

SURVEY OF NORTH AMERICA'S LARGEST CHURCHES 2008

N= 397 (1800 in attendance and up) Weighted by size and region

Totals may not equal 100% due to rounding.

A. Your Congregation's Worship

1. In the boxes below, write in the number of worship services and the average total attendance (adults and children) for that day and service time for 2007 Average total number of services held on a weekend 5.3

How many **worship services** does your church have at all campuses have on each of the following days or times during a typical week?

What is the **total attendance** for all services at all campuses held on this day or time during a typical weekend?

	Friday	Saturday	Sunday AM	Sunday PM	Other Days
	8%	53%	100%	44%	36%
	Ave. 1.5 services	Ave. 1.4 services	Ave. 3.8 services	Ave. 1.3 services	Ave. 1.6 services
	Ave. 362	Ave. 913	Ave. 3310	Ave. 755	Ave. 783

2. Are these services:

40% All very similar in style
 26% One or more are *somewhat* different in style
 34% One or more are *very* different in style

3. Do you hold services at satellite (off-campus) locations? 37% Yes 41% No 22% Not yet, but thinking about it.

IF YES, a) How many satellite campuses do you have? 1 to 14 Ave. 2.2 campuses

b) What is the total number of services offered as all these satellite campuses? 1 to 24 Ave. 3.8 services

4. What is the zip code of your primary campus?

4 regions

NorthEast 6%
 South 48%
 NorthCentral 21%
 West 25%

9 regions

New England 1%
 MidAtlantic 6%
 South Atlantic 22%
 ES Central 7%
 WS Central 19%
 EN Central 13%
 WN Central 8%
 Mountain 8%
 Pacific 17%

5. Do you use a multiple venue worship service format (where multiple services with a distinctive style and focus are held simultaneously in the same or other building)? 35% Yes 65% No

6. **For each year listed below**, what is your best estimate of the **average weekly attendance** – adults and children – at your congregation's weekend worship services? (Include all satellite locations and venues where applicable.)

Computed for 2008 – average – 4142 median – 3000

2007 Average 3927 2004 Average 3181

2006 Average 3652 2003 Average 2917

2005 Average 3384 2002 Average 2659

7. What is the approximate seating capacity of the space where your largest worship service is held?

Average 1794 median 1400

8. What is the total seating capacity of your church including main sanctuary, all your overflow rooms, on-campus worship venues, and off-campus satellite locations that you consider a part of your church?

Average 2801 median 2200

9. How well do the following words/phrases describe your congregation's largest regular weekend worship service?

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <u>ONE ON EACH LINE</u>	NOT AT ALL	SLIGHTLY	SOMEWHAT	QUITE WELL	VERY WELL
Reverent	5%	19%	33%	31%	11%
Contemporary	2%	6%	14%	36%	42%
Filled with a sense of God's presence.....	0%	0%	8%	47%	45%
Joyful	1%	1%	5%	50%	44%
Thought-provoking.....	0%	1%	11%	49%	39%
Welcoming to newcomers	0%	3%	12%	43%	43%
Predictable.....	6%	19%	42%	24%	10%

10. How often are the following a part of your congregation's worship services?

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <u>ONE ON EACH LINE</u>	NEVER	SELDOM	SOMETIMES	OFTEN	ALWAYS
Choir	14%	21%	22%	24%	20%
Piano	6%	6%	11%	21%	56%
Electric guitar or bass.....	1%	1%	2%	15%	81%
Drums or other percussion instruments	1%	1%	2%	14%	83%
Visual projection equipment	1%	2%	1%	2%	95%
Kneeling by the congregation.....	40%	39%	15%	4%	3%
Communion, Lord's Supper, or Eucharist.....	2%	7%	43%	32%	16%
Reading or performing by children or youth.....	10%	49%	32%	8%	1%
A printed order of service or worship bulletin.....	31%	8%	3%	6%	53%
Prayers for healing	13%	25%	25%	20%	17%

11. **During the past 5 years**, has your congregation changed the format or style of one or more weekend worship services?

