

# National Congregations Study: Waves I-IV Summary Tables

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This document contains three tables:

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

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

Table 3: 2018-19 National Congregations Study: Basic Findings

These tables contain two kinds of numbers: those from the attendees' perspective and those from the congregations' perspective. Both sets of numbers are meaningful, and they provide slightly different views of the average congregation. Look at the attendees' perspective results 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 results 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 country 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 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; the second views them from the perspective of the average congregation.

Here is another example using actual NCS data: You might be interested in the percent of *people* who attend U.S. congregations that are led by women. Table 1 and the attendees' perspective column in Table 3 both show that, in 2018-19, 8.1% of U.S. worshippers were in congregations led by a woman. On the other hand, you might be interested in the percent of *congregations* that are led by women. Table 2 and the congregations' perspective column in Table 3 both show that 13.8% of congregations in 2018-19 were led by a woman. This percentage is larger than the percentage of attendees in a congregation led by a female clergy person because the congregations led by women tend to be smaller.

The tables include many endnotes. While some of these notes provide clarification on item wording or other issues across surveys, most indicate the subset of congregations for which a given number is calculated. It is important to pay close attention to these notes because the correct interpretation of these statistics depends on which congregations are included in the calculation. For example, Table 3 shows that 38.9% of congregations participated in 2018-19 in lobbying or marching activities related to immigration. However, note 89 tells us that this is not 38.9% of all congregations, but 38.9% *of congregations who participated in any lobbying or marching*. Only 8% of all congregations lobbied or marched about immigration (38.9% of the 20.6% who lobbied or marched). Thus, instead of concluding that more than one-third of American congregations have recently marched or lobbied about immigration, we conclude that only 1 in 12 congregations did this in 2018-19. Interpreting this percentage correctly requires knowing the subset of congregations to which it applies.

Table 1 begins on page 3, Table 2 begins on page 18, and Table 3 begins on page 32.

**TABLE 1**  
**CONTINUITY AND CHANGE IN AMERICAN CONGREGATIONS:**  
**ATTENDEES' PERSPECTIVE**

This table provides descriptive statistics for many items contained in more than one NCS wave. The "Trend" column indicates whether there is a statistically significant trend on that item between 1998 and 2018-19.<sup>1</sup> A plus sign (+) indicates that there is a statistically significant positive trend for that item, a negative sign (-) indicates that there is a statistically significant negative trend, and "ns" (meaning "not significant") indicates that there is no statistically significant linear trend on that item. The statistical significance of trends was assessed using means even when only medians are reported.<sup>2</sup> "NA" indicates that a statistical assessment of a trend reported as a median was not applicable because we assessed it on a separately reported mean. Sometimes a mean trend is statistically significant even when the medians are unchanged.

These tables are based on slightly updated versions of the 1998, 2006-07, and 2012 datasets, so these numbers may not exactly match values produced from previously available datasets. Means and medians refer to the congregation attended by the average religious service attendee.<sup>3</sup> Percentages give the percentage of attendees in congregations with the stated characteristic. Sample sizes are 1,234 in 1998, 1,506 in 2006-07, 1,331 in 2012, and 1,262 in 2018-19.

	<b>1998</b>	<b>2006-07</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2018-19</b>	<b>Trend</b>
<b>AGE AND SIZE</b>					
Median founding date	1924	1940	1945	1953	+
Median congregation age (years)	74	66	67	65	ns
Number of people associated in any way with the congregation's religious life <sup>4</sup>					
Mean	2558	2399	3278	3036	+
Median	750	700	800	650	NA
Number of people regularly participating in the congregation's religious life					
Mean	1183	1167	1540	1373	+
Median	400	400	400	363	NA

	1998	2006-07	2012	2018-19	Trend
Number of <i>adults</i> regularly participating in the congregation's religious life					
Mean	779	794	1068	948	+
Median	275	280	310	250	NA
Number of <i>adults</i> regularly participating in the congregation's religious life <i>two years ago</i>					
Mean	--	--	1024	1028	ns
Median	--	--	300	250	NA
Percent for whom the number of regularly participating adults in the last two years has:					
Increased	--	49.2	36.5	34.9	-
Remained about the same	--	36.2	34.0	32.3	ns
Decreased	--	14.6	29.6	32.8	+
<b>RELIGIOUS TRADITION<sup>5</sup></b>					
Roman Catholic	28.8	27.9	27.7	26.7	ns
Predominantly white evangelical/ conservative Protestant	33.4	37.3	37.6	37.2	ns
Predominantly white moderate/liberal Protestant	24.0	20.0	17.2	18.2	-
Black Protestant	10.5	11.4	12.9	12.3	ns
Non-Christian	3.4	3.3	4.7	5.7	+
Percent with no denominational affiliation	10.4	14.0	15.0	14.6	+
<b>BUILDING AND FINANCE</b>					
Percent owning their own building	94.9	94.9	92.6	90.9	ns

	1998	2006-07	2012	2018-19	Trend
Percent meeting in a:					
Church, synagogue, temple, or mosque	92.9	97.3	95.7	94.3	ns
School	3.3	0.8	1.0	1.0	-
Other kind of building	3.8	2.0	3.3	4.7	ns
Percent whose building is used by other groups <sup>6</sup>	71.0	--	--	66.4	-
For those whose building is used by other groups, median number of outside groups using the building <sup>7</sup>	5	--	--	6	+
Of those whose building is used by other groups, percent with another congregation using their building for worship services <sup>8</sup>	--	--	8.3	9.3	ns
Other congregation is primarily recent immigrants to the U.S. (%) <sup>9</sup>	--	--	51.9	47.2	ns
Percent with weekly worship services at more than one location <sup>10</sup>	--	--	10.3	17.0	+
Percent with a formal written budget	87.7	88.8	90.8	90.2	+
Median income in past year	\$260,000	\$380,000	\$450,000	\$470,000	+
Median income from <i>two years ago</i>	--	--	\$450,000	\$460,000	ns
Median income from individuals in past year	\$230,000	\$330,000	\$400,000	\$400,000	+
Median budget for past year	\$250,000	\$350,000	\$450,000	\$450,000	+
Percent receiving income in the past year from sale or rent of building or property <sup>11</sup>	38.2	30.6	35.2	42.6	+
Median amount of income from rental or sale of building or property in past year <sup>12</sup>	\$4,845	\$9,000	\$10,000	\$9,000	ns
Percent giving money to denomination in the past year	82.8	80.2	74.8	77.5	-
Median amount given to denominations in past year <sup>13</sup>	\$20,700	\$25,000	\$32,000	\$36,000	+

	<b>1998</b>	<b>2006-07</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2018-19</b>	<b>Trend</b>
Percent with an endowment, savings account, or reserve fund	73.9	73.3	77.2	75.9	ns
Median amount in endowment, savings, or reserve <sup>14</sup>	\$70,000	\$100,000	\$150,000	\$200,000	+
<b>LEADERSHIP</b>					
Percent with a head clergy person or leader	95.5	97.0	95.7	95.4	ns
Percent with full-time head clergy person or leader <sup>15</sup>	--	87.0	89.9	88.3	ns
Percent with female head clergy person or leader	5.5	4.6	6.2	8.1 <sup>16</sup>	+
Percent with head clergy person born in the United States	--	--	88.0	84.4	-
Percent with head clergy person or leader of each race or ethnicity:					
White	83.9	79.5	75.5	72.1	-
Black	11.9	13.0	14.6	16.1	+
Hispanic	2.1	3.3	6.0	6.9	+
Asian/Pacific Islander	1.4	3.1	3.5	4.7	+
Other	0.7	1.1	0.5	0.2	-
Median number of years senior clergy person in current position	6.0	6.0	6.0	6.0	+
Median age of senior clergy person	51	54	55	55	+
Percent for whom head clergy person has highest education level of:					
Less than a bachelor's degree	10.8	--	13.0	11.6	ns
Bachelor's degree	15.0	--	15.4	15.2	ns
Graduate degree	74.1	--	71.6	73.2	ns

	1998	2006-07	2012	2018-19	Trend
Percent with head clergy person having following characteristics:					
Graduated from seminary or theological school	--	83.7	--	79.8	-
Currently attends seminary or theological school	--	13.0	7.6	13.9	ns
Ordained to full clergy status	--	97.1	96.9	--	ns
Paid for work in congregation	--	92.5	94.3	91.6	ns
Also serves another congregation	--	11.2	11.1	10.4	ns
Also holds another job	--	17.4	17.7	18.8	ns
Was a regular participant in the congregation before becoming the head clergy person	--	19.0	--	23.5	+
<b>PAID STAFF</b>					
Percent with the following characteristics:					
No paid staff <sup>17</sup>	7.1	5.2	5.2	5.9	ns
No full-time staff	14.8	11.5	11.9	13.3	ns
1 full-time staff person	20.4	22.6	21.5	21.9	ns
2 or more full-time staff people	64.8	65.9	66.6	64.8	ns
No full-time ministerial staff <sup>18</sup>	--	12.6	13.0	14.6	ns
1 full-time ministerial staff person	--	32.9	31.9	31.8	ns
2 or more full-time ministerial staff people	--	54.5	55.1	53.5	ns
No part-time staff	17.0	16.7	15.4	15.6	ns
1 part-time staff person	10.0	9.7	10.1	10.3	ns
2 or more part-time staff people	73.0	73.6	74.5	74.1	ns
No part-time ministerial staff	--	--	43.9	38.6	-
1 part-time ministerial staff person	--	--	23.0	22.1	ns

	1998	2006-07	2012	2018-19	Trend
2 or more part-time ministerial staff people	--	--	33.1	39.3	+
Number of full-time paid staff <sup>19</sup>					
Mean	7.7	9.1	9.4	9.7	+
Median	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	NA
Number of full-time paid ministerial staff					
Mean	--	3.6	4.4	4.4	ns
Median	--	2.0	2.0	2.0	NA
Number of part-time paid staff					
Mean	5.9	5.8	7.4	7.5	+
Median	3.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	NA
Number of part-time ministerial staff					
Mean	--	--	2.1	2.5	ns
Median	--	--	1.0	1.0	NA
Percent currently searching for a full-time staff person <sup>20</sup>	--	16.6	--	14.1	ns
Percent for whom the number of full-time paid staff in past year has:					
Increased	--	17.5	14.2	15.4	ns
Stayed the same	--	74.5	76.1	76.2	ns
Decreased	--	7.9	9.7	8.4	ns
Percent with youth minister <sup>21</sup>	--	77.2	76.6	--	ns
<b>WORSHIP</b>					
Percent with 1 service in typical week	14.3	14.5	17.8	19.2	+
Percent with 2 or more services in typical week	85.6	85.3	82.2	80.6	-

