

# Megachurch Attendee Survey

Combined responses from 24,901 participants in 12 churches surveyed between Feb and June, 2008  
Survey conducted by Leadership Network and Hartford Institute for Religion Research

## 1 How long have you been going to church services (worship) or activities at this church?

- 19.1 % Less than one year
- 18.7 % 1 - 2 years
- 23.0 % 3 - 5 years
- 15.9 % 6 - 10 years
- 16.6 % More than 10 years
- 4.5 % I am visiting from another church
- 2.2 % I am visiting and do not regularly go anywhere

## 2 How often do you go to church (worship) services at this congregation?

- 4.1 % This is my first time
- 2.3 % Hardly ever or on special occasions
- 2.2 % Less than once a month
- 3.0 % Once a month
- 18.8 % Two or three times a month
- 69.6 % Usually every week (or more)

## 3 How has your participation in this church's activities changed in the last two years?

- 38.4 % Increased
- 37.2 % Remained the same
- 7.3 % Decreased
- 17.1 % I haven't been here 2 years

## 4 How often do you typically volunteer in any capacity at this church?

- 45.3 % Never
- 26.3 % Occasionally (a few times a year)
- 12.8 % Regularly (once or twice a month)
- 15.5 % Often (three times a month or more)

How influential were the following in bringing you to this congregation "initially" (when you first began attending) and then in keeping you here "now"? If you are a first time visitor, please answer only for "now".

### 5 My friends and family are here

	<i>Initially</i>		<i>Now</i>
37.4 %	1 (not at all)	26.8 %	1 (not at all)
9.6 %	2	10.7 %	2
10.1 %	3	15.9 %	3
10.7 %	4	15.3 %	4
32.2 %	5 (a lot)	31.3 %	5 (a lot)

6 Reputation of the church

	<b>Initially</b>		<b>Now</b>
20.2 %	1 (not at all)	14.2 %	1 (not at all)
8.0 %	2	6.0 %	2
16.4 %	3	13.8 %	3
19.1 %	4	18.6 %	4
36.3 %	5 (a lot)	47.4 %	5 (a lot)

7 Senior pastor

	<b>Initially</b>		<b>Now</b>
23.3 %	1 (not at all)	6.1 %	1 (not at all)
7.0 %	2	2.6 %	2
12.2 %	3	8.5 %	3
13.6 %	4	17.6 %	4
44.0 %	5 (a lot)	65.2 %	5 (a lot)

8 Adult programs/ministries

	<b>Initially</b>		<b>Now</b>
42.0 %	1 (not at all)	23.2 %	1 (not at all)
11.7 %	2	9.1 %	2
17.0 %	3	19.8 %	3
12.0 %	4	20.7 %	4
17.3 %	5 (a lot)	27.1 %	5 (a lot)

9 Children & youth programs/ministries

	<b>Initially</b>		<b>Now</b>
52.3 %	1 (not at all)	41.7 %	1 (not at all)
7.7 %	2	7.1 %	2
11.0 %	3	12.0 %	3
10.3 %	4	13.7 %	4
18.6 %	5 (a lot)	25.4 %	5 (a lot)

10 Music and/or arts

	<b>Initially</b>		<b>Now</b>
28.5 %	1 (not at all)	14.6 %	1 (not at all)
9.5 %	2	6.7 %	2
17.0 %	3	16.8 %	3
16.7 %	4	22.5 %	4
28.2 %	5 (a lot)	39.5 %	5 (a lot)

11 Worship style

	<b>Initially</b>		<b>Now</b>
15.8 %	1 (not at all)	5.1 %	1 (not at all)
8.1 %	2	3.8 %	2
15.2 %	3	11.2 %	3
19.2 %	4	22.7 %	4
41.7 %	5 (a lot)	57.1 %	5 (a lot)

12 Social or community outreach

	<b>Initially</b>		<b>Now</b>
32.8 %	1 (not at all)	14.2 %	1 (not at all)
12.9 %	2	6.9 %	2
19.0 %	3	18.4 %	3
14.6 %	4	24.8 %	4
20.7 %	5 (a lot)	35.8 %	5 (a lot)