13% No change 24% Changed a little 39% Changed some 25% Changed a lot

B. Your Congregation's Programs

1. **During the past 12 months**, please indicate which of the following programs or activities were offered to your congregation and how much emphasis or attention was given to each. Was it some emphasis, a lot of emphasis, or is the activity a specialty (something your congregation is known for)? (Choose the one best answer on each line.)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <u>ONE ON EACH LINE</u>	DO NOT HAVE	SOME EMPHASIS	A LOT OF EMPHASIS	SPECIALTY OF CONGREGATION
Church School or Sunday School classes	23%	22%	35%	20%
Prayer, meditation, or spiritual development activities	2%	36%	51%	12%
Scripture study groups (in addition to Church School).....	4%	25%	51%	20%
Fellowships, trips, or other social activities	6%	58%	31%	5%
Support groups (such as bereavement, divorce, 12-step, etc.)	2%	35%	41%	22%
Evangelism or recruitment activities.....	3%	33%	42%	23%
Community service activities	1%	26%	46%	27%
Music Programs	9%	39%	33%	19%
Parenting or marriage enrichment activities	2%	43%	44%	12%
Youth, single adult activities	2%	24%	53%	21%
Sports (teams, tournaments, recreation centers, etc.)	26%	50%	18%	7%

2. **During the past 12 months**, has your congregation conducted special events or programs (such as concerts, fairs, seminars, classes, plays, etc.) to attract people from the community?

92% Yes
8% No

3. How are visitors contacted after they attend your worship services or other activities?

✓✓✓ ALL THAT APPLY

0% We rarely, if ever, have any visitors
5% We rarely, if ever, contact our visitors
77% We contact visitors by mail
65% We contact visitors by phone
52% We contact visitors by e-mail
23% We contact visitors by personal visit
53% We send materials about our congregation to our visitors
74% We have a weekly "welcome" booth, room, reception, etc. specifically for visitors

4. Once a person has begun attending your congregation, what procedures are used to help that person become integrated and accepted into the life of the congregation?

✓✓✓ ALL THAT APPLY

13% Planned procedures for integrating new people are not necessary in our congregation
83% Newcomers are asked to participate in a class for new attenders or participants
86% Invitation to join a small group (for prayer, scripture study, mutual support, fellowship, etc.)
36% Invitation to participate in worship (reading, singing, taking up offering, etc.)
41% Regular fellowship activities (group trips, meals, concerts, plays, sports events)
58% Invitation to participate in community service
41% Invitation for service to the congregation (serving on boards, committees, task forces, etc.)

5. If an active participant of your congregation stopped attending, would that person be contacted to find out why?

22% Yes, definitely
29% Probably
25% Maybe
13% Probably not
11% Only if the person is well-known

6. To what extent are your congregation's active participants involved in recruiting new people to attend church?

0% Not at all
6% A little
26% Some
40% Quite a bit
28% A lot

7. To what extent do the following issues make it more *difficult* for people to participate regularly in your congregation?

✓ <u>ONE ON EACH LINE</u>	NOT AT ALL	A LITTLE	SOMEWHAT	QUITE A BIT
Parking problems.....	30%	29%	21%	20%
Driving distance to worship facility	45%	36%	15%	4%
Fear of crime.....	93%	5%	2%	0%
Conflict with work schedules	39%	47%	12%	2%
Conflict with school or sports-related activities (practices, games, etc.)	23%	46%	25%	6%

8. To what extent do the following issues make it more *difficult* to attract new attendees to your congregation?

✓ <u>ONE ON EACH LINE</u>	NOT AT ALL	A LITTLE	SOMEWHAT	QUITE A BIT
A changing neighborhood.....	78%	17%	5%	1%
Competition from nearby churches	51%	33%	13%	3%
A mobile population	30%	39%	23%	8%
General lack of interest in religion in the area.....	27%	44%	20%	9%
Population of the area is stable or declining.....	74%	16%	7%	3%