	1998	2006-07	2012	2018-19	Trend
Percent reporting important differences between services on typical weekend <sup>22</sup>	--	50.1	42.3	39.2	+
Important differences consisted of: <sup>23</sup>					
Level of formality	--	--	57.4	59.7	ns
Language(s) used	--	--	35.2	30.1	ns
Kind of music	--	--	71.9	68.9	ns
Percent participating in a joint worship service with another congregation	66.5	56.3	--	54.1	-
Percent participating in a joint worship service with a congregation with a different racial or ethnic make-up	30.8	25.8	--	31.2	ns
Median length of most recent main service (minutes)	70	70	70	70	ns
Median length of most recent sermon (minutes)	20	20	22	23	+
Median number of minutes of music at most recent main service	20	20	20	20	ns
Median number of socializing minutes before/after typical service	30	30	30	--	ns
Median attendance at most recent main service	230	200	225	190	ns
Median total attendance (adults and children) at <i>all</i> services during the past weekend	--	350	400	300	ns
Median number of regularly participating adults attending more than one service in past week <sup>24</sup>	50	45	50	--	ns
Percent of most recent main services with each characteristic:					
Sermon or speech	97.2	98.0	98.4	97.5	ns
Speaker came down from the chancel during sermon	--	43.4	42.3	--	ns

	<b>1998</b>	<b>2006-07</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2018-19</b>	<b>Trend</b>
Singing by congregation	98.1	97.1	98.4	97.2	ns
Singing by choir	72.3	58.0	57.2	53.8	-
Time to greet one another	84.6	86.7	88.2	81.4	ns
Congregants joining hands	--	38.0	43.2	--	+
Leader wearing robe or special garments	--	52.2	46.3	49.2	ns
People saying “amen”	52.8	60.4	59.5	64.7	+
Applause	58.7	59.1	62.2	62.0	ns
Adults jump, shout, or dance spontaneously	13.1	17.3	22.1	20.9	+
Raise hands in praise	48.1	55.2	59.0	62.3	+
Written order of service	84.2	75.4	69.1	68.3	-
Visual projection equipment	14.8	32.4	45.0	51.7	+
Projected song lyrics	--	--	42.1	49.0	+
Organ	70.1	--	56.0	52.4	-
Drums	25.1	36.4	45.5	49.1	+
Guitar	--	43.7	49.2	50.3	+
Percent with the following in any worship in past year:					
Speaking in tongues <sup>25</sup>	19.5	20.6	24.7	22.0	ns
People told of opportunities for political activity	36.8	29.5	24.3	19.7	-
People told of opportunities for volunteer activity	--	96.2	95.3	--	ns
Time for people other than leaders to testify	72.1	78.7	74.4	--	ns
Percent with Spanish or bilingual services	--	16.3	19.4	20.5	+

	1998	2006-07	2012	2018-19	Trend
<b>DOCTRINE AND CULTURE</b>					
Percent encouraging use of NIV Bible rather than other translations <sup>26</sup>	21.9	--	15.8	--	-
Percent considering Bible to be literal and inerrant <sup>27</sup>	63.0	70.7	71.8	75.7	+
Percent saying their congregation would be considered <i>politically</i> :					
More on the conservative side	55.2	54.1	52.2	44.8	-
Right in the middle	37.0	38.7	37.8	41.5	ns
More on the liberal side	7.8	7.2	10.0	13.8	+
Percent saying their congregation would be considered <i>theologically</i> :					
More on the conservative side	52.7	57.8	59.0	53.4	ns
Right in the middle	37.6	33.4	28.8	35.2	ns
More on the liberal side	9.8	8.8	12.2	11.4	ns
<b>GROUPS AND SPEAKERS</b>					
Percent with a group or event in the past year focused on the following:					
Discussing politics	12.5	15.5	13.2	14.0	ns
Voter registration	12.4	27.3	23.4	27.0	+
Getting out the vote during an election	--	25.0	26.4	27.7	ns
English as a second language	9.0	14.2	15.5	--	+
Offering services for immigrants <sup>28</sup>	--	--	22.9	27.3	+
Receiving/practicing gifts of the spirit	19.9	16.1	19.6	19.7	ns
Training new teachers	67.6	65.1	69.1	--	ns
Discussing/learning about another religion	29.8	37.4	37.8	30.2	ns

	<b>1998</b>	<b>2006-07</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2018-19</b>	<b>Trend</b>
Discussing/learning about managing personal finances	33.1	--	47.7	45.2	+
Discussing management of congregation's money	55.6	--	72.2	--	+
Assessing community needs	48.1	57.1	67.8	63.2	+
Support for people living with HIV or AIDS	--	--	12.0	16.9	+
Helping people who are unemployed find or train for a job	--	--	51.0	32.0	-
Support for people struggling with drug or alcohol abuse	--	--	52.1	58.3	+
Support for people with mental illness	--	--	31.4	37.1	+
Support for military veterans and their families	--	--	40.2	37.8	ns
Volunteer/service project with people from another faith	--	51.9	65.5	59.6	+
Strategic planning and future goals of congregation	--	89.0	93.8	--	+
Exercising or promoting physical activity	--	--	47.7	48.1	ns
Traveling in U.S. to assist people in need	--	49.8	44.7	42.0	-
Traveling abroad to assist people in need	--	42.2	41.8	42.0	ns
Discussing issues related to the environment	13.6	--	--	26.0	+
Discussing issues related to race and race relations	22.2	--	--	36.0	+
Percent with organized effort to help members of congregation	--	89.1	85.4	--	-
Percent with organized effort to provide members with health-focused programs	--	41.3	42.8	--	ns

	1998	2006-07	2012	2018-19	Trend
Percent having any visiting speakers in the past year	89.6	86.2	86.7	82.0	-
Speaker was: <sup>29</sup>					
Elected government official	13.8	14.3	12.9	12.3	ns
Denominational representative	69.2	74.6	70.9	64.1	-
Representatives of social service organization	44.0	54.0	54.9	46.8	ns
Someone running for office	7.1	7.5	6.9	7.2	ns
Percent with members serving on denominational committees in past year	--	77.9	75.4	--	ns
<b>POLITICAL ACTIVITIES</b>					
Percent distributing voter guides <sup>30</sup>	26.5	25.6	24.2	25.0	ns
Group met in past year to lobby an elected official	12.0	14.5	15.7	15.2	+
Group met in past year to participate in demonstration or march	21.5	20.2	24.8	27.2	+
Lobbying/marching was related to: <sup>31</sup>					
Immigration	--	--	24.1	35.4	+
Abortion	--	--	63.4	52.0	-
Poverty	--	--	42.0	--	NA
Poverty or economic inequality	--	--	--	41.7	NA
<b>SOCIAL SERVICES</b>					
Percent who applied in past two years for a government grant	--	9.5	9.2	7.1	ns
Percent who have started a separate non-profit organization in past two years for human services or outreach ministries	--	10.1	12.3	9.3	ns
Percent participating in any social service programs in past year	--	89.3	91.7	88.5	ns

	1998	2006-07	2012	2018-19	Trend
Number of programs or projects <sup>32</sup>					
Mean	--	--	14.3	10.6	ns
Median	--	--	4	4	NA
Median amount spent on social service programs in the past year	--	\$5,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	ns
Percent with anyone on paid staff spending more than 25% of their time on congregation's social service projects	--	20.8	23.5	22.5	ns
Percent with outside funding support for social service programs	--	16.5	14.3	17.8	ns
Percent with outside funding support from local, state, or federal government	--	5.8	3.9	4.8	ns
<b>SOCIAL COMPOSITION</b>					
Median percent of regular adult participants:					
Who are female	60.0	60.0	60.0	60.0	ns
With a four-year college degree or higher education	30.0	40.0	40.0	50.0	+
Over 60 years old	25.0	30.0	30.0	36.0	+
Under 35 years old	25.0	25.0	25.0	25.0	-
Who live more than a 30-minute drive from meeting place	5.0	5.0	5.0	--	ns
With household income under \$25,000/year	20.0	10.0	--	--	-
With household income under \$35,000/year	--	--	20.0	20.0	-
With household income higher than \$100,000/year	5.0	10.0	--	--	+
With household income higher than \$140,000/year	--	--	10.0	10.0	+

	<b>1998</b>	<b>2006-07</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2018-19</b>	<b>Trend</b>
Living in households with two parents and at least one child	50.0	50.0	45.0	40.0	-
Serving in leadership role in past year	20.0	20.0	20.0	20.0	ns
Percent with regular adult participant composition:					
At least 80% white and non-Hispanic	71.6	65.6	57.4	52.5	-
At least 80% black	12.1	12.0	13.6	13.2	ns
More than 0% Hispanic	57.0	64.0	65.4	73.7	+
At least 80% Hispanic	1.5	4.0	7.7	7.1	+
More than 0% Asian or Pacific Islander	41.0	49.7	48.8	55.0	+
More than 0% American Indian	--	21.0	15.8	--	-
More than 0% immigrated to the U.S. in past five years	39.4	50.7	48.1	53.0	+
Number of regularly participating teenagers					
Mean	--	100	144	112	ns
Median	--	30	35	30	NA
<b>MEMBERS AND LAY LEADERS</b>					
Percent allowing someone who drinks alcohol in moderation to:					
Hold full-fledged membership	--	84.9	--	90.9	+
Hold any volunteer leadership positions open to other members	--	70.6	--	77.2	+
Percent allowing an unmarried couple who live together to:					
Hold full-fledged membership	--	64.8	--	73.9	+
Hold any volunteer leadership positions open to other members	--	31.0	--	39.6	+