13 *Self-help or support groups*

	<b>Initially</b>		<b>Now</b>
50.5 %	1 (not at all)	34.9 %	1 (not at all)
11.5 %	2	10.5 %	2
14.7 %	3	17.8 %	3
9.1 %	4	15.2 %	4
14.2 %	5 (a lot)	21.7 %	5 (a lot)

14 *Denominational ties*

	<b>Initially</b>		<b>Now</b>
45.7 %	1 (not at all)	38.8 %	1 (not at all)
9.0 %	2	8.7 %	2
14.4 %	3	15.8 %	3
11.5 %	4	14.2 %	4
19.4 %	5 (a lot)	22.4 %	5 (a lot)

15 **Gender?**

39.5 % Male  
60.5 % Female

16 *Zip/Postal Code where you live? (data excluded due to number of responses)*

17 *What is your age today? Average respondent is 40 years old*

18 *In the past week, how often did you practice personal devotions (times of Bible reading and prayer)?*

30.2 % Seldom: 1 time or less a week  
39.6 % Often: 2-5 times a week  
30.2 % Nearly daily: 6-7 times a week or more

19 *If you consider yourself a committed follower of Jesus Christ, how long have you been such a follower?*

4.2 % Less than a year  
5.8 % 1 - 2 years  
11.0 % 3 -6 years  
77.0 % more than 6 years  
2.0 % Not a committed follower of Christ

20 *What was the first step that moved you from spectator to active participant at this church?*

29.7 % This question doesn't apply to me  
6.0 % I can't remember  
9.4 % I responded to a *general* announcement (such as appeal from pulpit, email, bulletin announcement, etc.)  
4.4 % I responded to a *personal* invitation from someone I didn't know (sign-up booth, phone call, etc.)  
18.2 % I responded to a *personal* invitation from someone I did know (a friend, acquaintance, or someone on staff)  
21.4 % I responded to an inward sense of call or spiritual prompting  
10.9 % I took initiative to look for opportunities

**21 How did you first find out about this church?**

- 81.6 % Friend, co-worker or family member
- 6.7 % Media (newspaper, TV, radio, mailer, Internet, etc.)
- 11.7 % Saw church facility and came on own

**22 Did you look at the church's website before your first visit to the church?**

- 16.0 % Yes
- 84.0 % No

**23 Do you consider this church your home church?**

- 76.2 % Yes (this church only)
- 12.4 % Yes (but I also attend other churches)
- 11.4 % No

**24 Marital status?**

- 30.8 % Single, never married
- 41.2 % Married - first marriage
- 11.4 % Remarried
- 13.0 % Separated or divorced
- 2.2 % Widowed
- 1.3 % Other

**25 Which statement best describes the people who currently live in your household?**

- 16.3 % I live alone
- 20.8 % A couple without children
- 8.7 % One adult with child/children
- 38.1 % Two or more adults with child/children
- 16.1 % Some adults living in the same household

**26 How do you describe yourself?**

- 69.8 % White/Caucasian/Anglo
- 21.1 % Black/African/African American
- 3.4 % Hispanic/Latino
- 3.9 % Asian/Pacific Islander
- 0.5 % Native American
- 1.3 % Other

**27 What level of education have you finished?**

- 3.9 % Some high school
- 12.8 % High school diploma
- 31.7 % Some college, trade, or vocational school
- 32.8 % College degree
- 18.7 % Post graduate work or degree

**28 What is your estimated total household (family or single living alone) income range before taxes for 2007?**

- 16.7 % Under \$25,000
- 21.8 % \$25,000 - \$49,999
- 20.2 % \$50,000 - \$74,999
- 15.0 % \$75,000 - \$99,999
- 14.7 % \$100,000 - \$149,999
- 11.6 % \$150,000 or more

**29 About how much do you give financially to this church?**

- 12.1 % I do not contribute financially here
- 19.9 % I give a small amount whenever I am here
- 15.0 % I give less than 5% of net income regularly
- 20.3 % I give about 5% to 9% of net income regularly
- 32.8 % I give about 10% or more of net income regularly

