only for those congregations that report important differences between weekend services.
- 18 Calculated only for those congregations that report two or more services in a typical week.
- 19 Calculated only for those congregations with one or more youth ministers.
- 20 Calculated only for those congregations that had a visiting speaker in the past year.
- 21 In 1998 respondents were asked if their congregation had ever distributed voter guides; in 2006-07 and 2012, respondents were asked if their congregation had distributed voter guides *within the past two years*.
- 22 Calculated only for those congregations that lobbied elected officials and/or demonstrated or marched. From the attendees' perspective, this is 29.2% and it is 15.1% from the congregations' perspective.
- 23 This item and the following social service values are calculated only for those congregations that participated in social service programs and projects in the past year.
- 24 Northeast states are ME, NH, VT, MA, RI, CT. Mid-Atlantic states are NY, NJ, PA. East North Central states are OH, IN, IL, MI, WI. West North Central states are MN, IA, MO, ND, SD, NE, KS. South Atlantic states are DE, MD, DC, VA, WV, NC, SC, GA, FL. East South Central states are KY, TE, AL, MS. West South Central states are AR, LA, OK, TX. Mountain states are MT, ID, WY, CO, NM, AZ, UT, NV. Pacific states are WA, OR, CA, AK, HI.

**Table 4. Characteristics of Assistant, Associate, and Other Ministerial Staff**

This table provides descriptive statistics for items pertaining to staff, with most variables describing staff other than head clergy. Since the total number of staff per congregation varies considerably, describing staff characteristics such as race, gender, or age as seen by the average congregation or the average attendee would likely give an inaccurate picture of the typical staff person. For example, if one congregation has four full-time staff, all of whom are male, and another congregation has one full-time staff member who is female, the average gender from the congregation perspective would (erroneously) be calculated as 50% female, where in fact 20% of all these staff members are female. Therefore, values given are the proportion of all relevant staff in the given categories.

Values for a single variable in different years that are followed by different lower case letters are different from one another at the 0.05 level of statistical significance.<sup>1</sup> Where no differences are statistically significant, letters are omitted.

	2006	2012
<b>FULL-TIME STAFF</b>		
Percent of all full-time staff whose positions are ministerial or religious in nature	55.5	54.5
Percent of full-time secondary staff (not including head clergy) whose positions are ministerial or religious in nature	35.5	33.4
Percent of full-time paid ministerial staff (not including head clergyperson) with following characteristics:		
Race or ethnicity:		
White	--	79.8
Black	--	10.2
Hispanic	--	7.1
Asian/Pacific Islander	--	2.7
Age category:		
Under 40	--	41.3
40 to 60	--	45.5
Over 60	--	13.2
Male	60.5	59.3
Graduated from seminary or theological school	45.5	42.4
Without seminary degree, but currently attend seminary/theological school	8.9	7.7
Ordained to full clergy status	46.3	51.0
Were regular members or participants before current position <sup>2</sup>	38.3 <sup>a</sup>	48.9 <sup>b</sup>
With a pay cut in past 2 years	--	9.0
<b>PART-TIME STAFF</b>		
Percent of all part-time staff whose positions are ministerial or religious in nature	--	33.4
Percent of part-time secondary staff (not including head clergy) whose positions are ministerial or religious in nature	--	27.2
Percent of part-time paid ministerial staff (not including head clergyperson) with following characteristics:		
Race or ethnicity:		
White	--	68.2
Black	--	23.4
Hispanic	--	7.2
Asian/Pacific Islander	--	0.6
Age category:		
Under 40	--	37.7
40 to 60	--	48.9
Over 60	--	13.4

Table 4. Characteristics of Assistant, Associate, and Other Ministerial Staff (continued)

	2006	2012
Male	--	46.5
Graduated from seminary or theological school	--	17.9
Without seminary degree, but currently attend seminary /theological school	--	5.2
Ordained to full clergy status	--	19.2
Were regular members or participants before current position <sup>3</sup>	--	55.3
With a pay cut in past 2 years	--	7.7

- 1 For example, the % of full-time secondary ministerial staff who are male is not significantly different between 2006 and 2012, so there are no letters following these values. However, the % of full-time secondary ministerial staff who were previously involved in the congregation increased between 2006 and 2012, and as this is a statistically significant difference, the values are followed by different letters (“a” and “b”).
- 2 These values apply to staff in congregations with up to two full-time ministerial staff other than the head clergyperson in 2012 and up to five in 2006. This accounts for more than 94% of all congregations. The detailed information for this variable is not available for congregations with larger staffs.
- 3 This value applies to staff in congregations with one or two part-time ministerial staff other than the head clergyperson, more than 93% of all congregations. This detailed information for this variable is not available for congregations with larger staffs.