	1998	2006-07	2012	2018-19	Trend
Percent allowing openly gay or lesbian couple in committed relationship to:					
Hold full-fledged membership	--	48.8	51.1	59.1	+
Hold any volunteer leadership positions open to other members	--	21.9	27.0	29.4	+
Percent allowing women to:					
Hold all volunteer leadership positions that men can hold	--	79.6	82.0	--	ns
Serve as full-fledged members of main governing body	--	86.1	87.8	90.7	+
Teach by themselves a class with adult men in it	--	87.8	89.7	--	ns
Preach at a main worship service	--	56.7	53.6	59.1	ns
Be head clergy person or primary religious leader	--	39.3	42.3	45.8	+
<b>GEOGRAPHY</b>					
Percent in each region <sup>33</sup>					
Northeast and Mid-Atlantic	19.5	15.4	12.8	12.9	-
East North Central and West North Central	24.3	24.4	26.0	24.6	ns
South Atlantic, East South Central, and West South Central	38.5	38.7	42.2	42.2	+
Mountain and Pacific	17.7	21.5	19.1	20.4	ns
<b>NEIGHBORHOOD CHARACTERISTICS</b>					
Percent in census tracts with at least 30% of individuals below the poverty line	10.1	10.4	14.4	15.2	+
Percent in census tracts with at least 5% Hispanics	29.2	39.6	55.8	64.0	+

	<b>1998</b>	<b>2006-07</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2018-19</b>	<b>Trend</b>
Percent in census tracts with at least 80% African-Americans	5.0	4.0	3.6	3.8	ns
Percent in predominantly urban census tracts	60.9	66.8	73.1	76.9	+
Percent in predominantly rural census tracts	23.3	17.8	14.7	13.1	-
<b>OTHER</b>					
Percent with an elementary or high school	23.4	20.9	23.5	18.7	ns
Percent with a website	28.7	74.3	83.0	87.4	+
Percent with a Facebook page	--	--	55.9	83.3	+
Percent with member publicly acknowledging HIV infection	--	9.4	11.6	--	ns
Percent affiliated with nationally recognized community organizing group, organization, or network.	--	--	33.4	24.8	ns

**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. The "Trend" column indicates whether there is a statistically significant trend on that item between 1998 and 2018-19.<sup>34</sup> A plus sign (+) indicates that there is a statistically significant positive trend for that item, a negative sign (-) indicates that there is a statistically significant negative trend, and "ns" (meaning "not significant") indicates that there is no statistically significant linear trend on that item. The statistical significance of trends was assessed using means even when only medians are reported.<sup>35</sup> "NA" indicates that a statistical assessment of a trend reported as a median was not applicable because we assessed it on a separately reported mean. Sometimes a mean trend is statistically significant even when the medians are unchanged.

These tables are based on slightly updated versions of the 1998, 2006-07, and 2012 datasets, so these numbers may not exactly match values produced from previously available datasets. Means and medians refer to the average congregation.<sup>36</sup> Percentages give the percentage of congregations with the stated characteristic. Sample sizes are 1,234 in 1998, 1,506 in 2006-07, 1,331 in 2012, and 1,262 in 2018-19.

	1998	2006-07	2012	2018-19	Trend
<b>AGE AND SIZE</b>					
Median founding date	1938	1944	1954	1959	+
Median congregation age (years)	60	62	58	59	ns
Number of people associated in any way with the congregation's religious life <sup>37</sup>					
Mean	414	396	404	460	ns
Median	150	150	135	130	NA
Number of people regularly participating in the congregation's religious life					
Mean	185	184	183	187	ns
Median	80	75	70	70	NA

	1998	2006-07	2012	2018-19	Trend
Number of <i>adults</i> regularly participating in the congregation's religious life					
Mean	120	124	120	118	ns
Median	50	50	50	50	NA
Number of <i>adults</i> regularly participating in the congregation's religious life <i>two years ago</i>					
Mean	--	--	126	145	ns
Median	--	--	50	50	NA
Percent for whom the number of regularly participating adults in the last two years has:					
Increased	--	42.5	26.6	32.5	-
Remained about the same	--	40.3	35.7	28.4	-
Decreased	--	17.2	37.7	39.1	+
<b>RELIGIOUS TRADITION<sup>38</sup></b>					
Roman Catholic	7.3	6.0	5.5	6.1	ns
Predominantly white evangelical/conservative Protestant	45.7	47.8	46.1	42.7	ns
Predominantly white moderate/liberal Protestant	26.3	19.7	20.4	20.9	ns
Black Protestant	15.8	23.4	21.4	21.3	ns
Non-Christian	4.9	3.1	6.7	9.0	+
Percent with no denominational affiliation	18.1	20.4	23.5	18.0	ns
<b>BUILDING AND FINANCE</b>					
Percent owning their own building	87.6	89.7	84.6	84.2	ns
Percent meeting in a:					
Church, synagogue, temple, or mosque	87.3	92.7	88.9	89.3	ns
School	5.0	1.0	1.8	1.3	-

	1998	2006-07	2012	2018-19	Trend
Other kind of building	7.8	6.3	9.3	9.5	ns
Percent whose building is used by other groups <sup>39</sup>	50.1	--	--	52.1	ns
For those whose building is used by other groups, median number of outside groups using the building <sup>40</sup>	3	--	--	4	+
Of those whose building is used by other groups, percent with another congregation using their building for worship services <sup>41</sup>	--	--	9.7	7.9	ns
Other congregation is primarily recent immigrants to the U.S. (%) <sup>42</sup>	--	--	39.3	47.8	ns
Percent with weekly worship services at more than one location <sup>43</sup>	--	--	3.4	10.6	+
Percent with a formal written budget	72.8	75.3	76.4	75.9	ns
Median income in past year	\$60,000	\$96,000	\$95,000	\$105,000	+
Median income from <i>two years ago</i>	--	--	\$100,000	\$100,000	ns
Median income from individuals in past year	\$55,000	\$85,000	\$84,000	\$100,000	+
Median budget for past year	\$60,000	\$94,000	\$85,000	100,000	+
Percent receiving income in the past year from sale or rent of building or property <sup>44</sup>	24.0	21.3	22.3	34.9	+
Median amount of income from rental or sale of building or property in past year <sup>45</sup>	\$1,500	\$7,000	\$5,000	\$6,000	ns
Percent giving money to denomination in the past year	73.6	74.2	62.7	68.4	-
Median amount given to denominations in past year <sup>46</sup>	\$5,000	\$7,000	\$7,500	\$7,200	+
Percent with an endowment, savings account, or reserve fund	59.8	57.3	60.5	66.5	ns
Median amount in endowment, savings, or reserve <sup>47</sup>	\$20,000	\$30,000	\$33,000	\$50,000	+

	1998	2006-07	2012	2018-19	Trend
<b>LEADERSHIP</b>					
Percent with a head clergy person or leader	92.3	95.0	94.2	93.8	ns
Percent with full-time head clergy person or leader <sup>48</sup>	--	63.2	71.4	70.1	+
Percent with female head clergy person or leader	10.6	7.9	11.4	13.8 <sup>49</sup>	ns
Percent with head clergy person born in the United States	--	--	90.5	85.1	ns
Percent with head clergy person or leader of each race or ethnicity					
White	76.9	69.2	67.5	64.6	-
Black	18.6	25.0	23.3	25.9	ns
Hispanic	1.8	1.9	5.7	5.2	+
Asian/Pacific Islander	1.7	2.5	2.7	4.2	ns
Other	0.9	1.4	0.9	0.1	ns
Median number of years senior clergy person in current position	4.0	5.0	6.0	6.0	+
Median age of senior clergy person	49	53	55	57	+
Percent for whom head clergy person has highest education level of:					
Less than a bachelor's degree	28.1	--	28.4	23.7	ns
Bachelor's degree	19.8	--	22.9	20.9	ns
Graduate degree	52.2	--	48.7	55.4	ns
Percent with head clergy person having following characteristics:					
Graduated from seminary or theological school	--	61.9	--	67.5	ns
Currently attends seminary or theological school	--	11.7	7.0	19.3	ns

	1998	2006-07	2012	2018-19	Trend
Ordained to full clergy status	--	94.0	92.6	--	ns
Paid for work in congregation	--	80.7	86.3	81.3	ns
Also serves another congregation	--	13.6	16.3	18.3	ns
Also holds another job	--	37.0	34.3	35.0	ns
Was a regular participant in the congregation before becoming the head clergy person	--	23.3	--	26.9	ns
<b>PAID STAFF</b>					
Percent with the following characteristics:					
No paid staff <sup>50</sup>	23.0	13.5	16.1	14.3	-
No full-time staff	39.7	34.6	35.9	37.2	ns
1 full-time staff person	34.5	36.0	39.7	36.2	ns
2 or more full-time staff people	25.9	29.4	24.5	26.6	ns
No full-time ministerial staff <sup>51</sup>	--	36.8	37.6	39.7	ns
1 full-time ministerial staff person	--	43.8	46.2	42.0	ns
2 or more full-time ministerial staff people	--	19.5	16.2	18.4	ns
No part-time staff	41.6	34.5	36.2	32.6	-
1 part-time staff person	17.3	18.4	18.3	18.9	ns
2 or more part-time staff people	41.1	47.1	45.4	48.5	ns
No part-time ministerial staff	--	--	56.0	49.4	ns
1 part-time ministerial staff person	--	--	29.2	29.7	ns
2 or more part-time ministerial staff people	--	--	14.8	20.9	+
Number of full-time paid staff <sup>52</sup>					
Mean	1.8	1.9	1.9	1.8	ns
Median	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	NA
Number of full-time paid ministerial staff					
Mean	--	1.1	1.0	1.1	ns