**30 How does your answer compare to the last church you regularly attended?**

- 39.9 % My current giving is *more* than at my previous church
- 31.3 % My current giving is about the same
- 9.0 % My current giving is less than at my previous church
- 19.9 % Question does not apply to me

**31 What's the comparison between what you give financially to this church, and what you contribute to other causes/charities?**

- 67.7 % More goes to this church
- 15.0 % More goes to *other* causes/charities
- 17.3 % Equal amounts (roughly) go to both

**32 Are you regularly involved in the following group activities at this church? (Fill in all that apply)**

- 25.5 % Sunday school or church school
- 28.1 % Prayer, spiritual discussion, or Bible study groups
- 13.0 % Fellowships, clubs or other social groups
- 6.7 % Support or recovery groups
- 9.5 % Community service or social justice groups
- 18.9 % Other small group activities

**33 Before you started coming to this church, were you participating at another church?**

- 4.0 % No, I've come here for most of my life
- 18.4 % No, before coming here I had not been attending any church regularly for several years
- 5.5 % No, before coming here I had never regularly attended
- 44.0 % Yes, immediately prior to coming here I was participating in another church in this area
- 27.9 % Yes, prior to coming here I was participating in a distant church but I just moved into this area.

**34 Over the last year, how much have you grown in your faith?**

- 5.0 % No real growth
- 32.4 % Some growth
- 42.4 % Much growth, mainly through this congregation
- 8.3 % Much growth, mainly through other groups or congregations
- 11.8 % Much growth, mainly through my own private activities

**35 During the past year, roughly how many people did you invite to your church? (Include people you invited even if they did not accept the invitation)**

- 12.8 % 0
- 29.2 % 1-2
- 31.3 % 3-5
- 14.8 % 6-10
- 12.0 % More than 10

**36 How satisfied are you with your own spiritual growth?**

- 24.3 % Very satisfied
- 43.7 % Somewhat satisfied
- 18.1 % Mixed feelings / Not sure
- 10.4 % Somewhat dissatisfied
- 3.5 % Very dissatisfied

**37 To what extent do you agree or disagree with each statement as it describes your congregation?**

***My spiritual needs are being met in this church***

- 44.5 % 5 (strongly agree)
- 30.7 % 4
- 18.4 % 3
- 4.8 % 2
- 1.7 % 1 (strongly disagree)

***I have very few close friends at this church***

- 24.8 % 5 (strongly agree)
- 16.9 % 4
- 19.7 % 3
- 15.3 % 2
- 23.3 % 1 (strongly disagree)

***Church leaders encourage me to discover and use my gifts and skills for ministry and service***

- 35.5 % 5 (strongly agree)
- 24.9 % 4
- 22.3 % 3
- 10.4 % 2
- 6.9 % 1 (strongly disagree)

***Worshipping at a large church hinders my spiritual growth***

- 3.4 % 5 (strongly agree)
- 5.8 % 4
- 13.6 % 3
- 16.3 % 2
- 60.9 % 1 (strongly disagree)

***This church makes a strong effort to help me get involved in the activities and life of the church body***

- 42.4 % 5 (strongly agree)
- 25.8 % 4
- 20.1 % 3
- 8.1 % 2
- 3.6 % 1 (strongly disagree)

***This church has not made a strong effort to train, develop or coach me in how to be a better leader in the church***

- 4.7 % 5 (strongly agree)
- 7.3 % 4
- 19.2 % 3
- 19.8 % 2
- 48.9 % 1 (strongly disagree)

***This church has encouraged me to serve the wider community, nation and world***

46.0 % 5 (strongly agree)

27.3 % 4

18.3 % 3

5.6 % 2

2.7 % 1 (strongly disagree)

***I have a strong sense of belonging to this church***

40.1 % 5 (strongly agree)

24.8 % 4

21.6 % 3

9.4 % 2

4.2 % 1 (strongly disagree)

***A recent time when I FELT closest to God was directly connected to a ministry or activity of this church***

38.7 % 5 (strongly agree)

24.1 % 4

19.4 % 3

9.9 % 2

7.9 % 1 (strongly disagree)

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