9. Does your congregation have the following activities for youth?

	YES
Youth minister or other leader who coordinates activities for youth....	99.6%
Organized youth group	99.5%
Choirs or other musical groups	74%
Youth retreats, conferences or camps	99.6%
Congregational events planned or led by youth.....	57%
Counseling (e.g. sex education, substance abuse)	79%
Youth serving on congregation's governing committees or boards	11%

10. **SMALL GROUP MINISTRY**

Many churches make use of adult small groups for fellowship, spiritual nurture, prayer support and/or ministry to one another in addition to regular Sunday programming. Which statement best describes the situation in your congregation?

- 1% Such groups do not exist within our congregation
- 15% A few such groups meet, but are not central to our congregation's program
- 84% Small groups are central to our strategy for Christian nurture and spiritual formation

C. Your Congregation's Identity

1. Do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

✓ <u>ONE ON EACH LINE</u>	STRONGLY DISAGREE	SOMEWHAT DISAGREE	NEUTRAL/ UNSURE	SOMEWHAT AGREE	STRONGLY AGREE
Our congregation:					
Is like a close-knit family.....	3%	15%	21%	50%	12%
Is spiritually vital and alive.....	0.4%	1%	6%	41%	53%
Has a clear mission and purpose	1%	2%	3%	20%	74%
Is working for social justice.....	5%	16%	29%	36%	15%
Is willing to change to meet new challenges	1%	2%	6%	42%	49%
Holds strong beliefs and values.....	0.4%	0.4%	2%	28%	70%
Welcomes innovation and change	1%	3%	7%	40%	49%

2. How much does your congregation emphasize the following *home or personal practices* in its worship and education?

✓ <u>ONE ON EACH LINE</u>	NOT AT ALL	A LITTLE	SOME	QUITE A BIT	A LOT
Personal prayer, meditation or devotions.....	0.3%	1%	14%	37%	50%
Personal scripture study	0%	1%	11%	37%	51%
Family devotions.....	4%	15%	30%	29%	22%
Tithing or sacrificial giving	0.2%	2%	25%	34%	39%

3. How well does each of the following describe your congregation's approach to ministry and mission?

✓ <i>ONE ON EACH LINE</i>	NOT AT ALL	SLIGHTLY	SOME-WHAT	QUITE WELL	VERY WELL
We support the personal spiritual development of everyone in our congregation	0.3%	2%	14%	51%	33%
We are working to convert unbelievers to our faith	0%	2%	19%	38%	41%
We emphasize learning, knowledge and education	0.3%	4%	22%	42%	32%
We are a supportive, nurturing community	0%	3%	17%	50%	30%
We welcome change and are always ready to try something new	0.6%	3%	23%	39%	35%
✓ <i>ONE ON EACH LINE</i>	NOT AT ALL	SLIGHTLY	SOME-WHAT	QUITE WELL	VERY WELL
This congregation changes people's lives.....	0%	0.4%	10%	38%	52%
This is an exciting place where people can experience God and have a good time	0%	0.3%	6%	35%	59%
We are a place of uncompromising belief and practice	0%	2%	12%	39%	47%
We are a positive force for good in our community	0%	1%	9%	31%	59%
We are not that different from other congregations.....	38%	25%	24%	9%	4%

4. Which label is the closest of the **theological identity of the majority** of your church's regularly participating adults?

- | | |
|-------------------|----------------|
| 2% Fundamentalist | 6% Moderate |
| 65% Evangelical | 3% Traditional |
| 4% Pentecostal | 7% Seeker |
| 7% Charismatic | 7% Other |

5. How would you describe the **political outlook of the majority** of your congregation's regularly participating adults?