	1998	2006-07	2012	2018-19	Trend
Median	--	1.0	1.0	1.0	NA
Number of part-time paid staff					
Mean	2.2	2.4	2.3	2.5	ns
Median	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	NA
Number of part-time ministerial staff					
Mean	--	--	0.76	0.96	+
Median	--	--	0	1	NA
Percent currently searching for a full-time staff person <sup>53</sup>	--	10.8	--	9.7	ns
Percent for whom the number of full-time paid staff in past year has:					
Increased	--	6.8	5.3	4.7	ns
Stayed the same	--	86.9	90.9	90.6	ns
Decreased	--	6.3	3.8	4.7	ns
Percent with youth minister <sup>54</sup>	--	55.6	54.9	--	ns
<b>WORSHIP</b>					
Percent with 1 service in typical week	26.6	28.5	38.1	38.3	+
Percent with 2 or more services in typical week	72.8	71.4	61.9	60.5	-
Percent reporting important differences between services on typical weekend <sup>55</sup>	--	47.9	30.3	36.2	-
Important differences consisted of: <sup>56</sup>					
Level of formality	--	--	69.3	71.4	ns
Language(s) used	--	--	10.5	12.0	ns
Kind of music	--	--	46.3	54.9	ns
Percent participating in a joint worship service with another congregation	66.7	69.4	--	62.6	ns

	1998	2006-07	2012	2018-19	Trend
Percent participating in a joint worship service with a congregation with a different racial or ethnic make-up	28.3	28.8	--	31.4	ns
Median length of most recent main service (minutes)	75	75	75	80	ns
Median length of most recent sermon (minutes)	25	30	30	30	ns
Median number of minutes of music at most recent main service	20	20	20	20	ns
Median number of socializing minutes before/after typical service	30	30	30	--	ns
Median attendance at most recent main service	70	65	60	60	ns
Median total attendance (adults and children) at <i>all</i> services during the past weekend	--	90	76	70	ns
Median number of regularly participating adults attending more than one service in past week <sup>57</sup>	15	25	25	--	+
Percent of most recent main services with each characteristic:					
Sermon or speech	95.3	95.3	96.5	96.2	ns
Speaker came down from the chancel during sermon	--	50.6	48.6	--	ns
Singing by congregation	96.8	97.2	96.4	96.3	ns
Singing by choir	53.9	44.1	45.3	41.9	-
Time to greet one another	78.4	80.7	81.4	79.3	ns
Congregants joining hands	--	34.0	40.3	--	ns
Leader wearing robe or special garments	--	32.1	30.2	38.7	ns
People saying "amen"	60.7	70.7	66.7	69.0	ns
Applause	54.6	61.3	65.3	58.5	ns
Adults jump, shout, or dance spontaneously	19.2	25.8	26.5	27.9	+
Raise hands in praise	44.6	56.7	59.4	62.7	+
Written order of service	72.0	67.8	62.2	66.0	-

	1998	2006-07	2012	2018-19	Trend
Visual projection equipment	11.9	26.5	35.3	46.0	+
Projected song lyrics	--	--	31.5	42.1	+
Organ used	53.0	--	42.0	46.8	-
Drums used	19.9	32.5	34.3	40.8	+
Guitar used	--	33.5	29.3	35.3	ns
Percent with the following in any worship in past year:					
Speaking in tongues <sup>58</sup>	24.0	27.0	30.0	29.4	ns
People told of opportunities for political activity	26.2	21.4	14.5	15.6	-
People told of opportunities for volunteer activity	--	93.6	91.8	--	ns
Time for people other than leaders to testify	77.6	85.0	84.9	--	+
Percent with Spanish or bilingual services	--	6.3	8.8	10.0	+
<b>DOCTRINE AND CULTURE</b>					
Percent encouraging use of NIV Bible rather than other translations <sup>59</sup>	20.8	--	21.2	--	ns
Percent considering Bible to be literal and inerrant <sup>60</sup>	76.2	82.6	83.7	82.3	+
Percent saying their congregation would be considered <i>politically</i> :					
More on the conservative side	62.0	58.1	54.9	45.8	-
Right in the middle	30.6	34.6	33.7	39.1	+
More on the liberal side	7.4	7.4	11.5	15.1	+
Percent saying their congregation would be considered <i>theologically</i> :					
More on the conservative side	59.8	62.8	62.8	54.1	ns
Right in the middle	29.9	29.5	25.0	33.9	ns

	1998	2006-07	2012	2018-19	Trend
More on the liberal side	10.3	7.7	12.2	12.0	ns
<b>GROUPS AND SPEAKERS</b>					
Percent with a group or event in the past year focused on the following:					
Discussing politics	6.4	6.3	5.8	10.6	+
Voter registration	8.3	17.8	11.1	22.9	+
Getting out the vote during an election	--	22.8	19.8	26.5	ns
English as a second language	3.6	5.8	4.8	4.8	ns
Offering services for immigrants <sup>61</sup>	--	--	9.5	14.3	+
Receiving/practicing gifts of the spirit	13.2	11.4	17.0	16.4	ns
Training new teachers	38.0	39.4	41.3	--	ns
Discussing/learning about another religion	20.3	25.2	25.9	24.7	ns
Discussing/learning about managing personal finances	21.9	--	30.6	32.6	+
Discussing management of congregation's money	46.9	--	66.2	--	+
Assessing community needs	36.9	48.4	56.7	54.0	+
Support for people living with HIV or AIDS	--	--	7.5	13.9	+
Helping people who are unemployed find or train for a job	--	--	34.9	26.6	-
Support for people struggling with drug or alcohol abuse	--	--	37.6	42.8	ns
Support for people with mental illness	--	--	23.0	26.2	ns
Support for military veterans and their families	--	--	27.3	29.0	ns
Volunteer/service project with people from another faith	--	34.8	51.5	48.2	+
Strategic planning and future goals of congregation	--	82.4	86.1	--	ns

	1998	2006-07	2012	2018-19	Trend
Exercising or promoting physical activity	--	--	29.1	36.2	+
Traveling in U.S. to assist people in need	--	30.9	34.2	25.3	ns
Traveling abroad to assist people in need	--	25.2	27.3	27.5	ns
Discussing issues related to the environment	7.4	--	--	17.6	+
Discussing issues related to race and race relations	16.3	--	--	28.8	+
Percent with organized effort to help members of congregation	--	80.8	80.0	--	ns
Percent with organized effort to provide members with health-focused programs	--	22.0	28.1	--	+
Percent having any visiting speakers in the past year	83.2	81.4	78.6	76.4	-
Speaker was: <sup>62</sup>					
Elected government official	8.0	10.1	6.6	8.9	ns
Denominational representative	62.4	68.6	71.4	57.0	ns
Representatives of social service organization	26.7	37.6	39.9	37.1	+
Someone running for office	5.5	6.8	6.7	8.5	ns
Percent with members serving on denominational committees in past year	--	66.1	62.8	--	ns
<b>POLITICAL ACTIVITIES</b>					
Percent distributing voter guides <sup>63</sup>	17.0	17.2	12.9	24.0	ns
Group met in past year to lobby an elected official	4.4	7.9	6.6	9.8	+
Group met in past year to participate in demonstration or march	9.2	8.3	12.5	17.3	+
Lobbying/marching was related to: <sup>64</sup>					
Immigration	--	--	13.0	38.9	+
Abortion	--	--	33.3	28.0	ns

	1998	2006-07	2012	2018-19	Trend
Poverty	--	--	37.4	--	NA
Poverty or economic inequality	--	--	--	48.2	NA
<b>SOCIAL SERVICES</b>					
Percent who applied in past two years for a government grant	--	3.6	4.9	4.0	ns
Percent who have started a separate non-profit organization in past two years for human services or outreach ministries	--	6.1	8.9	7.2	ns
Percent participating in any social service programs in past year	--	80.8	83.1	79.6	ns
Number of projects or programs <sup>65</sup>					
Mean	--	--	5.7	5.0	ns
Median	--	--	3	3	NA
Median amount spent on social service programs in the past year	--	\$1,400	\$1,500	\$2,640	ns
Percent with anyone on paid staff spending more than 25% of their time on congregation's social service projects	--	13.6	16.9	19.1	ns
Percent with outside funding support for social service programs	--	13.3	10.8	14.7	ns
Percent with outside funding support from local, state, or federal government	--	5.0	1.9	3.2	ns
<b>SOCIAL COMPOSITION</b>					
Median percent of regular adult participants:					
Who are female	60.0	60.0	60.0	60.0	ns
With a four-year college degree or higher education	15.4	20.0	25.0	30.4	+
Over 60 years old	25.0	30.0	30.0	40.0	+
Under 35 years old	25.0	20.0	20.0	20.0	-

	1998	2006-07	2012	2018-19	Trend
Who live more than a 30-minute drive from meeting place	5.0	5.0	5.0	--	ns
With household income under \$25,000/year	30.0	20.0	--	--	-
With household income under \$35,000/year	--	--	30.0	20.0	-
With household income higher than \$100,000/year	0.0	2.0	--	--	+
With household income higher than \$140,000/year	--	--	1.0	5.0	+
Living in households with two parents and at least one child	40.0	30.0	30.0	30.0	-
Serving in leadership role in past year	33.3	30.0	28.6	30.0	-
Percent with regular adult participant composition:					
At least 80% white and non-Hispanic	71.2	62.6	57.1	53.4	-
At least 80% black	17.0	23.8	21.2	21.6	ns
More than 0% Hispanic	33.3	35.7	37.6	51.0	+
At least 80% Hispanic	1.4	2.2	6.0	5.0	+
More than 0% Asian or Pacific Islander	18.2	22.6	23.9	31.2	+
More than 0% American Indian	--	11.1	11.2	--	ns
More than 0% immigrated to the U.S. in past five years	17.9	20.4	18.4	27.7	+
Number of regularly participating teenagers					
Mean	--	19.9	22.3	17.5	ns
Median	--	10.0	8.0	8.0	NA
<b>MEMBERS AND LAY LEADERS</b>					
Percent allowing someone who drinks alcohol in moderation to:					
Hold full-fledged membership	--	71.7	--	84.7	+

	1998	2006-07	2012	2018-19	Trend
Hold any volunteer leadership positions open to other members	--	52.6	--	64.5	+
Percent allowing an unmarried couple who live together to:					
Hold full-fledged membership	--	53.7	--	68.4	+
Hold any volunteer leadership positions open to other members	--	27.6	--	39.8	+
Percent allowing openly gay or lesbian couple in committed relationship to:					
Hold full-fledged membership	--	37.4	48.0	53.7	+
Hold any volunteer leadership positions open to other members	--	17.8	26.5	29.8	+
Percent allowing women to:					
Hold all volunteer leadership positions that men can hold	--	73.7	79.3	--	ns
Serve as full-fledged members of main governing body	--	84.0	86.4	88.8	ns
Teach by themselves a class with adult men in it	--	83.7	85.7	--	
Preach at a main worship service	--	65.3	67.8	71.8	ns
Be head clergyperson or primary religious leader	--	46.8	57.7	56.4	+
<b>GEOGRAPHY</b>					
Percent in each region <sup>66</sup>					
Northeast and Mid-Atlantic	12.7	12.9	12.1	13.1	ns
East North Central and West North Central	20.1	25.0	23.2	23.8	ns
South Atlantic, East South Central, and West South Central	48.8	47.7	50.5	46.4	ns
Mountain and Pacific	18.4	14.4	14.1	16.8	ns

	1998	2006-07	2012	2018-19	Trend
<b>NEIGHBORHOOD CHARACTERISTICS</b>					
Percent in census tracts with at least 30% of individuals below the poverty line	11.8	14.1	17.1	15.3	ns
Percent in census tracts with at least 5% Hispanics	25.4	28.2	50.2	59.6	+
Percent in census tracts with at least 80% African-Americans	3.7	5.2	2.8	3.9	ns
Percent in predominantly urban census tracts	41.8	44.1	50.2	59.8	+
Percent in predominantly rural census tracts	43.4	32.6	31.7	24.7	-
<b>OTHER</b>					
Percent with an elementary or high school	6.1	4.7	5.6	3.7	-
Percent with a website	17.1	44.3	55.7	71.6	+
Percent with a Facebook page	--	--	40.1	72.5	+
Percent affiliated with nationally recognized community organizing group, organization, or network	--	--	25.5	18.9	ns
Percent with a member publicly acknowledging HIV infection	--	4.4	7.3	--	ns

**TABLE 3**  
**2018-19 NATIONAL CONGREGATIONS STUDY:**  
**BASIC FINDINGS**

This table provides descriptive statistics for almost all items contained in the 2018-19 NCS (Wave IV). Values for each variable are presented from two different perspectives. In the "Attendees' Perspective" column, means and medians refer to the congregation attended by the average religious service attendee, and 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, and percentages refer to the percentage of congregations with the stated characteristic. The 2018-19 NCS contains data from 1,262 congregations.

	<b>Attendees' Perspective</b>	<b>Congregations' Perspective</b>
<b>AGE AND SIZE</b>		
Median founding date	1953	1959
Median congregation age (years)	65	59
Number of people associated in any way with the congregation's religious life		
Mean	3036	460
Median	650	130
Number of people regularly participating in the congregation's religious life		
Mean	1373	187
Median	363	70
Number of <i>adults</i> regularly participating in the congregation's religious life		
Mean	948	118
Median	250	50
Number of <i>adults</i> regularly participating in the congregation's religious life <i>two years ago</i>		
Mean	1028	145
Median	250	50

	<b>Attendees' Perspective</b>	<b>Congregations' Perspective</b>
Percentage for whom the number of regularly participating adults has:		
Increased	34.9	32.5
Remained the same	32.3	28.4
Decreased	32.8	39.1
<b>RELIGIOUS TRADITION</b>		
Percent with no denominational affiliation	14.6	18.0
Percent associated with each denomination or tradition: <sup>67</sup>		
Roman Catholic	26.7	6.1
Baptist conventions/denominations	16.0	20.4
Methodist denominations	8.9	12.3
Lutheran/Episcopal denominations	6.7	6.6
Pentecostal	8.2	13.3
Presbyterian/Reformed	5.8	6.8
Other Christian	22.0	25.5
Jewish	2.2	3.2
Muslim	0.9	0.5
Buddhist	0.8	3.1
Hindu	0.7	0.7
Other non-Christian	1.0	1.4
Percent belonging to each broad religious tradition: <sup>68</sup>		
Roman Catholic	26.7	6.1
Predominantly white evangelical/conservative Protestant	37.2	42.7
Predominantly white moderate/liberal Protestant	18.2	20.9
Black Protestant	12.3	21.3
Non-Christian	5.7	9.0
<b>BUILDING AND FINANCE</b>		
Percent owning their building	90.9	84.2

	<b>Attendees' Perspective</b>	<b>Congregations' Perspective</b>
Median year building was built <sup>69</sup>	1962	1961
Percent meeting in a:		
Church, synagogue, temple, or mosque	94.3	89.3
School	1.0	1.3
Storefront	1.4	3.1
Other kind of building	3.3	6.3
Percent whose building is used by other groups <sup>70</sup>	66.4	52.1
For those whose building is used by other groups, median number of outside groups using the building <sup>71</sup>	6	4
Of those whose building is used by other groups, percent with another congregation using their building for worship services <sup>72</sup>	14.0	15.2
Other congregation is primarily recent immigrants to U.S. (%) <sup>73</sup>	47.2	47.8
Percent with worship services at more than one location <sup>74</sup>	11.4	6.3
Median number of locations <sup>75</sup>	3.0	2.0
Percent who have the same sermon for different locations	36.9	15.7
Percent who have the same music for different locations	27.5	29.6
Percent with a formal written budget	90.2	75.9
Median income in past year	\$470,000	\$105,000
Median income from <i>two years ago</i>	\$460,000	\$100,000
Median income from individuals in past year	\$400,000	\$100,000
Median budget for the past year	\$450,000	\$100,000
Percent receiving income in the past year from rental of building or property	42.6	34.9
Median income of income from rental of building or property in past fiscal year <sup>76</sup>	\$9,000	\$6,000
Percent giving money to denomination in the past year	77.5	68.4
Median amount given to denomination in past year <sup>77</sup>	\$36,000	\$7,200

	<b>Attendees' Perspective</b>	<b>Congregations' Perspective</b>
Percent with an endowment, savings account, or reserve fund	75.9	66.5
Median amount in endowment, savings, or reserve <sup>78</sup>	\$200,000	\$50,000
<b>LEADERSHIP</b>		
Percent with a head clergy person or leader	95.4	93.8
Percent with coleaders	2.3	2.8
Percent with no leaders	0.4	0.9
Percent with full-time head clergy person or leader <sup>79</sup>	88.3	70.1
Percent with female head clergy person or leader <sup>80</sup>	8.1	13.8
Percent with head clergy person or leader of each race or ethnicity:		
White	72.1	64.6
Black	16.1	25.9
Hispanic	6.9	5.2
Asian/Pacific Islander	4.7	4.2
Other	0.2	0.1
Percent with head clergy person born in U.S.	84.4	85.1
Percent with a head clergy person who is married	67.8	82.4
Median number of years head clergy person in current position	6.0	6.0
Median age of head clergy person	55	57
Percent for whom head clergy person has highest education level of:		
Less than a bachelor's degree	11.6	23.7
Bachelor's degree	15.2	20.9
Graduate degree	73.2	55.4
Percent with a head clergy person having the following characteristics:		
Graduated from seminary or theological school	79.8	67.5
Currently attends seminary or theological school	13.9	19.3

	<b>Attendees' Perspective</b>	<b>Congregations' Perspective</b>
Paid for work in congregation	91.6	81.3
Also serves another congregation	10.4	18.3
Also holds another job	18.8	35.0
Was a regular participant in the congregation before becoming the head clergy person	23.5	26.9
<b>PAID STAFF</b>		
Percent with the following characteristics:		
No paid staff	5.9	14.3
No full-time staff	13.3	37.2
1 full-time staff person	21.9	36.2
2 or more full-time staff people	64.8	26.6
No full-time ministerial staff	14.6	39.7
1 full-time ministerial staff person	31.8	42.0
2 or more full-time ministerial staff people	53.5	18.4
No part-time staff	15.6	32.6
1 part-time staff person	10.3	18.9
2 or more part-time staff people	74.1	48.5
No part-time ministerial staff	38.6	49.4
1 part-time ministerial staff person	22.1	29.7
2 or more part-time ministerial staff people	39.3	20.9
Number of full-time paid staff		
Mean	9.7	1.8
Median	3.0	1.0
Number of full-time paid ministerial staff		
Mean	4.4	1.1
Median	2.0	1.0
Number of part-time paid staff		
Mean	7.5	2.5
Median	4.0	1.0

	<b>Attendees' Perspective</b>	<b>Congregations' Perspective</b>
Number of part-time paid ministerial staff		
Mean	2.5	1.0
Median	1.0	1.0
Percent currently searching for a full-time staff person <sup>81</sup>	14.1	9.7
Percent for whom the number of full-time paid staff in the past year has:		
Increased	15.4	4.7
Stayed the same	76.2	90.6
Decreased	8.4	4.7
<b>WORSHIP</b>		
Percent with 1 service in typical week	19.2	38.3
Percent with 2 or more services in a typical week	80.6	60.5
Percent reporting important differences between services in a typical weekend <sup>82</sup>	39.2	36.2
Important differences consisted of: <sup>83</sup>		
Level of formality	59.7	71.4
Languages used during service	30.1	12.0
Kind of music during service	68.9	54.9
Percent with a worship service on days other than Friday, Saturday, or Sunday	70.8	70.6
Median number of people who attend a weekday service without also attending on the weekend. <sup>84</sup>	15	10
Percent participating in a joint worship service with another congregation	54.1	62.6
Percent participating in a joint worship service with a congregation with a different racial or ethnic make-up	31.2	31.4
Median length of most recent main service (minutes)	70	80
Median length of most recent sermon (minutes)	23	30
Median number of minutes of music at most recent service	20	20
Median attendance at most recent main service	190	60