- 33% Predominantly conservative
- 44% Somewhat on the conservative side
- 17% Right in the middle
- 5% Somewhat on the liberal side
- 1% Predominantly liberal

6. In the past **twelve months**:

- | | |
|---|---------|
| Were attendees told in worship service of opportunities for political activity (petitions, lobbying)? | 21% Yes |
| Were groups, meetings or events held to discuss politics? | 7% Yes |
| Were groups, meetings or events held to get people registered to vote? | 30% Yes |
| Were groups, meetings or events held to get out the vote for an election? | 11% Yes |
| Were elected government officials visiting speakers at the church? | 10% Yes |
| Were persons running for office visiting speakers at the church? | 6% Yes |
| Were voter guides distributed in your congregation? | 29% Yes |

D. Your Congregation's Participants

1. How many people in each age group below **regularly participate** in all the worship services or other activities of your congregation (including those who are not official members)?

Average – 3380 median – 2156 Adults (age 18 and older)

Average – 445 median – 300 Youth (age 12 – 17)

Average – 828 median – 550 Children (age 0 – 11)

2. **Of the total number of regularly participating adults**, what **percent** would you estimate are:

	NONE 0%	HARDLY ANY 1-10%	FEW 11-20%	SOME 21-40%	MANY 41-60%	MOST 61-80%	ALL OR NEARLY ALL 81-100%
✓ ONE ON EACH LINE							
Female.....	0%	0%	0%	3%	93%	4%	0.3%
College graduates.....	0%	2%	5%	30%	34%	23%	5%
Age 35 or younger.....	0%	0.4%	5%	47%	34%	12%	1%
Over 60 years old.....	0%	25%	43%	26%	6%	1%	0.3%
New to your congregation							
in the last five years.....	0%	1%	12%	40%	30%	12%	4%
In households with children							
under 18 at home.....	0%	0.2%	5%	37%	42%	16%	0.5%
Hispanic or Latino/a.....	4%	72%	14%	9%	1%	0.4%	0%
Black or African American.....	2%	71%	15%	5%	1%	0.3%	5%
White.....	0.2%	5%	2%	4%	10%	38%	41%
Asian.....	7%	79%	11%	2%	1%	0.5%	0.6%
New converts.....	0%	15%	44%	30%	9%	2%	0%
Participating in small groups.....	0%	3%	15%	34%	34%	11%	4%

3. What is the total percentage of attendees in your church that are **not** of the majority racial/ethnic group? Average 14%

E. Your Congregation's Leadership

Please describe the senior or primary pastor of your congregation.

- Age Average 50 years old
- Gender: 100% Male
- Race/ethnicity Latino 1% African America 6% Asian 1% White 91% Other 1%
- Height Average 5 feet 11.5 inches
- Highest level of education of senior or primary pastor:
 - 1% High school diploma or GED
 - 6% Some college or technical school
 - 15% College Bachelor's degree
 - 40% Masters Degree (including M.Div.)
 - 39% Doctoral Degree (Ph.D., D.Min.)
- This person became the leader in about what year? Average 1993
- Did the church's phenomenal growth to more than 2000 attendees occur during the tenure of this pastor?
 - 79% Yes

8. How much time and attention does your senior leader personally spend on the areas listed below?

✓ ONE ON EACH LINE	VERY LITTLE	SOME	QUITE A BIT	A GREAT DEAL
Planning and leading worship	16%	25%	34%	25%
Evangelism or recruitment	11%	51%	28%	11%
Visiting the sick	63%	32%	5%	0.4%
Counseling people	50%	40%	8%	2%
Contacting inactive persons in the congregation	80%	18%	1%	0%
Organizing/leading small groups for sharing, support and spiritual growth	59%	28%	11%	3%
Representing the congregation in the community	12%	39%	32%	17%
Recruiting and training lay leaders	30%	45%	20%	5%
Administration and supervision	15%	36%	36%	13%
Dealing with conflict	16%	59%	21%	5%

9. Is there a co-pastor or equivalent at the church? 36% Yes

9a. If Yes, are these pastors a clergy couple? 14% Yes of those with co-pastors; 5% of the total respondents

10. How many **paid leadership staff positions** do you have in your congregation?

Count only full- and part-time leadership and program staff, *not* support or maintenance staff; but count all positions whether currently filled or not. If you have a school, *don't* count school employees.