	<b>Attendees' Perspective</b>	<b>Congregations' Perspective</b>
Median total attendance (adults and children) at <i>all</i> services during the past weekend	300	70
Percent of most recent main services with each characteristic:		
Sermon or speech	97.5	96.2
Singing by congregation	97.2	96.3
Singing by choir	53.8	41.9
Time to greet one another	81.4	79.3
Leader wearing robe or special garments	49.2	38.7
People saying "Amen"	64.7	69.0
Applause	62.0	58.5
Adults jumping, shouting, or dancing spontaneously	20.9	27.9
Raising hands in praise	62.3	62.7
Written order of service	68.3	66.0
Song lyrics projected on wall or screen	49.0	42.1
Organ	52.4	46.8
Drums	49.1	40.8
Guitar	50.3	35.3
Percent with the following at any worship in the past year:		
Speaking in tongues <sup>85</sup>	22.0	29.4
People told of opportunities for political activity	19.7	15.6
Time for people other than leaders to share joys, thoughts, or concerns	40.8	64.4
<b>DOCTRINE AND CULTURE</b>		
Percent considering the Bible to be literal and inerrant <sup>86</sup>	75.7	82.3
Percent teaching that God gives financial wealth and good health to those with enough faith <sup>87</sup>	15.3	25.0

	<b>Attendees' Perspective</b>	<b>Congregations' Perspective</b>
Percent saying their congregation would be considered <i>politically</i> :		
Extremely conservative	7.8	11.0
Moderately conservative	32.2	29.0
Slightly conservative	4.5	5.5
Right in the middle	41.7	39.4
Slightly liberal	1.6	1.1
Moderately liberal	9.7	9.4
Extremely liberal	2.6	1.3
Percent saying their congregation would be considered <i>theologically</i> :		
Extremely conservative	13.9	19.0
Moderately conservative	34.2	30.9
Slightly conservative	4.9	3.8
Right in the middle	35.5	34.2
Slightly liberal	2.7	1.8
Moderately liberal	5.4	5.4
Extremely liberal	3.4	4.9
<b>GROUPS AND SPEAKERS</b>		
Percent with a group or event in the past year focused on the following:		
Discussing politics	14.0	10.6
Voter registration	27.0	22.9
Getting out the vote during an election	27.7	26.5
Offering services for immigrants	27.3	14.3
Receiving/practicing gifts of the spirit	19.7	16.4
Discussing/learning about another religion	30.2	24.7
Discussing/learning about managing personal finances	45.2	32.6
Assessing community needs	63.2	54.0

	<b>Attendees' Perspective</b>	<b>Congregations' Perspective</b>
Participating in a volunteer activity or service project with people from another faith	59.6	48.2
Travelling in U.S. to assist people in need	42.0	25.3
Travelling abroad to assist people in need	42.0	27.5
Supporting military veterans and their families	37.8	29.0
Exercising or promoting physical activity	48.1	36.2
Helping people who are unemployed find or train for a job	32.0	26.6
Support for people living with HIV or AIDS	16.9	13.9
Support for people struggling with drug or alcohol abuse	58.3	42.8
Support for people with mental illness	37.1	26.2
Support for recently divorced people	39.3	23.5
Organizing or participating in a blood drive	37.9	18.6
Discussing issues related to race and race relations	36.0	28.8
Discussing issues related to race and the police	21.5	18.8
Discussing issues related to sexual orientation or gender identity	25.3	19.4
Learning about living wills, advanced medical directives, or other end-of-life issues	32.8	20.3
Workshop or event for religious leaders not part of the congregation	41.3	30.6
Discussing scientific issues or the relationship between science and religion	25.4	14.6
Discussing issues related to the environment	26.0	17.6
Percent having any visiting speakers in the past year	82.0	76.4
Speaker was: <sup>88</sup>		
Elected government official	12.3	8.9
Denominational representative	64.1	57.0
Representative of social service organization	46.8	37.1
Someone running for office	7.2	8.5

	<b>Attendees' Perspective</b>	<b>Congregations' Perspective</b>
<b>POLITICAL ACTIVITIES</b>		
Percent distributing voter guides within the past 2 years	25.0	24.0
Percent with a group in the past year to lobby an elected official	15.2	9.8
Percent with a group in the past year to participate in a demonstration or march	27.2	17.3
Lobby/marching was related to: <sup>89</sup>		
Poverty or economic inequality	41.7	48.2
Immigration	35.4	38.9
Percent of those lobbying/marching on immigration who supported immigrants/immigration <sup>90</sup>	99.0	96.8
Percent of those lobby/marching on immigration encouraged stricter immigration enforcement	1.0	3.2
Abortion	52.0	28.0
Percent of those lobby/marching on abortion who were Pro-life <sup>91</sup>	96.6	83.8
Percent of those lobby/marching on abortion who were Pro-choice	3.4	16.2
Issues concerning LGBT people	14.1	18.8
Percent of those lobby/marching on LGBT issues who supported more rights for LGBT people <sup>92</sup>	94.4	90.8
Percent of those lobbying/marching on LGBT issues who opposed more rights for LGBT people	5.6	9.2
Environmental issues	21.4	30.6
Percent of those lobby/marching on environmental issues in favor of protecting the environment <sup>93</sup>	97.4	92.8
Percent of those lobby/marching on environmental issues to oppose environmental regulations	2.6	7.2
Percent publicly supporting or opposing a candidate for office in the past two years	2.2	4.3
Percent who would have supported or opposed a candidate for office if doing so would not put the congregation's tax status at risk <sup>94</sup>	13.0	17.2

	<b>Attendees' Perspective</b>	<b>Congregations' Perspective</b>
Percent declaring themselves to be sanctuaries for undocumented immigrants	3.5	4.1
Percent who discussed becoming a sanctuary for undocumented immigrants <sup>95</sup>	11.3	9.0
<b>SOCIAL SERVICES</b>		
Percent who applied in past two years for a government grant	7.1	4.0
Percent who have started a separate non-profit in the last two years	9.3	7.2
Percent participating in any social service programs in the past year	88.5	79.6
Median number of social service programs <sup>96</sup>	4	3
Median number of social service programs completely run by congregation	3	2
Percent with one of top four programs focused on:		
Victims of rape or domestic violence	2.5	1.5
Clothing, blankets, rummage sales	16.3	14.6
Disaster relief	6.5	5.5
Support for schools/non-religious education or training	18.8	15.5
Senior citizens	7.5	6.5
Feeding the hungry	57.3	48.1
Males or females in particular	11.1	7.0
Individuals' physical health needs	20.5	18.0
People who are homeless	23.6	14.9
Home building, repair, maintenance	21.4	13.7
Habitat for Humanity projects	4.0	1.5
Immigrants, migrants, or refugees	5.4	2.4
Beneficiaries outside the U.S.	16.3	11.0
Job placement	2.6	1.7
Youth and children	36.9	32.0
People in legal trouble or their families	5.1	3.8

	<b>Attendees' Perspective</b>	<b>Congregations' Perspective</b>
People struggling with substance abuse	3.4	2.9
St. Vincent de Paul	3.9	0.8
Percent with all of their social service projects involving collaboration	44.5	48.1
Percent collaborating on social service projects with: <sup>97</sup>		
Other congregations	70.8	65.7
A nonprofit service organization	80.1	69.6
An office or program of the same denomination or religious group	54.2	43.5
A public elementary, middle, or high school	43.8	33.9
A college or university	17.3	10.3
A business	31.7	22.8
A local, state, or federal government agency or program	33.4	29.1
Median amount spent on social service programs in the past year	\$10,000	\$2,640
Percent with a paid staff person spending more than 25% of their time on social service projects	22.5	19.1
Percent with outside funding support for social service programs	17.8	14.7
Percent with outside funding support from local, state, or federal government	4.8	3.2
Percent sponsoring any refugees	8.5	6.6
Percent who discussed sponsoring any refugees <sup>98</sup>	10.3	7.2
Percent helping people respond to or recover from a natural disaster	71.4	58.2
Natural disaster help consisted of: <sup>99</sup>		
Raising or contributing money	90.6	82.0
Donating food, clothing, or furniture	53.7	57.4
Providing temporary shelter	9.3	7.2
Sending a team to a disaster area	33.6	27.1

	<b>Attendees' Perspective</b>	<b>Congregations' Perspective</b>
<b>HEALTH PROGRAMS</b>		
Percent with any health-focused programs	42.9	33.2
Health-focused program involved: <sup>100</sup>		
Blood pressure checks	75.7	74.5
Screening for any type of cancer	28.3	27.0
Offering flu shots	34.2	23.7
Testing for diabetes or checking blood sugar levels	40.8	40.4
Testing for HIV or AIDS	11.1	8.9
Helping people get health insurance or Medicaid	25.7	29.6
Educating people about nutrition or healthy eating habits	65.6	69.6
<b>TECHNOLOGY</b>		
Percent with a website	87.4	71.6
Percent with a Facebook page	83.3	72.5
Percent live streaming their service	28.0	20.2
Percent recording the service for later listening or watching	57.2	49.7
Percent with recordings of their worship services available on their website	52.6	31.9
Percent with a system to allow people to make financial donations electronically	72.7	48.2
Percent that make or recommend apps for people to use on their phones or tablets	40.0	22.9
Percent encouraging smartphone use during worship services	32.7	33.0
Percent with smartphones used in the service to: <sup>101</sup>		
Read scripture	50.9	56.8
Donate money to the congregation	23.7	15.0
Interact with social media	11.0	16.4
Take pictures, video, or sound recordings	16.0	29.4
Engage with the sermon or message	20.3	13.3
Engage or interact with the music	4.0	5.3

	<b>Attendees' Perspective</b>	<b>Congregations' Perspective</b>
Main worship service included:		
Visual projection equipment	51.7	46.0
Watching video clips	25.2	18.2
Cameras to project images of speakers in the room	16.8	8.8
Percent with a head clergy person who uses the following to communicate with the congregation:		
Facebook	36.4	40.4
Social media accounts other than Facebook	19.5	17.8
Blog	12.3	12.2
Percent with a paid staff person spending at least 25% of their time managing social media	19.2	4.5
<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	50.0	30.4
Over 60 years old	36.0	40.0
Under 35 years old	25.0	20.0
With annual household income under \$35,000	20.0	20.0
With annual household income higher than \$140,000	10.0	5.0
Living in households with two parents and at least one child	40.0	30.0
Serving in leadership role in past year	20.0	30.0
Percent with regular adult participant composition:		
At least 80% white and non-Hispanic	52.5	53.4
At least 80% black	13.2	21.6
More than 0% Hispanic	73.7	51.0
At least 80% Hispanic	7.1	5.0
More than 0% Asian or Pacific Islander	55.0	31.2
More than 0% immigrated to the U.S. in past five years	53.0	27.7
No one ethnic group comprises 80% or more of the people	24.3	15.1

	<b>Attendees' Perspective</b>	<b>Congregations' Perspective</b>
Number of regularly participating teenagers		
Mean	112	17.5
Median	30	8
Percent of people who <i>only</i> attend services without participating in other ways in the congregation's life		
Mean	27.1	20.9
Median	0.0	0.0
<b>MEMBERS AND LAY LEADERS</b>		
Percent allowing someone who drinks in alcohol in moderation to:		
Hold full-fledged membership	90.9	84.7
Hold any volunteer leadership positions open to other members	77.2	64.5
Percent allowing an unmarried couple who live together to:		
Hold full-fledged membership	73.9	68.4
Hold any volunteer leadership positions open to other members	39.6	39.8
Percent allowing openly gay or lesbian couple in committed relationship to:		
Hold full-fledged membership	59.1	53.7
Hold any volunteer leadership positions open to other members	29.4	29.8
Percent allowing a same-sex wedding to take place in their building <sup>102</sup>	12.7	15.8
Percent allowing women to:		
Serve as full-fledged members of main governing body	90.7	88.8
Preach at a main worship service	59.1	71.9
Be head clergyperson or primary religious leader	45.8	56.4

<b>GEOGRAPHY</b>		
Percent in each region: <sup>103</sup>		
Northeast and Mid-Atlantic	12.9	13.1
East North Central and West North Central	24.6	23.8
South Atlantic, East South Central, and West South Central	42.2	46.4
Mountain and Pacific	20.4	16.8
<b>NEIGHBORHOOD CHARACTERISTICS</b>		
Percent in census tracts with at least 30% of individuals below the poverty line	15.2	15.3
Percent in census tracts with at least 5% Hispanics	64.0	59.6
Percent in census tracts with at least 80% African-Americans	3.8	3.9
Percent in predominantly urban census tracts	76.9	59.8
Percent in predominantly rural census tracts	13.1	24.7
<b>OTHER</b>		
Percent with an elementary or high school	18.7	3.7
Percent affiliated with nationally recognized community organizing group, organization, or network.	24.8	18.9
Percent with an organized effort, designated person, or committee to increase racial or ethnic diversity within the congregation	14.1	9.7

## NOTES

<sup>1</sup> Trends were assessed by regressing each item on survey year. Ordinary least squares regression was used for continuous variables; logistic regression was used for binary variables. A statistically significant trend means that the coefficient associated with survey year was different from zero at least at the .05 alpha-level.

<sup>2</sup> The value of the weighted median is the first observed value which is greater than 50% of the weighted data. Other methods for calculating the weighted median may yield slightly different results for some variables.

<sup>3</sup> To get results that represent the average attendee, data are weighted to preserve the fact that larger congregations are more likely to be included in the NCS sample. Weights also take into account other relevant characteristics of the survey. The weighting variable used for this table is called WT\_ALL4\_ATTENDEE in the publicly available dataset. For more information on weights, see the detailed documentation of NCS weights available at <https://sites.duke.edu/ncsweb/files/2020/10/WeightsDocument.pdf>.

<sup>4</sup> One extreme outlying observation in 2012 has been removed from this and the following two size variables.

<sup>5</sup> The largest denominations in the predominantly white moderate/liberal category are the United Methodist Church, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, Presbyterian Church (USA), Episcopal Church, United Church of Christ,

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American Baptist Churches in the USA, Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), and Unitarian Universalist Association. The largest denominations in the predominantly white evangelical/conservative category are the Southern Baptist Convention, Assemblies of God, Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Jehovah's Witness, Seventh Day Adventists, Churches of Christ, Church of the Nazarene, Evangelical Free Church, Baptist General Conference, Christian Missionary Alliance, Christian Reformed Church, Freewill Baptist, Church of God (Anderson), and Church of the Foursquare Gospel. The Black Protestant category includes all predominantly black Protestant churches, whatever their denominational affiliation. The largest denominations in this category are the National Baptist Convention, USA, African Methodist Episcopal Church, Church of God in Christ, Missionary Baptist, National Baptist Convention of America, Progressive National Baptist Convention, and African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church. Predominantly white Protestant congregations that are unaffiliated with any denomination are included in the conservative/evangelical category unless we have good reason to include them elsewhere. Congregations are placed within a religious tradition even if they do not have a formal denominational affiliation, so the categories in the Religious Tradition section sum to more than 100% when including those with "no denominational affiliation."

<sup>6</sup> Calculated only for those congregations who own their own building.

<sup>7</sup> Calculated only for those congregations who own their own building and report other groups using their building.

<sup>8</sup> Calculated only for those congregations that owned their own building. In 2018-19 this question was only asked of congregations that also indicated other groups used their building.

<sup>9</sup> Calculated only for those congregations that reported another congregation used their building for worship services.

<sup>10</sup> The 2018-19 NCS included two different indicators of being a multisite congregation. The first measure (called MULTISITE\_1 in the cumulative dataset) is comparable to the question in the 2012 NCS and codes congregations as multisite if they report having multiple locations. The second measure (called MULTISITE\_2 in the cumulative dataset) is only available in the 2018-19 NCS. MULTISITE\_2 addresses likely over-reporting of multisite status by only including congregations that confirm in a follow-up question that not all of their religious services take place on the same campus. In order to make comparisons between years, the values shown here are from MULTISITE\_1. Note that the proportion of congregations that are multisite here is likely an over-estimate. See Table 3 for the percentage of multisite congregations produced by MULTISITE\_2.

<sup>11</sup> In 1998 and 2006, this question asked about both rental and sale income, but in 2012 and 2018-19 it asked only about rental income.

<sup>12</sup> Calculated only for those congregations that earned rental or sale income from property in past year.

<sup>13</sup> Calculated only for those congregations that gave any money to their denominations.

<sup>14</sup> Calculated only for those congregations with an endowment, savings, or reserve account.

<sup>15</sup> This and all following head clergyperson characteristics are calculated only for those congregations who have a head clergyperson. Details about co-leaders were gathered for the first time in 2018-19. In congregations with co-leaders, and with the exception of gender, the 2018-19 statistics about leader characteristics reflect the characteristics of the first leader reported. See the next note for details about clergy gender.

<sup>16</sup> Details about co-leaders were gathered for the first time in 2018-19. In 2018-19, a congregation with co-leaders is considered to have a female leader if any of its co-leaders is female. That means that the reported 2018-19 percentage of attendees in congregations led by women (8.1%) is not exactly comparable to the percentages in earlier NCS waves, which did not consider co-leaders. But the difference is very small. If only the gender of the first co-leader mentioned in 2018-19 is considered, 7.4% of attendees in 2018-19 were in congregations led by women.

<sup>17</sup> Although respondents were asked in all waves how many people work in the congregation as paid staff, in 2006-07, 2012, and 2018-19 the question was prefaced with "including you" (if the respondent was an employee), and interviewers were trained in 2006-07, 2012, and 2018-19 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.

<sup>18</sup> Ministerial staff members are those primarily engaged in religious work, that is, not secretaries or custodians.

<sup>19</sup> One congregation with extreme values on staff variables in 2012 was removed from this analysis and other calculations of mean and median staff members per congregation.

<sup>20</sup> In 2006-07, the question asked if the congregation was searching for a full-time staff person of any sort. In 2018-19 the question asked if the congregation was searching for a full-time *ministerial* staff person.

<sup>21</sup> Congregations were asked if they have a youth minister or other leader specially designated to coordinate activities for youth. The question did not specify that the youth minister had to be paid.

<sup>22</sup> Calculated only for those congregations that report two or more services in a typical week.

<sup>23</sup> The following items related to important differences in worship services were only calculated for those congregations that report important differences in their worship services.

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<sup>24</sup> Calculated only for those congregations that report two or more services in a typical week.

<sup>25</sup> Calculated only for Christian congregations.

<sup>26</sup> Calculated only for Christian congregations.

<sup>27</sup> Calculated only for Christian congregations.

<sup>28</sup> In 2018-19, but not in 2012, this question included "English language instruction" as an example of a service for immigrants.

<sup>29</sup> Calculated only for those congregations that hosted a visiting speaker in the past year.

<sup>30</sup> In 1998 respondents were asked if their congregation had ever distributed voter guides. In 2006-07, 2012, and 2018-19 respondents were asked if their congregation had distributed voter guides *within the past two years*.

<sup>31</sup> Calculated only for those congregations that lobbied elected officials or demonstrated/marched.

<sup>32</sup> 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.

<sup>33</sup> 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.

<sup>34</sup> Trends were assessed by regressing each item on survey year. Ordinary least squares regression was used for continuous variables; logistic regression was used for binary variables. A statistically significant trend means that the coefficient associated with survey year was different from zero at least at the .05 alpha-level.

<sup>35</sup> The value of the weighted median is the first observed value which is greater than 50% of the weighted data. Other methods for calculating the weighted median may yield slightly different results for some variables.

<sup>36</sup> To get results that represent the average congregation, data are weighted to discount the fact that larger congregations are more likely to be included in the NCS sample. Weights also take into account other relevant characteristics of the survey. The weighting variable used for this table is called WT\_ALL4\_CONG\_DUP in the publicly available dataset. For more information on weights, see the detailed documentation of NCS weights available at <https://sites.duke.edu/ncsweb/files/2020/10/WeightsDocument.pdf>.

<sup>37</sup> One extreme outlying observation in 2012 has been removed from this and the following two size variables.