Average 23 Total full-time employees Average 10 Total part-time employees

11. How many **paid administrative or support staff positions** do you have in your congregation?

Count only full- and part-time administrative, support or maintenance staff; but count all positions whether filled or not. If you have a school, *don't* count school employees.

Average 23 Total full-time employees Average 16 Total part-time employees

12. What is the approximate total number of volunteers at the church who give more than 10 hours of their time each week? Average 320 persons

13. How easy or difficult is it for your congregation to recruit people for volunteer leadership roles? (for example, serving on governing boards, committees, and teaching Sunday school)

- 24% We have no problem recruiting volunteer leaders
- 73% Recruiting volunteer leaders is a continual challenge, but we eventually find enough people to serve
- 4% We often can't find enough people who are willing to serve

14. **During the past two years**, has your congregation experienced any disagreements or conflicts?

- 50% No conflict I am aware of
- 41% Some minor conflict
- 9% Major conflict

F. Your Congregation's Finances

1. How would you describe your congregation's financial health today and 5 years ago?

Today		Five years ago	
0.6%	In serious difficulty	3%	In serious difficulty
3%	In some difficulty	8%	In some difficulty
27%	Tight, but we manage	21%	Tight, but we managed
35%	Good	40%	Good
34%	Excellent	28%	Excellent

2. What is the approximate dollar amount of your total congregational budget for **2007**?

Average \$6,524,070. Median \$4,800,000.

3. Approximately what percent of your congregation's total expenditures were spent on the following in **2007**?

All staff salaries and benefits.....	47%
Buildings and operations (utilities, mortgage, insurance, equipment, maintenance, etc.)	22%
Program support and materials (for Sunday school, evangelism, education, etc.)	12%
Mission and benevolence (including denominational assessments)	13%
All other expenditures	6%

G. Your Congregation's History and Affiliation

1. In what year was your congregation officially organized or founded? Average 1959 Median 1971

2. Is your congregation formally affiliated with a denomination or association?

63% Yes
37% No

3. **If YES**, to what denomination(s) does your congregation belong?

4. **During the past 20 years**, has your congregation experienced any of the following? WILL NOT EQUAL 100%

✓✓✓ ALL THAT APPLY	NO	1988-1992	1993-1997	1998-2002	2003-2007
Merged with another congregation	83%	1%	1%	1%	4%
Helped plant or grow a new congregation	23%	19%	24%	36%	52%
Started a satellite location or additional meeting location	50%	3%	3%	8%	31%
Changed denominational affiliation	88%	0.2%	1%	1%	1%
Became an independent congregation	84%	2%	2%	1%	2%
Changed the name of the church	72%	3%	4%	8%	6%

5. If located in or near a large city, is your place of worship located in:

11% A downtown or central area of the city
12% An older residential area in the city
29% An older suburb around the city
48% A newer suburb around the city

6. Does your congregation operate a Christian elementary or secondary school? 25% Yes

7. Does it have a Bible school or Institute? 20% Yes

8. Does your church sponsor pastor's or ministerial conferences? 54% Yes

9. Does your church have an intern or residency program for the training of future staff? 69% Yes

10. Does your church have a web site? 99.3% Yes

11. Does your congregation have a radio ministry? 24% Yes

12. Does your congregation have a television ministry? 23% Yes

13. **IF it has a radio ministry**, where is it broadcast? CHECK ALL THAT APPLY

15% Local 12% Regional 3% National 4% International

14. **IF it has a TV ministry**, where is it broadcast? CHECK ALL THAT APPLY

14% Local 13% Regional 4% National 5% International

15. Does your church regularly use technology for:

a. Demographic group mailings targeted to specific attendees 66% Yes
b. Email communications to individuals and groups of church participants 95% Yes
c. Distribution of an electronic newsletter by email or on the church's Web Site 80% Yes