<sup>38</sup> The largest denominations in the predominantly white moderate/liberal category are 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 Association. The largest denominations in the predominantly white evangelical/conservative category are the Southern Baptist Convention, Assemblies of God, Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Jehovah's Witness, Seventh Day Adventists, Churches of Christ, Church of the Nazarene, Evangelical Free Church, Baptist General Conference, Christian Missionary Alliance, Christian Reformed Church, Freewill Baptist, Church of God (Anderson), and Church of the Foursquare Gospel. The Black Protestant category includes all predominantly black Protestant churches, whatever their denominational affiliation. The largest denominations in this category are the National Baptist Convention, USA, African Methodist Episcopal Church, Church of God in Christ, Missionary Baptist, National Baptist Convention of America, Progressive National Baptist Convention, and African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church. Predominantly white Protestant congregations that are unaffiliated with any denomination are included in the conservative/evangelical category unless we have good reason to include them elsewhere. Congregations are placed within a religious tradition even if they do not have a formal denominational affiliation, so the categories in the Religious Tradition section sum to more than 100% when including those with "no denominational affiliation."

<sup>38</sup> Calculated only for those congregations that owned their own building. In 2018-19 this question was only asked of congregations that also indicated other groups used their building.

<sup>39</sup> Calculated only for those congregations who own their own building.

<sup>40</sup> Calculated only for those congregations who own their own building and report other groups using their building.

<sup>41</sup> Calculated only for those congregations that owned their own building. In 2018-19 this question was only asked of congregations that also indicated other groups used their building.

<sup>42</sup> Calculated only for those congregations that reported another congregation used their building for worship services.

<sup>43</sup> The 2018-19 NCS included two different indicators of being a multisite congregation. The first measure (called MULTISITE\_1 in the cumulative dataset) is comparable to the question in the 2012 NCS and codes congregations as multisite if they report having multiple locations. The second measure (called MULTISITE\_2 in the cumulative dataset) is only available in the 2018-19 NCS. MULTISITE\_2 addresses likely over-reporting of multisite status by

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only including congregations that confirm in a follow-up question that not all of their religious services take place on the same campus. In order to make comparisons between years, the values shown here are from MULTISITE\_1. Note that the proportion of congregations that are multisite here is likely an over-estimate. See Table 3 for the percentage of multisite congregations produced by MULTISITE\_2.

<sup>44</sup> In 1998 and 2006, this question asked about both rental and sale income, but in 2012 and 2018-19 it asked only about rental income.

<sup>45</sup> Calculated only for those congregations that earned rental or sale income from property in past year.

<sup>46</sup> Calculated only for those congregations that gave any money to their denominations.

<sup>47</sup> Calculated only for those congregations with an endowment, savings, or reserve account.

<sup>48</sup> This and all following head clergy person characteristics are calculated only for those congregations who have a head clergy person. Details about co-leaders were gathered for the first time in 2018-19. In congregations with co-leaders, and with the exception of gender, the 2018-19 statistics about leader characteristics reflect the characteristics of the first leader reported. See the next note for details about clergy gender.

<sup>49</sup> Details about co-leaders were gathered for the first time in 2018-19. In 2018-19, a congregation with co-leaders is considered to have a female leader if any of its co-leaders is female. That means that the reported 2018-19 percentage of congregations led by women (13.8%) is not exactly comparable to the percentages in earlier NCS waves, which did not consider co-leaders. But the difference is very small. If only the gender of the first co-leader mentioned in 2018-19 is considered, 13.5% of congregations in 2018-19 were led by women.

<sup>50</sup> Although respondents were asked in all waves how many people work in the congregation as paid staff, in 2006-07, 2012, and 2018-19 the question was prefaced with "including you" (if the respondent was an employee), and interviewers were trained in 2006-07, 2012, and 2018-2019 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.

<sup>51</sup> Ministerial staff members are those primarily engaged in religious work, that is, not secretaries or custodians.

<sup>52</sup> One congregation with extreme values on staff variables in 2012 was removed from this analysis and other calculations of mean and median staff members per congregation.

<sup>53</sup> In 2006-07, the question asked if the congregation was searching for a full-time staff person of any sort. In 2018-19 the question asked if the congregation was searching for a full-time *ministerial* staff person.

<sup>54</sup> Congregations were asked if they have a youth minister or other leader specially designated to coordinate activities for youth. The question did not specify that the youth minister had to be paid.

<sup>55</sup> Calculated only for those congregations that report two or more services in a typical week.

<sup>56</sup> The following items related to important differences in worship services were only calculated for those congregations that report important differences in their worship services.

<sup>57</sup> Calculated only for those congregations that report two or more services in a typical week.

<sup>58</sup> Calculated only for Christian congregations.

<sup>59</sup> Calculated only for Christian congregations.

<sup>60</sup> Calculated only for Christian congregations.

<sup>61</sup> In 2018-19, but not in 2012, this question included "English language instruction" as an example of a service for immigrants.

<sup>62</sup> Calculated only for those congregations that hosted a visiting speaker in the past year.

<sup>63</sup> 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*.

<sup>64</sup> Calculated only for those congregations that lobbied elected officials or demonstrated/marched.

<sup>65</sup> 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.

<sup>66</sup> 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.

<sup>67</sup> Congregations are placed within a religious tradition even if they do not have a formal denominational affiliation, so the numbers in this section sum to more than 100% when including those with "no denominational affiliation."

<sup>68</sup> The largest denominations in the predominantly white moderate/liberal category are 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 Association. The largest denominations in the predominantly white evangelical/conservative category are the

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Southern Baptist Convention, Assemblies of God, Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Jehovah's Witness, Seventh Day Adventists, Churches of Christ, Church of the Nazarene, Evangelical Free Church, Baptist General Conference, Christian Missionary Alliance, Christian Reformed Church, Freewill Baptist, Church of God (Anderson), and Church of the Foursquare Gospel. The Black Protestant category includes all predominantly black Protestant churches, whatever their denominational affiliation. The largest denominations in this category are the National Baptist Convention, USA, African Methodist Episcopal Church, Church of God in Christ, Missionary Baptist, National Baptist Convention of America, Progressive National Baptist Convention, and African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church. Predominantly white Protestant congregations that are unaffiliated with any denomination are included in the conservative/evangelical category unless we have good reason to include them elsewhere. Congregations are placed within a religious tradition even if they do not have a formal denominational affiliation, so the numbers in this section sum to more than 100% when including those with "no denominational affiliation."

<sup>69</sup> Calculated only for those congregations that own their building.

<sup>70</sup> Calculated only for those congregations who own their own building.

<sup>71</sup> Calculated only for those congregations who own their own building and report other groups using their building.

<sup>72</sup> Calculated only for those congregations who own their own building and report other groups using their building.

<sup>73</sup> Calculated only for those congregations whose buildings are used by another congregation for worship services.

<sup>74</sup> The 2018-19 NCS included two different indicators of being a multisite congregation. The first measure (called MULTISITE\_1 in the cumulative dataset) is comparable to the question in the 2012 NCS and codes congregations as multisite if they report having multiple locations. The second measure (called MULTISITE\_2 in the cumulative dataset) is only available in the 2018-19 NCS. MULTISITE\_2 addresses likely over-reporting of multisite status by only including congregations that confirm in a follow-up question that not all of their religious services take place on the same campus. The values shown here are from the stricter, and probably more accurate, MULTISITE\_2. Note that these values are not directly comparable to multisite values from the 2012 NCS.

<sup>75</sup> This and the following two items are calculated only for those congregations who have worship services at more than one location.

<sup>76</sup> Calculated only for those congregations with income from the sale or rent of their building or property.

<sup>77</sup> Calculated only for those congregations who gave any money to their denomination.

<sup>78</sup> This and the following item are only calculated for those congregations with an endowment, savings, or reserve account.

<sup>79</sup> This and all following head clergy person characteristics are calculated only for those congregations who have a head clergy person. In congregations with co-leaders, the statistics about leader characteristics, with the exception of gender, reflect the characteristics of the first leader reported.

<sup>80</sup> A congregation with co-leaders is considered to have a female leader if any of its co-leaders is female.

<sup>81</sup> In 2006-07, the question asked if the congregation was searching for a full-time staff person of any sort. In 2018-19 the question asked if the congregation was searching for a full-time *ministerial* staff person.

<sup>82</sup> Calculated only for those congregations that report two or more services in a typical week.

<sup>83</sup> Calculated only for those congregations that report important differences between weekend services.

<sup>84</sup> Calculated only for those congregations that reported having a worship service on days other than Friday, Saturday, or Sunday.

<sup>85</sup> Calculated only for Christian congregations.

<sup>86</sup> Calculated only for Christian congregations.

<sup>87</sup> Calculated only for Christian congregations.

<sup>88</sup> Calculated only for those congregations that had a visiting speaker in the past year.

<sup>89</sup> Calculated only for those congregations that lobbied elected officials and/or demonstrated or marched.

<sup>90</sup> This and the following item are calculated only for those congregations who lobbied elected officials and/or demonstrated or marched on issues related to *immigration*.

<sup>91</sup> This and the following item are calculated only for those congregations who lobbied elected officials and/or demonstrated or marched on issues related to *abortion*.

<sup>92</sup> This and the following item are calculated only for those congregations who lobbied elected officials and/or demonstrated or marched on issues concerning *gay, lesbian, or transgender people*.

<sup>93</sup> This and the following item are calculated only for those congregations who lobbied elected officials and/or demonstrated or marched on issues related to *the environment*.

<sup>94</sup> Calculated only for those congregations who reported not publicly supporting or opposing a political candidate

<sup>95</sup> Calculated only for those congregations who had not declared themselves to be sanctuaries

<sup>96</sup> This item and the following social service variables are calculated only for those congregations who participated

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in social service programs and projects in the past year.

<sup>97</sup> The following items on collaborations are calculated only for those congregations who participated in social service programs and projects in the past year.

<sup>98</sup> Calculated only for those congregations who had not sponsored any refugees

<sup>99</sup> The following natural disaster relief items were calculated only for those congregations who reported helping in response to a natural disaster

<sup>100</sup> Calculated only for those congregations with health-focused programs.

<sup>101</sup> The items below relating to smartphone use were only calculated for those congregations that reported encouraging participants to use smartphones during the service.

<sup>102</sup> Calculated only for those congregations who own their building

<sup>103</sup> 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.